

“Keeping in Touch”

Quarterly Newsletter by/for
Fish & Game Retirees/Families and
Interested Former Employees

April 2014, Vol. 10, No. 2

Dates to Remember

**Retiree Luncheon
Schedule
Golden Corral
on Emerald in Boise
11:30 a.m.**

* * * *

2014

**May 8
July 10
September 11
November 13**

* * * *

Mark Your Calendars

Second Annual Fish and Game Kokanee Fishing Tournament April 25, 2013

The Fisheries Bureau is soliciting teams to participate in the second annual F&G and PSMFC employee's kokanee tournament! We would also like to invite all staff to the salmon barbecue and potluck following the tournament weigh-in at Headquarters. (*See the Rules and Application on Pages 7 & 8.*)

Welcome New Retirees!

Jim Jones, Construction Supervisor for the Salmon Screen Shop, retired February 27 after 25.5 years of IDFG service. *Jeff Rohlman*, Regional Wildlife Manager in McCall, also retired February 27 after 30 years with IDFG.

A Huge, Huge Thanks!!

Our Retiree Committee would like to thank *Martin Luther, Chris Craig, Frank NeSmith, Milt Williams* and *Bruce Palmer* for their really generous donations. Because of you, we can keep the newsletter going, even if the editor's mind isn't "functioning" properly.!"

A Thank You From Anne Branch

I had the pleasure of having a conversation with *Anne Branch* (Mel Branch's widow) the other morning and she wanted to make

sure that this "thank you" was included in this newsletter:

"This is a very long, overdue thank you (from 2012!) to **Greg Johnson** and all the IDFG family who so generously contributed to buy *Mel Branch* a gift before he passed. At that time, the Hospice staff advised that Mel only had a few months to live; so Mel requested that the gift money be used to set up a scholarship through the Bonner's Ferry Rotary. Typical of Mel's stalwart nature, he surprised the Hospice staff by living more than a year later — quite a miracle!

"Unfortunately, I lost the list of names of gift contributors to send a personal thank you note; but please know to all the IDFG family who contributed to the gift . . . your kindness brought Mel much happiness in his final months. With a grateful heart, Anne Branch"

Retiree Updates

It was a huge surprise to receive an update from *Stacy Gebhards*. (*Haven't heard from you in years, Stacy!*) He sent an item from the Star-News from January 23, 2014: "A history of the 37-year career of a McCall man with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game is now available for public review. Copies of "The Vanishing Stream — An Oral History of The Life & Times of Stacy Gebhards" have been donated to the McCall Public Library and the Central Idaho Historical Museum.

Updates, Cont. on Page 2

"Keeping in Touch,"
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 and
Former Employees
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All donations
should be made payable to
IDF&G Retirees and
sent to the above address.

Updates, from Page 1

"The collection contains video clips, photos, and interviews highlighting Gebhards' career. One interview is between Gebhards and former Idaho Governor and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus reflecting on Idaho politics in 1970.

"The history also contains numerous digital images, original music performed by Gebhards and others, and some of his prior works.

"Underwriters for the project were retired fisheries and wildlife biologists that had worked with Gebhards during his career."

Stacy added: "Also, a grant from the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Legacy Project, three years in the making — Roy Heberger, Producer; Bill Goodnight, announcer; Don Cunningham, recording and discs (son of Bill Cunningham of IDFG radio host). Copies have been sent to major Idaho libraries and the Library of Congress."

Stacy, I know everyone will want to see this. I hope you sent a copy to the Meridian and Boise Libraries. If not, where can someone borrow/buy a copy?

Eldon Anglen sent an update in January of his life: "I remarried on June 8, 2013, at Cottonwood to a wonderful lady. She is an artist so I am learning a lot. She is from Ritzville, Washington. I noted that my birth date was not in the last newsletter (it was September 29 — *Happy Belated Birthday, Eldon! And Congratulations on your*

marriage. Please send me her name for the records, okay? -- JJF) We will still live in Cottonwood and have no plans to move. We are having a very mild winter — no snow at this time."

Seems *Bruce and wife Kathie Palmer* are now living in Japan. So, if you need to call him, please call after 5 p.m. (*Would be really interested in knowing what you two are up to in Japan, Bruce! -- JJF)*

Well, former director *Joe Greenley* made the news recently. He was featured as a John Collias "Portrait of a Distinguished Citizen" in July 1977 in the Idaho Statesman. Joe was director of Idaho's Fish and Game Department and was credited with opening "Idaho's Fish and Game to the people." Joe's picture was featured in the February 28, 2014 issue of the Statesman celebrating it's 150 years. (*Don't let it go to your head, Joseph! And we refuse to bow to you anymore! — JJF)*

A Special Request

Please keep *Lorrie (Spiker) Parrish* in your thoughts and prayers. Lorrie, my friend since 1965, finally gave me permission to let everyone know that she has been battling cancer for the last few months. She is very active and upbeat, as she usually is.. If you would like to send a card, her address is: Sunny Ridge Retirement (formerly Sunbridge), 2609 Sunnybrook Dr., Room 104, Nampa, ID 83686; her phone no.: 208-880-4669.

A Look Back

"Names of Alpine Lakes Filled With Surprises"

by Pete Zimowsky, Idaho Statesman Outdoor Reporter

(Printed sometime between 1982 and 1986)

Anyone who has backpacked to an alpine lake knows the experience can be filled with confusion and surprises.

Sometimes the lake you think you're headed for ends up not being there. Then the one you stumble upon is a lake that you didn't think was there.

That's how Surprise and Confusion lakes, located on the west side of the Sawtooths, got their names.

Many of the lakes in the Sawtooths were still unnamed in the 1950s when the Idaho Department of Fish and Game began surveying the lakes for an intensive trout stocking program.

Not Enough Use

The F&G was promoting fishing at high-mountain lakes because not enough people were using them. Can you believe that in this day and age?

The agency even went so far as to publish a guide to high lakes. That guide is no longer available because lakes in the Sawtooths and elsewhere don't suffer from underuse. In fact, old copies of the guide are worth their weight in gold.

Monte Richards, who is now fisheries chief for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (*from 1982-1986*), was a fisheries biologist for the area back then. He and other F&G officers had the task of surveying the mountain lakes and also for building trails to them.

To keep the confusion down on which lakes were being surveyed, Richards and the others had to name them. Those names were officially accepted by the Forest Service and remain in use today.

The funniest story involves Surprise and Confusion lakes. During the survey, the F&G officers usually flew over an area and spotted the lakes. They later checked them on a Forest Service map and then tried to find them on the ground.

Well, they were trying to pick a route to one particular lake and got lost. "All of us were wandering around up there. Surprise Lake popped up when we thought we were somewhere else," said Richards. So they named it Surprise.

Confusion Lake was just the opposite. It popped up where it shouldn't have been, Richards said with a smile.

Other lakes were named either for landmarks, such as peaks or creeks, for characteristics, or because of something that occurred at the lake. Braxon Lake was named for Braxon Peak; Baron Lake for Baron Creek; Packrat Lake for Packrat Peak.

Warbonnet Lake was named after Warbonnet Peak, and then there was a series of other lakes in the area that also needed names. So Richards and his cohorts picked a series of names related to Warbonnet, such as Little Warbon-

net Lake, Feather Lake and Beads Lake. "We tried to keep the Warbonnet theme," he said.

The first preference was to name the lake after a landmark, but in some cases there was already a number of creeks and landmarks with the same name. So they resorted to other things. Pancho Lake was named after a faithful saddle horse that took survey crews to the mountains.

One lake in the Goat Creek drainage was named Oreamus because, as Richards puts it, "There are 14 million goat lakes around the state" Instead of Goat Lake, they chose the Latin name for mountain goat.

They also named the lakes for people. P.S. Lake is named after Phil Swanstrum, a conservation officer, and Pat's Lake was named for Pat Reed, who was a packer during the time.

Other lakes were named for characteristics: Limber Lake for the limber pines surrounding it; Three Island Lake for the three islands; Three Lakes Lake, for a chain of lakes within a lake; Azure Lake, for its blue color; Scenic and Little Scenic lakes for the views; Snowbank Lake because of a huge snowbank; The Hole, because the lake sits in a big hole in the ground; and Low Pass Lake because it sits in a low pass between Rock Creek and the Middle Fork of the Boise River.

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For the Birds

Other lakes were named for occurrences: Chickadee Lake for the number of chickadees spotted there and Bluejay Lake for the bluejays.

Which are Richards' favorite lakes? He says the ones in the South Fork of the Payette River drainage that don't have trails to them. "It's the only place I've ever been where there wasn't any sign of human beings — no cigarette butts, tin foil, cans, fire rings or anything else," he said.

Richards and his crew ended up surveying about 40 lakes in the Sawtooths and had to name about 20 of them. What did they do when they just couldn't come up with a name?

That took a little ingenuity. They named one, McWillards Lake. They took part of the names of each of the F&G officers on the survey — Roger McCormick, Roger Williams and Monte Richards.

Coming Soon!!

Frank NeSmith sent me a loose-leaf copy of a book he wrote about life growing up in Georgia. It is basically fiction narrated by "Sam Barrow" which Frank says, "It's not me!" Yeah! Of course.

Anyway, he says after I read it, feel free to loan it out to anyone who wants to read about the South. After I get a chance to read it, I will offer it for check out (just like at a library). I'll let you know in the next issue of the newsletter (July).

When Idaho's Mountains Grew Taller

By Frank NeSmith

Thirty years ago we were enjoying our first October in Idaho. We were still settling into the house we had bought in Boise, and the weather was a magnificent Indian summer just like everyone had promised it would be until when November would bring more wintry conditions.

That particular day I was working in my office at the Department of Fish and Game Headquarters. It was a little before 8 a.m., our regular starting time, but my chief and the head secretary were already there, too. I had an extension of the agency's reward hotline phone placed in my home to answer calls after hours, and I was busy logging in calls from the night before.

I had gone out to the secretaries' area and had just pulled out a file drawer when a sudden wave of dizziness washed over me. The file drawer seemed to be moving and the floor felt suddenly unsteady under my feet like I was in a moving boat. The immediate thought that I was having a heart attack hit me since those are such symptoms of that malady. About that time, though, I heard Dale's (Baird) concerned shout of, "Hey! What's going on?"

I then understood what was happening and rushed to the door of his office. I said, "Earthquake!" About then it really hit. The whole building was shaking while the suspended ceiling tiles overhead were vibrating in their holders

sounding like a huge wind. Dale grimaced and commented that it was a strong one. The subject of earthquakes hadn't come up since I had been in Idaho, but as I hung onto the door jamb I knew it was much stronger than those I had experienced overseas.

It gradually subsided, and Dale looked out his window and said that the flagpole was whipping around and people were running out of the multi-story office building next door. I tried to call Mutt, but all I could get was a busy signal. Suddenly the hotline phone on my desk rang. Wondering who could be reporting a poaching at a time like this, I answered it and was so relieved to hear Mutt's frantic voice asking if I was okay.

She had also gotten a busy signal on the regular line because the phone system was overloaded with so many people trying to call. Then, she remembered to try the hotline and, being a separate line, it wasn't busy. I assured her we were okay. She had been washing dishes while looking out into the backyard when it hit. She said the water sloshed out of the sink, and the patio roof looked like an ocean wave. Surprisingly, I could never find any damage from such a strong shaking.

As the day progressed, we got reports that the 7.9 magnitude quake's epicenter was up near the mountainous city of Challis. It was

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about 160 miles northeast of Boise, and took two lives there. Tragically they were a 6- and 8-year-old brother and sister walking to school. A 70-year-old brick front on one of the downtown buildings collapsed on top of them.

An antelope hunter was driving in the nearby mountains when the road ten feet in front of him suddenly disappeared. He stopped just in time to keep his bouncing vehicle from going over the fault line's drop-off as that tallest mountain range in Idaho was instantly elevated nearly nine feet. I later asked the Challis officer where he was when the quake hit. Butch replied, "I was on patrol about four miles from the epicenter, Frank, and I missed the whole thing. You know, that new Dodge pickup's suspension is something else!"

I knew what he meant. Already having been on patrols with officers in rugged mountain terrain, I knew the bumping and shaking of rugged four-wheel drives could mask the effects of almost anything. Providing the earth didn't open, or a rock from above didn't hit you.

Later, when Butch took me for my first raft trip down the remote Middle Fork of the Salmon River, he pointed out several places where big boulders had been dislodged. Some had rolled into the river. The largest was about the size of a Greyhound Bus and had slid sideways from its steep resting place and wound up in the middle of the river. I doubt that people floating that river today would even know about its short history in becoming just another river rock they must avoid.

There was also a new hot spring that popped out of the hillside near Challis and ran into the main Salmon River a half mile away. The water temperature was 160 degrees Fahrenheit, and it gushed out of its two foot diameter hole for several months before finally subsiding.

One of the most interesting results was the miraculous half-mile journey of the big rock in Challis. It was a huge boulder that was almost completely round and about 15 feet in diameter. It was shaken loose above the residential section and rolled down the hill onto a main street. It rolled straight down that street until it got to one intersection and took a left turn onto a side

street and followed its winding path. It finally came to another small street, took a right turn, and rolled forty feet. There it took a left and went over the four-foot-wide rock walkway over the ditch in front of a little wooden house where it rolled left over onto the lawn coming to rest two feet from the house. It was an almost unbelievable natural feat that left the homeowners with a huge, permanent lawn ornament.

Every October I remember that infamous day of quaking and think about the journey of that miracle rock. I also think about if the quake had never happened; how old would that little brother and sister of Challis be? They would be 36 and 38 today.

(Well, Frank, I remember that day very well. Looking out the window, the power lines were bobbing up and down, my chair rolled clear across the room, and I'm sure, my hair was standing on end!!!)

* * * * *

Happy Belated Birthday!

Kate Bethke, March 3 (92 years)

May Anniversaries

Rod & Lanore Parker, May 8, 49 years

Jody & George Taylor, May 15, 49 years

Bob & Betty Jane Royce, May 26, 48 years

April Birthdays

Linn French*, April 1
Dan Duggan, April 5
Dale Turnipseed, April 7

May Birthdays

Don Wright, May 1
Jerry Mallet, May 5
Stanley (Bob) Moore, May 6
Corinne Barlow, May 7
Alice Cannaday, May 9
Ray Greene, May 21
Eric Stansbury*, May 23
Paul Hanna, May 25
Milt Williams, May 26
Ruth Stemper, May 27
Bill Goodnight, May 29
Tom Abel, May 29
Russ Kozacek, May 31

June Birthdays

Larry Smith, June 6
Walt Browne, June 6
Terry Williams, June 7
Walt Arms, June 9
Al Kiler, June 13
Bob Bell, June 13
Dexter Pitman, June 16
Roger Olson, June 17
Jack Trueblood, June 18
Joan Trueblood, June 27
Vaughn Brauer, June 27
Larry Miller, June 27
Don Stucker, June 27

Happy Birthday to All!!!

Second Annual Fish and Game Kokanee Fishing Tournament – April 25, 2014

The Fisheries Bureau is soliciting teams to participate in the second annual F&G and PSMFC employee's kokanee tournament! We would also like to invite all staff to the salmon barbecue and pot luck following the tournament weigh-in at Headquarters.

Tournament Rules:

Participants-

- All participants must be current IDFG employees, IDFG affiliated PSMFC employees, or IDFG retirees.
- Boats are limited to a team maximum of 3 anglers.
- No more than two anglers on any team may work in the same IDFG bureau or in the same region.
- For the purposes of team affiliation in this tournament, Bureaus are defined as:
 - Directors Office, Fisheries, Wildlife, Enforcement, Communications, Engineering, Administration, and IS.
 - The Directors Office includes RS's, IFWF, Legal, and HR staff. PSMFC employees are included in the "Fisheries Bureau".
- Retirees are not restricted by any previous bureau affiliation and may be teamed with any employees. No more than 2 retirees per team.

Entry Fee:

- \$30 per boat – Boat captain is responsible for team entry fee.
- Entry deadline is April 11, 2014 (Form and fee submitted to Fisheries Bureau front office staff).
- All teams must have a team name declared at the time of entry.

Stipulations:

- All Fish and Game fishing rules apply.
- Tournament limited to Lucky Peak and Arrowrock Reservoirs.
- Kokanee are the only fish that will be counted in the tournament.
- All kokanee caught and not immediately released will be counted in the daily bag limit and weighed in, no sorting.
- Angling may commence any time after 5:00 am, April 25, 2014.
- All anglers must be in the HQ parking lot for weigh-in no later than 2 PM on April 25, 2014.
- All kokanee weighed-in will be donated to the salmon barbecue directly following the tournament weigh-in at F&G headquarters.
- Winning teams will be determined by total weight of kokanee harvested by that team.
- Any team with one or more team members who are new anglers (e.g., first time Idaho license buyer) will receive a bonus of 12 ounces added to the total weight of their team's catch.
- Any team with two anglers from the same bureau or region will have 12 ounces deducted from the total weight of their team's catch.
- Weight of fish may not be artificially enhanced. Fish may be subjected to X-ray surveillance.

Prizes:

½ of the entry fee will be used to award prizes.

Team prize(s) will be awarded based on the heaviest total combined catch (maximum of 18 kokanee), including weight bonuses or deductions.

Individual prize(s) will be awarded to the angler(s) catching the largest kokanee (determined by length).

½ of the entry fee will be awarded to the HQ Fun Committee to be used at their discretion.

Note for Retiree's: If you are a boat captain looking for anglers or an interested angler looking for a boat to fish on, contact Sharon Clark in the Fisheries Bureau for assistance. Sharon may be reached at 287-2784(W), 695-5344(C), or sharon.clark@idfg.idaho.gov.

2nd Annual Fish and Game Employees Kokanee Tournament Entry Form

******Register in the Fisheries Bureau******

Registration Deadline – April 11, 2014

(Late registrations are welcome but subject to \$25 fee)

Team Name _____

Boat Captain _____

Bureau Affiliation _____

Angler #2 _____

Bureau Affiliation _____

Angler #3 _____

Bureau Affiliation _____

(Denote if any team members are first time anglers)

Administrative use only -

Entry Fee \$30.00 paid on: _____, 2013

Received by: _____