



*"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](http://www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org)

## November 2018 Newsletter

**Meeting is Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup> at BJ's.**  
**5:30-6:30-Social hour; meeting starts at 6:30 pm**

Hi Everyone

Well, the year is winding down, rather quickly I say. Wasn't that long ago we were wishing for spring and now the leaves are mostly gone and the weather has turned back to clouds, rain & snow on the mountains. I hope ya all got your chances to fish, play and mostly look around you & be thankful of the beautiful place we live. Hard to beat, isn't it?

My term as your President is winding down, but I do plan to continue as newsletter Editor for a bit longer. The last two years have been challenging but very rewarding. I had a great crew to work with and a very ambitious agenda. The Board accomplished a lot- I will before ever grateful for the support & help of the Board members. One of my goals was to define & get down on paper the who; what; when; where and why of the club. I wanted to help define all positions & job descriptions so that when others step forward, they will know what is needed to help. I am also working on the history of the club. *You cannot know where you are going if you don't know where you have been.* I fondly call this collection of items "The FFB Playbook". I do need some help to get it in to final form—let me know if you are interested in helping.

I special thanks and my eternal gratitude goes to Phil & Dorreen Romans- without them there would be no club. They have worked tirelessly through the past 15 years to make their idea of a club happen. I hope I have helped too.

Till next time,

Estelle

*"Grant me the Courage to change the things I can, Patience to accept those I can't; and the Wisdom to know the difference."*



## November 2018 Program



**STEVE DAVIS**

*One of our own members!*

**TITLE:**

**The Kanektok River, an amazing fishery**

This presentation will focus on catching king salmon on a fly in an amazing fishery the Kanektok River, Alaska. In 2017 and 2018 during the 4th of July week, Dennis Swing and Steve Davis fished with the Reel Action lodge located near the Yup'ik Village, Quinhagak, Alaska on the Bering Sea.

Steve Davis has fly fished extensively in Alaska as well as Chile, Wales, England and most of the US. A Soldier for 26 years, he retired in 2004. Earning Fly Fishing International's Certified Casting Instructor level in 2015, he enjoys teaching casting to the kids in the annual Bitterroot Buggers program, a joint effort between the Club and TU here in Hamilton. Steve also works closely with the Ravalli County Office of Emergency Management in various roles as a volunteer.





## November 2018 Fly of the Month

### The Krabby Patty (a saltwater fly)

*By Kevin Green, submitted by Gary Kosaka*

For those who have the opportunity to fish the coast, tie a couple of these and try them out. Cast over the incoming tide wave and strip to keep a tight line. A retreating channel is also very good. Fish will follow the disturbance hoping to pick up a crab or worm that is dislodged. The eyes will make it dive to the bottom. I think the key to fish this fly is to get it to the bottom fast!



That's my size 12 surf boot. Have fun! Gary Kosaka

Recipe (in order of use):

- Hook - Gamakatsu B10S Stinger, size 6
- Thread – Danville red 210 denier flat waxed nylon
- Eyes – 5/32 black Dazl eyes (photo shows large black bead chain, which also works)
- Red marabou tail
- Spirit River's "Palmer Chenille Rootbeer" or Wapsi's Palmer Chenille in medium rootbeer (same product as far as I can tell) – tie it in at the back of the hook and let hang until you've applied the base chenille (below) to the hook shank, then palmer it forward over the base chenille
- Base chenille – some sparkly dark red medium chenille, such as Cascade Crest Tools' size 3 "New Age Chenille" in Cherry Pearl
- Finish/Thread protection from abrasive sand – superglue, epoxy, Clear Cure Goo, Tuffleye, or a couple of layers of Sally Hanson's Hard as Nails.

It's a quick easy tie, like a wooly bugger with dumbbell eyes. The key ingredient is the "Palmer Chenille Rootbeer," which has great movement and fishy eye-catching pearly colors. The recipe above is my favorite, but I've varied the ingredients (similar hooks, orange or brown thread, orange marabou tail, different base chenilles, etc.) and all variations seem to work pretty well. This fly catches surf perch better than any other fly I've used. It has also caught halibut, croaker and corbina. *Good luck! – Kevin*

***"Fishermen are born honest, but they grow out of it." - Ed Zern***

"People fish for different reasons. They fish to shed the cataracts of age, to relive the thrill that was the dancing of a bobber as a sunfish nipped the worm and that thirty years later is harkened by the rising of a trout to a mayfly. They fish because a cast is a prayer for the believer and a hope for the heathen, and the more casts you make, the more likely your prayer will be answered or your hope be realized. And they fish because a fish is a miracle of nature, it fins as wondrous as the wings of a bird, and because you can touch the one but no the other." "*Crazy Mountain Kiss*" by Keith McCafferty- Author of *The Royal Wulff Murders*



## CLUB SLIDESHOW SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 2019!

Bob Prince has again graciously agreed to do a slideshow for us in 2019. I decided to get you all thinking earlier about getting those photos to him! Start sending them to him NOW !( *while you still remember the who, where and when.....*) *Let's see if we can get a lot of different folks contributing—doesn't have to be fish pics either- maybe a great sunset/landscape, bird ,toad, lizard....etc.....*

*Send in JPEG format, 1-1.5MB size to:      robertwaprince@gmail.com*

Ok everyone, I have been after you all for months now! Please get those pictures to Bob- he has a limited time to work on stuff, so in order to have a great show we need participants!



## ***Upcoming Programs and Events***

**December 2018 : Annual meeting And Elections**

**January 2019: date is January 8<sup>th</sup>: Greg Chester- Christmas Island**

**February 2019- Bob Prince's famous club slideshow**

**March 2019--OPEN**

### **Recap of October meeting**

There are a lot of famous streams and rivers in around West Yellowstone, Montana. A lot is known about the famous Madison River and the Yellowstone but there isn't a lot known, by most fishermen, about the rivers and streams inside Yellowstone Park.

Alice Owsley, the owner of Riverside Anglers, shared some of her knowledge and thoughts about fishing in the park during the fishing season and some things to do when the fishing goes away and winter sets in. There are a lot of people who enjoy skiing, snowshoeing and just plain lounging when the snow gets deep and fishing doesn't exist.

The club is always looking for new and interesting programs to share with the membership at our regular monthly meetings. Every program can't be the best ever but there are some that are more interesting than others. Some of our own members have produced some very interesting programs and there are still more to come that we don't even know about yet.

The board is looking for someone who will be involved this coming year in helping us get some interesting programs for the next couple of years. If you are interested in helping with programs or if you know someone whom you think has an interest in programs please let us know.

Bill Bean – 2019 president elect

### **Heads up on Dues renewals!**

**In 2016 the Board passed a motion to change the club's membership period to run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. We also defined Individual and Family memberships. They are:**

**Individual- ONE person: \$25.00 per year**

**Family: \$35.00 per year. Definition of "family" membership: Two people in a domestic relationship and their children under the age of 18.**

**So, ya all, dues are due starting **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019**. If you wish to pay at either the November or December meeting, that is great! We are not asking you to fill out paperwork this time, but please verify the info we have on file !**

Me, again



## NEWS & NOTES

### November ballot issue: I-186

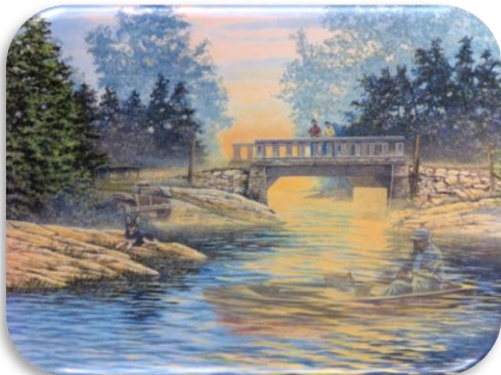
Initiative Number 186 received enough signatures and will be on the ballot this November despite an effort by the Montana Mining Association to stop it by legal action. The Montana Supreme Court rejected that challenge. Following that defeat, Ravalli County legislators Fred Thomas, Ron Ehli, and Nancy Ballance joined other legislators in a failed effort to get a special session of the legislature to derail the initiative.

Those responsible for the initiative point out that Montana has some 3,500 abandoned mines and that in recent years five major mining companies have gone bankrupt in Montana, and in every case the reclamation bonds failed to cover the cost of cleanup. As a result the state is forced to assume the cost of reclamation. One example is the Zortman-Landusky mine in the Little Rocky Mountains near Ft. Belknap. The mine released 50,000 gallons of cyanide and polluted Zortman's municipal water supply. So far the cleanup has cost the state \$27.5 million dollars, and water from the mine will require treatment forever. Other examples are the Mike Horse Mine near Lincoln and the headwaters of the Blackfoot River, the Kendall Mine near Lewistown, the Basin Creek mine near Helena, and the Beal Mountain mine near Anaconda and the headwaters of the Clark Fork. A good example of the potential ecological disaster presented by such abandoned mines occurred near Silverton, Colorado in 2015 when an accident released some 3 million gallons of toxic waste into the Animas River, turning the river a bright yellow/orange and impacting the entire 126 mile length of the Animas and many more miles of the San Juan River in New Mexico.

While I-186 will not impact existing mines, it will relieve Montana taxpayers of the reclamation costs for future mines and should have an impact on water quality. If you haven't yet seen TV commercials regarding I-186, prepare to do so because this is a hotly fought issue. Trout Unlimited and other environmental and sporting organizations support the initiative as a way to protect clean water and fish and game. Because it is such a hot issue, it seemed appropriate to provide FFB members with the ballot language for I-186:

*"I-186 requires the Department of Environmental Quality to deny a permit for any new hardrock mines in Montana unless the reclamation plan provides clear and convincing evidence that the mine will not require perpetual treatment of water polluted by acid mine drainage or other contaminants. The terms 'perpetual treatment,' 'perpetual leaching,' and 'contaminants' within I-186 are not fully defined and would require further definition from the Montana Legislature or through Department of Environmental Quality rule making."* *Ballot language goes on to say that it will cost \$115,360 in its first fiscal year for additional DEQ staff.*

Finally, according to Trout Unlimited metal mining is responsible for 1,896 jobs and \$25 million annually in tax revenues while outdoor recreation and tourism are responsible for 71,000 jobs and \$286 million in state and local tax revenues and \$7 billion a year in consumer spending.



***Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again.***

***- Franklin Graham***



## Tentative 2019 club events calendar

February 2019: Bitterroot Buggers starts

April 2019- Missouri Outing

May 2019- Adult fly fishing Clinic

Ice out May 2019: Brown's lake

June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019: Special Needs day-

July 10-14, 2019: Georgetown Lake outing- *confirmed*

August 18, 2019 Annual Club Picnic

September 2019: Hebgen Lake outing



**ANNUAL MEETING &  
ELECTIONS AND  
HOLIDAY PARTY TIME!**

**December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
5:30 PM- BJ's**

**MENU**  
Veggie platter  
Meatballs  
Ranch wings  
Pizzas  
Meat & cheese platter  
Dinner rolls  
relish tray

## JOB OPENINGS

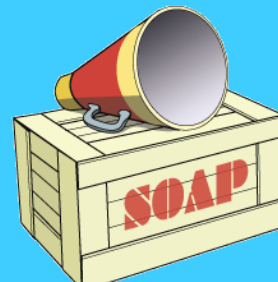
**2019 PROGRAM CHAIR-is also a Board position**

**2019 RAFFLE CHAIR- is also a Board position**

**2019 Member at large- 2-3 Board positions Open**

**Come on people- we need your commitment & support to keep this club at the top of the game! Contact a Board member for more info  
Elections are next month!**

**If people don't step forward & help, there will not be much of a club.... Your choice, people.... We need a small amount of your time, not a lifetime commitment!**





## *It's About Flies* - Chuck Stranahan © 2018 all rights reserved

Sculpins are dull, darty little fishes. That's what my young guide at the time and Gary LaFontaine protégé, Justin Baker, said many years ago. Sculpins haven't changed much since then.

Over the years I've taken a batch of big fish on the fly shown in the vise, a simple-to-tie sculpin pattern that is designed primarily to look and move like a real sculpin when it gets wet. Among others, it fooled the brown pictured with a gooshy organic-looking thing hanging out of his jaw. Same fly, doing its job.

The only problem I have with this sculpin is not enough time to tie it commercially. There are always a few in my box but not enough to distribute beyond my circle of closest fishing friends. If you want some, I'm sorry to say, you'll have to tie your own. I'll be showing how this winter in my afternoon fly tying sessions. If you're interested, just ask.

A key to the fly's success is that it is weighted in the middle, and the deer hair head keeps the front end buoyant. Sculpins have no swim bladders like trout do. They tip upward when washed out of their lies. That's the way trout see them.

When they try to gain equilibrium, they swim furiously with their pectorals and tail, and try to navigate head-first toward the bottom. That's what this fly is designed to do when attached by a short leader to sinking line or below a piece of shot on a leader.

Let the fly approach the lie on a dead drift, maybe with just a little pull to activate the rabbit strip for movement, and then retrieve it in short, darty strips close together. It comes into the trout's view slightly head-up, like a living sculpin, and then darts downward as the fly follows the weight in front of it. The trout sees the poor little sculpin trying to escape and this triggers the strike reflex. No problem detecting the hit.

Sculpins designed around a tungsten cone in front do the opposite. They catch fish, but in my experience flies designed to mimic the action of the naturals they represent work much better. That applies to all flies – not just sculpins.

Something to keep in mind when designing and tying your own flies – you'll appreciate how they work better as a result.

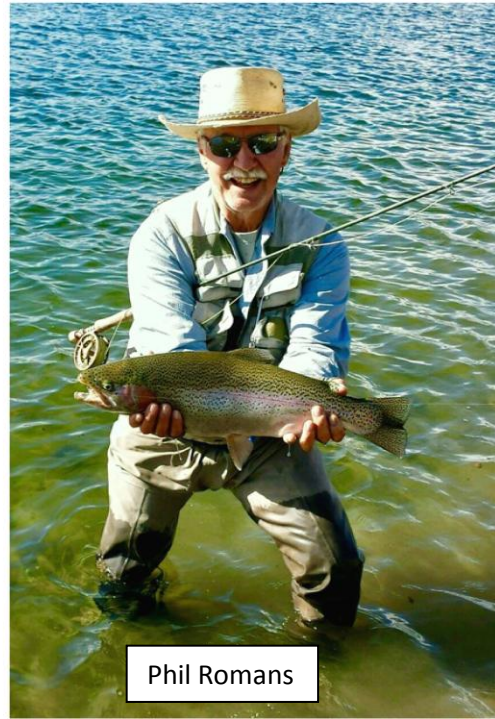




## Grips & Grins and Fish Reports



Gary Kosaka



Phil Romans

Here is a great video done by club member Jessica Haydahl Richardson about how her dad's love of fishing impacted her life: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzEdFuFvabl&t=31s>



Tres Amigas on the Bitterroot one fine fall day- Jessica, Peg and local guide Jenny West





**Not all pictures have to be of trout!**



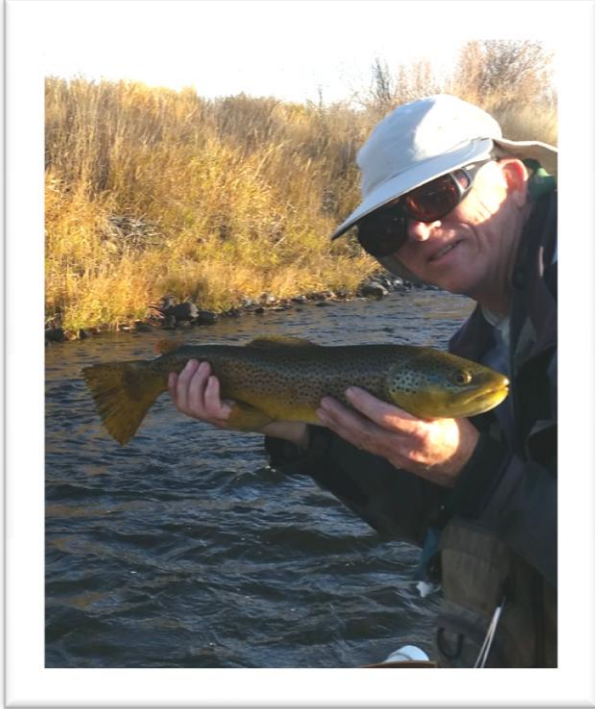
Bob Prince, AKA "The Trout Bum" caught this beautiful smallmouth bass on the Salmon River



My biggest fish of any species, ever. This 10-foot sturgeon came from the Columbia River below John Day dam. My arms grew longer after the 40 minute battle. Estimated weight about 600 pounds. Salmon season closed a couple days before we got there, so it was smallies, walleyes and sturgeon. *Jim Kalkonen*



Bob Miller and I fished the Big Hole this past weekend. Two DIY floats in the Melrose area. Weather was perfect and the flows were good. Plenty of action on an October Caddis dry in the afternoon. Not much luck with the streamers. Picture is me with a nice Brown between 18 and 20 inches. Caught it right on the bank in the stretch just upstream from town.--*Steve Hollowell*



“In another sense, trout are so incongruously pretty as to seem otherworldly: that metallic brightness, the pinks and oranges and yellows—and the spots. One of the finest things about catching trout is being able to turn it sideways and just look at it. How can so much color and vibrancy be generated by clear water, gray rocks and brown bugs? Trout are among those creatures that are one hell of a lot prettier than they need to be. They can get you wondering about the hidden workings of reality.”

John Gierach, “Trout” in Ted Leeson (editor), The Gift of Trout, 1996

## **Fishing Report by Greg Chester      Rock Creek, October 6<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Partly cloudy, 68 deg, light breeze.

My California friends were here for a few days of fishing which included the East and West forks and the main stem of the Bitterroot plus a day on Rock Creek. As always Rock Creek produced well with a variety of bug activity to keep it interesting.

We went by way of Skalkaho Pass to Rock Creek road. The road construction was completed so it was an easy trip going over the hill. We went downstream for about 15 miles before hitting the water. The morning offered up some nice fish rising to baetis which we enjoyed for about an hour and a half. A #18 Sparkle Dun was the trick.

Then one friend caught a few on a #10 Brindle Chute and that produced well for the next 3 hours. We didn't see Hecuba's on the water but that didn't bother the fish at all! They still had a memory of the big bugs.

The afternoon warmed up and so did the hopper and flying ant fishing. Almost any hopper pattern would work but the ants had to be black. Red and cinnamon were refused.

During the day we moved around a little fishing above and below the Hog Back, We all caught nice fish but nothing over 16", but also nothing under 12" so it was a good day.

Please let me know if you have questions. Also, Anglers Roost sells a nice river map of Rock Creek. It was a big help.

*Tight lines, Greg Chester*



## Fish Report: October 2018 by Phil Romans *A New Destination...*

Three of us recently embarked on a trip South to the Salmon River. About 70 miles south of Hamilton. We stayed at North Fork Lodge, and used it as a jumping off point for four days of fishing. It's reasonably priced, prepares lunches each day to suit our needs, has a store that's well stocked, and has an evening meal (one item each evening) for purchase. They also have an RV park with full hookups for those of you who might want to RV it.

As many of us know, the Steelhead count has been declining for a number of years, so we decided to target Cutthroat Trout with the possibility of catching a Steelhead in the mix, but not as a priority. With that in mind, Bill Jones, Wayne Kaim and myself headed out on Saturday morning after dawn (to miss the caravan of deer that inhabit the roads every morning before dawn) to fish the North Fork in Idaho.

We were prepared with seven and eight weight rods and our pontoon boats to float as much of the area as we could in four days. We also were prepared to fish for trout rather than Steelhead. Last year I had fished for trout down there and came away reasonably successful. I caught a fair amount of Cutthroat and some Bull Trout. So we went with the assumption that if we caught a Steelhead it would be a bonus.

Each day we caught a fair amount of Cutthroat and I did catch one Bull trout on the first day but I think that was the only one we caught. It was a beautiful canyon and alive with Fall colors. A bonus that each of us really appreciated and commented on. I averaged at least a dozen trout or more each day, and on the third day I'm sure I topped 20 fat fish. I caught a few in the sixteen to eighteen inch range, but most of the fish were twelve to fourteen inches. They were unmarked by hooks and fought like they had never been caught before. They were mostly bright fish and not colored up like our Bitterroot fish although a few of them were colorful. We caught them on 'rubber legs' predominately (think "Efluvia Brewski") but also on smaller nymphs including October Caddis, and Prince. We also caught some Steelhead smolts and other juveniles, but none got even near the twenty inch range that allows us to call them Steelhead. Some could reasonably be called "half pounders".

One thing the three of us agreed on was that we would have appreciated our dry fly rods because each day we found rising trout in a number of areas.

Overall, the trip was a great success. We all caught fish. The people at the North Fork Motel were very accommodating and pleasant (check out their homemade pies available each day), and the conditions were excellent.

Can't ask for more than that.- *Phil Romans*



Phil Romans, Wayne Kaim and I just played for four days on the Salmon around North Fork, ID. Summary: The expected Big Water issues, wonderful weather, motel instead of camping, fished a modified trout method trying to attract both the cutties and the rather few steelhead. Caught some cutthroat, a couple of whitefish and a sucker plus 2 immature steelhead and needless to say, Phil carried the day for most fish hooked. It is an awesome river canyon and was a few days very well spent.- *Bill Jones*



### **Brown's Lake Report October 25, 2018**

John Sherve, an old friend and I got to the lake around 10:30. There were 2 FWP biologists taking their boat out as we pulled up. A conversation with them was very informative. We found out that they stock three different strains of rainbow trout in the lake; Arlee, Arlee-Gilbert(not sure I got the Gilbert right) and Eagle Lake from California. They just finished netting and said that the Winter kill from too much snow on the ice, blocking sunlight, and the Summer kill, too warm, had a minimal effect on the fish population. There were still plenty of very big fish and numerous smaller ones. They had talked to a shore fisherman who had already caught a few. With that optimistic report, we launched my boat and decided to troll for a bit.

The temperature on my depth finder was 45. The west wind was putting out some 1 foot chop so we headed to the lee shore. Trolling was unproductive, although seemed to be successful to the only other boat on the lake. They said they caught a lot of small fish and one larger one. We anchored near the yurts, fished with indicators in 10 feet of water. I rigged up an olive scud above a blood worm. I had a few takes, but no hookups. They were toying with me. John had an orange scud below a San Juan worm. The large population of Mysis shrimp in the lake is a major food source, according to the FWP guys. The orange scud he had was subtly grabbed by a very nice fish. We didn't get a measurement, but he jumped several times, and we estimated 22-24". He eventually swam away with John's scud. So I rigged a bright orange scud like John's, but they continued to skunk me. The action slacked off, so we moved to another spot on the west shore. Casting into about 6' of water toward shore, John hooked a 24 plus inch fish on the San Juan worm. This one did make it to the net after more than 5 minutes of the fish going round and round the boat, almost getting in the anchor line and streaking to the deep water. John was very excited and said he had caught steelhead smaller than this fish. This was near 4 PM and we were ready to call it a day when this happened. Needless to say we stayed a while longer, but no more fish that day. That was the biggest fish I had seen from that lake in many years.- *Pierre Satkowiak*

John Sherve, Pierre's friend, with the gorgeous Brown's lake rainbow caught on a San Juan worm



Following is a list of Fly Fishing items for sale. As always I'll donate 10% of the sale price to the FFB coffers.

Winston BIIMX 9' 6" 6wt 4 piece rod. Excellent condition. **\$450**

Sage SP 9' 4wt 2 piece rod. Very good condition **\$200**

Sage 1986 vintage Graphite III GFL 796 RPL 9' 6" 7wt 2 piece rod. New, with plastic wrap still on cork **\$175**  
If you've not cast RPL series rods you'll be amazed at their responsiveness and performance.  
For this rod think streamers!

Scott S4 9' 6wt 4 piece rod. Excellent condition **\$375**

Abel Super Series 5N 5/6 wt with Brown Trout motif. Excellent condition **\$375** (\$600+ new)  
Includes 6wt line and backing

Note: If aesthetics are important to you the Abel and Scott rod look great and fish well together!....(\$650 for both)

Fishpond Tomahawk fly tying travel bag. New, never used. **\$125**...(\$179 new)

Please call with any questions. **Greg Chester 406-363-0033**



## ○ 2018 schedule-

- November 6<sup>th</sup> club meeting
- November 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting
- December 4<sup>th</sup> **ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**
- December 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting

## 2019 schedule- tentative

- Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 club meeting
- Jan 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting
- Feb 5<sup>th</sup> club meeting
- Feb 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting
- March 5<sup>th</sup> club meeting
- March 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting
- April 2<sup>th</sup> club meeting
- Missouri outing
- May 7<sup>th</sup> club meeting
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> **Special Needs Day**
- June 4<sup>th</sup> club meeting

## 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Estelle Shuttleworth-President [je@shuttleworthje.com](mailto:je@shuttleworthje.com)

Bill Bean- VP [billbean.bean75@gmail.com](mailto:billbean.bean75@gmail.com)

Pierre Satkowiak-Secretary [psatkowiak@gmail.com](mailto:psatkowiak@gmail.com)

Ken Quinn-Treasurer

David Ward-Programs [dward451@comcast.net](mailto:dward451@comcast.net)

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Dick Ellis- [ellis\\_r@fortlewis.edu](mailto:ellis_r@fortlewis.edu)

Denny Westover- [dwestover@comcast.net](mailto:dwestover@comcast.net)



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Denny Westover 206-605-0404

Greg Chester 406-363-0033

Pierre Satkowiak 406-777-2348

Estelle Shuttleworth 406-381-0474

### 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](mailto:je@shuttleworthje.com)

### 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



**The club's membership period is January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.**

**Individual: \$ 25.00**

**Family: \$35.00**

**A Family is 2 people in a domestic relationship and their children**