

BRMTU Chapter Meeting 6/14/25

No more Blue Jeans for Chapter meetings - Faith Presbyterian Church gives us social event flexibility.

Guests and New Members;

Dale - Retired Marine - Cabin in Cherry Log

Membership - John Jenkins 344 on Roster including 2 businesses/ 7 new members/ 58 expired/ 7 transferred in/ one youth

Paul Carlson - President, appointed by impromptu Board Meeting , Bill Williams - Vice President

An opening on the Board of Director at large - Mel Richardson added to the Board

TroutFest - Bob Borgwat

Paul Mailman - will handle the finances moving forward for Trout Fest - taking that burden off Bob Borgwat.

\$39,612 Net to date.

We expected closer to high \$40K - expenses that we did not foresee:

- ◇ \$930 Insurance
- ◇ \$2,200 Parking Shuttle required by the City
- ◇ Lower gate due to competition from Bear on the Square and other nearby events - 2045 gate paid entry + 400 vendor participants + 79 free entry = close to 3000 participants.
- ◇ Beer sales were off by a few \$000
- ◇ \$2240 from Merch Sales down \$1000
- ◇ \$3200 from Film Festival All plus \$s.
- ◇ Expenses were \$15K over what was expected. More details June 28th.
- ◇ Music attendance was down. It was hot and maybe a covered dining area would improve attendance therein.
- ◇ We had live music competition from the tavern in the retail space with loud speakers - we will attempt to address this with the Tavern and City.
- ◇ City may require at Festivals to move to the Farmer's Market - we may move iTrout Fest to McCaysville in 2026 - Gallinski Enterprises has offered two spare lots for parking. It's riverside. Could get the "TROUT Train" to run special runs to McCaysville?
- ◇ Bill Whitaker has stepped up to take over the Film Festival for 2026

and also the Fishing Derby.

- ◇ Bob Borgwat is looking for addition help with Marketing, Fund Raising, etc.
- ◇ Review of TF 2025 will be June 28th at Mark Belongie's home. 3 PM to 8 PM. Dinner will be catered along with wine, beer and soft drinks. (Bring a 4 Wheel drive vehicle or park below and catch a ride up) Bring some folding chairs.

Fishing Derby 48 tags retrieved from 100 trout released. \$550 grand price NC Trip was redeemed. \$550 Lake Fishing Trip also redeemed. \$7,200 was donated from sponsors. \$520 paid out by the Chapter as cash prices. 5 new members added.

July 4th Event - in McCaysville - for the Kids Fishing event. Chapter is looking into sponsoring or participating in some fashion. Mel Richardson, John Jenkins are investigating. <https://www.blueridgemountains.com/events/copper-basin-fireworks-mccaysville-copperhill/> (copper-basin-fireworks-mccaysville-copperhill)

Hatchery Event

- Veterans Event - 80 Vets
- Special Needs Kids - 2 counties short this year - Fannin did not show. Will have more next year assuming the Hatchery is still operating.
- Kelly retired May 31st - Joe Helseph and Jamie run the whole hatchery now.
- Looking for college interns
- Volunteers can go feed the fish, clean tanks
- Federal Hatchery is in danger ! Write your Senator, use the Trout Unlimited Trout Unlimited.
- Could the State take over the hatchery? Jim Reich will write the State Senators about Saving the Hatchery.
- We Supported Seniors Day June 6
- 186 Kids June 7
- Now Managed from Erwin, Tennessee, Hatchery.

Curtis Switch - Paul Carlson

Project is now in the hands of the Fannin County Commissioners
Next step for Fannin to submit the project officially to the TVA.
Changed enhancement to maintenance which the county can do anytime.

May 20 fly fishing demo at Fannin Elementary School - John Jenkins and Paul Carlson participated.

Trout Camp - Carl Riggs

14 boys attended

We sponsored two boys - who may present their memories from the camp to chapter

Everyone caught a ton of fish

A 30" gar was caught by a camper at Unico in Helen.

Rivers Alive - September 27th, last Saturday.

Tammen Park is reserved.

Sandy Reinauer is heading it up

Calendar

Jun 21 - Ga Trout Council will be in Rome, GA Coosa Valley Chapter. Paul Carlson will go with Paul Mailman.

August 8-10 KOA Toccoa River across from Tammen - We are invited to promote BRMTU then

Three Way Campers Road Show - Billy Whitaker may be there all three days. Would appreciate others to join in.

Treasurer Report - Paul Mailman

\$132K started May

Ended \$102,205 - Mostly Trout Fest related expenses.

A few more items outstanding from TF 2025.

TVA check \$4,400 received.

Mark Belongie House June 28th - Review of TF 2025. Start 3 PM Business meeting followed by catered supper.