

"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

SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

No meeting this month

Your are suppose to be out fishing & having fun.....Next meeting is October 1st

On his deathbed they asked him where he wanted to be buried. Bob Hope replied: "Surprise me."

BOB HOPE IN HEAVEN

ON TURNING 70 - "I still chase women, but only downhill."

ON TURNING 80 - "That's the time of your life when even your birthday suit needs pressing."

ON TURNING 90 - "You know you are getting old when the candles cost more than the cake."

ON TURNING 100 - " I don't feel old. In fact, I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap."

ON GIVING UP HIS EARLY CAREER (BOXING) - "I ruined my hands in the ring. The referee kept stepping on them."

ON GOLF - "Golf is my profession. Show business is just to pay the green fees."

ON PRESIDENTS - "I have performed for 12 presidents but entertained only six."

ON WHY HE CHOOSE SHOWBIZ FOR HIS CAREER - "When I was born, the doctor said to my mother, congratulations, you have an eight pound ham."

ON RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL - "I feel very humble, but I think I have the strength of character to fight it."

ON HIS FAMILY'S EARLY POVERTY - "Four of us slept in the one bed. When it got cold, mother threw on another brother."

ON HIS SIX BROTHERS - "That's how I learned to dance. Waiting for the bathroom."

ON HIS EARLY FAILURES - "I would not have had anything to eat if it wasn't for the stuff the audience threw at me."

ON GOING TO HEAVEN - "I have done benefits for ALL religions. I would hate to blow the hereafter on a technicality."

Dear Lord -

**Please give me a sense of humor,
give me the grace to see a joke,
to get some humor out of life,
and pass it on to other folk.**

Learn from yesterday, live for today, keep one hand on your wallet and don't worry about tomorrow..

October 2019 program



SPEAKERS:

Matt Bryn & Rick Marcum

PROGRAM:

**Fishing for Pike with the
Grizzly Hackle Crew**

Matt Bryn, Retail Manager, Grizzly Hackle

Matt is a native of Missoula, MT. His love of the outdoors started at birth as he was always fishing and hunting with his dad. Matt didn't watch cartoons or play video games as a kid – he wanted to be outside! After he graduated from the University of Montana –Western in Dillon, he became a full time fisherman guiding the rivers of SW Montana. Although Matt is mostly done guiding except for a few special requests, his love of fly fishing has kept him in the business. Matt's biggest passion in life is big game hunting for deer and elk. Besides his corny jokes, he's a goofy ice fisherman drilling holes on a frozen lake in the winter. Matt is in his 6th year at Grizzly Hackle as Retail Manager.



Rick Marcum, Outfitting Manager, Grizzly Hackle

Rick grew up fishing for bass and bluegill in the Midwest. He caught his first big bass at age 7 and it was all downhill from there. All he ever thought about was fishing. In college his roommate ended up being a fly fishing guide from Libby, MT. He introduced Rick to fly fishing for trout and it didn't take long for him to get addicted to fly fishing! Since then he actively pursues other species on a fly rod. Rick has been the Outfitting Manager at the Grizzly Hackle since 2012.

Upcoming Programs

October 1st - Fishing for Pike

November—Christmas Island

December- Annual meeting & Elections

FLY OF THE MONTH September 2019

By Greg Chester

Lime RAM Caddis Pupa



Many years ago while learning to fish the waters of the Eastern Sierra in California an effective and popular pattern was the RAM Caddis. It was invented by Ross A. Marigold, an avid fly fisher in both California and Montana. A large rock on the Madison River near Raynolds Pass Bridge has a plaque signifying this to be his favorite spot. He passed away several years ago.

His RAM Caddis pattern, tied in several colors accounted for many nice days on Hot Creek, Rush Creek, the East Walker and Carson Rivers. The popular colors were Tan, Lime/Burgundy and Lime as show here. We tied them in sizes 12 – 20 with varying hackle color and style. Overall I recall a size 16 with white hen hackle and wine dubbing for the head to be our go-to pattern.

By the way I mentioned in a recent trip report of my success with this bug on the Madison below the Hebgen Dam and at \$3 Bridge. I shared this with the staff at Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone and it came as no surprise to them. Seems they've been fishing the bug consistently for the past year in all Yellowstone Country waters with good success.

The lesson here is to try some of your old forgotten patterns. They worked then and should work now. All of my original RAMs were tied on Mustad nymph hooks which were not known for durability or consistency. They still work but I now tie them on current models offering much more quality and superior sharpness.

If you care to give this bug a try here's the menu.

Hook #16 Tiemco 2487 Scud Hook

Thread White 6/0 Unithread

Abdomen Lime colored floss

Ribbing	Small red wire
Hackle	White hen
Head	Wine colored dubbing

Tying is pretty much straight forward. After mounting the hook in your vise wrap the shank with tying thread and tie in a length of floss and wire. Note that the floss extends around the bend of the hook.

Next wrap the floss toward the eye forming a neat, tapered abdomen. Make sure to leave a little room for the hackle and head.

Wrap the ribbing forward in even, open wraps and tie off near the head area.

Now tie in a soft hen hackle of appropriate size. The fibers should be approximately equal to the length of the abdomen. Wrap about 3 turns of hackle tying off just behind the head area.

Then dub a somewhat shaggy head forcing the hackle fibers back as shown in the photo.

Finally whip finish and apply a small amount of head cement.

Good luck! Any questions? Feel free to give me a call. 406-363-0033

NAVIGATING A RIVER IS NOT WALKING--IT'S WADING

"Wading is one foot in front of the other, but the back foot doesn't lift until the front foot is solid. Take a step. Settle that foot and find your balance. And--only then--pick up the other foot to take the next step."
-Domenick Swentosky

Look- some cool items coming up in future raffles!

A beautiful pine needle basket & an awesome metal figurine. Both will be Raffle board items! Stay tuned!!!



If this doesn't make you smile, your 'smiler' may be broken . . .



Q....How do you keep your car from being stolen?

A....Buy a standard shift model

Q....How do you send a message in code?

A....Write in cursive



On August 12, 2019 The Board voted to again to support the efforts of this nationally acclaimed organization that uses fly fishing as a means of rehabilitation for women who have suffered the mental & physical ravages of being diagnosed with breast cancer. The Club will match donations from its members (that YOU everyone!) up to \$1,000. This is how it is done:

- 1. Make a donation amount of your choosing.**
- 2. Write the check to "Casting for Recovery" [NOT the club!!]**
- 3. on the Memo line, write: [CfR-Western MT retreat/FFB](#)**
- 4. send your check to the Club: Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot, PO BOX 692 Victor, MT 59875. You could also make a notation on the envelope: [CfR](#)**
- 5. Our Treasurer, Ken Quinn, will then write a matching check to CfR and mail the checks to Casting for Recovery, care of Peg Miskin.**
- 6. That way the club and donors individually will receive a letter from CfR for tax purposes.**

Simple!



**Western Montana program
2018 participants**

Casting for Recovery (CfR) provides free support and education retreats for women of all ages and in any stage of breast cancer treatment or recovery, incorporating fly fishing into the program. Headquartered in Bozeman, MT, CfR is in its 23rd year with 60 retreats across the country.

The Western Montana program was trained and launched in 2011 by club member Peg Miskin who works for the national office and is in its 9th year of providing retreats to women in the area. Selection is random with 14 women attending each retreat, and women from Ravalli County and Hamilton specifically have attended. The retreats are staffed by an all women team of volunteers with river helpers, who can be male, coming in on the last day to fish w/the women one on one.

The 2019 retreat is September 6-8 at The Lubrecht Center east of Missoula in Greenough, MT. Previously held at a locale near Whitefish, the retreat moved in part to be more centrally located in the state. 33 women applied for the 2019 retreat. 14 were chosen by random selection plus 12 alternates. 4 women from Ravalli County were selected to attend the 2019 retreat, 3 others are alternates.

Bonnie Anderson, Missoula, a FFB club member, is now the Western Montana volunteer Program Coordinator. Bonnie headed up the Southern California program for several years (also trained by Peg Miskin) before moving to Montana full time over a year ago. Bonnie herself was diagnosed with breast cancer in April 2019 with a good prognosis. This would be the perfect year to provide financial support to the Western Montana Casting for Recovery program!

Here's the link to the retreat video from last year: 5 from the Bitterroot Valley attended in 2018.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWMWaGNTOLY&t=32s>

NEWS AND NOTES

2019 Water Forum's Annual River Clean up

Club members again devoted time & energy to this worthy cause to keep our home waters clean. Thanks to all of you who participated!!!



BITTER ROOT
Water
forum



The Bitter Root Water Forum would like to again extend our thanks for the generous sponsorship from the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot and for getting so many members out to clean the river! Thanks to our over 80 volunteers 1,980 pounds of trash were removed from the River. And great news ... we heard from the majority of folks that there was less trash than they'd seen in previous years. One gentleman went to three different sites determined to not come away empty handed.





Wow ! Look who did well at the fair! Club member Julie Shoush won a blue AND a Lavender ribbon at the Ravalli County fair for her beautiful pine needle basket--- That's a first place and **Reserve Champion** in the entire category of arts & crafts..... and even more exciting, is she has donated a basket to the club to be used in the raffle. So stay tuned!!!!!!

If I fished only to capture fish, my fishing trips would have ended long ago.- Zane Grey

*Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.-
Henry David Thoreau*

There is a voice that doesn't use words. Listen. – Rumi

HIGH TEMPERATURES IMPACT ALASKA SALMON

This summer Alaska is suffering from a blistering heat wave. July 2019 was the hottest July on record, and high water temperatures have caused a die off of salmon in rivers throughout the state. Fisheries biologists say that river temperatures above 55 degrees stress salmon, and many rivers have exceeded that this year. A temperature of 81.7 degrees was recorded in the Deshka River, a major salmon stream north of Anchorage. University of Alaska Fairbanks fisheries ecology professor Peter Westley says that climate models have long predicted higher river temperatures in Alaska, but river temperatures such as those in 2019 were not expected until 2069. Higher temperatures caused a massive kill of pink salmon on July 17 in rivers that enter the Bering Sea, and on July 26 there were reports of dead salmon covering the banks of the Yukon. There and elsewhere fish appear disoriented. Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists suggest that salmon are suffering from heart attacks from high water temperatures and note that the fish are dying before they spawn. This also has been a dry year for southeast Alaska and the Kenai, so rivers are low and some fish can't even get into the streams to spawn.

In addition President Trump recently instructed the Environmental Protection Agency to end its opposition to the proposed Pebble Mine near Bristol Bay. In 2014, after a decades long fight, the EPA concluded that the mine would cause a "complete loss of fish habitat due to elimination, dewatering and fragmentation of streams, wetlands, and other aquatic resources" in important areas of Bristol Bay and as a result, the agency banned mining. Trump's decision lifts that ban.

MONTANA TROUT UNLIMITED
Bitter Root Chapter

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18, 2019
BITTERROOT RIVER INN

**40TH ANNUAL
TROUT UNLIMITED
BANQUET**

5:00 PM EVENT OPENS
6:30 PM DINNER AND LIVE AUCTION

\$50 per ticket

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW AT
FREESTONE FLY SHOP, CHUCK STRANAHAN'S FLY SHOP,
FIN CITY FLY SHOP AND ANGLER'S ROOST IN HAMILTON,
AND BITTERROOT FLY COMPANY IN DARBY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
MARSHALL BLOOM 363-3485 DRTROUT@MTBLOOM.NET
JEREMY ANDERSON MTWILDTROUT1@GMAIL.COM
GREG CHESTER 363-0033 GCHESTER55@AOL.COM

*In the midnight Arctic seas,
stained tropical rivers at dawn,
the Gulf Stream at noon,
where thin shafts of light
chisel down into blue-black;
a small creek in evening shade
beneath willows and sycamores;
in northern rivers
where salmon lie
in deep viridian hollows.
It is always the dark water
which promises the most."*

Russell Chatham, Dark Waters, 1989.

***"I choose to fish wild places wherever I
can." Domenick Swentosky.***

Sunday, August 11th, Les & Cheryl Korcala took part in the first ever in Montana installation of the new design and low maintenance fish screen on Marshall creek . It took 7 hours and many hands to do the job. Now native cutthroats are free and safe from getting caught in this irrigation ditch. Thanks go to the Westslope TU chapter, the Jackson Group and several volunteers for their hard work on this desperately needed project. Next year, two more of these innovative fish screens will be installed on the forks of the Bitterroot River.

INSTALLATION OF FIRST EVER IN MONTANA FREE MAINTENANCE FISH SCREEN DESIGN ON MARSHALL CREEK



JOIN US FOR THE 7TH ANNUAL
Cast One
for HOPE

September 27-28, 2019
In Hamilton, Montana

An Exclusive Fly Fishing Event on the Legendary Bitterroot River to Benefit Women with Breast Cancer.

For more information visit: castoneforhope.org

Casting for Recovery
castingforrecovery.org

FISH REPORTS, PHOTOS & GRINS



Donna Wichers- Big Hole Brown

From our Facebook Page

FFB founder and past President **Phil Romans** recently took a visiting friend out on the Bitterroot for her first float. She caught her first fish on the fly too. Helps when you have a good guide that can get you into the fish and knows the river. Congratulations!



Yvette Hammon:

I had the most amazing and beautiful float! I can't thank Phil enough for sharing his time and as much of his knowledge that I could soak up!! I'll be back for sure!



The solution to any problem-work, love, money, whatever-is to go fishing, and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be.- John Gierach

Fish Report: Blackfoot River: During those hot days of August two “lefty” ladies headed out with another [lefty] guide into new uncharted waters for both of them. Sally R. and Estelle S. fished the Blackfoot River with fishing guide Amy Schlatter.



“It started slow with lots of small fish, then it began to pick up.- This rainbow had already leaped out of Amy’s hands...had to return it to the net for a brief rest-still wanted to leap out of my hands. This section of the Blackfoot is a technical stretch, for both anglers and especially the guide. Plenty of “rock gardens” Fun day, but long & we were both tired.”-Sally



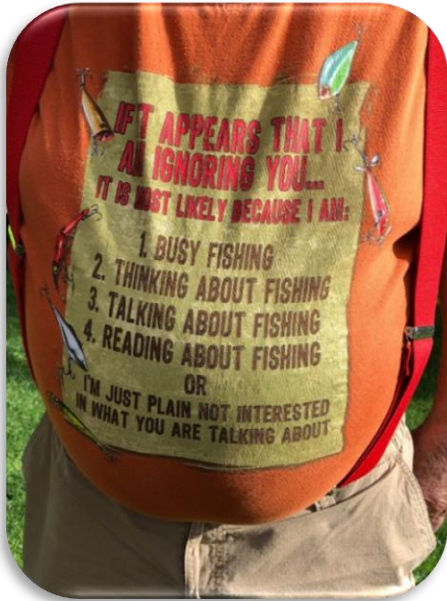
The day ended with this beautiful cutthroat caught by Sally just before we hit the takeout. We caught rainbows, cutthroat, browns, and white fish. Only fish that was elusive to us is the mighty bull trout. Maybe next time.....



2019 FFB ANNUAL PICNIC



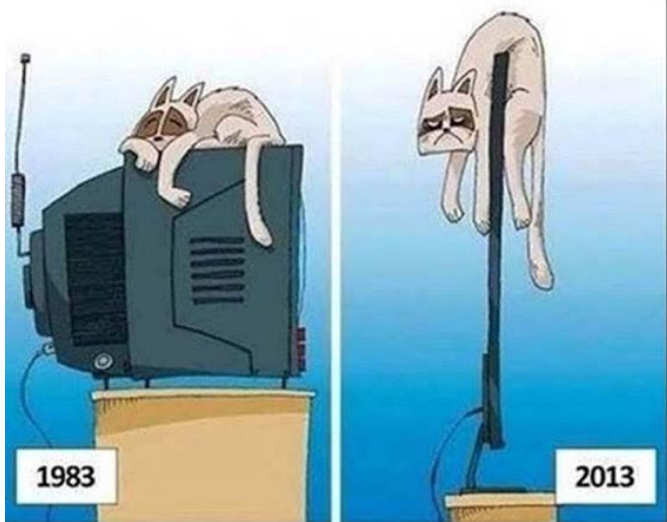






All of these great pictures were taken by Peg Miskin- thanks! (well, except one.....)

The look you give your friend when he says "take this exit" and you're in the left lane



**Growing old is
hard work...
The mind says
"yes" but, the
body says "what
the hell are you
thinking"**

2019 Hebgen lake outing September 10th-14th · Potluck FRIDAY NIGHT THE 13TH (yep).....

It looms before us as the last Club outing of the year

....like Shangrila.....Stonehenge.....Machu Piccu.....**HEBGEN!!!** (I Laid it on a little thick...no??) 🤪

We are less than a month away.—actually only days away!

Last year 22 Clubbers made the journey to this legendary fishing Nirvana.....the weather was almost perfect, and the fishing was outstanding, both from boats and from shore.

There are an incredible number of fishing opportunities in this area that I could go on for *pages* about, but last year we centered on the Grayling Arm of the lake.

The Madison is arguably the best river in the West for dry-fly fishing. (*Which is music to my ears...as "Dry or Die Guy"...*) I was in "tall-cotton last year 😍😍)..

It is born in Yellowstone, and flows for 9 miles to Hebgen Lake, although the whole river is more than 120 miles long. This first run offers some of the best fishing, especially in September, when really BIG trout run out of Hebgen to spawn. It's a glorious time to be on the Madison....leaves of gold, cooler days and nights, and re-vitalized fish. By September, the grassy edges of the river are overflowing with Grasshoppers. Hoppers, Ants, and other Terrestrials will stack them up, although Streamers come into play as the huge Browns get restless and aggressive for the spawn, and all trout are trying to put on weight for the winter. The thought of tangling

with a 30-inch Brown gives me "chicken-skin" 🐔. Bring your Sculpins, Zonkers, and Sex Dungeons!! I spent half a day wade-fishing the river near the campground, and caught almost 30 fish in a couple hours, until the Grizzly tracks I saw, told me I had gone far enough.... 🐻 If you plan on walking a lot, bring your Bear-Spray.... 😊

Hebgen Lake is called the "premier dry-fly lake in Montana". It's big, at 6,500 acres, and the trout tend to run large, with the September hatches of Tricos and Mayflies putting fish in the 17 to 25 inch range into a feeding frenzy. The really good news is the myriad of access points for wade-fishermen, for those without a tube or boat. Last year we topped out the Rainbows at 23 inches, and the Browns at 24. This lake is where the term "gulpers" was born! You can spend the day sight-casting to these beasts..."sippers" taking spinners or duns....."tailers" taking the sub-surface bugs....and aggressive "gluttons" smashing emergers... September is called the "money-month" on Hebgen ! Veterans of Hebgen say float tubes and other boats are nice, but "no problem" from shore....plenty of places to wade fish. I personally was catching 23-inch fish in 4

feet of water from shore!... 😊 We didn't even scratch the surface at Quake Lake, Wade Lake, the Madison itself, or Henry's Fork. Too many places.....not enough time....!

This year, we have 24 prospective Clubbers going...the "C" Loop (Electric) is sold out at Rainbow Point, but there are still a few spaces available in the other loops. Just be mindful of the Deer walking through....! There are a myriad of Motels, Cabins, and other lodging nearby as well. After all....this is at the

gates of Yellowstone! 🐘🐾🐻

"Ground Zero" will be the "C" Loop. We will have a "pot-luck" night, Friday (9/13), just bring a dish, and your own protein to cook with us. We also plan to go into West Yellowstone one night for dinner.

So, if you got nothing to do.....come join us!!.....September 10-14. May we be as lucky as we were last year!!!

2019 schedule

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
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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.

**You drop something
when you were younger,
you just pick it up.**

**When you're older and
you drop something, you
stare at it for a bit
contemplating if you
actually need it
anymore.**

**And just like that
1969 was
50 years ago.**

