

FLY FISHERS OF THE BITTERROOT



NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY, 2009

THE MEETING

We will meet Tuesday, February 3 at BJ's located at 900 N. 1st Street, Hamilton. (It hasn't moved from that last time we convened there.) General fish tails start at 6:00 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm. Dinners and your favorite libation are available. As a rule, the Club meets the first Tuesday of every month except for the months of July and August, when we have not met but we may begin. More on that exciting idea later.

THE SPEAKER

Doug Nation, past president of the Hamilton chapter of Trout Unlimited, has taken responsibility for Montana-wide TU activities for 2009. He will speak to us

about his new role and what TU is doing in MT. This will be followed by a fly tying demonstration by expert tyers John Faust, Greg Chester and Bill Bean, all Club members.

THOSE WHO SPAKE

Joe Sowerby, fishing outfitter from Missoula (Montana Fly Fishing Connection), spoke about the Smith River and the Flathead. Those who were signed on for the Club outing to the Smith with Joe in May paid particular attention. Good presentation.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the Presidents Raft:

I hope everyone enjoyed Joe Sowerbys' presentation at the January meeting. If you're interested in the Smith River trip in May, you're too late. The trip our Cruise Director, Pierre Satkowiak, has put together is full. However it's not too late to start planning for next year.

If you noticed at the January meeting the FFB has some beautifully designed hats for sale displaying our new logo. For just \$20 you can enjoy the comfort of one of these hats and proudly display our new logo around town and on the river. At this time, supplies are limited so you'd better get one while available.

Speaking of our new hats and logo, we need a volunteer to manage our merchandise. Responsibilities for the position will include acquisition, stocking and sales of all our logo merchandise. Right now its just hats. But later we could have mugs, shirts and whatever else might be of interest to our members and guests. If you have some background or experience in marketing and a willingness to help our organization, please give me a call at 363-3177 for more details.

Check this out! How about a calendar featuring our local fly fishers on our local waters? Want to hear more? Be at the February meeting at BJ's. Cliff Gibbons will present the details.

You may have heard some comments regarding year round meetings. Right now, we meet each month except July and August. While the fishing season is at its peak during the summer, it doesn't quite make sense to "close the shop". Many out of state visitors fish the Bitterroot each year during this time. These visitors may take special interest in our organization and thereby support our efforts and the local guides in keeping the Bitterroot Valley \$\$ Green \$\$\$. Let your Board of Directors know your thoughts on this subject.

I'll see you at the February 3rd meeting. In the mean time Be Safe.

Ed Couchman

THE ERRATA

Fly Tying:

Fly tying, Wednesday evenings at the Brewery in Hamilton, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. I understand that about dozen stawlarls are showing each week. Bring your favorite pattern or just come to observe. Greg Chester and Phil Romans are usually there. We hope to see some of you. Any fly you are afraid to throw into heavy cover is good only for an ornament, so you know you need to tye more.

New Members:

Now truthfully, getting the names of all our new members is something like frying jello. But Linda Powell, our membership guru has done a masterful job. Based on her records, here we go: Jim Lamphiear, Judy Patton, Craig Glass, Bill Peedie, Glenn Grandjean, Myrn-Ellen and Walter Kregel, Jeff Schlegel and Steve Greer. If I have omitted you or misspelled your name or otherwise crushed your delicate toes, tough it out. We love you anyway, just the way you are.

Cruises:

As noted by El Presidente Couchman, the Smith River trip is full. However, Cruise Director Pierre reports that ice will come off Georgetown Lake, maybe, sometime, perhaps, briefly. He's thinking about a group outing to Georgetown sometime around the first of June. Meanwhile, keep tying those chironomids.

For Fun:

I don't know about you, but this is the season of discontent. Not having polar bear in my family tree, I refrain from shredding my fly line on river ice. And the idea of wading those cold, dark waters sends me back to the bourbon bottle to regain my senses. So I read about fishing, write about fishing, watch videos on fishing, dream about fishing, tie flies, fool with equipment and, in general, do everything except FISH. I know I'm losing it when my dreams become populated with large browns and rainbows instead of pretty girls, shiny cars and a winning lotto ticket. So I'm grumpy and expect to stay that way until the skawala hatch mercifully starts.

It is my belief that, since we are all members of a club that carries the words "Fly Fishers" in it's name, I speak to a sympathetic, maybe even empathetic, audience. So I am going to share. I am not going to share my dreams, even the ones about pretty girls. But I do want to recommend a couple of fun books to read. They are each a series of short stories so I am not burdening the literacy challenged among us. (That's why I liked them, in part.) One is called *Travers Corners* by Scott Waldie (the first of a trilogy) and the second is called *True Love and the Wooly Bugger* by Robert Ames. Both authors are hardbitten trout bums, Montana style, and the stories are, for the most part, set in Montana. It's the best I can do until fishing starts again.

THE AUTHOR

It's still me because nobody else has experienced the temporary insanity which caused me to volunteer. But I'm always open to suggestions. You can now reach me at 406-381-5611 or **rich@rkymtn.net**. I encourage intelligent input and generally discourage the other kind. Rich