**MOUNT TAM FLYFISHERS—MISSOURI RIVER TRIP JUNE 24-JUNE 30, 2018**

**Welcome to MTFF’s Fifth Annual club trip to the world-famous Missouri River. Our home base is Craig, Montana; a tiny town with 3 fly shops, 3 restaurants, and 3 bars. Craig is the location of our outfitter, Headhunters Fly Shop—Headhunters has guided our group since the beginning, and they are the best! We are staying at the beautiful Wolf Creek Lodge only 10 minutes from Headhunters. The lodge has 6 double rooms with private baths—no sleeping on couches and plenty of showers! Included is full provisions for breakfast, lunch makings and at least 5 evening dinners—we have some excellent chefs in the group. (Everyone helps with dishes and clean up.)**

**The Missouri is hands-down the best trout river in America. You can sight fish to very large rainbows and browns all day long. You can cruise the river and throw dry/droppers to likely spots. You can nymph all day long and expect 30+ fish days. Our group will fish with guides on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and self-guide on the river or many nearby streams on Tuesday and Thursday. The group always includes members who have “been there/done that”…no one holds back on advice, support or the extra hot fly. Here’s the link to the shop and river info:**

<http://www.headhuntersflyshop.com>

**We divide the guides, lodging and meal costs evenly. You can expect to pay $1300-$1400 for your share of guides, lodging and food and drink. As outlined below, tips, airfare, sharing a rental car, etc. will increase your total outlay but it is still substantially less than “retail” and a whole lot more fun. We will collect a deposit of $750 when you sign up and a second bill for approximately $650 in early May. The deposit is refundable until the second billing is issued. After that, the entire amount is non-refundable unless the organizers’ best efforts result in a substitute angler or a hard refund from Headhunters or Wolf Creek Lodge. We have a modest true-up shortly after our return—the club does not subsidize this trip and all payments must be made by check.**

**First choice for this trip goes to members—we will hold open the member sign up until March 1. Guests are welcome and can be added after that date. We will have a waiting list if all 12 open slots are reserved. Here are the finer points and the fine print:**

**Getting there. The drive is 16 hours—not too bad if you are planning other adventures. Most people fly into Helena, or sometimes Bozeman. If you are coming by air: we will ask for your flight arrangements when you make them and circulate same to others. It is extremely convenient to coordinate flight plans with others—many people even share the ride to SFO or OAK and—more importantly—share the rental car you will need during the week. Plan to arrive at Wolf Creek Lodge after 3pm on Sunday; most folks get flights on the following Saturday leaving around 11am.**

**Rental cars. We encourage you to team up (and we will help coordinate that) but rental cars are on your own. In previous years, attempts were made to rent a very large vehicle for transport to/from the airport and to and from the lodge and the river. That is burdensome and time-consuming for the renter and reduces flexibility for all. It is better for 2, 3 or 4 folks to coordinate among themselves and elect someone within the group to make the arrangements. We drive to and from the guide shop 3 days during the week and cars are always needed for the DIY days and evening trips after dinner. If we have our targeted 10-12 people, it would be ideal to have at least 4 cars. Costco is great for rental cars.**

**Lodging. We have found a great lodge. The main building has two double bedrooms and the annex building has four double rooms: privately accessible, air conditioned, and each with private bath. Wide screen TV, Wi-Fi, etc. are all available. As noted above, the lodge is located just outside Craig and requires rental car shuttling to/from the fly shop. This is common to all lodging in the area. Here is the website for the lodge:** <http://www.craiglodging.com/?page_id=1414>**.**

**(more…)**

**Guides. We have reserved 5 guides for each of the 3 guided days. If we have 12 people on the trip, another guide can be easily arranged. Roy and Jeff will try their best to match guides to personal preferences, but we will also endeavor to mix it up a bit—we do not want to encourage exclusive arrangements.**

**Matching anglers. We learned from past experience that pre-designating daily fishing partners is necessary to maximize personal satisfaction with the week’s experience and to minimize confusion and regrets. Upon making your deposit, we will send you a questionnaire along these lines:**

* **Do you want to fish with a certain member(s)? (i.e. names and/or no preference)**
* **What kind of fishing do you want to do? (i.e. sight fishing with dries, nymphs for numbers, mixed bag) (first choice, second choice, third choice)**
* **Which guides do you want to fish with? (first choice, second choice, third choice)**
* **Do you want to do the Land of the Giants? (extra cost, limited availability)**

**We will try to achieve a reasonable answer for everyone and at least generate a good match of “what you want to do and who you’d like to do it with.”**

**The Law of Even Numbers. This trip is designed around the concept of shared guides and boats. If we have 10 or 12 anglers, everything works well and the cost split is easy and uneventful. However, we have plans for two contingencies:**

* **Voluntary single anglers will be accommodated, but the single angler must shoulder the full daily cost of the guide and the double cost of a room.**
* **If illness or emergency arises and the angler’s slot cannot be filled, we will have to ask that angler to cover any guide or lodging costs that cannot be offset by another angler volunteering to take a single day with a guide, or rental of the room to a third party.**

**A final word about guides, lodging and food.**

* **The lodge. The total cost for the lodge is $4,200. If we get 10 anglers, your share is $70 per night—a much better deal than the local fleabag motel. If we get 12 anglers, your cost drops to $60 per night.**
* **Guides. The daily guide fee is $550 (we expect that fee for 2018—you will know in advance if we have to pay more). This fee is included in your charge for this trip, based on two anglers per guide. Flies, lunch and beverages are included. Tips are not included! Plan on $100 cash per day, split evenly with your fishing partner. (The cost for a day at the Land of the Giants-- a guide and jet boat--is $650 per day. You will be responsible for paying Headhunters the $100 supplement on your own, split of course with your fishing partner).**
* **Food. Roy and Chip will be quartermasters. The lodge will be stocked with breakfast foods, including eggs and bacon and fruit. We will have lunch making supplies (keep in mind that the three guide days include lunch from your guide). We will have food for at least 5 terrific group dinners, served early enough to get back to the river for the evening hatch. You will not go hungry.**
* **Drink. We will have bottled water, soft drinks, some milk (primarily breakfast) and beer. Wine and liquor are welcome if you buy it and bring it yourself.**
* **Housekeeping. We ask that you pitch in. Dishes always need to be washed, counters cleaned and leftovers put back in the fridge or cabinet.**

**THIS IS ALWAYS A WONDERFUL TRIP—WE HOPE YOU CAN COME.**