



*"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)

## **December 2018 Newsletter**

**Meeting is Tuesday December 4<sup>th</sup> at BJ's.**  
**5:30-6:30-Social hour; meeting starts at 6:30 pm**

Hi everyone

Well, I guess this is it- my last "president's message". Can't say I don't mind, as writing has never been a strong suit for me & recently I have been suffering from severe "writer's block." I wish I could come up with something unique or memorable to say, but sorry guys it is just not going to happen. December's meeting is important- it is about us- the club & its members. Please join in the festivities & enjoy the friends you have within the club community. It is elections too- members vote in Directors, then, the Directors choose the officers at the December board meeting.

I asked a lot from the Board members over the past two years and I wish to thank them all for their hard work. I was not an easy task master, I know, but I am proud of them & what we accomplished. Their dedication to the club deserves a big thank you from the members. Many are staying on for another round, including myself but there are a few who are leaving. Thanks goes to David Ward for being Program Chair for the past 3 years— a difficult & often thankless job. He arranged to have some top notch notables in the Fly fishing industry come to our Valley for US- Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot! Thanks too, goes to Denny Westover- a great fly fisher, a wonderful teacher & presenter, phenomenal photographer, a voice of calm & reason and of course one of those great people you like to be around. I am thankful to have met him & had the chance to work with him.

A special thanks goes to a person who is important to me. Although she doesn't fish, she has been an integral part of the club since the beginning. It is because of Dorreen & Phil we even have a club. Dorreen is taking a much deserved break from the Board. However we Board members wouldn't let Phil retire too- it caused panic in the ranks so to speak! [Maybe 2020, Phil....] Dorreen has been the "mother hen" for the club & has spent years worrying about it, protecting it, & keeping it a social club- welcoming fishers & non-fishers alike. Although she won't be on next year's Board, I'm pretty sure she will still be there for us if we need help or questions answered. Also, a personal thank you from me goes to you Dorreen, for being there at a very rough time in my life. For the rest of you people that are going to stay on for another year, as they say, "I have grown accustomed to your faces". I look forward to working with you for the benefit of the club. Well folks, that pretty much sums it up. Happy & safe Holidays to all

Tight lines,  
Estelle

## December 2018 Program

# **ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS and HOLIDAY Party Time!**

**December 4th, 2018 5:30 PM- BJ's**

### **Menu**

**Veggie platter**

**Meatballs**

**Ranch wings**

**Pizzas**

**Meat & cheese platter**

**Dinner rolls**

**relish tray**

Slate of nominees for Directors

Bill Bean

Estelle Shuttleworth

Ken Quinn

Pierre Satkowiak

Gary Kosaka

Ed Gannon

Leon Powell

Phil Romans

Greg Chester

Dick Ellis

Nominees can be taken from the floor



## DECEMBER 2018 FLY OF THE MONTH

### The Humongous

by

DENNIS WESTOVER

“A Wolly Bugger by any other name would smell as sweet.....” Billy Shakespeare, renowned Bitterroot River fishing guide.



Wait a minute, you say, we all know how to tie and fish an ordinary, run of the mill Wolly Bugger. Let's see something new and interesting – an easy to tie pattern that catches fish in both rivers and still waters. Well, the Humongous may look like a Wolly Bugger but it is, in fact a Wolly Bugger ON STEROIDS. There are some important differences between the Humongous and its predecessor. The Humongous sports a sparser tail that is two and a half to three times longer than the Wolly Bugger while the body is typically half as long. Even with the long tail short strikes don't seem to be a problem and the short shank heavy wire hook reduces the fishes leverage and means more fish landed and released. Fish in both rivers and especially still waters prefer a slow to medium retrieve but when trout are active in warmer water they will chase and eat a quickly retrieved Humongous. My preferred color combination is shown above – Black tail, five or six strands of UV crystal flash, silver flash tinsel, grizzly hackle (two times the hook gape) and either bead chain eyes or bead head. Rib the body with silver wire for increased durability. Other than the bead head or bead chain I don't add any weight and always tie a few without any weight for prospecting still water shallows. I tie this on a #10 Hanak 900 streamer hook but any heavy wire, wide gap, #8 or #10 hook will do the job.

Other color combinations I've tied and fished are gold tinsel body, brown hackle and brown over yellow miabeau tail / Silver body, olive hackle and black over olive mirabeau tail.

The Humongous is one of my “go to” still water patterns – tie a few and try one this spring at Brown's lake.

## 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*



## JOB OPENINGS

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

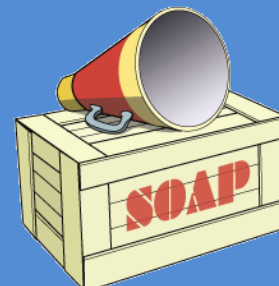
**2019 RAFFLE CHAIR- is also a Board position**

**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 THIS 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!**



## **Little Winter Flies**

I had just stoked the wood heater and settled down behind the vise for a long tying session when Hal Janssen burst through the door of my shop in Northern California's Hat Creek country. It was a chilly day in early December, there patches of snow on the ground, and the overcast sky was still.

"Chuck! You're missing the hatch!" Even for the excitable Hal, that was an amped-up greeting.

"What hatch?" I answered.

"Midges! Down at the Powerhouse!"

"What size, color?"

"Don't worry – I've got the flies. Come on!"

"Let me wrap up here and I'll join you – you go back down."

Hal's blue van was in the Hat Creek Powerhouse 2 parking lot. He was situated below the island near the parking lot.

When I got closer to Hal I could see some subtle rises. He made a cast above one and immediately hooked up. After he played and released the fish he said, "Lemme show you what's going on."

He showed me some small midges. "These are twenty-twos," he said. "They won't hit anything larger."

The flies were simple: a slight tuft of white marabou-like hackle fluff for the tail, fine red wire body, and just a smidge of the finest black dubbing at the head.

That's part of the recipe for small winter flies: keep them simple. You can't very easily crowd seven different materials onto a tiny hook, and if you do, the overall effect might obscure what triggers the strike.

Hal's midges were designed to sink on impact and be fished on a dead drift just a couple of inches below the surface. On the Bitterroot I've used them at every depth from the bottom on up, in sizes #16 to #20. Fine green, copper, or red wire all work well at times and red seems best for this time of year.

Another simple midge pattern is Ross Merigold's Serendipity. Small curved hook, body of fine zelon in any of the above colors twisted for segmentation, and a puff of coarse off-white deer hair clipped short at the head. Craig Matthews' Youtube video shows you how.

When water temps dip toward the forty degree mark the trout don't show much interest in chasing streamers. They're semi-dormant, if not semi-comatose, and eat what drifts right into them and not much else. Under those conditions, the most abundant food forms get the most play. That means small nymphs.

The Three Dollar Dip is an easy fly that falls into that category, and is designed to get down. Again, take a look at the Blue Ribbon video.

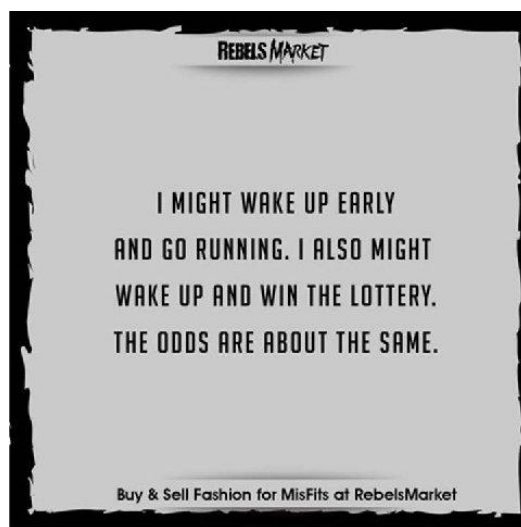
Other staples in the small winter fly diet include blue-winged olives, which have the habit of hatching at the weirdest times. Carry some cripples and emergers, just in case, and fish a small BWO nymph just about any time. The original Sawyer Pheasant Tail is a good one.

Another effective winter nymph, in #14 or #16, is a Bird's Nest, tied the way Cal Bird originally tied it. The commercial variations don't come close to Cal's original dressing and don't work nearly as well. This fly always becomes a favorite, a go-to fly to fish, for those who know it. It is a favorite fly to tie, as well. The participants in my winter fly tying sessions enjoy learning and tying the fly on days when it is too cold to fish. And despite global warming, I see more of those days every year.





Solid oak fly tying desk. Two pieces for easy transport. Fold down extensions on either side, 14 drawers, thread storage and more. Includes solid oak swivel chair in matching finish. This is the “TV Tyer” [flytyingfurniture.com](http://flytyingfurniture.com) Original cost as configured was \$1500. Time to ditch that wobbly card table and go first class. Give it a new home for \$500. Call Dennis Westover @ [206 605 0404](tel:2066050404)



## ***THE WAY IT WAS.....***William Bartram

William Bartram was a major figure in American scientific history. He was a naturalist, ethnographer, artist and explorer. He was the most important American nature writer before Thoreau. His drawings rivaled those of Audubon, and his descriptions of Indian cultures in the Southeast are essential to any understanding of historical tribal cultures. Part of what Bartram observed was the development of the Seminole Tribe through the consolidation of a number of disparate Indian groups. From 1773 to 1776 he journeyed through the wilderness of the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida, observing the natural world, collecting botanical specimens and making drawings of flora and fauna. Cowkeeper, a Seminole chief, affectionately called him "the flower hunter" for his study of plants and animals. The description of Bartram as a wilderness explorer is an accurate one when we consider that demographers list the total population of the U. S. in 1776 at 2.5 million and the population of Georgia at 35,000 to 50,000. Estimates for the population of Florida don't exist because of the international contest for ownership and because the non-Indian population was so tiny.

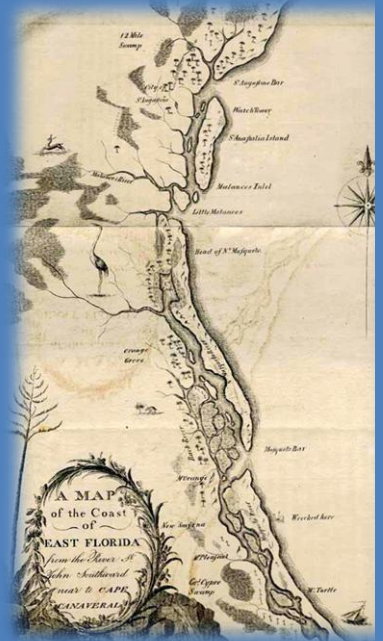
Bartram's description of Seminole fishing techniques is particularly interesting. The fish that he called trout were largemouth bass, and the floating nymphaea that they fished near were lily pads. He described the bass as "remarkably ravenous; nothing living that he can seize upon escapes his jaws...." He noted, "They frequently weigh fifteen, twenty, and thirty pounds, and are delicious food." Bartram leaves us a remarkable picture: Seminole Indians tying their own flies and fly fishing for bass in the 1770s before the American Revolution. And perhaps we should also note that they used Tenkara equipment.

*"On my return, I found some of my companions fishing for trout, round about the edges of the floating nymphaea, and not unsuccessfully, having caught more than sufficient for us all. As the method of taking these fish is curious and singular, I shall just mention it.*

*They are taken with a hook and line, but without any bait. Two people are in a little canoe, one sitting in the stern to steer, and the other near the bow, having a rod ten or twelve feet in length, to one end of which is tied a strong line, about twenty inches in length, to which are fastened three large hooks, back to back. These are fixed very securely, and covered with the white hair of a deer's tail, shreds of a red garter, and some particoloured feathers, all of which form a tuft, or a tassel, nearly as large as one's fist, and entirely cover and conceal the hooks: this is called a bob. The steersman paddles softly, and proceeds slowly along the shore; he now ingeniously swings the bob backwards and forwards, just above the surface, and sometimes tips the water with it; when the unfortunate cheated trout instantly springs from under the weeds, and seizes the supposed prey. Thus he is caught without the possibility of escape, unless he breaks the hooks, line, or rod, which he, however, sometimes does by dint of strength; but, to prevent this, the fisherman used to the sport is careful not to raise the rod suddenly up, but jerks it instantly backwards, then steadily drags the sturdy reluctant fish to the side of the canoe, and with a sudden upright jerk brings him into it.*

*The head of this fish makes about one third of his length, and consequently the mouth is very large: birds, fish, frogs, and even serpents, are frequently found in its stomach."*

William Bartram *Travels Through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida....*, 1791





## ***DECEMBER RAFFLE ITEMS***

*Hi everyone—here are some of the items that will be at the December meeting..... Thanks to all of you who responded to my request for stuff for the baskets I want to make- the response was so good that I have enough for several baskets to continue on into the New Year!*



### **Bath in a Basket.**

Enjoy an evening to yourself with this basket of goodies!  
Includes homemade soaps from *Kestrel Soaps [Mary Swift]* & *Barb's Beauty Bars [Barb Garten]*; Jar of lavender body scrub [donated by Peg Miskin]; A bottle each of Jafra's Royal Olive body oil & body lotion [donated by Daneel Kuzaro]

*When you are done- what will you do?*  
*Well, have some chocolate Fudge, of course! [Diane & Bill Jones]*

What is better than a bottle of  
red wine & the taste of  
Chocolate?

Nothing!!

Enjoy this basket of Yuletide  
cheer- a bottle of Shiraz [club/  
and decadent chocolate fudge  
& toffee made & donated by  
*Mary & Wayne Kaim*



*Basket contents are subject to my whims..... There will be other raffle items, too; such as a box with 4 dozen flies!*

***Man blames fate for all other accidents, but feels personally responsible when he makes a hole-in-one. -- Bishop Sheen***



## NEWS, NOTES & PHOTOS

### Salmon River Closed to Steelhead starting Dec 7th

For those who steelhead fish in Idaho, recent developments have brought about the closure of the season starting end of day Dec 7, 2018 thru early Spring 2019.

Here's more: <https://idfg.idaho.gov/.../fish-and-game-commission-suspends-...>



Tres Amigas-

*Jenny West, Jessica Richardson & Peg Miskin braved the weather & cold water In Idaho to learn some of the finer points to Spey casting...*

## 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, mushroom....etc.....**

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

### NEZ PERCE SEEK TO RESTORE SALMON RUNS

Historically anadromous fish were economically and culturally important to the Nez Perce and other tribes in the Northwest, so it is not surprising that the Nez Perce reacted to the drastic decline in sea run fish with efforts to protect and restore fish populations. Initially the tribe worked to restore Coho salmon runs in the Clearwater River but with mixed success. Fish populations increased, and in 2015 were large enough that Idaho allowed fishing for Coho, but then declined because of poor ocean conditions, which also impacted Chinook and Steelhead populations. The Clearwater Coho run dropped to about 1,200 compared to the previous ten year average of 5,000.

Recently the Nez Perce fisheries department expanded the Coho salmon restoration program by releasing 500,000 smolts in the Lostine River, a tributary of the Wallowa River, in northeast Oregon in March 2017. Some 5,000 of the smolts were implanted with electronic tags to enable detection when they passed dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Historically the Lostine supported Coho runs, but the size of the runs declined so that only two fish were counted in 1966 and the run was officially declared extinct in the 1980s.

Tribal fisheries personnel undertook this program as an experiment, aware that the smolts were not genetically programmed to return so far upstream. The smolts are offspring of Coho that were trapped at Bonneville Dam, and they also had to negotiate passage of six dams to return to the Lostine. So far about 2,100 have passed Bonneville Dam, and 300 have passed Lower Granite Dam on the Snake. A few have made it back to the Lostine so far this fall. The tribe will continue to release fish until they achieve an annual run of 500. Then they will take the returning adults to a hatchery for spawning with the hope that the offspring will return to the Lostine.

The Nez Perce fishery department also decided to experiment with 850,000 fertilized eggs that were available through overproduction at the Clearwater hatchery and that were destined for a local landfill. The department planted the eggs in artificially created redds while also working to improve spawning and rearing habitat in several streams. Aware that dewatering by irrigation contributed to the decline of Coho and Chinook runs, the tribe has negotiated agreements to maintain adequate stream flows. The positive impact of tribal fisheries programs is felt over a wide area, a much wider area than the boundaries of the current reservation. The 1855 treaty gave the Nez Perce fishing rights in all streams and rivers in the original 13.4 million acre reservation, and the subsequent treaties that significantly reduced the size of the reservation did not extinguish those fishing rights. As a result, the Nez Perce fisheries department works on the streams in the 13.4 million acre area and has played an important role in protecting and preserving fisheries.

*"The doctor told how he was once fishing in the Wind River area of Wyoming and he looked up and far above on the side of the canyon two dogs sat on a rock peeking at him from the brush that surrounded the rock. Only they weren't dogs, they were coyotes. They were curious about what he might be doing standing in a river and waving a stick." Jim Harrison, Farmer*

*"It seems a particularly American failing to take a sport that ideally is about quietude and symmetry and turn it into a marketing campaign. I don't want a lamp shaped like a trout; I don't want a trash can with a picture of a trout rising to a fly on the side; I don't want a trout phone." Joseph Monninger, Home Waters*

*"Every fly fisher knows there are two fishing seasons: the official one set by the fish and game department, and the richer more fluid one set by your heart." W. D. Wetherell, One River More*

### ***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—Search & Rescue**



## New Board Raffles coming up

Jessica Haydahl Richardson, one of our newest members, has generously donated two of her photographs to the club to be used in the raffle to generate funds for our club's activities. Jessica is a professional photographer by career and these are beautiful representations of her work. Each one is a 20" x40" canvas wrap—you can hang them as is, or frame them if you wish.

#1—Photograph of the Bitterroot valley - St Mary's peak and Wheel line

#2- Photograph of the Teton Range with horses in the foreground.

They will be handled as raffle boards, so only 100 tickets will be available for sale. Ticket costs: \$2.00 each



Tickets will be available at club meetings, or if you are unable to attend, you can contact Phil Romans to buy tickets. He will need to have money first, before he can fill your name in a raffle spot—{so, none of the check is in the mail stuff.....} Once the board is full, a number will be drawn & the winner announced.

*The funds generated from these 2 raffle boards will be earmarked for programs that support our club's Goals & Purposes.*







## Phyllis Diller laughs



Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing up is like shoveling the sidewalk before it stops snowing.

The reason women don't play football is because 11 of them would never wear the same outfit in public. -

Best way to get rid of kitchen odors: Eat out. -

A bachelor is a guy who never made the same mistake once. -

I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them.

Most children threaten at times to run away from home. This is the only thing that keeps some parents going.

Any time three New Yorkers get into a cab without an argument, a bank has just been robbed.

We spend the first twelve months of our children's lives teaching them to walk and talk and the next twelve years telling them to sit down and shut up.

Burt Reynolds once asked me out. I was in his room.

What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day.

The only time I ever enjoyed ironing was the day I accidentally got gin in the steam iron.

His finest hour lasted a minute and a half.

Old age is when the liver spots show through your gloves.

My photographs don't do me justice -they look just like me.

Tranquilizers work only if you follow the advice on the bottle -keep away from children.

I asked the waiter, 'Is this milk fresh?' He said, 'Lady, three hours ago it was grass.

The reason the golf pro tells you to keep your head down is so you can't see him laughing. -

You know you're old if they have discontinued your blood type.

As your beauty fades, so will his eyesight.

Housework can't kill you, but why take a chance?



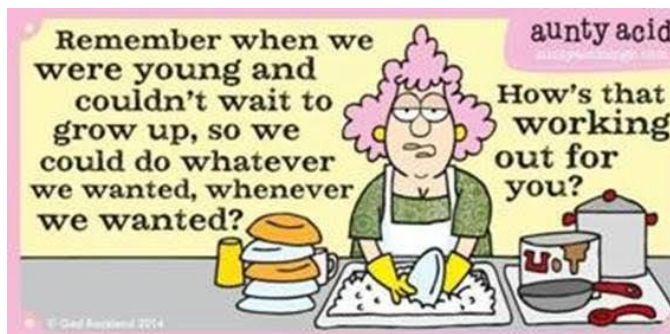
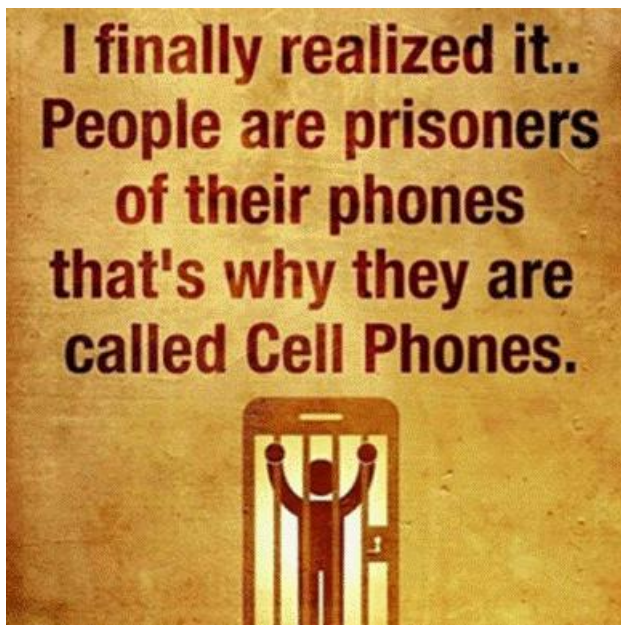
- December 4<sup>th</sup> **ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**
- December 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting

### 2019 schedule

- 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
- April 29<sup>th</sup>- 5/2 Missouri trip
- May 7<sup>th</sup> club meeting
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> **Special Needs Day**
- June 4<sup>th</sup> club meeting

### 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*You have to elect them first.....*



**Our Address:**  
**Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot**  
**PO BOX 692**  
**Victor, MT 59875**

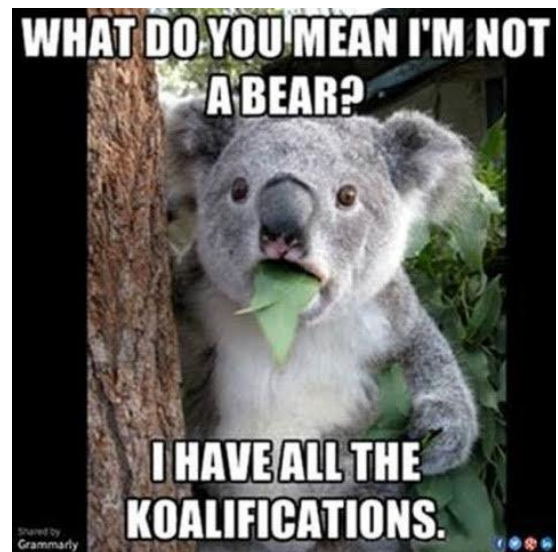
Name tags and lanyards are ready and are at the check in table. If you need a name tag please contact Estelle at [je@shuttleworthje.com](mailto:je@shuttleworthje.com)

**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 under 18 years of age.**



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