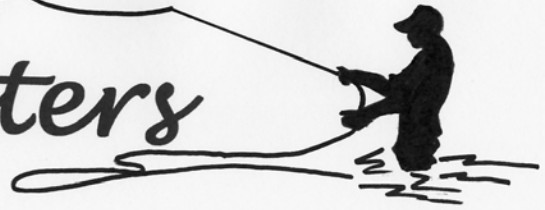




News Castors



P.O. Box 734
Weiser,
Idaho 83672

December 2008

Officers

President-Jim Gulu
549-0796
1st Vice Pres-Bill Betts
549-0686
2nd Vice Pres-Dave Steppe
549-1468
Past President-Perry Kelley
549-0538
Secretary-Lynette Jones
549-0430
Treasurer-Mary Thompson
608-0067

Board Members

Roy Davis 642-2366
John Hickey 452-6357
Marv Orwig 642-4667
Mark Sands 549-2545
Nando Mauldin 549-2883
Dick Garrett 549-1311

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: Jim Gulu, George Kautz,
Rod Jones, Al Sillonis

Library: George Kautz, Rod Jones,
Dick Garrett

Fund Raising: Lynette Jones, Mary
Thompson

Membership: Bill Betts,
Dave Steppe

Conservation: Mark Sands,
Nando Mauldin

Budget: Mary Thompson, Lynette
Jones

Publicity: Dave Steppe

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

Education: Marv Orwig

Youth Activities: Mike Thomas, Mark
Sands, Ken Gissell

Greeters: Dave & Anne Steppe

President's Message by Jim Gulu

Where in the world has 2008 gone? We will soon be welcoming 2009..... It seems the holidays are arriving earlier and earlier with the passing of each year. It's been an excellent year for the club. We have grown and matured as an organization thanks to the leadership, hard work and dedication of you the members. From the summer programs with the local 4H club (fly tying and casting), the Weiser library (we helped the kids Catch the Reading Bug) to working with Idaho Fish and Game on the Mann Creek project, the Weiser fishing pond and Oregon Fish and Wildlife on stocking and Redd counts on the Owyhee River as well as the annual clean up. I want to thank all of you who have contributed to the success and accomplishments of your club. I'm looking forward to working with you this next year.

Speaking of the Owyhee River, club member Ray Perkins, Oregon Fish & Wildlife, has requested our support for this year's Redds count. Ray plans to conduct the count the first week in December; contact Bill Betts for more information. This is a great time for a field trip with your children or grandchildren to see the spanning activity of the German Brown Trout in the river.

In November we welcomed a

new member, Travis Currey from Ontario. Welcome, Travis. I hope you felt welcome at the meeting. We are looking forward to your participation in the club and its activities.

Don't forget our December 9 meeting is our annual Christmas party including the wrapped White Elephant gift for the swap. Also, the Board has decided that we as a club will once again participate in the Elks Needy Family Program. Additional information is contained within this newsletter regarding the Elks program.

At the January 2009 membership meeting, the scheduled program is one of our own—Mark Sands. He will share his Alaska fishing trip and wildlife photography experiences. There will be no scheduled fly-tying class in December. The next class will be on January 20, 2009. Roy Davis will be tying the Copper John.

Don't forget the Festival of Trees Gala is scheduled of December 4, 2008. For ticket information contact Diana Thomas. Remember the club has donated two baskets for the auction.

Jim

When a man picks up a fly rod for the first time, he may not know, he has been born again.

Joseph D. Farris

A True Fishing Story

By Head and Tale



Almost everything in this story is true to the best of my recollection. It happened so long ago—way back in September of '08. To the best of my knowledge, this is kinda what happened.

Head and Tale invited the people in their coffee clan and any member of the Indianhead Fly Fishers to go fishing with them. For some unknown reason, there were no takers. So they decided to go by themselves over to Malheur to catch and release some of those lunker trout that inhabit the place. They were approached by an elderly lady of Japanese decent just before departure. She said, "I sure would like you to bring one or two of those Malheur lunker trout home for me to eat." Head agreed to her request, knowing she was obviously in great need—she said she would even eat 'em raw!!

Head and Tale loaded their pontoon boats, fishing equipment, cameras, munchies (Tale's last year Halloween candy), and drinks and were on the road by 11:00 am. The trip usually takes an hour to get from here to there. Sometimes deer, antelope, elk, sage grouse, snakes, and rabbits are encountered during the trip. Stops to take pictures of them can add to the time of arrival. Cows on the road and washboard ruts in the road are also causes to slow you down. The washboard road on this trip was terrible, especially when our tires touched the lowest valleys and the highest peaks of each rut. (Some say if you go 75 mph you will only hit the peaks and thus smooth the ride?) We arrived at Malheur about 12:20 pm and lost only a few bolts off the truck, but the washboard was bad enough that it pounded all the air out of our pontoon boats. We proceeded to drag the boats out of the truck and see if there was enough air over there to fill 'em up. Luck was on our side and with full pontoon boats and other bladders full, Head and Tale needed to attend to the other bladders before hitting the water. Putting on waders and fins and assembling fly rods and tying on the appropriate flies adds to the time of launch.

We were finally on the water at 12:57 pm. Head realized he forgot to get a bag to put fish in so back to shore. Tale in the meantime was tying on his Malheur Minerva and Gu-Gu. Head snapped the bag onto the front of his pontoon boat and did a re-launch hitting the water at 1:02 pm. He already had his secret flies on the end of his line. Finally Head and

Tale were fishing and waiting to see who would catch the most and biggest Malheur lunkers.

Tale caught a lunker and released it before Head had made his second cast. The full sink lines were working as expected. Casts to shallow water required a fast retrieve. Head made such a cast and on the first pull a lunker trout just about jerked the rod from his hand. After leaping over one of the pontoons and then diving underneath the boat the monster was netted and about to be released when Head remembered his promise to the elderly lady. He struggled to take the fish from the net, placed it on the stripping apron, and opened the bag at the same time. After some awkward movements the fish was in the bag filling it almost full. Head thought, "Catch and release is a lot easier than messin' with that bag."

And that's when it happened!! After closing the bag on the monster fish, Head turned to pick up his fly rod from the stripping apron—OH NO!!—It was not there. A quick glance to the right and he saw the cork grip and reel vanishing into the depths of the algae green water. (Obviously the rod was still attached.) Tale hearing the sound of "OH NO!" yelled to Head, "What's the problem?" "My George Roth Custom Made Loomis fly rod just sank," replied Head. Tale was probably laughing under his breath but didn't want Head to think he was not a sensitive guy. So he asked Head, "What you going to do?" Head not wanting Tale to think he was stupid decided not to answer Tale. He instead paddled to the bank. After doing some quick triangulation calculation as to his whereabouts when the rod and reel said bye-bye, got a plan of retrieval in mind. The best he could come up with was to tie a bunch of brush and rocks onto his anchor rope and try to drag the bottom in hopes of snagging his loss. After half hour or so of paddling back and forth in the calculated area with no success, Tale paddled over to witness the stupidity and ask if he could take a turn at draggin' that thing around. Head, knowing Tale was just being nice, rejected his offer and told Tale that he guessed the Custom rod with the full sink line had done full sunk and would not be found. He told Tale to continue fishing and he would return to the pick-up where he kept his \$19.95 Wal-Mart fly pole with the floating line and rig it up so he could continue to fish. Would you believe that on his first cast with that fly pole ole Head hooked into another monster lunker and after a few trips over and under the pontoons netted another huge Malheur trout. After placing his fly pole carefully in the pole holder, he placed the netted

trout on the stripping apron, carefully opened the bag, and stuck the trout inside with his brother. Unlike the previous bagging of the trout, this time when he looked for his fly pole it was right where he left it—in the pole holder!

The trip home was kind of quiet, probably because Head was thinking of how dumb he was losing his rod, and Tale trying to think of something nice to say so not to let on to how stupid he thought Head's blunder was. But they had that bag which contained those two Malheur Lunkers.

About a mile before crossing the freeway Tale yelled, "Look Head—it's a Mountain Goat!" Head thought Tale meant mountain sheep and said something to that affect. But Tale repeated his statement. Head stopped the truck and got out to see up on the mountain on Tale's side of the road. Sure enough there he was—a White Mountain Goat. Never before had we seen such a sight in such a place. That sighting made the whole trip worth it! When they arrived home they delivered the bagged trout to the elderly lady who just happened to have all three of her grown sons at home, with forks in hand, waiting to help eat those Malheur Lunkers.

The next morning when Head opened the door to the local coffee shop, he overheard Tale telling the clan about yesterday's adventure. He was not sure he heard the word "stupid trick" but it was something like that. Immediately one of the clan asked Head, "What kind of alcohol was Tale drinking yesterday? It had to be real powerful to make one see a White Mountain Goat in the desert." Head smiled and verified Tale's version of the adventure. One member of the group, Charlie (you know—the one with the band) said he had some sturgeon rods and big treble hooks and thought we ought to return to Malheur and try to find Head's Custom Loomis Fly Rod. Tale suggested we drag his jet boat over there. Head reminded Tale of the terrible washboard road and what effect it could have on his boat and trailer. Charlie took off for home to rig up his big rods and Tale grabbed Head and went after the jet boat and then to pick up Charlie.

They were out of town about 11:00 a.m. and arrived at Malheur at 12:15. They stopped twice on the way over, once to see if the White Mountain Goat was where he was yesterday and a second time to get rid of some coffee. The road was not kind to the boat or trailer. The trailer was missin' some important parts and the boat was at least a foot shorter in depth. The three of 'em still had most of their teeth due to the fact that Head had issued each of them mouth guards before the trip. The huge rods with the big treble hooks attached, as well as the usual fly rods and gear, were loaded in the boat and the boat launched at 12:23 pm. With Tale as ship captain, Charlie as the instructor, and Head

as guide they soon reached the Triangulated Calculated Area.

Charlie and Tale took turns casting and reelin' those huge weighted hooks. They were big enough that the lake actually was a foot deeper when both were in the water at the same time. This added depth took longer to reach the bottom. Remember the rod was rigged with a full sink line! Head took turns spelling off Tale and Charlie after he had fixed up a fly rod with a Malheur Minerva and a Gu-Gu. After 362 casts Head felt something on the end of his sturgeon rod and announced this to the crew! Charlie told Head that it usually feels different when you snag the other guy's line, which Head had just done. Tale, having already landed 16 lunkers on the fly rod, commented that it might make more sense instead of casting and reeling that we start up the boat and try trolling for the lost Custom Loomis Fly rod. Head thought that was the reason they brought the jet boat in the first place. Charlie said, "Why didn't we think of that earlier?" So off they went trolling around and around and up and down in the triangulated calculated area. (Head Built a 12 ft. high monument on the bank so divers could find the place when they had their turn.) After about an hour of trolling Head announced he had snagged Charlie's line again. Charlie said it was impossible because he had just reeled in. Head kept reeling real slow after telling Tale to cut the engines. Suddenly there appeared in the top six inches of the algae green water a dark grey full sink fly line attached to the big treble hook. Even the fish started jumping (one fish anyway) at this sight. Head said that he recognized that line as his. Charlie was givin' good instructions on how to get the line and he hoped the attached rod as well. Soon the tip of the rod appeared and then more and more of the rod until Charlie had it in his hands. There were smiles on everyone's faces, including Head, Tale, and Charlie. Charlie handed the rod to Head who proceeded to reel up some of the line. Soon it was apparent that the leaping fish they had seen was on the end of Head's fly line. Head landed the lunker some 26 hours after it had hooked itself and pulled Head's Custom Made Loomis Fly Rod off his strippin' apron. Head unhooked the fish and as usual released him to the algae green waters of Malheur. Do you think seeing that White Mountain Goat was luck or maybe a Sign?

Note: The Authors, Head and Tale, are cousins of Finn and Gill who are regular contributors to IHFF's NewsCasters.

Member Spotlight

Sharon and Ralph Thruax moved to Weiser about 3 years ago from Gardenville, Nevada. They purchased property on the Flat with a 100-year-old home and have been very busy doing extensive remodeling on their home. Sharon joined a fly-fishing club in Nevada and that is where she learned to tie flies, she says she enjoys tying almost more than fishing! Most of their fishing experience is in high mountain lakes in the Sierra's where they packed in on horses and mules. They have four grown children and two grandchildren, soon to be three grandchildren. Sharon has gotten involved in raising Dorper lambs for meat. She started raising lambs for the dogs to work the sheep, but her lamb business has taken off and she is getting orders from all over. Sharon and Ralph are looking forward to learning about the high mountain lake trails available in our area to pack into.



Welcome to our club, Sharon and Ralph; we look forward to getting to know you.

Catch & Release Do's and Don'ts

(Continued from the November newsletter)

5. If the hook is deeply embedded in the fish's throat, cut the fly off and after recovery let it go with the fly. Chances are, like a splinter in your finger, the area around the hook will break down and allow the hook to be released.
6. Don't fish water in which temperatures are above a fish's comfort zone. Water that is too warm does not contain enough oxygen and fish quickly stress to exhaustion. The uppermost limit for trout survival is 70 degrees Fahrenheit.
7. Never handle a C & R fish with dry hands or fabric material gloves. Both remove protective slime and allow fatal fungus infections to occur after releasing.
8. If you wish to measure, weigh, or photograph a trophy fish out of water, keep the fish under water and have an assistant ready the equipment, then only keep the fish out of the water a few seconds at a time. (In some states it's illegal to remove a fish from the water, so check your State regulations.)
9. To land a fish before it becomes fatally exhausted; keep to its side or behind it instead of reeling it in from an upstream position. As soon as it surfaces on its side, capture it with a C & R net.



Fly Fishing for Steelhead



By learning a few lessons from our jig fishing buddies we can convince more chromes to take our dead-drift flies. John Larison (edited by Mike Thomas) recommends the following presentations and said each has been thoroughly field-tested and proven effective!

1. DON'T DRAG FLIES ON THE BOTTOM

Most fly fishermen are taught by trout fishing manuals: up the leader one and a half times the depth of the water. If the run is 3 feet deep, we position the indicator (bobber) 4 1/2 feet up the leader—leaving the flies to drag on the bottom. Try adjusting the indicator until the flies are suspended 6 inches off the bottom. If the indicator is moving slower than the current around it, or twitching or bobbing, reposition it 6 inches down the leader. Repeat until the indicator dead-drifts naturally. Doing so will ensure the flies drift at the level of the steelhead's mouth. Only retarded steelhead strike at flies below them.

2. A SUSPENDED FLY DRAWS MORE STRIKES

Instead of buying small trout "Strike" indicators, steelheaders are better off choosing the larger, more buoyant types like yarn "puff balls." Reasons: They suspend the weighted flies off the bottom; they respond quickly to subtle movement of the flies and can be quickly mended without drastically altering the drift.

3. WORK YOUR FLIES DOWNSTREAM

A perfect dead-drift is easier to maintain downstream of an angler than it is upstream. By casting upstream, fly fishermen are typically only able to achieve 20- to 30-foot drifts before the drag lifts the fly out of position. Instead, if fly fishermen make a small side stream cast, then feed line as the current demands it, we can achieve drifts as long as the jig fisherman. A downstream presentation allows us to cover more water in less time—and hence, show our flies to more steelhead.

4. WHEN IN DOUBT, GO BIG

Jig fishermen know steelhead are not shy creatures-(bombs away!!). Fly fishermen, on the other hand, think steelhead respond only to those flies that best replicate food item in the SH's natal stream. When water is high or fish fresh, going big can produce big results.

5. DON'T BE AFRAID OF GOING DEEP

When a jig fisherman gets to a river he usually fishes the deep runs first. Fly fisherman often avoid the deeper runs, especially when the water is over 7 feet deep. It's tough to get a fly down to within 6 inches of the bottom. By moving upstream, use heavier and bigger flies to be presented down stream—giving them plenty of time to sink to the desired depth our flies will dredge the prime holding water every bit as effective as a jig below a float.

"Indianhead Fly Fisher Christmas Party"

THE DECEMBER 9TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR MEMBERS AND SPOUSES. THE CLUB WILL PROVIDE THE PIZZA, AND POP. 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, TOILET PAPER, PAPER TOWELS, KLEENEX, ETC. THESE ARE ITEMS THEY USUALLY HAVE TO PURCHASE.

YOU ARE ALSO ASKED TO BRING A "WHITE ELEPHANT" FOR A FUN GIFT EXCHANGE!

Come and join in the Christmas frivolity!





P.O. Box 734
Weiser, Idaho 83672



Every day you fish adds a day to your life.

December 2008

Dec 2 - IFF Board Meeting
6 pm @ the Home of
The M & M Thompson

Dec 9 - IFF Membership
Christmas Party
7 pm Idaho Pizza

There will be no Fly Tying
or

Club Outing this month!

*Wishing you and yours
a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 IFF Board	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 IFF Member	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31 			