

# *“Keeping in Touch”*

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

October-December, 2015, Vol. 11, No. 4

## 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  
November 12**

**2016  
January 14  
March 10  
May 12  
July 14  
September 8  
November 10**

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**50<sup>th</sup> Wild Game Feed  
Friday, Dec. 11  
HDQ Boise**

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**Mark Your Calendars**

## ***Wanted and Needed: At Least 50 IDFG Retirees and/or Former Employees (but the more the better!)***

A simple comment turned into a challenge last year when Director Moore asked me: “So, do you think you can get at least 50 retirees/former employees to next year’s 50<sup>th</sup> Wild Game Feed?” If you know me you know I said “Yes” but soon found myself wondering if I could pull it off. We average about 35 retirees/former employees/former Commissioners each year. How could I get at least 15 more to attend? The wheels started turning. Did I need an incentive for folks to come? I could do a raffle; door prizes; how about blackmail (I have heard some pretty good stories of years past – probably embellished somewhat but nevertheless fun to repeat!). No, there had to be a better way. Then, it came to me. I would do what others might do if they were in my shoes; I would beg. So here is me begging!!

It doesn’t matter if you worked at Headquarters or in a region, if you are a retiree or a former employee or a former Commissioner. Just like every year, you are ALL invited to this year’s 50<sup>th</sup> Wild Game Feed! Last year 34 retirees/former employees/former Commissioners came whose years of service to IDFG totaled almost 800 years!

So, please (remember I am begging!!) mark your calendar and plan to be at Headquarters on **Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015**. If you have never been, it is a lot of fun. If you haven’t been for a year or two or many, we miss you. If you made it last year, I loved seeing you here and hope you come back this year.

Formal invitations will go out in November and if you have questions please get in touch with me anytime. My direct office number is: **208-287-2784** and my email is: **Sharon.clark@idfg.idaho.gov**. See you in December!! (This is me being the optimist that I am!!) ~ Sharon

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***"Keeping in Touch,"***  
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and  
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quarterly by the  
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### **Pardon Me Please!!!!**

I especially wish to apologize to **Wanda Hays** for the big snafu I made in the last issue of the newsletter. I said she was the widow of "Walt" instead of the wonderful "Fenton" Hays. The only explanation I have, Wanda, is that a friend of mine's husband had just passed away the day before and his name was Walt Hays. Must have had that on my mind. Again, Wanda, please forgive me?

Also, I mentioned that **Kent Ball** had returned home after being in a rehab facility in Nampa. However, he had only been moved to another advanced care facility in Boise and is now back at Kindred Rehabilitation Center in Nampa. (More info later in the newsletter.)

### **Tony Latham's New Book**

Tony's fourth book, "Seven Dead Fish," is out and available on Amazon. It's a fiction novel and picks up where "Five Fingers" left off. I strongly suggest that you read "Five Fingers" before you start "Seven Dead Fish" because you then will know the background of the main character, Charlie Cove.

Here is a teaser from the book: "Idaho game warden, Charlie Cove, is back. He's strapped with post-traumatic stress from events chronicled in the debut novel, "Five Fingers." Cove is called to an accident scene by a

small town sheriff to help investigate a morbid discovery. In the meantime, Charlie is perplexed by a different problem — dead fish. The sheriff keeps trying to drag him into what he has assumed is a homicide, while Cove struggles to solve his own mystery. And all the while, a demoniacal antagonist dances in the shadows. The riveting tale of "Seven Dead Fish," as seen through Cove's Native American eyes, leaves you walking a tight-rope between innocence of nature and the evil of humanity." (Tony, I hope you keep writing — I enjoyed both of these books even though I had to reread the first one because I forgot the story! — JJJ}

### **Welcome New Retirees**

**\*\*Andy Ogden,** Southwest Regional Wildlife Biologist, retired July 31 after 42 years of service.

**\*\*Don Sturtevant,** Southwest Regional Wildlife Educator, retired July 31 also after 12 year of service.

**\*\*Clair Kofoed,** Southwest Regional Wildlife Biologist, retired August 17 after 32 years of service.

Welcome to the "Pack" guys!

Also, I would like to welcome **Richard "Dick" Nourse,** a former employee who worked selling licenses at the department's old location, 518 Front

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New Retirees

## New Retirees, Cont. from Page 2

Street. He was also the person who distributed the mail at headquarters. He worked at the 600 Walnut Street office for awhile before taking a leave of absence to care for his mother. (*I met Dick at Anne Epeldi's funeral services and it was like old times. — JJF*) We are happy to be connected with him again and hope he will make some of our functions.

### Thank You, Thank You!!!

A huge thank you to **Richard "Dick" Hansen** and **Joan and Jack Trueblood** for your most generous donations. And to **Jim and Vickie Keating** for their donation of two boxes of business envelopes that will probably last for 8-10 issues of the newsletter. And I won't have to use your money donations to buy envelopes for a long, long time. Thank you so very much!!

### Boise Senior Athlete Breaks Two USA Track & Field Records

*Courtesy of the Idaho Statesman*  
We always like to keep up with senior athlete **William "Bill" Platts**, 87, who never ceases to inspire with his accomplishments. Platts recently won the gold medal and broke an American record at the USA Masters National Track and Field Championship Throws Pentathlon in

Seattle. The Throws Pentathlon includes the hammer, javelin, shotput, discus and heavy weight. Platts also competed in the Idaho Senior Games in August winning six gold medals and beating his previous record in the long jump by 6 inches.

With the summer track season over, Platts said he'll be turning his attention to chasing chukars and blue grouse. (*Bill, I am truly impressed! — JJF*)

### Retiree Updates

Well, it has been an interesting few weeks. A few of us, local retirees, had the honor of having lunch with Bob Salter's former secretary, **Gloria Elliott**, a couple of weeks ago. She was in town from Queen Creek, Arizona to visit her daughters. So, **Ruby (Rose) Tolsma** thought it was a good idea to have a luncheon for her. **Martel Morache, Irene Powell, Richard "Dick" Nourse, Ruby and Tony Tolsma and I** had a great time visiting. We were sorry to hear that Gloria's husband, John, passed away earlier in the year. He had served 37 years in the National Guard.

Received an e-mail from **Joe Blackburn** requesting me to send out a notice that the company he works for part time, Q.S.I (Quality Service Inc.) needed a patrolman to work in McCall. Joe works for a local security company and his job is to patrol for a private timber

company (Potlatch). "This is only one day a week but the really good part is that I cover my old F&G area!! Mostly checking camping permits, gate closures, firewood thefts, etc." (*Sounds as if you are keeping busy, Joe! — JJF*)

**John Scott and his wife Marie** are really enjoying their retirement. Marie finally retired from the Bonner County Clerk position and since then they have been traveling coast to coast in their RV. "We leave in September or October and return home to Clark Fork in May. In between, we will put on about 12,000 miles a year and have lots of fun. We are gone long enough that our grandkids think our home is our summer cabin! I do not wish to discourage that notion so we are planning our next sojourn." (*As I always say, retire as soon as possible and enjoy it while you can. You never know what the future has in store for you! — JJF*)

Another person who keeps busier than while they were working is **Pam Sommer**. "I love being retired! I have been volunteering with Idaho Special Olympics for the last 8 years. A little over 4 years ago I took over an entire team called Ghostbusters. We have over 300 athletes which makes us the largest in the state. We are our own business within Special Olympics, where we have

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Updates

## Updates, Cont. from Page 3

to earn all our own money for training, equipment, uniforms and travel. It's a 40-hour week volunteer job. We just finished our Summer state games in Moscow, Idaho (in June). We have a month break and will start our fall games the end of July. "I also work at H&R Block during tax season — it keeps me busy for a few months. I'm just now getting ready to head to California for two months. My husband is working currently in Napa Valley doing some restoration on some salt ponds so I thought I'd go hang there for awhile."

Now, to correct one of my biggest mistakes, **Kent Ball** did not lose his leg but just the foot (which is bad enough!). And he has not gone home yet. He has been in recovery for over 5 months now and hopes to get out and home sometime soon. When I called his rehab place, they told me he was no longer there.

What had happened is they transferred him to Southwestern Advanced Care in Boise until he had recovered from his infection and then he was sent back to Kindred Rehab Center in Nampa. Lots of folks from across the U.S. have been visiting Kent (including me) and he was doing much, much better; however, he will not get a prothesis because he is unable to meet specifications.

Kent said his son, Travis, is going to pick him up on Oct. 22 to take him back to Salmon.

Hang in there, Kent! *(And thank you so much for all the CDs and the jewelry you made for me — classic country music is my favorite, as you know -- JJJ)*

For those of you who have inquired about them, **Jerry and Charlotte Mallet** are doing well. He said: "I walk Charlotte about 300 yards each day. She has progressed to a regular cane. Once her balance significantly improves, she will walk without a cane. That should happen early this winter. She is getting movement from her arm but I would think that her arm is about 6 months behind her leg regarding her recovery. She has a vocabulary of quite a few words but cannot yet put them into sentences. I am now doing most of her therapy and am encouraged by the progress that I am seeing." *(Thank you, Jerry, for the update. You folks will always be in our thoughts and prayers!)*

Not many of you know it, but **Bill Horton** has been struggling with cancer. He has had several treatments and is doing much better. He even took a 7-day float trip on the Selway River in July. He says he is feeling good, has a good attitude, and is doing mop up on the cancer. *(You know, Bill, I wouldn't even have known you were going through this if Kent Ball hadn't told me. So, we really care about all you people out there. And you keep*

*doing what the doctors and Rhonda tell you to do, okay?!@! — JJJ)*

More bad news! My dear friend, **Corinne Barlow**, is battling lung cancer now. She is undergoing radiation and chemo and is holding up the best she can. The good news is that the cancer hasn't spread to other parts of her body. *(As you know, Corinne, you have us behind you and who else would pray for you while playing a slot machine in Jackpot?!@. Love you! JJJ)*

### In Memoriam

**Anne Mastro Epeldi**  
1920-2015

**Anne Mastro Epeldi** passed away September 13 with family by her side. Rosary and services were held September 18 at Alden-Waggoner Funeral Chapel with burial at Morris Hill Cemetery.

Anne was born on Ellis Island, New York on April 23, 1920. She attended Central Grade School and graduated from Boise High School in 1938. She worked at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game from 1942 until 1980 when she retired.

She was married to Joseph F. Epeldi in 1959. Joe passed away May 1986. She and Joe traveled to Hawaii, Spain and toured the Eastern, Southern and Western United States. She traveled to

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In Memoriam

## In Memoriam, Cont. from Page 4

Italy in 1976 with her 90-year-old mother and her sister, Nancy, where they visited family. Anne was a member of the Italian-American Club, the Catholic Women's League and Euzkaldunak.

Anne is survived by 7 nieces and nephews, 17 great nieces and nephews, and 11 great-great nieces and nephews, and cousins Philip and Grank Sciara and Josephine Franzia. *(Before Anne's passing, there was a full-page article in the Idaho Statesman, July 19 issue, about her and her special family.)*

### Neil Simpson 1941-2015

*Neil James Simpson* of Cascade, Idaho passed away July 6 at the age of 73 after a valiant battle with cancer. Neil was the son of the former Chief of Fisheries James C. Simpson. He had three younger brothers, Norm, Gil and Gordon. He served in the Idaho Air National Guard where he was introduced to what became his lifelong hobby of photography.

Neil is survived by his 10 children, 3 brothers and 23 grand-children. He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Thelma Simpson, two grand-children and his ex-wife. Services were held on July 11 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Cascade.

### Jessie Mae Burney Rose 1922-2015

Services for *Jessie Mae Burney Rose*, 92, were held at Alden-Waggoner Funeral Chapel on August 31. She passed peacefully August 26 at her home in Boise. Jessie was the mother of former IDFG employee *Ruby (Rose) Tolsma*. Ruby worked in Fisheries, Administration and Information & Education.

*Marilyn Salter*, 90, passed away in June. She was Bob Salter's ex-wife. There was no obituary or information of where she was living or if there were any services.

Our thoughts and prayers are always with the surviving families and friends.

## Belated Birthdays

Brad Christensen, July 24, 80 years

Wanda Hays, August 1

Monte Richards, August 1 (Not August 2)

Pam Sommer, September 18

## Belated Anniversaries

Pam & Rod Sommer, May 19

Brad & Julie Christensen, May 23, 60 years

## Happy Birthdays!

### October Birthdays

Bill Horton, October 1  
Bud Ainsworth, October 2  
Mark Armbruster, October 6  
Bill Davidson, October 6  
Ted Meske, October 6  
Chris Ewing Craig, October 7  
Bob Royce, October 7  
Brent Ritchie, October 8  
Pat Cudmore, October 8  
Darlene "Skip" Howard, October 8 (82 years)  
Lynda Beach, October 15  
Gary Phillips, October 20  
Gerald Mowery, October 22  
Kent Ball, October 22  
Frank NeSmith, October 24  
Lynn Merrill, October 24  
Joe Curry, October 27  
Al Nicholson, October 28

### November Birthdays

Dale Baird, November 2  
Bill Snow, November 2  
Ardella Reinke, November 4  
Gary Gadwa, November 7  
Dick Scully, November 11  
Dave Neider, November 12  
Sharon Wavra, November 14  
Les Trout, 91 years, November 18  
Fred Partridge, November 21  
Jerry Neufeld, November 22  
Don Carr, November 24  
Mike Schlegel, November 25  
Ned Horner, November 25  
Gary Loveland, November 26

### December Birthdays

Donna Dillon, December 1  
Tom Levendofske, December 2  
Mel Hughes, December 4  
Ardith Butterworth, December 7  
Judy J. Fisher, December 9, 77 years  
Joe Greenley, December 13, 93 years  
John Heimer, December 14  
Rod Parker, December 16  
Virgil Moore,\* December 18  
Don Anderson, December 21  
Anna Marie Halpern, December 23  
Ed "Bud" Stackler, December 27  
Bill Gorgen, December 28  
Martel Morache, December 28, 88 years  
Ted Packard, 85 years (Not sure of date)

### Anniversaries

Jackie & Charles Crist, October 10  
(61 years)  
Tom & Carolyn Leege, Oct. 17  
(51 years)  
Gary & Laurie Gadwa, November 22  
(46 years)

*Congratulations to All!*

***Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year to You All!***