

# THE FISHIN' MISSION JOURNAL

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## BEAUTY IS IN THE EYES OF THE BEER-HOLDER !!

Well, well, well.....can anyone guess what time it is? No, you dickweed - it's not 4:30 - it's time for the 28th Annual Fishin' Mission !!

You should already be packing, cleaning your pole (for fishin' stupid) changing out line and maybe shopping for that new secret lure that might change your life !!

If you decide you *can't* make it, in the words of Stone Cold Steve Austin "you're nothing but a two-fisted slobber-knocker" but if you *can* make it....

*Maybe we'll see ya:*

**Friday June 1st through Sunday June 10th!**

## 27TH WAS WELL ATTENDED!!

Best this editor can figure, we ended up with **forty two guys!!** Let me see, LTR, T, and CR showed up on Thursday and then over the weekend we got the likes of Morgy, Oregonism, HFTB, Mayor (w/Travis/Cody) Smilin' Jim, BT, Lewd, OD, Walkbucks, Sparky, Professor, Omar (w/Kyle) Hands, Country, Chunks, Tripper, Les, Evil Eye (now Alaska) Marko, Greener, Rocko, Smacman, Creek Boy (w/Bernie/Bob) Scratch, Backwards Bob, Stubby (w/Chris) Stiffy (w/Mike) Ron, Butch, Cartier (welcome back) POD (ditto), and

Slomax who flew into Reno on Monday - in time for the derby ! We also had some pretty weak excuses (as usual) except for Red, who was getting ready for a hip replacement. I mean Woody's Mom had her 75th birthday, Chinny had a meeting, and Lost Boy was..... uh.....lost!

## OIL SPILL ON THE EAST WALKER

Some of you probably heard about the spill! On December 30th, a truck carrying approximately 3,600 gallons of heating oil overturned, killing the driver and dumping it's load into the river, three miles downstream from Bridgeport Dam. Luckily, it was a heavy-grade fuel oil (so thick it has to be heated before it gets pumped) so combined with the winter temperatures, low flows into the river, and a quick action by clean-up crews, dispersion was limited. Email communication with JR has confirmed that damage has been minimized.

## FISHIN' MISSION FIGHTS LEUKEMIA !!

FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR, WITH MOTIVATION COMING FROM JR'S SISTER KATHIE, THE FISHIN' MISSION HAS PARTICIPATED IN FUND RAISING TO BENEFIT THE LEUKEMIA SOCIETY. IN 1999 WE HAD SEVENTEEN DONATIONS AND RAISED \$750 - WITH A LAST MINUTE CAMPAIGN. FOR THIS YEAR, WE WORKED WITH KATHIE TO DO DIRECT MAIL TO EVERYONE - AND I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT FOR 2000 WE INCREASED OUR DONATION TO OVER \$1400 THROUGH OVER TWENTY INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS!

WE SHOULD CONTINUE THIS NEW TRADITION, AND AS LONG AS KATHIE IS RIDING FOR THE CAUSE - WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE!! START TUCKING A LITTLE BIT AWAY NOW SO THAT WHEN WE KICK OFF THE CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR WE CAN MAKE EVEN MORE OF A DIFFERENCE!!

## WHAT ABOUT THE "YELLOW-LEGGED FROG"?

Yes, there IS a yellow-legged frog! It is indigenous to the high sierra's and many claim it is endangered! Some claim that it's trout stocking, particularly in the lakes above 4,000 feet, that has impacted frog habitat. Others say it is increases in water and air pollution. It's a tough call in any event - as the debate will rage over what is more important, an endangered frog or an endangered lifestyle. This reporter is betting on the fact that the two can coexist. In the meantime, studies will continue, and aerial stocking of trout in some remote Sierra Nevada lakes will be halted. All that can be said is:

BUTT.....WHYP.....PER !!

## IS YOUR ADDRESS CORRECT?? DO YOU CARE ANYMORE??

Please examine the attached Attendee List carefully. **If your name has an asterisk (\*) next to it - you are on thin ice!** Unless you contact The Commish by fax (480-460-1872) or email (walkbucks@home.com) with a good excuse, or show up this year, or send money for postage - you will be **dropped** from the mailing list !!



## CHRONOLOGY - HOW IT HAPPENED !!

It is only because of the now infamous "clipboard" that it is possible to piece together the events of a year ago that led to yet another safe and sane (okay - I was half right) Fishin' Mission !! So let's take that spin down memory lane:

### Thursday June 1st

Typically quiet start, with LTR, CR, and T arriving first - securing the trailers and basically making up bullshit about how good the fishing was before anyone else arrived!

### Friday June 2nd

As usual, kick it up a notch! Folks start arriving **and even before they wet their line they wet their whistle** - early signs are that Rhino's liquor sales will spike for the next several days! And speaking of sales - **thanks to Hands for getting us the Y2K collared shirts - the stiched logo was great!** And no one was trading short ! It winds up being a long "get re-acquainted" night at Rhino's - the Trailblazer's take it to Game 7 and the Pacer's close out the Knicks! B-Ball rules...oh yeah - we're here to fish! HFTB rolls in late - water pump problems caused overheating - *we'll fix it later*. BT get's up close and personal with a local - winds up falling off his bar stool (the local scored an "assist") but reconciles by sitting in his car in camp playing the same song for no less than an hour (for those who weren't there or can't remember - it was a Santana diddy and he seemed to like the lyric "give me your heart, make it real, or just forget about it") After we broke the CD everyone settled in....

### Saturday June 3rd

What a great day! The weather was awesome - actually too hot on the Res - the fishing was slow and it turned into a real **Melanoma Festival!** Lot of the boys were

whining later that night about how they should have used sunscreen! LTR, T, and CR had left for Mammoth that afternoon - setting a **new Fishin' Mission Record for the earliest to leave** - that will probably stand forever! Everyone retreated to camp: Seven went to a card game in #18 where it was rumored that Les cleaned up (\$150) mostly dealing 7/27, even with BT drawing 14 cards to a 27 for a push with Covert, several went to Doc 'n Al's where it was rumored that after dinner they killed bottles of Blue Skye vodka and set about lighting their chest hairs! It could be true because most of the Doc 'n Al's gang did slither out of town on Sunday!

### Sunday June 4th

The day started early for a few of the boys, as JR led BT, Professor, and Sparky up to Carmine Lake for some float tube action. They got into some good brookie action and brought pictures back so we didn't call bullshit on them! Most of the guys headed down to the Res, since the derby was on and there still wasn't much in the freezer at Ken's to brag about (see Derby - page 3) yet. Lewd, Covert, Les, POD, and OD took a pontoon boat out on the Upper Twin, and there were rumors that Cartier was fishin' with 10lb test on a saltwater rig? We all **got back to Rhino's** for the game (Portland choked again in Q4 and lost Game 7 to LA). At one point in the game Alaska yells out, "I'll bet \$2.00 that Shaq hit's both free throws" - one swish one brick - five had called him but twenty tried to collect. Lewd is having a bad case of EDG (early departure guilt) and was buying scoops for everyone. After the game - back to camp for brats, bacon-wrapped trout and duck (thanks to Stiffy for the fowl!) and then Walkbucks broke out the supply of **Fishin' Mission Glowball Hot Sauce** and sales were **HOT!** Then on to another card game - now with a waiting line to get in - Professor drops early getting pounded on a

pickem/choossem game and the night rolls on.....

### Monday June 5th

Early morning focus was still on the derby! (see Derby - page 3) Slomax made it in from the Reno airport in time for the celebratory private party at **Rhino's**. The prize money was spent by the winner in great haste - as kamikaze's flowed like the East Walker after a storm! In spite of health warnings from the Commish, some of the boys got ready to rumble, and the Belly Bumpin' Contest reached new heights. The finale was between Slomax (champion for at least the last few years) and the local rookie - Captain Gordo! It was like most Super Bowls - no contest! Gordo's best efforts failed to move Slomax back - as if his feet were nailed to the floor! After plenty to drink, with the understanding there was no basketball, we headed for camp - to feast! JR joined us in camp, as did Gordo (who not only brought "beans 'n tortillas" - but a nice load of firewood) and Evil Eye had been up to Alaska with his dad the week before - and brought about 30 pounds of Salmon and Halibut (*and from this point forward he shall be known as Alaska*) and we added trout, pork loin, tri-tip, potatoes, and salad and the eighteen or so of us dined handsomely! Big fire, some 3-D publications, wine and liquor.....life was very good.....

### Tuesday June 6th

All I can say is **BUTT UGLY!** The boys really hurt themselves last night! Very little fishing in the morning as folks get psyched (Tums, Pepto, Aspirin) for the **4th Annual Rhino's Wide Open** golf tournament, putting their poles down and picking up their clubs! (see Wide Open - page 3) We all came back to Rhino's for dinner, and then retreated to camp for a slow evening, regenerating some of the brain cells that were perhaps destroyed the night before.....



**Wednesday June 7th**

Well, the group is dwindling... we're down to nine guys - Sparky, Morgie, Oregonism, Walkbucks, HFTB, Alaska, Professor, and OD - and the Mayor returns after going home for *something*. Breakfast in camp, then on to the Res - where the fishing is slow. The weather is still great but the moss has come up heavy because of the warm weather. Nonetheless, we fight on, looking for the big one. We wind up at Rhino's for dinner (duh!) and catch Game 1 - Laker blowout and sign of things to come. It isn't until we get back to camp that we realize the Outtahere left with the 3-D reading materials! He'll bring them back on the 28th right?

**Thursday June 8th**

OD, Alaska, Morgie, and Oregonism have to leave. It had rained (with light snow) Wednesday night and it was still a little chilly, so it was Mono Village Cafe time for breakfast. Those that stayed then headed up to the Res until the afternoon. Fishing was slow, but we did get two nice fly-bys from our F-14 buddies! Uh oh, we forgot about HFTB's car problem - let's stop by Annette's for a new thermostat! Back to camp to replace the thermostat - shit, it's still leaking...oh hell, let' go to Rhino's for dinner, and then come back to camp to burn the rest of the wood Gordo brought over the other night. We'll worry about HFTB's car *tomorrow*. Great plan.....

**Friday June 9th**

The Mayor had left (again) Thursday night and now the Professor was leaving - but not until after breakfast at Hayes Street! The weather turned nice again and the Three Amigo's (Walkbucks, HFTB and Sparky) tried the Res *again*! HFTB caught as many as Sparky and Walkbucks combined, and he's well....Here For The Beer! Decided to stop by Annette's again and since they didn't have a new water pump or manufactured gasket,

we bought some gasket paper and permatek, and decided to go back to camp, and squelch this leak now!

***Pulled the water pump*** (took well over an hour the first time) and sealed with permatek. Leaked!

***Pulled the water pump again*** (30 minutes tops) and hand-made a new gasket from the gasket paper. Leaked! Shit! Nursed the car to town, got a room at The Walker River Lodge, and went to Rhino's for dinner. We'll fix the car *tomorrow*. Great plan.....

**Saturday June 10th**

We got up early. Sparky left for Tahoe to participate in the Tahoe Relays (as usual) and after HFTB and Walkbucks concluded that they weren't going to get any local auto repair assistance on Saturday (they were all fishin') they blasted down to Mammoth, bought a new water pump (with a free manufactured gasket inside) and came back and ***pulled the pump again!*** HFTB managed the clock and we had the old one out in eight minutes, the new one in in eleven minutes. No leaks! We went to Rhino's for lunch and were out of town by 3:30 PM! Until next year.....

**FISHIN' DERBY CHALLENGED ALL !!**

As you have read, the weather had been very warm prior to our arrival and for the first few days of the trip - so fishin' was a challenge! The big trout were harder to find and the competition was not as stiff as it has been. We had folks on the Walker River, Carmine Lake, The Res, and the high lakes up at Conway Summit - but it was slow everywhere. Smilin' Jim was the first on the board with a 2 lb 6 oz 'bow caught on the Res on Saturday. On Sunday morning Oregonism and Outtahere found a spot

on the Lower Twin and picked up 4 lb 2 oz and 2 lb 8 oz 'bows respectively. A few nice brookies were taken from Carmine Lake on Sunday morning too - but none that pushed the derby! On Monday both Sparky and Gordo picked up 2 lb 6 oz 'bows out on the Res, but as the clock in the tower struck noon....Smilin' Jim had bolted with the prize money.....NOT...he was just late getting in - but Matt VanBuskirk was declared the winner with his 4 lb 2 oz 'bow! Thanks to JR for the Rhino's (Ken's?) prize donation - a nice Browning Graphite Rod with Superlite Reel! The prize money totalled \$110 and everyone escorted Oregonism over to Rhino's to spend it! And a great surprise bartender - Jason was behind the bar for the private party - always great to see him!

**RHINO'S "WIDE OPEN" !!**

Tuesday was golf tournament day and the weather cooperated for the 4th Annual Wide Open. Again held at the Walker River Country Club in Hawthorne, the trash talk started early! The Professor filed a protest because two players on one team actually had golf shoes! Bad to the Bone was off first (Commish, OD, Marko, Hands) followed by Team Acid (Professor, Sparky, Morgie, Greener) then Team Fun (Smilin' Jim, POD, Alaska, Mr. Quiet) with the Hawthorne Bombers (Outtahere, Rocko, Oregonism, Slomax) dragging up the rear!

Team Fun finished last (+5) with Bad to the Bone third (+4) but the tournament came down to a tie (+2) and a one hole playoff between Team Acid and the Hawthorne Bombers! The gallery was tough on the players coming in (massive beer consumption was



a coincidence) and some players folded under the pressure and whiffed their fairway shots - but **the Bombers held on and won** after getting on the green in two and two-putting for the win! This allowed **Oregonism to win the Fishing Derby and the Wide Open in the same year - something that has never been done !!** Congrats to the whole Bomber Team!

Other winners:

Closest To The Pin #17 - **won by the Professor** - and clinched since he was the only one to actually *hit* the green!

Longest Drive #11 - more competition but the **winner was POD** - who came back to the Mission after a hiatus since 1983! Guess we know what he's been doing with his time!

**Web Sites You Need !!**

More and more of you are getting online (finally) so make sure The Commish has your current information and visit these sites:

[www.thefishinmission.com](http://www.thefishinmission.com) - do I have to explain?

[www.kenssport.com](http://www.kenssport.com) - this is still under construction, but will be a great site.

[www.rhinosbarandgrille.com](http://www.rhinosbarandgrille.com) - stock up on t-shirts and stuff now - and place your bid to buy Rhino's outright!

[www.eAngler.com](http://www.eAngler.com) - online shopping in a virtual community of fishermen. But if you can buy it at Kens - do so!

[www.fishsniff.com](http://www.fishsniff.com) - good fishing reports and related news.

**CD-ROM ARCHIVES ARE BECOMMING A CHALLENGING !!**

We are still accumulating photo's from past Missions. As mentioned, the plan is to scan and organize all the photo's and create a CD photo album - but we need your help! Comb through your photo's and if there are any that you want to make sure are captured, send them to the Commish or **bring them on the 28th!** Please indicate the year of the Mission and your name - so we can return all photo's in their original condition after scanning. We want to make sure we include all the pictures available - in order to capture the complete essence of The Fishin' Mission.

**WORKING ON SOME STUFF !!**

Not sure what you guys should expect regarding "28th Annual Memorabilia" ? Any suggestions? Any volunteers? Hands has done a great job the last two years with hats and collared shirts, and we had Glow Ball Hot Sauce last year too. Want some more? Let The Commish know.

There have been rumors that a compilation of appropriate Fishin' Mission music is being prepared, and could end up on a Fishin' Mission Favorites CD - available only to those who attend the 28th? Can you take a chance of missing out?

If you have any ideas, contact The Commish ASAP?

**WHAT ABOUT THE 28TH ??**

From initial reports, the 28th already looks like a winner. We've had many motto's over the years - but I think this year's motto is **"If you don't show up - we won't look for ya!"** Your call and

your problem! Those of us who commit will no longer be co-dependents to those who don't!

We've heard from Omar who will be bringing *both* his sons this year (Kyle and Chris). Early conversations with Smacman confirmed that his clan will be up at Doc 'n Al's again this year. According to Scratch, Red's hip replacement was postponed to July so he will be coming along with Wild Bill, Backwards Bob, Bowen, Butch, and maybe Cartier (leave the salt water rig at home). Count on the Oregon contingency (HFTB, Oregonism, 3D) too!

Hope to see some guys back who have worn out the weak excuses - Moondoggie, Chinny, Deits, Bonfire and Jason, Bucket, Woody, Fast Eddy, and the others who know who you are!

You will see some new names on the Attendee List too - BT has included three new candidates from the Bent Barrel Duck Club (Fred Bascom, Gerry Waybright, and Tom Hubbard) and The Commish has included Bryan Daughtry. We'll see if they show!

Make your trailer reservations if you haven't, pack if you must, finalize your divorce if you have to....but **be there!**

**Friday June 1st - Sunday June 10th**

