

THE FISHIN MISSION JOURNAL

News Bulletin!

Your Fishin' Mission Foundation Board of Director's has been moving ahead in the planning of the 2nd Annual Western BBQ & Concert! Another kick-ass fund raising event over the Labor Day weekend in Bridgeport!

Coinciding with Founder's Day celebrations and the Ranch Rodeo weekend—our event will feature BBQ by the famous Billy Ruiz of Cowboy Flavor—and a western "adult" concert from Kip Attaway!

And this year—we landed a corporate sponsorship from MillerCoors! Sauce me!

Net proceeds from the event will benefit the Bridgeport Fish Enhancement Foundation!

More information in June!

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Can T-Shirts be BIG News? Yep!

There always seems to be questions as we get closer to the Mission each year! Emails asking "what gear will we have?" Or "do you need help at the last minute to get some gear?"..... But this past year was different. The Mayor stepped up early and said "I'll take on the task this year" and we of course said "go for it dude!"

So...no one gave it another thought...until we got to Bridgeport. Where's the Mayor? What did he do? Did he follow through? All valid questions.....until he pulled up Friday night and parked outside of Kens! As a few folks went out to greet him—the rest kind of kept an eye out through the windows in the bar. He lowered his

The 37th Annual started again like so many others—false promises to attend to avoid any true culpability for personal conduct—an onslaught of wannabees who can never make the muster call—and the rest of us attendees!

It just got more confusing



It's no secret that over the years we have had some really great gear to tout our group around Bridgeport—but the NEON GREEN shirts this past year topped them all!

tailgate and pulled out what appeared to be a glowing mass of nuclear matter—bolts of neon green light flashing in all directions in the gloaming of the night!

Comments bounced around the bar immediately..."It's a joke right?" "That's not our shirts this year is it?"

Well.....as we now all know—it WAS our shirts!

And we've confirmed that when we took the group picture above—the glow was visible from a NASA satellite overhead!

Wear 'em with pride boys! Maybe wear 'em with your 19th Annual red hat—best match you could have!

Gives the Avatar "I see you" line a whole new meaning!

The 37th? It was Bitchin!

when we heard that Morgy had shown up for the Mission the weekend before it started? WTF?

Anyway—Thursday is the new Friday as CR,LTR,T, and Tambo come in from G-dora, Bucks and OD from AZ, Sparky and Mayo, CarmBoy and TommyBoy,

Omar, Christopher, Big D, as well as Smilin' Jim from Vegas on a plane (no Sperm) Hands, and a rumor about Red, Ernie, Mighty Joe, and Backwards Bob staying at PahWah in his trailer!

That's 19 already and we haven't even got started!

FMF Sponsors the 1st Annual Western BBQ & Concert!

A few of you were there—and the rest missed a kick-ass event! Your FMF planned and delivered on a fundraising event last September at the Bridgeport Barns and Terrace—featuring BBQ from Billy Ruiz of Cowboy Flavor fame and entertainment from Cowboy Poet Laureate Richard Elloyan!



A picture of the crowd attending the event—visit our FaceBook page and “like” it—for all the pictures!

We sold the event out—raffled off more than \$3,000 worth of fishing related prizes—and in addition to the overwhelming fun had by all who attended—we were able to donate

\$4,000 to the Bridgeport Fish Enhancement Foundation (BFEF) as a result!!

Make your plans now—because we are doing it again this coming September 3rd! Get your tickets now—because we will sell out!

We have the folks from MillerCoors as a corporate sponsor this year so we'll have more

visibility, more fun, and more BEER!

Be there—help the BFEF—have fun!

The Rest of the Attendees on the 37th.....

Friday brought John, Johnny, K, Timmy and David, Chris, Paul, and Ron Duran, as well as Doc, Chris, 3D (no Slows) and Professor, Pat, Tater, Greener (no Rocko) and the Mayor. (no BT, Lucky, Jules or HFTB yet) But 35 and counting!

On Saturday HFTB shows along with the Mayor's clan—Damon and Billy!

And holding up to his nickname—the slowest to arrive—Slomax—just in time for golf on Tuesday! And the Ranger came in at the end of the week.

You can read about all the activities in the Chronicles—and I apologize if I've left anyone out who attended—or failed to call out some of the hacks we expected to see but didn't!

40 Attendees? The economy sucks!

Is a 3PEAT possible? Can BIG D steal another one?

A quick reminder that the 36th was won by Brian Berry on a “rollover” under two pounds at 1lb 13oz's. But combined with his legitimate win on the 35th—5 lbs 14 oz's—it gave him the first chance for a 3PEAT since Smilin' Jim pulled it off in 1990 on the 17th Annual.

Major braggin' rights would be in order since Smilin' Jim also won the 2nd of his 3PEAT on a “rollover” of 1 lb 14 oz's!

So....we've established that the 3PEAT is possible—but did it happen?

The bar was set pretty high pretty early—as Mighty Joe Young—supposedly back again from years in Hawaii had supposedly not only returned to the mainland but returned to the Fishin' Mission—had booked a 3 lb 15 oz 'bow early in the derby!

Yikes.....something to shoot for or a fait accompli winner?

The real problem—the fish was in the freezer but no one could verify Mighty

Joe Young was even there?



One of the more pleasant pictures (believe me—we have others that WILL be revealed) of Mighty Joe Young with his big rainbow—WINNER!

Was the Commish going to have to make another ruling?

The derby rolled on without much contention by others.

On Sunday there were even nine guys out on JR's pontoon trying to snag a big one! Only news on that trip was that the Commish found out his Maui Jim sunglasses didn't float—as they fell off his hat and into the deep.....right at the boat docks! SHIT!

There were also stories of lost 3 lb browns (big deal—we all drop a few of those on the Mission) and Big D had witnesses like the Professor (character evaluation may not hold up in court) and OD (another character witness supreme) who vouched that he had a **monster** on Monday morning at 11:00AM—but it snapped his line.....which is pretty amazing since I think Big D uses 25 pound test!

It wasn't until Sunday afternoon that we had a Mighty Joe Young sighting—thereby verifying his attendance—allowing us to present him with the BIG FISH award on Monday when the City Hall bells rang out high noon!

Congratulations to Mighty Joe!

Rhino's 14th Annual—"Bill Reid Memorial"

We had an early out on Tuesday with a 10:00AM Tee Time – but breakfast at Maggie's was still a must!

Before we teed it up—we all gathered around Bill Reid's Memorial on the 1st Tee and Pete told some great Two Ball Billy stories!

After a toast to Bill—we unanimously voted to change our name to the Bill Reid Memorial Tournament! Very cool!

The teams:

WTF's - Professor, OD.

Shut the Chuck Up - Smilin', Hands, Mayo

Slo D's - Slomax, 3D

Bored Dudes - Bucks, Sparky, CarmBoy

Team Grub - Pete, Gordy

And the winner was..... Slo D's at -9!!

That means 3D maintains his record with seven team wins!

As usual we received WRGC's finest food, drink, and service!

Other notables:

Longest Drive #4—*tie Slomax/OD*

Closest to Pin #3—*Smilin' Jim*

Closest to Pin #8—*3D*

In an act of solidarity—everyone donated their prize money back to the FMF! That totaled a \$300 contribution and we all had a blast! It was like stealin' man!

After cocktails and awards, we headed to the Reid house for a Kathie Reid fundraiser for her bike ride in Montana!

She and Missy whipped up a great Chinese Dinner—eggrolls, shrimp, beef, and everything.

When we passed the hat we raised another \$400 for Kathie's (RATPOD) event!



The 14th Annual Rhino's "Bill Reid Memorial" Tournament players all pose with Two Ball Billy on the 1st Tee before Golf Commish Smilin' Jim claims "Game ON"!

The "Chronicles of Fishin" for the 37th...

Thursday June 3rd: As mentioned in other places—Thursday is the new Friday—and we had almost 20 guys in town that first night! As usual—we kicked off the week at Rhino's but we did step over to Sportsmen later that night to check out the renovations. Gordy did a good job transforming Sportsmen into well.....a Sports Bar!

Friday June 4th: With the early arrivals—there was a lot of fishin' on Friday but there was a small sub-group that took on the responsibility as "greeters" for new arrivals at Rhino's. Perhaps honing their skills to apply at Wal*Mart or perhaps just really, really thirsty? Friday is always a meet and greet day for most!

But for some who fished....they raked! It was windy and overcast—but it did not seem to matter. Mighty Joe Young—who no one had yet seen in town—already had a 3 lb 15 oz 'bow in the freezer at Ken's before sunset.

That night—Rhino's was packed due to Mono Village Monthly Dinner—so we meandered over to Sportsmen for a while just until the traffic let up!

That's when the Mayor showed up with his glowing mass of nuclear matter!

Then back to Rhino's for dinner and cocktails! Bailed at midnight to get an early start on Saturday fishin'!

Saturday June 5th: Everyone had dreamt they had a FISH ON—maybe because that's what the Glow Ball T-Shirt said or maybe because they were focused? Can't really say for sure.

The Twins were fished heavily as was the Res but no new contenders revealed themselves today! So as the sun set behind Sawtooth Ridge everyone

seemed to find their way back to camp for a **camp cookout!**

But it must be noted that earlier in the day Greener and Tambo held the first Barney Lake WRC (Walk, Run, Crawl)!

Great cookout in camp—T, LTR, Tambo, and CR even joined us! HFTB showed up in time to eat too! Started with sausage brats thanks to Omar and crew, a fine Polenta with meat sauce

from CarmBoy, Cowboy Taters from Tater, Mashed Taters and Gravy from 3D, TriTip from Smilin Jim and Hands, Macaroni Salad from Mayor, Fruit Salad from Billy and Damon and Shrimp from Mayo,

and a little late - barrel chicken from Sparky! SHIT! Bunch of friggin' PIGS!

"Shit! If I'm going to get shut out early by a 3 lb 15 oz'er from a guy who we haven't seen -I guess I'll just drink!"
- Everyone

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The “Chronicles of Fishin” for the 37th...(con’t)

Sunday June 6th: Early to rise - even with hangovers and whatever - because nine of us had 7:00AM Marina Call!!

Already explained the “Maui Jim’s Don’t Float” story (although jump ahead to Wednesday for more on that) but we did push away on JR’s pontoon boat to give it a try - good thing we brought an ice chest. Water = glass....but fishin’ stories far outnumbered fishin’ catches!



Breakfast at Hays (says something about the fishin’) and then back to the Twins (via a pit stop at Rhino’s) where we could get out of the wind—and actually ran into Red and his boys and could verify MJY’s attendance!

Headed back to camp to drop off Mayo to guard—then back to Rhino’s for Game #2—Celts evened the series at 1-1! Lost CarmBoy and TommyBoy somewhere?

Many cocktails at Rhino’s—met another Fishin’ Club— The Gills Bros—and through their leader Obee—learned of the stick and it’s powers!

Monday June 7th: Last chance for MONSTER FISH and a MJY upset! If you’re going BIG—have to bet on the Res—and we were lined up on the water like gray-hairs waiting for Denny’s to open! Instead—we showed up at NOON to hand over the Big Fish award to MJY (no 3PEAT for Big D) and spend his winnings at Rhino’s!! Jason was tending bar—while we had our required annual FMF Board Meeting (Minutes available upon request) and Smilin Jim got the players cards ready for golf on Tuesday.....and as the evening sun set we headed back to camp (and perhaps safety) for another camp cookout.

Whoot! Over 20 in camp for chicken, tri-tip, cowboy taters, salad, wine (lots of wine) and cigars to finish! Oh no wait—what about dessert?

The highlight of the night could have been when Red and his crew brought pies for dessert—unbaked pies! Tater quickly reacted—firing up his dutch oven and baking some pies! SWEET!



Tuesday June 8th: Don’t miss the report on the 14th RHINO’S WIDE OPEN REPORT on Page 3.

Wednesday June 9th: Very unusual year-as we were down to only five (HFTB, Bucks, Sparky, Mayo, Professor) on Wednesday! The wind was UP early and no one had a mind to fight it—so we had a late breakfast at Hays Street instead. Sparky just couldn’t seem to get the lost Maui Jim’s off his mind—he said “if I can find a mask—I’m diving for those glasses”. And he wasn’t lying—I shit you not!

We went to the Marina and Jeffrey had a mask so.....GAME ON!



Sparky made about 15 attempts-diving amongst the mud and reeds in the Marina looking for those glasses! He refused to give up as we begged him to stop but as hypothermia set in he finally gave up! Big League Effort!

We went back to Rhino’s to have a few totties to warm up....and wait until 5:00PM when it would be time to present

the FMF Scholarships Awards for Eastern Sierra Academy.

Steve Murphy from Fish-O-Rama joined us to present their designated scholarship in the name of one of their fallen—Robert Beck.

Steve had to leave after the ceremony but the rest of us headed for Rhino’s for dinner and scoops! The Mayor and Sandi joined us (to try and sell more shirts?) and after a late night we headed to the Taj (Mayo’s 400 foot trailer) for warmth and medication! Fade to black.....

Thursday June 10th: Hot breakfast at CAMP HOTEL! Eggs, bacon, pancakes and country potatoes to start the day!

Went to Sandy Beach (Upper Lower) to fish and mostly stay out of the wind. Not much luck....other than having a full ice chest and talking about buying a home on the lake that was for sale as a CLUBHOUSE! Really—I shit you not!



Back to camp for late lunch, connect with the Ranger, later dinner—and then movie night at the Taj!

Friday June 11th: Broke camp in rain, then breakfast at Café, Ranger, HFTB, and Professor leave—and after a little Rhino’s time—Walkbucks/Sparky/Mayo head to Coleville High School for scholarship presentation. Back to Rhino’s for Cowboy Night, dinner with JR and KR, and a hard crash at Bridgeport Inn.

Saturday June 12th: Traditional breakfast at Hays—then everyone leaves in different directions—with Mayo getting home before Walkbucks even gets to Bishop! I shit you not!

See ya on the 38th Amigo’s!!!!

What about the 38th?

First of all—the 38th Annual Fishin’ Mission Extravaganza starts on Friday June 3rd (unless you are one of the wingnuts that shows up on Thursday June 2nd) and runs until Sunday June 12th—if you have the stones!

So....what do we know so far?

- **Dan “Omar” Noble and Brian “Big D” Berry signed on quite some time ago to take care of the gear this year.** It will be a surprise (OMG.....Orange?) and if you don’t like surprises.....then man-up and do the gear on the 39th so you know what’s coming! And I hear the size of his crew will double—better get on the email list boys!
- Bonfire has joined the Southwest Rod and Gun Club—and could bring any number of these guys up to Bridgeport this year! And hopefully some of his Moose buddies will return too!
- As recently as February 18th—I heard from Deits that he and Moon Doggy are IN this year! Rumor he’s making the run with Boone and Speed Limit too—so now we have four freakin’ liars!
- BT—with new wheels and the World Series trophy in hand—plans to be there Friday! No really—I believe him!
- The Morgy and Oregonism show is ON again this year—as I’ve had a personal commitment from Morgy (and made sure he knew the right dates) and Oregonism through his squeeze Glenna who wants him out of the house—that they are in! We’ve called in advance to schedule fence repair!
- Sparky has convinced Dak (aka Crossfire) to make it back this year and is bringing his buddy Pete and his bro-law Doc in addition to Mayo. Must say that is a hell of a lot of sponsor responsibility! I’ve met Doc and Pete (ask him to play harmonica in the woods) and Sparky will have his hands full.
- Smilin’ Jim will be flying in from Vegas, grabbing a rental in Reno, and crashing without SPERM—in Hands “Card Room” trailer! I’m sure we’ll hear the stories about when he played ball with Harbaugh.....again!
- Lewd has re-invented himself and will be coming back and promises to actually hang with us this year! I’m glad!

**Every year we try and come up with a new slogan.
Here’s a few suggested for the 38th—Care to Vote?**

Life Changes—Friends Don’t

Just a Bunch of Knotheads