



NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER, 2009

THE MEETING

We will convene Tuesday, December 1 in the hallowed halls of BJ's located at 900 N. 1st Street, Hamilton. (It is still there and operating for those who don't regularly cruise Hamilton's streets.) General fish tails start at 6:00 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm. Dinners and your favorite libation are available. (Ain't winter routines comforting?)

THE SPEAKER

Tony Tomsu started River Road Creations, Inc. in 1998. RRC has since grown to become the world's largest producer of wing and foam body cutters. Tony's flies have been featured in *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Tyer*, *Northwest Fly Fishing*, and *Canadian Fly Fisher* magazines, among others. His innovative fly designs have captured the attention of fly tyers in the U.S., Europe and Australia. Tony and his wife, Kathi, live in the Bitterroot Valley of Western Montana.

THOSE WHO SPAKE

Our own Bob Percy put together a most interesting program on fly fishing water craft and safety. My initial reaction to the topic was thinking it would be rather dry but it turned out very well. Good job!

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Montana seems to be enjoying a long Indian summer. Be sure to get out and enjoy it before winter returns and we're stuck in the house for a few months. The holiday season is almost upon us and I hope you can take time to enjoy the company of friends and family at this time of year.

Be sure to attend our next regular meeting on Tuesday, December 1 at BJ's. We will be electing a new Board of Directors, several of which are returning for another term. If you have not yet entered your name for this position, be sure to contact Rich Morrissey before or at the meeting.

Fly Tying has started on Wednesday nights at the Brewery. If you've never seen this process before or have some interest in starting to tie some of your own favorite patterns, this is the place to go. Each session has experts from the Bitterroot Valley demonstrating their technique and explaining why fish enjoy each morsel when presented. Come on down some night, meet new people, enjoy a brew or two, and you just might get hooked. In the mean time, play safe.

Ed Couchman

ODDS AND ENDS

Republican Ditch Project:

At our TU/FFB joint meeting in October, a member brought up the point that many fish get caught in this ditch, when the water flow is stopped. I have agreed to act as point person regarding this project. Bill Bean, President of TU's Hamilton Chapter has agreed join with FFB, making this a joint project for the fall 2010. I have been in contact with Chris Clancy of M.F.W.P., who has given this project the green light to move forward. We will file all the necessary paper work to make sure all is legal. Will keep you posted as we move foreword with this project. Cliff Gibbons

Fly tying:

It's on! Wednesday evenings at the Hamilton Brewry.

Membership:

As most of you already know, our Club started a dues program in September. The annual dues for an individual is \$25 and for a family, \$35.

Please see Dorreen Romans, sitting in for Linda Powell, at the check in desk at our meeting or download an application form at www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org. Just to brag a little, we already have a total of 65 paid members. Not bad for a little ole club. But more to the point, our Club is filled with activities and opportunities: a day fishing in a stocked pond for handicapped folks; stream bank restoration in conjunction with TU; the May Fly Fishing Clinic; Bitterroot River clean-up; the Pig Roast; various outings under the stewardship of our Cruise Director; and much more. If you yen to get involved, speak to any director or officer.

FOR FUN

RULES FOR LIFE

- Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me, either. Just leave me alone.
- The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a leaky tire.
- There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.
- Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
- No one is listening until you fart.
- Always remember you're unique. Just like everyone else.
- Never test the depth of the water with both feet.
- It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.
- If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.
- Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.
- If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- If you lend someone \$20, and never see that person again, it was probably worth it
- Don't squat with your spurs on.
- If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.
- If you drink, don't park; accidents cause people.
- Some days you are the bug, some days you are the windshield.
- Good judgment comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes of bad judgment.
- Never miss a good chance to shut up.
- Timing has an awful lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.
- A closed mouth gathers no foot.
- We are born naked, wet, and hungry. Then things get worse.

THE AUTHOR

So now I'm grouchy because my lady is (and has been) in San Francisco assisting after the birth of her first grandchild. Funny how the old ways don't work after you get used to the new ways. You can now reach me at 406-381-5611 or rich@rkymtn.net. I encourage newsletter ideas.