



"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

May 2018 Newsletter

Tuesday May 1st: Social Hour 5:30 pm Meeting starts at 6:30 pm
BJ's Restaurant, Hamilton

Hi Everyone

Looks like Spring is now official—The Osprey are back & the Sun has finally decided to stay out for more than one day at a time. I have seen a lot of boats on the river & from the pictures I have been seeing, there are beautiful trout being caught. Tis the season for club events- we are busy from now until the end of summer. The Missouri outing is this week- I am heading there tomorrow. The best part is it looks like we are going to have some nice weather—at least no snow in the forecast! As the days get longer & the temperatures get warmer our home waters will start producing more hatches and opportunities for fishing with family & friends. It is time to contact other club members & set up impromptu trips & get together. The fastest & easiest way is to use the FFB-Notice googlegroup and attend the monthly meetings & strike up a conversation with some one- who knows, you might connect with a person whom you will develop a lifetime friendship with. May sports the Adult May Clinic with BRTU. In June we have Denny Westover doing the monthly program; the Skip Morris workshop & Special Needs day. In July it's the Georgetown Event & then in August our annual picnic. Like I said, we will be busy! Hoping to see everyone at the events, or meetings or on the river somewhere. Have fun & be safe.



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

Tight Lines, Estelle

May 2018 Program



Guest Speaker: **FRED TELLEEN**

Topic:

**Fly Fishing Alaska's Great Rivers
including the Kvichak, Naknek,
Togiak, Kanektok and Kenai River**

I fly fish to live (25+ years guiding). I live to fly fish (obsession). At the age of two, I captured my first Bluegill in Southern Michigan. Since then, I have never stopped looking into waters for fish. My first wild trout came from the waters of Glacier NP a few years later. I spent much of my youth chasing fish in Wisconsin, the Great Lakes and throughout central Canada. I went to Alaska in 1989, where I met my wife, started a family and spent 26 seasons guiding anglers.

My family moved to Great Falls Montana in August of 2007, though I continued to travel and work seasonally in Alaska through 2014. I'm now a full time Montana resident working for North 40 Fly Shop. On the side, I guide the Missouri River, host destination trips and put in time on a business called The Fly Project.

The **Kvichak River** is a large river, about 50 miles (80 km) long, in southwestern Alaska in the United States. It flows southwest from Lake Iliamna to Kvichak Bay, an arm of Bristol Bay, on the Alaska Peninsula. The Kvichak River is part of the watershed downstream of the proposed **Pebble Mine**. The **Naknek River** is a stream, 35 miles (56 km) long. It flows west from Naknek Lake to empty into Kvichak Bay, an arm of Bristol Bay.^[2] The river and lake are both known for their sockeye and other salmon. The **Togiak River** is a stream, 48-mile (77 km) long, in the southwestern part of Alaska.^[3] The Togiak is a popular and productive river, producing very good catches of all five species of Pacific salmon. Dolly Varden char and rainbow trout are also present. The river itself is very scenic, with excellent chances of observing wildlife including brown bears, caribou, moose, eagles and beaver. The **Kanektok River** is located in the Togiak National Wildlife Reserve of Southwest Alaska and flows westward 85 miles from Pegati Lake and into the Bering Sea at the city of Quinhagak. The **Kenai River** is the longest river in the Kenai Peninsula of south central Alaska. It runs 82 miles (132 km) westward from Kenai Lake to its outlet into the Cook Inlet.

Tight Lines,

Fred Telleen | Fly Shop Manager North 40 Outfitters, Great Falls, MT. Fred.Telleen@north40.com

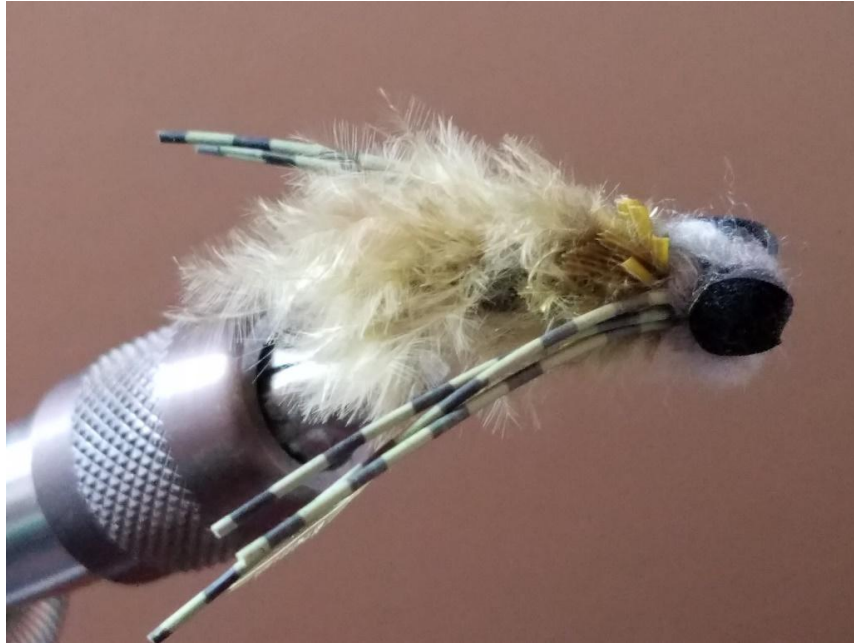


May 2018 Fly of the Month

Dragon Fly Nymph

By Mike Pettitt

Lake fishing has been most productive for me in and around weed beds with the usual problems of snags and fouled hooks. A new fly I'm going to try is the dragon fly nymph by Phil Rowley. It is designed to float above the weeds when fished with a sink line and 3 to 6 foot leader. The line lies in/on the weeds and the leader lets this fly float just above the weeds. Fished with a slow retrieve with occasional 4 inch quick strips, the sinking line pulls the fly downward and the foam construction lets it float back up.



Recipe:

- Hook: Mustad R74 streamer hook or equivalent in size 6 to 8
- Thread: 6/0 Olive
- Under body: Booby Eye/Body Foam, black, ¼ inch for smaller flies, 3/16 inch for larger sizes
- Body: Olive and Olive Grizzly Marabou
- Wing case: Mottled Turkey Quill
- Legs: Grizzly barred rubber legs
- Eyes: Booby Eye/Body Foam, black, ¼ inch
- Head: Dark olive dubbing

To tie:

- I always pinch the barbs before tying
- Base layer of thread
- Cut a length of foam about the length of the hook shank
- Tie in the foam on top of the hook near the hook bend extending beyond the bend (cut on an angle to make this easier) with several wraps and bring the thread forward toward the eye about 2/3 up the shank
- Bring the foam forward, the end should be where you've brought your thread forward, and tie in with several firm wraps

- Wrap back over the foam with open spirals to hold it to the hook. You don't want to compress it too much or you will lose buoyancy
- Form a 3 to 4 inch dubbing loop at the rear of the foam and then bring the thread forward in open spirals to the front of the foam
- The body dubbing is made using a Mark Petitjean Magic Tool (<https://youtu.be/lz7EYoGGQps> is a video on how to use the Magic Tool) with both the olive and olive grizzly marabou
- Spin the dubbing tight to hold the marabou (larger flies will need two dubbing adds to the loop)
- Wrap the dubbing forward to the front of the foam and tie off
- Trip the top and bottom slightly flat (don't overdo, scruffy is good)
- Prepare a slip turkey quill for the wing case by coating with a flexible cement for durability
- Tie the quill in at its middle just ahead of the body. Fold the forward portion of the quill back over the body and tie in
- Trim the wing case to less than half the body length
- Bring the thread forward just ahead of the wing case
- Tie in three lengths of rubber legs at their middle across the hook with a figure eight wrap
- Pull the far side legs back along the side of the fly and tie in. Repeat on the near side. At this point you can adjust the legs and then tie in firmly
- If you don't have grizzled legs, you can mark with a permanent marker at this point
- Gather and hold loosely all six legs (don't pull and stretch them) at the tail of the fly and trim slightly longer than the hook bend
- Tie in a length of eye foam on top of the hook, half way between the hook eye and the wing case using figure eight wraps
- Dub the head behind the eyes to help hold the legs in place, then in figure eight wraps over the eyes and in front for the eyes to finish the head
- Whip finish
- Trim the eyes slightly narrower than the width of the body
- I've tied both the olive and light brown variants

Upcoming Programs and Events

May Adult Fly Fishing Clinic- Wednesday PMs
June 5th 2018: Denny Westover- Lake fishing

June 23rd: Skip Morris workshop

June 24th: Special needs Day

July 11-15th: Georgetown Outing

August 19th: Annual Picnic at the Hannon House

It is fairly common knowledge among fly casters that the key to overcoming wind, and to casting farther in general is increasing line speed, but adding extra muscle to strain for distance or buck adverse winds often has the opposite effect. The real key to boosting distance and thwarting wind is increasing the line speed coupled with perfecting streamlined loops. Overpowering the rod with heroic efforts amplifies any casting faults you already have and introduces more you don't have, and all those little humps and bumps in your cast sap energy and provide extra surface area for the wind's amusement." James Babb, Fly-Fishing Fool

Recap of the April meeting

The April meeting was highlighted by Alan Weltzien's presentation on Norman Maclean. Weltzien, distinguished literature professor at the University of Montana Western and editor of A Norman Maclean Reader, used the metaphor of "reading the water" to analyze Maclean's great book, A River Runs Through It, which is, according to Weltzien, a perfectly constructed book. Those members who have read the book left with a greater appreciation for it while others undoubtedly will soon do so. Below is a list of Alan's titles:

The Literary Art and Activism of Rick Bass (editor, 2001)

Coming Into McPhee Country: John McPhee and the Art of Literary Nonfiction (co-editor, 2003)

The Norman Maclean Reader (editor, 2008)

A Father and an Island: Reflections on Loss (memoir, 2008)

To Kilimanjaro and Back: Poems (2011)

The Snowpeaks (poems, FootHills Publishing), 2013)

Exceptional Mountains: A Cultural History of the Pacific Northwest Volcanoes (2016)

Rembrandt in the Stairwell (poems, FootHills Publishing), 2016)

Thinking Continental: Writing the Planet One Place at a Time (co-editor, 2017)

The Comfort Pathway: Walking and Writing through Death and Grief (chapbook-length essay, 2017).

Most of these titles can be ordered via [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com); the two bigger poetry collections, though, can be ordered via the publisher's website, i.e. www.foothillspublishing.com Just key in his name and/or either/both of those titles.

We were busy! Everyone welcome the following new members

Sally Roberts; Jessica & Wade Richardson; Julie Shoush & Carol Helm; Bonnie Anderson & Hillary Selvin; former members- Bill & Roxanne Gouin- rejoined. A big thank you to new member Jessica Haydahl Richardson for sharing her awesome drone footage taken on a float down the Bitterroot with another member Peg Miskin and Guide & Outfitter Jenny West. Check out some of her other video work on YouTube.



Here is a hint of what is to come from Denny Westover's program for the June meeting

April to October

Let's take the mystery and confusion out of still water fishing

Catch fish in still waters from April to October using only three types of fly patterns

Learn the three most effective methods for fishing those patterns

Learn where and when to fish these patterns and which technique to use

NEWS AND NOTES

2018 Fishing Regulations for Yellowstone National Park report by Dick Ellis

The Park has released fishing regulations for 2018, and several items will be of interest to Club members:

- felt sole boots are ***prohibited***
- all vessels, including float tubes, require a permit and inspection
- hooks must be barbless or the barb must be pinched down. Hooks on spinning lures must be barbless, and treble hooks are prohibited. In other words, one of the hooks on a treble hook must be cut off.
- flies and lures must be lead free, and lead split shot is prohibited. Non-toxic split shot and tungsten are allowed.
- a maximum of two flies are allowed, so hopper-dropper and comparable rigs are permitted
- organic and inorganic bait is prohibited. Organic bait includes worms, insects, eggs, minnows, fish parts, corn, bread, etc. Inorganic include such things as rubber worms and plastic "twister" tails.
- a "flies only" regulation will be enforced on the Firehole, Madison, and Lower Gibbon rivers
- a Parkwide regulation requires that all native fish (cutthroats, whitefish and grayling) must be released
- all ***lake trout*** caught in Yellowstone Lake ***must be killed***
- in the Native Trout Conservation area there is no possession limit on non-native fish
- all ***rainbow, cuttbows and brook trout in the Lamar drainage, including Slough Creek and Soda Butte Creek, must be killed***
- in the Non-Native Trout Tolerance Area limits on non-native trout vary by watershed

A more detailed version of the 2018 regulations is available at the Yellowstone National Park website and includes maps showing the Non-Native Trout Tolerance Area and the Native Trout Conservation Area.

MOST ENDANGERED RIVERS 2018- report by Dick Ellis

Beginning in 1984 an organization named Americans Rivers has presented a list of the most endangered rivers in the United States. The 2018 list includes several rivers that are of interest to trout/steelhead/salmon fisherman.

-Rivers of Bristol Bay in Alaska are threatened by the proposed Pebble Mine, which would be located upstream of Lake Iliamna. The Nushagak and Kvichak Rivers support the world's largest run of Sockeye salmon and a multi-billion dollar commercial and sport fishing industry that provides some 14,000 jobs. It also is of critical importance to a number of tribal communities. The Pebble Mine underwent an Army Corps of Engineers review process, but in 2014 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) vetoed the proposal. Current EPA administrator Scott Pruitt changed that and allowed a fast track Corps of Engineers review process to proceed. In addition the Trump administration has proposed eliminating the section of the Clean Water Act that gives the EPA veto authority. It is expected that the Pebble Mine will produce 10 billion tons of waste and use 35 billion gallons of water. It is expected that the toxic waste produced could fill 3,900 pro football stadiums. It also will result in a four mile long dam that is taller than Hoover Dam on the Colorado River, and this is a seismically active area.

-South Fork of the Salmon River is listed as critical habitat for endangered Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout

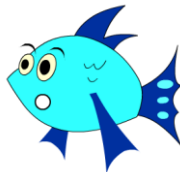
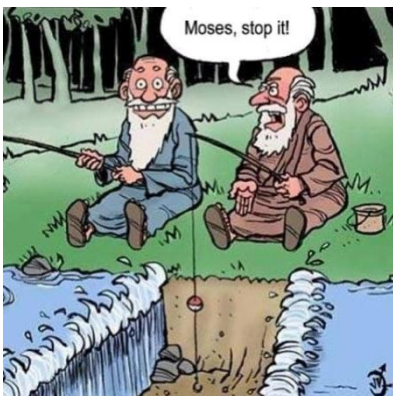
and is a major tributary of the Salmon River, which carries the designation as a Wild and Scenic River. The threat to the South Fork comes from mining. Midas Gold company wants to reopen two massive open pits at the old Stebnite mine site and also open a new pit. The danger to the watershed comes from mining byproducts such as arsenic, mercury and antimony. Payette National Forest is expected to release a draft Environmental Impact Statement in August and then to take public comment on the mine proposal.

-Smith River. Yes, this is our Smith River. An Australian company has proposed an underground copper mine on Sheep Creek, a tributary of the Smith River, and the most productive spawning tributary of the Smith. This proposal has been covered in the local press and is opposed by Trout Unlimited and other environmental groups. An effort is currently underway to put a responsible mining initiative on the ballot in November 2018. The application for the mine has been submitted to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, which is expected to release a draft Environmental Impact Statement this year.

Among the other rivers on the 2018 endangered rivers list are the Colville (Kunkpek) River in Alaska, the Kinnickennic River in Wisconsin, the Boundary Waters in Minnesota and the Big Sunflower River in Mississippi.



WOW! Look at this fish from our Home Waters- Phil Romans with a 21" fish caught 4-19 on the Town Stretch of the Bitterroot



BOOK REVIEW--- By Dick Ellis

Jay Zimmerman, The Best Carp Flies: How to Tie and Fish Them, Headwater Books

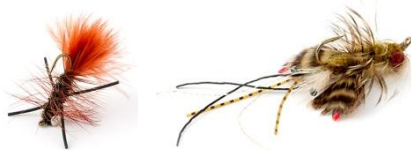
We have not included book reviews in past newsletters but decided to use this one in honor of Bob Prince, the club's leading Carp expert, and to thank him for his wonderful annual programs on the fishing exploits of club members. This book is available in the North Valley Public Library in Stevensville but also can be borrowed through the libraries in Hamilton and Darby. All three libraries are part of a much larger book sharing system in which books circulate within the system by a courier service. So you can put a hold on a title, and it will be delivered to your local library in several days. All you secret carp fly fishers will want to read this attractive book.

Author Jay Zimmerman worked in several fly shops along the Colorado Front Range before ending up at Charlie Craven's Fly Box in the Denver suburbs. As you may remember from Bob Prince's program on carp several years ago, this fish was not native to the United States and was introduced by the U.S. Fish Commission in the 1870s as a likely food source and sport fish. They thrived in their new home, including in polluted waters, which led Americans to consider them a trash fish. Do they grow large? Yup. Are they ugly? You bet. Are they real fighters? You better believe it.

Zimmerman focuses on twenty-two important patterns, providing a history of the pattern and detailed tying instructions, each with ample photographs. Some of these patterns were originally developed for other fish: Bob Clouser's Swimming Nymph and Dave Whitlock's Near 'Nuff Crayfish. Some are variations of older patterns. The Swimming Halfback is a modification of the Halfback nymph, which was developed for trout on the North Platte River in Wyoming, and the Carp Carrot came from the Carrot nymph, a trout fly from the Pacific Northwest. New flies were created by Jay Zimmerman, John Barr, who is well known for his Copper John, and other fly tiers.

Zimmerman is an enthusiastic Carp fisherman and fly tier and has produced an attractive book that is worth a look. Who knows. When club members see pictures of 30 inch fish and read about the fighting qualities of Carp, they might join the growing number of Carp fisherman. I can say that a number of years ago a friend was fishing for trout in the Rio Grande near the Colorado-New Mexico line and caught a Carp. He said that it fought harder than any trout he had ever caught.

Swimming Halfback Near 'Nuff Crayfish



Swimming Nymph



Carp Carrot



"When the trout slid onto my hand, it reached from fingertip to cuff button and shivered with the colors of spruces and sunsets. I thought God must be inordinately fond of brook trout, too." Datus Proper, RUNNING WATERS, 2001

Club Fish & Grins Photos



Donna & Jay Haglund fished on The Bitterroot River with guide Jacob - Bell to Florence, and these were not the largest ones. All on dries. Very lucky day.



Fishing Land of the Giants last week, Missouri River. Jay Melzer & Rich Morrissey



Connecting with kids-

Here is a pix of my grandson with his birthday present, his first fishing rod. He was 3 on Easter Sunday. Looking forward to teaching him my love for everything fishy.

Jim Kalkofen

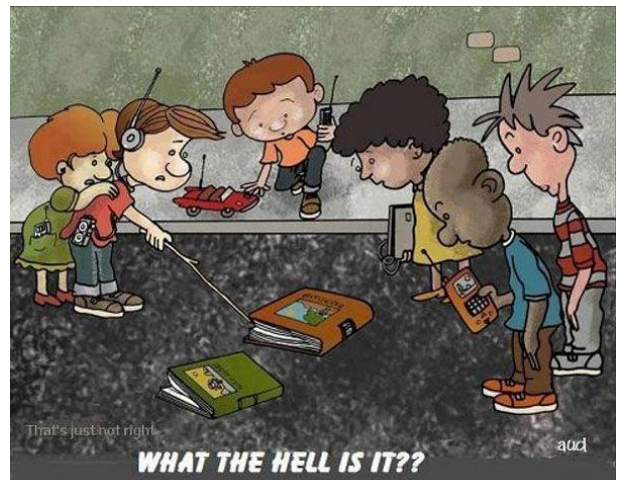
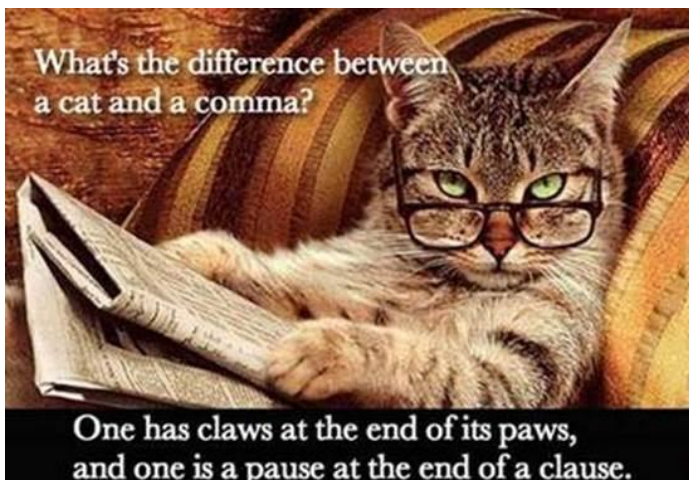
THE WAY IT WAS.....



Kipling took the train from Livingston to Yellowstone National Park but disembarked to fish the Yellowstone River before reaching the Park.

He said it was alive with trout. It was. I fished it from noon till twilight, and the fish bit at the brown hook as though never a fat trout-fly had fallen on the water. From pebbly reaches, quivering in the heat-haze where the foot caught on stumps cut four-square by the chisel-tooth of the beaver; past the fringe of the water-willow crowded with the breeding trout-fly and alive with toads and water-snakes; over the drifted timber to the grateful shadow of the big trees that darkened the holes where the fattest fish lay, I worked for seven hours. The mountain flanks on either side of the valley gave back the heat as the desert gives it, and the dry sand by the railway track, where I found a rattlesnake, was hot- iron to the touch. But the trout did not care for the heat. They breasted the boiling river for my fly and they got it. I simply dare not give my bag. At the fortieth trout I gave up counting, and I had reached the fortieth in less than two hours. They were small fish, -not one over two pounds, -but they fought like small tigers, and I lost three flies before I could understand their methods of escape. Ye gods! That was fishing though it peeled the skin from my nose in strips.

Rudyard Kipling



OUTINGS AND CLUB EVENTS

Missouri River Trip – now we are waiting on fish reports!

BROWN'S LAKE – not looking so good.....

As Spring approaches, many FFB members begin to turn their attention to the "Ice-out" event at Browns Lake.. Is this any place for a self-respecting Fly Fisherman? It is, if you want to try for Arlee and Kamloops Rainbows up to 10-pounds!! The lake fishes best in early in the year, especially the first month after ice-out.

At around 500 acres, it is perfect for pontoons, float tubes, and other small boats. Club members have organized impromptu trips on short notice, to an undeveloped campground near the boat launch. There are no reservations, but plenty of room, and a public rest room near the launch. The timing depends on nature, but if you have an interest, stay tuned at the monthly meeting, or the FFB web site or for the latest news- FFB_notice.. Perhaps you can join up with someone, or a group, to hook up with other members for an early spring "Hog-fest".....!

MAY- FLY FISHING CLINIC- we partner with BRTU.



Fly Fishing Clinic

*First 4
Wednesdays
in May
6:00-8:30pm*

- Introduces the beginner adult angler to all aspects of fly fishing
 - Great value at \$50 (\$35 if TU or FFB member)
 - Includes a year membership in TU & FFB
 - Limited enrollment so sign up early
- To sign up visit *Chuck Stranahan's Flies and Guides* or *Freestone Fly Shop*




Skip Morris Workshop – Saturday June 23, 2018

Special Needs Day Sunday, June 24, 2018

Georgetown Lake – July 12-15, 2018

ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!! If you plan to attend this outing, **you must make your own reservations** for a campsite. Go to: Recreation.gov Search for: Campgrounds Georgetown Lake, Anaconda, Mt.Beaverhead National Forest. Then scroll down to: Lodgepole campground Make reservation, you will not be able to pick a specific site. IF you have a senior pass/golden age you will get a discount at checkout.

Annual Picnic Sunday, August 19, 2018



A Workshop with Skip Morris June 23, 2018

LEARN FROM THE BEST!
**Fly Fishing Trout Lakes
for Trout**

**Saturday, June 23
Bitterroot River Inn
Hamilton, MT • 9AM start**

TWO SESSIONS: register for either session or both

Trout lakes are a wonderful resource particularly when the rivers are high. The Bitterroot Valley provides access to many wonderful lakes including the famous Georgetown Lake. Effectively fishing lakes depends on: knowledge of hatches, the techniques, sinking and floating lines, rigging and much more.



Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot is presenting an all-day trout lake workshop in two sessions. The morning is a 3-hour presentation by Skip Morris showing the techniques and featuring his favorite flies. Skip will also include a special presentation on how to make the most of the dry-damself action on Georgetown Lake. The afternoon is a 3-hour fly tying session featuring the flies he mentioned in the morning session. *The afternoon is limited to the first 20 to sign up.*

REGISTER NOW!

Morning Session \$35

Afternoon Tying Session \$35 (limited to the first 20 to sign up)

Bring your own tools, vice and materials.

Registration forms will be available at the club meetings or can be downloaded from our website:
flyfishersofthebitterroot.org



Skip Morris, author and speaker is co-author of *Fly Fishing Trout Lakes with Morris and Chen*, *Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple*, *Western River Hatches*, and 15 other fly tying and fishing books.



Casting for Recovery

"Casting for Recovery provides free support and education retreats for women of any age and in any stage of breast cancer. The retreats incorporate fly fishing into the program! Celebrating 22 years with 60 retreats nationwide this year, if you know women survivors anywhere in the US who have or have had breast cancer, please refer them to the website to apply for a retreat in their area:

<https://castingforrecovery.org/>. The Western Montana program has been serving women from our area since 2011. Please refer any local woman you know to this webpage to apply online for the Western Montana retreat in September 2018. Application deadline is June 29, 2018.

<https://castingforrecovery.org/breast-cancer-retreats/glacier-country-montana/>

Participants are selected at random for the 2 1/2 day retreats with accommodations and all gear provided. **THE RETREATS ARE FREE TO ALL ATTENDING!** It's not always about fishing...but sometimes about being in the moment and in nature!"

**Club Patches
are \$4.00 each
or
3 for \$10.00**



Club Decals are 4 for \$1.00

Hey everyone- There is a woman in town that will sew our patches on to just about anything for \$2.00/each.

Contact info: Susan at MONTANA SASSY SEWING CO. 329 Main Street, Hamilton. 406-961-9012



"As trout country the Blue Ridge is a Balkan affair. Trout survive where forested mountain land is preserved where highland watersheds are left to function as their ecology dictates. Very little of the Blue Ridge is so preserved. You will no longer find wild trout everywhere in the Blue Ridge, but if you search them out, you will eventually come upon everything else of value in the mountains. Wild trout are a sign that the land is doing well." Christopher Camuto, "Blue Ridge Complex," 1990; reprinted in Ted Leeson, *THE GIFT OF TROUT*.

Club Members: **River Clean up annual event Sponsored by The Bitterroot River Forum set for August 11, 2018**

Each year our community helps pull thousands of pounds of trash out of the river during the Bitterroot River Clean Up in August. The Clean Up is a Bitterroot tradition that plays an important role in protecting the resource we all rely on.



Spurred by this event, we're launching the Year Round River Clean Up this month - a year round effort to keep our rivers and streams clean.

There will still be the annual event on **August 11th**, but by encouraging people to keep a handle on their trash as they use the river, we can reduce the amount of garbage that ends up in the river.

Bag stands like this will soon be at fly fishing shops and grocery stores throughout the valley. Folks can then grab free reusable trash bag before they hit the river, and keep them in their boat or rig to use again and again.

Thanks to Hamilton High School's wood shop class for building the bag stands.

Read more about the program in the Ravalli Republic article [here](#).

Keep a lookout for the red reusable bags.

It's About Flies

- Chuck Stranahan © 2018 all rights reserved

The unassuming little fly in the photo has a long and fascinating history. We'll get to that later.

When I was a boy of about eight and being raised on the edge of the desert in Southern California, my Godfather showed me a big eighteen-compartment box filled with flies he tied. They were for the trout rivers in Montana, he told me.

I was fascinated.

That was the start of it. I wanted to learn how to tie flies like Paul's and catch fish on them.

By the time I was twelve I was tying flies for the two sporting goods stores in the little towns close to our home, and had caught fish on my own flies.

My fascination with the sport began with Paul's flies, and in one way or another, it has been about flies ever since. It's about the way they look, the things they are made of, their histories and the people who tied them; it's about refining our flies according to our theories, experience, and hunches; it's about the sometimes exotic places they lead us, not just in search of fish, but fish that can be taken on a fly.

In the end, and for me since the beginning, it's about flies.

In this column I'll try to share some of the fascination, history, and my best hunches about flies, even if what I've learned thus far is admittedly imperfect and incomplete. My search is an ongoing adventure - and it's still fascinating.

I invite you to join me on the search.

That little fly in the photos, the Caddis Variant, began on the banks of the Sacramento River in Redding California – about this time of year – about a half-century ago.

The mid-sixties saw America in a war that sent some of my friends home mangled, disoriented, or in body bags; my education had been disrupted by campus riots and I found myself back home in Shasta County with a young family. I came to the river to restore my soul – not to fish.

I watched steelhead break off from raiding salmon runs and drift back in the current to take the caddis flies that blanketed the water.

I caught a little caddis fly and held it above my head by a wing-tip and watched the furious beating of its wings make a halo of light around its body.

In that moment my approach to flies and fly tying changed. What the fish were seeing is not what my books showed me about proportion and fly design.

I tore home and tied the first Caddis Variants and lost them all to steelhead later that afternoon. That was the first of many memorable adventures with that fly.

To this day the Caddis Variant remains my favorite and most effective fly. I've caught more trout on it than any of the others – including the Brindle 'Chute.

Caddis guru Gary LaFontaine was a fan of the Caddis Variant. "The CV's a great fly," he told me. "When egg-laying caddis are on the water, there's nothing better." At those times the trout's response to the Caddis Variant is almost silly. Ask club member Steve Lilburn – he's seen it work like that too.

The short-shank hook reduces weight and provides a platform for the short body, oversized hackle, and a deer-hair wing that flares 180 degrees to touch the hackle. The result mimics the silhouette of a moving caddis fly. Caddis Variants can be tied in any color and size for local caddis hatches.

If water conditions hold, we might see some exciting Mother's Day caddis on the river – and I've had some splendid fishing with the Mother's Day Caddis Variant, starting with those steelhead on the Sacramento many years ago.

If you haven't discovered the Caddis Variant for yourself, you might want to give it a try.



Caddis variant



CV top view

JUST FOR FUN

Exchanges between pilots and control towers

Tower: *"Delta 351, you have traffic at 10 o'clock, 6 miles!"*

Delta 351: *"Give us another hint! We have digital watches!"*

Tower: *"TWA 2341, for noise abatement turn right 45 Degrees."*

TWA 2341: *"Center, we are at 35,000 feet.. How much noise can we make up here?"*

Tower: *"Sir, have you ever heard the noise a 747 makes when it hits a 727?"*

From an unknown aircraft waiting in a very long takeoff queue: "I'm f...ing bored!"

Ground Traffic Control: *"Last aircraft transmitting, identify yourself immediately!"*

Unknown aircraft: *"I said I was f...ing bored, not f...ing stupid!"*

A student became lost during a solo cross-country flight. While attempting to locate the aircraft on radar, ATC asked, *"What was your last known position?"* Student: *"When I was number one for takeoff."*

A DC-10 had come in a little hot and thus had an exceedingly long roll out after touching down.

San Jose Tower Noted: *"American 751, make a hard right turn at the end of the runway, if you are able.. If you are not able, take the Guadalupe exit off Highway 101, make a right at the lights and return to the airport."*

A Pan Am 727 flight, waiting for start clearance in Munich, overheard the following:

Lufthansa (in German): *"Ground, what is our start clearance time?"*

Ground (in English): *"If you want an answer you must speak in English"*

Lufthansa (in English): *"I am a German, flying a German airplane, in Germany. Why must I speak English?"*

Unknown voice from another plane (in a beautiful British accent): *"Because you lost the bloody war!"*

Tower: *"Eastern 702, cleared for takeoff, contact Departure on frequency 124..7"*

Eastern 702: *"Tower, Eastern 702 switching to Departure. By the way ,after we lifted off we saw some kind of dead animal on the far end of the runway."*

Tower: *"Continental 635, cleared for takeoff behind Eastern 702, contact Departure on frequency 124.7. Did you copy that report from Eastern 702?"*

Continental 635: *"Continental 635, cleared for takeoff, roger; and yes, we copied Eastern. We've already notified our caterers."*

One day the pilot of a Cherokee 180 was told by the tower to hold short of the active runway while a DC-8 landed. The DC-8 landed, rolled out, turned around, and taxied back past the Cherokee. Some quick-witted comedian in the DC-8 crew got on the radio and said, *"What a cute little plane. Did you make it all by yourself?"*

The Cherokee pilot, not about to let the insult go by, came back with a real zinger: *"I made it out of DC-8 parts. Another landing like yours and I'll have enough parts for another one."*

The German air controllers at Frankfurt Airport are renowned as a short-tempered lot. They not only expect one to know one's gate parking location, but how to get there without any assistance from them. So it was with some amusement that we (a Pan Am 747) listened to the following exchange between Frankfurt ground control and a British Airways 747, call sign Speedbird 206.

Speedbird 206: *" Frankfurt , Speedbird 206! Clear of active runway."*

Ground: *"Speedbird 206. Taxi to gate Alpha One-Seven."*

The BA 747 pulled onto the main taxiway and slowed to a stop.

Ground: *"Speedbird, do you not know where you are going?"*

Speedbird 206: *"Stand by, Ground, I'm looking up our gate location now."*

Ground (with quite arrogant impatience): *"Speedbird 206, have you not been to Frankfurt before?"*

Speedbird 206 (coolly): *"Yes, twice in 1944, but it was dark -- and I didn't land."*

○ 2018 schedule-tentative

• April 24-27 Missouri outing

- May 1st club meeting
- May 7th Board meeting
- June 5th club meeting
- June 11th Board meeting

• June 23rd Skip Morris workshop

• June 24th Special Needs Day

- No July club meeting: go fish!
- July 9th Board meeting
- July 11-15th Georgetown outing
- August- no club meeting: go fish!
- August 19th – Annual Picnic

- September 4th club meeting
- September 10th Board meeting
- October 2nd club meeting
- October 8th Board meeting
- November 6th club meeting
- November 12th Board meeting
- December 4th **ANNUAL MEETING
& ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**
- December 10th Board meeting

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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JOB OPENINGS

2018 PROGRAM CHAIR-is also a Board position

2018 RAFFLE CHAIR- is also a Board position

**Come on people- we need your
commitment & support to keep this
club at the top of the game!**

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**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**

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

