

“Keeping in Touch”

Quarterly Newsletter by/for
Fish & Game Retirees/Families and
Interested Former Employees

April-June, 2015, Vol. 11, No. 2

Dates to Remember

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**Retiree Luncheon
Schedule
Golden Corral
on Emerald in Boise
11:30 a.m.**

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**2015
March 12
May 14
July 9
September 10
November 12**

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Mark Your Calendars

Reconnecting With Former Commissioners

This past winter as IDFG “wrapped up” a year-long celebration of the 1938 Initiative, Director Virgil Moore contacted as many former Commissioners as he could locate to ask them a few questions about their time serving as a Commissioner. He sent letters to 26 former Commissioners and heard back from 20! Those responses are currently being assembled and put together. It took quite a bit of time locating some of them and it is now our desire to keep in touch.

A few of the former Commissioners are already receiving this newsletter but many were not. If you are a former Commissioner and haven't received this newsletter in the past — Welcome! If you desire not to receive it, please contact me, Judy J. Fisher, and I will remove your name from the distribution list. To all of those who have served as a Commissioner — THANK YOU!!

The easiest way to contact me is by returning the postage-paid postcard included with your newsletter. If you wish to continue receiving this, just fill out the card, including your e-mail address (if you have one) and mail it back. If you do not wish to receive it, just indicate such, including your name, and your name will be removed.

(Before I retired from IDFG in 1996, I was responsible for the Department's weekly newsletter called “Contact” which did a report of regional happenings, latest Department news, updates on personnel, etc. After about two years or so after I left, the newsletter, which had been in existence since the early '40s, was considered unimportant and was dropped. So, after a few months, the Retiree Reunion Committee decided to start their own quarterly newsletter called “Keeping in Touch.” The newsletter's existence is supported only by the donations made by the generous IDFG retirees. -- JFJ)

"Keeping in Touch,"

a newsletter for
IDFG Retirees/Families
and
Former Employees
is published
quarterly by the
IDFG Retiree Committee

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**All donations should be
made payable to
Judy Fisher and
sent to the above address.**

**State Salamander Bill Killed
Over Federal Overreach Fears**

(From The Associated Press)

Lawmakers worried that special recognition of the species could lead to federal protections have rejected a grade school student's request that it be named the state amphibian. The House State Affairs Committee voted 10-6 on Monday against 14-year-old Ilah Hickman's plan. It was her fifth attempt in as many years to persuade lawmakers that students made a good choice for state amphibian.

"I was kind of disappointed, but either way I'm going to come back next year and push it again," Hickman told The Spokesman-Review. "I'm going to keep pushing, until it either passes or I can't get hearings anymore."

An Idaho attorney general's opinion advised lawmakers that approving the salamander as a state symbol wouldn't do anything in the way of encouraging federal protections. But lawmakers remained wary.

"My whole concern is potential federal overreach," said Rep. Don Cheatham, R-Post Falls. "In North Idaho we have the water litigation going. I just am in fear that something could be impacted if it became an endangered species."

Sen. Janie Ward-Engelking, D-Boise, co-sponsored Hickman's bill and pointed out that designating a state symbol had nothing to do with endangered species. "We addressed that," Ward-Engelking said. "We got an opinion from the attorney general — it was very clear."

Frank Lundburg, a herpetologist, testified in support of the bill and was disappointed after it failed. "It is a mistake to over estimate the ignorance of the Idaho Legislature," he said. *(Yeah, Frank! You are so right!!! -- JJF)*

(I guess Frank's comment woke up our "so-called" governor, because he finally signed the bill approving the new state symbol, the salamander. Saw the article this morning in the Idaho Statesman (April 3 issue).

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More Changes for The Newsletter

As you will see later in the newsletter, our Reunion/Treasurer **Jack Fisher** passed away March 25 just five days before his 90th birthday. I have had to take over the banking for the newsletter. Thus, I have canceled our post office box at Postal Annex and you now can contact me directly at my home address: 4831 Sunfish Lane, Meridian, ID 83642. This change will appear on the page 2 credits. This will save a lot of money that can be used for the newsletter.

Also, I have had many requests to add birthdays/anniversaries, etc., to the list. I apologize to you if yours hasn't appeared in the past because your name was not on the list I obtained from Ralph Pehrson's files. The list was quite old and not up to date. All you have to do is contact me (see page 2 for my contact info). I will be most happy to add your name to the list

Thank You!!!

Thank you wonderful people for your so very generous donations! Especially to **Chris and Jim Craig** from Lenore, Idaho; **Ted Chu** from Nehalem, Oregon; and **Rod Parker** from Deary, Idaho. These donations will fund quite a few newsletters. With the postage costs, envelopes and printing costs, things have become more expensive; however, you

generous folks have kept us going! We love you all!!

Welcome New Retirees!!

Jim Unsworth, IDFG Deputy Director, retired March 31. He worked 33 years for the department. **Tom Hemker**, Wildlife Game Manager for the Wildlife Bureau, retired March 31. He worked 33 years for the department. Congratulations folks and welcome to the group!

Jack McNeel Update

We knew that **Jack McNeel** has been kept busy writing for the Idaho Senior Independent newspaper, but we didn't know how much since the paper isn't easily available in this area. While working the voting polls in February, one of the poll workers had a copy which she gave to me. So, now I know where to get it — Meridian Senior Center (probably most Senior Centers carry it). Jack, your abundant articles are very interesting as is the whole newspaper. Keep up the good work!

Retiree Updates

Have had so many inquiries about **Jerry Mallet's wife Charlotte's** health that I finally contacted him for an update. Charlotte has been home since November 12 and Jerry is caring for her. She is taking speech, physical and occupational therapy. She is presently in a wheelchair but is starting

to use her right leg to walk and hopefully will be able to use a walker by early summer. Her recovery is going well but will be a long, slow process for her to regain all that she lost with her stroke. (*Thank you, Jerry, for the update and our thoughts and prayers are with both of you.*)

In Memoriam

Jack Gage Fisher
March 30, 1925 -
March 25, 2015

Jack G. Fisher, former IDFG Bureau of Engineering Chief, passed away March 25, 2015, five days before his 90th birthday. Jack was born in Olathe, Colorado, growing up on the family farm and cattle ranch in western Colorado. He enlisted in the Navy shortly after high school and flew in Douglas SBD and Consolidated PBY Catalina airplanes during WWII. After the war, Jack remained in the Navy in the Seabee reserves, retiring at the rank of Captain.

Jack graduated from Colorado State University as a civil engineer in 1950. He specialized in the construction of dams and fish ladders and worked all over the west, from Hungry Horse Dam in Montana to Pelton Dam in Oregon. In 1959, Jack went to work the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as their fisheries engineer, overseeing multiple projects, including the con-

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Updates, Cont. from Page 3

struction of the Dagger Falls fish ladder on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. An environmental engineer before the term was coined, Jack later worked for NOAA on the entirety of the Alaska pipeline construction, ensuring the protection of wildlife and fish. He also owned his own company, providing civil engineering services, headquartered in Anchorage, Alaska. Jack was the past president of the American Society of Fisheries Engineers.

Jack and his wife Karen settled in Meridian in 1995 and proceeded to travel throughout the world. Jack had a zest for adventure, new friends and a passion for flying. He was a past president of the Alaska Airmen's Association. Other interests included hunting, fishing and photography. His love of the outdoors was passed on to his children.

A cowboy pilot at heart, he will be sorely missed by his loving wife, Karen; her daughter and son-in-law; her two sons and two grandchildren; and his children, John Fisher, Judi Fisher, Jaci (Ray) Eiquihua and Janet (Tom) Parenteau; three grandchildren and spouses and six great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Barbara Showalter and three nephews; and his godson Kazuki Watanabe of Japan.

Interment with full military honors will be at the Idaho State Veteran's Cemetery on April 28, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

Jack Wayne Fisher
Jack Wayne Fisher, 80, of Nampa, Idaho, passed away February 28, 2015 at home. Services were held March 8 in Nampa. Jack served on the Winter Elk Feeding Committee for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Idaho Wildlife Federation. He also served 30 years combined with the Air National Guard and the U.S. Air Force.

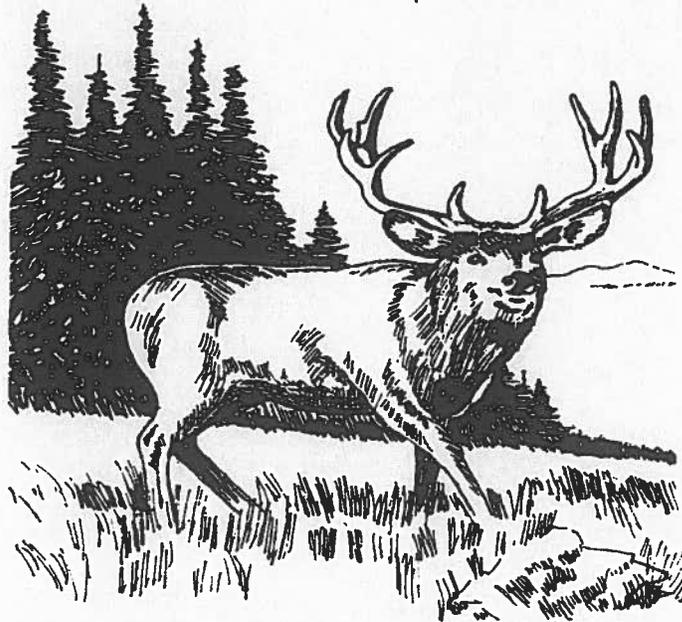
He was appointed to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Sportsman Advisory Committee in 1998 and was instrumental in codifying the rules and regulations for archery hunting in Idaho, including the designation of various archery hunting units.

Of the many things Jack was involved in over the years, his association with the Idaho Wildlife Federation was one of his favorites. He went to Washington, D.C. to testify on behalf of the Idaho Wildlife Federation, for Senator Mike Simpson's bill to expand the Craters of the Moon National Monument. He served as President of the Idaho Wildlife Federation from 1999-2004, and was a true conservationist.

He was also honored as one of the 40 most important conservationists in the State of Idaho by the Idaho Statesman newspaper.

Jack is survived by his wife of 60 years, Corrine Tafoya Fisher; five children; ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Our deepest sympathies to the families.



2015 Birthdays & Anniversaries of IDFG Retirees/Employees

April Birthdays

Linn French*, April 1

Dan Duggan, April 5

Mike Todd, April 6

Dale Turnipseed, April 7

Royce Williams, April 10

May Birthdays

Don Wright, May 1

Jerry Mallet, May 5

Stanley (Bob) Moore, May 6

Corinne Barlow, May 7

Ray Greene, May 21

Eric Stansbury*, May 23

Paul Hanna, May 25

Milt Williams, May 26

Ruth Stemper, May 27

Bill Goodnight May 29

Tom Abel, May 29

Russ Kozacek, May 31

May Anniversaries

Rod & Lanore Parker, May 8, 50 years

Jody & George Taylor, May 15, 50 years

Bob & Betty Jane Royce, May 26, 49 years

June Birthdays

Larry Smith, June 6

Walt Browne, June 6

Terry Williams, June 7

Walt Arms, June 9

Al Kiler, June 13

Bob Bell, June 13

Dexter Pitman, June 16

Roger Olson, June 17

Jack Trueblood, June 18

Joan Trueblood, June 27

Vaughn Brauer, June 27

Larry Miller, June 27

Don Stucker, June 27

June Anniversaries

Eldon Anglen & Carol, June 8, 2 years

Congratulations!!!