



"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."

www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org

AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER

A letter from your EDITOR

Hello you fly fishing maniacs! Well it is August now and hopefully you are all enjoying your time with friends; family; the river; our valley; our state. I know I am. In the last newsletter I challenged all of you to let me know what you are willing to do for the club – the challenge is still out there, I'm still waiting to hear from more of you!

Meanwhile, have YOU gotten to know other members in the club? Only way this happens is when you spend time with them. The club needs all of you. Not some, all.

How does one spend time with other members? You can ask them to fish, you ask them out to lunch, you have coffee with them; does not matter how -it's about doing it!

All of us join this club for some reason. Now is the time to contemplate the why did we join this club? Fishing partners, social partners, does it really matter the why, the most important factor is we all did. Those who started the FFB club had a vision. We should all be very thankful that they did! It is our obligation as members to think upon the vision and see what we can contribute.

Think about it everyone!

As always,

Estelle 406-381-0474 je@shuttleworthje.com



August 18th Annual Picnic & Fundraiser—

Hannon House- Steve Lilburn's place
(144 Hannon Lane, Darby 59829) Go South of Darby. If you cross over the Bitterroot, you just passed Steve's place on the left....

*****Start time 5 pm*****

Cost: Free for members.

\$10.00 donation requested from non-members

Please RSVP to : Diane Davis. Her email is

dianetdavis@yahoo.com

Let us know what you are bringing- appetizer, salad, side or dessert- and how many in your party!. We want to ensure that we have enough meat and a good variety of other dishes for everyone. Thanks!

Meat, beer & water supplied by the FFB

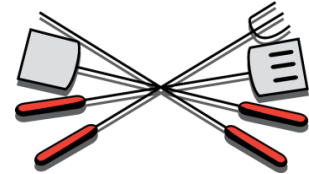
Bring your own soda, wine, camp chairs and a dish to share

FOR THE SIDE DISHES: if your last name ends in:

A to H: bring an appetizer

I to P: bring a side dish or salad

Q to Z: bring a dessert.



Upcoming Programs

**August – Picnic & September- Hebgen Outing
October 1st, Brendan Bannigan [*Grizzly Hackle*]**

Fishing for Pike

**November— Peg M. Jessica R. Jenny W. &
Donna W.**

Christmas Island- the Ladies way

December- Annual meeting & Elections

Annual Bitterroot River Cleanup August 10

Bitter Root Water Forum: *Bringing the Community together for Clean Abundant Water* | www.brwaterforum.org | (406)375-2272

We are so grateful to have the club as Watershed Sponsors this year! Hope to see lots of FFBers out for the event. You can sign up at <https://www.brwaterforum.org/bitterroot-river-clean-up>. Sites disappear as they are claimed but if your favorite stretch or site isn't listed on the map get in touch and we'll add it. You can call us at 406-375-2272 or email bswc.member@brwaterforum.org.

The annual river cleanup is scheduled for August 10 with a pre-event pint night from 4-7 PM on August 8 at Higher Ground Brewery. The original river cleanup was organized by Phil and Dorreen Romans about 2006. They were assisted by FFB member Bill Gouin, who arranged for three 30 foot dumpsters to be placed at strategic locations, and by architect Lee Keirig, who prepared a map that divided the valley into workable sections. Then they began the major task of recruiting volunteers to do the actual work. Eddy O and Doug Nation assisted. Boy Scouts, local ranchers, church and school groups participated. Albertsons sent a team from Missoula. There even was a scuba group that worked the deep holes. And Dorreen organized a barbeque to reward the volunteers. It's difficult to imagine the work that was seeded to start such an event from scratch. However, as Phil remembers, "It was GREAT!!!" After three years, Don McCourdy at First security Bank took over the cleanup, which ultimately became the responsibility of the Bitterroot Water Forum. Phil and Dorreen have seen tons of trash removed from the river, things such as cars and car parts, mattresses, lawn mowers, furniture to smaller items such as pampers and plastic. In 2019 the river is much cleaner than it was in 2006, thanks to the Romans and all those that have participated in the cleanup, including many FFB members. But while the volume of trash removed is less today than it was in 2006, the annual cleanup still is needed. So the Water Forum continues the good work. Those wishing to participate this year can go to the forum's office in Hamilton or go to brwaterforum.org and then to "What Can You Do" where you will find a map displaying the sections and where you can sign up. There are water and floating sections. There also is a guide to noxious weeds. Trash drop off is at Kiwanis Park from 4-6 PM and is followed by a barbeque for participants.

So we salute Phil and Dorreen Romans, Don McCourdy, the folks at the Water Forum, and all those FFB members that have participated in this event.



WOMEN, WADE AND WINE

Friday, August 30, 2019

5:00pm – 8:00pm

At the home of Sheila Bryan (Two Sisters Ranch)

5718 Ellison Lane
Florence, MT 59833
Phone: 425-941-1739

This event is a wade-fishing opportunity on the Bitterroot River that includes wine (provided by Sheila), finger food and a special appearance by Jenny West of Go West Outfitters. Please bring your favorite appetizer to share with the group, along with your own fly rod, reel and flies. No waders needed. Wear wading sandals.

Participation limited to first 25 responders!

Sign up by emailing Sheila Bryan at shoe6561@gmail.com.

Suggested donation of \$5.00 will help support future Reel Women events. BRTU membership is required for this event. You can join (at half price) by going to <https://www.bitterroottu.org> & clicking on "become a member."

Directions to Sheila's house: Take Hwy. 93 to Chief Looking Glass Road and turn right. Turn right at the end of Chief Looking Glass before entering campground onto Ellison Lane. Head all the way down into Two Sister's Ranch over cattle guard. Proceed to white house on left. It's a gravel road, so please be mindful of the 15 MPH speed limit.



"Here and there awareness is growing that man, far from being the overlord of all creation, is himself part of nature, subject to the same cosmic forces that control all other life. Man's future welfare and probably even his survival depend upon his learning to live in harmony, rather than in combat, with these forces."

Rachael Carson

NEWS AND NOTES

CONSERVATION ISSUES

New Zealand Mud Snails

In 2018 Wyoming Game and Fish biologists found New Zealand mud snails in the famed Grey Reef section of the North Platte River and also in the Salt River near Alpine. This invasive species is smaller than a grain of rice but multiplies rapidly and is very hardy. It takes only one to start a colony as males are not required for reproduction. Snail densities in some western rivers have gone from zero to up to 50,000 per square meter of streambed in a decade, although Polecat Creek in Grand Teton National Park was found recently to have up to 710,000 per square meter of streambed.

The snails undoubtedly arrived in the Great Lakes, and it is believed that they spread to western states by hitchhiking on watercraft, waders, boots, nets and other fishing equipment as well as by aquaculture operations and fish stocking as well as on the feet of hikers and animals and perhaps even earth moving equipment. They now are found in Oregon, Montana, Utah, Idaho, California and Colorado as well as in Yellowstone National Park. They can survive several days out of water and tolerate a wide range of temperatures and have the ability to shield themselves from toxins so that chemical eradication is not possible. They are not a food source for anything and have a very hard shell and pass unscathed through the digestive system of fish. They also are filter feeders and remove nutrients from the ecosystem and take over the habitat used by the bugs upon which trout rely.

Because of their small size they are not an immediate threat to trout populations, but states certainly are aware of the long term threat. Most states promote the "clean, drain and dry" program, but these are tough little critters, so tough that Colorado recommends soaking waders, boots, nets and other fishing gear in a solution of 50% water and 50% Formula 409 for five to ten minutes.

Perch in Eagle's Nest Lake, New Mexico

Eagle's Nest Lake is a high elevation impoundment in Northern New Mexico. Located east of Taos at an elevation of 8,300 feet, it became a trout and Kokanee fishery when New Mexico Game and Fish stocked the lake many years ago. Unfortunately bucket biologists interfered with the department's fish management program, for someone illegally introduced yellow perch about 1990 and then northern pike were illegally introduced several years later. Both severely damaged the salmonid fishery. Biologists considered eradicating all fish in the reservoir but decided against that because of the size (2,400 acres) and cost. The state now places traps in the perch spawning areas and allows anglers to keep 30 perch a day. There is no bag limit on northern pike, which grow to 35 inches in length. Pike catching contests, similar to the lake trout events on Flathead Lake, also have been established.

McPhee Reservoir, Colorado

McPhee Reservoir in extreme southwest Colorado divides the traditional trout fishery on the Dolores River from the tailwater fishery below the dam. Like many western states, Colorado has instituted a watercraft inspection program to protect state waters from invasive species. Recently inspectors discovered two boats infested with invasive mussels at McPhee Reservoir and have noticed an increase in the number of infested watercraft entering the state, many coming from Lake Powell. Boats are supposed to be inspected at Lake Powell, but inspection stations are overwhelmed by numbers and many boats are not properly inspected. Zebra mussels have been found on boats, canoes, paddle boards and even paddles. So what should you do if you transport a watercraft? "Clean, Drain and Dry."

San Juan Cutthroat Trout

And finally here is a feel good story. You may remember that a previous newsletter mentioned the discovery in Southwest Colorado of San Juan Cutthroat trout, a fish that was believed to be extinct. DNA testing linked the fish that were found in a small high country stream in the San Juan Mountains to two fish samples that had been collected by a scientist in 1874 and then donated to the Smithsonian Institution. The creek is located on Forest Service land, and the location is kept secret to protect the fish population. The discovery itself obviously is important. Also important, is the plan to breed and then stock the fish in adjacent waterways and the decision by the Colorado Water Board to approve an "in stream flow" protection for the creek in question. In Colorado the Water Conservation Board is the only entity that can hold a water right that keeps water in a river for environmental purposes. The board was given that power in the 1970s because of rapid population growth and development and subsequently has used that authority to preserve more than 9,700 miles of streams and 480 natural lakes.

NEW MEXICO STREAM ACCESS UPDATE

Most people don't think of New Mexico when dreaming about new places to fish. The state generally is dry. Albuquerque annually receives about eight inches of precipitation a year, and most comes during the summer monsoon season. My son called me in July and reported that the city received an inch of rain that night or one eighth of the annual total. But New Mexico lacks saguaro cactus and the desert environment found in southern Arizona and does have mountains that top 13,000 feet in elevation. There are ski areas at Taos, Santa Fe, Albuquerque and on the Mescalero Apache reservation in the southern part of the state. Most fly fishers are aware of the San Juan River tailwater below Navajo dam, and some are aware of the Rio Grande gorge and perhaps the Chama. Fewer are familiar with smaller streams such as the Cimarron, Pecos and the Red River. New Mexico also is home for two trout species, the Rio Grande Cutthroat and the Gila Trout. Like most western states, New Mexico has issues with stream access.

According to the New Mexico constitution "the unappropriated water of every natural stream, perennial or torrential, within the state" belongs to the public, so title to water resides with the state. In 1945 the New Mexico Supreme Court ruled in a case involving the Red River that the constitution gave the public the right to "float and wade in any stretch of stream that passes through private land, so long as the public has legal access." It also found that "the small streams of the state are fishing streams to which the public have a right to resort so long as they do not trespass on the private property along the bank." Thus the public had the right to wade or float streams as long as they entered the water at a legal access point and stayed below the high water mark. Left unclear was whether the public had the right to "portage" around a natural or artificial obstacle.

That changed during the administration of Governor Susana Martinez (R). Wealthy landowners lobbied the legislature for legislation to privatize New Mexico rivers and streams and to eliminate public access. Martinez appointed the members of the New Mexico Game Commission, which issued a ruling in 2017 that allowed landowners to certify that waters flowing through their land were non-navigable and therefore closed to access. More recently Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) was elected governor and appointed new members to the state Game Commission, which imposed a 90 day moratorium on the 2017 ruling so that the state Attorney General (D) could issue a ruling on whether the 2017 ruling is legal. New Mexico fly fishers are optimistic that the Attorney General will rule in their favor.

"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature--the assurance that dawn comes after the night, and spring after winter."

Rachel Carson

FISH REPORTS, PHOTOS & GRINS

GEORGETOWN OUTING REPORTS

Last week as we entered Mid-Summer, 27 stalwart FFB Members and guests, descended on Georgetown Lake like a giant Sedge hatch, for their annual camp-out. They found the Trout large, and in-charge, and reluctant to bite until the fading Sun dropped over the mountains.. The later it got, the better the bite, as the Travelling Sedge insects turned on the Trout like a massive shot of caffeine. I for one, started rooting for the poor critters, as I watched the determined bugs rise to the surface, dry their wings, and then start skittering towards shore, only to disappear in a

violent, splashy swirl....dinner for a Trout. Some of them MUST make it I guess, or they'd be extinct by now.. 😬

At Rainbow Bay , a packed campground shared the beach with 3 huge Bull Moose, who strolled through without a concern. They would splash in the water, and feed on the shrubs while gawkers fell over themselves, and off their paddleboards, to get as close as the Moose let them. As far as the fishing was concerned, the nearly-full Moon each night, meant that the fish were looking up, and feeding on these bugs all night long, ,and during the day, they sat on the bottom.....stuffed. Of course, the hard-bitten Trout Veterans that we were, we were able to find the

occasional hungry one that missed the "nocturnal buffet" 🤖

The ones brought to the net looked like stuffed footballs....almost as wide as they were long. One that I caught and had to keep, was full of 500 eggs.....in July???... Even a few Brook Trout went for some flies....Estelle caught a nice one. It was fitting,... as she celebrated the Anniversary of her locking herself out of her Jeep last year.....by doing it

again.....this year.... 😬

The warm, sunny Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Friday, gave way to a "backhand" by Mother Nature on Saturday and Sunday morning. We were driven off the lake on Saturday evening by Thunderstorm cells....NATURALLY during a HOT

Sedge hatch. Whitecaps in a 12-foot boat are no fun. 😬

Yes, good weather while it lasted.

Thank you all for the great potluck and concept!

As far as the contest goes, there were only 5 that responded to join. Two didn't make it in time so the results are: and the following didn't come close to the GTL Grand Slam to need to kick in a donation to the club!

Ed was the winner at 19" for the Streamer category. He tried so many flies, I don't know what he caught it on. All I have is the picture and his word. LOL! Estelle the winner with a 16" Brook on a Surface fly and I won the Nymph (now labeled as the Rabbit Hole, down deep with an 'indicator') category with a 19" on a callibaetis nymph.

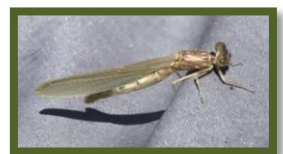
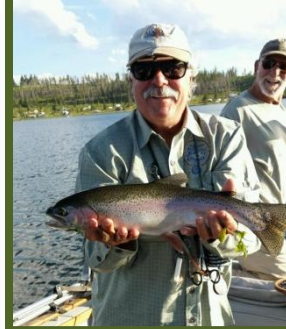
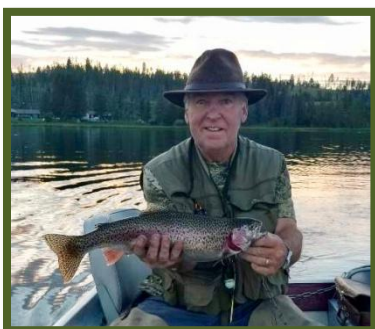
Similar contest to be run by the game commissioner at Hebgen Lake this September.

Thanks to the Gannons, Taylors, Romans and Others for keeping the event going! Gary K

Just a note of thanks to all who participated in the annual outing at Georgetown. Although Leon, Dick and I enjoyed the comforts of home in Leon's cottage, we did enjoy the potluck and ability to participate in the liars club. Always an enjoyable experience. A special thanks is due to Ed and Christina (wonderful pancakes - as usual), Estelle, and all the unnamed worker bees that helped make the potluck a huge success. One must not leave out our own Mike Taylor for his generous margarita machine offerings and evening lake tour for his harem. Hope all that stayed Saturday survived the storm - no floaters were reported. Till next time.. Ken Q

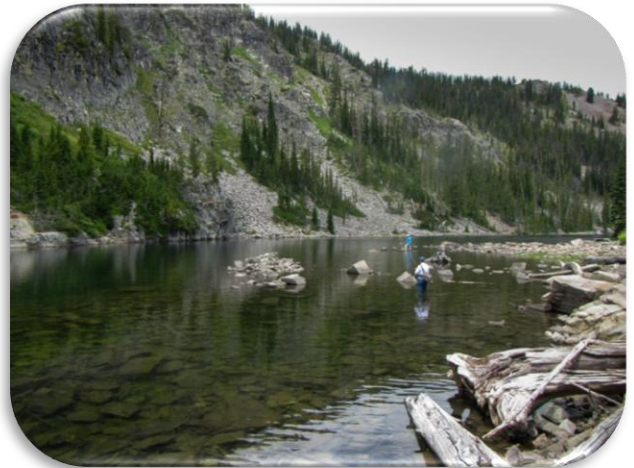
I to would like to add my atta boy to Ed & Christina for arranging and hosting the outing. They and many other club members worked hard to provide a great time.

As for fishing on Jericho Bay, started out pretty good on Chronimids and Damsel nymphs on Friday but grew harder to get a handle on what the heck they were eating to the point that (I hate to admit) Saturday I got skunked. -Leon P



Fish Report: Fuse Lake

Ever hiked to Fuse Lake to fish for grayling? The 6.5 mile round trip hike is worth it to see the lake, even without the fishing. Club members Estelle S., Peg M. and Kim N. hiked in earlier this month. Grayling were caught, mosquitoes were fought and they walked out quickly in a torrential downpour with thunder overhead. Bear spray, bug spray and good hiking boots are a must here.- *submitted by Peg M.*



EXOPHILIA

"Lexophile" describes those that have a love for words.

Examples are: "you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish", or "To write with a broken pencil is pointless."

An annual competition is held by the New York Times to see who can create the best original Lexophile.
This year's winning submission is posted at the very end.

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.

I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.
I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
A will is a dead giveaway.
With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.

A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.
The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory but it was never fully developed.
When she saw her first strands of gray hair she thought she'd dye.

Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.
I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Did you hear about the crossed-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
When chemists die, they barium.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

Those who get too big for their pants will be totally exposed in the end.

THIS IS WHO WE ARE..... Excerpts for the By Laws of Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot

I decided to add this section so that everyone can know a bit more about the club.....

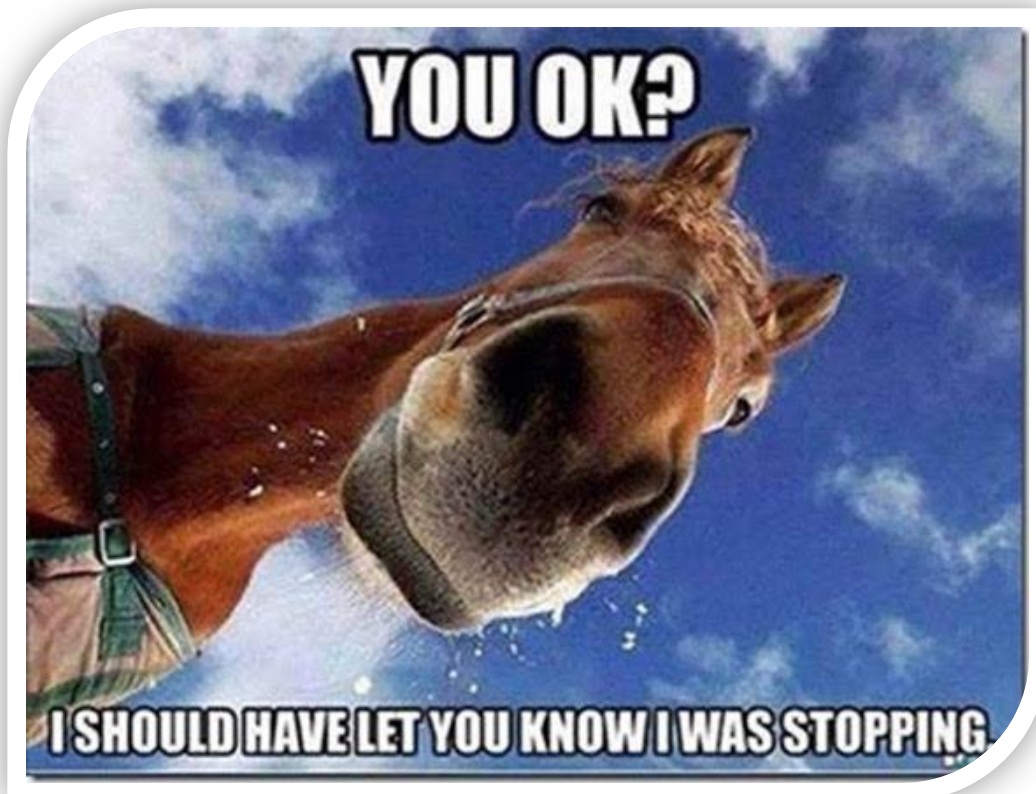


ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSES

Section 1 - Name. This organization shall be called "Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot, INC, a Montana non-profit corporation" and is referred to in these Bylaws as the "Organization".

Section 2 - Purposes. This Organization is a non-profit membership organization organized exclusively for educational and conservation purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. The purposes for which it is organized are as follows:

- A. To provide members with a forum for education and resource stewardship through the sport of fly fishing;
- B. To promote fly fishing through education as the most enjoyable and sporting method of fishing, and the method most consistent with the preservation of conservation - wise use - of our fishing waters and game fish;
- C. To provide assistance, advice, and suggestions to other angling groups to help them become more important and effective in their areas; and
- D. To publicize the best practices and techniques of fly fishing, fly tying, casting, and other related subjects.

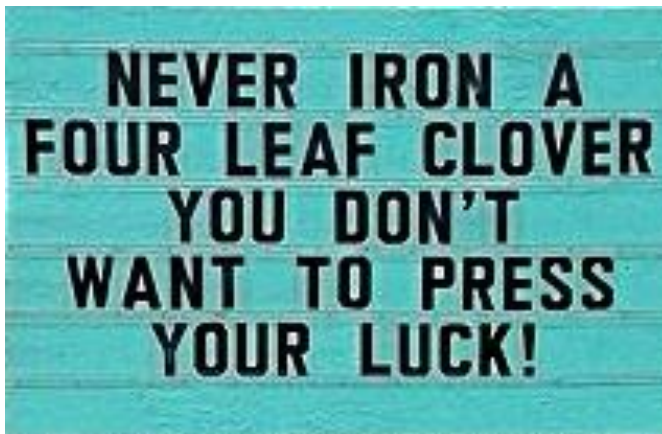


2019 schedule

August 18 th	Annual Picnic
Sept 10-15 th	Hebgen Lake
Oct 1 st	1 st fall club meeting
Oct 7 th	Board meeting
Nov 5 th	club meeting
Nov 11 th	Board Meeting
Dec 3 rd	ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS
Dec 9 th	Board meeting
Jan 7 th 2020	Club meeting

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Estelle Shuttleworth-Past Pres je@shuttleworthje.com
Pierre Satkowiak-Secretary psatkowiak@gmail.com
Ken Quinn-Treasurer tarq46@gmail.com
Leon Powell- Roster eleonfish@gmail.com
Gary Kosaka-WebMaster- hikemastergk@gmail.com
Phil Romans-promans@aol.com
Greg Chester- gchester55@aol.com
Ed Gannon- edandck@gmail.com
Dick Ellis- ellis_r@fortlewis.edu
Warren Johns- Ichthyologist55@yahoo.com
Walt McCrumb – sikiQ4me@gmail.com



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

The club's membership period is January 1st to December 31st of each year.

Individual: \$ 25.00

Family: \$35.00

A Family is 2 people in a domestic relationship and their children under 18 years of age.

Newsletter editor:

Estelle Shuttleworth

je@shuttleworthje.com

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!

FFB HATS: THEY ARE HERE!!!!1

