

# THE FISHIN' MISSION JOURNAL.

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Vol. 21 No. 1

\*\*\* Western Edition \*\*\*

April 15, 1994

"Boys, let me tell you this for your own good and it'll save you a lot of time later in life: most women deep down believe that everything wrong is men's fault, and nothing you can ever do will change that. So don't worry about it. Live your life!"

- Garrison Keillor, The Book of Guys

## HOLY CRAP - IT'S APRIL !!

That means the 21st Annual Fishin' Mission Extravaganza is just around the corner! Hope all you girls have already blocked off the time with the boss, and your employer too! The official dates are [can you believe Lewd actually called and asked?] Friday June 3rd until Sunday June 12th and any time between! But we'll talk more about that later....first we'll remember the 20th Annual, then we'll go back to the future!

## TWENTY YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE !!

That's right folks, it was the 20th Annual. If you were there, you know how it was. If not, we can lie - but why?

First of all - the weather. Okay so it wasn't the best we've ever had. So it snowed for the first three days..... did it stop us? Did it even slow us down? No Way! We just moved inside! Thanks to Rhino's hospitality, we managed through the situation....tradin' worms 'n power bait in on wings 'n rings! Instead of castin' for another hookup...we trolled for another brewskie! Now there were a few exceptions: Wolfie and Pete whined about the weather and ran for the convenience of the Carson Valley Inn; LTR ran for the comfort of a trailer with CR, Spanky, and Jonathon in tow; OD said to Lewd, "I don't have any quarters for the shower - guess we better rent a room"; and Mighty Joe, back after a long hiatus in Hawaii, ran for his usual seat at the Cafe!!

Now let's chat about the DERBY! With the weather against us, and the call of the Rhino as a better option, fishin' was a little lean for the first three days! Some of us tried the Virginia's...tying ourselves to trees to stand against the 60 mph winds and the snow comin' in your face horizontally! (right) Some didn't care about the trophy, the great float tube donated by Rick Rockel at Ken's, or the prestige of winning the derby on the 20th Annual. Some did. Ron Bowen, in the hunt with a 2 lb 4 oz'er topped it with a 2 lb 6 oz'er, but it wasn't to be. Sunil Mohan (referred to by many as a Rookie, Yuppie, Suck-up) a first time guest sponsored by Rick "I Still Hold the Record" Gale, managed to land a 2 lb 13 oz'er to take the prize! He offended many by showing up to claim his prize on Monday in a Pebble Beach Golf Sweater! Gimme a freakin' break!

(turn page for more)

It got worse, though, when during his acceptance speech on Monday, he went to great lengths to thank Rick for sponsoring him, and then actually gave Rick the Float Tube (hence the Suck-up part) in appreciation! YUCCCCCHHHH!

There had been a last minute entry, and the rumors about fishin' prowess spread like wildfire (from stool to stool at Rhino's) as Fast Eddy had a late entry of 12 lbs 14 oz's !! No one had seen the elusive luncker yet, but stories of two-hour battles in the snow and wind began to spread. Apparently, Tony Milano (yeah, thanks for showin' Tony) came in from Convict Lake on Monday and saw the 12 Pounder under the Fishin' Mission name, and crapped! But it was a hoax (duh) since the luncker ended up being a CARP with a peculiar hole in it just off the gills, resembling perhaps the entry area of an arrow??

There were other things worth mentioning:

Surfer Nick was back, after many years of absence. Many think he wanted to show up to demonstrate the proper trenching techniques for a 1200 square foot tent (Hands said, "shit, I thought he was planting potatoes!") but he actually fished, landing a nice three pounder on Monday afternoon AFTER the Derby!

Sperm redeemed himself by buying BIG SCOOPS at Rhino's on Friday night as more than fair payback for his quick exit after winning the derby two years ago...we don't forget...or forgive! Thanks!

Duane Dutro comes in out of the blue! Night Autho Rules! Now living in Mammoth, we can expect him now as a regular? Truly the "GQ" of fishin'! And speakin' of outta da blue - was that really a Les Hilton sighting?

Here For The Beer arrives Saturday, and Monday afternoon says, "I guess I'll set up my tent today!" Finally get's it up on Tuesday!

Sauce Me, aka Tony Ruggles, a new attendee sponsored by Walkbucks, was fighting his rep as a jock, ran his eight miles a day smokin' cigars! He shoots lousy pool, and chases his beer with vanilla ice cream - fit's right in!

And what about Pukie? He breaks the Walkbucks' axe on the 19th, gets major shit in the newsletter and brings a brand spankin' new axe to the 20th and breaks the damn thing again!! Pukie - you still owe me!

Then there's Chuckie Carroll, now known as "RoboFisher" (Robo for short - which he is) but appreciated as Easy Money, Cold Dice, and of course, Harold Hill - which is addressed later in this newsletter.

The T-Shirts were a big hit, selling out early! There were 38 attendees, and 60 T-Shirts - and there was pent-up demand beyond the 60! Yikes! I guess folks are putting them in time capsules or something! Maybe it was because for every shirt you got a free red hat from the 19th? Nahhhh!

Country Joe hosted Chili, 'Gars, and Cards at his place on Sunday night. Everything was great, except the Chili was a little bland - NOT!! It was a great three-alarmer!!

All in all, it was a great 20TH ANNUAL!! Too many folks left too early (almost everyone left Monday) but we can lay that off on the weather.

A FISHIN' LICENSE IS NOT ENOUGH -  
IT MUST BE VISIBLE

Gawd...we've got one more thing to remember every morning now! It was bad enough to remember aspirin, ro-laid's, sunscreen, bait, lunch, and the boat. Now we have to remember to pin our license on our shirt! As of March 1, a state Department of Fish and Game regulation requires that fisherman DISPLAY their sport fishing license above the waist. Ironically, this is not the first time this requirement has been in place. It was around for about 15 years in the 1930s and '40s but no one seems sure why it was stopped. Perhaps because it was ridiculous? In any event, we will have a 21st Annual commemorative safety pin for each of you - NOT!!! It's BYOSP !! It's the LAW !!



THESPIANS LIKE TO FISH TOO !!

First it was OB, wackin' as the butcher in "Fiddler on the Roof" last year instead of attendin' the 20th Annual. Then at the 20th, in a side bet, Chuckie Carroll challenged Walkbucks - "come see me in the 'Music Man' and I'll attend the 21st for the whole week !!" What a hoot! Robofisherman in the role of Harold Hill, the unscrupulous salesman (geesus, talk about typecasting!) travelling through River City. To quote the TimeOut section of the Contra Costa Times in their review, " Chuck Carroll doesn't merely play fast-talking, fast-stepping Harold Hill; he truly is that most messmerizing con man." Couldn't agree more. Robo - see ya on the Mission!-

INFORMATION HIGHWAY LEADS TO THE FISHIN' MISSION

As technologies improve, so does the delivery of services for the Fishin' Mission. Your technology task force had been hard at work ... with some aggressive plans to deliver future newsletters via an online EMail service, and ultimately make information available via CD ROM so that you can interact and comment on the news! In the meantime the top priority, in an effort to give you a newsletter that you don't have to read between the lines (to protect the innocent) is to develop an encryption algorithm that could be maintained in a microchip, and ultimately be placed inside something as small as a ring on your finger...holy shit, that's the ticket...a DECODER RING!!!

MOTIVATIONAL THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Recently up here in the Bay Area, a 78 year old grandma decided to go bungy jumpin'. She wore a hat on which were the words; Eat Well, Stay Fit, Die Anyway!

## BRING BACK THE CASINO TENT?

Those of you who have been around awhile, appreciate some of those years when we had a "Casino Tent" - a huge tent in the middle of camp which functioned as a meeting place. It allowed us to stay dry, play games of chance well into the night, but most of all presented a real science project to set up. In the earliest days it was Carm Boy's family heirloom which took six guys three hours to figure out. We quit using it the year Sperm tried driving his mini-bike through (there was only one door) drivin' with one hand and holdin' a tumbler of scotch (he might have been the first "Bucket 'o Scotch") with the other. Then BT found a source for a rental - and with four picnic tables inside, served us well.

Now Easy Money has found us a new one!! He has a line on a 16x32 Army Tent, 6 1/2 ft high at the corners, 10 ft high in the center. It has a canvas floor AND a cold weather liner. ALL for \$325 bucks! We'll try takin' up a collection (c'mon - \$10 a whack) and then have it in time for the 22nd !!

## TIME TO MAKE YOUR DECISION

Well, I think over the last 20 years this Commish has tried every form of torture and coercion to obtain the best possible attendance at each Fishin' Mission. Sometimes it worked (the video tape really helped) and sometimes it didn't (how did I know the divorce was in progress?). Now, however, as we grow older and wiser - I am drawn to the Swahili Warrior Song...:

Life has meaning only in the struggle.  
Triumph or defeat is in the hands of the gods.  
So let us celebrate in the struggle.

It's up to you....we'll be there again this year from Friday June 3rd until Sunday June 12th. Write me a note, leave me a voicemail message, inform me of your intentions and I'll commit your intentions to print!

Like the early commitment from Omar, who is buying a trailer this year in order to attend (and for which Covert was overheard prayin' that it had good ventilation).

Like the commitment from Here for the Beer and Oregonism - who also said they planned on bringing some other folks from Oregon "who were not so conservative and shy".

Like Easy Money, who said "I'd show up even if you didn't like me as Harold Hill".

And don't forget Country, Hold the Record, Woody, Fast Eddy, and Suckup - who have already upgraded at Doc 'n Al's - and according to Woody "might even have cable".

I'll be waitin' by the phone for the calls - Moon-Doggie, Chinny, Deits, Roots, Pablo, Wailin' and Dad, Bade with his tatoo, Cartier, Carver, Boone, Silver Bullet, Speed Limit, Pukie, Incoming, Mayor, T, Wolie, Wiggy, Pinky, Rocko, Bonfire, Dr. Throw, Bubba, Stubby, Wild Bill, Polacki, and all the rest.....CALL ME, AND JUST SAY YES !!!!!