



NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE, 2013

THE MEETING

Winter is reluctantly releasing its grip on the Bitterroot. The River, while still high, is clearing. Our favorite game of Drakes and Stones cannot be far off.

We meet at BJ's restaurant on Tuesday, June 4. Come for the usual fish tales hour starting at 6 pm. Regular programming at 7 pm.

THE SPEAKER

This month's featured speaker is Steven Akre, valley resident, Club member and freelance outdoor photographer. He has operated a business called Outwest Photo for the past 15 years and is published in several state and regional magazines and calendars. Steve's program is entitled "Photography on the River - more catch and release." Steve has contributed his picture cards to our raffle several times and they were extremely well received. Should be interesting.

THOSE WHO SPAKE

Last month we had three guides from the Grizzly Hackle Fly shop in Missoula. They provided the latest fly rods for hands-on testing and showed new products for the fly fisher. And then we got to see a video of all the monster fish resident in the sloughs and backwaters in the Bitterroot. Who knew?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, I would like to thank all those who contributed to the 7th annual May Fly Fishing Clinic held by us and BRTU. Most especially I want to recognize Chuck Stranahan and his fly casting instructors along with Greg Chester and Phil Romans who organized the curriculum and all the logistics for the class. We had ten participants who indicated they thought the class was excellent with lots of individual attention and instruction.

Second, as the club president along with the board of directors we are always looking for better and more efficient ways to serve club members and their interest. We are a volunteer organization that relies on your support and interest to function. We have twelve active board members of whom more than half have served for five or more years! Several long timers have indicated they would like to retire from their jobs and possibly from the board to pursue other interest or just to take a break.

This is where we need **YOU** the members to help us keep the club viable. Our program chair Jay Melzer has done a wonderful job for two years. Rich Morrissey with his faithful, illustrious pen has done the newsletter since the beginning. Both will be setting aside their roles as will I as president. We need you to seriously consider joining the board and possibly filling in a vacant role. Contact me, Rich Morrissey or Leon Powell if you are interested.

See you on June 4,

Jim Cline

ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC SUPPER

The date is set! Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 18, 2013, for the annual Club picnic. Once again, we will pardon the porker and burn steaks instead. The Bitterroot Blackpots will offer mouthwatering Dutch oven dishes to accompany steaks charred to your taste.

It will be held at the fabulous riverside home of Steve Lilburn. The property boasts 2000 feet of Bitterroot River frontage and its own boat launch/takeout just across the River from Hannon. Various lawn games are available. And I hear there are plans for a casting pond!

We will officially commence at 4 pm. However, it is very doubtful the keg will remain untapped much beyond 1 pm.

We have in the past asked for dishes to be brought, sort of a pot luck thing. That has worked only so so. With the full scale addition of the Bitterroot Blackpots, this year the Club will spring for the chips, etc. not actually being cooked on site. This is not dissuade you if you are yearning to share your favorite salad. Bring it on!

Our picnic supper will be preceded by the Karstetter Classic, see below.

KARSTETTER CLASSIC

The Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot and River Resorts LLC (Steve Lilburn) proudly announce a new event, the Karstetter Classic on the banks of the Bitterroot River. The Karstetter Classic will be a gathering of those who build, use and admire the classically made bamboo fly rod (both antique and new) and the classic reels used on them. It is named in honor of our own Marty Karstetter, a world renown craftsman of cane rods. (This is all Steve Lilburn's great idea!)

The event is scheduled for 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Sunday, August 18, 2013. It will be held on Steve's property just before the Club's annual picnic. It is a totally free event. There will be no charge for entrance, parking, display or sale of rods and reels. All bamboo rod builders, collectors, and all fisher folk who use or want to use bamboo rods are invited. However, this is a hands on event so rods brought should be expected to be available to be cast by other participants. For professional rod makers, display tables may be erected on the grounds.

The Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot annual Club picnic supper will commence at 4 pm. Participants and attendees of the Karstetter Classic, whether members of the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot, are welcome to stay and enjoy a steak bbq Nonmembers will be charges a nominal fee of \$10.00.

BITTERROOT WATER FORUM

Saturday, August 10th : Third Annual "Riverfest in the Root" at Kiwanis River Park in Hamilton from 3pm-9pm. *"Riverfest in the Root" is a free outdoor festival for children and families to celebrate their river with their community. Enjoy Kiwanis River Park through exciting and educational activities including the "Animal Wonders" live animal show from 3pm-4pm and other fun activities like rock painting, wet-and-wild water games, and obstacle courses! At 5pm join the "Run for the River" 5K or sit back and enjoy local food and beer on tap at the park. Boogie to live bluegrass music from 6pm-9pm!*

Saturday, September 14th : Bitterroot River Clean Up. *From Painted Rocks and Sula to Missoula, join hundreds of volunteers to help clean up our river. BBQ party with prizes at Angler's Roost after! More info as the date approaches.*

FLY OF THE MONTH

Iris Caddis

by Bob Percy

Recipe

Hook: Tiemco 100, size 16

Thread: Rusty Dun, 8/0

Shuck: Crinkled amber Zelon

Abdomen: Natural tan hare's ear dubbing

Wing: Straight white Zelon, tied in as a loop

Thorax: Hare's ear dubbing

This is a pattern developed by the guys at Blue Ribbon Flies. It has been an effective pattern for me during caddis hatches for browns and rainbows sipping emerging caddis on the Bighorn River and for big grayling and rainbows in Alaska last summer. It may be taken as a cripple since emerging caddis pop right out of the surface making them a more difficult target for rising trout than a longer-floating cripple. Often it

is tied with the same natural hairs ear dubbing for the abdomen and thorax but I prefer a slightly darker thorax tied with hair plucked from the darker areas of a hare's mask. I must admit though that I have no empirical evidence that it works better, maybe it just looks better to me! The abdomen and thorax should be tied shaggy as shown to aid in floatation and to better match the overall appearance of a caddis. The abdomen color can be varied to mimic different species. The natural tan version shown is a good fly for the *Brachycentrus* (Grannom or Mothers Day) caddis hatches while an olive abdomen matches many of the *Hydropsyche* caddis species commonly observed on summer evenings and early mornings.



Top View



Side View

FOR FUN

This has to be one of the best singles ads ever printed. It is reported to have been listed in the Atlanta Journal.

SINGLE BLACK FEMALE seeks male companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I'm a very good girl who LOVES to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your pickup truck, hunting, camping and fishing trips, cozy winter nights lying by the fire. Candlelight dinners will have me eating out of your hand. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me...Call (404) 875-6420 and ask for Annie, I'll be waiting.....

Over 150 men found themselves talking to the Atlanta Humane Society.

THE AUTHOR

As always, I look forward to seeing old friends at this June 4 meeting and maybe making new friends. And if asked when not otherwise engaged, I have several fish stories. You can reach me at 406-381-5611 or richmorrisey@q.com.