



# The FOAMLINE

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FISHING OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA  
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MARCH 2012

## FOAM ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED

*See You on Saturday, March 31 at the Gallatin Gateway Inn*

Our Annual Membership Meeting is set for Saturday, March 31 at the Gallatin Gateway Inn, the same venue as last year. We'll start at 9 a.m. and finish with the raffle and drinks about 4 p.m.

We've got a slate of speakers lined up, including FWP folks updating the Madison River Recreation Management Planning process, a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary member to update us on USCG licensing, MBO E.D. Trudy Phippen and Board President Lee Kinsey, and members Dennis Alverson talking about his new 'Take a Kid Fishing' program and Russel Parks on the motorized restrictions on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork rivers. FOAM staff and director Eric Adams will describe the corporate exemption to independent contractor status. Members will also discuss and vote on basic by-law amendments regarding online voting and membership processes.

Our raffle, drinks on Simms, and lunch are part of the deal. You probably received the registration notice for our annual meeting a while back, but remember to mail your \$10 check to FOAM so we can set a seat for you at lunch and hold some early-bird raffle tickets in your name. We'll be looking for you there.

## FOAM ONLINE MEMBERSHIP, INSURANCE

*Popular Request, Timely Update Come Together*

In a previous FOAMLINe, FOAM staff noted that we won't be mailing out membership or insurance forms after 2012. Instead, current members will receive a postcard announcing when re-up forms will be available online at the FOAM website; typically, outfitter m'ship and insurance forms are ready by October of each year for the following year, and guide m'ship/insurance apps are up by February or March of any year. The timing will be one of the discussions at our Annual Meeting. Of course, you can call the FOAM offices (406.763.5436) to have a paper copy mailed to you.

Along with online forms, we're working out the bugs in an online login, membership form, insurance form, and payment system. We're being cautious because we want to make sure this system is efficient, secure, and convenient before launch. We expect a small processing fee to be added to membership dues and the insurance premium to recover costs for processing credit cards or using PayPal.

For years, members have asked for online payment. Many requests come when outfitters are late in signing up and receiving insurance certificates to meet the MBO deadline; guides also ask for quick payment when they discover trips earlier than they expected and need insurance coverage right away.

Not all that into computers? If you use our standard paper

apps and write checks as usual, you won't pay an extra fee.

Staff are aiming for late summer roll-out, and we'll send out announcements once the system is up and working well. Thanks for your patience.

## MBO WRESTLES WITH D'BASE, ONLINE LOGS

*2012: Year of the Database*

The Department of Labor & Industry (DL&I) is slowly implementing a new database for all licensing bureaus, but introduction at the MBO has been sketchy and bug-ridden at times.

Coordinating a host of separate database configurations in to one integrated system is proving difficult: no one wants to lose licensee history or details, but transferring data from one format to another is bound to have glitches, and online pieces of the system are currently broken or down pending fixes at the code level.

Board of Outfitters staff have spent countless hours coordinating the work efforts at their level, making sure no efficiency is lost while translating regulated forms into online processes and maintaining data integrity as they move into the new database.

FOAM and MBO board members have kept a close eye on expenses associated with this change over; we don't want to pay for staff corrections to database logistics while simultaneously handling the ordinary day-to-day duties. DL&I managers claim there won't be any expense levied on the MBO other than their share of the database purchase. We'll see.

So, if you're a guide renewing your license, we recommend you download a paper application and send it with a check to the MBO. You can get guide license renewal forms from our website: [http://foam-mt.org/downloads/2012\\_Guide\\_License\\_Renewal\\_form.pdf](http://foam-mt.org/downloads/2012_Guide_License_Renewal_form.pdf)

**NOTE:** Some members have renewed as Professional Guides to save \$25 because the MBO failed to up the Pro Guide renewal fee as they did with all other license fees. Understand that Pro Guide licenses have additional stringent requirements on top of the regular guide license qualifications, and a standard guide license cannot be renewed as a Pro Guide license.

We're tracking the MBO database conversion progress, looking for a resolution, a working product, and online licensing to be live sometime soon. Be patient and stay tuned.

## NEW FOAM GUIDE AT LARGE DIRECTOR

*FOAM BoD Almost Complete for 2012*

Pete Shanafelt from Missoula is the new Guide at Large director for the FOAM Board. He's attended a couple of our board meetings, and he's likeable and fits in well. Here's an introductory

note from new-comer Pete:

*"Fellow FOAM Members,*

*I am excited to be your new Guide at large Director. I want to thank those who elected me into such a great group who represents our best interests as guides and outfitters. A little about myself, I grew up in South Central Idaho and began guiding during my senior year of high school. My next move was to Montana to pursue my fishing/college career. I decided to base my guiding on the rivers of Missoula in 2001. I still fish the West Side, but spend about half my season up on the Missouri as well. I hope to see you guys out on the water, or in a bar enjoying a tasty beverage. Please feel free to contact me if you have any matters that may arise. I will do my best to point you in the right direction and help in any way that I can."*

We still need a director for our Region 1, NW Montana.

The nominee must be willing to serve and attend board meetings; we generally schedule meetings for October, December, January, February, March, April, and May. Send nominations to FOAM, PO Box 67, Gal Gtwy, MT 59730 or email info@foam-mt.org

## MADISON MGMT PLANNING TUNING UP

### *FWP Completes Scoping Meetings; Citizen Selection Next*

Those of us in FWP's Region 3 (BZN, Livingston, Ennis, W.Y'stone, Dillion) have coordinated efforts to alert and inform members, the non-outfitted business community, and Special Recreation Permit holders about the Madison River Recreation

Management Planning process initiated by FWP last October.

We've been a solid influence at the 'Scoping Meetings', get-togethers FWP presented in Ennis, BZN, W. Y'stone, and Whitehall to hear concerns about the Madison and questions about the process.

Back in 2004, FOAM was involved in creating the River Recreation Management rules that govern this planning, so we're putting in a lot of time and effort to make sure the process will work out reasonable, equitable solutions to proven problems where and when they may exist.

FWP Region 3 Chief Pat Flowers will recommend candidates for the Citizen's Advisory Committee from applications due by March 15. FWP Director Joe Maurier will whittle the recommendations down to a group of 12 - 15 folks representing interests relating to the Madison river. That group will use consensus to work on concerns and issues gathered during the scoping process and lay out recommended management goals to protect the resource and recreation from Hebgen Dam to Headwaters State Park. Since the Madison is world-renowned, we ask for your input and help to guide what's developed and finally implemented.

To offer FWP your thoughts and comments online, go to <http://fwp.mt.gov/recreation/publicComments/madisonRiverMgmt-Plan.html> For a paper questionnaire, go to: [http://foam-mt.org/downloads/Madison\\_Management\\_Questionnaire.pdf](http://foam-mt.org/downloads/Madison_Management_Questionnaire.pdf)

We'll keep you up to date via the FOAMLINE and you can check our blog for more current details: [foam-mt.org/blog.php](http://foam-mt.org/blog.php).

### Guide-at-Large Director Peter Shanafelt 360-5430

Joe Moore  
581-6059

Region 5 (Madison)

Dave McKee  
582-0980

Region 6 (Gallatin)

Eric Adams  
223-2488

Region 7 (Yellowstone)

Kurt Olson  
666-2473

Region 8 (Big Horn, Ft. Peck)

Vacant

Region 1 (Kootenai, Flathead)

Russell Parks  
543-7078

Region 2 (Bitterroot, Clark Fork)

John Arnold  
868-1951

Region 3 (Missouri)

Matt Greemore  
684-5639

Region 4 (Big Hole, Beaverhead)

### BOARD of DIRECTORS

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