

THE FISHIN' MISSION JOURNAL

The Walkbucks Company, Inc., All Rights Reserved

Vol. 26 No. 1

*** Western Edition ***

May 8, 1998

Inside this Journal

2 Chron File

Read about the activities on the 25th - day by day!

3 Nicknames

Difficult to earn, and difficult to get rid of, these nicknaming techniques go back to the early Fishin' Missions!

4 What about the 26th?

Read more about the plans and the attendees! Commit now!

BOOK THE 26TH NOW !!

You are again reading this newsletter several weeks before the Mission and *unless your cajones are made of play-doh, you've already marked your calendars for the 26th!!* If you were on the 25th, then you know why you should be there again. If not, then you need to read this Journal! In either case, you need to make your commitment now to be there for our **26th Annual Commemorative Fishin' Mission Extravaganza!!** You should already be countin' the days until the **26th - which will be from June 4th until June 13th !!** More about that later (after 25 years, I'm too old to pile on the guilt, and your too stupid to react to it!) Before you get jiggy with it, read on about the 25th Annual !!

GROWING OLD IS INEVITABLE, GROWING UP IS OPTIONAL!

It has been said before that you can take the boy out of Bridgeport but you can't take Bridgeport out of the boy (or something like that) and the spectacle of the 25th Annual Fishin' Mission Derby was no exception. A bunch a boys competing as if it was the Olympic Trials....On Friday Smilin' Jim was in early with a three pounder (and of course he quickly offered to get the big fish "pool" together - \$160 total). The weather was great and, considering that it snowed on Thursday as some of the early folks were arriving - we got lucky. On Saturday, the weather held, and T made a run at it with a nice stringer (his wife was quoted as saying his stringer wasn't *that* impressive) but they were all under three pounds. Bonfire came in late with a 4lb 1oz'er but speculation (and several rolls of the dice at Rhino's) indicated it would NOT hold. On Sunday, with the weather still "as perfect as a tight grip on your best friend", Smilin' Jim was "back at ya" with a 5lb 14oz'er! An afternoon catch at the Res with many onlookers. According to the local experts (no-not Rick Rockel) The Prof said "the bathtub was cold, but the honeyhole was hot". What the shit is he talkin' about? On Monday Walkbucks makes a run at it with a 3lb 4oz'er and a 3lb 6oz'er but can't find the elusive

lunker. And as the bells ring **12:00 noon at City Hall -The Winner is Smilin' Jim !!** First time he's won since the 17th in 1990, and he broke the tie he had with BT for the most wins and now has five total! You should all want to bear his children!

Thanks to JR and Rhino's for the Browning Filet Knife.

Thanks to Gordon and the Sportmen for the Daiwa Reel

Thanks to Rick at Ken's for the nice Browning Float Tube.

After all the excitement, we retired to Rhino's for a private lunch (see the chron file for details).

45 ATTENDEES?

Attendance watching is for the meek, but it is nice to acknowledge those who made it for the Silver Anniversary. I'm sure they all came to receive a commemorative hat pin, but the Commish said "they will have more value when you get here next year so I'll take your money now, do a little day-trading, and hopefully bring the pins with me next year!" Thursday found BT, T, LTR, Bucket, and CR in early to grab a couple of trailers. Friday brought Walkbucks, Sparky, The Professor, Lewd, OD, Smilin' Jim, Hands, Omar, who sponsored The Judge (Rookie of the Year), Ryan, Covert, Chunks, who sponsored Craig, Tripper, Stiffy, Smacman,

Page 1.

THE FISHIN' MISSION JOURNAL

The Walkbucks Company, Inc., All Rights Reserved

Vol. 26 No. 1

*** Western Edition ***

May 8, 1998

Bonfire, who sponsored Cotton, Jason, who sponsored Slingblade (Jimmy D), Marko, EagleEye (Pat), Chris, HFTB, Baack, Morgie, Oregonism, The Mayor, Billy Bob Fortner, Stubby, who sponsors his son Chris, Sperm, Red, Wild Bill, Slooil, Polacki, Greener and Pukie (returnees from the new generation!), Outtahere, and Slomax. Nice job boys!!

Several were missed, like Country, Fast Eddy, Woody, Deits, blah, blah, blah oh yeah, LostBoy was lost!

CHRONOLOGY HELPS FOR THOSE WITH LIMITED RECALL !!

There were alot of things going on during the week. Here are the one's that The Commish remembers:

Thursday, May 28th

We don't really officially start until Friday, but this year, in addition to LTR and T, CR, BT, and Bucket arrived early. Was it the fishin' or a quick stop in "the big town" that captivated and motivated them? We may never know (and probably never cared).

Friday, May 29th

Let the games begin. Friday was a turnstile of folks showing up - and congregating - at Rhino's. Game six is taken by the Pacer's to take it back to Chicago for Game 7! The Mayor shows up with the new trophy (finally - somebody delivers!) and JR wastes no time clearing

space and hangin' that sucker up! We all toast (or was it get toasted?) the new trophy - many Kudo's to The Mayor - looking back at all the names and dates brings tears to your eyes (let's toast again!).

Saturday, May 30th

In addition to the fishin' there was a great poker game at Sperm and Smilin' Jims place. Can't say their neighbors had as much fun as we did! In a separate event (thanks for the invite Stiffy!) at Doc 'n Als they were "wokin" long into the night! In an interview afterwards, all Chunks could say was "the place really wok'ed".

Sunday, May 31st

Fishin' was spotty (like Sperms underwear) most of the day, but everybody was very focussed on the task at hand. Yep, everyone was quietly tending their poles, staring at their line, and hopin' for a tug - right up until that first Idaho potato landed out in the middle of the Res. I think we all thought it was a flyby that had broken the sound barrier - until we saw a large rather burly character (okay, so he had his Nike flip flops on with white socks) emerge from the brush - with a large piece of PVC and a ten pound bag of potatoes! Look, over in the bushes, it's SPUDMAN! What a relaxin' way to spend the day! SPERM grabs the PVC as he has a flashback (no not Nam, it was back to his 10th birthday party when he played cowboys and indians - or was it his 20th birthday?) and literally goes "tommy" gun on us! Rather anticlimatic, but we went into Rhino's for Game 7 (shit... Bulls

won) and some moved to OD/Lewds for cards and some closed Rhino's - care to guess who went where?

Monday, June 1st

Everyone had a half day to "get back" into the derby, but many slept in for fear of getting hit by a flying Russet! When the bell in the courthouse struck noon Smilin' Jim had locked it up! After the award presentation at Ken's, we meandered over to Rhino's for a private luncheon. God do we love technology! We wired the TV's (excuse me - the monitors) and were playing video tape of the last few days and Sperm was connected to the other with his digital camera and playing all the photo's he had taken. **We toasted Pat "EagleEye" Speers for bringing the 25th Annual decals** and then they busted The Commish!! A special award for his twenty five years of commitment. Brought tears to his eyes...we toasted again! Late in the afternoon we left Rhino's to go fishin' (huh, huh, huh - I think we actually retired to camp for dinner!) Huge cookout, 22 folks showed - 25 trout and 3 tritips topped with wine, salad, potatoes, and fixin's - god I love The Mission!

Tuesday, June 2nd

Tuesday has now become one of the *big* days! We can fish all week but Tuesday has become the day for the golf tournament! So in keeping with a new tradition, we cruised out to Hawthorne (a fine destination resort about 90 miles east on a two-laner that doesn't

Page 2.

THE FISHIN' MISSION JOURNAL

The Walkbucks Company, Inc., All Rights Reserved

Vol. 26 No. 1

*** Western Edition ***

May 8, 1998

curve for at least 40 miles! It was time for the **Second Annual Walker Lake Country Club Golf Tournament!**

The weather was great! Our four foursomes ran the gamut as to priorities, i.e. golf, beer, or speed racin' the carts - but everyone had a blast! It's a best ball scramble so anyone who is still around on Tuesday *should* play. We tolerate tennis shoes, and I think the Commish may have even allowed hiking boots (as long as they were soft-spikes)!

After loading up the carts with ice chests of beer (oh yeah, and golf clubs) we headed out for a fun day. **Thanks to JR for the Rhino's Cooler Cups** - although the beers didn't seem to set long enough to test the "cooling capacity". And of course, **thanks to The Professor - The Commish of Golf** - for all he did organizing, sponsoring and putting up prizes. My notes don't seem to record the winning team, but I'm sure you can find out more on our home page:

<http://www.medford.net/walker/mission.htm>

We should also give a note of **thanks to HFTB who through multiplicity, was beergal, videographer, and one-man spectator gallery!**

Bring your sticks on the 26th - the tournament will continue to be a high point!

Wednesday, June 3rd

Slow to rise after another fine night at Rhino's after the golf tourney, we

had eleven in the Cafe at The Village for breakfast (god, are we ever going to cook?). We're down to thirteen (13) total now as Baack, Outtahere and Morgasm split. Can you believe Morg-meister left "cuz I got tickets for SlowHand, ya know Clapton, in Idaho" he says. He never was very good at priorities! Most of the rest of us (Marko, EagleEye, Lewd, OD, Prof, Oregonism, Walkbucks, Sparky) jumped over to the Res for a quick derby - 12:00-3:30 \$10 each - and **OD kicks butt with a 1lb 10oz'er!** We slither back to camp for dinner of hot links (thanks to Marko and EagleEye) chili (thanks to Oregonism) more trout and more stuff! (No sign of The Clan of the Red Bear - must be fishin'). Bored silly in camp, we slithered back to Rhino's for Game 1 of the NBA finals! **Thanks to Jason again for his fine service!!** Must have been like alot of overtime cuz I think we were there at closin' time again!

Thursday, June 4th

Well, time is takin' it's toll on the "weekers". The Prof splits, OD and Lewd are MIA, Oregonism leaves as planned, The Clan of the Red Bear are due to split - so we are down to five, and with a tear in our eye, we start toasting to the 26th!

We do a little fishin' (**MarkoPorno hits a nice 3lb 12oz'er at the Res** and then we get a little rain (first weather since the snow a week ago today) and actually bypass town and go back to camp - dinner for five please? Yes, I'll have Filet

Mignon (thanks to HFTB) Pork Loin (thanks to Walkbucks) a caesar salad, corn on the cob, finished with several bottles of fine Cabernet to top it off. With a nice campfire, good cigars, more booze - god, I love the Mission!!

Friday, June 5th

The little bit of bad weather had cleared. Late to rise, we grab breakfast at Hay Street, grab some line-time at the Res (limited action) and run by Rhino's for Game Two. Marko and EagleEye split - leavin' Three Amigo's (Sparky, HFTB, and Walkbucks) - the last of the *weekers!* We still had nine on Friday on the 24th so we were sparse - and the three of took on the task of drinkin' for nine - and a fine job we did I might add !!

Saturday, June 6th

Since Sparky was not racing in Tahoe this year, we didn't have to rush to the big town. We just packed up, cleared camp, stopped by Rhino's for lunch, and said goodbye.....**shit man, only 361 days until the 26th !!**

NEW NICKNAMES EARNED!!

Well, let's see.... Andy became Tripper (it'll hold), Morgasm became Stumpy (won't hold), Sparky became Spudman (won't hold) Sperm became Half Monty (might hold) and HookUp became EagleEye (will hold). Smilin' Jim became Zena (your call) It's always

Page 3.

THE FISHIN' MISSION JOURNAL

The Walkbucks Company, Inc., All Rights Reserved

Vol. 26 No. 1

*** Western Edition ***

May 8, 1998

fun to see who earns a new nickname.....why not give it a try on the 26th??

THE 26TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION BEGINS!!

Okay, so now you have tested your memory (and The Commish's note takin' ability) re-lived the 25th Annual - and you are stoked !! Already dialing your boss to get time off? A little hint? **It's better to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission!** Just do it! Plan, schedule, implement, execute!!

And for the record, one last time - **the 26th Annual Fishin' Mission Extravaganza begins on Friday June 4th and runs through Saturday June 12th** - at least for the weekers - whose cajones are not made of play-doh! (Ah but I digress).

NEW AND IMPROVED TROPHY INSTALLED

Maybe it was the fact that HFTB caught the commitment on videotape. Maybe it was the fact that The Mayor had "the remains" of the original Fishin' Mission perpetual trophy. Maybe it was because The Mayor never dodges or skirts his civic responsibility (nahhhh) but in any event, **The Mayor delivered!** On the 25th he unveiled, and JR at Rhino's installed, The Rick Gale Memorial Big Fish Award Trophy! Artistic in

it's presentation, thoughtful in it's insight, and historical in it's record! Now in front of everyone who passes through Rhino's, is the artifact of record and the desire of all.....to have their name on the Fishin' Mission Trophy for all to see! **Thanks again to the Mayor for fulfilling a lifelong commitment to the team!**

THIRD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT A MUST !!

The 3rd annual golf tournament will be held on Tuesday June 8th and even though there is a rumor that The Professor will not be in attendance, we will make a second-class attempt to organize!

Sparky and The Commish have offered to assist and a request has been sent out to our favorite "local" - JR - to perhaps help! By the time you get to the Mission, all the details will have been solidified! Bring your sticks, some really nice plaid golf shorts (not) and be ready to play. If you already know you are playing, drop Walkbucks an EMail, or a voicemail (number is attached) so that we can plan ahead!!

As with last year, \$30 will get you green fees, cart, booze and "a little something". Those of you who may have access to "corporate" stuff might want to bring some along...get my drift?

STAY FOR LUNCH!

We hope that JR remembers (?) his commitment to open for a private lunch again on Monday June 7th

after the Awards Ceremony "downtown". **Don't leave town without it!** We can play the 25th Annual video tape (in case you haven't received your copy yet) and hopefully Sperm will be back with his digital camera. It's the last time for a year that we can get everyone together in one place - and we want it well attended (it costs JR \$\$ to open you idiots) so that we take care of our favorite Bridgeport purveyor. Be there!

SO WHO'S COMING ON THE 26TH ANYWAY?

Well.....not really sure yet, but The Commish has been hearing some encouraging reports. According to Country and Smacman "there are 12-14 coming from BofA" including Woody and Fast Eddy (welcome back) and some new faces too. Since we had Greener and Pukie finally return from the Next Generation, maybe a few more will break out and show? How about OB, Treeman, Incoming, Bade, BEV, Tambo? OD, Lewd, BT, Hands (who has stepped up to the moment's this year) Omar and his gang, CR, T, LTR, and even Chinny (you might have to go to the directory to remember who Chinny is) have all said they will be there! **Stiffy will be there, and is bringing his wok and his new "motorized blender"**. Haven't heard from Bonfire and his clan, nor LostBoy, MarkoPorno (bring publications-we depend on ya) and EagleEye, but I'd bet they will be there! In any case - you won't want to miss it! See ya there! Or not. Page 4.