



President's Message

by Ray Perkins

During deer hunting as I was sitting on one of the many rims along the Owyhee River hoping a buck would walk out in range or a covey of chukars would show themselves. I realize how glade I am to be retired. I did not have to think about getting ready to camp for work as soon as I got back home. I did not have to think about setting up a fourth inventory of a trout population we had chemically removed several years previous. I just sat there hoping to see a deer or some birds and sweating.

Looking ahead to November I will attend the board meeting on November 4, but will miss the membership meeting on the 11th because of rifle elk tag. I am hopeful I will be back and unpacked by the 18th for fly tying.

With any luck we should get some precipitation that will bring steelhead up out of the Snake River. Dam counts from the lower Columbia indicate this run could be a little better than the last few years.

With most if not all local reservoirs dry local fishing has been limited to river and streams in southeast Oregon, mostly the Owyhee River downstream of the dam. Personal catch rates have been fair to good while catching some the largest trout of the year. Brown trout spawning appears to have started. In the past I observed brown trout spawning starting near the end of September or early in October this year I did not see my first red until the October 20th.

I have heard some concerns coming out of Boise fisherman about the health of the brown trout population. I was told the new fish bio in Burns came over and spent the day on the Owyhee River. One of the fly clubs called me at home and expressed similar concerns about the browns in the Owyhee with the low flows now being released. I wrote a short article talking about the winter flows and water temperatures experienced on the Owyhee River over the last two years (see page 6).

Officers

President - **Ray Perkins**
541-889-4441
1st Vice Pres. - **Mark Sands**
549-2545
Past President - **Tom Dyer**
257-4225
Secretary - **Cindy Dyer**
257-4225
Treasurer - **Jascha Zeitlin**
801-831-9459

Board Members

Janet Baker
Gerry Bogue
Eileen Boots
Gary Herauf
Perry Kelley
Mike Thomas

Committees

Budget - **Jim Gulu, Jasha Zeitlin**

Conservation & Youth -
Mark Sands
Education - **Perry Kelley**
Fund Raising -
Historian - **Perry Kelley**
Library - **Tom Dyer**
Membership -
Gerry Bogue
Newsletter -
Gerry Bogue
Outings - **Al Sillonis**
Programs - **Tom Dyer,**
Gary Herauf
Publicity - **Perry Kelley**

TAKING PHOTOS OF TROPHY FISH

by Grant Baugh

Have you ever gotten home and found that this is your best photo of a trophy fish? We all have and here are few tips to help.

RULE # 1 Take your camera fishing with you and have it where you can use it.

RULE # 2 Take numerous shots of the same fish from several different angles and coach the fisherman.

RULE # 3 Get close, get closer, get closest

RULE # 4 Have a good camera and learn how to use it

RULE # 5 Practice using your camera before you need to get that “must have” shot

RULE # 6 Go fishing often, take your camera with you and use it



Get creative like this over the shoulder shot of my Pink Salmon taken by a friend. Fish seem to be some of the most difficult

subjects to photograph. Great photographers take dozens of shots of the same scene and throw all but the very best shots away. Digital photos are cheap, just take dozens of shots and delete all but the very best. I use a16 GB chip to have plenty of room and shoot for the highest quality image available in the camera.



Some lessons are learned the hard way. Having expensive cameras around water is a formula for a disaster if it is not waterproof. I now use a Panasonic TS25 (\$140 on Amazon) because its predecessor got dunked in the Clearwater River... along with me! It is waterproof and allows me to take shots under water. I have found that what seems to be clear water isn't, so practice and find out for yourself. Take numerous shots because it is difficult to aim the camera and get the correct distance.

Underwater photos are a great deal of fun and an unusual way to create a memorable picture of your trophy. I was holding this wild Silver Salmon by



the tail and took about 20 shots before releasing it. I kept three shots.

Don't be afraid to take a few non-traditional shots



like this one of my brother-in-law carrying out a nice Steelhead caught on NW Washington's Calawah River in our "this is the place hole", which is another story.



Primer on Leaders -

Nov. 11th Meeting Presentation

by Perry Kelley

One of the more complex areas of fly fishing is what leader to use. At the November 11 meeting Perry Kelley will attempt to cover many of the choices to use for the various types of fishing conditions and destinations.

This will be a semihandson program. You will tie knots for knotted tapered leaders, perfection loops, and the latest super terminal knot for connecting the fly to the tippet. You will also get information on different types of leaders, leaders for dry fly fishing, and leaders for sinking lines.

If you are confused by the options such as leader length, the "x" factor of tippets, fluorocarbon, hard mono, knotted or knotless tapered, level leader, leadertoline connections, tippettofly connection, droppers and a myriad of other options, this will be the program for you.

Also the Airflo poly leader system will be covered. With this system one line and an assortment of poly leaders will cover all of the fly fishing waters

and depths from bottom to surface. Think of it: one line, one reel (no extra spools), and several spools of tippet material is all you need. Quick change from one system to another and a lot less money.

Tell all of your fly fishing friends to come join us at the meeting. Anyone is welcome.

YearEnd Raffle

It has been suggested that we change the format of the yearend raffle.

Up to this point, we have always raffled a fine handmade fly rod expertly crafted by our own Marvin Orwig.. Unfortunately, Marvin has moved out of the area (although he is still a member of the club). If this change is approved by the general membership, there will be other options for the 2015 IHFF raffle.

1. A fly rod will always be an option.
2. A gift certificate at a local fly shop is another.
3. And maybe even a gift certificate for a guided fly fishing trip.

In board discussion, several thoughts were expressed. The gift certificate will be good at local fly shops or fly fishing equipment sources such as Outcast and Buck's Bags. If you already have a rod rack filled with choice fly rods, maybe you could finally replace your leaky waders, or even, perhaps a guided fly fishing trip.

We will discuss and make a decision for the year end raffle at the December meeting. Please express your opinions to the leadership of the club or to board members.

Fly of the month

Caddis Larva

by Perry Kelley

Although caddis larva are mostly case builders, there are times when they have outgrown their cases and are free living. This pattern does not imitate a specific species but free living caddis larva in general.



"Free Gifts & Animations" <http://www.fg-a.com>



- **Hook:** any curved nymph or caddis hook
- **Thread:** UTC 70 color of your choice
- **Weight:** small flat lead
- **Body:** Chewee Skin cut in 1/8 inch strip. Stretch to control the width; use marking pen to color back or underside.
- **Ribbing:** 4x mono
- **Head:** UV2 black seal ex
- **General:** Chewee Skin comes in several colors; however, you can imitate most caddis species with marking pens. You should coat fly with head cement for durability. If you use round lead or lead free, make sure you cover hook and lead with tying thread. You can smooth with head cement.



P.O. BOX 734 WEISER, ID 83672

NOVEMBER 2014



Brundage with NO wind - can you believe it! *by Mike Thomas*

Help fish, birds and wildlife - REEL IN AND RECYCLE

Most of us have “caught” and old fishing line or seen some in a bush or lying on the bank; but do we realize how dangerous it is for wildlife? Monofilament line is tough and almost invisible under water. And with almost 500,000 anglers using Idaho’s waterways, that is a lot of line being flung in the water. Some of it gets loose and ends up injuring and killing fish, birds, and other wildlife.

So, Idaho Fish and Game asks you to help keep wildlife safe. Recycling bins are being placed in popular waterways, for you to dispose of any bits of line you find. If there is not a receptacle at your favorite fishing hole, please take it home and dispose of it properly.



Montana Fly Fishing Magazine (<http://MontanaFlyFishingMagazine.com/>) announces their latest issue: Fall 2014.

Subscribe today - it is a great magazine and it is FREE!

Brown Trout Fishery - downstream of Owyhee Dam on the Owyhee River

by Ray Perkins



Over the last few years the Owyhee Basin has experienced a wide swing in environmental conditions. In 2011 the reservoir filled and spilled. During 2012, 2013, and 2014 the basin received below normal snow packs and associated below normal inflow, with the years of 2013 and 2014 being two of the driest on record. The summers of 2011 and 2012 were cooler than previous years, while the summers of 2013 and 2014 experienced record setting summer heat.

The brown trout fishery below Owyhee Dam is dependent upon the water stored and released from Owyhee Reservoir. Even though the water is not released from the bottom of the reservoir as is the water for many other tailrace fisheries it is released far enough down (137 feet) for it to be a cold water release under almost all conditions. Water is released from April to October to meet

downstream irrigation needs. There is no requirement to release water during the winter (during the non-irrigation season).

Historically, at the end of irrigation season, usually mid October, the flows down the river were shut off and the only water flowing down the channel was from leakage through the dam. In fairly recent years the irrigation district started release winter flows. The formula to determine the amount of water to be released is based upon the amount of water received by the irrigators. If irrigators receive 100% of their allotted water rights then the district will release 30 cfs. If irrigators receive less than 100% of their allotment then the amount of water released will reflect that same reduction from 30 cfs. So, if the irrigators received 75% of their allotment the the district will release 75% of 30 cfs, or about 22 cfs. Since



brown trout were introduced into the Owyhee River in 1990 the amount of water released below the dam averaged 17 cfs, with releases between 1990 and 2004 averaging 10 cfs and releases from 2005 to 2014 averaging 28 cfs (Figure 1). Current releases below the dam are ranging from about 10 to 13 cfs, well with the range of releases observed in the past.

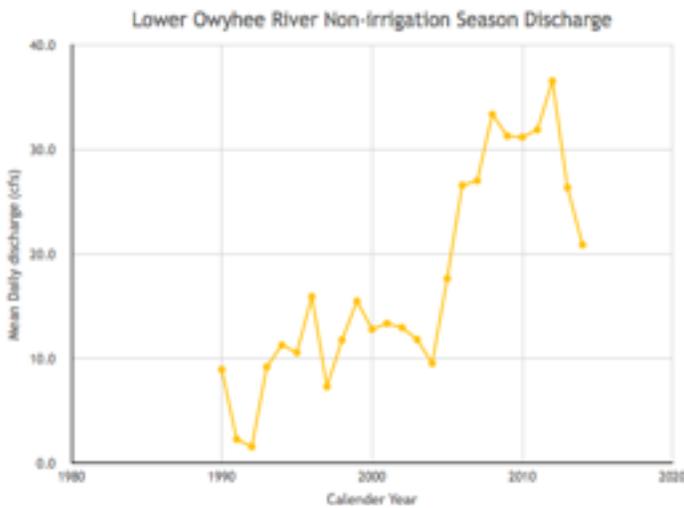


Figure 1. The average amount of water released below Owyhee Dam during the non-irrigation season in a calendar year.

The quality of the water released is also important. The one component of water quality that has data is water temperature. The temperature of the water released below the dam is impacted by the amount of water stored. During wet years when the reservoir fills the reservoir water will stratify. Stratification usually occurs at a depth of about 40 feet, forming a thermocline. Water above the thermocline is warmer with surface water commonly reaching the upper 70's and lower 80's. Water below the thermocline are cooler with the average water temperature between 45° and 50°F. During normal water years irrigation water is released lowering the reservoir water level by as much as 40

to 50 feet by the end of irrigation season. The thermocline is normally located about 40 feet below the surface, so even at the end of the irrigation season the warmer surface water is still located well above the release point at 137 feet. During dry years the reservoir will not fill but it still stratifies, but the depth of stratification can be deeper than normal. By the end of the irrigation season the distance between the water outlet and the thermocline and warm water is reduced. In September of 2013 (brown line in Figure 2) the water temperatures measured at the USGS gauge were elevated, with the mean water temperature exceeding 60°F. Again in 2014 the water temperature below the dam were elevated. They remained above normal from June through October. Normally they leveling off at about 50°F through the summer. During August and September of 2014 the daily mean water temperature occasionally exceeded 65°F, with daily extremes occasionally exceeding 70°F.

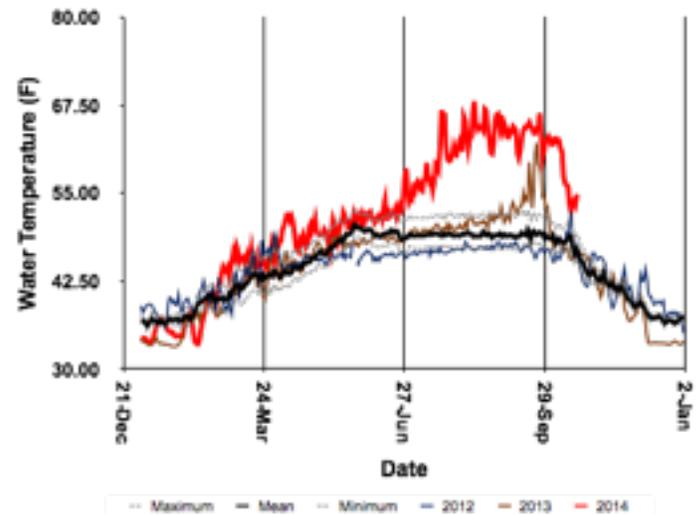


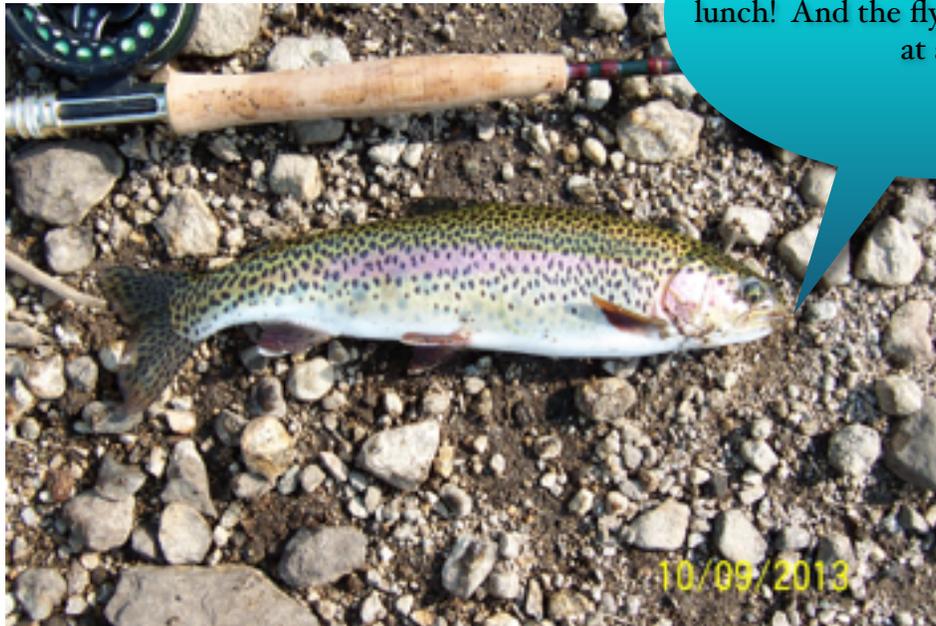
Figure 2. Mean daily water temperatures measured at USGS gauge downstream of Owyhee Dam on the Owyhee River.



So, over the last few years the brown trout in the Owyhee River have experienced many fluctuations in their habitat conditions. As far as in stream flows, they varied, but they saw nothing new or extreme. Water temperatures on the other hand did rise considerable when compared to historic levels especially during the late summer and early fall. Water temperatures remained far from any extreme that would impact the population, but they may have impacted the catch ability of trout in the lower sections of the river especially during the late summer and early fall of 2014. For the upcoming year it will be interesting to see how much water the reservoir will receive. If it receives enough so that farmers can have a full years' worth of irrigation water then I would expect flows and temperatures to be near normal even if the reservoir does not fill and spill. If the reservoir does not receive enough water to supply 100% of the irrigators needs then we can expect similar flow and temperatures observed over the last two years.

Dues Reminder for This Month:

- Ed & Nina Gammons
 - Al Sillonis
-



This is what I get for eating out for lunch! And the fly did not taste good at all...

Brundage trout by *Mike Thomas*



Coming Events

Nov. 4 - IFF Board meets 7 PM at Idaho Pizza

Nov. 11 - IFF Membership & Guests meet at Idaho Pizza.

6 PM - Social Hour

7 PM - Meeting

Nov. 18 - IFF Fly Tying at the Weiser Library at 7 PM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 IFF Board Meeting	5 8 AM Fly Fishing Breakfast at Homestead	6	7	8
9	10	11 IFF Member Meeting	12 8 AM Fly Fishing Breakfast at Homestead	13	14	15
16	17	18 IFF Fly Tying	19 8 AM Fly Fishing Breakfast at Homestead	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 8 AM Fly Fishing Breakfast at Homestead	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30						