



## Oct 2016 Newsletter

---

*editor: Jim Calvery  
email: jimmie.calvery@gmail.com*

**FFB Meeting**  
**Tuesday October 4**  
**Dinner at 6pm (optional)**  
**Meeting at 7pm**  
**BJ's Restaurant – Hamilton**

### **Program Speaker**

We will be hosting Chris Clancy. He is the regional fisheries biologist for Montana and works out of the Hamilton office. He will be giving us an update on the projects he has been working on this summer.

“Every time an FFB member has a great day on the Bitterroot, a debt of gratitude is owed to Chris Clancy – and many members probably don’t know why. I remember when Chris began his career here as a full-time resource biologist for Fish Wildlife and Parks. A good day’s float fishing, then, might consist of twenty fish, most of them under 11” and rarely one over 14”. A couple of fish might be cutthroats – and a 14”

cutty was a rare event. Over the course of Chris' work on our behalf we know what has happened: we enjoy the outstanding fishing that has made the Bitterroot the third-most-heavily fished river in Montana today. Come out and hear the latest from Chris – and show your appreciation for the job he continues to do.” - Chuck Stranahan

One of Chris Clancy's summer projects was featured in the Missoulian; [http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/in-search-of-bull-trout-biologists-hope-to-unlock-secrets/article\\_e6240121-c04d-5c82-bf0a-a1706e029199.html](http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/in-search-of-bull-trout-biologists-hope-to-unlock-secrets/article_e6240121-c04d-5c82-bf0a-a1706e029199.html)

## **The Presidents Message**

The leaves on the riverside cottonwoods are that perfect shade of gold, the morning air has that certain crispness to it, and the big brown trout are starting to feel the urge to move to their spawning grounds. It must be October here in the Bitterroot. Hopefully you are enjoying the fall fishing. By all accounts it's been good. Now's your last chance to have consistently good dry fly fishing so I hope you take advantage.

BWO's, Mahoganies, October Caddis, and a smattering of terrestrials and other bugs make for memorable, albeit fleetingly great moments of dry fly fishing.

It's during this time of year that I like to get away and wade fish my favorite sneaky dry fly spots, hoping to find one or two good fish that still want to sip a mayfly. I'm not looking for the net filling type days that you find in early summer. Instead, I find that I'm completely satisfied with one last big cutt rolling up through the depths to gobble a big orange caddis, or one more super stealthy brown that will sip a baetis off his favorite big shady cutbank. These memories will keep me going through the dark, cold days to come.

Fall for me is all about quality over quantity. I'll take one 20-inch brown demolishing a streamer over a dozen cookie cutter cutthroats any day. Speaking of streamers, now is the time! Those browns will never be more beautiful and charged up than they will be now. A big

kyped-out male brown in spawning colors if really something to see and hold!

Enjoy October. It's the best month of the year!

## **FFB Board News**

### **New Hospitality Committee:**

The board has voted to create a new position for one interested member who might meet the following requirements:

1. Do you like people?
2. Are you friendly?
3. Do you like connecting new members with like minded folks/future fishing buddies?
4. Are you able to attend most meetings?

If you answered yes these questions you might just be a great person for the position of Hospitality Chair!

We've been seeing a need for a way that our newer members can get connected to folks in the club, make friends, find fishing buddies, etc. The hospitality chair would help facilitate these connections. If you have any interest in doing something awesome that won't take much of your fishing time then let your president (Bob Prince) know!

### **Board Openings:**

The board memberships expire in December. FFB is your club and needs your effort so we are looking for persons interested in serving.

If you are interested contact a current office holder: President: Bob Prince, Vice-President: Estelle Shuttlesworth, Secretary: Pierre Satkowiak, Treasurer: Ken Quinn, to learn more.

**Program Assistant Needed:**

The Program Chair, Dave Ward, is seeking an assistant to help arrange speakers and events.

**Raffle Coordinator/Chairman trainee/assistant**

FFB needs a Raffle Coordinator: Contact Nick Hooper ([nichoop@q.com](mailto:nichoop@q.com)) and work with him on the raffles coming up and take over in January. While no experience is necessary the person should be interested in learning about fly fishing related merchandise/prizes and their pricing.

**Web Page Admin/assistant:**

FFB needs assistance to help maintain our web page ( <http://www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org/> ). May train up to be webpage admin. Contact Bob Prince ( [robertprince@gmail.com](mailto:robertprince@gmail.com) )

**FFB Membership Renewals due**

The Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot Club fiscal/membership year ends August 31, 2016 so it is time to renew your membership for 2017.

<http://www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org/contact>

or mail your renewal to:

FFB  
PO Box 692  
Victor, Mt 59875

## **FFB Picnic Karstetter Classic**

Special thanks also to the participants of the August "Karstetter Classic" who allowed us to cast their prized Bamboo masterpieces. Unfortunately Marty Karstetter was not able to attend this year but hopes to be at next year's event. He and Virginia have moved to Alaska to be with family. Enjoy Alaska Marty. We will miss you both!!! Marty was instrumental in helping us get the FFB off the ground by donating one of his beautifully crafted rods for our very first raffle. Thank you again Marty.

Thank you all who attended, helped, and came together to have a good time...

## **Fly of the Month**



### **Bow Tie Buzz**

By Denny Westover

*Replayed from FFB Newsletter October 2010*

The Bow Tie Buzzer is one of my favorite and most effective stillwater chironomid patterns originally conceived by Rick Takahashi (MODERN MIDGES, 2009 Stackpole Books). His pattern imitates a stillwater midge pupa. It's simple to tie and

is effective because it is thin and sinks quickly.

I tie it in black, olive, red and brown. Black is by far the most effective color. I typically start fishing with a size 14 or 16 and then change size and color based on stomach samples from the first few fish. The finished fly should be coated with two coats of Loon Knot Sense or Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails. The gills are an important component of the fly and the strand of Oral B Ultra Floss should be tied in perpendicular to the hook eye and then trimmed to size.

I find the fly most effective when fished with a floating line and strike indicator.

Using a dead slow inch-at-a-time retrieve, begin one foot off the bottom in the am and move the fly higher in the water column as the hatch progresses towards the surface. Try pairing the Bow Tie Buzzer with a bloodworm in the spring or a damsel or callibaetis nymph in the summer fall.

Hook–Tiemco3761or2488

## **Trout Unlimited Banquet**

FFB members may wish to support our sister club, Bitterroot Trout Unlimited (BRTU).

October 14th will be the 37th Bitterroot Trout Unlimited Banquet - a pretty amazing record! Even though BRTU is an all-volunteer group with no paid staff, BRTU gets a lot done (Bitterroot Habitat restoration, Bitterroot Buggers, May Fishing Clinic, “Classroom without Walls” program, Bitterroot Youth Conservation Expo, Advocacy for: Bitterroot National Forest Travel Plan, a solution at the deadly Supply Ditch diversion, personal flotation devices (PFDs) while floating.)

Please participate with BRTU at the **Bitterroot River Inn** to celebrate BRTU successes and prepare for another year of conservation and education. Riversong Catering will once again be serving a great gourmet dinner highlighting local organic foods, and the Banque Club will provide a cash bar featuring brews from the Bitterroot Brewing Company and fine wine. Festivities will include awards, special recognition, drawings, and of course live and silent auctions.

For tickets, auction donations and member info contact Marsh Bloom ([drtrout@mtbloom.net](mailto:drtrout@mtbloom.net), 406-363-3485), Greg Chester([gchester55@aol.com](mailto:gchester55@aol.com), 406-363-0033) or Scott Ziegenfuss ([scottz.mt@gmail.com](mailto:scottz.mt@gmail.com), 406-381-6706).

## **Bitterroot Water Forum News**

Sharing information about the importance of a healthy watershed through educational “forums” was how the Bitterroot Water Forum got its start. Now, BRWF works to ensure clean water for this and future

generations through a twofold approach of conservation education and on the ground restoration.

Waterflow is a critical feature of river and stream health. Knowing water volume also helps those fishing. To learn about water flow in the Bitterroot River stream complex go to ----

<http://www.brwaterforum.org/stream-flow-and-irrigation>

This link is only one achievement of the water forum. To learn how you can participate by going to the Bitterroot Water Forum link below:

<http://www.brwaterforum.org/whatcanyoudo>



## **FFB Fly Tying**

FFB Fly tying will begin soon at the Bitterroot Brewery. The start time is 5 pm at the Bitterroot Brewery closes at 8 pm. To be notified of the start date contact Phil Romans, Greg Chester, or Jay Melzer

## **Fishing Reports**

Sept 5-8, 2016  
West Yellowstone area  
by Greg Chester

Waters fished: lower Madison at Baker's Hole, Madison in The Park at 9 mile, Madison float from Lions to Windy, Firehole at Biscuit Basin and Fountain Flats and Soda Butte in The Lamar Valley.

One objective was to catch early run-up brownies from Hebgen. We had a little success at Baker's Hole with large soft hackles yielding 3 17" browns and one measured 20" rainbow.

On a cold morning at 9 Mile the soft hackles brought up another 5 browns but not the numbers we hoped for. Probably a week too early.

The Madison float was fair at best with fluctuating flows and dynamic weather conditions.....and the ever-present wind.

For a change we hit the Firehole at Biscuit Basin looking for White Miller's. A weak hatch netted 4 small browns all on soft hackles (where did the rainbows go?). We moved to Fountain Flats and hit a good hatch with many taking #18 soft hackles and adults. Again, mostly browns. Humm.

The White Miller ( nectopsyche) is a must-have pattern for late summer

Firehole fishing. FOTM to follow.

The winner for this trip was Soda Butte and it's benevolent Cutties. Many, many nice 15-19" beauties taken on a mix of small nymphs and baetis dries. A Drake Mackerel hatch came off around 2:00 and it seems every fish was up munching these big bugs. This Drake is in the Hecuba family and I'll follow up with a FOTM on this pattern as well.

OK, another trip to this beautiful resource comes to an end for this year. If you're going over give me a call. Glad to share details.

Tight lines

Greg

NOTE:

If you have information to include in the newsletter contact Newsletter editor Jim Calvery at [jimmie.calvery@gmail.com](mailto:jimmie.calvery@gmail.com)