

# FLY FISHERS OF THE BITTERROOT



**NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER, 2009**

## **THE MEETING**

After a detour to the Trout Unlimited meeting last month, we will reconvene our monthly meetings Tuesday, November 3 at 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.

## **THE SPEAKER**

Our own Bob Percy is putting together a program on fly fishing water craft. He claims to have done this earlier at his Davis club to a hearty reception. It should come as a good education for folks who still insist on using their tractor inner tubes.

## **THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### Presidents Message

There's still time to get in some floats and fishing on the Bitterroot. Even with the early snowfall we've had this October, fishing is still good from what I'm hearing. I myself haven't been on the river this month, so its all hearsay on my part.

Steelhead on the Salmon River is supposed to be the best it's been in several years. You should be hearing more about this during our Fishing Reports at the regular meeting on November 3, at BJ's. Dinner is available at 6pm and the meeting starts promptly at 7:00.

In case you're not already aware, Fishus owner Bill Bean has been elected President of the Bitterroot Chapter of TU and Greg Chester as Vice President. Congratulations gentlemen!

Jim Cline has stepped down as the Raffle Committee Chairman due to increasing personal business. However, Jim will be assisting our new Chairman, Doug Duff until he gets his waders pulled up and feet wet. You can help welcome Doug to his new responsibilities at the next meeting by purchasing some extra raffle tickets.

Speaking of tickets, our Board of Directors decided to change the way we conduct the Name Tag Raffle. We're not going to do that anymore. Instead, we're going to issue everyone coming in the door a ticket for our Door Prize. Keep in mind; you're still encouraged to wear your nametags. If you don't have one, any member can get one from our Membership Chairperson when you check in at the meetings.

As a side note, membership dues were due on September 1. For a

mere \$25 a year (\$35 for you and that other one), you can be an official member of the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot, and enjoy all the benefits offered. Some great things are being developed. You should be hearing about them soon.

Although you haven't seen it in awhile, we'd like to continue with the Freebie Table at our meetings. If you have old or extra materials or equipment, or anything you want to liquidate and think someone else may benefit from your offerings, please consider bring those items to the meeting this Tuesday.

Until then, be safe on the water,

Ed Couchman

## **ODDS AND ENDS**

### **From the Hamilton Chapter of Trout Unlimited:**

The next BRTU general meeting will be November 19, 2008. The title of the program is “**Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and the Centennial Valley: Undiscovered Fishing and Birdwatching Opportunities**” It will be presented by Jeffrey Warren who works at the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. This is one of the most beautiful parts of Montana and it receives little pressure. Meeting will start at 7:00 pm at the Hamilton Elks Club at 203 State Street in Hamilton.

### **· Volunteers needed for Cameron Creek Project:**

Chris Clancy reports that the Cameron Creek project (at Sula) is starting to get some action. It involves moving a few hundred feet of Cameron Creek out of the borrow pit and into a field away from the highway. Bruce Anderson, the consultant overseeing the project thinks volunteers will be needed by late next week or a few days later. It sounds like it will involve cutting willows and pulling coconut fabric for the streambanks. Next Thursday the 29th I (Marshall Bloom) will go up to start cutting willows. If people want to help with that it would be a good day for some help. After that we have to be a bit flexible as the project progresses. I expect in the next few days I will learn more as things develop.

If you can help out, please contact Chris at [cclancy@fs.fed.us](mailto:cclancy@fs.fed.us)

## **· *Our Valley, Our Water* Educational Forum**

As part of their four-part educational forum scheduled through March 2010, the Bitter Root Water Forum is hosting a presentation on ***Technical and Financial Support for Improving Water Distribution and Usage in the Bitterroot on November 4 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Corvallis Grange Hall***, 130 Dutch Hill Road, Corvallis. The Bitterroot watershed faces important questions regarding aging irrigation infrastructure, stream dewatering and matters related to distribution and use of irrigation water. This presentation will explore approaches for organizing stakeholders and obtaining technical and financial resources needed to address these important issues. The presentation will be of special interest to irrigation districts and those interested in enhancing in-stream flows.

A panel of four speakers will contribute to the presentation.

Andy Fished, Irrigation Projects Manager with the Deschutes Water Conservancy (DWC) will tell the story of how irrigators, conservationists, recreationists, and other stakeholders formed an organization that successfully addresses water use and conservation in the Deschutes watershed. The DWC program is a model locally-developed, cooperative effort addressing water concerns on a watershed basis.

Steve Rolph, Water Resources Program Specialist with the Bureau of Reclamation, and John Moody, Water Resources Engineer and retired Irrigation Specialist with the Bureau of Reclamation, will present an overview of the Bureau of Reclamation /US Geological Survey Water Conservation Initiative Program. They will highlight elements of the program that support water projects on a watershed and irrigation district level with emphasis on programs that provide technical support and on preparation of System Optimization Reviews, a key step in obtaining financial support for water projects.

Mark Zuber, Senior Engineer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Missoula, will describe how NRCS programs, such as the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, provide technical and financial support to projects designed to improve water distribution and usage for agriculture and fish and wildlife habitat. Zuber will also discuss how the NRCS supports Montana irrigation districts.

**About the Bitter Root Water Forum** – The BRWF is a non-profit

community driven watershed group established to ensure clean, abundant surface and ground water in the Bitterroot watershed. For more information contact the Water Forum at (406) 375-2272 or by email at [brwaterforum@bitterroot.net](mailto:brwaterforum@bitterroot.net).

**Fly tying:**

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

**Cruise Director:**

Most of you have received the email notice of getting together for a day of wade fishing the Salmon for steelhead (around Shoup, Idaho). As El Presdiente Ed noted above, this year is reputed to be an especially strong run and it has already started. The River is only an hour and half away and we will wade it. You need warm and weather resistant clothes, an Idaho fishing license and steelhead card and a sturdy steelhead rod (size 8 or 9) plus flies. See Phil Romans for more information.

At our last Board meeting, it was suggested that we have a contest soon. Winner will be she (or he) who catches the most fish on a single fly. Honor system and to be held on the Bitterroot this next season. Greg Chester recently took third place in such a contest with three fish. (I bite my tongue considering the 25 fish I took on the Clark's Fork this summer on a Cliff Gibbons one legged hopper.)

**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 Linda Powell at the check in desk at our meeting or download an application form at [www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org](http://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.

**Phil Romans needs to lose 300 Lbs.:**

Each year I (Phil) bring eight anglers to Alaska for a 14 day float trip in the wilderness. Our weight limit up until recently was 3900 lbs. We take three

flights into the back country and were limited to 1300 lbs. Due to a change in the structure of the aircraft, our weight limit has been cut to 1200 lbs for the three flights. **I would like to ask those backpackers, experienced travelers, and others who are among our members if they have any suggestions as to how to cut down on our weight individually, and overall.** Any ideas would be welcome. I am attempting to re-configure the boat frames, use lighter waterproof packing boxes rather than coolers, and asking each floater to lose a bit of weight. What else might someone suggest? I am trying to maintain the "creature comforts" so there are some things that I will try not to cut. Thanks, Phil

## **FOR FUN**

Never miss an opportunity to take a cheap shot at a lawyer !!!  
These are from a book called Disorder in the American Courts, and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and now published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while these exchanges were actually taking place.

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said , 'Where am I , Cathy?'

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan!

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ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

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ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis , does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget..

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

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ATTORNEY: Do you know if your daughter has ever been involved in voodoo?

WITNESS: We both do.

ATTORNEY: Voodoo?

WITNESS: We do..

ATTORNEY: You do?

WITNESS: Yes , voodoo.

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ATTORNEY: Now doctor , isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep , he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

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ATTORNEY: The youngest son , the 20-year-old , how old is he?

WITNESS: He's 20 , much like your IQ.

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ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?

WITNESS: Are you kidding me?

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ATTORNEY: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And what were you doing at that time?

WITNESS: Getting laid

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ATTORNEY: She had three children , right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

WITNESS: Your Honor , I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

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ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death..

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

WITNESS: Take a guess.

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ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard.

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town I'm going with male.

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ATTORNEY: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

WITNESS: No , this is how I dress when I go to work.

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ATTORNEY: Doctor , how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them.. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

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ATTORNEY: ALL your responses MUST be oral , OK? What school did you go to?

WITNESS: Oral..

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ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 PM

ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?

WITNESS: If not , he was by the time I finished.

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ATTORNEY: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

WITNESS: Are you qualified to ask that question?

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And last:

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing?

WITNESS: No..

ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

## **THE AUTHOR**

A mixture of travel to both coasts and a four week cold has kept your editor from fishing this fall. I'm grouchy, so no complaints about this newsletter, ya'll hear! And I'm still looking for intelligent input. You can now reach me at 406-381-5611 or **rich@rkymtn.net**. I encourage newsletter ideas.

