

APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER

THE MEETING

The skwala hatch has started! I expect that the number of you that we will lose to fishing the river may be offset by the returning flocks to our Valley. I know the hatch has started because the rigs traveling from Missoula to the Bitterroot each morning is non-stop. I hope you've been tying and are ready.

I look forward to seeing all my old friends and some new ones this Tuesday, April 5 at BJ's located at 900 N. 1st Street, Hamilton. We will take nourishment and weak ice tea with fellow fly casters, flingers and flubbers. General fish tails start at 6:00 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm. And there will be tales. Oh, yes, there will be tales!

THE SPEAKER

The speaker will be an old friend of Jim Cline. He is Richard Bacon. Richard retired from the US Forest Service in 1998. After leaving the Forest Service, Richard and his wife Kathy spent nine years traveling around the world on their sailboat. They returned to the Bitterroot in 2007.

Richard was serving in the position of Deputy Regional Forester in Missoula when he retired but had many assignments around the US. One of his assignments was as District Ranger on the North Fork District on the Salmon National Forest. He served in this position from 1978 to 1985 and was involved in efforts to establish The Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. He knows a lot about this part of Idaho and has many interesting stories to tell. His older son Russell Bacon is currently the Ranger at North Fork.

THOSE WHO SPAKE

Tony Tomsu provided an engaging talk about the International Fly Fishing Contest held in Ireland in which Tony and a student placed third overall last year. Tony is a fly fishing instructor at University of Montana. They placed behind two Irish teams for whom the waters were home turf. We hope that

this international event can move to our area in the near future. Thanks, Tony. Good to see you.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Finally, spring has arrived. That perfect window between the snow and ice of winter and the dreaded run-off is upon us, and it's time to go fishing. I hear the skwalas and golden stones are doing well. Many in our midst are already telling tall tales about their fishing luck, and I'm sure *none* of them would embellish anything... I expect to hear quite a few fishing reports at our meeting on Tuesday.

The May Clinic for beginner and intermediate fly fishers is coming up soon. The signup form is available at both Jeff Gray's (Western Flies and Guides) and Bill Bean's (Fishaus) shops, and I'm hoping to post it on our website as well. You can also contact Greg Chester or me directly. This is a great class, with lots of good information from some very qualified anglers, guides and scientists.

Fly tying on Wednesdays at the Brewery will continue only through April, so if you haven't gone yet, you need to get moving soon, as we will be on summer hiatus and won't be starting up again until late fall. This is a great opportunity to learn new flies, techniques, socialize with fellow anglers, and quaff a pint of excellent beer.

Fish on.

Cathy Lowe
President

FLY OF THE MONTH

Micro Madison Baetis nymph

By Denny Westover

The Micro Madison Baetis nymph is hands down my favorite Baetis pattern. I have been very successful with it, especially in the spring, and like it because it sinks rapidly (especially if tied with a tungsten bead) and is durable enough to last through six or eight hook ups. I usually fish it in

tandem with a midge nymph like an RS-2 or a Zebra Midge. If it's not catching fish, I add split shot 12" above the first fly until I can feel the whole rig ticking bottom.

Recipe:

Hook: TMC 100, size 18 or 20
Head: Copper metal bead, 1.5 mm
Thread: Tan, 8/0 Tail: Hungarian partridge
Abdomen: The working thread
Rib: Small brown hotwire
Wing case: Pearlescent Mylar strip
Thorax: Olive Antron or Z-Ion dubbing



CLASSIFIEDS

The Board of Directors set a policy at its last meeting concerning classified ads in our newsletter. We want to facilitate our members selling unwanted, unneeded gear. The following rules apply: (1) the seller must be a Club member; (2) the seller must be noncommercial; (3) this editor has full right to edit submitted materials; they should be "Tweet" size; (4) the ads will run a maximum of two times and then be retired; (5) the thing or things to be sold must be related to fly fishing; and (6) we not will charge for the ad placement and take no responsibility for its accuracy.

Ad: Steve Greer (961-4429) is selling a 12' reinforced canvas boat and motor cover for \$75 and a Stealth 300 30 lb. thrust electric boat motor for \$65.

ODDS AND ENDS

Raffle Items:

Jeff Gray of Western Flies and Guides has very, very generously donated a full day guided raft trip for two. We will auction this wonderful gift in a silent auction for two months, April and May. Bids must start at \$200. Bids may be made by proxy. Award will be made to the highest bidder at the close of the May meeting.

The TFO rod being raffled will be closed out at the May meeting.

Fly tying:

It's on! Wednesday evenings at the Hamilton Brew Pub, 5:30 pm. All skill levels welcome. Hmmm, beer.

Membership:

You should be proud to a member in our vibrant Club. We have 88 paid memberships and a number of complimentary members, and we grow every month.

Pig Roast:

Due to certain marital plans, the annual Pig Roast will be held on Saturday, August 27 at Lake Como. Mark your calendars. There was some discussion at the last Board meeting that it might be time to switch to steaks given the "rare" nature of the pork served the last two years. Chefs Fickett and Morrissey plead equipment failures and beg one more year of opportunity to serve succulent pork, well cooked, to our Club.

May Clinic:

Our annual May Clinic for the benighted starts on May 4 and runs consecutive Wednesdays through May 25. It starts at 6 pm and goes to 9 pm at the Corvallis Middle School. This year's Clinic for beginner and intermediate fly fishers is headed by our esteemed President, Madame Cathy Lowe, with the assistance of Greg Chester. They will need our support. Turn out and help with the casting.

FOR FUN

I know all our Club members abjure alcohol and get positively giddy on weak ice tea. Nonetheless, it has come to my attention that some new members and a few who winter elsewhere and have forgotten our ways occasionally imbibe. So here are a few thoughts on the demon rum (oh, so good!):

"Sometimes when I reflect back on all the wine I drink I feel shame. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the vineyards and all of their hopes and dreams. If I didn't drink this wine, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. Then I say to myself, It is better that I drink this wine and let their dreams come true than be selfish and worry about my liver. "

~ Jack Handy

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may leave you wondering what the hell happened to your bra and panties.



'I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning, that's as good as they're going to feel all day. '

~Frank Sinatra

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may create the illusion that you are tougher, smarter, faster and better looking than most people.



'When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading.'

~ Henny Youngman

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may lead you to think people are laughing WITH you.



'24 hours in a day, 24 beers in a case. Coincidence? I think not..'

~ Stephen Wright

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may cause you to think you can sing.



'When we drink, we get drunk. When we get drunk, we fall asleep. When we fall asleep, we commit no sin. When we commit no sin, we go to heaven. So, let's all get drunk and go to heaven!'

~ Brian O'Rourke

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may cause pregnancy.



'Wine is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.'

~ Benjamin Franklin

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol is a major factor in dancing like a retard.



'Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is wine. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza.'

~ Dave Barry

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may cause you to tell your friends over and over again that you love them.

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To some it's a six-pack, to me it's a Support Group. Salvation in a can!  
~ Dave Howell

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may make you think you can logically converse with members of the opposite sex without spitting.

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And saving the best for last, as explained by Cliff Clavin , of Cheers. One afternoon at Cheers, Cliff Clavin was explaining the BuffaloTheory to his buddy Norm. Here's how it went:

'Well ya see, Norm, it's like this... A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers.'

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may make you think you are whispering when you are not.....

THE AUTHOR

Judy will be gone for our meeting; something about a granddaughter's christening. I, I am staying to fish of course. So, I'll see you all, over a beer, and I look forward to casting a jaded ear to your latest concoctions. If you have a particularly outrageous tall tale or things to sell, call me at 406-381-5611 or richmorrisey@q.com. I encourage newsletter ideas.