

THE FISHIN' MISSION JOURNAL

The Walkbucks Company, Inc., All Rights Reserved

Vol. 25 No. 1

*** Western Edition ***

April 20, 1998

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Read about the activities on a day by day basis!

4 25TH Annual

Read more about plans, and find out the status on the new plaque and the *time capsule*?

5 25TH Order Form

Trying to get a jump on things, the Commish is asking that you complete an order form NOW for 25th Annual *stuff*!

BOOK THE 25TH NOW !!

The fact that you are reading this newsletter before May, in an entirely new format (ya like it?) suggests that your editor is pumped, and also has a new computer with new software!! If you were on the 24th, then you know why he's pumped! If not, then you need to read this Journal! In either case, you need to make your commitment now to be there for our **Silver Anniversary!** After a great 24th you should already be counting the days until the **25th - which will be from May 29th until June 7th !!** More about that later (trust me - I'll pile on the guilt later in this newsletter!) First though, read on about the 24th Annual !!

WATER LEVELS MAKE THE FISHIN' DERBY TOUGH !!

In the past journal we reported the problems with US395 from Walker to Bridgeport caused by the flash flooding in March. We were hoping that the only inconvenience would be the detour through Smith Valley (the Mayor's home town) but it had it's affect on the fishing too!

Bridgeport Reservoir was *full* for the first year in many and during the peak of the flooding the water actually went *over* the spillway! I mean full as to getting all the way to the airport runway! It's this reporter's opinion (good fodder for excuses in any event) that all the water made the quest for lunkers a tough one. In general, the fishin' was good all week long - but the lunker competition that proliferated on the 23rd was just not there! Let me make it short and sweet - **Congratulations to Terry "T" Reynolds who won the derby with a 5lb 6oz'er** he caught at the Virginia's on Saturday morning!

Rumor has it that he was using Salmon Flavored Power Bait (stock up now), but there was another rumor that he picked the winner up Thursday at the hatchery, where most of their brood stock caught an infection and died! Just in case your invited to BBQ at T's and he's

having trout - I'd send *regrets*! It was, however, the first and only big fish logged - and since there were no other contenders, the Commish waived his rights to autopsy!

Thanks to JR at Rhino's for the Fenwick pole, the Quantum Snapshot reel, and the cool long sleeved Rhino's T-shirt (already a collector's item).

Thanks to Rick Rockel at Ken's Sporting Goods for the BuckTool, the fishing cap, and (Rick - it was your girls) the promise of a 12-pack next year.

The prize money totalled \$140 but \$100 of it was well spent at Rhino's. Thanks also to Lost Boy, who picked up an additional tab, or T might have been left with nothing.

ONLY 30 ATTENDEES?

Attendance is not directly related to success - but we've had more people and had less fun! I guess the Professor was the first to arrive on Thursday, with LTR, T, and Outtahere close behind. Lost Boy, Red, Wild Bill, Glen, Polacki, and their buddy Bob Chilson came along with Bonfire, Jason, BT, Morganism, Oregonism, Sparky, Lewd, OD, Smilin' Jim, the Mayor,

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Omar, Covert, Ryan, Hilton, Chunks, Andy, and Stiffy. Late arrivals on Saturday included the Commish, Here for the Beer, I'll be Baack, and Stubby!

CHRONOLOGY HELPS FOR THOSE WITH LIMITED RECALL !!

Well, if you were there, it might not have been for the whole enchilada (or you might not remember) and if you weren't there, then you should know - as usual - we had a great time. In addition to a great golf tournament (see Tuesday) JR talked us into a new backwoods experience (no banjos required) that you can read about in the Moday report! But here's kinda how the week went:

Thursday, May 29th

We don't really officially start until Friday, but this year, in addition to LTR and T, the Professor and Outtahere alledgedly arrived on Thursday - must have had a page or two missing from their Day Timer's!

Friday, May 30th

Let the games begin. Things got underway as the second wave arrived. New folks like Bob Chilson (with Red and crew) showed up along with lot's of others - trying to get one in the freezer early so the could relax and PARTY!

Conspicuous by their absence were the Commish (said to be trapped in

a HUGE real estate deal) and Here for the Beer (still doing his laundry and packin').

Word has it the fishin' was slow at best - high water combined with lot's of runoff = "they ain't takin' my powerbait!

Saturday, May 31st

By Saturday - all had arrived that were going to show. (except a surprise visit by Treeman) We heard excuses for Bucket, Woody, Country, Fast Eddy, CR, and Hands. - quite frankly all bullshit but, oh well! We didn't even ask about Monndoggie, Hendy, Deits, or Speed Limit - quite frankly who gives a shit?

The wok had arrived, with Stiffy in tow (more on that later) so dinner was a "go" on Sunday! And of course, the long awaited arrival of Baack - who should drink more and talk less - was finally a reality! The term *energizer bunny* has taken on a new meaning!

The fishin' continued at a slow pace but the basketball playoffs were on, and life was good - even when the fish weren't bitin'.

Sunday, June 1st

Everyone gave it the old college try (unfortunately not many have gone to college) but the fishing was incredibly slow. The weather was great, but six hours n the sun with nothing but mountains and blue sky will drive even the strongest man *indoors!* So....one by one, the folks gave up for the day. And one by one, they grabbed the stools at the Mono Village Saloon - until all the stools were taken and all the

standin' room was gone! We *owned* the bar. We watched the b-ball game with intrepidation, anxiously waitin' for the *evenings event* - *The Rick Gale Memorial!* If you were there, you know what a wonderful moment it was - 27 of the 30 of us (LTR and T had left, Nichols was lost.....again) in attendance. We started out with Stiffy again preparing a wok-feast, Moose, Chicken, Veggies in the stir-fry with potatoes, rice, salad, and bread rolls. Of course finished with select wines (and Jack, Meyers, Schnapps, etc) Red did a great job splicing old video footage together and we relaxed to watch Rick at his best, while we fired up the cigars and told stories. Anyone that thinks Rick wasn't in attendance need not show up this year! And in traditional fashion, we celebrated *our* way: Andy fell down the riverbank....twice, Morganism set his hair on fire, and we had lots of "toasts" to one of our own.

Monday, June 2nd

Everyone had a half day to "get back" into the derby, but with the previous evening still pounding in most folks head, it was a slow start.

When the bell in the courthouse struck noon, there was not a contender to be found! As mentioned earlier in the journal, T had locked it up - with a trout he caught Saturday morning! We took T's prize money (\$140) and meandered over to The Sportsmen's to celebrate - but they were closed! We then convinced JR to open on

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his day off "for just a little while" so we could spend T's prize money on drinks for everyone! JR obliged and if it wasn't for Lost Boy (more on that later) picking up a big tab, T wouldn't have had any of his prize money left. Thanks to Jim for opening on his day off for us! It was during this time that the "fishin' wannabe's" got into the swing. JR had offered the night before to lead a hike up to Tamarack Lake for a look at some brookies, and maybe some goldens? nah, can't be! Oh Hell - let's go for it! We took several of the four-wheelers as far up the mountain as possible, and then, thanks to the skillfull leadership and outdoor techniques of our sponsor - JR - we treadged through the snow, first to Tamarack (shit that was a fur piece!) and then for a few brave souls - further up to Hunewell Lake. It was an awesome afternoon! It was a clear day with blue skies, and from the peak Bridgeport looked like a teeny tiny toy town (are you impressed with my skillful use of alliteration?). We did run into some brookies and there were stories about the goldens. In any case it was fun for all - except Morgie who stopped a few times to chum the pine trees and Lost Boy who tried to walk out on his own and *got lost!* When we finally found him, he was happy enough to buy us all dinner that night at Sportmen's. Hence the term "Lose Nichols, Eat Free"!

Tuesday, June 3rd

For some, this was *the* big day. The hell with fishin' - it was time for the First Annual Golf Tournament!! BT fished, while the rest remaining

guys (except Lost Boy - who was lost again - and Red's clan which was also fishin') jumped in our cars for a side-trip to *luxurious Hawthorne* for a day of golfing fun! We played a best ball scramble - and managed just a few beers. The Commish spent most of his time on the phone (apparently still trying to close that HUGE real estate deal) but everyone else was there to compete! Congrats to the winning team with a "one-under" 71 - Outtahere, Professor, OD, and Morgie! Second place, with a 78 went to Pat, Marko, JR, and Oregonism! JR seemed to had the most fun - partly because he took \$20 from Lewd on a side-bet! Third place, back one stroke with a 78 was I'll Drive, Lewd, Sparky, and Walkbucks. **Thanks to the Professor for organizing the tournament and sponsoring the \$50 cash prize! And thanks to our tournament photographer, Here for the Beer, who drew down some pretty scary film!** We went back to Rhino's (I won't repeat the story about Professor plantin' his truck in the dirt on the way back - it was on the home page) for dinner, watched the Red Wings win game two, and told stories into the night!

Wednesday, June 4th

Well, it rained like hell overnight, and the skies were cloudy all day! Outtahere, BT, Lewd, OD and Lost Boy bailed - so we were down to 13. The fishing was very slow and the weather front was still comin' in - so we did what we do best - run for Rhino's (the nearest "border" is in Minden). The Bulls go up 2-0, the

Mayor delivers the "walnut slab" to the Professor for some work (more on that later) and we spend the evening *indoors*, sudsin' it up and hoping for a break in the weather.

Thursday, June 5th

Nope, not gonna happen! Wouldn't be prudent! - *It rained all damn day!* Red and his clan left in the morning, so now we were down to 9! And what a fishin' day this turned out to be - NOT! Let me see, we had breakfast at Hay Street, lunch and dinner at Rhino's (uh, we kinda stayed there all damn day) finished with some cigars, a fine port, and some fava beans! The Red Wings went up 3-0 and after closin' the pub, we went back to camp, started a fire (it was still raining) and did some steaks at 3:00AM - are we *outdoor dudes* or what?

Friday, June 6th

Patience has it's rewards - the weather was beautiful! Heads were a little fuzzy but the weather was clear. According to the Commish we did set a record - **never had nine remained on Friday! Sparky, Here for the Beer, Walkbucks, Morganism, Oregonism. Pat. Marko, Professor, and Baack!** We started to break camp around 11:00AM with a plan to "fish on the way out". Morganism, Oregonism, and Here for the Beer planned to stay until Saturday, while Walkbucks and Sparky planned to jump over to Lake Tahoe for Sparky's annual "Run Around the Lake", and Pat and Marko were heading home.

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One problem with that plan - a **BEAR!**in the campground, noin our camp, noin Walkbucks van! Jumped right in the van, put his smelly ass down in the front seat - and wouldn't get out! Great camera work by Here for the Beer - lot's of cussin' and folding chair throwing (from a distance) until he finally got out of the van and left!

By the way, the fishin' was good on the way out!

MONTANA RECORD SHOULD WET YOUR APPETITE !!

While always viewed as a fishin' paradise, Montana is rarely viewed as the place for record breaking trout. That all changed on August 11th, when Jack "Greg" Housel of Libby, Montana landed a 33.1 pound rainbow trout from the Kootenai River.

This guy is thirty-six and was fishin' from shore at the Libby Dam plunge pool when the trout grabbed his one ounce Pot-o-Gold (go gettem') spoon. It took him 20 minutes to land with 24 pound test!

It was 38.6 inches long with a 27 inch girth - and if approved, would replace a 31.5 pounder caught in Lake Michigan in 1993 in this line class. So what are our odds with four pound test and power bait?

NEW NICKNAMES EARNED!!

Well, let's see.... Surfer Nick became Lost Boy, Buzz Lightyear became Stiffy, Morganism became Stumpy, and Chasin' became

Outtahere! Any others? There will be a test !!

THE 25TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION BEGINS!!

Okay, so you stuck with it (you didn't read ahead did you?) reading about every nook and cranny of the 24th - and now you want to know - what about the 25th?

First of all, for the "learning impaired" the Silver Anniversary 25th Annual starts on May 29th and will continue through June 7th!

I'm not so sure what is so hard about getting the dates right (we *have* been doing this for 25 years!) but the Commish received many calls this year to make sure. Oh well, as long as you show up!

BIG PLANS FOR A NEW AND IMPROVED TROPHY UNDERWAY

All past plans to renovate the perpetual trophy have failed. After years of "passing it around" it finally gave up the ghost. There have been several "attempts" to bring it back to life - they have all failed.

Fail no more! Under the influence of way too much tequila (is there ever really too much?) the Mayor began a story about how he would take this *huge* piece of walnut, machine it down into a plaque, put trout coming out on the sides, and have space for all the names of past, present, and future winners! The story brought us to tears! In

case you think I'm shinin' you - HFTB captured the moment (and the commitment) on tape. JR has also committed (again) to finding the right place in Rhino's to hang this puppy, so Mayor - you are on the hook!

SECOND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT A MUST !!

The 2nd annual golf tournament will be held on Tuesday June 2nd (cute) and according to the Professor - \$30 will get you green fees, cart, booze and "a little something from the Prof" (all he has is little). We had three foursomes last year and it was great! Stay over until Wednesday morning (I guess you could leave Tuesday night - but what with the awards dinner and all) and be a part of this segue !! Those of you who may have access to "corporate" stuff might want to bring some along...get my drift?

25TH ANNUAL DESERVES A MOMENT OF RECOGNITION !!

One thing we are thinking about is a celebration lunch on Monday after the close of the derby. We need to get JR to open (well?) and ask Red and HFTB to get together to put some video together (well?) and the Commish to update the photo albums (okay!) - but it would be a nice time to remember the social significance of this event! More to follow in the next newsletter! See ya'll soon.....

**25TH ANNUAL FISHIN' MISSION
MEMBER ORDER FORM**

In anticipation of the high demand for "graft" on the 25th Annual, the Commish has decided to poll the Members (thats you - ya schmuck) regarding their interest and commitment (you know - *show me the money!*) for various momentos. Your options are indicated below with a "target" cost. The Commish reserves the right to order each individual item, based on expressed demand!

Please **complete this order form and return it NOW!** It is *critical* to the planning for the Silver Anniversary Fishin' Mission Extravaganza !! Please return to the **new Fishin' Mission National Headquarters Office:**

**Mr. Gary Walker
Fishin' Mission Commisioner
814 E. Desert Flower Lane
Phoenix, Arizona 85028**

Now, if you are real smart (and you haven't torn this page up or written on it) you can fill it out, turn it over, fold it in according to instructions and voila! Ready to go - all you need is the \$.32 stamp! (You might want to tape or staple it shut too!)

<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Target Cost</u>	<u>Order Y/N</u>	<u>Quantity/Size</u>
Cast Bronze "Commemorativo" Beltbuckle	\$15		/
Sweatshirt (long sleeve-duh) beer can logo	\$18		/
T-Shirt (long sleeve) beer can logo	\$15		/
T-Shirt (short sleeve) beer can logo	\$12		/
25th Commemorative Pin (must be present)	\$ 5		/

And of course....if you've read the news - the Professor has graciously volunteered to organize the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament on Tuesday - so don't leave until after that!

Golf Tournament (Tuesday June 2)	\$30
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WHO ARE YOU? _____

BY THE WAY - NEW ADDRESS? _____

EMAIL ADDRESS? _____

Please make your checks payable to Gary Walker if you'd like to pre-pay! (That means you would have to put this form and the check in an envelope. Can you handle that?)