



Dec 2016 Newsletter

*Tuesday December 6 at 6pm
BJ's Restaurant – Hamilton*

THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

December is here, crazy how the time flies. The holiday's are upon us, hunting season is in the rear view for most, and winter has set in now in earnest. It won't be long until our first arctic blast locks us out from our favorite rivers for a while. It's officially the time to dust off the skis and/or the fly tying bench.

Winter is a nice time of year however (in a draconian sort of way), and it's about the only time us guides get to experiment and conjure up newfangled patterns that we hope will be filling nets with clients all summer long. By

the time March rolls around I will be reminded that I still need to tie 10 dozen brindle 'chutes for the shortly coming season. So it goes...

December's meeting will be our annual business meeting of sorts where we elect our board members for the upcoming year. We have a great slate of officers up for election (they are listed later in the newsletter) and new and current board members which will help lead and carry our club into the future. Please attend if you can as this meeting directly effects you more as a club member more than any other all year.

We are in need of a Vice President and a Raffle Chairman still for the upcoming year. These are very vital positions which serve important roles in our organization. If you have not served the club as a board member before I would implore you to consider. Our club only works when members come forward, step up, and contribute to our success. Board positions are not meteoric commitments by any means but they are vital to our continued success. If you are interested in serving the club in any way please feel free to contact me (robertwaprince@gmail.com), and please be sure to try and attend our December meeting.

Well it's hard to believe but this is in fact my last President's message. It's been fun but it's time to hand the reins over to our new President, Estelle Shuttleworth who will do a fantastic job no doubt. I feel that the club is better and stronger than ever, and am confident it will continue to be great organization into the future. Thank you for this opportunity to serve you all!

Tight Lines

Bob Prince
President, Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot
Bob Prince
President - FFB

The Program

Our program for December will include the election of officers and board members. This will be followed by a presentation by Tim Joyner. Tim is a very accomplished local wildlife artist.

Tim Joyner's interest in wildlife, and the western lifestyle are reflected in his work. He is known for unusual and often humorous portrayal of these subjects. He is talented in many mediums including painting, glass etching, and bronze sculpture. Tim is often recognized for his achievements and was given a community service award for his generosity to many organizations. He exhibits his work in many galleries and select art shows, notably in Great Fall at the CM Russell Art Auction.

Tim makes his home in Hamilton with his wife Jennifer and children Avery and Mark.



Catch and Release

by Tim Joyner

<http://timjoynerart.com/timjoynerCatchandRelease.html>

FFB Slide Show at January Meeting

Bob Prince will present the Annual FFB Slide Show at the January meeting.

If you have photos you would like to share as part the annual presentation please contact Bob by phone (546-7941) or email (robertwaprince@gmail.com)

President- Estelle Shuttleworth

The President is the principle executive officer of Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot and has the general powers of supervision and management over the business and affairs of the organization. The President presides at all meetings and performs such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

Vice President – Currently Unfilled, needing a nominee

The Vice President assumes such duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors or the President. The VP performs the duties of the President in the Presidents' temporary absence, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of President.

Secretary – Pierre Satowiak

The Secretary keeps the minutes of all meetings; sees that notices are duly given in accordance with the bylaws; is custodian of the corporate records; and performs such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time

Treasurer – Ken Quinn

The Treasurer has custody and charge of and is responsible for all funds and securities of the organization; shall prepare the annual budget of Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot; receives and gives receipts for moneys due and payable by the organization from all sources; deposits such moneys in the depository

selected by the Board; and performs such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

Board Members

Gary Brothers

Greg Chester

Dick Ellis

Nick Hooper

Leon Powell

Bob Prince

Dorreen Romans

Phil Romans

Denny Westover

Ed Gannon

New FFB Merchandise Program

At our December meeting we will be launching a new and improved FFB logo merchandise program. We have selected a new vendor who offers a wide variety of logoed clothing, hats and bags. We will have samples of some of the shirts, hats and bags offered by O'Keefe's Reef www.okeefesreef.com on display at the December meeting.

We have designed the program to make it easy and convenient for members to order the exact item they want from the impressive selection on O'Keefe's website. Rather than placing orders with the club our members can go directly to the website and have their merchandise shipped directly to their home.

We have negotiated a **10% discount** with the vendor on all orders from Club members. Items for ladies also!

Once you see the samples I think you will agree that they are very high quality and reasonably priced.

FFB LOGO MERCHANDISE ORDERING INFORMATION

Ordering customized FFB logo merchandise is quick and easy and will be trouble free if you follow these simple instructions.

1. Go to the website of O'Keefe's Reef, www.okeefesreef.com
2. Select a category from "Our Products" and select a category from the drop down menu, i.e. hats, Jackets, sweatshirts. Etc. Click on the item(s) you want and enter number of items, size and color.
3. If you want your item(s) embroidered with the FFB logo skip the design information section and go directly to "calculate your cost"
4. If you want your item(s) embroidered with a custom logo other than FFB then complete the information requested in "design information"
5. Click "Add to Cart", check your order and enter FFB (all caps) in the Promo Code Section. This tells O'Keefe that you want the FFB logo embroidered on your item(s) and gives you a **10% discount**.
6. Add the FFB promo code also if you are ordering a custom logo and you will receive the **10% discount**.
7. Complete the shipping and credit card information and you are good to go!



Left to right. Ladies Polo, Lady's LS TShirt, Men's SS T Shirt, Ladies Fishing Shirt, Men's Polo Shirt



Left to Right, Unisex Pile Vest, Men's Fishing Shirt, Men's hooded Sweatshirt.



Left to Right, Long Bill Tech Cap, Regular Bill Cotton Cap. Long Bill Cotton Cap, Ladies Visor

All items available in a number of colors and many more items on the website.....



Fly of the Month

Copper Soft Hackle

by Greg Chester



It's always gratifying to find a pattern that not only works well for its intended purpose but has some universal appeal to trout in other waters and seasons. Soft hackle patterns certainly fit this description and after my recent success in the Yellowstone area, large patterns should be in your boxes as well as smaller versions.

The folks in West Yellowstone have known this for some time but large flies (#6 or 8) with a full, bushy collar rather than the typical sparsely hackled small patterns are the ticket for big run-up browns on the Madison. I was a bit skeptical about this assuming streamers are the fall go-to patterns. This is still true but for the browns on the move in the early run up phase this big soft hackle clearly outfishes the streamers. I tried streamer/soft hackle double fly rigs alternating positions and the soft hackle won every time. Again, this is in the earlier run up phase, usually in early September. I was there the week after Labor Day this year. If I had been there in mid to late Sept then big streamers are still the way to go.

This pattern described below is what I used but I could imagine patterns with different abdomen material and color would work. Some of the guides

swear by patterns with a ribbed hare's ear abdomen. The one common characteristic is the bushy, full soft hackle collar. I typically use partridge but ruffed grouse would work equally well. As always feel free to experiment with different materials, ribbing and color. However I'd stay with big patterns.

Menu

Thread 6/0 Rust Unithread

Hook Dai-Riki 730 size 8

Abdomen Copper or Rust Flashabou

Rib Medium Copper Wire

Collar Rust Ice Dub

Hackle Hungarian Partridge, 2 feathers, tied full

By the way I used a fast sinking 6 wt line (Rio Outbound) and a sinking leader deploying an across-and-down, swinging retrieve. I got bites during all phases of this retrieve, not just at the end where you might typically expect some action.

BRTU News

BRTU recently hosted a dinner and meeting at a members home with representatives from all major water conservation entities in the Valley. The chief purpose was to gain a better understanding of each organization, their challenges, achievements and possible collaborative and/or solo future projects. Organizations represented were Bitterroot TU, Montana TU, The Water Forum, The Bitterroot Land Trust, The Department of Fish and Game, select University of Montana Professors and the Bitterroot Health Check Program.

The outcome indeed met BRTU expectations with all representatives grateful for the opportunity to meet in one place, at one time, and in a casual setting. There wasn't a structured agenda or prepared presentations but instead a comfortable environment to learn more about each other and in some cases actually meet BRTU counterparts in conservation for the first time. All representatives came away with renewed excitement about

Bitterroot Valley's conservation possibilities and grateful for the robust number of dedicated organizations and personnel to identify and support them.

As expected BRTU goals overlap considerably with water quality, land preservation, education and community awareness a common focus.

Although some organizations have to some degree a full time staff, all rely heavily on volunteer support and are thankful for the generous citizens and organizations in the Valley who routinely step up to help with fundraising, planning and field work.

Specific project identification wasn't discussed in detail but it's clear that small and large opportunities exist in the valley and in future sessions will be reviewed regarding who or what team might best address these projects. It's fairly certain that any project identified will benefit from community and organization support of some kind, whether it be funding, planning, field work, project monitoring or project maintenance. The FFB is clearly recognized as a key supporter of such efforts in the past and will be a welcome addition to any project team needing volunteers. I will monitor projects and engage the FFB with support opportunities as they arise.-Greg Chester

FFB Membership Renewal Reminder

The Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot Club fiscal/membership year ends August 31, 2016 so it is time to renew your membership for 2017..

<http://www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org/contact>

or mail your renewal to:

FFB
PO Box 692
Victor, Mt 59875

