

“Keeping in Touch”

Quarterly Newsletter by/for Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game
Retirees/Families & Interested Former Employees
October 2007, Vol. 3. No. 4

Dates to Remember:

Headquarters Wild Game Feed, December 14

Retiree Luncheons

Golden Corral on Emerald in Boise, 11:30 a.m.

2007: November 8

2008: January 10, March 13, May 8, July 10
September 11, November 13

Write or Send News Items to:

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E-Mail Problems

If you previously received the newsletter by e-mail and have received this one by U.S. mail, it is because your e-mail is being returned undeliverable. Since my e-mail provider just shut down the interplus site and put me on interplususa, I thought the problem might be my provider. However, they say your providers are shutting me out.

So, it would be appreciated if you would send me an e-mail at fisherjj@interplususa.net so that I can verify you are still receiving e-mail at your previous address. — *Judy Fisher*

Retiree Reunion Another Success!

Even though we had a slow start, we finally had enough of you sign up so we could have the reunion. There were 58 in attendance and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. Thanks to Ralph and Edie Pehrson, Jack Fisher, Joe Greenley, Tom and Connie Abel, Corinne Barlow, Jo Toomey, and Leanne Spencer (Ralph and Edie's daughter) for all their help in making this event so successful.

American Catering provided their usual delicious meal. And thanks to **Kent Ball and Gary Will** for their generous donations and to **Tom Abel** for his hard work in getting donations from local businesses we had another great silent auction and raffle. (As you know, this function keeps money in the bank account to fund the next reunion.)

We were sorry that **Margaret and Neil Whipple** couldn't make the reunion because of their grandson's marriage. Also, Neil was in the hospital from May 17 until July 5. He is doing fine now and "hopes nothing upsets the apple cart." Also, **Ardy and Gary Butterworth** were unable to attend because Gary was scheduled for gall bladder surgery then. As you may not know, Gary has been recovering from cancer and all signs say he is okay.

Again Thank You . . .

To **Jerry Neufeld** and **Mick Hoover** for your generous donations to keep this newsletter going. (*And Mick isn't even a retiree yet!*) It is truly appreciated folks!

IPEA Is Protecting Your PERSI

The Idaho Public Employees Association (IPEA) worked for your raises and your benefits while you were working. We are also here to help you in your retirement. A representative from IPEA attends every PERSI board meeting and offers testimony whenever needed to support your full COLAs. IPEA also watches all legislation pertaining to PERSI. We sound the alarm to our members when they need to contact their legislators.

We need your help. For \$4.25 per month you can become a member of IPEA and help support the IPEA effort. Your dues can be deducted from your PERSI check. Contact Dona Van Trease at 336-2841 or email: ipeassociation@qwest.net to ask for an application.

On the Recovery List

Okay, everyone, what's happening with all of you? We have heard rumors that you all are falling apart. On a more serious note, it has come to our attention that in the past three/four months several of you have been hospitalized, ill, etc.

First of all, an update on **Steve Pettit**. " I guess I should update all the retirees on my health status. As quite a lot of you may have heard, I suffered a 3rd degree (electrical) heart blockage in mid-July which caused my heart to stop four times during a 10-hour period. I was flown to Spokane and received a pacemaker. My recovery was immediate and considering the condition I'd been in, extraordinary. I was sent home the following day, and two weeks later, I started running again and have continued to improve to the point where I now enjoy the same level of physical ability and stamina that I had prior to being diagnosed with "sick sinus syndrome" two years ago. My wife, Diane says she needs a remote control to better control my new found vigor."

Leon Murphy has spent quite a bit of time in the hospital with a staph infection. He is now at home and doing much better.

The following people also have had or are having problems: **Osborne Casey** spent some time in the hospital, **Jim Keating** had a hip replacement, **Merry Dell Morris** tripped and fell, **Chuck Jensen** had some health issues which kept him away from the reunion, **Kent Ball** has been suffering with bad knees, **Jack Trueblood** is dealing with another ruptured disk in his back, **Gary Butterworth** (Ardy's husband) and **Neil Whipple** (Margaret's husband) as previously reported.

We ask that you please keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

Also, for those of you who do not receive e-mail, we have word that Tracey Trent, the Chief of Natural Resource Policy Bureau, will be retiring in late spring of 2008. Tracey has been battling brain cancer and will need extended chemo treatments in the coming months. Also, take note of the following:

"Beginning in October, we will be assembling a special scrapbook for Tracey. To answer the oft-asked question, "is Tracey retiring?," he surely will at some point, quite probably before most of us, but he has not yet submitted a date to my knowledge.

“Tracey and Deb (his wife) prefer a retirement picnic in the spring. Since that seems like a ways off yet, we thought it would add some warmth to his fall and winter days to present him with a scrapbook to commemorate his long and interesting history with IDFG — something to prompt a well-earned smile.

“If you have any last minute submissions, thoughts, or kind-spirited pranks you would like to include in this tribute, send them over! There is also still time if you would like to help out on the scrapbook committee. We will organize next week. Thanks, folks!” – *Cynthia L. Coulter, Administrative Specialist for Activities and Projects, Natural Resources Policy Bureau, Idaho Conservation Data Center*

New Retirees

Before we get into the news, let's welcome **Karen Huber**, Administrative Assistant 1 (Panhandle Region) and **Paul Sommerfeld**, RCO (Salmon Region) to the land of the Retirees! Karen retired August 31 after 18 years and Paul retired September 21 after 26 years of service.

Happy Birthday to . . .

Jo Toomey who celebrated her 75th birthday on July 27. Jo's family had a surprise birthday party and dinner at the Cancun Mexican Restaurant for Jo and a good time was had by all.

And coming up, **Frank NeSmith** will be celebrating his 65th birthday on October 24 and **Ralph Pehrson** his 77th birthday on October 27.

Just couldn't pass up the opportunity to congratulate you people!!!

Now for Updates . . .

Jack and Karen Fisher just returned from a two week vacation in England. Jack writes: “ We visited old friends in Cornwall and East Sussex counties. Karen spent most of her time shopping, seeing old churches, old castles and other old buildings. Our B&B was 500 years old and remodeled 300 years ago and they consider that new!! Jack spent most of his time visiting two RAF museums, old tin mines and old military heritage areas. Both of us checked out a number of pubs and their food and drink. English pubs are not as fun as the ones in Ireland, but are still a fun place to spend the evenings. Air travel within England is great when compared to air travel in the U.S. Airlines in the U.S. are getting worse by the day. Each time we travel, there more delays, more canceled flights and rescheduling and a lot more confusion and lost baggage. Going into an air terminal now reminds me of the opening day of pheasant season 50 years ago in Idaho.”

Osborne and Jean Casey are back in their Meridian home having recently returned from their summer place in Montana.

Rod and LaNore Parker “visited the East Coast in June, taking in Jamestown, Yorktown, Washington, DC, the Vietnam Wall, Arlington Cemetery, etc. It was hot and humid and terrible traffic, but a person should see those sites to understand the foundations of our country and the sacrifices made for our freedoms.”

As you know, the past fire season wreaked havoc all over Idaho. Here is a report from *Steve Pettit* which was forwarded by **Kent Ball**. “Hot and smoky here, too! In fact, we know two families that have lost their homes in the last week. Si Whitman (Nez Perce Fisheries dude) had his house ‘vaporized’ a week ago, just down the river from us across from Spalding Park! . . . Tim Craig's huge resort (hunting outfitter and buddy of *Jerry Thiessen*) burned to the ground. Two of our close friends had to be forced off their property . . . and they were sure they'd both lost their places! But they went up on 4-wheelers and the fires jumped over their homes! . . . **Tim and Amy Cochnauer** had to evacuate their place up on Redbird Road on Craig Mt. . . . That fire, has burned from Captain John Creek at Buffalo Eddy all the way to the mouth of the Salmon!” (*We hope everyone's homes were saved and we*

would appreciate it if someone would let us know how everyone came out – were your homes saved?)

Well, **Steve “Black Bart” Barton** just couldn’t stay retired! Received the following e-mail: “Well, it will be awhile before I can join the gang at the retiree luncheons. As you can see from the address below I now reside in Virginia. My official retirement lasted 32 days. Some would say I have gone to the dark side of Federal employment. I am now the Chief, Administration and Information Management, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs, US Fish and Wildlife Service. USFWS is making a real effort to keep the State perspective in the forefront of their actions in this program. I hope I can help keep it that way.

“Sandra and I plan on keeping our place in Boise. One, we will be back, and two, we need a base to visit the grandkids.” (*We’ll keep you on the mailing list, Steve.*)

Tom Welsh reports “I have just been retained to work on a habitat improvement project on lower Silver Creek and am looking forward to working with some Fish and Game people I have known as well as some who came to work after my resignation.”

Well, **Tom and Connie Abel** will be moving from the Boise area in a few months. They are building a new home on their 10 acres in Rathdrum. Tom lived their 17 years ago. *Sounds like fun, huh!*

The latest from **Dick Orcutt**: “Since the last newsletter, Peg and I fished at Riggins for Salmon. We had an amazing season, even though the prediction was “poor.” As usual, Peg came away with top honors – 17 pound keeper. (*Atta girl, Peg!*) After salmon fishing, we fished for kokanee at Anderson Ranch and Lucky Peak reservoirs. I had the privilege of taking Ralph Pehrson and Bill Platts on many trips. Both topped records with 19-inch kokanee from Lucky Peak. (**Note to Jack Fisher and Monte Richards**: if you fish for little fish, you catch little fish).

“Peg and I then moved on to more salmon fishing on the Washington Coast. We are back now and preparing for our hunting seasons with two deer tags, two elk tags and four turkey tags. Idaho is such a great state in which to live.”

And, it’s always a pleasure to receive **Frank NeSmith’s** correspondence and columns. Here are some excerpts from Frank’s last letter (*the ones we dare print, ha! ha!*): “I just got back from a trip to North Georgia where I had a very enjoyable reunion with some of the buddies I was overseas with 46 long years ago in a previous life.

“We were touring the Smoky Mountains when the one from Montana said, ‘These here ain’t mountains, come out west and we’ll show you some mountains!’ It’s true that the Appalachians aren’t as high, steep, or rocky as your mountains, but they make up for it in gentleness, hardwoods, and grand vistas as far as I’m concerned. Their streams are also full of wild brook trout and no one is threatening to poison them out and stock bull trout which no one ever liked to start with. Now, if they will only stock a few Bigfoots up there to give people something to talk about besides gas prices.

“I’m into my tenth year of retirement already. I can scarcely believe it. At times I still miss the freedom of being a field game warden up in Atchison, Kansas but that’s all I miss about my work life. In fact, most times, my past lives now seem like only dreams to me. When one of my Air Force buddies was quizzing me about all I had done since we had last seen each other, and I gave him kind of a detailed verbal resume, he seems visibly impressed. It finally dawned on my just how much I must have experienced.

“My family and I finally sold the rest of the family farm. My brother will turn 80 this year and I’m the youngest at 65 (will be on Oct. 24) so we decided it was time. We hit the market just right, got a hold of the right sucker, and got a premium for it. I was still a little sad to see it go even if I didn’t see it that often. It was sometimes fun to just go over and walk around on it and remember about things so long ago.

“Well, this is about all for this time around. After I get back from New Zealand next year maybe I’ll have more things to write about. It looks like the new retiree list is growing all the time. The only problem is that others keep heading for the Pearly Gates at the same time.

“Tell everyone who remembers me . . . that I’m doing as fine as I can.” *(Frank, since I’m not allowed to include anything “politically incorrect,” I had to cut your great letter a little short. However, I will keep passing your correspondence around for everyone to read. Keep ‘em coming! – Judy)*

In Memory of



Arthur Michael Hoffman – Funeral services for Art Hoffman were held July 11, 2007 at the Duncan Lane LDS chapel at 7200 Duncan Lane, Boise. Interment was at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery on Old Highway 55.

Arthur Michael Hoffman passed away on July 6, 2007 in McCall, Idaho surrounded by family members. He was born in Creighton, Nebraska on February 23, 1928 to Eva and Michael Hoffman. After his birth, the family moved to Idaho. He attended school in Emmett and joined the army at the age of 16 where he completed his education and received higher education in engineering. He also served with the Tenth Special Forces.

Art married his high school sweetheart, Jeanette Hazel Casper on June 1, 1958. They were later sealed in the Idaho Falls Temple on April 11, 1975 for time and all eternity. He was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and served in many

different callings throughout his life. Art’s passions in life were first and foremost his family, cars and the outdoors. He was ranked as one of the top log cutters for Brown Tie and Lumber Company, McCall, Idaho.

Art retired in 2002 from the State of Idaho Department of Fish and Game after 15 years of loyal service. He is survived by his wife, Jeanette of 50 years; five children, Mike (Joanne), Brenda (Eric), Pamela (Byron), Wesley (Jennifer), Becky (Erik); 14 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Ruth G. Huard – Memorial services were held August 27 for Ruth G. Huard, 73, of Boise who passed away Aug. 21, 2007 at a local hospital. Ruth was born on Jan. 10, 1934 in San Dimas, Calif. the youngest of nine children born to Holland and Phoebe (Gibbs) Gary. Ruth worked as an accountant for Idaho Fish and Game for 17 years until she retired. Ruth is survived by her children, Rebecca Hogan, Mike Paxton, and Susie (Alan) Doney; one sister, Alice Breeden, a brother, Owen (Jeanne) Gary; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Mart Morache Loves Motorcycles, Tennis, and Birds

By Jack McNeel (Reprinted from the Idaho Senior Independent Newspaper)

Motorcycling the Americas, playing “hard-nosed” tennis several times a week, hunting blue grouse and chukars through the fall – retirement has not meant slowing down for Martel Morache.

Motorcycling began in the mid-1960s for Mart, some ten years after he started working for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. He saw their application for wildlife work and used trail cycles to learn Idaho’s backcountry until his retirement in 1985. During those years he probably became the state’s most knowledgeable person about the backcountry, not only via cycles but also by floating, boating, hiking and flying the entire state.

This led to his representing the Department in wilderness discussions when Idaho was perhaps the only state wildlife department advocating for the preservation of wilderness. He continued in that role during the terms of Governors Andrus and Evans, conferring with them and even representing the Governor during the dedication of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

“I wanted to retire when I still had some physical ability to continue the lifestyle I had evolved over a period of years,” Mart relates. “To do that, I had to stay in decent physical shape during the off season,” meaning the months when bird hunting is closed.

“At the age of fifty, I picked up tennis. Between working the dogs during the off season and playing tennis three times a week, I’ve basically held my weight down to what it was when I was a high school senior. By the time bird season is over in the fall I’m about as lean as a race horse.”

“I think remaining physically active has kept me viable, healthy and in good control of my faculties. I walk and play hard-nosed tennis. I’ve ridden motorcycles for forty years and played tennis for thirty years.”

Since his retirement, Mart admits to some reduction in reaction time, but still carries on those same activities at 83.

“One reason I transitioned from trail bike riding to dual sport riding is that I wanted to continue to ride even though my reaction time had slowed down. You can’t do things with the same level of vigor and casualness that you did as a younger person. It becomes really dramatic on a motorcycle. I could no longer do the trails because sometimes you have to be able to challenge trails.”

Dual sport bikes are capable of running at highway speeds, but also have the gearing and flexibility to run on old two-track roads often built for early mining or domestic livestock operations or forest service made. It has been ideal for Mart and with it he has continued to travel Idaho’s backcountry roads as well as portions of South and Central American and Mexico.

He rides with a group. “Most people that are attracted to it do it for many reasons,” he explains.

At the head would be the scenic values and the camaraderie of the people you ride with. It’s a loose assembly of people who enjoy the cycles because of the grace with which you can cover country. We’ll be laying out a ride this year that goes around the central Idaho wilderness system – about 850 to 900 miles – and we’ll average about 200 miles a day – after that the fatigue factor sets in. If you’re riding toward the end of the day up in deer country, it’s kind of like poking sticks at lions, you can get yourself hurt real easy by deer coming from the side of the road that you can’t anticipate.”

“I enjoy the camaraderie. It’s not a Chinese fire drill. You’re in a group and spaced out so if it’s dusty you aren’t riding in a dust pocket. Usually there is a communication net with 2-way radios. We’ve made a number of trips into Mexico and you have to be almost constantly on red alert because you

never know when you're going to run into free roaming goats, sheep or burrows, plus the public driving in Mexico is a little casual. The lead bike should have good communication with those behind. I remember coming around one corner and here's a herder trying to take a Brahma bull across the road. He's out in the middle with a palm frond trying to herd that bull across and we're bearing down on him with motorcycles!"

"The most dangerous was in Peru. They raise a lot of hogs in Peru! When you have a sow on one side and piglets about the size of footballs in the grass on the other side and they hear the cycles coming, it's like trying to dodge a football. Trying to shut down a motorcycle when you're going 50 or 60 miles an hour is not an easy task."

Mart talked of some particularly interesting trips. Traveling into Copper Canyon in Mexico ranks high. "I can never forget the first ride when we came up on the edge of the canyon and stopped to look down. We heard these native drums. Tarahumara Indians. They were communicating with each other. That was impressive. We saw some of the Tarahumara as we went down into the canyon. It was like you were jumping back in time!"

He's traveled from San Diego down the Baja Peninsula to Cabo San Lucas, about a thousand miles each way. Another Mexican trip took them from Cancun across Belize into Guatemala and up the west coast to the U.S. border at Nogales, a trip of 4,000 miles where he saw howler monkeys, heard their guttural roars, and saw ocellated turkeys that look "like a poor man's peacock."

Mart has ridden the backcountry in Colorado, Glacier National Park, southern Nevada, and the John Day country in Oregon. "In terms of visual impact I would have to rank Idaho right on top of the list. The circle ride around the Frank Church wilderness is an absolutely marvelous run. Elevations range from 2,600 feet to peaks over 10,000 feet. You cross at least twenty mountain passes on this ride."

He has ridden from Boise to the Canadian border on a route that probably contains no more than fifty miles of blacktop.

Mart lives with his wife Alice, and in addition to tennis and motorcycles, he still does a considerable amount of whitewater rafting. "I have a drift boat, canoe, inflatable kayak, and self-bailing raft. I can pretty well cover the waterfront," he laughs. During his remarkable life, he has probably run every river in the state from the Priest and Moyie Rivers in the north to the Bruneau River in the south, "probably the most challenging body of water I've ridden."

Fall months are devoted to hunting. "I'm on my tenth Brittany spaniel in fifty years of bird hunting. I hunted chukars in the days when it wasn't unusual to see 500-800 birds in one hunt. I've matriculated to blue grouse hunting which is my first love because I can see lots of different country and lots of different wildlife. They're usually found at 7-8,000 feet."

For Martel Morache retirement hasn't been a time of slowing down, but a time of continuing the activities that have shaped his world for many years.

(For those of you who may be interested in the Idaho Senior Independent Newspaper, it is published six times a year and is free of charge at designated outlets – mostly senior centers and retirement homes. However, if you wish to subscribe, it is just \$10 per year. Contact: A Barrett-Whitman Publications, P.O. Box 3341, Great Falls, MT 59403-3341; or call Toll Free 1-866-360-5683 or e-mail Jack McNeel is one of the regular contributing writers.)

Since this is the last newsletter of the year, we want to wish everyone Happy Holidays! Hope you have a great Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Judy J. Fisher
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