



FEB 2021



President's Message

I am not sure how we got there; on a recent online "I see you, do you see me?" conversation with a precocious 6 year old, I was tasked with explaining the word "doldrums". My initial attempts failed, foundering on descriptions of sunburned, sweating sailors, stalled somewhere between continents, shaking fists at slack sails.

Plan B-- THE DICTIONARY

Alright! Alternate definitions; maybe she will relate to them.

dol-drums

1 : a spell of listlessness or despondency

2 : a state or period of inactivity, stagnation, or slump

That didn't work either, so I fell back on simplicity (duh!?) and tried "boring". A thoughtful pause ensued, followed by, "Like when it's winter and we can't go fishing?"

Yeah, kid: just like that.

Hope you all have found ways past the doldrums.

Bob Maki helped a couple of weeks ago, with a demonstration of the tying of a Spruce Moth imitation. He was able to do so, despite a delay caused by myself. (Yes, Perry, I forgot to pick up the key).

We are planning the usual planning and membership meetings, as well as another fly tying lesson on the usual Tues. evenings, but all three are tentatively planned at the Weiser Library Conference room at 7:00 pm. We need ideas!: Can one or more of you put together a presentation of interest to all of us? Is there a fly pattern you are interested in learning, or teaching the rest of us? Maybe you could teach us how to overcome winter conditions and go catch something with fins!

Stay safe, and avoid frostbite.

Bruce Parsons

Please
note
meeting
time and
place. (See
Calendar,
p. 3)



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The Following Members Owe Dues:

January

Janet Baker
Mike Stanton
Mike Thomas

Dues should be mailed to:

Mike Stanton
Box 654
Weiser, ID. 83672

Dues are \$30 per year or \$45 for a family (There is a limit of 12 members per family.)

Officers

President - **Bruce Parsons**
Vice President -
Past President - **Mike Thomas**
Secretary - **Eileen Boots**
Treasurer - **Jascha Zeitlin**

Directors

Ray Perkins
Mark Sands
Janet Baker

Board / Committees

Greeter - **Eileen Boots & Janet Baker**
Fly Tying - **Bruce Parsons & Perry Kelley**
Library - **Bob Maki & Karen Kosowan**
Membership/Dues - **Mike Stanton**
Newscaster - **Dick Garrett**
Tax Exempt - **Tom & Cindy Dyer**
Publicity - **Janet Baker**

Raffle - **Ray Perkins**
Owyhee River Cleanup - **Dave Henderson**
Christmas Party -
Club Outings -
Programs/Presenters - **Chris Clark & Mike Stanton**
Weiser Community Cleanup - **Mike Thomas**
Recruit/New Members - **Jim Gulu & Al Sillonis**



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Important IFF Tax Numbers
 The club is a (501)3C charitable organization #C142076 so you can deduct contributions to the club (see your tax advisor for details).
 FYI our federal tax number is 71-0998737.

We **will** be back on schedule this month as far as the meetings go.

First Tuesday is the Board Meeting
 Second Tuesday is the general membership meeting
 Third Tuesday is the fly-tying workshop
 All meetings will be at the Weiser Library until further notice. And there is enough room to practice the required social distancing as mandated.
 So please come to the meetings and get things back to normal!!!

FEBRUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Board meeting Library	3 Breakfast at Homestead	4	5	6
7	8	9 Membership meeting Library	10 Breakfast at Cook Shack	11	12	13
14	15	16 Fly tying at the Library	17 Breakfast at Homestead	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Breakfast at Cook Shack	25	26	27
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BUZZ HACKLES—PART 2

By Bruce Parsons

Previously, I wrote about a fly pattern from my youth (see the June 2020 issue of the Flycaster).

Just looking at some examples, one could say they are just some Renegades that got drunk while gussying up for a fancy party, and put their clothes on backwards. No one ever told me about the fly's origins, I just knew it caught trout (and bluegill). Recently, I did some "research".



A used-bookstore produced an abused copy of a 1978 book by Bob Wilson and Richard Parks, titled Tying and Fishing the West's Best Dry Flies, which includes a chapter on the Buzz Hackle, gives some history, and illustrates its construction. It also, indirectly, led to the discovery of some family fishing history unknown to me. Quoting the book:

"The Buzz Hackle was first tied in 1928 for Al Lent by E. C. Powell's wife, Myrtle. According to Walton Powell, Lent, a frequently skunked client, wanted a fly which had all the good things on it that worked for his partners. "Some peacock, some tinsel, something red, grey hackle and brown," were the original specifications. Our dressing is taken directly from the original sample provided us by Walton Powell.

When Lent tried the fly he outfished all the members of his party. The Lent Fly, as it was originally christened, became an instant success. Two years later, Mr. Lent asked the





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BUZZ HACKLES-CONTINUED

As time passed, various callings took me far from those native waters. Over time, I learned and fished many other flies, rarely using attractor patterns. I also developed a penchant for swinging soft-hackles, as the caddis-rich riffle waters I often fished rewarded such regressive behavior.

In 1980, with my budding nuclear family, I returned to my native county, to resume rural life (and fishing), in the morning shadow of Mt. Lassen. I had heard of Walton Powell, locally famous for making fine cane rods, and his ability to cast to the middle of Grace Lake, and of the Powell fly shop, in a city about an hour to the southeast. There I met Preston Powell, grandson of E.C., working the three-generation establishment. He told me his grandfather had once owned a shop in the small town near which I lived. Expanding the conversation, I described the small folder of traditional snelled-wet flies, with a gut dropper leader, found in the effects of Ed Parsons, my dimly-remembered, paternal grandfather. He recalled hearing his grandfather speak disparagingly of some old guy, named Parsons, who lived in Tehama County, who refused to give up silk lines, gut leaders and the wet fly swing, to progress to the modern methods. Maybe regressive behavior is a family tradition.



I mentioned that those early Buzz Hackles did not float well. The efforts of chicken breeders like Metz and Hoffman, gave us major help with that problem, and Frog Fanny makes it go away. They were also quite fragile: a hackle-stem wrapped over a bare layer of tinsel is more vulnerable to trauma than one buried in dubbing. I was never sure that the original tail, of acutely down-angled, bright red hackle fibers, ever helped floatation, perhaps it just caused the fly to roll over on its side. Which is not really a problem with a wingless dry. In any case, red-dyed spade hackles have been hiding, so I have tried substitutes: died goat hair and synthetic fibers. Replacing the flat tinsel segments with gold and silver fine Crystal Chenille does seem to protect hackle stems, while maintaining the metallic sheen. (Maybe I should try wrapping the hackle simultaneously with a strand of Crystal Flash.)

In any case, when a recent exploration of a local "little creek" was the plan, I picked out the least fish-chewed Buzz from the box.

Idaho 'bows like them too.





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From the desk of Grant Baugh

The Cienega (marsh) De Santa Clara, Sonora 2014

The marsh is about 50,000 acres located on the east side of the Colorado River delta about 75 miles south of Yuma and it is full of largemouth bass and carp.

It was created by the only Colorado River water reaching the delta and it is fed through a canal smaller than Boise's Ridenbaugh



There is good water out there somewhere, have faith.



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On the Lighter Side

"There he stands, draped in more equipment than a telephone lineman, trying to outwit an organism with a brain no bigger than a breadcrumb, and getting licked in the process." - Paul O'Neil



Are you kidding? This new custom-made bamboo rod doesn't go near the river!



Isn't the fly supposed to hit the water now and then?

Editor's Note: If you would send me a few good jokes, maybe you wouldn't have to put up with my warped sense of humor!

Cartoons are from a book called *Hilarious Fishing Cartoons*, by John Troy.