

NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER, 2010

THE MEETING

We will convene our last members meeting of 2010 at 7:15 pm at BJ's in Hamilton on Tuesday, December 7. But you're missing a bet if you don't come about 6:00 pm when all the fish tails start. Dinner and drinks are on you but the program (and it's a great one) is on us. If you love fly fishing, come and mingle with equally afflicted souls. Meet with friends, new and old, to stretch the truth and grin a lot. This is our annual members meeting at which we elect directors for the coming year.

THE SPEAKER

Dan Shepard has been fly fishing in earnest about 34 years and has owned The Grizzly Hackle Fly Shop with his partners, Steve Jensen and Ray Coleman, for the last 10 seasons. Dan will speak on the comeback of Clarks Fork. Dry fly fishing for trout has always been Dan's favorite type of fly fishing although he was able to take a saltwater trip to Ascension Bay last May (and it may become an addiction as well). Dan has fished for trout in the Rocky Mountains from Arizona to Montana and been lucky enough to pursue trout in Russia, Chile and Alaska. He loves to hear his customers talk about their trips and the fish they catch as well as share the sport with those interested in learning. Dan states that it is a great privilege to live in the spectacular Bitterroot Valley and enjoy the fisheries and people in our area. Dan will bring Matt Vincent with him.

THOSE WHO SPAKE

A perennial favorite, Chris Clancey, FWP biologist for the Bitterroot River, spoke on the high mountain lake stocking program, the 2010 Bitterroot River fish population survey and plans for improvement of boat passage below the Hamilton water treatment plant.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My President's Message will be brief this month. Fishing is at least temporarily on hold because of the cold weather. I had hoped to get over to the Salmon to chase the wily steelhead at least one more time but alas that may not happen. However, we should be thankful for the snow because it bodes well for good water levels and good fishing next summer.

In the meantime, there is fly tying and equipment maintenance to do, and perhaps a few days of winter fishing on the Bitterroot during warm spells. If you cannot get out fishing, hopefully you will be able to take advantage of the Fly of the Month patterns and recipes in the newsletter. I know I will to add to the patterns in my fly boxes.

This will be my last month as President of the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot.

Cathy Lowe, who has been First Vice President, will be taking the reins in January. She will do an excellent job I am sure. I have enjoyed being President and watching the club continue to develop and grow thanks to the efforts of members. I plan on remaining active and contributing to the success of the Club.

Bob Pearcy
President

Fly of the Month

Eddy's Brindle

There is a funny story behind this Fly and here is how it goes. One day this last summer Rich Morrissey and I were floating from High Banks to Darby. We stopped to do some wade fishing at one of our favorite spots. There was a nice fish working in a little pocket across river. The problem was it was a long cast with heavy current in front of the pocket. I could only get a half-second drag free drift before the current caught my line. Try as I might, I could not get the fish to take.

There was a call above the entrance to the hole requesting permission to come through. It was Eddy Olwell with some clients. I told Eddy to have his client place his fly in the little pocket and he would take a nice fish. The client did as he was instructed and hooked up with a pretty 16 inch Cut. Eddy was so happy after landing the fish he pulled into shore, got out and came over and gave me a high five. He also gave me this fly. The thing that is different about this fly is the Wonder Wrap Ribbing. Try it, I think you will like it.

Recipe:

Hook: Dai Riki # 730 size 12

Thread: Uni-thread # 8/0 Rust Brown

Tail: Light Deer Hair

Post: White Calf Hair (must be straight)

Abdomen: Brindle Dubbing

Ribbing: Wonder Wrap Copper

Wing: Brindle Hackle (tied in parachute style)



ODDS AND ENDS

Double Haul Casting Clinic:

Phil Romans would like to hold a casting clinic to teach the double haul. This is a useful addition to ones casting repertoire especially for increasing distance. If you are interested in learning how to double haul contact Phil (promans@aol.com) so he can arrange a date and time.

Fly tying:

The folks are mangling feathers and fur on Wednesday evenings at the Hamilton Brewery. 5:30 pm. All skill levels welcome. There's enough beer to go around.

Membership:

As most of you already know, our Club started a dues program in September of last year. The annual dues for an individual is \$25 and for a family, \$35. Please see the check in desk at our meeting or download an application form at www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org. A number of you are a little tardy in paying up. But more to the point, our Club is filled with activities and opportunities: a day fishing in a stocked pond for Special Needs Folks; stream bank restoration in conjunction with TU and FWP; the May Fly Fishing Clinic; Fly Fishing 101 at Hamilton High

School; fixing up the Applebury's put in; a casting clinic; a rowing class; Bitterroot River clean-up; the Pig Roast; a new fish save; various outings under the stewardship of our Cruise Director; and much more. If you yen to get involved, speak to any director or officer.

FOR FUN

(I got carried away here. It's Christmas, after all.)

[Stuff you didn't know you didn't know](#)

In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have 'the rule of thumb.'

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only... Ladies Forbidden'... and thus, the word GOLF entered into the English language.

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.

Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.

Coca-Cola was originally green.

It is impossible to lick your elbow.

The State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska.

The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28% (now get this...). The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%.

The cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven: \$ 16,400.

The average number of people airborne over the U.S. in any given hour: 61,000.

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer

THE AUTHOR

Winter has staked its claim on the Bitterroot. The skies are leaden and the snow dominates the landscape. This is the time of year to have dinners with friends and dream of the warmer months to come (at least they have in the past). I spend my time reading of fishing and tying flies. I wish each and all of you a warm and wonderful Christmas and a year of good health and fantastic fishing adventures. Judy and I, sadly, will not be at the December meeting. We will be in that symbol of reason and goodwill, Washington, DC. So, I'll see you in January! Rich Morrissey, 406-381-5611 or rich@rkymtn.net. I encourage newsletter ideas.