



The Lower Columbia Flyfisher

March 2018

Issue 239

Meeting: Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: The Carriage, back room

Next board meeting - Tuesday, March 20, 6:30 PM at Longview Country Club

PROGRAM:

Montana; LCFF style

This month features a slideshow of LCFFs annual fall jaunts to SW Montana for some blue-ribbon trout fishing. Initiated more than a decade ago by Norn and Ray, each year several groups head East in a loosely organized soiree' sometime mid-September through early October. Several groups weave in and out of proximity with each other, in most years meeting up for cocktails or some form of potluck in an opportune time and place.

Initially covering a broader geographical area encompassing much of the SW Montana region, a multitude of Rivers were featured in the early years.. Missouri, Big Hole, Beaverhead, Bitterroot, Rock Cr., Blackfoot, Madison, Ruby, and Red Rock rivers were featured with occasional jaunts to Yellowstone, Gallatin, Bighorn and some smaller creeks.

As we've aged and footloose travel become more inconvenient, our various bands have made the Dillon and Philipsburg areas headquarters, splitting time between each. Making camp is giving way to renting some convenient abode or another as well. The waters we visit have also morphed some with stillwater fishing, notably Georgetown Lake, now usurping moving water as preferred.

The program will focus on the Dillon-Philipsburg area with occasional foray elsewhere.

A fairly large percent of the club has participated in these excursions so expect a fair bit of commentary and stories to come from the crowd. We'll share both where we fish, where we stay, what we use, and how we fish it. Hope to see you there!

This month we will also feature a fly raffle. We ask **each member to bring a favorite fly of your choice**, something you've tied if you pursue said skill. The flies will be collectively assembled in a box provided by the club with raffle tickets available for purchase by members and guests, \$5 per. At close of the meeting the winning ticket will be drawn.

S Fork Toutle!

Hope you all got signed up for the S Fork Toutle outing, held this Saturday March 3. If you get this in time and haven't yet signed up give Jeff or Vance a call and they'll have a bowl of chili for you sometime early afternoon, say 1 PM or so, at Harry Gardner Park just east of Toutle. Jeff's number is 360 636-0629 and Vance's is 360 577-7299.

We've had a pretty good record of someone or another getting a hook in one so it is worth your while to get a little casting exercise before lunch. If memory serves Brian Davern ripped a lip or two last year.

With the cool weather we should have great water conditions, albeit you'll want to wear that heavy coat, especially if getting in the water to pitch a fly. I'm seeing freezing temps overnight so you might be prepared to shake a little ice out of the guides first few hours of the day. Hope to see you there!

By-Laws Amended - membership qualification changes passed

Scott Donaldson has completed making the by-law changes approved by voice vote at last months meeting. Change in language opens up membership to everyone with some qualifications for those underage. Bylaws Article III Membership, Section 1 Qualification; now read;

"Any person who is interested in fly fishing is eligible for membership. Any prospective member under 18 years of age, needs to be accompanied by a responsible adult. Before being eligible for membership, the candidate must attend one meeting and pay in advance their annual dues. "

Freezing weather postpones Country Club investigation as an alternative meeting location. Country club closed early Feb 20 due to the snow and freezing weather. We'll make another stab to see what the Longview Country Club offers as an alternative location for club meetings at the March 20 board meeting.

Hi Hume Memories

We flyfishermen are cursed with the ethereal, for the emotions our passion bring can't be readily expressed otherwise in written word. And so, when recounting those experiences which touch us most, the language used may defy logic to those not so smitten. The words written at end of this article followed one such a lifetime event for me, some long years ago. My hope is they make sense to you, my bet is they will.

Enough time has passed since this was written, sadly a few of the characters as well, that the table needs set for those not there.

We had all agreed that final night there would be a communal fishery at Rock Island after dinner. Another LCFF outing at Eagle 2 cabin was coming to a close. Directly across the lake from the cabin, Rock Island had seen few of us during the week but earned reputation for offering - when conditions were right - admirable dry fly action.

And conditions WERE right for this final night of the season. Cool, crisp, and clear with minimal wind not only was it our final night at HiHume, being late September on our departure the cabins would be closed for the winter.

Rock Island being directly across the lake from the cabin, one could hang a kerosene lantern in the cabin window to steer home by after dark. Instinctively each of us knew long after dark it would be before we put up our rods, for not only was this the last night but clear skies and little wind was rare this week.

Dark came pretty early this time of year, and the cold. We hustled through dinner, hurried on coats, and raced out the door. Precious little time to waste on an evening like this.

Oh, what a night is was! In mirror flat water bugs hatched and trout rose. Slashing, vicious rises they were. Missiles cartwheeling in air showering diamonds of light in the air. Sweet cigar smoke circling, so too the din of joyful song, toasts and boasts bandied among the fleet. "Fish on!" erupted all around, first left, now right, forward, back. Career days one and all. So enraptured no-one noticed the day had gone black, until.....one voice....."Oh my god, look at that"

Silence. One by one rods settling against the gunnels. click. click. above the cabin. The sky!

*Dancing moonlight erupting from below
reflecting brilliance in the crisp air*

*al, no, earl chuckling over murmured banter as
steve whoops yonder, now norm, now ray
forearms straining, pulsing with an honored guest
while distant lantern quivers in woodsmoke*

my concentration is broken by silence

*drawing me to faint remnants of daylight
pink silhouetting black outline of forest reflecting on water*

Look....the loon cries....wonder!

the sky is dancing, waltzing with stars

and I look.....

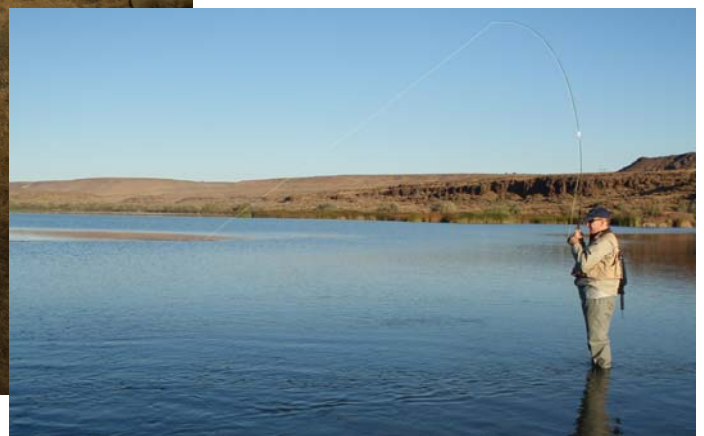
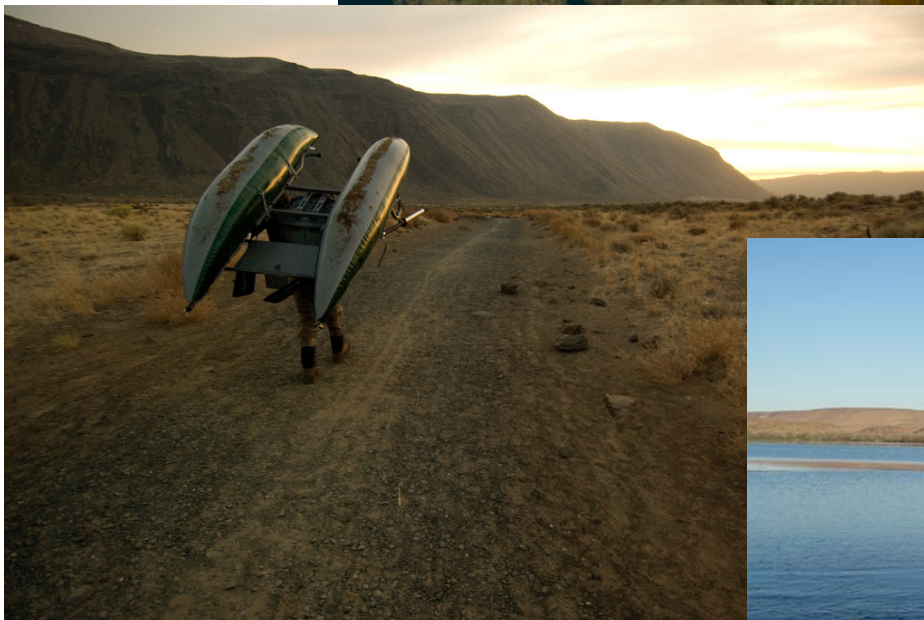
*warmed by the embrace of man
Surrounded by God*



February mystery water proved elusive with no-one spotting our neighbor to the south, **N Fork Lewis River**. Lewis has had up and down years recently, predictably following changes in hatchery decisions. Traditionally all of the anadromous fish, both trout and salmon can make appearance but spring Chinook, Fall Coho, and both summer and winter steelhead are primarily featured.

Clearly this month we are in a different part of the state, and a timely visit it is what with winter hanging on so long.

So where are we now?



Greased lines

.....Thanks to all of you that have submitted articles.....I really appreciate them and...If you have not seen your submitted articleI will be using them in future issues.....Thanks again and keep them coming.

.....If any of the rest of you have an article, editorial or fishing story for the newsletter, submit it to the Editor at least 10 days before the first of each month:

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