

“Keeping in Touch”

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

January-March, Vol. 11, No. 1

Dates to Remember

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

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**2015
January 8
March 12
May 14
July 9
September 10
November 12**

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Mark Your Calendars

Annual Wild Game Feed

The 49th IDFG Wild Game Feed was a huge success, as always. Thank you to everyone who contributed to make this function as great as it is. As always, the retirees were made to feel welcome and as if we were still a part of the department. (*Funny, I never felt like I was ever retired!@! — JJF*)

And, I am forewarning you folks that the 50th Feed is already in the making. *Sharon Clark* has let me know that they are striving to have at least 50 retirees/former employees attend in 2015. So, if you think you can make it, please mark your December calendars.

The following is a list of the retirees/former employees in attendance: *Corinne Barlow, Steve Barton, Stella Bush, Grant Christensen, Janet Conley, Joe Curry, Steve Elle, Judy Fisher, Ray Greene, John Heimer, Bill Horton, Keith Johnson, Jim Keating, Cathy Kopke, Luana McCauley, Mart Morache, Frank Morgan and wife Laura, John Nagel, Lloyd Oldenburg and wife Edna, Bruce Penske, Charlie Petrosky, Herb Pollard, Irene Powell, Tom Reinecker and wife Marjorie, Tom Rogers, Bob Royce, Ruth Stemper, Norma Stewart, Charlie Strasser, Dale Tankersley, Jo Toomey & her brother Richard, Dale Toweill, Kevin Ware, Royce Williams, and former Commissioner Fred Christensen and wife Dottie.*

It was so good to see all of you and it was especially nice to see *Lloyd Oldenburg* up and around again. Edna, you must be doing a great job taking care of the “OLD” man. And *Frank Morgan*, it was really great to finally meet your wife Laura.

IDFG Deputy Director Jim Unsworth Takes Over Washington Department

Deputy Director Jim Unsworth of the IDFG has been named Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Director, replacing retiring director Phil Anderson of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. He will have a budget of \$376 million and has a staff of 1,480. Unsworth leaves the IDFG after 32 years of service.

Cont. on Page 2, Unsworth

"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.**

Unsworth, Cont. From Page 1

We wish Jim all the luck in his new position. The Washington department has many problems to solve since the wildlife and fisheries divisions have been brought together under one agency. Wolves being one issue the department has to deal with, but Jim should be able to handle it, just as he has in Idaho. Good luck, Jim!!!

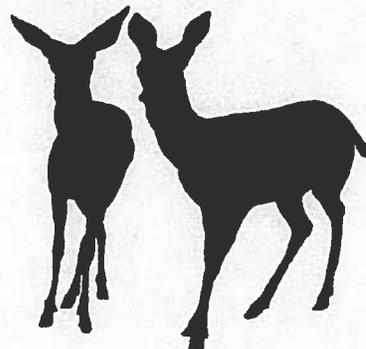
Thank You, Thank You!

Thank you isn't enough for the size of the donations we have gotten in the recent weeks. Thanks to *Martin Luther* for your exceptionally large sum and also to *Deborah Trent* and *Joan and Jack Trueblood* for your very generous donations. It is much appreciated and it is keeping the newsletter going, even if the editor's brain is dragging a bit! Ha! Ha!

Welcome New Retirees!

Matthew Erickson retired December 16, 2014, after working 23 years for the Enforcement Bureau. *John "Jack" Connelly* is retiring from his Principal Research Wildlife Biologist position for the Bureau of Wildlife effective January 24, 2015, after 30 years service. *Robin Holmquist* is retiring from his Regional Wildlife Biologist position for the Bureau of Wildlife effective January 31, 2015, after 27 years of service. Welcome, Folks!

(Just a reminder, you will receive a postcard from the Retirees' Group to fill out and return to us to keep you on our list to receive all updates/newsletters. If you do not return it, you will be removed from the list and will have no further contact. Just remember, we would like to keep you younger retirees with us since we older ones consider us to be a F&G Family!)



Retiree Updates!!

Received an update on what *Wayne Melquist* has been up to lately. I don't want to leave out anything so I will include the full letter:

"I hope you're enjoying the holidays and had a wonderful and prosperous 2014! For me, I can honestly say I have no complaints! I had many opportunities to share good times with close friends and family, meet new friends, and even explore (painfully few) new places.

"On the downside, losing a close friend of 47 years (Lars Eidnes) to cancer was difficult to accept. We experienced many hunting trips around the world, and had more planned.

"I journeyed to Cambridge Bay on Victoria Island in Nunavut Territory to hunt muskox and caribou in early November (*photos were included. Since I can't include them, I will be happy to forward the document to you. Just let me know. — JJF*) And while I spread some of his ashes in the arctic tundra, it wasn't the same making the trip without my Norske friend! It is strange how losing someone close to you has a way of changing your perspective on life. Certain things that seemed important before don't seem so important anymore. Nonetheless, we always have to hope for a brighter tomorrow. (*Having lost six friends in two months, I know what you mean! — JJF*)

"The river otter project in South Dakota consumed the majority of my time. Last year I wrote, "It will be interesting to see what they do once spring arrives and the river opens up again." Well, when spring arrived and the waterways became free of ice, the adult male otter disappeared downstream never to be heard from again. We don't know if he simply didn't like the area or he was on the move looking for females (the breeding season was on). In February, the female moved to the LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge near the Nebraska border, where she has remained. It was exciting to discover she gave birth to at least one pup. We all felt like proud parents!

"This was the first time in many years that I didn't leave the North American continent to explore new places. Instead, the majority of my time has been spent on the South Dakota project, with more road trips back and forth to Idaho than I care to remember. Of course, I did band ospreys in Idaho again this year in July, something I've done every year since 1972.

"I hope 2015 will be a wonderful year for you, with good health, happiness, and prosperity. Come visit and stay a spell, but check first to see if I'll be home. There's plenty of room for visitors! Peace & Love, Wayne"

* * * * *

I received another great letter from *Ted Packard*, detailing his background with IDFG. I am including it in its entirety because, as you will see, Ted was probably the youngest person to work for the department and the details of his journey are very interesting.

"Just a few words to tell you how much I have enjoyed reading about my old friends in the Department. I will always remember the good friends I had while working with them each time I read one of your letters and to see that one of my old friends has passed away. It's getting to the time that most of them are all gone. I see that I am not remembered much either, because I have been gone 29 years this year. I don't see my birthday in with the birthdays in the letter. I am not surprised as I have been gone too long. I turn 84 next month (*December ?*. *Ted, you are not forgotten and the only reason your birthday hasn't been included is because it wasn't on a list that was given to me by Ralph Pehrson's widow. I found the information in the box of papers that were given to me. But from now on, you will be on the list -- JJF*).

"I spent 28 years with the department and I grew up being raised by one of the first game wardens in the state. His name was T. A. Lehrbos (*Ted, not sure*

Cont. on Page 4, See Updates

Updates, Cont. From Page 3

of the spelling). I can remember him and his brother, Fred Lehrbos, as I had to help feed the ducks and geese by carrying a little gallon bucket in each hand and spreading the wheat and corn out for the birds in the bad winters in those days. Fred taught me to trap, hunt and fish at 8 years old; I was the youngest sportsman in the Rod and Gun Club. I will always remember "Dutch" as T. A. Lehrbos was known by. He helped me to get a job with the department when I was older. He and *Wendell Twit-chell*, who was also an old game warden in Pocatello, Idaho, helped me to get my papers in for the job. "I shall always remember some of my old friends like *John Smith, Bud Ainsworth, Walt Arms, Frank Gaver, Bud Batchelder* and many, many more. God Bless all of them! (*I also remember all of them, Ted. — JJF*)

"I had a lot of fun in my job raising and putting out fish in the streams, doing CO work when needed. I think the one thing I will always remember was being sent out with the first load of fish using oxygen. I lost a few of the first load I took out because the copper tubing broke coming from the oxygen tank and I had to unload immediately to save the fish. It was on the South Fork of the Boise River and I just made it to the river when I noticed my

oxygen gauge had fallen to zero. I had to get fish in the river at once, so I unloaded the whole load in the river. I made some of the CO's mad because they had to stay overnight and watch the fish. There were a lot of fishermen close by who swarmed in on the hole and began to catch too many fish. So, after a few more trips, they changed the copper tubing to flexible rubber tubing and we had no more trouble.

"Then we found out we had to put agitators on the top of the water to keep the oxygen stirred up in the water to prevent carbon monoxide in the water. Frank Gaver was the one who figured all of this out, but I believe I was the first to have fish with oxygen and to get rid of the old sprays we had to use with pumps on each side of the trucks which were always noisy and quitting on us.

"Well, Judy, thanks for all the hard work and I am sorry I cannot write good any more. (*Ted, you did a wonderful job and you really brought me up to date on the history of fish planting! — JJF*) I think since all my friends are gone, you better save your money sending me the news. I am very thankful to all of you, but I do not know anyone in the letters anymore. I am like old General McArthur used to say, 'Old Fish & Gamers don't die, they just fade away.' God Bless to all and thank you all again. Ted Packard" (*Hey,*

Ted, you are still on my list and please send me your December birth date and a "Very Happy, Happy Late Birthday from all of us!")

In Memoriam

**Delores "Lorrie"
Spiker Parrish
1933 - 2014**

Lorrie was born on August 24, 1933 in Boise to Kazimir and Victoria (Radosovich) Cernich, immigrants from Mrkopalj, Yugoslavia, who settled in Boise in 1928. She passed away on Monday, October 13, 2014 in Nampa.

Lorrie graduated from Boise High in 1951 and started working for the Idaho Health Dept. in 1953. She married Navy man Robert F. Spiker of Pocatello in 1953. Lorrie and Bob raised their three children to love the outdoors as much as they did spending time in the mountains near Boise and in the Sawtooths.

In 1963, Lorrie began a rewarding career helping to preserve the great Idaho way of life with the Idaho Department of Fish & Game, working in fisheries, enforcement and in the Director's Office. In 1991 Lorrie retired and later she married *Evan Parrish*, a long-time IDFG friend. They spent time traveling and taking photos of the outdoors.

**Cont. on Page 5,
See In Memoriam**

In Memoriam, Cont. From Page 4

Lorrie was always upbeat, mischievous and full of energy; she helped many others in their time of need, and deeply loved her family.

Lorrie was preceded in death by her parents, a brother Marko, a niece Christi Moore, and husbands Bob and Evan. She is survived by her sister Anne Ingram; nieces Vicki Thurber and Lynn Tyler; children Tonia Spiker Mitchell (A.J.), Michael Kazi (Becky), and Timothy Robert; grandchildren Megan Marie (Randy) Corn and Seth Robert Mitchell; and great-grandchildren Jayla, Gemma, and Maddex.

A memorial service was held at the MK Nature Center, November 8, 2014. Memorial contributions may be sent to: Harrison's Hope Foundation 3137 S. Meridian Rd, Suite 120, Meridian, ID 83642 or The MK Nature Center. Harrison's Hope helped Lorrie and her family with a peaceful and loving journey.

Barbara Irene Alverson 1937 - 2014

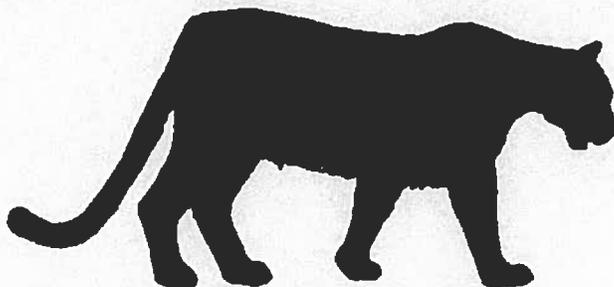
Barbara Irene Alverson, age 77, passed away at her home on November 6, 2014, from her 7-year battle with cancer. She will always be remembered for her love of life and her devotion to her children and grandchildren. Barb was born in Worcester, Massachusetts on February 13, 1937 to Leonard and Sophie Hardy and completed all of her education there. After high school, she joined the U.S. Army where she met the love of her life Raymond Alverson. She moved with her husband to Boise, Idaho where they remained for the rest of their lives.

Barb worked for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for many years and retired in 2001 to care for her husband who was battling cancer. Barb and Ray loved the the great outdoors and loved to go camping, hunting and fishing together and they in turn passed this love of life on to their seven children. Barb was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church for 58 years.

Barb is survived by her seven children: David (Connie), Mark (Lori), Jim (Debbie), John (Kim), Tim (Tammy), Peter (Prudence), and Cynthia. She is also survived by 19 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond H. Alverson; her parents and four brothers. Interment was at Dry Creek Cemetery. Memorials may be made in Barbara's name to any cancer organization of your choice.

Our deepest sympathies to the families. Lorrie and Barbara are both deeply missed.

I would also ask that you keep *Jackie Crist* in your thoughts and prayers. She has been in St. Alphonsus Hospital the past couple weeks after suffering a supposed insulin overdose. She is now in the rehab section of the hospital and seems to be doing better.



**2015 Birthdays & Anniversaries
of IDFG Retirees/Employees**

January Birthdays

Jack McNeel, January 4
Clay Cummins, January 6
Margaret Whipple, January 7
Jody Taylor, January 13
Grant Christensen, January 18
Tom Parker, January 21
Ray Lyon & Perry Johnson, January 28
Martin Luther, January 29

February Birthdays

Wes Cannon & Dave Ortmann, February 1
Greg Tourtote, February 4
Gerald Scholten, February 12
Tom Rogers, February 16
John Nagel, February 19
Chuck Jensen, February 20
Doyle Reynolds, February 25

March Birthdays

Terry Holubetz, March 3
Kate Bethke, March 3 (93 years)
Jerry Thiessen, March 6
Ken Norrie, March 9
George Stephens, March 19
Bill Hutchison, March 24
Cheryl Bridges, March 25
John Gahl & Cathy Kopke, March 28
Jack Fisher, March 30, 90 years

Anniversaries

Ruby & Tony Tolsma, March 7, 45 years
Al & Sue Van Vooren, March 14, 4 years
