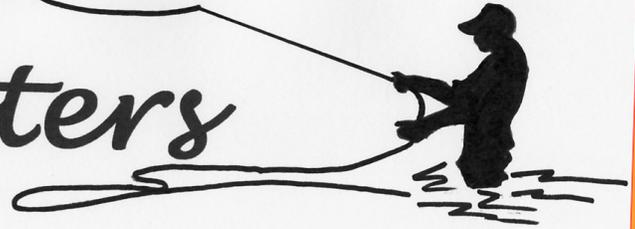




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News

Casters



February 2014

President's Message

by Tom Dyer

Officers

President-Tom Dyer
257-4225

1st Vice Pres - Open

2nd Vice Pres-Open

Past President-Mark Sands
549-2545

Secretary-Lynette Jones
550-2264

Treasurer-Jim Gulu
549-0796

Board Members

Rod Jones 549-0430
Marv Orwig 484-6837
Mike Thomas 549-2473
Ray Perkins 541-889-4441

Committees

Budget: Jim Gulu, Lynette Jones

Conservation and Youth: Mark Sands, Nando Mauldin,

Education: Perry Kelley,

Fund Raising: Lynette Jones, Sarah Gulu

Historian: Open

Library: Rod Jones, Ken Gissel, Dick Garrett

Membership: Bill Betts plus Board members

Newsletter: Perry & Sally Kelley, Dick Garrett

Outings: Al Sillonis plus Board members

Programs: Tom Dyer

Publicity: Perry Kelley

Join in the Fun!

Dry as a Bone

Based on the latest reports from Idaho Water Resources, we are looking at one of the lowest snow packs in recent history. January reports show the Weiser River Basin as running a Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) of 50 percent less of normal and the rest of the State in about the same shape. In fact 88 percent of the State is in a moderate to severe Drought. When I checked on Eastern Oregon they were as bad or worse with Harney and Malheur Counties classified as severe or extreme. This in itself may not be so bad except for the past two years were also low water years. We went into this water year with depleted reservoir and minimum stream flows. So what does this situation mean for fishing this year?

A long term precipitation deficit will result in low stream flows even in the tail water reaches of some of our more popular rivers such as the Owyhee, Boise, and Snake Rivers. Reservoirs won't see a significant recharge and some may go dry altogether—Malheur for example. What can we do besides pray for snow and rain this spring? We can plan our fishing outings to take advantage of early season conditions. If, for example, we enjoy fishing reservoirs with float tubes and pontoon boats we may want to plan spring trips instead of waiting for midsummer and fall. We should also consider focusing on some of the early stonefly hatches on the Owyhee and South Fork of the Snake instead of relying on good grasshopper populations in late summer. There may also be opportunities for great smallmouth bass fishing in Oxbow and Hells Canyon Reservoirs. This may also be the year you want to plan that trip to West Yellowstone where you could fish Hebgen and Quake Lakes as well as the Madison River. Whatever you decide, this year's water conditions may require a bit more planning before jumping in the pickup and heading out.

Drought Tips for Anglers:

Fish will feel the stress caused by low flows, higher water temperatures and competition for space and food. Low water conditions in spring and fall can cause spawning failures and increased predation on young. To help preserve a threatened fishery angler can:

- Fish in the cool morning hours
- Try another location, if water is low at a favorite fishing spot.

If practicing catch and release:

- Use barbless hooks
- Land fish quickly once they are hooked
- Keep fish in the water as much as possible when handling
- Wet hands before handling and limit time handled
- Take special care not to touch fish's gills.

75th Celebration: Steelhead from creation to catch

Idaho's first anadromous fish hatchery (ocean-going fish) opened near Oxbow Dam in January 1962, supporting the opportunity to fish for steelhead and salmon today.

Steelhead are similar to rainbow trout except that they migrate to the ocean and return to fresh water to spawn. Anglers can fish for steelhead somewhere in Idaho from July 1 to May 31. There are no harvest seasons for wild steelhead. If you want to keep your catch, make sure it has no adipose fin. That means it came from one of Idaho's anadromous fish hatcheries.

Idaho's steelhead and salmon hatcheries were built to mitigate for the loss of these fish when hydropower dams were built on the Snake River, as well as Dworshak Dam on the Clearwater, making the 500- to 900-mile journey to and from the ocean more difficult. Today only about 25 percent of the fish that return to the Snake River system are of wild origin.

More than 50 percent of all Columbia River basin steelhead come from Idaho, either spawning in the wild or raised in

hatcheries.

In Idaho, 14 salmon and steelhead hatcheries, built as mitigation for losses from hydropower projects in the Snake River drainage, produce about 11 million Chinook salmon, 7.5 million steelhead and 200,000 sockeye salmon for release annually.

Rapid River Hatchery opened in 1964, Niagara Springs in 1966 and Pahsimeroi in 1967. They were built to mitigate for Idaho Power Company's complex of three dams in Hells Canyon of the Snake River. In September 2013, the Springfield Fish Hatchery was completed near American Falls Reservoir.

Idaho's A-run steelhead are usually found in the Snake and Salmon rivers. They return from the ocean early in the year - usually June through August - and they most often return after spending one year in the ocean. Because of their early return and short stay in the ocean they usually weigh 4 to 6 pounds and are generally 23 to 26 inches in length.

The B-run steelhead most often return to the Clearwater River, but

some return to tributaries in the Salmon River. These fish usually spend two years in the ocean and start their migration to Idaho later in the summer or fall of the year - usually late August or September. Because of the extra year and the extra summer of growing in the ocean, they return as much bigger fish. Average B-run steelhead weigh between 10 and 13 pounds and are 31 to 34 inches long.

Steelhead grow even larger when they spend a third year in the ocean before they return to Idaho to spawn. These steelhead are usually larger than 37 inches and often weigh more than 20 pounds.

The Idaho state record steelhead was 30 pounds and 2 ounces and was caught in the Clearwater River in 1973. For more information check out the links below.

Steelhead Fishing: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/fish/?getPage=38>.

Idaho Fishing Planner: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingPlanner/>.

For more on Idaho's celebration marking 75 years since the creation of the Idaho Fish and Game

Commission in 1938, go online to <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/75th/>.

Jack Daniels Fishing Story

I went fishing this morning, but after a short time I ran out of worms.

Then I saw a cottonmouth with a frog in its mouth.

Frogs are good bass bait.

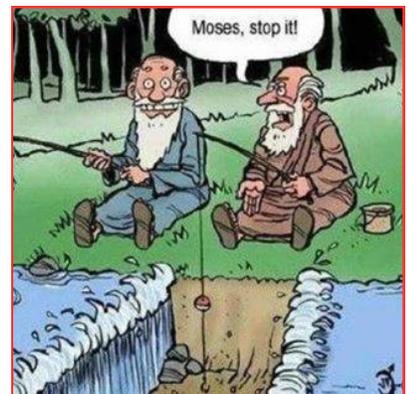
Knowing the snake couldn't bite me with the frog in its mouth, I grabbed it right behind the head, took the frog, and put it in my bait bucket.

Now the dilemma was how to release the snake without getting bit. So, I grabbed my bottle of Jack Daniels and poured a little whiskey in its mouth. Its eyes rolled back, and it went limp.

I released the snake into the lake without incident and carried on fishing, using the frog.

Not long after, I felt a nudge on my foot. It was that damn snake ... with two more frogs.

Life is good.



Cambridge Fly Tying

Special thank you to Perry Kelley, Mike Thomas, Jim Gulu, Ray Perkins, and Al Sillonis for teaching an introductory class in Fly tying at the Cambridge Library. We had about 17 participants and all had a good time learning how to tie a woolly bugger. Our next tying class in Cambridge will occur on February 20 at the Library, 7:00 p.m.





P.O. Box 734, Weiser, Idaho

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

Cecil Benintendi,
Frank Thomas,
Mike & Diana Thomas,
Gerry Bogue

Rod Building Class

I talked to Jim Gulu yesterday about scheduling the Weiser Library for our rod building class. Wednesdays are already booked by another organization so we settled on Fridays. Our first class is scheduled for Friday February 14 and we also booked the 21 and 28 for follow up classes. I know the 14 is Valentines Day so if you have other things planned for that day, don't fret you will be able to catch up on the 21. We will need to schedule one more get together after the 28 for rod drying using longer tables at the Weiser Little Theater facility. All our classes will start at 6:30 p.m. and can go until 10:00 p.m.

As a side note I Called **Marv Orwig** to make sure the dates would work for him. He and Suzanne are in Las Vegas enjoying the weather. He told me the highlight of his trip was getting his picture taken with Chumlee from the TV show Pawn Stars. He even got the t-shirt.

Tom Dyer

Coming Events

Feb 4—IFF Board,
7 pm
Idaho Pizza,

Feb 11—IFF Membership
6:00 pm—Social Hour
7:00 pm—Meeting
Idaho Pizza,

Feb 14—Rod Building Class
7:00 pm
Weiser Library

Feb 18—Fly Tying,
7:00 pm
Weiser Library

Feb 20—Fly Tying,
7:00 pm
Cambridge Library

Feb 21—Rod Building Class
7:00 pm
Weiser Library

Feb 28—Rod Building Class
7:00 pm

FEBRUARY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
I have a fishing license and a marriage license, but I only carry one of them in my wallet.						
2	3	4 IFF Board Meeting	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 IFF Member Meeting	12	13	14 Rod Building Class	15
16	17	18 Fly Tying Weiser	19	20 Fly Tying Cambridge	21 Rod Building Class	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Rod Building Class	Fish First Apologize Later