



"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

DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Meeting is Tuesday December 3rd at BJ's.

5:30-6:30-Social hour; meeting starts at 6:30 pm; Program at 7 PM

Heads up on Dues renewals!

In 2016 the Board passed a motion to change the club's membership period to run from January 1st to December 31st 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 1st 2020.**

If you wish to pay at the 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! If you joined after September 1st, 2019 you are current for 2020 dues.

Me, again



December 2019 Program



ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS and HOLIDAY Party Time!

December 3RD 5:30 PM- BJ's

Menu

Sweet & Sour Meatballs
Ranch seasoned chicken wings
Pizzas-various flavors
Ham & Swiss sliders- King Hawaiian

SLATE OF DIRECTORS

Slate of nominees for Directors

Estelle Shuttleworth	Ken Quinn	Pierre Satkowiak	Gary Kosaka	
Ed Gannon	Leon Powell	Phil Romans	Greg Chester	Dick Ellis
Warren Johns	Julie Shoush	Scott Roberts		

Nominees can be taken from the floor

BOARD OPENINGS:

2020 PROGRAM CHAIR 2020 RAFFLE CHAIR 2020 Member at large-1 position open

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



Upcoming Programs and Events

January 2020: Eddie Olwell: *Rebirth of a River: Fly Fishing Montana's Clark Fork.*

February 2020- FFB White Elephant Sale- A club fundraiser

March 2020... OPEN

APRIL 2020: Heather Barber: Water Forum update



FFB LOGO ITEMS FOR SALE

HATS: \$15.00 each; Patches- \$4.00 each or 3 for \$10.00;

Beanies & Watch caps (NEW!)- \$10.00 each; Visors (NEW!)- \$10.00 each. Coming in 2020!!

FOTM December 2019

THE PERDIGON

By

Jay Melzer



Tying the Perdigon Nymph

Let me begin by saying that after some research I have discovered that there are many varieties of this nymph. Everyone on the internet seems to have a different variation. So the Perdigon is more of a style of fly construction than one specific pattern.

The basic idea appears to have originated with Spanish competition fly fishers more than a dozen years ago. They invented a small nymph that would sink quickly and catch wary trout.

These are effective flies when fished as a dropper with a larger nymph or using euro-nymphing techniques. They are also very good fished as a dropper under a dry fly as they cast easily, sink quickly and don't weigh too much, allowing the dry fly to keep floating.

Although there are many variations, all Perdigons have common features. They all use a bead head, most often a tungsten bead. They are all small. Size 16 or 18 are most common. And they all feature very slim bodies coated with UV resin or in a few cases clear lacquer. Most incorporate a Coq de Leon tail (or substitute another barred feather) and a hot spot. If you look online for a pattern you will find that all Perdigons share these similarities.

Here is a version of the Perdigon to get you started. Feel free to experiment and create your own killer color combo!

Hook: Size 16 barbless jig hook.

Bead: A slotted 2.8mm or 2.4mm silver, gold, or black tungsten bead.

Tail: Coq de Leon or substitute any barred feather you like.

Thread: Hot orange 6/0

Olive 6/0

Purple 6/0

UV Resin to coat the body.

To tie a Perdigon:

Place the slotted bead on the hook round hole first.

Start the hot orange thread behind the bead and build a shoulder to keep the bead in place. Then wind back to the bend.

Secure the tail about equal to the body in length and bring the thread back to the bead forming a slender tapered base. Tie off the thread with a whip finish.

Start the olive thread behind the bead and wrap toward the bend. Leave a tag of hot orange as a hot spot and return the olive thread toward the bead maintaining a slender body just enough to cover the orange under-body. Tie off behind the bead.

Wrap a collar of purple thread about as wide as the bead and create a taper up to the back of the bead and whip finish.

Use a black marker to darken the area above the purple thread and top of the bead. This is a wing case and is optional.

Coat the thread body with a thin layer of UV resin and cure with a UV light. You may also finish with lacquer or lacquer over the cured resin.

Other variations suggest using stripped quills or flash material for the body or omitting the hot tag and placing the hot spot behind the bead. Remember to keep the body slender.

February 2020 Meeting - A Different Angle

Have you sometimes look at your fishing stuff and thought, I probably will not use that net, I have a new measuring one. Or, I just don't have the time, dexterity or eyesight to tie my own flies anymore.

Since the Program Director's position is open, there is no program with a guest speaker for the month of February. Thus, the club will have a, what else, fishing rummage sale. The sale will be at BJ's and items displayed will be in our meeting room. We will not be serving food in the meeting room---not enough space. You can have dinner in the main dining and bar area prior to the event.

Tentatively, the first table will have donated items with priced as marked and depending on demand/value, a silent auction. All proceeds to the FFB club. No donation receipt will be issued.

The second table will be for members selling higher valued items. Something like a rod/reel that could be sold on Craig's List. The sellers will control their inventory from bringing the items in, setting up, selling and taking it home if no price can be negotiated. Sellers will donate a percentage of the sale to the club.

So, start thinking about what you think would benefit other fisher people and donate it to the February Fishing sale! You can bring items in starting in December.

Please note, this is not a clean your garage out event!



*"What is the essence of America?
Finding and maintaining that perfect, delicate
balance between freedom "to" and freedom "from."
~Marilyn vos Savant*

*If, from time to time, you give up expectation,
you will be able to perceive what it is you are getting.- Rumi*

2020 FFB CLUB OUTINGS SCHEDULE

If you combine exciting, eclectic fishing, varied and scenic venues, sightseeing, mouth-watering epicurean “pot-luck” adventures, occasional fine dining, solving all the world’s problems by a campfire, “fish tales” of gargantuan proportions, and genuine “piscatorial bonding”, you have an FFB “Outing”!

The upcoming year’s Outing schedule will be the biggest and best ever as my Swan Song. If you have not participated in one, you really should. After all, they are a big part of what the Club is all about..... If you don’t have a boat, no problem. If you don’t camp or have an RV, almost all the locations have Motels nearby. As the date of each approaches and reservations deadlines loom, I will post specific notices on our email. If anyone has any questions or concerns, *please feel free* contact me at edandck@gmail.com

- **April 28- May 1** -Missouri River at Craig : The first trip of the year, challenging the mighty “Mo” with its large flow, and large fish....
- **May 14-17** – Clark Canyon and the Beaverhead: A new one...think large “ice-out” Rainbows and Browns cruising the warmer, shallow waters. I’ve seen Club members catch 27-inch “Bows” from shore on size-18 Chronimids....!
- **Late May** - Browns Lake: This one is an “impromptu”, “short-notice” one, that will depend on ice and weather conditions. It might as easily be “day-trips” as well as an outing.
- **June 10- 14** Noxon Reservoir and the Clark Fork: Imagine fishing a place where you can catch any one of 9 different species of fish, on 9 different casts....Trout, Bass, Pike.....that’s what happened last year!!
- **July 15- 18** Georgetown Lake: This is the “Big One” Big Trout, Big Bugs (Sedges), Big Fun at a beautiful lake... Drys and Nymphs, Moose and Mayhem....!
- **September 9- 13** Hebgen Lake and the Madison River Legendary “Gulper” fishing at a Legendary location, at the gates of Yellowstone. Quake Lake, Wade Lake, and other area locales as well, wherever they’re biting!

So there they are...2020 Outing locations....come to one, or come to all of them. You will be pleasantly surprised at the outcomes. Remember.... RV’s are optional....boats are optional, world-class fly fishing skills are optional... all you really need is a desire to have some fun and an adventure...come join us!!!

I belong to the Long Beach Casting Club also and for the past oh 10 years, they do an annual pilgrimage to Green River Utah. It has become so popular, the last couple of years they added a 2nd group following the first week fisher folks. There were still members who wanted to go so this year they added a 3rd group following the 1st 2 groups.

Cost for lodging and guides (excluding tip) is about \$800 (sharing a cabin). Fishing license and meals are on your own. Last year it took me about 10 hours straight to drive from here to Dutch John.

Obviously, the costs are estimates but would any of you be interested? I would hope interests could morph into a FFB outing in the future. Gary Kosaka- hikemastergk@gmail.com

Holiday Bucket List

- Be*
1. Buy presents
 2. Wrap gifts *someone in a hug*
 3. Send gifts *love*
 - Donate*
4. ~~Shop for~~ food
 5. Make cookies *memories*
 - Be*
6. See the lights

UNKNOWN

FB.COM/SIMPLEASTHATBLOG.COM

THIS SHOULD BE POSTED IN ALL SCHOOLS AND WORK PLACES



Love him or hate him, he sure hits the nail on the head with this! Bill Gates recently gave a speech at a High School about 11 things they did not and will not learn in school. He talks about how feel-good, politically correct teachings created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

Rule 1: Life is not fair - get used to it!

Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3: You will NOT make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your Grandparents had a different word for burger flipping: they called it opportunity.

Rule 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life HAS NOT. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as MANY TIMES as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

Rule 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you FIND YOURSELF. Do that on your own time..

Rule 10: Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

IF YOU AGREE , PASS IT ON. IF YOU CAN READ THIS - THANK A TEACHER!

Life humbles
you as you age. You
realize how much
time you wasted on
nonsense.



12 THINGS TO ALWAYS REMEMBER:

1. The past cannot be changed.
2. Opinions don't define your reality.
3. Everyone's journey is different.
4. Things always get better with time.
5. Judgements are a confession of character.
6. Overthinking will lead to sadness.
7. Happiness is found within.
8. Positive thoughts create positive things.
9. Smiles are contagious.
10. Kindness is free.
11. You only fail if you quit.
12. What goes around, comes around.



Operation "Rainbow Rescue"

7 eager Club members volunteered their time and efforts at a moment's notice, to answer Gary Brother's suggestion, to try and save some fish.

After Gary K's phone call, Jason Lindstrom (Chris Clancy's replacement) from FWP, arrived to assist with electro-shocking equipment. The logistical challenge was daunting.....

The good news was that some fish were saved and relocated. 27 Suckers, some of them in very pretty pre-spawn colors, were saved from the shallow water.

The bad news was that Jason's effective shock range was only about 6 feet, and the outlet pipe containing most of any Trout in there, was more than 80 feet long, and very deep. Most of the fish retreated deep into the darkness. There was simply no way to reach them. But Jason believed there was a chance, however slim, that they might possibly survive the winter. Nothing else could be done. So, technically no rainbows were rescued, but we did liberate a few suckers.....

But it was a success simply for the opportunity to interact with FWP, and let Jason know that the FFB is there to assist with such endeavors, should his need arise. He was very grateful.

Thanks again to Gary Brothers, for caring enough to make the effort, and to all the members who showed up to assist.—*Ed Gannon*





NEWS AND NOTES

MADISON RIVER UPDATE

Recently concerns about overuse of the Madison River led organizations such as the Madison River Foundation, the George Grant chapter of TU, Anaconda Sportsmen Association, Public Lands and Waters Associations, and Skyline Sportsmen Association to petition Fish, Wildlife and Parks for better regulation of the river with some urging daily launch limits and a cap on the number of permits for outfitters. Guides and outfitters also have presented their views regarding regulating river usage. On November 12 the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission rejected all petitions and ordered Fish, Wildlife and Parks to have a "scoping" session and to create multiple alternatives for the Madison River to be considered by the commission. The commission will continue to accept public comments in the meantime.

Overcrowding on the Madison has been a hot topic for several years, and a state record was set in 2017 with some 207,000 angler days on the river. As a result, the meeting room was packed, and a TV and chairs were set up in the lobby to accommodate the crowd. Fish, Wildlife and Parks is expected to have a proposal or proposals ready for the commission in 2020, and some regulations may actually go into effect that year with others to follow in 2021.

IDAHO STEELHEAD AND SALMON

Members of FFB may remember an earlier newsletter that included Rudyard Kipling's account of fishing for salmon in the Columbia River and his description of the numbers of fish returning to the river. Conditions certainly are different in the Columbia River Basin today. Major Dam construction began in the basin during the New Deal, and today there are more than 60 dams in the basin in the U.S. and Canada. That includes Noxon, Thompson Falls, Kerr and Libby dams in Montana and the easternmost dams at Henry's Lake and Island Park on the Henry's Fork and Jackson Lake and Palisade on the Upper Snake. Also included are four controversial dams built between 1961 and 1975 on the Snake between Lewistown and the Tri-Cities (Kennewick-Richland-Pasco) which are seen as major contributors to the decline of salmon and steelhead runs in Idaho. For example, in the 1950s more than 1.5 million Chinook salmon annually returned to Idaho. On September 29, 2019 the State of Idaho closed the steelhead season, and on October 5, 2019 it became illegal to harvest fall chinook with an adipose fin (wild fish) in the Snake and Salmon rivers.

Runs of anadromous fish, of course, are important to commercial and sport fisherman, but they also are important to the ecosystem. They are critical to the survival of orcas, which are on the Endangered Species List. Biologists say that 137 species ranging from bugs to bears depend on salmon and steelhead and that the loss of these fish will change the environment forever.

Salmon and steelhead populations in the Columbia River basin have been in trouble for decades and were designated as threatened and endangered in the early 1990s. Significant sums of money have been spent to improve the situation, and more recently courts have become involved. In 2014 U.S. district Judge Michael Simon chastised state and federal agencies for evasiveness and ineffectiveness and ordered them to study breaching the four controversial dams downstream from Lewistown. In 2018 a landmark agreement was reached to change the way dams are operated to benefit young fish migrating downstream to the ocean. The State of Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe agreed to stay out of federal courts for three years while dam managers agreed to increase the volume of water over dam spillways.

In February 2019 biologists predicted very small runs of salmon and steelhead returning to Idaho. They expected less than half of the ten year average of spring chinook to return to Bonneville Dam, the first dam that they encounter on the Columbia River. Only 8,200 wild chinooks were expected to make it to the tributaries in 2019. By mid-September only about 1,100 hatchery steelhead headed for the Clearwater River had passed Bonneville Dam, and fisheries experts predicted that only 2,300 would pass Bonneville Dam by the end of the season. They also suggested that only 1,700 hatchery fish would make it to Granite Dam downstream from Lewistown by the end of the season. As a result, on September 29, 2019 Idaho closed the steelhead season on the Lower Snake and Clearwater Rivers, and a few days later Idaho made it illegal to take a fall chinook with an adipose fin (wild fish).

What does the future hold for salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin? How accurate are predictions that these wild fish will be gone from the basin within a generation? What does that mean for the ecosystem?

Project Healing Waters

Fly Tying is one of our 4 core program activities alongside fly fishing education, fly rod building, and fly fishing outings. We are unique in that our 200+ programs are teaching classes on an on-going, long term basis. It is much more than a one-time fishing trip. Our programs provide these classes year-round for disabled veteran participants whose skills range from beginners to those with prior fly fishing and tying experience. All fly fishing and tying equipment is provided to the participants at no cost. Fishing trips, both one day and multi-day, are also provided free of charge to participants.

Exciting news!! VETERANS

There is now a Bitterroot Chapter of Project Healing Waters!! Here's what we know:

There is going to be a **meet and greet on Dec 16th** at 6:30pm at Sapphire Homes (519th N. 10th Hamilton, in the conference room)

They will be starting out with teaching fly tying. Basic materials will be provided. **The plan is to then meet once a month on Mondays starting in January for the fly tying classes.** It doesn't matter if you've never tied before, it's a fly tying 101 type class. Stay tuned for start date.

There's two ways you can get involved, either as a participant or a volunteer.

Here's the link you can use **as a participant**: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4653180>

Here's the link as **a volunteer** <https://www.tfaforms.com/4653180>

You need to select Rocky Mnt North West, and then Hamilton.

You can contact **Scott Roberts at 406 880 1149 or at scott.roberts@projecthealingwaters.org** for any questions or to get enrolled. He also asks that you RSVP if you plan on going to the meet and greet as well.

QUOTES of Rumi...

"When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you ,a joy."

"Raise your words, not voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder."

"The quieter you become, the more you hear."

"Life is a balance between holding on and letting go."

"Only from the heart can you touch the sky."

"As one goes through life one learns that if you don't paddle your own canoe, you don't move."

~ Katharine Hepburn

Inspiring Future Generations with a Gift

Our friends, the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot, are lending more support to our youth education programs this year with funds from the **Doug Duff Memorial Fund**.

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

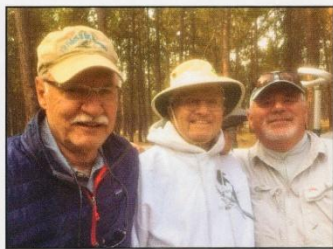
Doug Duff was a past FFB President who passed away last year after a battle with cancer. A kind soul, rarely without a smile on his face, Doug is remembered as a friend who was up for anything and always doing what he could to lend a hand.

With a background as a professor in the mid-west, after retirement Doug and his wife Susie moved to the Bitterroot in 2008 to be closer to their daughter and grandchildren.

Whether it was with his grandchildren or students in Bitterroot Trout Unlimited's Bitterroot Bugger program, Doug wanted to pass on his passion for the outdoors and fly fishing.

With that passion in mind FFB donated from his memorial fund to help support our Earth Stewardship Program and Future Irrigators of the Bitterroot trip.

Doug's legacy will get kids out of the classroom and connected to water. Thanks to FFB, and thank you to the Duffs.



Doug pictured with FFB members,
Phil Romans (left) and Jay Melzer (right)

"He was a conservationist
to the core"

"The legacy of Fly Fishing was something that helped him become who he was and you want to pass that on"

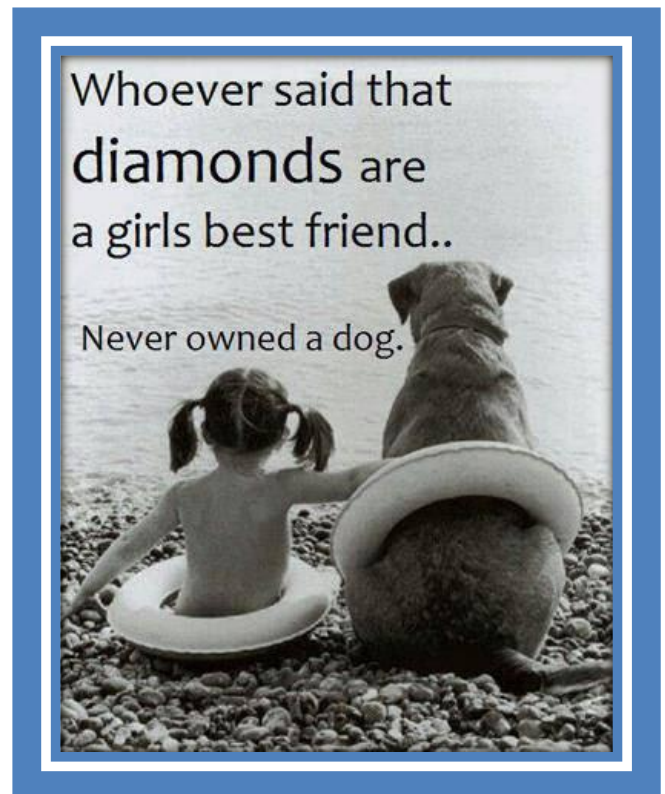
- Phil Romans said of his good friend of Doug



**A heartfelt
Thank You goes
to Bitterroot
Water Forum
for a great
tribute to Doug
Duff
(and to us too!)**



**RAFFLE TICKETS: 6 FOR \$5.00; 13 FOR \$10.00
AND \$20.00 GETS YOU 30 TICKETS!**



Holiday Ladies Night



Monday December 16th
3:00 – 5:00 Bitterroot Fly Company

Darby

5:00 – 7:00 Freestone Outlet

Hamilton

Drinks and Appetizers will be served
at both locations

Questions? Contact
Sheila at shoe6561@gmail.com
Or Peggy at pratches@gmail.com



**WILL IT RAIN?
WILL IT
SNOW?
I LIVE IN
MONTANA
I DO NOT
KNOW!**



These are our current Board Raffles--- There are only 100 "tickets" on each of the boards. "ticket" price varies depending on which item is being offered....if you can't make the meeting, but still wish to purchase tickets for any of these raffle boards , please contact: **Phil Romans 406-363-0744.**

Yes folks- we started 3 board raffles at the November meeting. They will continue until all the squares on an individual board are sold..... we need your name & phone # for the squares you purchase.....

METAL ARTWORK- \$1.00 PER SQUARE



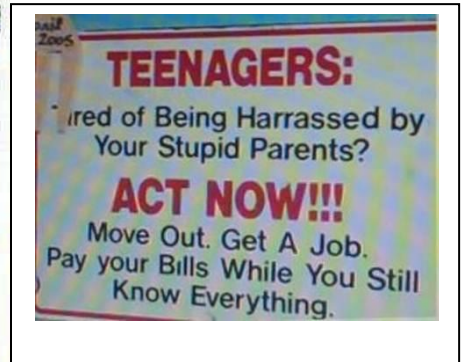
PINE NEEDLE BASKET- \$2.00 PER SQUARE
WOVEN BY CLUB MEMBER Julie Shoush



This offering is an Orvis 9'6", 6Wt Clearwater fly rod and an Orvis Battenkill Disc II fly reel. One hundred squares at **\$5 a square** **OR \$20.00 GETS YOU FIVE SQUARES!** Retail for these items is \$399. Here's a chance to add to your arsenal, and help the club's ongoing projects.



JUST FOR FUN



AGE TEST
GOTTA BE OLD ENOUGH TO GET THIS ONE ...



"Your new hip and knee replacements come with a remote control app for Tap, Waltz, Foxtrot, Cha-cha, Jitterbug, Texas Two Step, Irish Folk Dance and Disco."



2019-2020 schedule

Dec 3rd	ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS
Dec 9 th	Board meeting
Jan 7 th 2020	club meeting
Jan 13 th 2020	Board meeting
Feb 4 th 2020	club meeting
Feb 10 th 2020	Board meeting
March 3 th	club meeting
March 9 th	Board meeting
April 7 th	club meeting
April 13 th	Board meeting
APRIL 28th-5/1	Missouri OUTING
May 5 th	club meeting
May 11 th	Board meeting
May 14-16	Clark Canyon Outing
Mid May	Browns Lake
June 7th	Special Needs Day
June 2 nd	club meeting
June 8 th	Board meeting
June 10th-14th sew3	Noxon reservoir
July 15-18th	Georgetown lake
July 13 th	Board Meeting
August 16th	Annual Picnic-maybe?
Sept 9th -13th	Hebgen Lake
Oct 6 th	club meeting
Oct 12 th	Board meeting
Nov 3 rd	club meeting
Nov 9 th	Board meeting
Dec 1 st	ANNUAL MEETING
Dec 7 th	Board 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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Ed Gannon-	edandck@gmail.com
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Walt McCrumb –	sikiQ4me@gmail.com
Scott Roberts—	srmt100@yahoo.com
Julie Shoush---	jshoushouse@aol.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 then order from their website and have merchandise delivered to the member's home.

We have negotiated a **10% discount** with the vendor on all orders from Club members.

