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### Officers

**President:** Mark Sands  
549-2545

**1st Vice Pres:** Tom Dyer  
257-4225

**2nd Vice Pres:** Open

**Past President:** Bob Maki  
642-6971

**Secretary:** Lynette Jones  
550-2264

**Treasurer:** Jim Gulu  
549-0796

### Board Members

Nando Mauldin	549-2883
Dave McPheeters	720-233-1905
Rod Jones	549-0430
Marv Orwig	484-6837
Ken Gissel	642-3944
Tom Dyer	257-4225

### Committees

**Budget:** Jim Gulu, Lynette Jones

**Conservation and Youth:**  
Mark Sands, Nando Mauldin,

**Education:** Perry Kelley,

**Fund Raising:** Lynette Jones,  
Sarah Gulu

**Historian:** Suzanne Orwig

**Library:** Rod Jones, Ken Gissel,  
Dick Garrett

**Membership:** Bill Betts plus  
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**Newsletter:** Dick Garrett Perry &  
Sally Kelley, Mary Thompson,

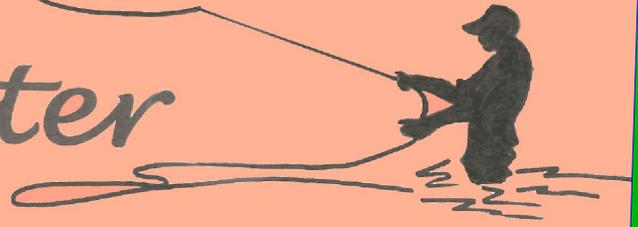
**Outings:** Al Sillonis plus Board  
members

**Programs:** Tom Dyer

**Publicity:** Perry Kelley

Join in the Fun!

# News Caster



**December 2012**

## President's Message

for Mark Sands by Tom Dyer

Just received a call from Mark Sands, at least I think it was Mark. His voice was very weak and a bit hoarse due to a bad case of the flu. He asked if I would mind writing the President's Message this month, he was just too sick to do it. In a weak moment I said yes, so here goes.

Last summer after visiting the grandkids in Idaho Falls Cindy and I decided to take the long way back to Cambridge. Our route would take us to Dillon and Missoula, Montana allowing some fishing opportunities along the way. I do like taking this trip even though it takes at least two days—some times more. The time it takes is directly tied to the Fly Shops visited and fishing holes tested. In fact Cindy would say that it is a very dangerous trip as a result of my window gawking at every body of water along the highway. This trip was no different, especially along highway 12 out of Missoula. I had to pull over several times just to see if I could get lucky on the Lochsa River. At one of these stops I noticed something that seemed odd. Every SUV that went by had kids in the backseat watching their favorite DVD on a flip down video screen, oblivious to the landscape and beautiful river just beyond the window. I know when I was that age I could hardly sit still wanting to get a hook and worm in the creek or climb and explore the hillside. Not so any more,

Maybe for this Holiday we can give a gift of joy to a young person we know. The joy of experiencing nature through drowning a worm, shooting cans with a .22, hiking along a stream or to a lake... Maybe with a little luck we can save some of the kids from nature-deficit disorder and they will want to experience the beauty just beyond their windows.

**Merry  
Christmas**



# Crystal Lake—A hike worth taking

By

Tom Dyer

Just finished mowing the yard and it's time for a beer. It seems like our grass grows faster and faster every year. Maybe I'm just getting older and slower. Cindy was motioning that I had a phone call. Steve was calling to let me know that our hike this week was to Crystal Lake. Steve, his wife Linda, Deb and Larry make up the nucleus of the day hike Jedi's (Jedi's are an order of quasi-religious warrior/philosophers that can walk my as off). When possible, both Cindy and I tag along on their adventures. Crystal Lake was one of those trips we didn't want to miss.

Crystal Lake is located on the Payette National Forest about ten miles out of McCall. As I have mentioned before, many of our hikes tend to focus around McCall which is kind of nice. We have some great places to eat when we're done with a hard day on the trail plus we get to visit Paul's Market on the way up in the morning. Paul's always is well stocked with an adequate amount of amber liquid (beer) so important after a hike!!!

We arrived at the trail head about 10:00 A.M. and start putting things together for the trail. At this point I should emphasize our canine companions consist of one Springer spaniel, two Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, and one Australian Shepherd. Within 15 minutes we are heading up the trail with the Jedi's in the lead while Cindy and I are a bit farther back. The hike is beautiful. Cool dark forest opens up to a meadow wildflower valley then on to granite dominate topography. These hikes are exhausting but the beauty of the trip makes it really worthwhile. When we make it to the junction where the Crystal Lake Trail splits off from the main trail we see the rest of our hiking buddies sitting in the shade waiting for our arrival. I'm very happy they waited; I would have walked right by the start of the Crystal Lake Trail. There was no discernible marker indicating a change in direction. A little over a mile and we will be at the lake.

This year I was trying something new for high mountain lakes—"spey fishing". In April I purchased a TFO 12 and a half foot spey rod

that casts a 5 weight line. My hope was this would serve as a good high mountain lake rod due to its ability to lay out a lot of line with a short "D" loop back cast. I also was equipped with a 350gr shooting head spey line and a box of my favorite lake fly, both dry and wet, but the way I fish, my dries will become wet after about three casts anyway.

Arriving at the lake I was amazed at how clear the water was. You could see fish cruising at least 10 feet below the surface. When we arrived we were greeted by two Forest Service temporary employees hired for the summer to backpack into high mountain lakes and gather information on the resident fish. They had been there a couple of days saying they've caught a few fish, not many. All were cutthroats from 12 to 16 inches long. We couldn't get our packs off and rods strung fast enough.

I think Larry was the first of us to catch a trout. He was using a dry fly, fishing a portion of the lake where a dense thicket of alders and willows grew next to the waters edge. Larry was able to pickup several fish in this location. Steve was also having some luck on the other side of the lake fishing deep with spinners. I, on the other hand, hadn't caught a thing. My spey rod launched the line out a long way but when it landed it created such a splash it frightened any fish near the splashdown. This continued until about 1:00 P.M. when a breeze came up masking the splashdown of my shooting head. I also changed fishing locations with Larry. As we say in the club "fish on". I was able to pick up some nice cuts using a streamer fly. The streamer I used is called a Burk's Aggravator, new pattern to me but fast becoming one of my favorites for high mountain lakes. All the fish I hooked were down fairly deep, 4 to 8 feet and all were on the side of the lake where the alders were right on the water's edge. Also, the fish I caught were between 12 and 14 inches, both Steve and Larry caught several fish in the 16 inch range. Unlike some high mountain lake fish these cutthroat's hit hard on the initial strike and played fairly well. Overall we caught and released 19 trout in about four hours of fishing.

Crystal Lake lived up to its name having crystal clear water located in a beautiful high mountain setting. A side benefit to this hike was the huckleberries located around the lake and along portions of the trail. This is truly remarkable considering my experience finding huckleberries is akin to finding Sasquatch.



The trip back to the trailhead was uneventful; the day hike Jedi's moved out in their usual 4 minute mile pace while Cindy and I stumbled our way down the mountain. By the time we arrive Larry is finishing his cigar and well into his second beer. Boy! Do I love these hikes.



A little bit about the fly I used, first I changed the name from Burk's Aggravator to Schmoeger-vator in honor of Steve Schmoeger one of the day hike Jedi's.

Hook: size 10 or 12

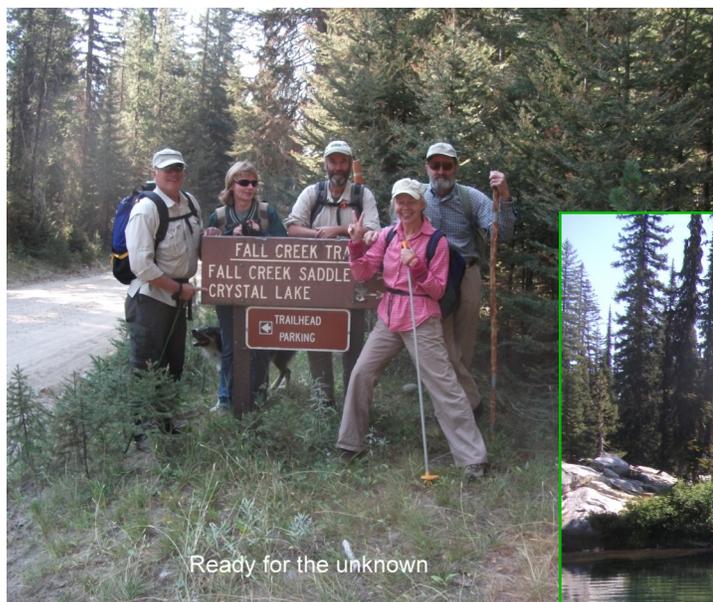
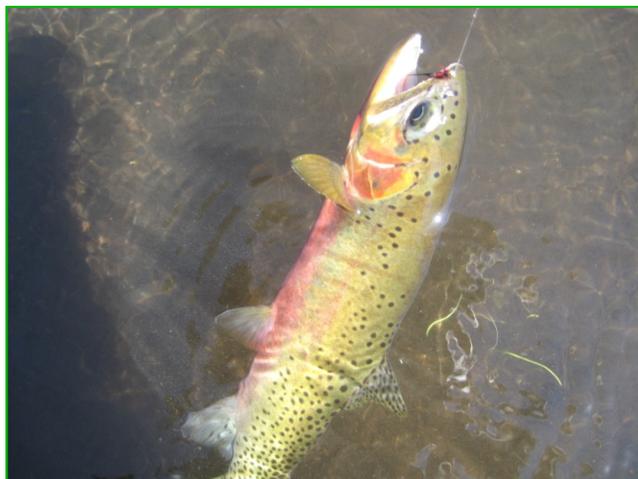
Tail: brown, olive, yellow or black Marabou with four strands of pearl krystal flash

Body: two or three strands of peacock hurl

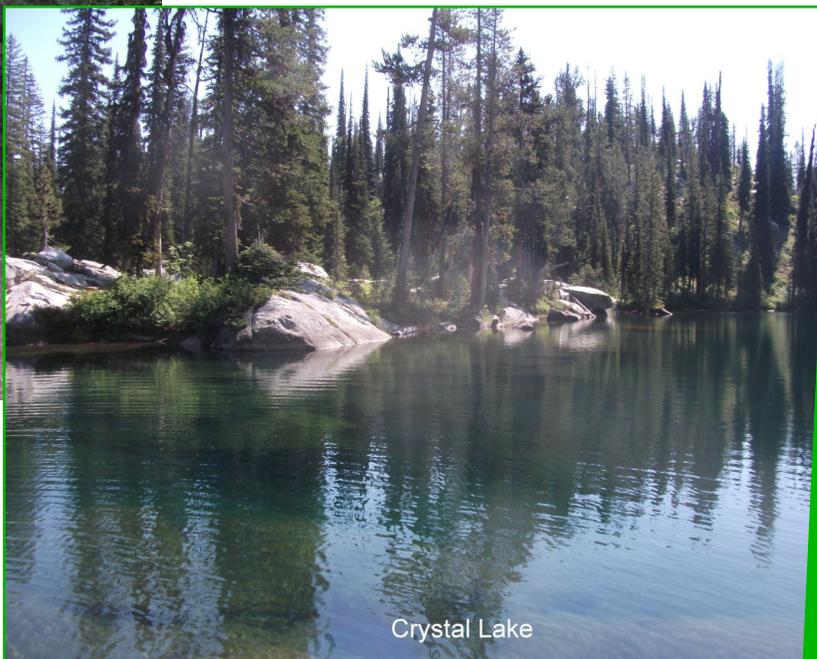
Rib: fine oval gold tinsel

Wing: two white goose biots

Head: gold bead head



Ready for the unknown



Crystal Lake





P.O. Box 734, Weiser, Idaho

## Indianhead Fly Fishers Christmas Party

The **December 11th** meeting will be the annual **Christmas Party** for members and their spouses. The Club will provide the pizza, and pop. The Festivities start promptly at **6:30 pm**.

The cost of admission for the evening will be items to be given to the Elk's **Christmas Baskets**. They have requested we donate the items we have in the past: dish soap, laundry soap, hand soap, any toiletry items, also toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, etc. These are items they usually have to purchase for the baskets.

You are also asked to bring a **"White Elephant"** for a fun gift exchange!

Come and join in the **Christmas Frivolity!**

The following members have December as their due-date for renewal of membership. Please see Jim Gulu and pay ASAP so he doesn't have to get rough with you.

- Daniels, Charlie
- Thomas, Dave & Pam

### Coming Events

Dec 4—IFF Board,  
Beehive 7 pm

Dec 11—IFF Membership  
Christmas Party  
Idaho Pizza 6:30 pm  
No Fly tying Demo

No Tuesday night fly tying at the library this month.



## DECEMBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 IFF Board Meeting	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 IFF Christmas Party	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					