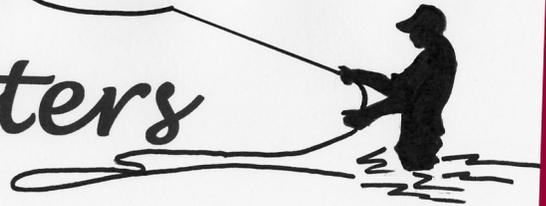




News Casters



P.O. Box 734
Weiser, Idaho 83672

Officers

President-Bill Betts
549-0686
1st Vice Pres-Dave Stepp
549-1468
2nd Vice Pres-Mike Thomas
549-2473
Past President-Jim Gulu
549-0796
Secretary-Lynette Jones
549-0430
Treasurer-Mary Thompson
608-0067

Board Members

Roy Davis 642-2366
Mark Sands 549-2545
Nando Mauldin 549-2883
Dick Garrett 549-1311
Bob Maki 642-6971
Frank Thomas 549-0237

Meetings are held the 2nd
Tuesday of each month at Idaho
Pizza, 1255 State Street,
Weiser. Fly tying at 6 pm,
meeting at 7 pm.

Join in the Fun!

Committees

Outings: Rod Jones, Al Sillonis,
Bob Maki

Library: Rod Jones, Dick Garrett,
Annie Steppe

Fund Raising: Lynette Jones, Sara
Gulu, Annie Steppe, Mary Thompson

Membership: Dave Steppe,
Bob Maki

Conservation: Mark Sands,
Nando Mauldin

Budget: Mary Thompson, Lynette
Jones

Publicity: Mike & Diana Thomas

Newsletter: Perry & Sally Kelley,
Mary Thompson, Dick Garrett

Education: Marv Orwig, Mike
Thomas, Frank Thomas, Bill Betts,
Jim Gulu, Perry Kelley

Youth Activities: Mike & Frank
Thomas, Mark Sands, Ken Gissell

Historian: Suzanne Orwig

November 2009

President's Message by Bill Betts

Wahoo! Oh Yeah! What a joy to watch the grand opening of the Weiser Community Pond (pictures on page 6). All the members can be proud of what we have accomplished. This is an effort that will keep on giving and giving the community through the years. Job well done, guys and gals! I thought the moment Madison Anderson made the first cast was very poignant. One flick of the wrist told us that we had done well. Thanks to all those members who put so many hours into this project. You know who they are. Don't forget to give them a pat on the back. It is okay for members to fish the pond. Just say that you are there to practice your casting technique.

The IFF have expended large amounts of resources and time for a small organization to have the pond built. The board discussed the need to pull back a little from such a large community involvement to focus our resources and time to service our own members. We need to identify the needs of our members (particularly the new members) and design a strategy to serve their needs. Please don't be hesitant to bring forth your ideas on this matter to any board member.

We will continue, full steam

ahead, with our commitment to the youth. We understand that the future of our sport, as well as the future of our youth, lie in a properly educated and motivated child.

We are constantly searching for entertaining and educational programs for our general meetings. Please, if you have an idea about a program, contact Dave Steppe or any board member.

I am writing this from Columbia Falls, Montana. I am searching for good fishing opportunities for next year. I think I may have found a few. Jane and I have visited Glacier National Park (low clouds greatly obstruct the view this time of the year). We have visited the Blackfeet and Flathead Indian reserves and visited with some very nice Indian people. Ever wonder whether to call an Indian a Native American or Indian? Don't worry. They are not very uptight about the matter. A formal Tribal Chairman of the Nez Perce people says he is just glad that Columbus was not searching for Turkey!

Don't forget to sell those tickets for the Pink Basket. The money raised goes to help cancer victims in our own Communities.

Bill

"You Get A Line and I'll Get a Pole"

By Perry Kelley



Sing that line three times ending it with a "Honey, Babe" and add "And we'll go down to the crawdad hole, Honey, Baby, Mine." This song brings back a pang of nostalgia that I experience every year at this time. It has to do with my teaching days. It seemed that almost every elementary classroom had one of these kiddy plastic wading pools filled with crayfish. The kids loved to catch these fresh-water mini-lobsters in the remaining pools after the water was turned off in the canals. The children loved to show me their treasures. Many even had names for their crustaceous critters. They were very proud of their new aquatic friends. What does this have to do with fly fishing? Not much. This is just a feeble attempt to do a segue. No, this is not an article about crawdad fly patterns, but the song mentions a line, and, of course, because we are fly fishermen, I would like to make my thoughts known on this complicated and confusing topic of the modern fly lines. Incidentally, we fly fishermen never use the "P" word when referring to a rod.



Just the thought of the modern fly line brings out two startling things: cost and choice. When I first started fly fishing as a teenager (for you wise guys out there, that was somewhat past the horsehair lines), I used a level silk line. I could not afford a tapered line. I'm sure that I did not pay more than \$3 for a line. In the 70's when I first realized that one needed more than a single fly line, I could buy an SA floating or type II sinking line for under \$20. That was all I really needed. At the time I thought the cost was extravagant. Now a basic line retails at \$60 and upwards. The new Sharkskin line which has the latest technology in floatability and slickness goes for almost \$100. At that price I'm surprised they didn't throw in an I-pod with a *Jaws* sound track. Spey rod lines start at \$90 and a multi-tipped line will set you back at \$150 or more. Imagine what your investment would be if you had four fly rods, each with a separate reel and one spare spool at \$100 each plus another \$15 for backing. To complicate the equation even more, fly lines don't last forever. Even if you take good care of them, keep them clean and apply the proper dressing (for floating lines only), they take a lot of abuse. Constant exposure to the elements, UV light and being whipped through the air at supersonic (exaggeration) speeds takes its toll. Certainly at today's prices one should use the proper maintenance to get the maximum life out of each line.

Now about the staggering numbers of choices that we

fly fishermen have to face when purchasing fly lines; it is hard to know where to start. Airflo, Rio, SA, Wulff, Cortland, Sage, Triangle Taper, Sue Burgess, Teeny, and Orvis are but a few of the brand names that make quality lines. Add the different styles, weights, and designs and the choices are incredibly complex. There are lines for cold waters, tropic waters, clear waters, still waters, bone fish, tarpon, bass, steelhead, and bill fish. The list goes on and on and on. I wouldn't be surprised if someday there would be pikeminnow, carp, and sucker specialty lines. Lines are designed to float, barely sink, sink faster than an anvil and to both float and sink. Colors are everything from neutral subdued, stealth to florescent, bold, glow in the dark. Sizes range from extremely light 0 weight trout creek lines to 15 very heavy weight salt water big game bill fish lines. Lines are also designed for different densities. Floating lines, full sinking lines, combination floating sinking and everything in between are part of the fly fisherman's arsenal. Design choices range from level (constant diameter) to complicated tapers. Spey rod fly lines choices alone are numerous and confusing. Grand Spey, Mid Spey, Skagit Cheaters, Spey Sink Tip Compensator are but a few of the choices. In essence one can categorically state that fly line designs and choices are nothing but mind boggling. I guess that is why the expertise found in a good fly shop is essential in choosing a line.



Don't be overly concerned by all of this, for most of us can very successfully outfit ourselves with the minimum of lines and catch lots of fish. For practical purposes, all you really need for stream trout fishing is a weight forward floating line. Go with a lime or chartreuse color which you can readily see and match the line weight to your rod. When nymphing, use an indicator and a weighted fly. This line will also work for some still water situations, mainly emergers, floating bass bugs, and dry flies. Sinking lines for still waters will be a little more complex. Type II or III full sinking will cover a lot of situations. Some anglers prefer a sink tip which can also be used in a stream. Full sink lines are primarily for still waters. One line that is especially effective in still waters is an intermediate sink line. This is the slowest of the sink lines and works great for fishing flies imitating emerging insects in the top foot of water.

Over the years I have had lines that were very effective and others that I seldom used. I really like my Cortland Clear Cammo for still waters. This line looks like a flexible mono and practically disappears in the water. I also like a

type III sink line and a Bass Taper floating line. One of my favorite lines was a Cortland Intermediate line. This line, which is no longer manufactured, would sink just barely below the surface. It would work for both emerging insects and dry flies. If you have questions about fly lines and which to have, contact members of IFF. Also make use of the experts at the fly shops.

Now I added an extra verse to the above song:
 "Whatcha gonna do when the canal runs dry, Honey?
 Whatcha gonna do when the canal runs dry, Babe?
 Whatcha gonna do when the canal runs dry
 Sit on the bank and watch the crawdads die,
 Honey, Babe, mine."

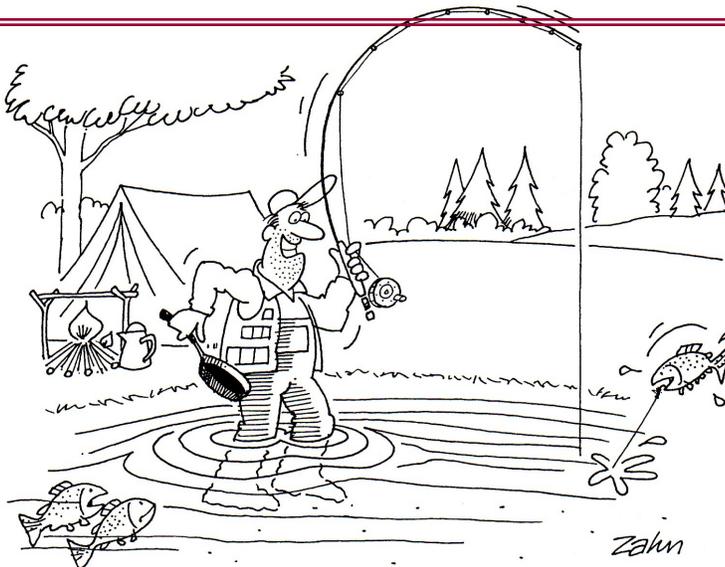
Keep a tight line!

Mistaken Identity

On a recent trip to Oregon's famed Grande Ronde river in search of the elusive steelhead, one of our Indianhead Fly Fishers was mistakenly identified as the noted outdoor humorist Patrick F. McManus. Several other steelhead fishermen approached the above IFF member requesting autographs. The real irony was they also misidentified the brothers Thomas as Retch and Rancid. It was never clear which was which. When the IFF member asked the steelhead fishermen for royalties, they quickly lost interest. Such is the price of almost fame.

This is the article that was part of the nomination for the Indianhead Fly Fishers Non-Profit of the Year submitted by Sally Kelley.

Indianhead Fly Fishers should be named Weiser's Non-Profit Organization of the Year 2009 for their support of community projects and teaching the youth. Their greatest accomplishment this year was support and work on the Weiser Community Pond. Many fundraising projects toward this goal were sponsored, such as raffles of flyfishing equipment and supplies. Their biggest fundraising project was working with Weiser Little Theater in their production of the play *On Golden Pond*. IFF members built the set, decorated it with shadowboxes of fishing flies they had tied, decorated the dining hall with a lake, canoe, and fir trees. They hosted the dessert night, providing and serving desserts, coffee and punch. For their work, WLT presented them with the proceeds of ticket sales for that night, a sizable check to be used on the pond. IFF has also participated the last two years with decorated trees and raffle items for the Festival of Trees, with their first tree breaking a record for the amount bid on a tree and being voted Best of Show. The club has participated in 4H, After-School group, and Fiddle Festival Kids' Day with demonstrating and teaching the kids fly casting and fly tying. One of their main goals is to help the next generation learn the fun and joy that can come from fishing. Weiser is a better place because of this vital, lively group.



"THIS GUY DEFINITELY DOESN'T PRACTICE CATCH AND RELEASE!"

THE SAGA OF COUGAR MEADOWS

by Bill Betts

I thought that you might enjoy hearing of my recent pack trip with Heiniken, Doublebok and Guinness. These are Alpine goats which are bred and trained to be pack animals, thereby simplifying and making easier the lives of humans. At least that is the theory.

My friend Hershall Johnson and I have been encouraged by the Fullers to take their goats packing with us so that the goats would have exercise and acquire experience packing, since they are only three years old and our friends don't have time to take them as often as they would like. I had been thinking that at the age of 53 it would be nice to find a means of packing into the mountain lakes carrying something less than the 45-48 pound pack with which I usually lumber up the mountainside. So jumped at the opportunity and arranged to take the goats on a weeklong excursion into the Cougar Meadows area of Idaho. The trailhead starts near the Big Creek Ranger Station, about a five-hour drive from McCall, Idaho.

The trailhead requires crossing the Big Creek. The creek is about 30-40 feet wide and at the ford is about a foot high. This never has proved a problem in the past, because hikers were permitted to ford the creek and park on the east side of the river, but things are a changing. Now the owner of the land has put a stop to that practice. So off come the boots for a short crossing and then on with the boots to go for a seven-mile hike and 3500-foot climb.



When we picked up the goats and talked to the owners, we were warned that they did not care much for water. Hershall had taken the goats for a three-day hike last year and said that they actually seemed to be really terrified of water. Even a trickle of water snaking down the trail was a major concern and required evasive action. The owner wished us good luck getting across Big Creek and was eager to hear how we fared. He had no tips to give us. Wow! That should have been a tip off that we might be in for a very interesting trip. His wife related an incident on their last trip that should have put the nail in the coffin and caused us to pack our backpacks. She said that when a horse is encountered on the trail, that we must defer and step 40 or so feet below the trail so as not to upset the horses. She reported that horses have more than just normal skittishness when it comes to goats. Later we would learn that goats are equally skittish about horses in their neighborhood. Well, at least mules scare the heck out of goats. The goats had spooked a string of horses on their last trip, and a horse had reared on the trail and fell over a girl. Fortunately, no injuries were incurred. We were told to buy a couple of spray-water bottles with which to squirt the goats when we wished to correct their behavior. Oh yes, they had not taught the goats to be tethered at night and had only just begun to work with them on a leash.

Late Wednesday morning two old fools and three goats headed for McCall where the old fools stopped for a bite of lunch at the Pancake House. After a five-hour drive we pulled up onto Jordan's Ladder Flats. We let the goats out of the trailer and made a camp for ourselves. The goats are supposed to be very attached to humans and will only wander a short distance and can be quickly recalled with the brandishing of a sack of oats. Oh yes. A third warning from the owners was that on their last trip they had a small problem with the goats wandering off a short distance to a high area where they spent the night, as goats are wont to do, for security reasons. The owner gave us a bell that he had just bought to put on the collar of one of the goats to make the task of retrieving the goats an easy job. Wrong!!!!



(This is the first installment of this story, to be continued next month!)

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MICHAEL BISHOP

If you attended the Weiser Little Theater's recent production of "Murder by the Book," you were in the presence of Michael and you might have seen him. Remember when the stage was dark you could see behind the black screening into the northeast corner of the theater? Yeah, that little lit up area where a figure sat hunched over something. Okay, that was Michael. Michael was the light and sound man for the play. For the production of *On Golden Pond*, Michael helped Julie Moore on the stage crew. Michael finds pleasure in volunteering. He enjoyed his time with the theater and is very appreciated by the members of the cast and directors. Besides volunteering Michael enjoys fishing; he gets out about ten times a month seeking his favorite fish—anything that he catches. What does he catch? Little trout and bass. Asked where his favorite place to fish, Michael answered the Oregon Coast. Shortly before the passing of his father, they fished the Oregon coast together and each caught a large salmon.

Michael moved from Portland to Weiser three years ago. What does he like about Weiser? It is small and people are so darn nice. In Portland he worked as a caregiver for twenty years, but had to leave the stress of the big city for health reasons. He has started a yard care and handyman business. For fun Michael likes to fish, make wood canes, grow worms; and he has four boats that he is fixing up. Oh, don't forget the volunteering. He loves to work and volunteer. Asked about wife and kids, his answers were "No" and "No," but he would appreciate a lead to any nice, friendly available women in the area. Can anybody help an old guy out here? Well, maybe not so old. Michael is forty-seven. Asked what he expects from the Indianhead Fly Fishers, he says, "a hat (just kidding)." Knowing people like Perry and Mike is just a bonus. If he could find the time in his busy life (didn't he say he moved here to slow down his hectic former life in Portland?), he would like to start tying flies again.

When asked if he could share a humorous story about himself, he responded with the following: "Well there was this time when I was nursing. We were having a dinner for family and the residents of the nursing home when one of the residents asked me 'Mike could you turn up the heat I am cold.' Yes, I said and off I went to the heater. A couple minutes later the same lady asked me could I turn it down; she was too warm. The son who was sitting with her noticed I was busy serving dinner trays and just smiled. A couple minutes later, as I was walking by and again she asked me 'Mike could you turn up the heat I am getting cold.' Her son says, 'Mother, Mike's busy; let him be.' I said it's no problem at all. Well, after dinner the son comes up to me and says thank you for being so nice to his mother but how do you do it? Heat up, heat down, heat up. Well, I said, I have been your mother's caregiver for 6 years now and I know how she is at dinner with the heat. . .you see, I don't turn it up in the first place, so she is always comfortable. I don't think I have heard anyone laugh so hard."

In the cyber world, Michael is known as PepsiKingMichael. He says he comes by the moniker honestly. So if you see Michael, his drink of choice is Pepsi, his pet peeve is rude people, and oh, don't forget, if you happen to know a nice, young, available lady.



Membership Dues notice for November

\$30 Individual; \$45 Family

Travis Curry, Ed & Nina Gammons, John & Virginia Hickey, "Swede" Johnson, Al Sillonis

Past Due

Dave & Patricia Johnson, David Robidoux, Larry Parks, & Rob Presley

Thanks to everyone for your support and participation!

Opening Day at The Weiser Community Pond



“There is no greater fan of fly fishing than the worm.”

Patrick F. McManus

Nov 3 - IFF Board
7 pm at Idaho Pizza

Nov 10 - IFF Membership
6 pm—Fly Tying
7 pm—Membership

Nov 17 - Fly Tying
7 pm Weiser Library



November 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 IFF Board	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 IFF Membr	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Fly Tying	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					