

# THE FISHIN' MISSION JOURNAL

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\*\*\* Western Edition \*\*\*

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BELIEVE IT OR NOT! AFTER TWENTY TWO YEARS OF FISHIN' MISSIONS, ALWAYS THE SAME WEEK OF THE YEAR - THE COMMISH HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL CALLS REGARDING THE DATES FOR THE TWENTY THIRD! OKAY, FOR ALL YOU ANAL RETENTIVE, SLACK JAWED WEENIES WHO STILL CANT FIGURE IT OUT, **THE 23RD ANNUAL FISHIN' MISSION WILL COMMENCE ON FRIDAY MAY 31ST AND CONTINUE THROUGH SUNDAY JUNE 9TH - MARK IT DOWN NOW!!**

## **SNOW DOESN'T SHAKE THE SUCCESS OF THE 22ND ANNUAL!!**

The 22nd Annual Fishin' Mission was another success! It became a year for rookies! We had thirteen (13) first timers - an example of the perpetuity of this event! In a test of faith, the Mayor brought his sons Cory and Travis along for the first time. Welcome to Ron "Chasin' It" York from Oregon, who brought Jim "Slomax" Lomax along for the ride. The Professor brought Jim Winigman, Red brought his nephew Glen, Bonfire brought Jerry, Noel, and Chris, there was Billy "Bobber" Fortner and his dad, "Morgie" was sponsored by Oregonism, and Rick Gale brought Andy along! Welcome to all!! Turnout was pretty good by the veterans too! The core group was well represented with; Smilin' Jim, Sperm, OD, Lewd, BT, Hands of a Man, CR, Greener, OB, Tambo, LTR, T, Country, Rick Gale, Woody, Here for the Beer, Oregonism, Red, Wild Bill, Polacki, Ron Bowen, Walkbucks, Sparky, Mayor, and the Professor. There's a group of pretty consistent attendees also, represented by; Omar, Covert, Bryan, Chunks, Suckup, Pukie, Incoming, Lance, BEV, Pete, Surfer Nick, Bonfire, Jason, Markho, and Colasuonno. That makes the total attendance 53 !! Not a bad showing at all!

We did miss Fast Eddy, Bucket, and others who committed like Chinny - and Deits who bought a sweatshirt but didn't show! This year for sure right? Right.

A major trend shift occurred this year as folks placed nine (9) trailers around the 38D-43D area! Apparently you're getting tired of sleepin' in the dirt? There were rumors about some people not getting their full deposit back due to "cleaning problems" so if anyone knows anything about this - report it to the Commish immediately!

For those who only stayed the long week end, the weather was good but the fishin' was "spotty". All the runoff from the winter snowpack brought the water levels up and churned the natural food sources - so we had to work harder than usual (had to set the beer down and use two hands!). On Monday afternoon, after many had left, the weather took a serious turn!

Speaking of turn...turn the page!

By Tuesday morning, we woke up to snow (we're talkin' 4-5 inches on everything!) and it stayed that way - snowin' and freezin cold - until Thursday! We were forced to take refuge in Rhino's, desperately waitin' for it to blow over - NOT! One morning the water pipes were frozen and we had to melt snow to make coffee, then we had to walk two miles to school in three feet of snow! (Ooops - wrong story)! Those that stayed did survive, and even managed a huge dinner on Thursday night (you know - "I brought it so I'm cooking it!") starting with appetizers of Jalapeno, Cheese, and Salami crackers; and polish sausage in a pale ale wine mustard; a nice salad to start, finished with a main course of Rainbow Trout, Marinated Tritip, Filet Mignon, Pork Tenderloin, Porterhouse Steaks, Baked Potatoes and Rice - finished with a nice '88 Cabernet and '92 Chardonnay. God I love roughin' it!

### **SPOTTY FISHIN' DOESN'T DISTRACT SOME FROM THE DERBY!**

Those that arrived early and got serious seemed to have had the best luck! On Friday, Sperm jumped out with a 5lb 14 oz 'bow to start things off! CR, now having been in training in Arizona for the big one, slapped Sperm up side the head by booking a 6 lb 13 oz 'bow later in the day. That was it for Friday, and there was already speculation that this was the year for the new generation to finally dethrone the old guys from their grip on the derby! Saturday was spotty too, but Chunks managed a 6lb 'bow and Colasuonno, with his line finally in the water after all these years, managed to land a 4lb 'bow himself. CR was still holdin' with only a day and a half left - could it be? Side bets began to fly with the crowd evenly split as to whether it would hold! Sunday was pretty much ho-hum! Suckup gave it a try with 2lb 11oz and 3 lb 15oz 'bows - and Stubby drug a 3 lb BROWN (promising for the future) in but no one else was bragging! CR was showing signs of stress as the possibility became more obvious. He only had to hold out until noon on Monday! He must have been praying on Sunday night, because Monday morning we woke to gusting winds which made it tough! A lot of folks just conceded, rolled over, and went back to sleep. Others however, were going to fight to the end. At high noon, with the bells in the courthouse tower ringing harmoniously, the Fishin' Mission clan gathered - as they had for twenty one years before. No one had met the challenge - the record HAD held! CR, finally successful in his quest - had the derby in hand!

Rick Rockel from Ken's was quick to recognize his efforts by presenting him with a brand new float tube. Jim Reid from Rhino's followed, by presenting CR with a new Buck Knife. Then we all adjourned to Sportsmen's, and helped CR drink down most of his \$215.00 pool of winnings. Thanks to Ken's and Rhino's for your continued support!

Editors Note: Not that it would effect the derby, but there have been unsubstantiated claims regarding an 8lb 8oz 'bow that was caught by newcomer Morgie on Friday at the end of the Mission. We didn't fall for the Fast Eddy carp story, so why would we want to acknowledge this fish story? Unless pictures and notarized affidavits are filed - we may have to shun Morgie for this weak, rookie attempt at approval.

Well...if ya still got the cajones - there's more...

Page Three - still good shit!

### Important Events to Note!!

■ In addition to allegations regarding the writing of alarming notes to Ann at Rhino's - who by the way was quick to file charges with the Commish regarding "premeditated assault on character by a wannabe fisherman" (no really, I looked it up) and possibly spawned by the fact the "new generation" finally clinched the derby, Tambo has stepped up to resolve an ongoing Fishin' Mission issue. The Mayor has reluctantly (not) passed the "baton of responsibility" to Tambo to build the perpetual plaque [which Jim will hopefully still allow us to display at Rhino's] - naming all the previous derby winners and leaving room for future winners! We look forward to seeing his creation - which should represent the culmination of pride, spirit, and cooperation which embodies each and every one of you (yuck!).

■ Jim has also offered Rhino's [hopefully not changed by allegations surrounding Tambo's alarming notes to Ann] for a private party on Monday to have a more formal awards luncheon. But you knuckleheads would have to stay until at least 2:00PM on Monday to pull it off! Think about it! If we can get enough of you to stay - we could have some fun. Perhaps we could even get Red to do a special edit of the vast Fishin' Mission video library to come up with appropriate clips?

■ In a swift and decisive action, the Commish has moved to ban headbutting and body slammin' on the Mission! Although the Commish cited "general conduct" as the reason behind this new rule, most attendees (including Sufer Nick who was finally released from the hospital) claim it was a decision made for his own safety and well-being.

■ Many of you are already members of CalTrout in some capacity, and therefore receive their publication The Streamkeepers Log. For those of you who are still not members, and would like to join - let the Commish know - he will have membership forms available on the Mission. Some highlights of the Winter 1996 edition:

- 1996 is CalTrout's 25th Anniversary - making them only slightly older than our Fishin' Mission!
- A new regulation went into effect on March 1, 1996 which further shifts the East Walker River to a trophy-oriented location - reducing the bag limit to one fish and increasing the size to 18" - still barbless hooks and no bait!!
- Lot's of discussion (editorial) regarding the role of hatcheries to "strike a balance" between catch-and-release programs and the hatchery-sourced catchable trout programs.
- According to a recent American Fisheries Society study, illegal fishing with barbed hooks is ten times more frequent than either bait or over-harvest angling. **Crimp those hooks!**

The real dirt's on the next page....

## **Alledged Welches!**

Now it may come as a surprise to some of you (who the hell would that be?) but there is some wagering that goes on in camp - everything from basketball games, hockey games, and card games - to who catches the first fish after 9:00AM under twelve inches with a small cut in the dorsal fin, blah, blah, blah! It is ALWAYS everyones intent to make good on their wagers - although it might not occur to them until the following year in some cases! For tracking purposes, here are the "alledged" welches that have been brought to the attention of the Commish:

Lewd to Walkbucks - \$69.00 on a partial carry-over from the 21st and new money related to the NBA Playoffs. Paid with a post-dated check (7/1/95) and then reneged. Carry over to 23rd?

Lewd to Sperm - \$30.00 on Game 7 for overs and unders.

Professor to Tambo - \$20 side bet that CR's fish would hold. It did! (Is that why the Professor left so quietly?)

And, oh by the way - it was great to see Pukie again - but you STILL owe Walkbucks a new axe - again!

## **Famous Quotes!**

After a long ride back to camp, the Professor had a mishap and walked into camp and could only say "I wet myself!" - feeling obligated to rationalize that his bladder had exploded! Thanks for that special moment!

At 1:00PM on Monday, as we were celebrating CR's victory in the derby and drinking for free - Bonfire was offered another beer and all he could say was "I can't drink anymore". Mark your calendars! Like the Big Bang - this will only happen once!

During the same celebration ceremony, Sperm was speaking to Walkbucks (aka The Commish) and slowly pulled the current edition of the Fishin' Mission Journal out of his pocket saying "in case you haven't seen this, I brought it along".

[ Editors Note: A clever retort to this one is just not required]

## **Questions to Contemplate:**

Will Sparky ever be able to hit his seven iron?  
Will Moondoggie, Deits, or Chinny ever show up again?  
Will Here for the Beer ever fish?  
Will Willy ever clear the dam?  
Who really wrote the note to Ann?

And of course, the question that each of you individually needs to dig deep to answer:

**Will I be a wimpy, snot-nosed loser again this year - or will I do the mans man thing and commit to attend the 23rd Annual Fishin' Mission, which will commence on Friday May 31st???**

**THREATS ARE THE LAST REFUSE OF THE DESPERATE - DO NOT SUCCUMB!  
IT'S YOUR DECISION - SO MAKE IT YOU PISS-ANT!!**