



## President's Message

*By Ray Perkins*

We have made it to the holiday season again a time for family and friends. Some of us will be traveling. Those of us traveling this season need to travel smartly and safely. I personally will be traveling to Sandy Oregon to visit my family and see some old friends. I am hoping that the storms of December will miss the two travel periods both before and after my drive times over the Blues.

Several years ago I left Ontario with the temperature hovering around 20 and a skiff of snow on the ground and the sky was clear and sunny. By the time I got to Pendleton the temperature had dropped to zero with only a couple of inches of snow on the ground. By the time I had reached the Gorge temperatures remained near zero but it was snowing heavily. As it turned out I was one of the last vehicles through the gorge before it was closed for several days. Normally it takes me about 6 hours from my house to my mom's house. When I gassed up in Hood River I was roughly on time. It only took me four plus hours to drive from Hood River to Troutdale about 60 miles. Over the next 10 days Sandy received over 24 inches of snow, record.

Now that I am retired and have a more flexible schedule I swore that I would never travel during such bad conditions again.

The weather has finally cooled to approximately fall or early winter conditions. The moisture content in the river basins in southeastern Oregon is above normal, for the first time in several years. The streams in southwestern Idaho are only slightly below normal, but we have a long ways to go. [see chart on page 2]

The cold air arriving after Thanksgiving should start to affect fishing in local lakes and reservoirs. Most streams should remain available for fishing, but bank ice will begin to form making walking along the bank very slippery. I have not been up on the Owyhee below the Dam but flows remain at about 12 cfs and mean water temperatures is just above 40F. A new opportunity is the Boise River in Town where IDFG has stocked the river from Glenwood Bridge to Barber Park with steelhead.

Remember to bring a "white elephant" gift for the meeting. Also remember to also bring some none perishable item for the Elks Club.

I hope everyone has happy holidays and good traveling conditions.

*Ray*

### 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
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## River Basin Moisture Content

Basin	Percent of Normal	Percent of Median Peak
Owyhee River	202	14
Malheur River	169	
Harney Basin	122	
Weiser River	141	12
Payette River	90	10
Boise River	91	11



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### Welcome to New Members:

No new members in November.

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### Dues Reminder for This Month:

- Dave & Pam Thomas
  - Jascha & Tammy Zeitlin
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### December Member Meeting:

Christmas party - see calendar for details.

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### AI at Billy's Pond

*By Mike Thomas*

## Owyhee Still has Fish!

*By Mike Thomas*

Charlie Daniel's first brown of the year and a 19" Owyhee brown. Several rainbows, up to 16" were also caught as well as other browns!!



## Pontoon Boat Dolly You Can Make

By Greg Sali

This description is based on the dolly I built to fit my boat, so you may want to change the crossbar length to fit the spacing on your boat's pontoons.

### Materials List

1. 3 - 1 x 6 fir lumber (straight and as knot free as possible)
2. 2 - Pneumatic Heavy Duty Caster wheels (I got mine at Harbor Freight)
3. 4 - 1" by 3/8" zinc plated bolts
4. 4 - 2" by 3/8" zinc plated bolts
5. 8 - 3/8" zinc plated T-nuts
6. 8 - 3/8" zinc plated washers
7. 2 - 6' straps to go through the holes in the rails to tie the boat onto the dolly.

I didn't have room in my pickup to transport the dolly all assembled so I built it to be packable for easy transport or storage.

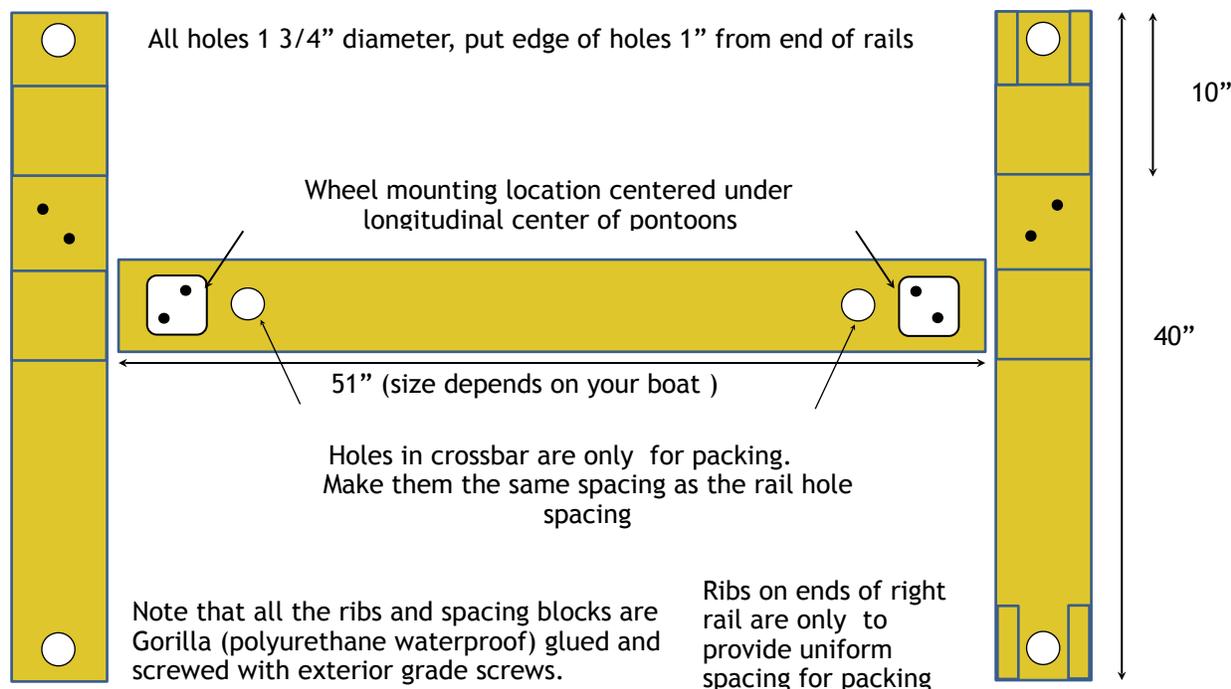
I used 2 bolts holes in the wheel mounting bases to attach the wheel to the crossbar and 2 to mount the crossbar to the rails. I used T-nuts for all bolts. I used 1" bolts through 2 of the holes in the wheel mount (aligned diagonally) to mount the wheels to the crossbar (T nuts for these bolts go in the crossbar) and then 2" bolts to mount the crossbar to the rails (T nuts for these go in the rails).

To take it apart, just remove the 2 long bolts from each side. Nest the rails between the wheels on the crossbar and strap together with the right rail (the one with the ribs on the ends) in the middle for transport or storage.



Dolly packed up for convenient storage or transport

*Continued on page 5*



## Pontoon Boat Dolly You Can Make

By Greg Sali

*Continued from page 4*

I sealed the finished dolly with Olympic stain and sealer all in one. I numbered the rail and crossbar positions for easy assembly. When the boat is loaded the wheels should be slightly behind the center of gravity of the boat so there is a little weight in your hand when transporting the boat. Some boats may need 4 straps, but most of the time I only use 2. Don't be tempted to use smaller wheels. The bigger, wider wheels go much better over rough ground and gravel.

If you prefer a permanently assembled dolly, just drill all 4 bolts holes through the rails, put all the T-nuts on the rails and use 2" bolts.

To load your boat on the dolly, place the dolly with the long side of the rails under the front of your boat pontoons, put your foot on the cross bar, grab your boat by the foot pegs and push the dolly under the boat. Use the straps through the holes in the rails and around the frame of the boat to secure the boat to the dolly. Pull the mounted boat by the foot pegs like a big wheel barrow. I have easily packed my boat a couple hundred yards with a motor installed and a battery in the tray, 2 rods, waders, boots and fins loaded on the boat.



Rails and crossbar laid out but not assembled and crossbar not positioned in slots so you can see how the crossbar will fit into rail slots



Image shows how cross bar mounts into rail slot using 2 bolts through the wheel base into the T-nuts shown above



T-nuts on rail to mount cross bar



Image shows how cross bar fits into rails



## Fly Tying a Hobby to Dye For

by Perry Kelley (repeat from Feb. 2013 News Caster)

The other day I was asked to compile a selection of flies that are staples for many of us Indianhead Fly Fishermen. Some of the fly patterns that I used were created by our members. One that came from my list was the Malheur Minerva, a style of fly that can be made in several different colors, red being the most popular and, certainly, the most effective. The only problem was that I have exhausted my supply of grizzly red mini-marabou, the feather upon which the Minerva is built. Mini-marabou comes in about every color except red. I checked all of my online sources of fly tying and drew a blank. Further checking I found that several material suppliers no longer carry mini-marabou.

Substitution works for most patterns but the grizzly mini-marabou in red has very specific characteristics that are hard to duplicate. Grizzly gives a mottled buggy effect that just does not work with a single color. Each feather has an incredible attached aftershaft feather used for the collar of the fly. The subtle motion of this delicate feather is amazing. In other words, a Malheur Minerva just doesn't work without red mini-marabou feathers. Not all is lost; natural grizzly minis are readily available. All I have to do is to dye some to get back in business. Dyeing should be a snap—just dump natural grizzly minis into a solution of water and Rit Dye, soak, rinse, and dry and you are in business. First do a little research. Check out dyeing fly tying feathers on line.

Shouldn't be a problem; after all there is very little that you can't find out online. Do it yourself cataract surgery, nuclear bomb detonation, and Scotch distilling (for Marvin) are but a few of the bazillion do-it-yourself sites online; why not red dyeing mini-marabou feathers for Malheur Minervas for Indianhead Fly Fishers?

Search "dyeing fly tying feathers and materials": The first article was "Microwave Dyeing" by Tom Deschaine. He gave several alternatives including "Dyeing with unsweetened Kool Aid" and "Rit dyeing." Kool Aid seems to be the most basic and inexpensive

way to go. There were several similarities in the processes. 1. You must wash and clean the feathers to be dyed. Also you must remove natural oils. 2. The dye bath mixture must be exact (dye to water), the solution must be heated to the correct temperature and the length of time the feathers are in the dye is critical. 3. After the feathers are removed from the dye they must be fixed so the colors don't bleed on the rest of the materials on the fly. Main disadvantage of Unsweetened Kool Aid is the lack of colors and the difficulty of mixing colors.

Rit dyeing is a very lengthy process. There are seven steps. There are many more choices of colors and shades of color. You also can alter colors by mixing different dyes. Rit dye is also more expensive and more difficult to work with. Also Rit dye is effective—it dyes what it touches.

Now I know very little about chemistry. I did not take it in high school or in college. It seemed to me that most of the chem students marched to a very different drummer. I knew that they had to deal with a lot of different equipment—scales, beakers, Bunsen burners, gasses, microscopes, and many other things. So to simplify things I decided to become a fly dyer.

Up to this point everything was OK but now what do I do about my grizzly red mini-marabou? The equipment Mr. Deschaine used for feather dyeing looked almost exactly like a high school Chemistry lab. Having dealt with the Perkins-Orwig-roadkill-guinea-microwave-caper in our kitchen I am reluctant to spill dye on our counter top cabinets and floor. Mr. Deschaine gave the reader some savory advice: "Before doing any dyeing in your house, consult with your wife and keep her in the loop for the entire process! One accident, and it will be the last dyeing you will ever do in your house, EVER!"

I still have no red grizzly mini-marabou and the only possible solution is, when Marvin, Rod and Lynette finish with Marvin's kitchen remodel, dye the feathers there. Forget that I would lose a whole lot of good friends. Readers, HELP!



P.O. BOX 734 WEISER, ID 83672

# DECEMBER 2015

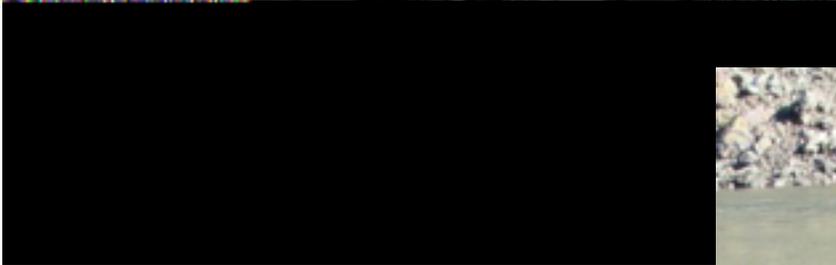


<http://www.fg-a.com>

- Dec. 1 - IFF Board meets Idaho Pizza 7 PM.
- Dec. 8 - IFF Membership & Guests meet at Idaho Pizza. 7 PM **Christmas Party**
- Dec. 15 - IFF Fly Tying at the Weiser Library 7 PM

**Christmas Party - bring a white elephant gift to exchange (yes bring something you don't want, the weirder yet fly fishing related the better). Also, bring nonperishables like paper towels, toilet paper, soap, etc. for the needy.**

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



## Owyhee Rainbow

*By Mike Thomas*

Nov. 7th - It is unique to catch a 19" rainbow in the Owyhee River!! A guy I had never met saw me landing this fish and came all the way across the river to take this picture!

## Snake River Carp

*By Mike Thomas*

Nov. 20 - Not fly fishing, but Al came up with a 9 1/2 lb. carp, 26 inches long. He caught it on the Snake River below Hell's Canyon Dam. Mike took the picture but his fly fishing only netted him one 12" trout and Jim Gulu went home empty handed.





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**DECEMBER 2015**



## **Useful and Interesting Fly Fishing Links - *Come and Explore***



### **Club Member Makes Custom Flies in Lewiston**

Marvin Orwig has moved to Lewiston, Idaho but he also sells his custom flies that he catches lots of fish with. Contact him at 208-484-6837 or [fishguide43@gmail.com](mailto:fishguide43@gmail.com)

### **Great Web Site for Smallmouth Bass Fly Fishing**

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### **Check it Out - [West-Fly-Fishing.com](http://West-Fly-Fishing.com)**

Everything to do with fly fishing in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana.