

THE FISHIN' MISSION JOURNAL.

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*** Western Edition ***

May 5, 1995

The problem with fly fishin' ascetics is that they eschew the three B's of real fishermen: boats, bait, and beer.

-Mark Adams

HOLY SHIT.....IT'S MAY!!

That could only mean one thing!! The 22nd Annual Fishin' Mission Extravaganza is right around the corner!! Yes, it's true - BEGINNING ON FRIDAY JUNE 2ND AND CONCLUDING ON SUNDAY JUNE 11TH IN BRIDGEPORT AND TWIN LAKES - THE SINGLE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT ON THE CONTINENT WILL AGAIN CHALLENGE THE BEST THAT AMERICA HAS TO OFFER - YOUSE GUYS !! More on that later in the newsletter, but for now, let's digress....

THE 21ST ANNUAL - DAMN WERE WE GOOD!!

As some of you may recall, the weather on the 20th was rather UGLY! We had wind and snow for the first three days, which MAY have had a small influence on attendance for the 21st - at least for those wimps out there that have never really made a MAN'S commitment to the mission! For those of you in the "girly man" category, and you know who you are - in this case...BIG MISTAKE! The weather on the 21st was the best on record! In searching the archives (safely stored in a cardboard box with the Penthouse magazines) the Commish was not able to find another Mission where the weather was PERFECT the entire week! It was almost boring...80 degrees, no wind, blue skies - every day!

The 21st was attended by 34 of youse guys, down from 38 on the 20th when the snow chased alot of folks out! The "core group" was there, and everyone who pussied out - lost out! We saw some new faces - Pat Speers came up with Marko - who made the trip without Bonfire and Jason. Butch Smith came up with Red, Wild Bill, and Polacki. Omar brought his nephew, Bryan Berry. Robbin Lucky Schrader, back for the first time since the 11th which was before he could drive - had some great tugs. Rarely does a first time attendee earn a nickname - but Jim Chunks Aviles made the trip with Country and Fast Eddy - who both blamed the other so The Chauffeur drove him home! Do hope to see him back again though - to have something to talk about at the card game! Obvious by their absence - Sperm, Bucket, Pukie, Cartier, and Woody; who are usually there - and Boone, Moondoggie, CarmBoy, Deits, Roots, and Speed Limit who are only a picture in the scrapbook of the past!

- turn the page for more about last year..

We tried out fishing towels as the logo item for the 21st, and as usual, the Commish ordered too many (70) and had to beg guys to buy them, except for Lewd who bought six (you still owe the Commish \$24)! We actually sold out!

In addition to the great weather, great attendance, and great towels, the fishin' was OUTSTANDING! Best I can figure, FIVE 'bows, all over five pounds, are with the taxidermist now - getting ready for a final pose on the wall! Records indicate there were TEN taken over four pounds - so alot a youse guys got into the action! More about the derby later, including a controversy which DNA samples couldn't solve!

There was an interesting trend which was developing - so pay attention. For years we have reported on the ability to drop a trailer back on 44D. and on the 21st four numbnuts actually did it! Riverview locations abound, and I suspect some other folks may try it this year. Some even tried cookin' in camp again - and would you believe NIGHT GOLF?

So once again, the Fishin' Mission was a success! Time away from the trappings of drudgery and the realities of your puny little insignificant piss-ant life! Time to reflect upon the unravelling universe. Time to ponder whether the cosmos is really younger than the stars it contains. Time to consider the Great Attractor as the huge clump of galaxies it is. Time to consider nanoscience, as you gaze through your scanning probe microscope, stepping into the next frontier of miniaturization. Time to contemplate whether neutrino's are really the smallest particle of matter - or whether WIMPs and MACHOs are actually the real food of the black holes. Yikes...I digress!

THE DERBY - ANOTHER BATTLE ROYALE!!

Well, now that you heard the fishing was outstanding, let me tell a little diddy for those who were not there. Grab a kleenex you weenies, cuz this tale will make you cry! On Friday, June 3rd, Smilin' Jim drops in with a 3lb 11oz 'bow as a teaser. Jim's little tinkler (now he has a match set) was no threat! In many years past, this 'bow would have held up fine.... but not this year!

On Saturday June 4th, it really started to heat up! Sparky brings in the first of what would be a "hat trick" of big boys for him - a 4 lb 2 oz 'bow to set the stage. Lucky followed suit ('bow) with a 5 pounder of his own. OD wakes up from a nap on the rocks, and muscles in a 5 lb 6 oz 'bow for the best of the day - but would it hold?

The action on Sunday the 5th continues, and in some ways gets even hotter! Tambo manages to boat a 4 lb 14 oz 'bow without a net! John Six Pack Mac McCadden, who is on the boat with Tambo and not in the money pool, lands an "alleged" 5 lb 13 oz 'bow.

I say alleged because neither Six Pack Mac or his 'bow were available for comment at the official conclusion of the Derby on Monday at 12:00 Noon. The Commish made a ruling on the spot, and declared OD the Derby Winner!! The controversy surrounding this decision was minimal - the Commish has even received a nice letter from Six Pack regarding this matter - No Problem! There are now official rules as outlined later on in this newsletter, but let's not detract from OD's moment in the sun!

- more on the Derby to follow...

This was a tough Derby and we have to congratulate OD for pickin' up the victory. God knows he's done more to support Mono County than the rest of us combined....what with washin' all those police cars and all!!

In addition to the \$155.00 in cash, which was quickly turned into scoops for his amigo's over at the Sportsmen, OD won some other nice prizes:

LaCrosse Neoprene Waders from Kens Sporting Goods - Thanks to Rick Rockel!

Shimano TX1000 Spinning Reel from Rhino's - Thanks to Jim Reid!

We appreciate the support of the local community!

MORE FISHIN' - MISSION STILL IN FULL SWING!!

Although some folks have to leave on Monday, because they are convinced something else is more important, some of us stay on to enjoy. You really need to grab your steelies and stay longer! As my dear friend Joe Jackson says, "You can't get what you want, until you know what you want!"

For those who stayed, the fishin' was still good, in both action and size!! Later on Monday afternoon Sparky completed his hat trick with a 5 lb 4 oz'er and a towering 7 lb 'er! The Mayor also got into the action with a 5 lb 6 oz'er. The Professor got into the action too, but that's another story (and you can read about it below). Then on Tuesday Oregonism picked up a 6 lb 11 oz'er. The records get a little fuzy regarding the rest of the week....mighta been that Schnapps!!! Speakin' of Schnapps, you may want a tug or two before you read this next little diddy!

THE PROFESSOR AND THE POLECAT

Let me first say this is a true story, just like everything else we print in this Journal. There are witnesses, but very much like an alien abduction, your first inclination will be to call BULLSHIT on this!!

Okay, so the Professor, the Mayor, Walkbucks, Sparky, and Oregonism (Here For The Beer is taking a nap) go out on the bank of the reservoir for some beer, sun, and fishin' (in that order). As we drift into stories of old and start telling lies about the women in our past, Professor - standing about ten feet from his pole which is propped up on a stick, gets a hit on his line thats drags his pole down and out, into and under the water!! Now you first have to wonder whether he knows about setting his drag (not to be confused with dressin' in drag - which he does quite often) but you have to visualize him running after his pole, trying to step on it as it quickly disappears from sight! We're all laughing and he's whining - that was a brand new rig, I should have been tending my pole, blah, blah, blah!

He sits around whining for awhile and then ends up borrowing an extra pole from Oregonism. He's pissed and he's gonna "catch" his pole. No matter that the rest of us are still fishin', no matter the wind may blow his borrowed rig into us - he's gonna catch his gear!

First cast - BOTTOM FISH! Now he's snagged a borrowed Rapalla and has to break the line! He quickly puts another borrowed Rapalla on and continues his effort. Meanwhile, once in awhile we see a boil in the water and a white flash, as if a trout is snagged and is trying to escape. Could it be????

- if you haven't puked yet, turn the page...

After several tries, Professor manages to snag some line. As he's pulling it in, complete with piles of seaweed, the Mayor offers to help (go figure). As he pulls seaweed off the line he hollers, the lost Rappala is wound up in the weeds! He continues to pull on the line...Professor's pole starts to emerge from the weeds!! Muddy and dented, but none the less - his pole. Now here's where it gets dicey. As he is cleaning off his freshly retrieved pole, he gets a tug. And another. He reels in his line...voila!! A two pound rainbow patiently waiting to be released! It wasn't!

OTHER TIDBITS FROM THE 21ST

There was the story about Fast Eddy, who had fallen asleep on the beach. Someone tied a "previously caught" trout to his line, and then woke him up shouting, "Ed, you've got one on!" As he was reeling this one in, observers heard him say, "This one is a fighter!"

What about Chunks? First trip and not only did Still Hold The Record have to hold him up (scooped) but later he was eating Chili out of the bowl with a serving spoon at the card game, and then even later he was doing the "chili art deco" thing around the cabin?

On a more somber note, we WILL miss Tom Gieser at Ken's, who has moved to parts unknown (would YOU give us a forwarding address if you didn't have to?) in order to get away from us. So long Tom!

DERBY RULES - CAVEAT EMPTOR

The derby is one of the long standing traditions of the mission. It has grown over the years from a "sidebet" to a focussed competition. It's time we had rules:

1. Official Derby runs from Friday Noon to Monday Noon.
2. Participation Fee is determined by the Commish from time to time and must be delivered to the Commish or a designate by Friday midnight.
3. The Derby Prize includes the participation fees and any other contributions designated at the time. To be eligible for the prize, you must have paid your participation fee.
4. To be considered for the Derby, your trout must be in Ken's freezer by 12:00 NOON on Monday. Winner need not be present, but trout MUST!!
5. All decisions made by the Commish are final, unless a new organizational body is created, with voting rights established by simple majority - not to be confused with simple minds.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE 22ND ?? GUARANTEE OF A GOOD TIME ???

This year The Fishin' Mission will be from FRIDAY JUNE 2ND UNTIL SUNDAY JUNE 11TH!!! Hope to see you all there!!!

DON'T FORGET...IN ORDER TO GET A COMMEMORATIVE SWEATSHIRT THIS YEAR... YOU MUST COMPLETE THE ATTACHED FORM AND RETURN IT WITH PAYMENT BY MAY 18TH - NO EXCEPTIONS!! THAT MEANS YOU SHOULD DO IT NOW...WHILE YOU HAVE THIS NEWSLETTER IN YOUR HANDS!! DON'T WAIT!! SNOOZE AND YOU'LL LOSE!!!

IF YOU ARE LEANING TOWARDS A TRAILER: USE HANK AND RAYS "WE SPOT" AT
*** 916-932-7740 ***

THE ATTENDEE LIST IS ATTACHED FOR YOUR REVIEW - KEEP IT CURRENT!!!
SEE YOU NUCKLEHEADS THERE!!!

OFFICIAL ORDER FORM

22ND ANNUAL FISHIN' MISSION

____ NO!!! I don't need, want, or expect to pay for another damn thing on this or any other Fishin' Mission.

____ YES!!! I've got to have one!!! I'm enclosing my check for \$25.00!!

It's my understanding that this sweatshirt will be a terrific "crew neck" imported from New York with a custom "embroidered" logo commemorating the 22nd Annual Fishin' Mission. The sweatshirt will be gray with navy blue embroidery - fit for wearing out on the town. If the final price is under \$25 bucks then the difference will be refunded on the mission.

IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ORDER, PLEASE RETURN THIS OFFICIAL ORDER FORM, ALONG WITH YOUR \$25.00 CHECK (PAYABLE TO GARY WALKER - HAHA! SEE YA LATER) TO : THE COMMISH, 4404 RED MAPLE COURT, CONCORD, CA 94521 !!

YOUR ORDER MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 18TH !! NO EXCEPTIONS!! NO STAMPS!! NO WALKBUCKS!! NO CREDIT CARDS!! CHECKS OR CASH, CASH, CASH!!

Name _____

Quantity: Indicate number in appropriate size below - Yes!! We have XXXL!!

Small Medium Large XL XXL XXXL

Total _____ x \$25 Bucks = _____ Enclosed!!!

