

www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org

"Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot is a nonprofit club dedicated to sharing our passion for fly fishing by promoting fellowship, education and stewardship of our fishing resources."

January 2018 Newsletter

Tuesday, January 2nd Social Hour 5:30 pm Meeting starts at 6:30 pm

BJ's Restaurant- Hamilton President's message

Greetings everyone!

Hard to believe another year is almost over. I hope you all have had a good one, or at least a reasonably decent one. It certainly has been an interesting one- I wonder what is in store for next year. The Board has worked hard this past year and I am proud of them! The upcoming year should be a good one. We have already filled most of the program calendar, outings & event dates have been finalized, and we are looking forward to a great year full of fish, good stories & companionship. Now all we have to hope for is that the weather cooperates. This is not my jurisdiction, though. The Board is looking for input & feedback from all you members. After all, the club is about you guys, remember?

A new segment has been added to the newsletter- compliments of my co-editor, Dick Ellis. It is called 'The Way it Was...' Check it out- it is about fishing stuff from the past. He & I will try and keep the newsletter as interesting and as informative as possible. Not an easy job. We are always looking for interesting tidbits, news items and fish reports. Please don't be shy as the more of you that contribute, the better it gets. And it makes our job a wee bit easier!

Now that my arm is finally better, I find myself outside more than inside at this computer. Although fishing is not a priority of mine at this time of year- don't like frozen guides on my rod or frostbitten fingers- I spend a lot of time outside with my cameras. The Winter Eagle Project, sponsored by MPG Ranch & others is in full swing. I can spend hours watching & photographing the eagles. The days of hoarfrost were wonderful- but I found them difficult to photograph. Had quite a few moments of frozen fingers with those outings however.

Merry Christmas to you that celebrate this, happy Hanukah to you that celebrate this, and to everyone I have managed to miss, I wish all of you a safe & happy holiday season.

Tight Lines, Estelle

JANUARY PROGRAM



Guest speaker: Heather Barber,
Executive Director
of the Bitterroot Water Forum

Topic: Bringing the community together to protect, enhance and restore our watershed



Heather Barber is the Executive Director of the Bitter Root Water Forum. In the seven years that she has held that position, she has grown the organization from one part-time staff to two full-time staff and an AmeriCorps Member, drastically increasing the Water Forum's ability to complete on the ground restoration projects to improve water quality and to reach the community with watershed education. In her tenure, the Water Forum has completed six River Clean Ups, removing more than 12,000 pounds of trash from the Bitterroot River; completed more than ten restoration projects from the headwaters to Three mile Creek, improving water quality and rebuilding riparian areas by installing more than 10,000 native plants along stream banks throughout the Bitterroot; and reached 1000's of students and community members with watershed education.

Heather will discuss the Water Forum's work bringing the community together to protect, enhance and restore the watershed we all rely on. Plans for 2018 include partnering with landowners to complete restoration projects, working with irrigators on ditch mapping, and working with the community at large to discuss drought resiliency. Along with an update on ways that the Water Forum is improving water quality and fish habitat, Heather will look for input as to what the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot see as the most pressing issues of concern for local our water resources.



Recap of December Annual membership meeting



We all had a wonderful time at our annual Membership meeting on the 5th of December.

The hors d'oeuvres were tantalizing, company was stimulating & the raffle was superb!

W e elected our 2018 Board members, did a bit of housekeeping on our bylaws by adding an indemnification clause, had an update on the survey results and celebrated another successful year for FFB!



Upcoming Programs

February 6, 2108 - Bob Prince's Famous SLIDESHOW!

March 6, 2018 - Tony Reinhart

April 3, 2018 - O. Alan Weltzein

Fly of the Month - January 2018 by Jay Melzer



The Shop Vac is an effective and easy to tie pattern that can be fished throughout the year.

Although the origins of many fly patterns are subject to doubt the Shop Vac can claim a verifiable author. Rowan Nyman was a guide in West Yellowstone who worked at Blue Ribbon Flies. According to Craig Matthews in his book *Fly Patterns of Yellowstone - Volume Two,* Nyman invented this pattern in the 1990s. It is so named because it vacuums up every fish in the river.

Dead drift the Shop Vac as a trailer behind your favorite stonefly imitation or let it swing behind a wet fly. It serves as a good Baetis imitation and in small sizes trout may think it's a midge. Tie some up and try them.

Recipe:

Hook: Dai Riki 135 - Size 16. Thread: Black UTC 70 or Uni 6/0.

Bead: Gold 2.5mm - 3/32nd.

Body: Ring neck Pheasant tail-feather.

Rib: Size small copper wire. Wing: White Zelon or Poly yarn.

Tying the Shop Vac is straight forward.

Pinch the hook barb and slide on the bead. Clamp the hook in the vice leaving the bend exposed.

Start the thread behind the bead and tie in the copper wire rib along the hook shank.

Wrap the thread, capturing the wire as you wrap, to part way down the bend of the hook and then return wrap back to about half way along the shank.

Select six (or so) pheasant tail fibers, trim the tips and tie in. Wrap the thread back along the shank to the where the thread stopped earlier. Wrap the pheasant fibers up the shank bringing the thread forward with each wrap*. Tie off the fibers behind the bead.

Counter wrap the rib wire evenly up the body and tie off behind the bead.

Cut a one inch length of Zelon (or substitute) and tie it in at the midpoint of the yarn behind the bead. Then fold the yarn over and finish tying in. Trim the wing to half the hook length.

Whip finish and add a drop of lacquer.

There is an excellent video that illustrates how to tie this pattern and shows a terrific technique for wrapping the fibers to make the body. You can see it on the internet at: https://vimeo.com/150250719.

Bitterroot River: Mahogany Mayhem and Other Hatches

by Juan Calvillo



When asked which was the must-fish hatch on the Bitterroot, Jeff Gray, the owner at The Freestone Fly Shops in Hamilton & Darby, surprised me. I expected Jeff would say the Skwala hatch. Instead he replied, "The Mahogany hatch without a doubt, from mid-September through October." When asked why, Jeff noted, "There's less pressure, it's more technical fishing, more of a challenge. It's the last big bug hatch and the fish are stocking up for winter." His go-to pattern is a Mahogany Sparkle Dun in size 14 or 16. Jeff's choice is not surprising; it is a chance to fish dries in near solitude, to motivated fish, on a river known for great hatches. Mahogany Dun is the common name for the mayfly genus Paraleptoplebia.

When asked why not the Skwala hatch that has a reputation for being great on the Bitterroot, Jeff said, "It's inconsistent from year to year and there's a lot of fishing pressure." Those planning a trip to Skwala Fest in March or April take note; it can be great fun, but there is also the risk of cold, slow fishing days.

For water levels, Jeff watches the Darby gauge. He states, "Generally, the better fishing coming out of runoff is on the upper river, both because the water clears quicker and the insect hatches are already in full swing. Therefore, the actual flow mid-river is less important. Because the middle section of the river is so braided, with many side channels, there can often be good fishing found, except during the highest flows."

Wading is possible on the Bitterroot with flows up to 1500 cfs at Darby. If floating, fishing is good up to 3500 cfs. Jeff doesn't float the river below 250 cfs.

	Mayflies	Caddis	Stones	Terrestrials	Bonus Flies
January		Nymphs - Green & Spotted #12 - 14	Nymphs - Little Brown #14 - 16		Midges #18 - 20 Sculpin #4 - 6 Baitfish #4 - 6
February	BWO #16 - 20	Nymphs - Green & Spotted #12 - 14	Nymphs - Little Brown #14 - 16 Golden #6 - 10 Salmonfly #4 - 10 Skwala #6 - 10		Midges #18 - 20 Sculpin #4 - 6
March	BWO #16 - 20 GyD #12 - 14	Nymphs - Green & Spotted #12 - 14	Little Brown #14 - 16 Skwala #6 - 10 Nymphs - Golden #6 - 10 Salmonfly #4 - 10		Cranefly #4 - 8 Midges #18 - 20 Sculpin #4 - 6
April	BWO #18 GyD #12 - 14 MB #12 - 14	Nymphs - Green & Spotted #12 - 14	Little Brown #14 - 16 Skwala #6 - 10 Nymphs - Golden #6 - 10 Salmonfly #4 - 10		Cranefly #4 - 8 Midges #18 - 20 Sculpin #4 - 6
May	BWO #18 GyD #12 - 14 MB #12 - 14	Grannom #12 - 16 Green #12 - 14 Spotted #12 - 14	Little Brown #14 - 16 Nymphs - Salmonfly #4 - 10 Golden #6 - 10		Cranefly #4 - 8 Midges #18 - 20 Sculpin #4 - 6
June	BWO #18 GD #8 - 12 PMD #16 - 18	Saddle #16 - 18 Spotted #12 - 14 Green #12 - 14	Salmonfly #4 - 10 Golden #6 - 10 Yellow Sally #16 - 18		Cranefly #4 - 8 Midges #18 - 20 Sculpin #4 - 6
July	GD #8 - 12 PMD #16 - 18 PED #12 - 16 Trico #20 - 22	Grannom #18 - 20 Saddle #16 - 18 Spotted #12 - 14 Green #12 - 14	Salmonfly #4 - 10 Golden #6 - 10 Yellow Sally #16 - 18	Ants #12 - 16 Beetles #12 - 16 Hoppers #6 - 12 Spruce Moth #10 - 12	Cranefly #4 - 8 Midges #18 - 20 Sculpin #4 - 6
August	PMD #16 - 18 Trico #20 - 22 RQ #10 - 12	Grannom #18 - 20 Saddle #16 - 18 Spotted #12 - 14 Green #12 - 16	Yellow Sally #16 - 18 Nymphs - Salmonfly #4 - 10 Golden #6 - 10	Ants #12 - 16 Beetles #12 - 16 Hoppers #6 - 12 Spruce Moth #10 - 12	Cranefly #12 - 16 Midges #18 - 20 Sculpin #4 - 6
September	Trico #20 - 22 RQ #10 - 12 MD #14 BWO #20 - 22	Green #12 - 16 October #6 - 10	Nymphs - Salmonfly #4 - 10 Golden #6 - 10	Ants #12 - 16 Beetles #12 - 16 Hoppers #6 - 12	Cranefly #12 - 16 Midges #18 - 20 Sculpin #4 - 6
October	MD #14 BWO #20 - 22	October #6 - 10	Nymphs - Salmonfly #4 - 10 Golden #6 - 10		Cranefly #12 - 16 Midges #18 - 20 Sculpin #4 - 6
November	BWO #20 - 22	October #8 - 10 Nymphs - Green #12 - 14	Nymphs - Salmonfly #4 - 10 Golden #6 - 10		Cranefly #12 - 16 Midges #18 - 20 Sculpin #4 - 6
December		Nymphs - Green & Spotted #12 - 14	Nymphs - Salmonfly #4 - 10 Golden #6 - 10		Midges #18 - 20 Sculpin #4 - 6

Excerpted with permission from Fishing Montana's Westslope Waters: A Fly-Fishing Road Trip to Missoula's

Bitterroot, Blackfoot, Clark Fork and Rock Creek. by Juan Calvillo. Redband Trout Waters: A fly-Fishers Road

Trip to Oregon's Crooked, Deschutes and Metolius Rivers. Also by Juan Calvillo

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[&]quot;One of the evils of democracy is you have to put up with the man you elected, whether you want him, or not." Will Rogers

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2018

2018 TU's Bitterroot Bugger class dates:

Feb 13* Material bagging night

Feb 20 First class - Orientation

Feb 27* First fly Mar 6* Second fly Mar 13* Third fly Mar 20* Fourth Fly

Mar 27 Spring Break - no class

Apr 3* Fifth fly Apr 10 Casting tbd * Fishing and Picnic at Stock Farm

Dates with an asterisk (*) need volunteers

All classroom session will be at Hamilton Middle School/Keystone Center, 6:30 PM

CLUB OUTINGS & EVENTS

Missouri outing—April 24-27, 2018

May Adult Fly fishing Clinic with TU- Stay tuned for more information

Skip Morris Workshop—Saturday, June 23, 2018

Special Needs Day- Sunday June 24, 2018

Georgetown outing—July 12-15, 2018. Pot Luck/ cook out Saturday the 14th.

Annual Steak Burn & Picnic—Sunday August 19, 2108 5-9 PM

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Charles Osgood - "The only problem with 'common sense' is that it is not all that common."

Albert Einstein - "We are limited only by the depth of our own imagination." (AND) "The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits"...

"The angler hopes for nothing and prays for everything; he expects nothing and accepts all that comes his way. And although he knows all along that he will never sink his hook into a trout stream's true mystery, the desire to try, to cast once more and once more again, is never quenched, for there is always that chance that one more cast will carry him beyond skill and luck and bring him untarnished magic."

Harry Middleton, The Earth is Enough, 1989

"Cold science tells us that a trout's pea-sized brain is not capable of anything like reason or emotion. That's probably true enough, but in defense of creative thinking, I have a comment and a question: actions speak louder than words and, if they're so dumb, how come they are so hard to catch?"

"Trout," John Gierach, 1986 reprinted in Ted Leeson (ed.) The Gift of Trout

"Some years ago, a study in the Yellowstone River catch-and-release water in the park indicated that the adult cutthroat trout in that water were caught an average of 9.7 times each, every summer.... A trout can get pretty ragged after being caught and released so often."

Paul Schullery, The Rise: Streamside Observations on Trout, Flies & Fly Fishing, 2006

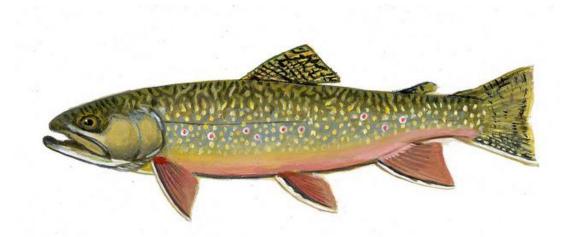
THE WAY IT WAS......"

Daniel Webster's great Brook Trout

Born in New Hampshire, Daniel Webster was an avid fly fisherman for most of his life. In the 1820s with law offices in Boston and New York, Webster fished the famous spring fed trout streams on Long Island, including the Carman's River near South Haven, which was noted for large Brook Trout. He frequently stayed at Sam Carman's inn, and apparently it was Carman who notified Webster that an especially large trout had been seen in the river. Webster failed to catch the fish but returned again in 1827. Using a three wet fly rig, which was common in that day, and a fifteen foot rod, Webster hooked and landed the giant fish, which was taken to Carman's store and weighed at 14.5 pounds. An outline of the fish was drawn and then was transferred to a cherry wood plank and enlarged by one third. The carved cherry plank served as the South Haven church weathervane for years. Today it is displayed inside the church.

In an increasingly urbanized America it is easy to forget that trout fishing once existed on Manhattan Island and on Long Island. Three of the Long Island streams were preserved as quality fisheries by fishing clubs, but the properties were acquired by the state in the 1960s and are maintained as top quality fisheries.

There are several versions of Webster and the big fish, but there seems to be agreement that it weighed 14.5 pounds. That is equaled by the fish caught in the Nipigon River, Ontario in 1916 by Dr. John Cook.



Time for pictures everyone!—LAST CALL!

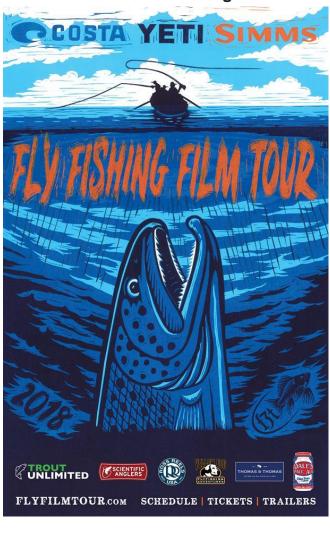
Bob Prince is requesting/demanding, OK, begging for you to send your fish pictures to him so that he can present another memorable show. He is asking this of all you fly flingers (and others) -

JPEG files via email. His email address is: robertwaprince@gmail.com

NEWS AND NOTES

The F3T Film Tour is coming to Missoula

Sat Feb 3, 2018 at the Wilma.



tickets: https://flyfilmtour.com/



News report:

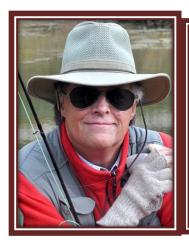
The Deschutes River Alliance reports that that Walleyes have been identified in the lower river as far upstream as Kloan at the seven mile marker. Smallmouth bass also have been found in the lower river. Both feed on juvenile salmon and steelhead. The Alliance also reports that water temperatures have increased, insect populations have declined and invasive algae has appeared.



FFB embroidered patches are in! They are available at the monthly meetings at the check in desk. **Cost is 1-\$4.00**; **3 for \$10.00**; **7 for \$20.00**.

Also available: I can mail them to you—add \$2.00 for Postage & handling to each of above prices. How this works: notify me you want patches-you can then mail a check to our PO Box or go to our website & pay via PayPal. Once payment is received, I will send you your patches.

Contact: Estelle at je@shuttleworthje.com



A Skip Morris workshop- Location- Bitterroot River Inn date is June 23th, 2018

AM program is Lake Fishing (2-3 hours. Cost-\$35.00/person)

PM program is tying flies for lake fishing (3-4 hours. Cost-\$35.00/person)

You can sign up for one or both sessions

Enrollment starts February 1st

"The artificial nymph has always had the advantage over the dry fly, because most of the time trout feed on real nymphs down beyond the dry fly's reach. But the artificial nymph has evolved to where it is now fished at every depth from the bottom to mid-depths to half sunk at the surface to atop the surface alongside the dry fly."

Skip Morris, The Art of Tying the Nymph

BOARD RAFFLE- DENNY'S BEAR

SQUARES ARE \$2.00 EACH



DUES FOR 2018 ARE, well, DUE

Club dues run January 1- December 31st.

You can pay at the meetings, or via our website or mail a check in. We will be updating information this year on everyone. Therefore we are asking EVERYONE to fill out the new form & survey.

Individual- \$25.00 Family-\$35.00

(defined as a domestic relationship or a single parent with children under the age of 18)



FLY FISHERS OF THE BITTERROOT [FFB]

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Mission Statement: The Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot is a non-profit club dedicated to sharing our passion for fly fishing by promoting fellowship, education and stewardship of our fishing resources.



The FFB is a social club devoted to fly fishing through our monthly meetings and social events such as the Missouri River outing, Georgetown Lake outing and annual steak burn/picnic. For additional activities events, blogs, fish reports archives and more- see our website https://www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org

The membership period is from January 1st to December 31st of the current year. Dues for applicants accepted from 10/1 through 12/31 are considered paid for the upcoming year. To join, please print and complete this form, then either bring it to a meeting or mail to:

Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot, P.O. Box 692, Victor MT 59875.

Alternatively, access our website and you can pay through Pay Pal.

CIRCLE ONE: Please fill form out completely

NEW

RENEWAL

Types of Memberships

Individual – Adult – 18 and older Family – Two people in a domestic relationship or a single parent with children under the age of 18 If you plan on having a spouse or partner attend our social events, please renew as "family"—this helps us						
Non-members are asked to donate \$10.00 to each soci		,	, ,			
Please print clearly. Note: print how you want the na	me(s) to appear on your name	badge(s)				
Name						
Spouse/significant other(s)						
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip			
Primary Phone (h)(c)	Alternate (who)					
email(s)						
The FFB Board would like to produce an internemail and phone number for outings and contact info		b members only) w	ith your name			
• Yes Please put me on the ros	ster					
No Do not put my info on a roster for	club member use only	(initials)				
How did you learn of the club?						
Fly Fishing skills: beginner intermediate	experienced					
I don't fish my partner does not fl	y fish my partner a	does fly fish				
I fish waters in: MTWYIDWA_	OR					
I fish other states & /or internationally where?						

Please check all that apply I use local guides often occasionally never rarely When I travel, I use guides often occasionally never rarely I like to: wade fish float tube drift boat/raft steelhead______ salmon_____ pike/bass/carp ____ saltwater fish_____ I like to fish for: trout____ Anything that will take my fly_____ I live in the Bitterroot valley year round YES NO If your answer is no to the above question, when are you here? Occasionally during the following months: Never Rarely Newsletter, Google Group, website & Facebook: I Use/go to: occasionally never didn't know we had a website Website all the time occasionally never didn't know we were on Facebook **Facebook** all the time Read the Newsletter always ____ most of the time ____ occasionally ____ rarely Use FFB Google group often occasionally rarely don't know how to use **LOCATION & PROGRAM QUESTIONS** What aspects about our meeting location are important/ of concern to you? Please mark all that apply I want food off of a menu prefer some type of food don't care about food alcoholic drinks non-alcoholic beverages Large enough to move around & socialize program quality time & date of the meeting raffle easy to find Ideas/suggestions/comments_____ Interested in helping on a committee or serve on the Board? See the Newsletter's last page of our Board members and their emails & phone numbers. Date:

JUST FOR FUN

Cabernet Sauvignon

I don't understand why prescription medicine is allowed to advertise on TV or why anyone would think of trying one of the medicines after listening to the laundry list of warnings of possible side effects. But this is definitely an exception!

Do you have feelings of inadequacy?
Do you suffer from shyness?
Do you sometimes wish you were more assertive?
Do you sometimes feel stressed?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist about Cabernet Sauvignon.**
See below **

Cabernet Sauvignon is the safe, natural way to feel better and more confident. It can help ease you out of your shyness and let you tell the world that you're ready and willing to do just about anything.

You will notice the benefits of Cabernet Sauvignon almost immediately and, with a regimen of regular doses, you'll overcome obstacles that prevent you from living the life you want.

Shyness and awkwardness will be a thing of the past. You will discover talents you never knew you had.

Cabernet Sauvignon may not be right for everyone. Women who are pregnant or nursing should not use it but women who wouldn't mind nursing or becoming pregnant are encouraged to try it.

Side effects may include:

Dizziness, nausea, vomiting, incarceration, loss of motor control, loss of clothing, loss of money, delusions of grandeur, table dancing, headache, dehydration, dry mouth, and a desire to sing Karaoke and play all-night Strip Poker, Truth Or Dare, and Naked Twister.

Warnings:

The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may make you think you are whispering when you are not.

The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may cause you to tell your friends over and over again that you love them.

The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may cause you to think you can sing.

The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may create the illusion that you are tougher, smarter, faster and better looking than most people.

Please feel free to share this important information!

LIFE IS A CABERNET OLD CHUM!

CHARDONNAY, Scotch, or Bourbon may be substituted for Cabernet Sauvignon, with similar results!

2018 schedule

- Jan 2nd club meeting
- Jan 8th Board meeting
- Feb 6th club meeting
- Feb 12thBoard meeting
- Mar 6th club meeting
- Mar 12th Board meeting
- April 3rd club meeting
- April 9th Board meeting
- April 24-27 Missouri outing

The rest of 2018 calendar will appear in the February newsletter

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Estelle Shuttleworth-President je@shuttleworthje.com
Bill Bean- VP billbean.bean75@gmail.com
Pierre Satkowiak-Secretary psatkowiak@gmail.com
Ken Quinn-Treasurer
David Ward-Programs dward451@comcast.net
Leon Powell- Roster eleonfish@gmail.com
Gary Kosaka-WebMaster- hikemastergk@gmail.com
Dorreen Romans-PR promans@aol.com
Phil Romans-promans@aol.com
Greg Chester- gchester55@aol.com
Ed Gannon- edandck@gmail.com
Dick Ellis- ellis r@fortlewis.edu
Denny Westover- dwwestover@comcast.net

Our Address: Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot PO BOX 692 Victor, MT 59875

Name tags and lanyards are ready and are at the check in table. If you need a name tag please contact Estelle at je@shuttleworthje.com Phone contacts:

Phil& Dorreen Romans 406- 363-0744 Gary Kosaka 562-833-3634 Denny Westover 206-605-0404 Greg Chester 406-363-0033 Pierre Satkowiak 406-777-2348 Estelle Shuttleworth 406-381-0474

FFB MERCHANDISE PROGRAM

FFB graphically labeled merchandise is available at www.okeefesreef.com Sample merchandise can be seen at http://www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org/page

FFB members can order from the website and have merchandise delivered to their home.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

The Board of Directors set a policy concerning classified ads in our newsletter. We want to facilitate our members selling unwanted, unneeded gear. The following rules apply: (1) the seller must be a Club member; (2) the seller must be noncommercial; (3) this editor has full right to edit submitted materials; they should be "Tweet" size (4) the ads will run a maximum of two times and then be retired; (5) the thing or things to be sold must be related to fly fishing; and (6) we not will charge for the ad placement and take no responsibility for its accuracy

