

# THE FISHIN' MISSION JOURNAL

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

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## **The Fishin' Mission Bids Farewell To Rick Gale:**

It is with deepest regrets that I inform you of the recent passing of Rick Gale. The world has lost another great person, and we have lost another one our own here on the Fishin' Mission. His funeral service was truly a celebration of his life, and many were there to share in that celebration. He has been an inspiration to all those who knew him, a "gentleman among men". He always had his glass half full - never half empty. The example he set should be our goal, and I hope we all strive for that perfection that came to Rick so easily. The smile, the handshake, the constant concern for those around him - will be missed.

As your Commish, let me make two suggestions which will allow us to continue the celebration of Rick's life. First, a fireside memorial will be held on Sunday night in camp. As Rick would want it to be - cigars, drinks, and stories will all run rampant as we share our memories of past Fishin' Missions. Second, since Rick to this day "Still Holds the Record" for the biggest fish EVER caught during the annual derby, let me suggest that from this day forward, the plaque which records the annual winners, which will hang proudly in Rhino's Bar and Grill - will be the Rick Gale Memorial Award.

Rick - take care and travel safe on your new journey, and make sure that Camp Site 42D is a regularly scheduled stop each June - it still will be for us!

## **Weather Was The Key For The 23rd !!**

Well, we've all read the bumper sticker "the worst day of fishing is better than the best day at work" right? On the 23rd we had a new one "even when the fish aren't bitin' if the sun is shinin' things are good!". According to the locals (including Rick Rockel as the Subject Matter Expert) the two weeks prior to the Fishin' Mission last year were "the shit's" - which is a technical term describing cold, rain, snow, and stuff! But alas, on Friday, when everyone started showing up, the weather went nuclear - and for the next eight days it was blue skys, zero wind, and 70-80 degree days - PERFECT. There was one cloud spotted on either Tuesday or Wednesday, I forget.

turn the page for more news, but not before reading these public service announcements.....

The Commissioner wishes to inform the attendees of the upcoming 24th Annual Fishin' Mission - that due to time constraints and conflicts in priorities - there will be no special commemorative give-away this year.  
Please look forward to the 25th or do something yourself!

In case you have not heard, there are several miles of US395 "missing" between Walker and Bridgeport. Check your route.....if you are usually coming through Walker you will need to take the Yerington Cutoff and come in on the back-side of Bridgeport Reservoir.

Attendance was good with forty-four finally showing up. The first stop - Rhino's of course! An early Friday gathering indicated some EARLY arrivals - LTR, T, and CR who had come in Thursday, and the bar began to fill; Omar, Bryan, Tilt'n' Hilton, Covert; Country, Chunks, Fast Eddy, Andy, Rick, and Sunil; Walkbucks, Here for the Beer, and Sparky; Mayor, Hands, BT, Lucky, Bucket, Lewd, OD; Billy Bob Fortner and his dad; Bowen, Polacki, Red, Wild Bill, and Glen; Stubby and his two friends Brent and Cary, Surfer Nick, and Tim (previously travelling with LTR) showed up with Phil and Joel. We also had Morgasm, Slomax; Lightyear (soon to be dubbed WokDude), Hookup, and a long time attendee I will now only refer to as "MarkoPorno". And Smilin' Jim showed up late on Sunday, but as he put it - "in time to kick ass at Country's Sunday Night Chili Feed and Poker Party!" And where would we be without the Professor? Safe, sane...maybe.

There were some noticeable "no-shows"! Oregonism missed because of knee surgery. We missed the entire New Generation (OB, Pukie, Incoming, Tambo, Greener, et. al.) and hope they will see their way out of the dark and into the "illumination". What about Sperm - was he still looking for the newsletter? And many others who I get tired of mentioning - so I won't!

### **Fishin' Derby Ends in Photo Finish!**

The action started early as CR, the defending champion, put one in the freezer on Friday. It was a 3lb 8oz and was heard to be braggin' at Rhino's as the first repeat winner in this decade!

Action started slow on Saturday (perhaps Rhino's was the culprit?) but picked up as the weather stayed perfect! Andy Jordan was warmin' up with a 2lb 12oz'er, and Chunks and Sunil both recorded 2lb 8 oz'ers.....but, at sunset over Rhino's we had a TIE in the clubhouse, with both Polacki and MarkoPorno in at 4lb 12oz's !!

Sunday brought out the best in all of us! Another perfect day and even with hangovers, folks were out early to break the tie! There were lot's of 2lb to 3lb 8oz'ers taken; Sunil, Walkbucks, Lucky, Hookup, Lightyear, and Sparky - but the tie held!

It was tough to concentrate on fishin' that Sunday, knowing that **our favorite bartender Jason, was at 11:00AM going to marry Kimberly!** We offered our congratulations after the fishing was done and reminded him he will now have his anniversary every year during the Fishin' Mission!

On Monday - everyone was up early (well, except for Here for the Beer and Morgasm) trying to break the tie. For a change, fishin' was on almost everyone's mind. But, as the bell struck noon in the tower at the courthouse, the sky still glistening with blue on gold, there were to be no new contenders!

The Commish made a ruling (after counselling with Rick Rockel) that we would weigh-in again frozen! The tension mounted as MarkoPorno was first on the scale - 4lbs 11.75 oz's! Then Polacki came to the scale - **4 lbs 12.5 oz's ! Da Winner!** Perhaps the closest derby in history with the decision riding on less tha ONE OUNCE!! So Ernie took the trophy, \$165 in prize money (spent later at the Sportsmen's) a Leatherman Pocket Survival Tool from Rhino's and some cool waders from Ken's!

next page for "events" please.....

## **Chronological Report on our Behavior:**

Trying something new, thought we would report on a day-by-day basis, the major activities other than the derby:

### Friday May 30th -

This is typically a day of gathering, and that's about all that happened. No embarrassing stories (yet) but just a regular day.

### Saturday June 1st-

There was a small "disturbance" at Rhino's (nothing that Jason couldn't handle) but Surfer Nick decided he would interview for a position as "bouncer" and helped a few folks to the door! Machismo under the influence! We were waiting for the now famous head-butt that he had learned under the tutelage of Walkbucks! Later on Jason treated us to some fine cigars, as an early celebration of the things to come (did I say that?) on Sunday. We owe him cigars!

### Sunday June 2nd-

Other than Jason and Kimberly's wedding, the evening focussed on two activities. First, the annual Chili Feed and Poker Game hosted by Country (always) and won by Smilin' Jim (always). Nothing changed this year. Some of us got stuck in camp, "on our way to the Chili Feed", and ended up chopping veggies and steak and chicken - for the biggest, meanest, greatest stir-fry on record! Lightyear, using a modified disc from a plow, made a "full-tilt" stir-fry! We have to avoid conflict and do these on separate nights next time.

### Monday June 3rd-

This is always a "lazy" day, after the derby and the celebration which follows, so the fishing poles tend to be idle.

### Tuesday June 4th-

Day five and the weather is still perfect. Lot's of folks have to leave, and those that stay talk of GOLF? Maybe later..... NHL gives us Florida/Colorado - who cares? Rhino's seems to be the only decision we can make - we are relaxed and at one with our objective!

### Wednesday June 5th-

Day six...more disgustingly terrific weather. Talk of fishing early? Nahhh! Red, Wild Bill, Glen, Marko, and Hookup are still in town, along with only five others, so Here for the Beer protects camp, while Morgasm, Sparky, Walkbucks, and Professor go play golf! Hawthorne - hotbed of....ummm....uhhh....okay - it's not Augusta! But we had a blast. Once we fought off the mosquitos, we had fun. The second attempt (we played golf years ago) at a 1st Annual Golf Tournament.

turn page for more.....

You can get the gory details on our website [see article below] but let me say, it was hot, we were thirsty, and we drank! Duh! We tried to finish in time to get back for the NBA game but a small mishap (tanked the truck on the "soft shoulder" - those signs are true) made us a little late. The Professor has been banned from his leadership role on this activity! -

Thursday June 6th-

Day seven - more perfect weather. Red, Wild Bill, and Glen leave. The crowd dwindles but the spirits (all types) are high. After a day of fishing and drinking (Morgasm was heard to say "I couldn't drink anymore") we decide to COOK. We had some excellent Elk Sausage (thanks to Jim at Rhino's) with Sierra Nevada Pale Ale Mustard for starters, then a fine Caesar Salad, and for the main course(s) we had Chicken, Tri-tip, Filets, Country Potatoes, and sauteed Mushrooms, with a nice Chardonnay and robust Cabernet, and then finished with Jack Daniels and cigars! During the "bonding" we learn for the first time about Marko's profession. He shared with us some publications relative to his job! We love him and his job! All hail Marko - now dubbed MarkoPorno. May his van be packed with job related material again this year!

Friday June 7th-

Another great day! Time to leave. Here for the Beer, Walkbucks, Professor, Sparky, Morgasm, MarkoPorno and Hookup all set off into the sunset after eight days of R&R in the Sierras. Until next year!

#### **Other Facts Worth Mentioning:**

Even though Oregonism couldn't make it, he sent money ahead to buy his amigos drinks at Rhino's! What a guy...we thanked him as we slammed the takillya down!

Slomax has not caught a fish in his first two years! If he shows (hope so) I want sponsors who will bait his hook and cast for him until he catches one!

#### **Here For The Beer brings up a Fishin' Mission Website:**

Now we know what he does with his time (when he's awake).....he's become a hippy propeller-head! Since the last Fishin' Mission he's built a homepage for us! Cool graphics, hotlink to Tony Robbins, reports on the Mission, and even pictures! It's still under construction, but PLEASE VISIT and leave your address - the Fishin' Mission has stepped into technology! Catch it at our address.....<http://home.cdsnet.net/~lwalker/mission.htm> Don't worry you'll only have to key it in once!

#### **Well, What About the 24th??**

Now whaddaya gonna do? After re-living the 23rd, can you really say no to attending the 24th? It starts Friday May 30th as you know..... and goes until Friday June 6th - if you have the guts. Make the commitment now. Bring your best cigars (Sunday Night's Memorial) and of course your fishin' poles!

If you can't accept anything on faith, then you are doomed to a life dominated by doubt.

- S. Claus