

FLY FISHERS OF THE BITTERROOT



NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY, 2011

THE MEETING

You say you aren't tired of Holiday parties yet? Hold on! There's great good luck for you partying fools out there. We will convene Tuesday, January 4 in the hallowed halls of BJ's located at 900 N. 1st Street, Hamilton. Yes, Martha, there is still time to hoist a beverage of your choice and share vivands with fellow fly casters. General fish tails start at 6:00 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm. Dinners and your favorite libation are available. So, unless you're terrorizing bone fish in some sunny clime, we'll see you there.

THE SPEAKER

Our January meeting will feature one of our own. Our new Program Meister, Jim Cline, has repeatedly opined that we have been overlooking the treasure trove

of talent and information available among our members. And to prove the point, Jim corralled Phil Romans, a treasure trove if ever there was one.

Phil will speak on his annual pilgrimages to the wilds of Alaska where monster fish of various species wait with gaping jaws. Phil will also give us his experience on packing and shipping camping gear. Since several in our Club have actually gone on one or more of Phil's Alaska trips, he will have to stay reasonably truthful.

THOSE WHO SPAKE

We were fortunate to have two excellent speakers, Dan Shepherd of Grizzly Hackle and Matt Vincent who is the Clark Fork Watershed Education Program for Montana Tech. They spoke about the comeback of the Clark Fork. Not only will this give all of us another venue for our fishing forays, it will lure some of those Missoula boys back and take some pressure off the "Root."

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! Best wishes and big fishes to everyone in 2011. Congratulations on a job well done to Bob Percy for serving as President for the past year, and a hearty welcome to Jim Cline, who has nobly agreed to be Vice President this year, and will run our happy little social club with a fishing problem in 2012.

Many thanks to Dan Shepherd of Grizzly Hackle for his generous donation to our raffle, and to Matt Vincent, Program Director of the Clark Fork Watershed Education Program, for an excellent program about the ongoing restoration of the Clark Fork at the December meeting.

Winter's hold is strong, and I haven't summoned up the courage to battle the elements and the ice to go fishing, but am hoping for a couple of relatively mild days in January to ring in the new year with a fat trout in hand. Good luck and tight (and ice-free) lines to those who are brave enough.

I look forward to an exciting year with Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot, as we again have an excellent slate of programs for our upcoming meetings thanks to Jim Cline, while Pierre Satkoviak, our cruise director, is working diligently to organize some group outings, and many talented members are putting together educational clinics, such as casting, double haul, and rowing. And then we'll toss in some plain old fun - including a pig roast and some friendly competitions.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions for club activities, clinics or anything else that floats your boat at piscisvenator@gmail.com.

Cathy Lowe

President

FLY OF THE MONTH

The Royal Trude

by Greg Chester



While visiting Yellowstone National Park last September, Jean and I decided to have a picnic lunch on the Firehole near Biscuit Basin, a spot providing a fabulous view and access to geothermal activity and yes, decent fly-fishing. After a nice stroll along bubbling paint pots and steaming vents I noticed a very senior fly fisher obviously tuned into a good hatch verified by his busy landing net. From a distance I admired the beautiful loops generated by his graceful casting stroke and of course the nice trout that came up to his fly. I was dying to know his secret and anticipated a discussion on his use of a finicky pattern replicating a bug's precise lifecycle since the Firehole is known for its "PHD" fish. Perhaps a size 17 Nectophysche with exactly 4 legs, two antennae perfectly placed and a shimmering trailing shuck? Nope, he was using a #14 Royal Trude! So much for the famed PHD mystique. I'm sure this fellow's superior presentation techniques with his beautiful cane rod and silk line had something to do with his success, but a Royal Trude - are you kidding me? A quick check of my fly box turned up a scraggly #8 Royal Wulff

but no Trude. I promptly tied up a half dozen in the camper giving 3 to my new friend. We exchanged email addresses and parted company with a promise to stay in touch. His spot was getting crowded so an upstream move yielded some nice water to try my freshly tied Trudes. 3 casts later I netted a nice 14 inch brown followed with several rainbows and a 16" cutthroat over the next hour. All of this happened in the midst of a good mahogany hatch – these fish preferred this colorful attractor over the naturals! A Royal Trude now has a permanent place in my fly box. There aren't too many tricks to tying up this bug except that, as always, proper proportions are paramount to its success. If you can't find golden pheasant tippet for the tailing you can use calf tail or brown hackle barbs instead. All the remaining materials and techniques are pretty straight forward.

Good luck and tying!

Menu:

Hook - #12 – 16 standard dry fly hook

Thread - 6/0 Unithread, black

Tail - Golden Pheasant tippet fibers

Abdomen - Peacock herl

Waist banding - Red floss

Wing - White calf body hair or calf tail

Hackle - Coachman brown

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

At our December members meeting, a new slate of directors was elected: Phil and Dorreen Romans, Cliff Gibbons, Jeff and Cathy Lowe, Jim Cline, Greg Chester, Bob Curry, Howard Friedberg, Doug Duff, Bob Fickett, Bob Percy, Leon Powell, Pierre Satkowiak and Rich Morrissey.

These directors at a meeting on December 13 elected as President, Cathy Lowe; First Vice President, Jim Cline; Treasurer, Leon Powell; and Secretary, Rich Morrissey.

ODDS AND ENDS

Fly tying:

It's on! Wednesday evenings at the Hamilton Brewery. 5:30 pm. All skill levels welcome.

Membership:

As most of you already know, our Club started a dues program in September. The annual dues for an individual is \$25 and for a family, \$35. Please see Dorreen Romans, sitting in for Linda Powell, at the check in desk at our meeting or download an application form at www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org. Just to brag a

little, we already have over 70 paid members. Not bad for a little ole club. But more to the point, our Club is filled with activities and opportunities: a day fishing in a stocked pond for handicapped folks; stream bank restoration in conjunction with TU; the May Fly Fishing Clinic; Bitterroot River clean-up; the Pig Roast; various outings under the stewardship of our Cruise Director; and much more. If you yen to get involved, speak to any director or officer.

New Year Wishes:

I wish for each of our members enough time fishing this year that you are satisfied; for at least one 40 plus fish day; for at least two fish over 20 inches and maybe one at 25 inches; for always having the right fly at the right time; for a safe and dry experience; and for an opportunity to give back to our chosen passion.

FOR FUN

I believe that our background and circumstances may be influenced by who we are, but we are responsible for who we become. And I believe that it is taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.

THE AUTHOR

For those not yet in the loop, I changed my email address after getting a new ISP (or was it PIS? Hell, I don't know!) You can reach me at 406-381-5611 or **richmorrisey@q.com**. I encourage newsletter ideas.