



"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

January 2020 NEWSLETTER

Meeting is Tuesday January 7th at BJ's.

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

President's message;

Hi folks,

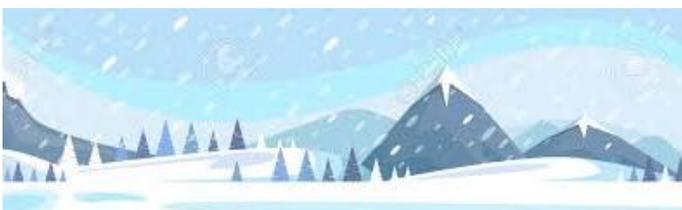
I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. I want to first say thanks to Estelle for her hard work running the club for the last two years and more. She has done an excellent job, and I hope that I can do as well.

We are having some rough times filling the board offices such as Raffle, President and a few others. Thanks a lot to Bob Miller for stepping up to take on Program Chairperson. He's already doing a bang-up job. I'm sure you'll hear from him with his latest ideas for the club programs. As we enter 2020 I'm looking forward to spending a lot of time on the Bitterroot. Let's hope that we get plenty of snow to fill our aquifer for the New Year, and also so all of our members and friends can enjoy the winter sports we all love. From what I've heard it's pretty rocky out there on the slopes. That said, the river has been fishing pretty good these last few months. I don't know where the small fish go in the winter, but the quality of the fish we're seeing is exceptional.

I'm looking forward to the New Year and all the trips and programs we have for all of you. Right now the club is host to about 150 members. We have all made lifelong friends in this organization and I hope to make even more friends in the coming year. The club is active in lots of ways in the community and will continue to be a positive force.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thanks all the board members who have given their time and effort to make this organization a great success. We couldn't have done it without you.

Thanks,
Phil



January 2020 Program



PROGRAM:

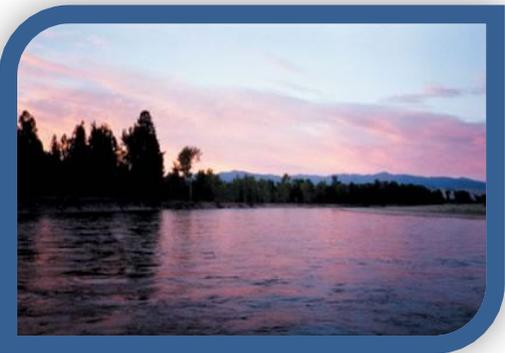
*Rebirth of a River:
Fly Fishing
Montana's Clark
Fork.*

SPEAKER:

EDDIE OLWELL



Eddie Olwell has been fishing most of his life and began fly-fishing at the age of 13 honing his skills on the storied waters of the Catskill Mountains. The quest for trout on the fly has taken him across North America, to New Zealand, and the Patagonia region of Chile. Eddie has fished the waters of western Montana since 1977 and began guiding on them in 1999. In that time he has developed the reputation as an accomplished fisherman, patient instructor, and one of the hardest working guides on the river. Eddie has also been the featured guide on an episode of the long running television show Fly Fishing the World. Eddie has a great passion for rivers and a strong conviction for preserving these cherished resources. He spends much of his free time volunteering with local conservation groups to preserve natural resources and our hunting and fishing heritage. He is an active life member of [Trout Unlimited](#) and served two years as president of the Bitterroot chapter, and Former Board Chair of the [Bitterroot Water Forum](#). His efforts in conservation were recognized by the America Fisheries Society which named him "Outstanding Outfitter of the Year" in 2014. Eddie is a certified Wilderness EMT and spends his winters working as an instructor for the [Aerie School for Backcountry Medicine](#), and on the ski patrol at [Lost Trail Powder Mountain](#). His home is in Stevensville in the heart of Montana's Bitterroot Valley.



Clark Fork River: *The Clark Fork of the Columbia is a large trout river by any standard. It gains water from Rock Creek, the Bitterroot and Blackfoot rivers near Missoula, before continuing on its journey to the Pacific. Like the river, the trout of the Clark Fork are large and challenging. You can cast to pods of rising rainbow trout with small dry flies. The proper fly presented naturally will be rewarded with fish over 17 inches with some topping 20 (that is if you can land them). The Clark Fork begins to fish well in July but our favorite time is fall when the water cools and mayflies' hatches are plentiful.*

Upcoming Programs and Events

February 2020- FFB White Elephant Sale- A club fundraiser

March 2020... FFB Slideshow, produced by Jessica Haydahl Richardson

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!!

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 were due January 1st 2020.

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.

You can renew in person at the club meeting, go to our website and use PayPal, or mail a check to

Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot

PO BOX 692

Victor, MT 59875

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 BJs 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!



"It's discouraging to think how many people are shocked by honesty and how few by deceit."

Noel Coward

"Silence is the language of God, all else is poor translation." 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 Chromimids....!
- **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....! ******GO on recreation.gov on January 15 (6 months before) to get your reservations for PHILLIPSBURG BAY. Weekends there fill up fast!!!!** Remember!- this is a different campground.**
- **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

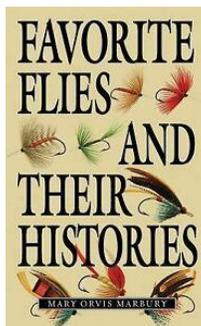
THE WAS IT WAS.... MARY ORVIS MARBURY

Mary Orvis Marbury (1856-1914), daughter of Charles Orvis, was born the year that her father established the Orvis Company. She showed an interest in flies, so her father hired an expert fly tyer to teach her to tie. She then assumed control of fly production for the company. As the Orvis Company tried to provide flies to fisherman throughout North America, it quickly became evident that there was no standardization of patterns.

A Coachman in Maine might be very different from a Coachman in Oregon. As a result, Charles Orvis wrote to fisherman across the U.S. and Canada, asking about flies and fishing. Some 200 people responded, and Mary Orvis Marbury compiled the information received, wrote the necessary text, oversaw the tying of the flies used in illustrations, and in so doing began the process of standardizing fly pattern. The result of her labor appeared in 1892 as *Favorite Flies and their Histories*, a large book filled with numerous color plates of flies. The book went through many printings, became the "bible" of American fly patterns and singlehandedly caused the standardization of American fly patterns. It was reprinted again in 1955 and several times thereafter, most recently in 2001. When she died in 1914, the *English Fishing Gazette* concluded that in a ranking of famous fishing authors she came just behind Dame Juliana Berners, who reputedly wrote the first book on fly fishing in the 1490s. Copies are available through our local libraries.

Favorite Flies is a major book in fly fishing literature, but its influence reached far beyond book purchasers, because Mary Orvis Marbury also was responsible for the Orvis Company exhibit at the Columbian Exhibition in Chicago in 1893. She prepared exhibit panels with illustrations of the flies and with photographs of fly fishing across America by some of the most prominent photographers in America. Some 25 million people attended the exhibition, so many saw the Orvis exhibit. Those interested in the photographs can go to: amff.org/mom-panels.

One final note: soon after becoming director of the American Museum of Fly Fishing in Manchester, Vermont, Paul Schullery discovered the original flies that Orvis used in the book. They are preserved today in the museum.



No. 114. **The Coachman** is, perhaps, the most general favorite of any fly used in America, although it did not originate in this country, but was brought to us from England. Mr. David Foster gives a description of the inventor in his book, the "Scientific Angler," which we will quote, as it is undoubtedly correct, and the best history that can be given of the origin of the fly. In his directions for fly-casting, he remarks: -

"A thorough command of the rod and line is as essential and important as the wielding of the whip in the case of the tandem or four-in-hand drive. We are reminded of this analogy that the most skillful cast we ever knew wielded the whip. We refer to the famous royal coachman, Tom Bosworth. Old Tom had, in the early part of his life, driven three successive British sovereigns, namely, the Fourth George, the Fourth William, and finally, for a lengthened period,

Her Majesty Queen Victoria. As a successful fisherman, old Tom, when known to the writer, was unsurpassed. He would often fish in the wake of several rodsters, whose energy would exceed their skill, and would extract, not infrequently, three times over the weight of fish, by skillful and careful casting over the awkward and most unlikely-looking spots, which the majority of anglers would never dream of trying. A favorite freak of his with the whip was to take the pipe from the teeth of a passing pedestrian by a carefully calculated whirl of the whip, and his aptitude was as remarkably exemplified for a limited distance in his use of the rod. Bosworth originated the Coachman fly so much appreciated for night fishing. This artificial has recently-been much used as a fancy fly, for day fishing, and with considerable success."

No. 40. **The Royal Coachman** was first made in 1878 by John Haily, a professional fly-dresser living in New York City. In writing of other matters, he enclosed a sample of this fly for us to see, saying: "A gentleman wanted me to tie some Coachmen for him to take up into the north woods, and to make them extra strong, so I have tied them with a little band of silk in the middle, to prevent the peacock bodies from fraying out. I have also added a tail of the barred feathers of the wood-duck, and I think it makes a very handsome fly." A few evenings later, a circle of us were together "disputing the fly question," one of the party claiming that numbers were "quite as suitable to designate the flies as so many nonsensical names." The others did not agree with him, but he said: "What can you do? Here is a fly intended to be a Coachman, yet it is not the true Coachman; it is quite unlike it, and what can you call it?" Mr.L.C. Orvis, brother of Mr. Charles Orvis, who was present, said: "Oh, that is easy enough; call it the **Royal Coachman**, it is so finely dressed!"

And this name in time came to be known and used by all who are familiar with the fly.

"That autumn, I went a little crazy for rivers. The weather was unusually mild in northern California... and I had some time to spare and couldn't imagine a better way to spend it than in the high country as the leaves began to fall. I fished the Merced and the Stanislaus, the Kings and the North Yuba...." Bill Barich, Crazy for Rivers, 1999

Ed Engle on fishing a small creek in Colorado in December: "I had this all to myself and it was magical. It's so unchanged I imagined that Kit Carson or Old Bill Williams might have watered their horses there." Boulder Daily Camera

*Only the mountain
has lived long enough
to listen objectively
to the howl of the wolf.
Aldo Leopold*

FOTM January 2020
The Royal Coachman
By Greg Chester



Menu

Hook, #10, standard dry fly
Thread, 6/0 black
Tail, golden pheasant tippet
Abdomen, peacock herl
Banding, red floss
Wing, duck quill, upright and divided
Hackle, coachman brown
Head, tying thread

"Tying the Royal Coachman is pretty straight forward except for the duck quills, which takes some practice. Make sure you have matching quills (one each left and right) and that you take the cut pieces (slips) from the same part of each opposing feather.

Start by mounting the hook in your vice and covering the shank with firm wraps of tying thread.

Select about 8 - 10 golden pheasant tippet fibers, even the tips, tie in over the hook barb and clip the butts.

Next select about 4 - 6 peacock herl fibers, clip the fragile tips and tie in by the tips, also over the barb. Using either your fingers or a specialty tool twist the fibers to form a rope and make 2 - 3 wraps up the shank and tie off with thread. Don't clip the rope yet, just let it hang.

Then tie in a short length of red floss and make 2-3 wraps up the shank and tie off with thread. Continuing wrapping the peacock rope up the shank to a point just behind the thorax position. This is Important - **leave ample room** for the wings, hackle and head!! Start over if you've encroached into this space.

Cut 2 matching slips from the duck quills, arrange them with the tips even and flaring away from each other. Tie them in at the mid thorax area using the pinch-and-pull method. Insure the wings don't rotate around the hook. Next pull the wings upright and add a few tight wraps at the base to keep them upright. Clip the butts and carefully separate the wings (a bodkin helps) and figure 8 a few wraps of thread at the base to keep them separated and even.

Finally tie in the saddle hackle in the thorax area and wrap toward the hook eye with 3 wraps on each side of the wing. Carefully trim the hackle tips and finish the fly forming a neat head with tying thread. Whip finish and you are done."

This is from a Dec 26th Facebook post of club member Julie Shoush- she had no idea that Dick Ellis's "The Way It Was" was about the same subject!! How is that for a coincidence!!!

HISTORY - Mary Orvis Marbury, born in 1856, was the oldest of four children of Charles F. and Laura Orvis; the only girl. The year of her birth, Charles Orvis founded the C. F. Orvis Company, now known as the Orvis Company.

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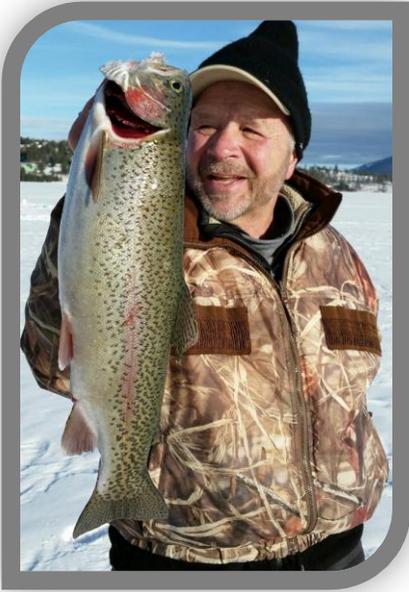
In 1876, Mary became the manager of the company's fly-tying operations. Under Marbury's watch, the fly-tying department comprised local women hired through newspaper ads. There were usually between five and seven women in the department, but occasionally they would increase to ten workers. All women were trained to tie by Mary. By 1890, the company was tying and selling more than 400 different fly patterns. Although many of the patterns had the same name, they varied in looks. Mary was put in charge of compiling the creating a book that would set the standard for name and pattern according to location. The landmark Favorite Flies and Their Histories was published in 1892. By 1896, there had been nine printings. Until the publication of "Favorite Flies and their Histories" no standardized text existed for American flies, leading to not a little confusion on the part of anglers ordering what they thought was one thing but too often turned out to be another. The colorful lithographs in her book enabled anglers to order with confidence and helped set a standard nomenclature for American flies.

• • •

To complement the book and to represent the C. F. Orvis Company at the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition, Marbury assembled hinged fly panels for public viewing. These panels would one day become the inspiration for the founding of the American Museum of Fly Fishing.



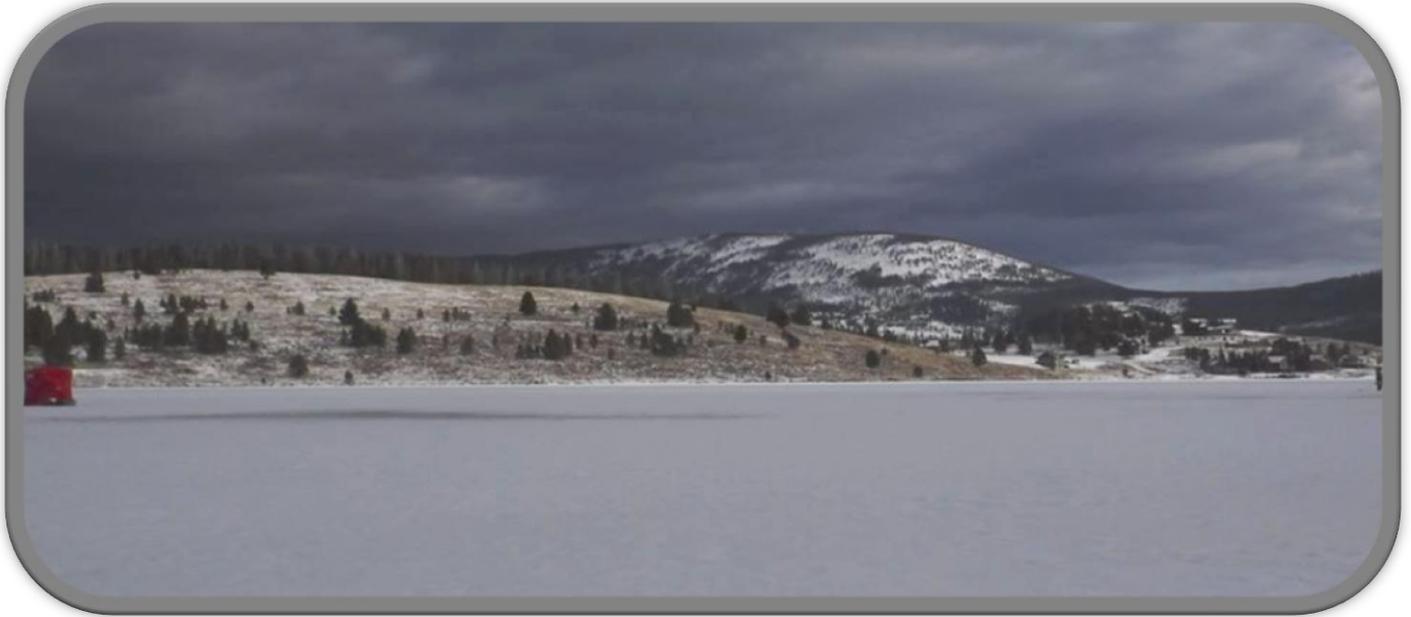
FISH REPORTS AND KODAK MOMENTS



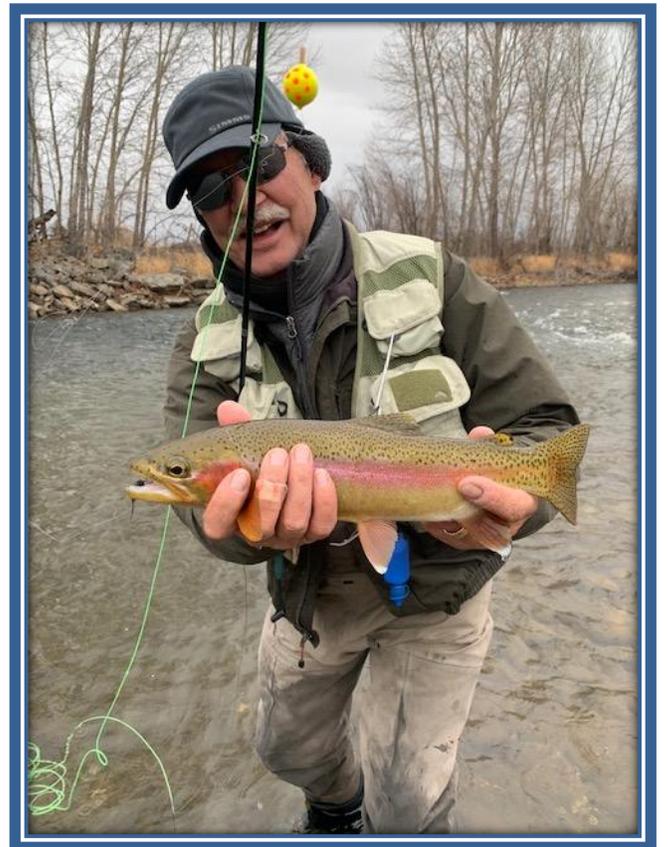
For those thinking about Georgetown, the ice is 7 inches thick. The trout are biting; so are the Kokanee. Our best depth was the 14 to 16 foot range off Comers.

The jigs were as tiny as most flies: VMC tungsten 1/64 Tubby jigs and size 12 Custom Jigs & Spins Rat Finkee in the glow color. Ice fishermen aren't as creative as fly fishers when naming lures. This rainbow was pushing the 21 inch mark.

Don't know if the weather will always be as nice (30+, no wind, sunny), but we can hope. Good Fishing- Jim K



*Bob Miller, the Club's
2020 Program Chair,
with a beautiful
Bitterroot
Cutthroat pushing
20 inches!!*



Our 2020 FFB President- Phil Romans

Phil with another beautiful fish

*"The way to mastery of any endeavor is to work toward simplicity,
to replace complex technology with knowledge." Yvon Chouinard*

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTRALIA ON FIRE

Recently the American media provided great coverage of the volcanic eruption on a small New Zealand island that killed a number of tourists and burned several others, including two Americans. At the same time the media has basically ignored the current fire season in Australia, a friend and ally of the United States. Right now Australia, or important parts of it, is burning up. Several weeks ago there were some 125 wildfires in the state of New South Wales. That number now is down to 100, but there are some 50 fires currently burning in the state of Queensland with other fires in the states of South Australia and Western Australia. Air quality in Sydney, Australia's largest city, has been so bad that smoke detectors inside of homes and businesses have gone off. To make matters worse, Australia had the hottest day in recorded history on December 17. The average maximum temperature across the country was 40.9 degree C, which is about 105.6 degrees F

GREENLAND MELTS

Two important scientific studies of the shrinkage of the Greenland icepack were published in 2019. The first appeared in January in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and the second in December in Nature. Scientists found that Greenland's ice is melting faster than previously thought. Ice loss rapidly accelerated in 2002-2003, and by 2012 the melt rate was nearly four times that of 2003. They believe that between 2002 and 2016 Greenland lost about 280 billion tons of ice per year, enough to cover Florida, New York and several small states hip deep in melt water. The Greenland ice sheet contains enough ice to raise sea levels 23 feet. The most recent study predicts that 400 million people could be at risk for flooding by the end of the century if Greenland's ice melts at the current pace.

WESTERN GOVERNORS AND INVASIVE SPECIES

In 2018 the Western Governors Association compiled a list of the top fifty invasive species in the West, including cheat grass, quagga and zebra mussels, knapweed, feral pigs and tamarisk. The governors recognized that invasive species can permanently alter ecosystems and negatively impact native species and local economies. They also were familiar with the Nature Conservancy's estimate that invasive species management costs more than \$120 billion per year nationally. In December of this year the association created a Western Invasive Species Council to enhance cooperation between western states.

Members may have seen local news coverage of the threat to Montana from feral pigs from Canada, but undoubtedly few saw the news that Denmark recently fenced its border with Germany because feral pigs from the latter nation threatened the pork industry, which is so important in the Danish economy.

NATIVE FISH COALITION

The Native Fish Coalition, based in Maine, exists to "protect, preserve and restore native fish populations through stewardship of the fish and their habitats." It is a conservation organization concerned with fish---native fish., which in New England means arctic char, Atlantic salmon, pond dwelling brook trout, sea run brook trout and stream brook trout. Currently there are state chapters in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. The coalition has partnered with groups such as the Nature Conservancy, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition, TU, Patagonia, L.L.Bean and Sage, and the organization's blog is managed by noted conservation writer Ted Williams.

On December 19 the Australian press reported that the average temperature across Australia reached 107.4 Fahrenheit, and Nullabar station on the south coast recorded 121.8 degrees, the highest temperature ever recorded in December anywhere in the world. Temperatures in Sydney were expected to exceed 116 degrees. As of December 19 fires had consumed 7.4 million acres.

From BRTU's Newsletter:

At the December 7 Montana TU State Council, BRTU was awarded the 2019 Montana TU Chairman's Outstanding Chapter Award. Chapter President Jeremy Anderson accepted the award from MTU Chairwoman Sharon Fee Sweeney.

The award specifically notes our

"...strong commitment to increasing diversity especially with young people and women, and support of a new project manager for the Bitterroot watershed."

Special kudos are due to Jeremy for his outstanding leadership, but the board members and chapter volunteers that put in so many hours on the Buggers and other projects also deserve congratulations.

FFB congratulates BRTU on its award!



Hovercraft proposal hovers until next Fish and Game Commission on February 6, 2020 **(go to BRTU's e-newsletter to access the links)**

I reported in the last newsletter that a guy from Stevensville has proposed a change to the Bitterroot and Clark Fork rules that would allow hovercraft on the river from October 1 to January 31 by amending the horsepower rules. Here is the [original story](#), as well as a more recent in depth [story](#) from the Bitterroot Star..

The proposal was set to be heard at the December 5 meeting of the [Montana Fish and Game Commission](#) . The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks had asked the Commission to deny the petition. However, due to a packed docket, the Commission decided to postpone dealing with the issue until their next meeting in Helena on February 6.



President Jeremy Anderson already sent comments on behalf of BRTU recommending denial of the petition which [you can read here](#).

Bill Bean, former BRTU President and co-winner of the 2019 Gold Trout Award, also addressed this issue in his [weekly column](#) for the Ravalli Republic last week. Chuck Stranahan, the other 2019 Gold Trout Award co-winner, devoted his [December 4 column](#) in the Bitterroot Star to hovercraft, too.

You now have plenty of time to [submit a comment](#) to the Commission on this and any other matters. It would probably be sufficient to say that you have read the letter from BRTU concerning this matter and support denial of the petition. It seems likely that the hovercraft advocate is going to continue pursuing this "horsepower over brainpower" proposal, so take a minute over the holidays to comment.

For those of you who don't use Facebook, I thought you might appreciate seeing what went on FFB's Page over the hovercraft issue.....

Something to pay close attention to! The Dec 5 meeting before the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission to consider allowing Hovercraft on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork rivers has been postponed until February 2020. FFB is on record as not supporting this proposal!

[Jim Crews](#) It is legal to motorboat on the Bitterroot River right now. Go look at ARM 12.11.610.

[Josh Ziegler](#) to Jim Crews yes, you can run a prop engine down the root— true. And you can do it within a specified season. I spend 100+ days on those rivers, so I think I have an idea of the regs. Boat traffic on the lower Clark has become pretty heavy at times... and I've seen folks running motors that are irresponsible and ruin it for other folks. And it most certainly does impact fishing.

[Jim Crews](#) That does not stop me from putting a hovercraft that meets the specification on the river. That will cost \$11,500, and it's going to happen. I have already got the plan, engine specs and the engineering is done. It will take 6 weeks to assemble the kit...That does not stop me from putting a hovercraft that meets the specification on the river. That will cost \$11,500, and it's going to happen. I have already got the plan, engine specs and the engineering is done. It will take 6 weeks to assemble the kit, 6 days round trip to pick it up, 1-2 weeks to assemble. Never, ever tell a Navy Nuke it's not doable. Unlike all those cannot do people, we will do it. You can take that to the bank.

[Edward Gannon](#) Good luck!

[Robert Prince](#) to [Jim Crews](#) So you've managed to find a sub 20 horsepower hovercraft. Why still the need for a petition then? Problem solved right? Oh yeah, But you want a whole lot more...

You attempt to make some salient points but your rationale breaks down at nearly every point.

As is quoted in the December 1st Missoulian article "He wants anyone with hovercrafts to be able to take them on the Clark Fork and Bitterroot rivers throughout the year, even if it's only one day a week." Which day would that be? No matter what day you're out there, you're going to encounter anglers, guides, and recreational boats that are going to be disrupted by hovercraft activity. Can you really honestly say that we can expect to catch fish out of a run right after you buzz over it in a hovercraft? Can you honestly say that hovercrafts will have zero impact on other river users? You claim in the article that you want to protect other river users so what's the big deal about driving to a place where your hovercraft is legal? There's a lot of water in this state where you can drive a hovercraft, why do you need more? You really want to be able to run boats up to Darby? Have you floated any of these sections of river lately? Have any idea how tight some of those corners are? You can barely get a raft by some of those log jams, and no, you can't get around them in a hovercraft unless you can somehow jump those things over the top of 3ft round cottonwood tree.

Furthermore, the idea that you were too busy in 2011 to make comments when these rules were adopted is laughable at best. (If it was that important to you....) We all have day jobs, and I made the time to comment.

The idea that the river is only used by hunters and fishermen is also ridiculous. Ever floated the river on the weekend? Ever stop in at a fishing access site? Families can already use the river and believe me they do. You know what, so can you! Just get a raft or drift boat just like everyone else. Not only can you float the river whenever you want, you can take your family, and you can also offer commercial trips if you so choose!

The idea that no one is fishing in October through January is preposterous. Have you ever driven by a boat ramp in October?

Your whole sound level argument doesn't hold water (or air if that's more appropriate) either, which the Missoulian article again points out. "Crews revved the hovercraft's front engine so the craft came off the ground, then gently opened the throttle so the fan could push it forward. The decibels hovered between 100 and 105, which is similar to the noise made by a jet takeoff, a farm tractor, jackhammer or garbage truck." Are we supposed to believe that you are

going to be idling your way up the river? (I'm sure you'll have some comeback for this one.)

In conclusion, it's pretty obvious that you seem to have little or no regard for any other landowner or river user. I wonder how long it would take for one of these hovercraft to murder an inter-tuber or family in a raft as they buzz around a blind corner at 25 miles per hour. Don't tell me you haven't thought about this. You might be a competent captain but you can't honestly tell me everyone else would be.

Long story short, your entire motivation stems from YOU and your buddies wanting to have some fun at everyone else's expense with zero regard for the impact these things could potentially have on everyone else, including people who make their living out on the river every day.

If you want a river to drive your hovercraft one maybe consider moving to Glendive, Lewiston, or Portland. I hear there's a whole bunch of rivers out there you can drive a hovercraft on. Trying real hard to be polite but your selfishness and misguided sense of entitlement makes me sick. Just because you have money to throw away and nothing else better to do with your life doesn't give you the right to endanger the lives and personal fulfillment of every single other river user in western Montana. I expect a witty reply soon, but don't think you're going to get much support here buddy. Enjoy taking your brand new \$12,000 hovercraft on the Bitterroot from October 1 - January 31. Hope you have fun out there. Good day.

[Jim Crews](#) No, it has to be custom built. It's going to cost me \$20,000 to do it. Is that fair to a citizen?

[Jim Crews](#) I was not running the engine, she was and the testing was less than 1 meter from the exhaust at power not 50 feet per the state requirement. Fact is at 50 feet we were way below the state limit. Do not go by everything you read in the paper.

[Jim Crews](#) You judge me without having ever met me. Hovercraft pilots pay for their own gear, training and we provide volunteer emergency services. We are also significantly safer and impact the environment less than you think.

[Jim Crews](#) As for going all the way down the river, no. Probably not. As for endangerment. Tell me who is going to be tubing down the river in December and January? And it's fairly obvious that you think we would risk our own lives and equipment going around a blind curve in the river....Not only no, but NO! We are not ignorant, stupid or otherwise. Why do you think I am going thru this process. I suppose if I wanted to, I could just go on out and fly the river. Take my chances on getting a citation. No, I am challenging the process as is my and your right. You nor anyone else is going to deny me my right. I would not deny you yours, I am a veteran, we protected your rights. At least honor my right to challenge the system. Is that too much to ask?

[Robert Prince](#) to [Jim Crews](#) My drift boat costs about that. Is that fair to do to a citizen. It's your choice, I don't think anyone here is going to feel sorry for you.

[Robert Prince](#) to [Jim Crews](#) A lot to unpack here. First off. That's fine you are below the state decibel limit. I believe you but am supposed to believe that the professional journalists at the Missoulian are not telling the truth?

[Robert Prince](#) to [Jim Crews](#) Secondly. I'm not judging you, I'm judging your choices and actions. I'm sure you are a nice enough guy. I imagine you are safe and competent but I can't image that every hovercraft operator is, or will be. That's like saying that every driver on the road is safe and we all know that's not the case.

[Jim Crews](#) Before that day, do you think she had ever been in a running Hovercraft. Truth is, I know Eve Byron she did previous stories like when we had a temporary fishing access site built to save the 2017 fly fishing season. Do you remember who the Mayor was at that time? I welcomed her to come to my home to show her the craft. Do you know how loud an office is when two people are talking? About 75 db. You know how loud one of those obnoxious diesel pickup trucks are? Anywhere between 90-115 dbA sitting at a stop light. On the Bitterroot River, the background noise from US 93 is between 45-65 dbA depending on where you are at. At 50 feet my Hovercraft at 50% thrust, 100% lift was only 82 dbA if I remember correctly. Go to McDonalds, activate a hand dryer, 124 dbA. Hovercraft are very transient. They do not hang around very long, They are not like jet boats or PWCs. We usually tour, sight see or have a job to do. Go outside and listen to what you can hear. Tell me how many Harleys you can hear, or loud pickup trucks. I have

nothing to hide. If I did I would not have cooperated. I did have a very loud craft, it had a failed exhaust. Repaired and gone. My primary craft is a twin engined 4 stroke. My propeller might make an intermittent noise while I power up on hump, but as soon as we are over the hump we cut it back. We are sensitive to our neighbors and truly do not want them angry at us.

[Robert Prince](#) to [Jim Crews](#) Thirdly. You are on the record as saying "It would be great if we could go all the way to Darby, too." So the statement you just made is blatantly not true. Obviously no one is going to be tubing in the winter. That has nothing to do with the point I was making. Again, you are on record as stating "He wants anyone with hovercrafts to be able to take them on the Clark Fork and Bitterroot rivers throughout the year," this to me means the summer months when tubers and recreational boats will be using the river. Please tell me I'm wrong, I hope I am. If you simply wished to use your (sub 20 horsepower) hovercraft from Florence Bridge north during the months of October-January I have ZERO issues with that, but that is not what your long-term goal is, you cannot deny that. I agree, you have the right to petition for change as does anyone else, but I also have the right to stand up for what I believe in, which includes debating this issue with you, right here, right now. Lastly, thank you for your service to this country, but please don't play the veteran card. That's all I have to say to you, I know I will not dissuade you or change your mind on this issue but I felt compelled to speak up. Feel free to respond but I will not. Take care.

[Jim Crews](#) Thank you Mt. Prince for taking the time. You are a gentleman and that goes a long way.

[Josh And Ariel Wisniewski](#) This shouldn't even be up for debate this is a horrible idea.

[Jim Crews](#) Obviously you have never been aboard my hovercraft. Don't judge until you have seen it and heard it in person. Or are you a juror who convicts based upon prejudice? Noise is frightening? You want to be frightened? Presume you are on a fleet ballistic nuclear submarine and at 0430 you are awakened by Battle Stations Missile. A little while later you start launching Poseidon Missiles. 4 to be exact. You have no idea what that means unless you have been there. That is really not fright either. We were not even frightened by that. We did our jobs to protect our country and countrymen. A little engine noise is not frightening to a man. For me to be frightened, is to realize that my countrymen do not honor my right of constitutional challenge. That is frightening. I have the right to challenge any law whether you like it or not. Its my right. Laws and rules can be changed. They are changed by people like me standing up to express and enforce my creator given rights. Tell me, why does the petition process exist in the first place? Because we have the right of redress. We have the right to petition the government in order to correct errors and rights violations. You see, this is free America.

*Please note: no one denied him his right to petition. What they **did do was disagree** with him. And as far as I know, the "creator" didn't give us rights- just life. It was up to us to figure out right vs. wrong.*



Commission to meet January 6 for short agenda, work session

The Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission will meet Monday, Jan. 6 to discuss a few items of official business and to hold a work session.

The commission will consider a bull trout harvest closure on Lake Koocanusa and a petition to allow hovercraft on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers, along with the White Rock Coulee right of way easement and Helena urban deer plan quota ranges.

Beyond this official business, the commission will also hold a work session to discuss elk shoulder seasons.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. at Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks headquarters in Helena and live streamed to all regional offices around the state. The public can participate in the official meeting at any of these locations. The work session is open to the public, but no comment will be taken.

FWP ensures its meetings are fully accessible to those with special needs. To request arrangements, call FWP at 406-444-3186.

For the full agenda and background on the scheduled topics, go to the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov; under “Quick Links” click “Commission.”

FWP’s website offers live streamed audio of each Fish & Wildlife Commission meeting. FWP Headquarters is located at 1420 E. 6th Avenue, Helena.

Save The Date
for these upcoming events
with the Water Forum!

 **Sunday - January 26th**
Bitter Root Brewery Fundraiser

Friday - February 7th
Blacksmith Brewery Pint Night

 BLACKSMITH
BREWING
COMPANY...

if4 **Thursday - March 5th**
International Fly Fishing Film
Festival

 BITTER ROOT
Water
FORUM

More information coming soon
www.brwaterforum.org

The Zen master would say if you want to change government, you have to aim at changing corporations, and if you want to change corporations, you first have to change the consumers. Whoa, wait a minute! The consumer? That’s me. You mean I am the one who has to change? Yvon Chouinard



GETTING OLD!

I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now.

Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

I decided to stop calling the bathroom the "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Old age is coming at a really bad time.

When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

I don't have gray hair; I have "wisdom highlights"! I'm just very wise.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

Of course I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice.

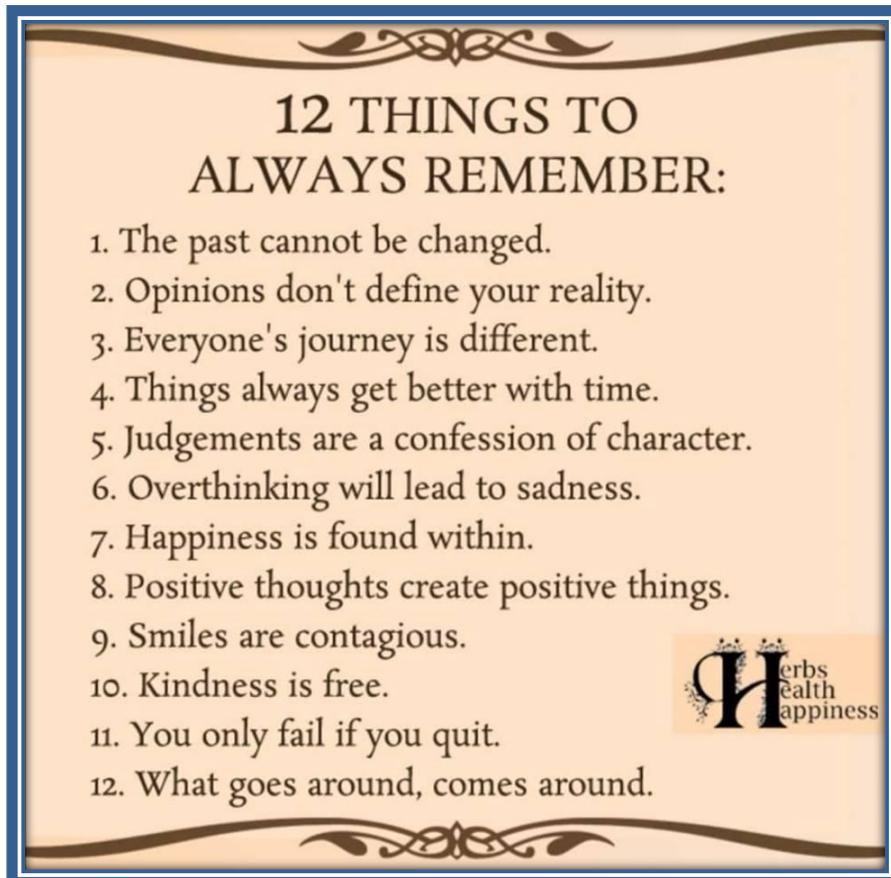
At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

Actually I'm not complaining because I am a Senager. (Senior teenager) I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car. And I don't have acne.

Life is great.

I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names.

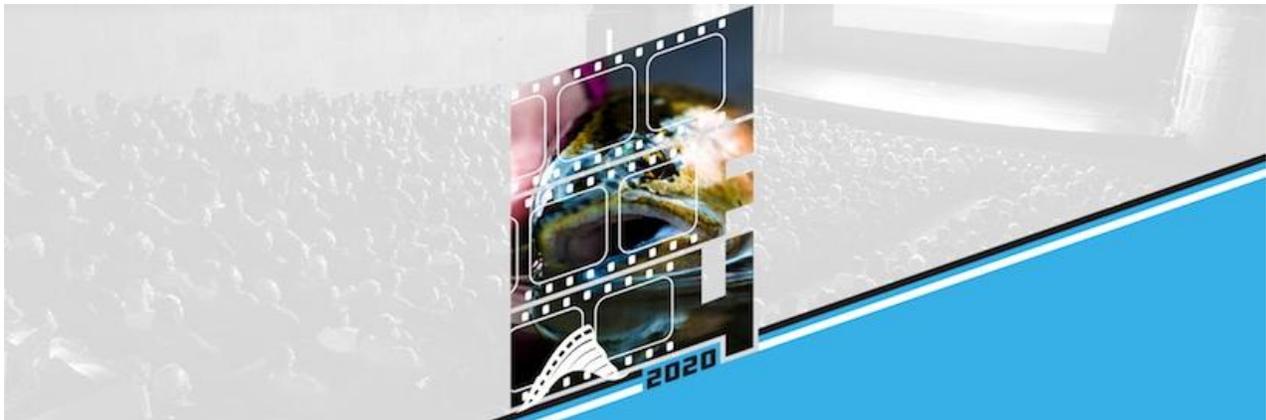
Now, I'm wondering: did I send this to you, or did you send it to me?





Missoula Fly Fishing Film Tour "F3T" is Saturday, February 1st - two shows! The 14th annual Fly Fishing Film Tour is hitting the road and headed to your backyard with a fresh catch of new films. Featuring exclusive shorts from our friends coast to coast, and beyond, we'll tell the stories of everything from fishing guide fairytales, to serial steelhead semantics, canyon conservation in Colorado, mountain biking for marlin, jumping jaguars and jungle fish in whitewater rapids and the audacious Aussies who explore the largest coastline in the world. From saltwater to fresh, this year's film is geared to get you stoked for another incredible season on the water.

Support your local fly shop! Buy discounted tickets at [GRIZZLY HACKLE FLY SHOP](#), [Blackfoot River Outfitters](#), [The Missoulian Angler Fly Shop](#), [Kingfisher Fly shop](#), and [The Trail Head](#). Or get tickets online [HERE](#).



International Fly Fishing Film Festival "IF4" Benefitting The Bitterroot Water Forum will be held at Bedford Building (City Hall) in Hamilton on Thursday, March 5, 2020. Doors open at 6:00pm. Film begins at 7:00pm.

Hosted By: Fishs Eddy O Outfitters

All proceeds are going to Bitter Root Water Forum. If printed tickets become available, they will be available at Freestone Fly Shop, Bitter Root Water Forum and Bitter Root Brewery. Tickets at the door will be \$15 on the day of the event. Or get tickets online. For information about this screening, please contact host at eddie@fishseddyo.com.

An exciting addition on to the Bitterroot Water Forum event, is the screening of local photographer/filmmaker Jessica Haydahl-Richardson's film "Dropped in the Pacific". Filmed April 2019 on an all women salt water fly fishing trip to Christmas Island, Jessica captures amazing moments roaming the flats! Three local women anglers are featured in the film: Peg Miskin, Jenny West and Donna Wichers. 7 women in total ranging from ages 35-68 took the trip. None had been to Christmas Island and two had never salt water fished.

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

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.

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JUST FOR FUN



FOR THOSE THAT HAVE NEVER SEEN A CATFISH !!

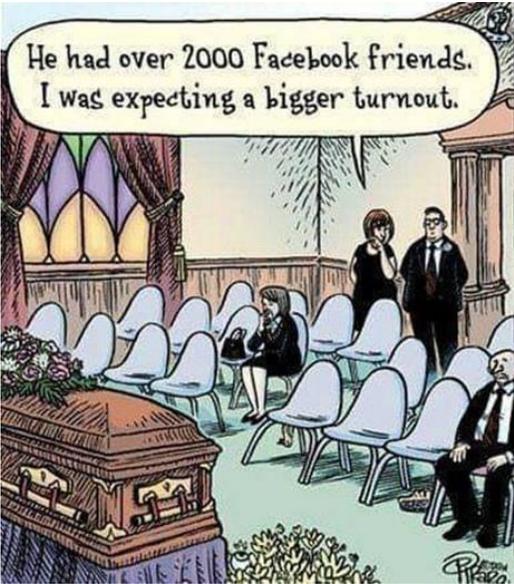


I'VE FOUND THAT GROWING UP IN THE SIXTIES WAS A LOT MORE FUN THAN BEING IN MY SIXTIES



I CAN TELL IF PEOPLE ARE JUDGEMENTAL JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM

OMG, I'm rich!
Silver in the hair, gold in the teeth,
crystals in the kidneys, sugar in the
blood, lead in the ass, iron in the
arteries and inexhaustible supply
of natural gas.
I never thought I'd accumulate such
wealth.



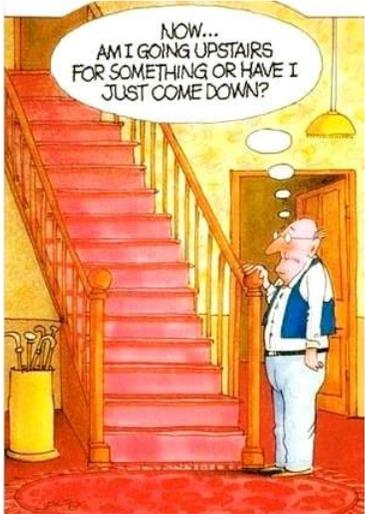
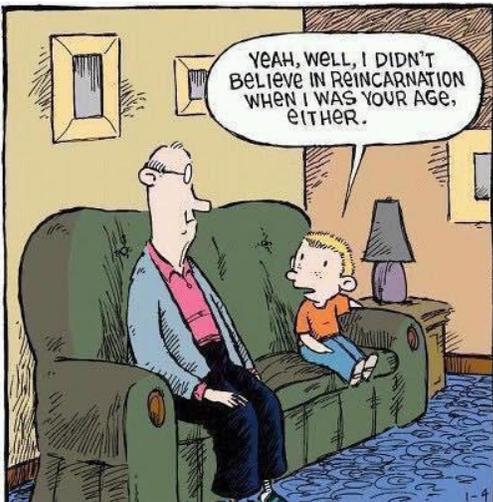
WHEN YOU'RE DEAD,
YOU DON'T KNOW
YOU'RE DEAD. THE PAIN
IS ONLY FELT BY
OTHERS.

THE SAME THING
HAPPENS WHEN
YOU'RE STUPID.

Instead of a sign
that says 'do not disturb'
I need one that says
'already disturbed
proceed with caution'

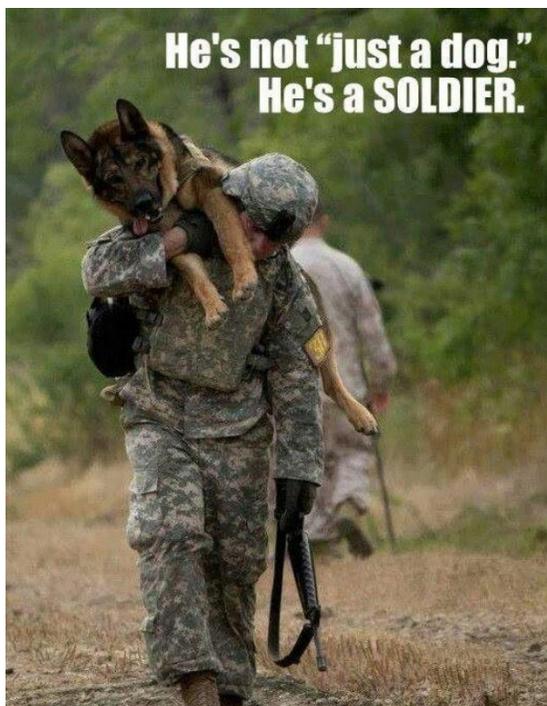


The main function
of the little toe on your foot
is to make sure that
all the furniture in the house
is in place.

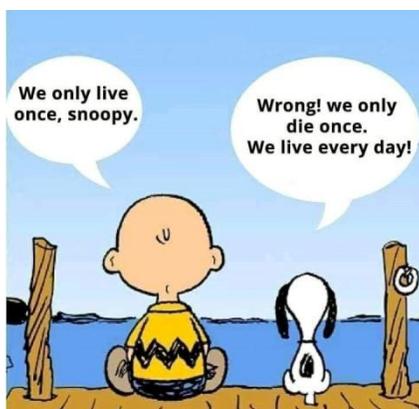
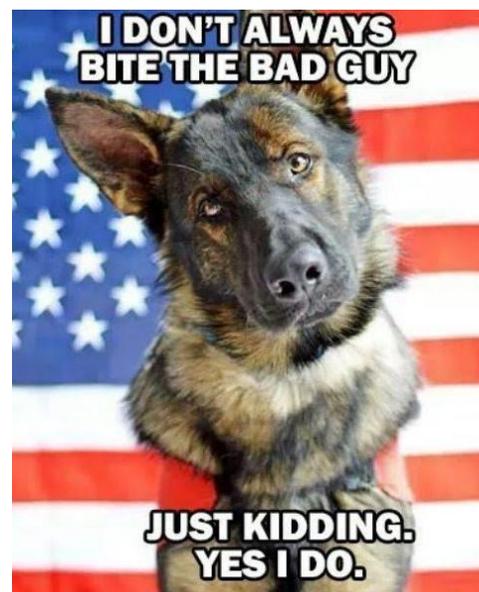


"In a Nation of millions, and in a world of billions, the individual is still the first and basic agent of change." Lyndon B. Johnson

ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE.....



That awkward moment when your retired bomb dog alerts on something on your walk....



2020 schedule

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 28 th -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 7 th	Special Needs Day
June 2 nd	club meeting
June 8 th	Board meeting
June 10 th -14 th sew3	Noxon reservoir
July 15-18 th	Georgetown lake
July 13 th	Board Meeting
August 16 th	Annual Picnic-maybe?
Sept 9 th -13 th	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

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Julie Shoush—Special Needs Day	jshoushouse@aol.com

Be honest, if people heard what you are thinking half of the time, you would either be in jail or a mental hospital.

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

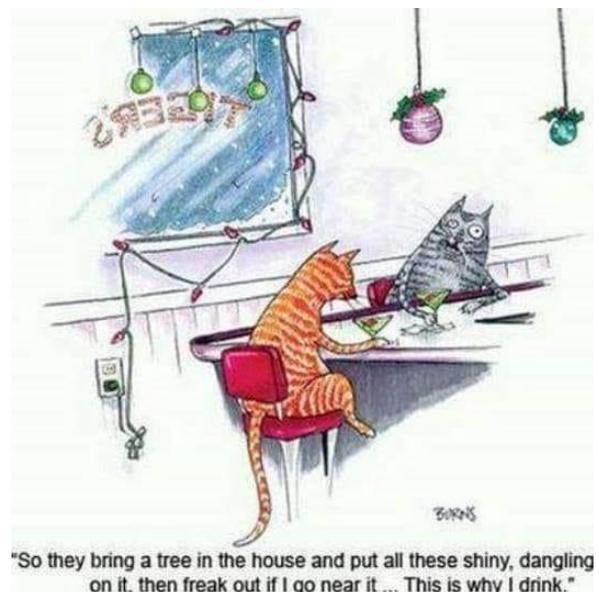
Hats \$15.00

Visors \$10.00

Knit Beanies \$10.00

Knit Watch caps \$10.00

Patches \$4.00 each or 3 for \$10.00



"So they bring a tree in the house and put all these shiny, dangling on it, then freak out if I go near it ... This is why I drink."