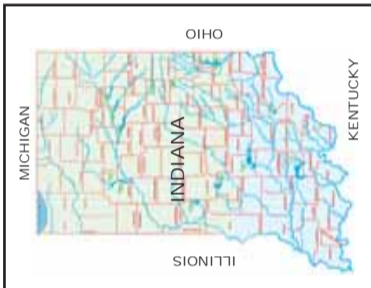


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May 2012 • Volume XXII • NO. 266

Created & Published by Ray Dickerson

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THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: Phil Lotich formed the Wayne County Honor Guard in 1972. He is the oldest member at the young age of 91 years. See More on Pages 14-15 (**Photo by Mark Stover**) **Inset:** The 3rd Seabee story on Page 16-17 & 28 in a series thru Sep 2012.
Top Right: CANOEFEST, Indiana's premier festival held annually in Brookville, Indiana, this year on the weekend of June 29-30. In this 2011 photo 3 canoes are maneuvering to take the lead. See Page 1, 8-9. (**Photo by Ray Dickerson**)
Bottom Left: Members of the Indiana Slab Masters,

Larry Yates and Doug Allen holding up some of the crappie they caught in Patoka Lake. (**Photo by Ron Bilbrey**)
Bottom Right: East Fork Fishing Expo For Kids and Stayin' Alive 12th Annual Family Fun Day, both taking place in the Brookville, Indiana Town Park on Memorial Day, May 28, 2012. Both activities are for anyone who wants to come and have fun. In this photo Corps. of Engineers Park Ranger, Matt Garringer shows a couple of kids how to rig a fishing pole and get it ready to catch fish in 2011. See page 8-9. (**Photo by Ray Dickerson**)

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Raymond E. Dickerson

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UNUSUAL SPRING - USUAL APRIL

March found us basking in 70-80 degree weather. Mother Earth sparkled in the sunshine bringing forth a bounty of early growth. Many people even put out early gardens. The one thing most people forgot was that in Indiana it's probably not the best idea to get to thinking that Spring has Sprung, especially not with April still coming. I even went so far as to head for the woods thinking I was going to find early morel mushrooms. Especially after Paul McCloud had written about the mushrooms last issue and those pictures on the cover fooled me! I walked 5 hours in two visits to a local woods, found one, two and a half inch tall gray sponge. But it was good exercise, my doctor should be happy with me for a change. I've never found mushrooms in March before

Well April's here and our forecast for tomorrow night and the next is 29 degrees with a "Freeze Warning." April is my birthday month and I can almost always depend on cold temperatures that day.

Welcome to Indiana weather, however this year the entire U.S. has enjoyed our type of weather too.

BIG DADDY'S GRAND OPENING 4-28-12

Big Daddy's Guns and More located at his new location just south of SR 38 on SR 1 near Hagerstown, Indiana is holding his Grand Opening celebration on April 28, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Assorted prizes include a Henry lever action rifle, two kid's BB guns, 1 boys and 1 girl's, a Taurus .380 pistol will be given away, no purchase necessary. Hot dogs and soda free. Be sure to drop by and join in the festivities.

Big Daddys is located on the northwest corner of SR 1 and Paul R. Foulke Parkway, just south of SR 1 and SR 38 Junction, turn west at Hagerstown Industrial Park Sign, its the first building on your right. His hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Closed Sundays.

Hope to see you there on the 28th of April it will be fun for everyone.

NEW WRITER IN THIS ISSUE

Janice Hunsche, who in reality has been sending information to me about coming events about Metamora, Indiana for some time, now is writing a

new column in The Gad-a-bout, its entitled, Happenings in Metamora, Indiana, this month's article tells about the May activities from the Metamora Site, from the Whitewater Canal State Site and from the Whitewater Railroad Site.

Metamora, Indiana is a historic village located on U.S. 52 in southeastern Indiana between the towns of Brookville and Andersonville.

Visitors can enjoy riding on the Whitewater Canal on the Canal Packet Ben Franklin III, which is pulled by two horses along the towpath of the canal and operated by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The packet passes through the Duck Creek Aqueduct that dates back to the beginning of the canal. The canal was completed to Metamora in 1842. The Millville Lock was also completed in 1842, a photo of it is on page 24, where you will find Janice's column this month.

Other interesting sites in Metamora is the state operated Grist Mill, Whitewater Railroad trains that arrive and leave from Connerville, Indiana on the weekends, a train ride from the Mill to the Millville Lock and back, buggy rides, plus lots of small shops for you to shop in while visiting.

I recommend you to visit this unique historic village, for more information log onto their website: www.metamoraindiana.com

VETERAN MARK STOVER'S CHALLENGE

Vietnam Veteran Mark Stover's column this month has a challenge that I hope everyone reading this issue adhere's to. It is as follows.

Mark says, "I challenge everyone who reads this paper to be present this Memorial Day at one of the ceremonies held in your local area. Every local VFW, American Legion, Am Vets, or other veterans group will have something going on. Let's get out there and pay our respects to those who gave all so we can live in a free country. **God Bless America!**"

Mark's column appears on page 14 & 15 in this issue, he writes about, Honoring Those Who Served Their Country and also about the The Wayne County Honor Guard.

The Wayne County Honor Guard was formed in 1972 by Phil Lotich, he is the oldest member who still participates at the funerals, at the young age of 91. See his photo on page 14 along with other photos of the group. There are not enough words in this writer's vocabulary to tell you the appreciation I have for this group of Veterans. Until you have witnessed their devotion and respect, while honoring your loved one, who is being buried, with full military rites at the cemetery, you won't know the gratitude you feel as your Veteran Father or Brother is laid to rest, until then.

READ ABOUT OUR FREEDOM PG 11

Rev. Malcolm Greene, who writes about "The Order of Red Men" has an especially heart warming article this month. Well placed in the May issue which is the month that most people's thoughts are about Freedom, Sacrifice and the cost there of. I found it refreshing to read the excerpts from, "I am the flag of the United States of America" and "My name is old glory..."

The Miami Tribe meets in Richmond at the MCL Cafeteria the third Thursday of each month at 6:00p.m. to eat and our Council Fire is lit for our meeting at 6:45p.m. and quenched at approximately 7:30p.m.

Look for them on the internet at www.REDMEN.org. and/or call Malcolm Greene at 765-259-1958; yours in Freedom, Friendship, and Charity.

SEABEE EDWARD "DICK" PATRICK'S STORY APPEARS ON PAGES 16, 17 & 28

World War II Seabee Dick Patrick served his country from January 1943 thru the war's end in 1946. He quit school and joined the Navy, serving in Trinidad and Okinawa. He got my attention when he called me earlier this year when he called me by telephone and said he was with CBMU 624 on Okinawa in 1945. Many of you readers already know that my late father, Raymond E. Dickerson, Sr was with CBMU 624 on Okinawa and I have been searching for his fellow Seabees since 2007.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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This is my daughter Katelyn Nobbe, she caught this Walleye in Brookville Lake fishing with me. (Author Photos)



This is Johnny Simpson he caught this really nice Crappie fishing with me in Brookville Lake (Author Photo)

So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by Tag Nobbe
Professional Fishing Guide

Fishing Brookville in May

May is normally the best month to be fishing on Brookville Lake, but this year the fish are coming out of a long cool winter at best. The water temperature in Brookville lake never got below 40 degrees all winter. What this has done has moved all the spawning cycles up about a month. So when your fishing in May your going to have to change up a bit and fish in May like you would fish in June, I think. This is going to be my best guess.

Crappie: Use a 1/16 oz jig with a 1" tube tipped with a crappie minnow or wax worm. Change the color of the 1" tube until you find which color the crappie like the best. It's always a good idea to have about 10 different colors on hand because it definitely makes a difference. If a cold front moves in to the area a jig tipped with a wax worm is better, but if the weather is stable and the water is warm a crappie minnow is best. Fish in any cove that has standing timber, fish straight up and down or cast with a slow steady retrieve vary your depth of the jig by counting it down after you make a cast.

Blue Gill: Use a small gold Aberdeen hook and a wax worm under a bobber. Fish in any cove around a tree that has fell in the water. The boat docks and the pillars under the causeways are also a good bet.

Largemouth Bass: There is a variety of ways to catch bass but the best locations are on the banks in the coves around any stump, fallen tree, point, anywhere there is something irregular on the bank. You can use rubber worms, real worms, crank baits, surface baits, buzz baits, spinner baits and the list goes on. But my favorite is a real worm on a weedless hook or on a jig. Just cast it, let it settle to the bottom and slowly move it and pause it till you get bit, trust me it will happen.

Striped Bass: Use chubs, shiners or shad under a bobber or behind a planer board move them through the water with your boat very slow so as to not drown the bait by pulling it to fast, or you can cast buck tail jigs or surface lures. Just remember to think big because stripers are big and strong. Fish from Fairfield causeway to the dam. I have caught them every place in between.

Walleye: The very best bait is night crawlers, big ones, little ones, fat ones, skinny ones it doesn't seem to matter. Location and presentation is one of the keys along with color or the lack of it. If you have a cold front move in after a warm spell a night crawler hook and a sinker is your best bet. But if the weather is stable a jig and a night crawler is the best. Look for areas that are rocky, fish anywhere there is an irregularity on the banks from the river



Ryan Evans caught this Largemouth Bass on left and Smallmouth Bass on right fishing with me on Brookville Lake. (Author Photo)


above the lake to the dam, but the north end of the lake is best in the spring.

Good Luck Tag

If you need more info E-mail me at tag@tagnobbe.com or go to the website www.brookvillelakeguideservice.com or call my cell phone 765-265-3238.

I guide fish for walleye, striped bass, and crappie starting mid April till mid December, 7 days a week on Brookville Lake. We fish out of a 2007 Lund Pro V 2025 with a 225 Honda motor. I supply everything all the way down to cleaning the fish. I can take 1 - 4 people. The price is according to how many people go \$400.00 for 4 people \$325.00 for 3 people \$275.00 for 2 people and \$225.00 for 1 person. We start at 7:00 am and fish till 1.00 To schedule trips call me at home 765-647-4329 or on my cell phone 765-265-3238.

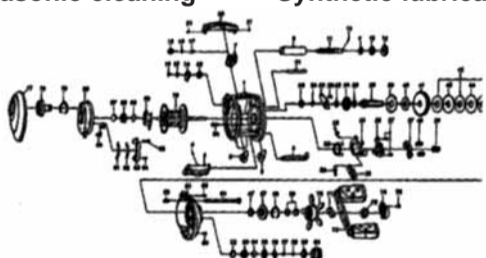
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News from the Indiana State Police



by Sergeant John D. Bowling
Public Information/Recruiting Officer

Sometimes Spring Showers Bring...Tornadoes

Last month I covered how the Indiana State Police provide security for all kinds of statewide events like races, the state fair and such. Another big part of being a trooper is being ready to go at any moment anywhere in the state, wherever or whenever we are needed, whether it is a protest somewhere or a natural disaster like a flood or tornado.

Such was the case on Friday, March 9th. I received a call at home from my supervisor, Captain David Bursten, the Commander of the Public Information Section, shortly after 4 p.m. He told me at least 2 tornadoes had ravaged southern Indiana and there were several people unaccounted for. Even the PIO for the Sellersburg District, my academy classmate and friend Sergeant Jerry Goodin, had been on I-65 when the tornado went through and totaled his car with baseball size hail. Luckily Jerry was not hurt.

Within minutes, like troopers all over the state, I was in my car and headed south to help. I arrived in Henryville shortly after dark. As we entered on US 31, the first thing I noticed was the school. It was a large complex facing US 31 and was largely destroyed and gone.

As is the case with tornado scenes, the town had the appearance of a war zone. Trees were sheared off 7'-8' high and home foundations could be seen where homes once stood. There were overturned cars and trucks everywhere. The town was in total darkness and many people were just walking around as if lost, probably in shock.

Cars were backed up for miles on US 31 trying to get into Henryville-this made it tough on First Responders trying to respond to the town. The town had been blocked off by State Police, County and City Law Enforcement as well as National Guard personnel.

I was stationed at St. Francis Catholic Church, on the corner of US 31 and SR 161. It was set up as a check in station where people were to go to sign in and to locate loved ones. The tornado had destroyed the school and houses just behind and on both sides of the church. The local Family Dollar Store down the street had emptied out its shelves bringing food, clothes and medical supplies to the church.

There were three ladies manning the table as you entered the basement taking care of the folks who came in to sign in. Two had come to help from a neighboring town, but one woman was from Henryville. People continued wandering in, seeing if missing family members had signed in or been seen.

Around 9 p.m. a man came in and asked one of the ladies at the table if she was ready to leave. As she stood up she looked at me and said, "Well sir, it's time to go home." This woman, who had been so cheerful and friendly, helping victims all evening, suddenly began to cry. She said, "Well, let me rephrase that, time to go to what's left of my home, it was destroyed this afternoon."

This woman had spent all afternoon and evening helping others knowing her own home was in ruins just up the street. She was just one of many brave Hoosiers ignoring their own tragedy in order to help others. Local folks came in all night ready to help, to donate, or to offer housing for local folks displaced by the storm.

Our local Pendleton Post sent a Tactical Intervention Platoon of 10 men down to Henryville to patrol and help secure the scene Saturday through

Monday. The Indiana State Police had a Command Center set up in the town for weeks and had a presence there from the moment the storm hit. Two troopers had houses destroyed in Henryville. One trooper was at home and suffered a shoulder injury as he clawed his way out of his basement through the debris of his destroyed home.

While working at the Tornado Joint Information Center in Indy the following week, I received a call from a man in Morning View, Kentucky, 25 miles south of Cincinnati. He said he had found some documents from a Henryville resident in his yard after the storms went through over that weekend. A lady from Loveland, Ohio called and said she had found a canceled check from a Lexington (Washington County) Indiana storm victim.

Both of those locations are a long way from southern Indiana, and there were several similar stories in the media in the following weeks. You can see from the pictures the awesome power of those storms. In the weeks following we arrested people who had come to the area to steal-just one of the many reasons we were needed there.

Know that whenever and wherever in our state mayhem strikes, whether it be man made or Mother Nature, your Indiana State Police will be there proudly providing service to citizens in any way we can.

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The current hiring process is nearly finished and you missed out on applying. If you would like to be included in the next hiring process, then go to our web site at <https://myweb.in.gov/ISP/Recruitment/> and fill out a pre-application. Basic requirements are being a United States citizen; must be at least 21 years of age and less than 40 years old when graduating from the academy; must possess a valid driver's license and possess a high school diploma or an equivalence.

Pay starts at \$36,852 while attending the academy, then goes to \$40,100 at completion of the first year.



Indiana State Police PIO car in Henryville, Indiana in the middle of the tornado damage. (Photo taken by PIO Officer Chad Dick)

Pay then goes up each year thereafter for the next twenty years. As you can see the pay is competitive in today's job market. Being a Trooper is much more than just a career; it's a way of life. If you'd like to be included in the next hiring process just click on the above link and fill out the pre-application.

This ends another month's installment. Thanks for reading and allowing all of us to serve all of you. Be careful, and remember while you're out turkey hunting, mushroom hunting and romping in the woods that meth cooks are out leaving behind their trash and labs. If it doesn't look right, don't touch it-call your local State Police Post and get it checked out. ■



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Indiana Department of Natural Resource News



by I.C.O. Gary Catron
LE Division Spokesperson

Take a few extra seconds

Indiana's spring turkey season is creeping ever so slowly closer. In anticipation, many are already chomping at their favored slate and diaphragm turkey calls declaring it to be practice while family members call it annoying.

The art of turkey calling is practiced for good reason. Safe turkey hunting strategies should be afforded the same attention. For Indiana hunters, we can't be proud of the safety record for the year 2011. One hunting accident is one to many, in 2011 we had far too many during the various hunting seasons.

Hunting accidents are often thought of as being committed by the inexperienced. Hold on, not so fast with this assumption. Studies have shown that most turkey hunting shooting incidents where a hunter fires on another hunter failing to identify their target are NOT committed by those with little experience. Most of these types of occurrences, about two-thirds, are on private lands and it is often a hunting partner who is mistakenly shot. The distances mostly range from 11-50 yards. Here's what is a bit of a surprise: the shooters in these incidents, on average, are in their mid 40s with 16 years of turkey hunting experience. The average victims in these incidents are in their early 40s and have 13 years of turkey hunting experience.

The 2012 Indiana spring turkey season is from April 25 through May 13. The spring season bag limit is one bearded or male turkey. Making this year's turkey season a safe one depends on ALL participants.

Here are safety rules for turkey hunting taken nearly straight from www.in.gov/dnr.

- Select a calling position where you can see for at least 50 yards in all directions and where you are protected from the backside. (think big tree!)
- Whistle or shout to alert approaching hunters of your position. Never wave or stand up.
- Never sneak in on a turkey or use a gobbler call near other hunters. Never crowd another hunter working a bird.
- Never shoot at sound or movement.
- Use a flashlight when walking in the dark.
- Be aware of turkey "fever" and its prevention.
- Disregard peer pressure to bag a bird.
- Be extremely careful using turkey decoys.
- Do not wear red, white, or blue outer wear or exposed inner clothing.
- Make sure your headset doesn't obscure your vision.
- Don't assume you are the only hunter in the area. Be certain of a companion's location.
- Know and identify your target and what is beyond.
- Discuss safety techniques with companions.
- Never assume that other hunters are responsible.
- Always keep your gun pointed in a safe direction.
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- Always keep your gun unloaded until ready to use.
- Never use alcohol or drugs before or while hunting.
- Respect property rights and secure permission before hunting.
- Hunters should unload their guns when crossing fences, climbing into stands, jumping ditches or traversing steep ravines.

Kids, review these for your parents and older relatives. Maybe they could use a refresher! Be safe. Take an extra few seconds to positively identify your target.

2012 Youth Turkey Season

Indiana will have a special youth spring turkey season April 21-22. Youth 17 years old or younger

can participate in this special season. Youths may use any devices normally legal for turkey hunting. An adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter but must not possess a firearm or archery equipment while in the field. Youth hunters must be properly licensed to take wild turkey and satisfy tagging and check-in requirements. Youths may take one bearded or male turkey during the spring regardless of whether it is taken during

the special youth season or during the regular spring turkey season.

Many Indiana DNR properties provide youth turkey hunting opportunities. If you have plans on utilizing this option, contact the property office to determine specific information. Hunting hours and other factors may differ from one property to the next. Visit www.in.gov/dnr for contact information and additional information on the 2012 youth turkey season.

Public hearing scheduled for proposal to continue one-buck rule

The Natural Resources Commission will conduct a public hearing **May 3** in Plainfield on a proposal to continue the one-buck deer hunting rule.

The one-buck rule currently allows only one antlered deer to be taken during the special youth, archery, firearm, or muzzleloader seasons combined. The rule is set to expire Sept. 1.

The proposed rule language can be viewed at IN.gov/nrc/files/one_buck_amendment.pdf.

Individuals can provide comments at the public hearing at 6 p.m. at the Plainfield Public Library, 1120 Stafford Road, Plainfield.

Comments regarding this proposal can also be submitted online to the NRC at IN.gov/nrc/2377.htm. Click on "Comment on this rule" next to "Deer 'One-Buck Rule' Amendment." The deadline for submitting comments is **May 3**.

Comments can also be mailed to:

**Natural Resources Commission
Indiana Government Center North
100 N. Senate Ave., Room N501
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

All comments sent to the NRC regarding this rule change will be provided to commission members and DNR staff and will be publicly disclosed and searchable on the Internet and in a paper docket as part of the final report.

The NRC is expected to vote on final adoption of the rule change at its meeting on **May 15**.

For more information call Linnea Petercheff at (317) 233-6527.

June WILD mammals workshop

June 25-29: The Nature of Teaching Mammals, Purdue University (www.purdue.edu/nature).

Purdue faculty, Extension staff and Project WILD join together to provide an introduction to mammals - species, habitat, diet, reproduction, and ecology. The course features content-rich presentations, interdisciplinary hands-on classroom activities, and a trunk of take-home resources for use in your classroom. Special field activities will include tracking, building scent stations, live trapping of small mammals, radio telemetry demonstration, and an optional owl calling field trip. Participants will receive the Project WILD Terrestrial Guide as part of this workshop. Graduate credit is available. **Registration deadline is May 21.** For more information, contact Rob Chapman at rnchapman@purdue.edu or (812)662-4999. ■

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WHERE IT IS HAPPENING IN 2012 - FRANKLIN COUNTY



**EAST FORK FISHING EXPO FOR KIDS
BROOKVILLE TOWN PARK MAY 28, 2012**



**STAYIN' ALIVE 12TH ANNUAL FUN DAY
BROOKVILLE TOWN PARK MAY 28, 2012**



**INDIANA'S LARGEST CANOE RACES
CANOEFEST JUNE 29 & 30, 2012**



**RICHARD T. GASTON MEMORIAL
TOURNAMENT SEPTEMBER 22, 2012**

COME TO FRANKLIN COUNTY, INDIANA IN 2012 TO HAVE FUN ALL YEAR LONG

First up is the **East Fork Fishing Expo For Kids** and **Stayin' Alive 12th Annual Family Fun Day**, both taking place in the Brookville, Indiana Town Park on **Memorial Day, May 28, 2012**. Both activities are for anyone who wants to come and have fun. The initial Stayin' Alive Family Fun Day began in 2001. The event is focused around families by providing them with an alcohol and drug free community event to participate in on Memorial Day. I attended the event in 2011 and what a wonderful time I and hundreds of others had, they had lots of booths, exhibits, kid activities, demonstrations, food, games and more. The times are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3 hours of family fun. In 2010 they added the East Fork Fishing Expo for Kids, it is sponsored by 52 Pik-up Marathon & Convenience Store.

The Fishing Expo is open to all kids near and far. Parents, bring your kids so they can learn how to fish, eat and have lots of fun on Memorial Day. Kids are encouraged to bring their own fishing poles and must be accompanied by an adult. If they don't have their own fishing equipment, a limited supply will be available for them. 52 Pik-up supplies the bait. A shuttle service is available from the park to the Fishing Expo. Be a part of, "the largest gathering of people with no alcohol" at this year's Family Fun Day.

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1 On The Water

Next up is **CANOEFEST 2012**, which will be held on **June 29 & 30, 2012**. This fun filled event includes Indiana's Largest Canoe & Kayak Races held on Saturday June 30th. Probably one of the most popular of the canoe races is the Recreational Canoe Race. The Recreational races will be put into 2 "Waves", the first at 9 a.m. and the second put in at 11 a.m. on Saturday June 30th starting at the Tailwaters of Brookville Lake and racing down the East Fork of the Whitewater to a finish just below the confluence with the West Fork. A run that is popular with both the families and novices, and the experienced paddlers alike. 2 Person Teams, \$15.00 Per Team Pre-Reg, \$30.00 Per Team Day-Of-Race (**Canoe Included**).

Give yourself a treat, bring the whole family and some friends too, come to the 2012 CanoeFest in Brookville, Indiana. Before you leave home visit www.canoefest.org, click on the canoe icon to learn what all is happening at the Festival. There is something for everyone.

There will be so much to do in Brookville these two days at CanoeFest, you will wonder how you ever missed it somehow. The whole town of Brookville is involved, activities include the Great Chicken Fry-Off on Saturday, the CanoeFest Idol on Friday and Saturday, Canoe Princess Contest, American Imposter, Long-Shot Cornhole Contest, Paint Your Paddle, Mini Canoe Race, Free music and entertainment on Friday and Saturday and on Saturday night the Areas Largest Fireworks show.

Don't you dare miss CanoeFest 2012 in Brookville, IN, to be absolutely sure you don't miss anything, go to their website www.canoefest.org and print out the activities and take the list with you.

Next up is for Bass, Walleye and Catfish fishermen, its the **2012 Richard T. Gaston Memorial Tournament on September 22, 2012**. You can register for this tournament by logging onto the website: www.gastontournament.com, then click on Registration at the top of the screen.

The Gaston Memorial Tournament is an annual fishing tournament held at Brookville Lake located in southeastern Indiana. It is a non-profit event to help raise money for the Richard T. Gaston Memorial Scholarship Fund.

To learn about the late Indiana State Trooper Richard T. Gaston, click on "About Richard" who

Big Game Hunting



by Joel Biltz

Choosing the Right Outfitter

A lot off questions have been asked on how to choose the right outfitter while researching hunts. I am going to go through the steps I use when I am trying to decide if I want to book with a certain outfitter. For some a outfitted hunt might be a once in a lifetime hunt and you don't want to lose your hard earned money to just any "fly by night outfitter" that dose nothing but feeds you a good sales pitch just to get your hard earned money. I have unfortunately have been on a hunt or two that was not what was expected, so I decided to write this to help those who are looking to book a hunt.

Starting the search

Once I have decided what hunt or animal I want to pursue I will then research the areas that they can be hunted in. Every state is structured differently as far

as getting a license so you also need to account for that. After deciding the hunt and state and the availability of getting a license I will then start by researching on the internet. The internet is your friend and enemy. You can learn a lot about a certain outfitter just by searching on the internet. Narrow your choices down to 5 or 6 outfitters and learn as much about them as you can.

Questions. Questions.. Questions...

After narrowing your selection down of the outfitters you are interested in, start thinking of all the questions you want the answers to. Don't be afraid to ask anything about the details of the hunt. Ask about food, lodging, the types of animals, size of animals that can be expected, type of terrain, weather in the area, how many others in camp, availability of license, ETC,ETC. Don't be afraid to ask. If the outfitter hesitates or dose not answer your questions this should throw up a red flag. Ask the outfitters for a list of references from past hunters. Make sure you get a few years worth and make sure you get names of successful and unsuccessful hunters. Ask these references the same questions you asked the outfitter and if you find ANY discrepancies red flag that outfitter. In my experience you with a little bit of common sense will lead you in the right direction.

Friend's Recommendations

A friend's recommendation can be a good thing or a bad thing. If a guy has a successful hunt more than likely he will give the outfitter a good recommendation. You still need to call all the references and find out as much about the outfitter as you can. On the other hand a guy that goes and dose not kill a animal might say he would never go back because of that, and it may or may not be the outfitters fault and you possibly might be missing out on a great outfitter that just didn't work out for a friend. Remember that this is hunting and there are no guarantees. If you show up out of shape and not well equipped, and cant shoot the broad side of a barn at 10 yards then you probably are not going to be successful, and not happy with the outcome.

Your success might depend on you

Making your hunt successful might all come down to you. Being prepared and in decent shape can sometimes make or break a hunt. If you show up out of shape it is not the outfitters fault. You can hire the best outfitter in the world but if you cant shoot or cant hike its not the outfitters fault you don't kill a animal. Be realistic. Hunting can be very physical, most of the time you can get through about any physical part if you are mentally prepared. If you just want to go hunt a and have fun doing it don't book a extreme hunt. But if you have done this enough and think you can hack it start preparing and go do it. It is truly rewarding when all the research has been done and you are looking through the scope or bow sight at a trophy animal knowing you finally have the opportunity.

I hope this will give you guys some insight to how I go about booking a hunt. I have done this quite a few times. This October I will be heading to Newfoundland for the Newfie Slam, Woodland Caribou, Canadian Moose, and Black Bear. In September of 2013 I have booked a Southeast Alaska backpack style hunt for Mountain Goat, and if time allows, Coastal Brown Bear. I feel that I have picked the best Outfitters I could that fit my criteria. Only time will tell.

If you have any questions or want to know more about how I book a hunt don't hesitate to email me at joelbiltz@etczone.com until next time hunt hard and hunt safe.



INDIANA STATE TROOPER
RICHARD T. GASTON

was killed in the line of duty on March 4, 1999. All proceeds from the tournament benefit the Gaston Memorial Fund which awards scholarships to graduating seniors of Franklin County High School.

This year's tournament details.

Take-off Times are Walleye 8:00 a.m., Bass 8:30 a.m. and Catfish 8:30 a.m.

Return/Weigh-in 4:00 p.m. at the Mounds Beach on Brookville Lake.

Hope to see you in Brookville this year. ■

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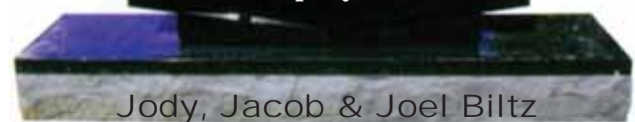


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Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

The Mathematics of Fishing

On a recent trip to Florida, as we were dining in a joint that specialized in sea food, I looked around at the usual fishing hardware and mounted examples of what we were about to consume hanging on the walls. What caught my eye was what looked like a seven foot long telephone pole sporting a reel about the size of the waste can in my office. That rig looked like something a crew would use to hoist steel girders up on a building construction. Obviously, the thing was intended to handle something a little larger than a Volkswagon, but I wondered how a fisherman could hold it up, much less have something on the end of the line that, in my opinion, you wouldn't want to share the boat with in the first place.

After choking down what the menu labeled as blackened grouper but tasted more like blackened sole of tennis shoe, I started thinking about what it took to design and construct fishing gear, from a lowly cheap fly rod to the construction crane hanging on the restaurant wall. Having spent decades in the mechanical engineering profession, I decided to see how the rules that apply to other mechanical doodads also apply to fishing gear.

When man first learned that some form of line with a bone hook attached was superior to shoving his face in the water watching for a fish to swim by and then attempting to grab it, he started experimenting with various typed of sticks to which he could attach the line. Centuries passed as he went from one type of stick to another. Bamboo proved to be flexible and strong and the bluegill rod was born. Then, an enterprising person thought of using a steel alloy for a fishing rod limb due to its strength. But it was like fishing with a length of re-bar and had about as much flexibility as a flag pole. Great for wabashing the big ones but didn't offer the fun of playing the game of man against beast. Fiberglass appeared on the scene in boat hulls and Corvettes and another thinker decided to try it with fishing rods.

Viola! The thing was fairly flexible and strong enough to withstand the attack of Bubba bluegills. At the same time bow fishermen were following the development of fiberglass with interest and soon the new miracle material replaced wood for their shafts. Even the bows themselves were using it, being strong enough to withstand the extension and compression of the fibers as the bow was drawn (finally, a few engineering terms come to light). But a few engineers involved in

the development of more advanced materials used to conquer the mighty fish were not satisfied. There had to be something that would put the Ugly Stick to shame. Complaints were coming in about the limbs on deep sea rods shattering under the force of a 300 pound blue marlin that was objecting to being forced to do something it didn't want to do. Then, somewhere, a physicist working to develop a material that would withstand the rigors of supersonic flight and potential wing flexing, working in nano technology, put his nano's together with a few other things and came up with carbon fiber. Here was a material that could withstand extreme bending moments and longitudinal flexing without deformation that exceeded anything presently available in the aircraft (and soon, the fishing) industry. Happy Days! If they could make this stuff in small diameter shafts, there wouldn't be a fish on the planet that would be safe from being hauled aboard.

However, as a few fishermen soon learned, the cost of a carbon fiber rod put that garage they planned to build out of reach. It would be cheaper to invest you 401K in Oppenheimer than a new carbon fiber fishing rod. But time passed and carbon fiber became cheaper as technology discovered better ways to adapt it to a number of applications at a reduced cost. Now, you can buy a 6-1/2' spinning rod for quite a bit less than a Chevy Volt. However, I considered what kind of impact this new technology could have on the average fisherman.

Considering the modulus of elasticity, the tensile strength, the bending moment, and the values of the extension and compression properties of carbon fiber as compared to common old fiberglass, I began to worry about the potential effect of a fisherman or fisherwoman who try to get the most distance out of a cast. Assuming that you are using a 1/8th ounce Shinee Hinee jig, fishing for crappie while using a carbon fiber rod, you whip the rod with all your strength, looking for that record cast. Here is where the laws of relativity come into play. Old Albert Einstein determined in his special theory of relativity that as a mass increases in velocity, its mass increases proportionally to its velocity relative to the speed of light. In other words the following equation applies:

$M = M_0 / \sqrt{1 - (v/c)^2}$. In other words, mass (resolution) is equal to M_0 (mass in inertia) divided by $\frac{1}{2}$ the sum of the value of one minus the square of the velocity of M_0 divided by the speed of light (186,282 miles per second). So, if your cast measures a small fraction of the speed of light, your 1/8th ounce lure may become too heavy for even a carbon fiber rod to handle. Please keep

this in mind when you decide to try to hit that spot that is thirty yards from the boat. You might not have enough rod or arm strength to get the job done.

Who would have thought that Albert Einstein, with his special and general theories of relativity would have been such a benefit to future fishermen when he had probably never wet a line. Ain't science and engineering just wonderful? ■

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they try to go off and explore their new world. The new born fawn struggling to its legs as the mother licks it clean.

I love summer, and the colors of fall, but spring has a certain magic that sets it apart from the other seasons of the year. The morning air is still crisp when I start my walk in the woods. However, once the sun is out it warms up quickly drying the morning dew. Even though my mother always said that this is pneumonia weather, since you don't know how to dress, I still shed my jacket and let the sun warm my face.

Spring is a great time to share with young ones. I

enjoy pointing out the flowers and plants picking out those that some particular importance to the native people. This one has roots used for dye, that one is medicinal or makes a fine tea. Even when a black snake drops from a branch overhead its startling effect makes the heart pump a little faster and the blood run a little quicker.

There is still some ice in the creek but the water runs clear and cold like a young child gamboling from rock to rock. If the water is deep enough you might even catch sight of the flashing color of a fish dodging here and there as it moves down stream to reach deeper water.

Spring has its own smell. It is a combination of all the things happening at this time of year. It is a strong smell but yet a gentle smell. It is a sweet smell and yet pungent smell.

Surely the Great Spirit has blessed this season when Mother Earth is preparing the land and the creatures that live upon it for the wonderful seasons ahead. Take the time from your busy lives in the month ahead and take a little stroll in the woods, a park, or your back yard and take in the beauty of Spring.

Old Chief Says: There's no use to grumble and complain; it's just as easy to rejoice; when the Great Spirit sorts out the weather and sends rain; why rain's my choice.

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by Malcolm Greene

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"I am respected. I am feared. I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years. I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Shiloh and Appomattox. I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France in Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome and the beaches of Normandy, Guam, Okinawa, Korea and Khesan, Saigon Vietnam knows me. I was there. I led the troops. I was dirty, battleworn and tired, but my soldiers cheered me and I was proud. I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries I have helped set free. It does not hurt because I am invincible. I have been soiled upon, burned and trampled on the streets of my Country. And when its by those I've



served in battle it hurts.

But I shall overcome for I am strong. I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours. But my finest hours are yet to come. When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the battlefield, or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter I am proud.

MY NAME IS OLD GLORY LONG MAY I WAVE DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN LONG MAY I WAVE.

PLEASE SEND FORTH MY MESSAGE TO ALL WHO STILL LOVE AND RESPECT ME THAT I MAY FLY PROUDLY FOR ANOTHER TWO HUNDRED YEARS.

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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

Dihydrogen found in Great Lakes

Dihydrodrogen monoxide, (I'll just call it DHMO for short) is acknowledged to be one of the most persistent chemical compounds on Earth. Scientists now warn this chemical has been found in the Great Lakes. Some experts are of the opinion DHMO has been in the system as long or longer than some of the better known pollutants such as dioxin and PCBs.

Unfamiliar with DHMO? Here are some startling facts about the chemical.

* In humans there have been documented cases of death due to the accidental inhalation of DHMO, even in small quantities.

* It's been shown that prolonged exposure to solid DHMO causes severe tissue damage.

* Excessive ingestion of the product produces a number of unpleasant though not typically life-threatening side-effects including excessive urination, electrolyte imbalance, swelling and even weight gain.

* Exposure to gaseous DHMO can cause severe burns.

Besides problems caused to living organisms, it's been proven exposure DMHO leads tocorrosion and oxidation of many metals, can contaminate electrical systems causing short-circuits and can decrease the effectiveness of automobile brakes. DHMO is often present at varying levels in flowing streams but whenever dams have been constructed on those streams the resulting level of DHMO invariably skyrockets.

It's not surprising DHMO has been detected in the Great Lakes. Measurable levels of the chemical have been verified in ice samples taken from both the Arctic and Antarctic ice caps.

In spite of the continuing efforts to reduce the amount of hazardous chemicals entering waterways in the U.S., as well as outright bans on unlawful dumping of many substances, the release



Proper smoking or cooking will reduce the amount of DMHO found in Great Lakes Fish. (Author Photo)

of massive quantities of DHMO continues in some areas of the world. Industry cannot be held accountable entirely because lawmakers are reluctant to pass legislation to make most forms of dumping of DHMO illegal. Reasons for this could include pressures from corporate leaders, industry lobbyists and even vested foreign governments. This governmental inaction leading to nearly unregulated dumping may be one of the most overlooked environmental impacts of DHMO.

Meanwhile, EPA regulations are in place making it illegal to dispose of DHMO in landfills, including those licensed for hazardous waste. Regulations also stipulate that any DHMO appearing in a landfill must be removed. Judging from these laws it appears that the U.S. government recognizes the inherent danger DHMO poses to the environment, at least in certain circumstances.

The Obama Administration refuses to ban any production, distribution and use of DHMO. This inaction may be due to pressures from private interests and corporate-sponsored economists, among many, who predict a DHMO ban could produce disastrous results. Claims include damage to public health and the well-being of the U.S. and world economies.

What does all this mean to us guys who like to catch fish and eat fish from the Great Lakes? We've all been cautioned in the past to trim our salmon filets and use cooking methods which allow the fats and oils to drip away from the meat, resulting in significant reduction in oil-soluble chemicals. It's unknown if this same treatment

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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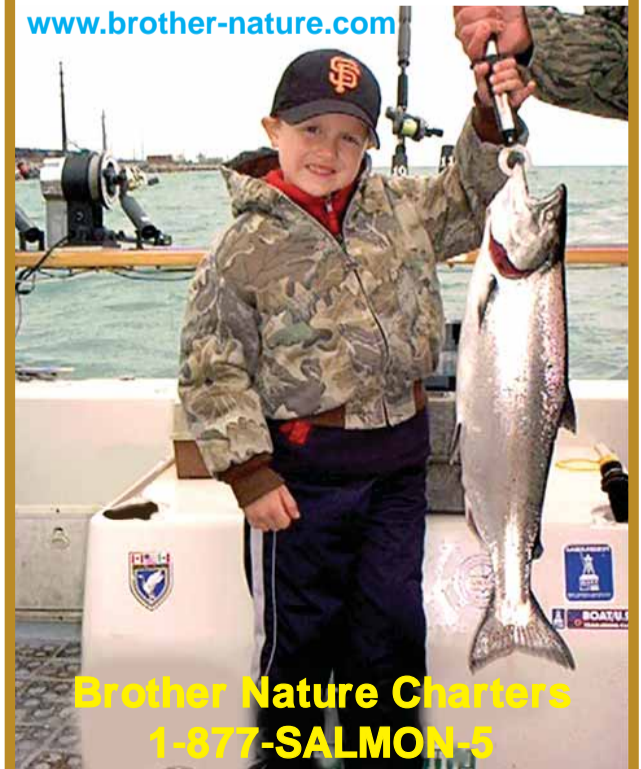
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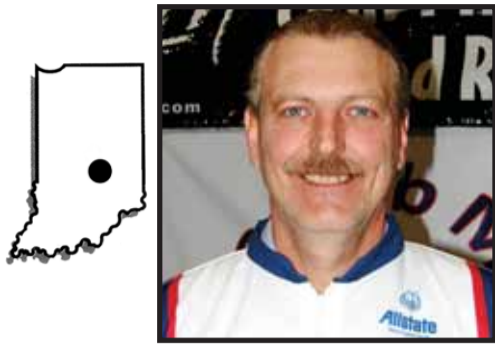
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South Bay

Indiana Slab Masters



by Ron Bilbrey

Patoka Lake Tournament

We left Anderson at 3:00 in the morning on the Friday before the Patoka tournament in the midst of a light rain that we thought would lighten as we traveled south, it only got heavier and by the time we stopped for bait at 6:30 it had turned into a down pour. It was still pouring at 7:00 when we launched in Painters creek and it continued to rain the entire first three hours, we fished the back waters of Jordan's Branch with little success there, so we decided to move on to an area that had produced fish for us before. The previous year we had fished off weed beds that were then under four- feet of water in the Osbourn ramp area. This year in the same area due to all of this season's rain, the water was seven to eight feet in depth with fish buried in the weeds. After landing several smaller crappie we finally managed to catch one that was 13 inches so we moved back to the main lake in search of more weed beds.

As we pulled up to a point at the mouth of Fleming Branch there were weed beds on either side. In our first pass while trolling up to the weeds on the left side of the point we landed two twelve inch fish using Jiffy jigs. We caught one more twelve inch fish as we rounded the point into another weed bed. Figuring this was as good as it would get we pulled off the lake just before dark. After a quick stop at Patoka Station for pre- registration we headed to Walter and Susie's. They are long time friends of ours who offered to put us up for the night in their newly built cabin. It has a nice view of open fields and wooded fence rows, with Painters Creek in the back ground. After a good dinner and a quick shower we called it a night. Four o'clock comes early in the morning; we still had some prep to do for the tournament.

The morning of the tournament, after stopping by Patoka Lake Boat Marina to pick up more bait



Top Left: Larry Yates and Doug Allen with their 1st place plaques. (Author Photo) Top Right: Larry and Doug with some of their crappie. (Photo by Scott Gill) Bottom Left: Tom Hankins and Glen Gill with 2nd Place crappie. (Photo by Scott Gill) Bottom Right: Tony Williams and Tim Dunigan with 3rd place crappie. (Photo by Scott Gill)

and a cup of coffee, we arrived at South Ramp in the State park at a little after five to help with live well checks and registration. We decided earlier this would be the place to launch as we could see the area's we planned to fish from the ramp. We finally launched at 6:30 and we could see the lights from another boat sitting in the area we planned to fish. We figured we would have no competition for this spot since it showed no structure above water, but we made the best of it and fished the left side of the point just a couple hundred yards from the rest of the area we had originally planned to fish. We started at 7:00 am and within the first hour and half we had three twelve inch crappie in the boat. We not only fished this area, but we went back to where we had caught the 13 inch fish the previous day and also went back to Fleming creek on another weed bed surrounded by stumps and ten feet of water. The weather stats were

3:00pm. I don't know what happened because we only found ten inch fish the rest of the day and that just wasn't enough. You needed to weigh in seven fish weighing over seven and a half pounds to make the top ten with the top three finishers being over 9lbs and the winners were just slightly under ten pounds with 9.98 lbs, a new Slab masters top tournament weight. The Slab Masters Patoka Lake tournament was a huge success with a record number of boats. There were forty two boats registered. The weigh in was conducted at the Newton Stewart Park South Ramp and started at 3:30pm with the line closing at 4:00pm. With the record 42 teams, the Indiana Slab Masters paid back six places, plus big fish.

Finishing in first place: Larry Yates and Doug Allen with 9.98 lbs. Larry and Doug fished the king's bridge area flipping jigs into cover on the creek channel.

Second Place: Tom Hankins and Glen Gill with 9.80 lbs. Tom and Glen were fishing above the Osbourne ramp area spider rigging with Lake Fork Baby Shad.

Third place: Tony Williams and Tim Dunigan with 9.27 lbs. Tony and Tim fished the Fleming creek area.

Fourth Place: Mike Russel and Tim Clepper with 8.60 lbs.

Fifth Place: Doug Sikora and Gary Woodcock with 8.02 lbs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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very favorable for the tournament as the day went on, at the start of the tournament the temperature was 50 degrees, barometric pressure was 29.2 and rising, surface water temperature was 59 degrees and rose to around 65 degrees by tournament end at

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Members of the Wayne County Honor Guard, Front Row from left to right: Kent Shank, Phil Lotich, Jim Hall, Ron Hill, Chaplain Tom Ashely, Bugler Robbie Robinson, Bill Manning, Dennis Rigsby and Mike Parks. Back Row from left to right: Jerome "Butch" Marcum, Jim Bonner, Tom Bell, John Emerick, Lance Scholtes, Tony Broadwell and Roger Kimble. (Author Photo)

News & Views From a Vet



by Mark Stover
Vietnam Veteran

Honoring Those Who Served Their Country The Wayne County Honor Guard

Each year about this time my thoughts turn toward my uncle Roland a WWII veteran. He served with General Patton in the 7th Armor Division from 1942 until almost the end of the war in January of 1945.

During the Battle of the Bulge his tank was hit with a German 88 round and he was killed. Only 21 years old.

I am very proud of him and I think of the price he paid so all of us Americans can live free and enjoy our lives, something he will never know.

He is buried in Belgium and I have always wondered if he was laid to rest with full military honors. I will never know, but one thing I do know here in

Wayne County when a veteran is laid to rest we have a group of men who perform a service that will assure every veteran is given those special rites.

The group I am referring to is known as the Wayne County Honor Guard. Members of this special group are: Tom Ashely, Tom Bell, Jim Bonner, Tony Broadwell, John Emerick, Jim Hall, Jerry Hiatt, Ron Hill, Roger, Kimble, Phil Lotich, Bill Manning, Jerome Marcum, Mike Parks, John Renfro, Dennis Rigsby, Robbie Robinson, George Sauer, Lance Scholtes and Kent Shank.

The group was formed in early 1972 by Phil Lotich. Phil is the oldest member at the young age of 91 years. The youngest member is 43.

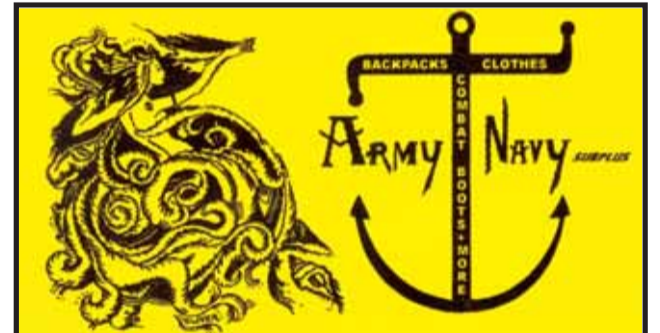
All of these fine men are volunteers and do not

receive pay for their service. Last year they provided their service to 110 veterans who were laid to rest. If you have never been to a military honor service I can tell you it is a very tearful and moving service. When I hear the taps playing at the end of the service I cannot keep my composure.

The Honor Guard is available 365 days a year. The members have numerous awards including the Purple



Phil Lotich formed the Wayne County Honor Guard in 1972. He is the oldest member at the young age of 91 years. (Author Photo)



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Members of the Wayne County Honor Guard firing squad from left to right: Phil Lotich, Kent "Doc" Shank, Jerome "Butch" Marcum, Jim Bonner, Tom Bell, John Emerick, Lance Scholtes, Tony Broadwell, Roger Kimble, Bill Manning, Dennis Rigsby, Mike Parks and Robbie Robinson. (Author Photo)

Heart, Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, Etc.

If you are in need of their service there are a few things you should know before calling. You must contact the funeral home at least 2 days before the service. You must have the veterans' DD-214 paperwork before the service can be performed. If you would like a full military Honor Guard service from the branch of service the veteran was serving with, tell the funeral director they will make contact with that branch of service. Make sure your veteran keeps his or her records up to date. Many times when a veteran dies and the family goes to the local veterans organizations for help, they do not have enough records on the veteran or there is not enough time to

get the necessary paperwork needed to retrieve the flag for the coffin or funds that would be available to help with the cost of the funeral.

I will now attempt to put into words the process of this service performed by the Wayne County Honor Guard.

The funeral home contacts the Honor Guard of the service 2 days before the service.

At the grave site the Honor Guard starts by calling everyone to attention. The command of present arms will be given until the casket arrives at the final resting place.

The pastor speaks and the Honor Guard starts the military rites ceremony.

The Chaplain of the Honor Guard starts the ceremony and during the time he is speaking the flag is removed from the casket and two of the Honor Guard members fold the flag.

The flag is then ceremoniously presented to a member of the family. At this time the rifle team is

called to order.

Next a 3 round volley is fired.

Taps now follow. All empty shell casings are collected and presented to the family. This ends the Honor Guard service.

I would like to share a little known fact. Most people believe the rifle team is at the service to fire a 21 gun salute. This is not true. A 21 gun salute is reserved only for President's or Heads of State that are being laid to rest.

The Honor Guard has traveled many miles and has been called to Ohio, and other Counties, but they try to stay in Wayne County.

I challenge everyone who reads this paper to be present this Memorial Day at one of the ceremonies held in your local area. Every local VFW, American Legion, Am Vets, or other veterans group will have something going on. Let's get out there and pay our respects to those who gave all so we can live in a free country. **God Bless America!**

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Wayne County Honor Guard members, at left Ron Hill and at right Jim Hall demonstrating the folding of the American Flag. Once the flag is folded during a military funeral service the folded flag is given ceremoniously to a member of the veteran's family. (Author Photo)

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Left Photo: Edward "Dick" Patrick at home in Ashland, KY, March 25, 2012. (Photo by Ray Dickerson) Center Photo: Dick and Ida Patrick - Happily married for 62 years. (Dick Patrick Photo) Right Photo: Dick holding the High School Diploma presented to him in Dec. 2002 by Ashland School Superintendent Phil Eason. Here standing with him was his wife, Ida and their two sons, Daryle on the left and Richard Patrick, on the right, at their home in Ashland, Ky. (Dick Patrick Photo)

Edward "Dick" Patrick Seabees - Trinidad & Okinawa WWII 1943-46

by Ray Dickerson

On Sunday, March 25, 2012, my sisters Wilma and Kathy and I traveled to Ashland, Kentucky to visit with World War II Seabee, Edward Richard Patrick, whom I had recently made contact by telephone. I found his name on a CBMU 624 address list I got from the Seabee Historical Foundation in Gulfport, Mississippi. I sent him a letter on January 2, 2012, in response to the letter he had called me by telephone. We are especially interested in former members of CBMU 624 because our father, MMS 1/c Raymond E. Dickerson was with CBMU 624 also on Okinawa. Edward was the first former CBMU 624 to contact me since I volunteered to host the 2012 79th NCB and CBMU 624 Reunion which will be held September 23-27 in Richmond, IN.

We arrived at Edward's home at a little after 10 a.m. He invited us in, we shook hands, I introduced him to Wilma and Kathy, we all sat down and chatted for a moment or two. Shortly, Jenny Patrick, Edward's daughter-in-law arrived.

I took out my notebook and switched on my digital tape recorder, telling everyone that I would be taping our conversation (s) for the article. One of the first things I learned was that Edward has been known by all his family and friends as "Dick", which derives from his middle name Richard. So from this point on I have used the name everyone knows him by, Dick Patrick.

Dick Patrick was born in 1926 in Ashland, Kentucky. He started school there but didn't finish, when he was in the 9th grade he quit school to join the Navy.

Dick's dad signed some papers so his son could enlist in the Navy at the age of 16. He was mighty proud of his son who was eager to serve his country. The majority of young men didn't join the service until they were seventeen, in fact those enlisting under 17 were rare.

Dick said, "I turned 16 years of age in September 1942, enlisted in the Navy in November and was

called up by the Navy on January 1, 1943. I only weighed 112 pounds at the time.

He added, "I volunteered for the Navy but when I took their color blind test, I was color blind, so they said they wouldn't take me into the regular Navy, but I could go into the Seabees if I wanted to, so I said okay.

He was sent to Camp Bradford in Norfolk, Virginia for better than a month of boot camp. While at Camp Bradford Dick was assigned to the 83rd Battalion which was formed at Norfolk on February 2, 1943. On March 16, 1943 the 83rd, including Dick, moved to Gulfport, MS for amphibious landing training by the United States Marine Corps. (See official documentation on movement of the 83rd Battalion at the end)

I asked, "if they got their amphibious landing training in the 'Higgins Boat,' the one that the ramp dropped down in the front like the ones we have all seen in the D-Day landing on Normandy."

He said, "no, not really, it was more like a small yacht, it had a rail around the side of it and I remember my scabbard got caught in the rail and I went into the water head first." (He laughed.) He continued, "I dropped that wooden rifle that we were training with, this Marine training officer was up on the bow, when I came up sputtering out of the water!"

The Marine said, "Get down there and get that piece!" "I jumped back down in the water feeling around for that wooden gun," Dick said. (He laughed some more.)

I asked, "How long were you at Gulfport?"

He replied, "I was there until May of 1943, then we shipped out to Trinidad from there.

I asked him why they went to Trinidad.

He replied, "we took over a CEC (Civil Engineer Corps)

Maintenance Unit. Our unit, the 83rd U.S. Naval Construction Battalion (NCB) was building a Navy base there on Trinidad. He added, "I turned 17 while I was in Trinidad. I also got a "Dear John" letter while there from my girl friend back home!"

I asked him, "Where did they send you to from Trinidad?"

Dick replied, "They sent us to Davisville, RI arriving there on October 14, 1944. I was assigned to CBMU 617 at Davisville, we shipped out for training at Camp Parks, CA on October 28, 1944. We then left Camp Parks November 9, 1944 arriving at Port Hueneme on November 10, 1944, where I was put in a replacement depot and then assigned to CBMU 624 in mid November 1944. (See official documentation on movement of CBMU 617 and 624 at the end)

I asked him, "Did you go to Saipan?"

He replied, "No."

I said, "You went straight to Okinawa with CBMU 624."

Dick replied, "Yes."

I said, Dad had mentioned that it took them 63 days to reach Okinawa, do you remember anything



We had a wonderful visit with Dick Patrick, standing here between us, at his left, Ray Dickerson and at his right, Wilma "Dickerson" Woodford. (Photo by Jenny Patrick)

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U.S.S. Meriwether APA #203, the Amphibious Personnel Assault Craft that took CBMU 624 Seabees along with hundreds of others from Pearl Harbor to Okinawa in 1945. (U.S. Navy Photo 1945)



Dick and Norman Oliver (Regular Navy) on leave in Ashland, Ky in 1944. They had been classmates in school.

that happened on the trip to Okinawa.

Dick replied, "Do I ever, when we hit the China Sea after leaving Leyte in the Philippines, we got into the darn'dest storm there ever was, it was a dandy. Me and another Seabee went down into the galley, guys were so sick they left their trays on the tables. The trays were sliding back and forth as the guys were up-chucking into them, what a sight. So this fella' I was with, he and I withstood it pretty well. So this ole' mess sergeant said, "You boys feeling alright, well how about going down in the hold and helping the cook down there?" We said, "Okay." We went down there, this ole' cook started opening those oven doors pulling them big ole' greasy pork chops out. I took one look at them and said, "I got to get out of here." I went to the 'head', but couldn't even get in there, guys were laying all over the floor, in the urinals, on the commodes - every place. That was the only time I was ever sea sick."

I asked him, "When you landed on Okinawa, did you go in with the Marines?"

He replied, "No, we went in with the third wave on April 1, 1945, we unloaded everything from our ship, APA #203, the Meriwether (see above photo). Your Dad was probably on board that ship too."

I responded, "Yes, he was aboard the Meriwether from Pearl to Okinawa, now it's all falling in place."

I asked him how he got from the Meriwether to shore.

He said, "we transferred from the Meriwether to a



The U.S.S. Ticonderoga Aircraft Carrier arriving at Seattle, Washington loaded with Navy personnel home bound including Edward "Dick" Patrick. (U.S. Navy Photo 1946)

landing craft that took us to docks, constructed of pontoons, from the pontoons we boarded a Army Duck which took us to the shore. (An Army Duck floats in the water and drives on land with wheels) Before we reached the shore the Army driver hit a reef at an angle and about capsized us. He was able to back off of it and get us to shore safely."

I asked Dick if he was armed. He told me he had a M1 Carbine with one clip of ammo, 15 rounds. However when they unloaded on the beach he said there was ammo everywhere and he equipped himself with more.

He added, "All the time we were unloading from the ship and getting to the beach, Japanese Zero's were continuously making bombing runs over the airstrip, beach and ships, along with Kamikaze's trying to destroy as many Navy ships that they possibly could. During all this firing, friendly fire damaged most of our gear that had been placed at the Kadena Airstrip, which was close to the beach. A lot of our clothing and gear was riddled with holes from the "friendly fire! As the enemy planes tried to bomb and strafe us I unloaded my carbine on them. Everybody did.

Continuing he said, "a zero dropped a bomb near us and I jumped into a shell crater nearby. Down in the crater lay two mortar shells, one had the safety pin removed. I saw two Marine MP's in a jeep and hailed them to come over, I showed them the mortar shells. About that same time another zero dropped its bomb nearby, one of the Marines was wounded with shrapnel - falling down on the sand. It was a close call for all of us, one of many times, while we were on Okinawa.

I asked him, "Once you were unloaded and set up in your camp, what did you do on Okinawa?"

He replied, "I was a truck driver." My rating was a Carpenters Mate Third Class, but I never picked up a hammer or saw, I drove trucks all the time I was there.

I mentioned that when we first talked back when I had first sent the initial letters to the Seabees on January 2, 2012, you said something in our conversation about the possibility of meeting dad at Kadena and something about a Beatty bomber crashing and your truck getting damaged.

Dick replied, "No, it wasn't like that."

I asked him to tell it to me again, since I evidently got it mixed up a bit.

He replied, "While we was at Kadena a buddy and I went north to get a load of logs. The Japanese had cut the logs in eight foot lengths and we went up there to get them. In the process of coming back, we heard a big "Boom," they had set off a charge in the side of a hill and it went into the road. So we had to stop, no gun with us, we heard this clankety, clank

coming - it was a Seabee on a dozer. He cleared the road for us and we took off again. Those coral roads we made over there were like ice when it rained on them so I had chains on my front wheels of the truck. In the process of getting out of there one of my chains got cross-ways on the wheel and broke my brake hose off, so I brought that load of logs in with the hand brake!" (He laughed again.)

I asked, "Well you said something to me in your first call that you may have met my Dad at Kadena when you took your truck to the motor pool to get it fixed." Dad worked in the motor pool at the Kadena Airfield, so it's just possible the two of you met. I showed Dick some photos I brought from home of Dad and what he looked like back when he was on Okinawa.

Dick looked at the photos and replied, "Well he could have, but I don't know for sure."

I asked him about something he said in our first telephone conversation about dodging shrapnel and getting into a pontoon or something like that.

He replied, "Well we went to the other side of the island to pick up a bunch of pontoons. There was a convoy of us, I think maybe six or eight trucks. When we got over there on the west side of the island there was a kamikaze attack underway and all the ships around the shore was shooting at them. We didn't have anyplace to go for protection, so I was running around these pontoons, I found this one that had the end cut out of it, so when I jumped inside that pontoon, man it sounded like hail coming down on it, with all the shrapnel from the enemy and friendly fire, falling and hitting the pontoon.

I asked him, "is there anything else that stands out in your mind that happened on Okinawa that you would like to mention here?"

He said, "I remember about bringing a Chief back to our camp one day and an enemy plane was strafing the field when we got there. Everybody was shooting at it."

The Chief said, "stop Dick stop!"

I said, "we got to get to our camp to get into our fox hole, as I was coming into the camp, he bailed out on me!" (Dick laughed a lot)

Another time Dick said, "Me and a friend procured (acquired) a jeep to go souvenir hunting. We were stopped by a Marine MP who told us to get back to base because we were hunting in front of the "Front Line." Guess what, we didn't have a gun with us that time either!"

Dick added, "There is an interesting story about how my curiosity got me into trouble. It goes something like this. Me and a good ole' boy from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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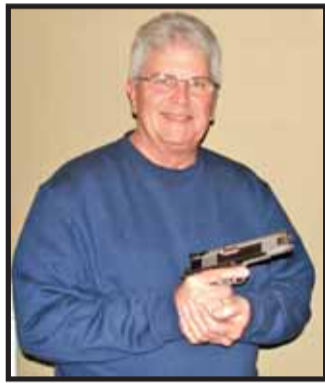


1. I start with used wheel weights. They're in an old ladle I picked up a number of years ago. (Author Photo)



2. This is an old base for a plumbers pot used in the days when soil pipe was used for drains and required oakum and solder to seal it. Leaning against the base are a couple of molds to make 'pigs' which are then melted in the pot shown in the next picture. (Author Photo)

For The Serious Shooter



by Terry Stover

Basic Bullet Molding

The main objective in molding your own bullets is obviously to produce a projectile that is uniform in weight and conforms exactly to the mold you are using. There is much to be said about mold cleanliness and the temperature of the metal you're pouring into the mold. There are products on the market for mold preparation prior to using your mold but I have never used any of them. I've always had good results by simply starting to pour bullets and rejecting the ones that don't come out right. This sometimes takes as many as ten or fifteen tries until the bullets start to fall out in the form and consistency you're looking for. You can get around using a thermometer by just watching the bullets as they come out of the mold. If you have your metal too hot, the finish will be 'frosty'. On the other hand, if you don't have the metal hot enough, it won't flow into the mold properly and not make a bullet with nice sharp corners on the lube grooves or it may come out striated. You should inspect every bullet as you knock it out of the mold for uniformity in the lube grooves as well as checking the sprue end for any porosity. If there is a void in your bullet or worse yet, an inclusion caused by a foreign material in your parent metal you're pouring from, it will make your bullet fly erratically. You should always conduct a strict quality control program while in the process of pouring your bullets or go through them after they cool. Those you find that don't measure up can be thrown back into the melting pot.

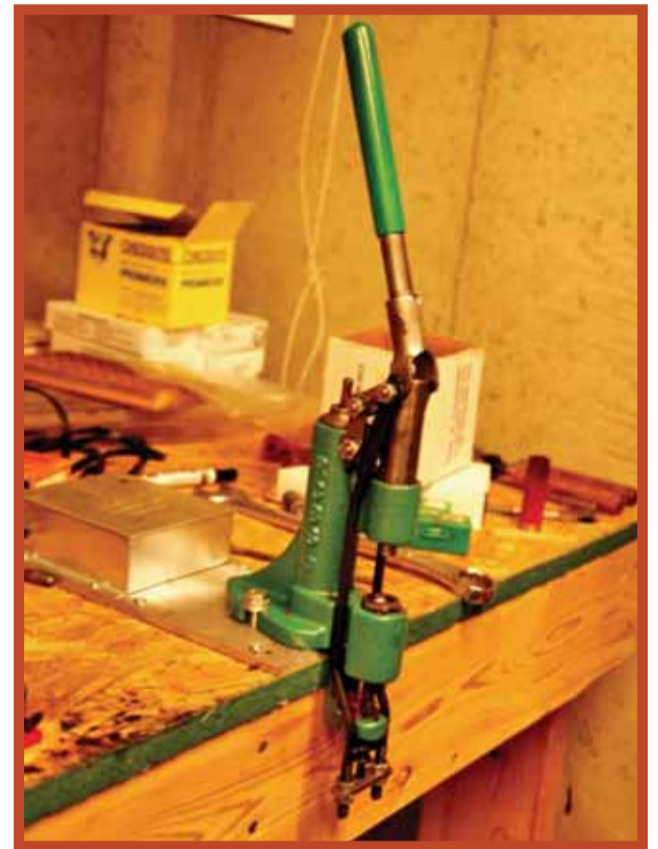
This process of bullet molding is pretty basic but there are many technicalities that would take more space and time than you would care to read here. If you want to get into it further, there are numerous



6. Here are some .45 acp bullets right out of the mold. These are 185 grain semi wadcutters. (Author Photo)

books and articles you can tap into to further your knowledge if you're that interested. Lyman has published an excellent book on bullet casting and loading that goes into detail with illustrations that are very helpful. The name of the book is **Cast Bullet Handbook**. For the sake of keeping safe using cast bullets it also must be noted that cast bullets don't always use the same powder or powder charges as jacketed bullets. If you are going to buy lead bullets or produce your own, be sure you consult a loading manual for the proper loads, and make sure when your obtaining your load information from the manual it is specifying the load is for a lead bullet.

Another point concerning safety should not be left out and that is your health. When you heat lead there



7. This is the device used to size the bullets and inject the lube into the lube grooves. (Author Photo)

are molecules of it floating around in the air above the molten metal. It's best to do your molding in an area where you can get some air moving away from you. I use a small fan behind my back blowing across my shoulders. This is in my garage when weather permitting I can have one of the doors open. It's not a bad



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3. This is one of the melting pots I pour the metal into the bullet molds with. It is a bottom pour type. (Author Photo)



4. This is one type of bullet mold made of steel and made by RCBS. (Author Photo)



5. Here is a mold made of aluminum and made by LEE. They are cheaper but heat up pretty fast. You can get around this problem by using two of them, one cooling, one molding. (Author Photo)



8. This is how the bullet is placed in the machine. The handle is pulled and the bullet is pressed down into a die forming it to the proper diameter and injecting the lube.



9. This is what the finished bullet looks like. (Author Photo)

idea to wear a respirator too. The same basic common sense factors used in reloading apply here too. Keep your hands away from your face while molding, wear safety glasses, don't smoke because handling a cigarette transfers lead to the paper on the cigarette and your inhaling the smoke from it. Don't eat or drink either. If you do the molding seated make sure you're not going to accidentally dump a load of molten metal in your lap.

Wheel weights have just the right hardness because they are an alloy of different metals in the right quantities. Pure lead is okay but you have to keep the velocity low or it will lead your barrel. Pure lead is the metal of choice for muzzle loaders as it's very soft and when you're using a patched ball the metal has to be soft enough to 'grab' the patch. This ensures the spin on the ball and a good gas seal.

Here are some pictures of the process of molding and some of the equipment used.

This is a big money saver that takes a little time but is also a good hobby. I use the rainy and cold days to do my casting and reloading and it's a hobby I enjoy almost as much as shooting. (Almost)

If you do decide to try your hand at this, be sure you do it safely.

Keep your powder dry,
Terry

Fishing Lake Michigan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

will have a profound affect on DHMO levels though it has been shown that smoked salmon and trout often have significantly lower DHMO levels than fish prepared with other methods.

At this time of year stream mouths and industrial discharge areas are often prime spots to fish due to the fact the water is a few degrees warmer than in the open lake. Environmental scientists are quick to point out, such areas as these are likely the source of most of the DHMO entering the Great Lakes.

Fortunately, there are easy tests anglers can use to see if the fish being caught have been in contact with significant amounts of the chemical. Perhaps the easiest is the newspaper or paper towel method.

Once a fish has been caught, carefully remove the hook and wrap the fish in an old, dry newspaper or paper towel. After a few seconds remove the fish and examine the wrapping. If it appears dry, the fish is okay. If it's wet, however, that's a sure sign of DHMO contamination.

You see, Dihydrogen Monoxide often goes by another chemical name, H -2 - O or simply by it's widely used common name, water.

The point of this story wasn't to try to put one over on you, rather, to make you think twice the next time a headline pops up in the mainstream media touting doom and gloom due to some natural or man-made calamity.

THE END

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Bass Fishing Techniques



by Bill Embry

Patoka Lake Spring Bass Fishing!

Although I have heard many complaints from bass anglers of the D.N.R. stocking over 18.5 million walleye in Patoka Lake over the last three years. It has been my experience it hasn't hurt this great bass fishery as of yet. What happens in the future is yet to be determined?

On the week of March 13, 2012 thru March 18, 2012, a friend of mine Shawn Smith and I were practicing for a Hoosier open bass tournament that was to be held on Sunday March 18, 2012 on Patoka Lake.

Tues: 3/13/12 We started about 9:00 a.m. I managed to catch the first fish on a spinner bait on a lay down about 1/2 way back in a pocket of the main lake. It was a good solid keeper about 15 1/2 inches. The water temp. was in the high 50's. Patoka was up about 5 ft from winter pool.

So we concentrated on north bays of the lake which warm the fastest in the spring. Usually fishing about half way back on secondary points, thinking this is where the fish should be. We fish all day trying this approach, without a bite. Around 3:00 p.m. Shawn and I noticed some shad skipping in the backs of the pockets that we were in. So we tie on some small square bill crank baits and a 1/2 red eye shad lipless crank-baits and move towards the backs of the cove in about two to 3 feet of stained water. I catch a small fish, Shawn hooks up on to a toad in about a foot of water. She weighted 7.09 lbs. She was fat as a pig. (See Photo) We caught four others in that little pocket that weight around three to four pounds each. Well now were thinking maybe were on to something? So we move to another shallow water area that we knew of. We pulled up on a point way in the back of a creek fired a lipless crank bait on it another four ponder. We moved all the way back in the creek hooked in to several huge carp, and several big bass in the three to five pound range. By this time it's late almost sunset. We have got to head to the ramp. We tallied the day's total catch at around 38lbs. in 8 fish.

We return on Thursday: 3/14/12, Today we decided that we would go up the River at Patoka, five m.p.h. speed zone most of the way. We fished our way up under Kings Bridge before we caught our first keeper fish. We had a double, Shawn had a three ponder and mine was about a pound bigger. It's about 4:00 p.m. and a big spring storm is approaching and the weather radio goes off telling us to take cover immediately, large hail, high winds, lighting is fast



Shawn Smith caught this 7.9 lb. Largemouth Bass in Patoka Lake on March 13, 2012 (Author photo)

approaching. So luckily we are within site of Kings Bridge, so we head there for cover to wait the storm out. After about an hour it's over, so we head back to Painters Creek ramp which is some distance away from Kings Bridge area. Today we only have seven pounds. I guess tomorrow back to the main lake.

Friday: 3/15/12 Shawn and I started at about noon, fishing the backs of coves. No bites? So we move out to those secondary points thinking that the storms that had moved through might have backed them off a little? No Bites??? Were Stumped! I said lets go back to were we started catching fish to start with and see if it's the fish or something else. Shawn agrees!

So we go were we started catching them on Tuesday about the same time. We pull in there and Shawn catches the biggest fish of his life, a 8.11oz. PIG! She was so full of eggs she was dropping them out of her. Now mind you this is the middle of March. The water Temp. is 62' the water was very stained. We immediately left the area! Shawn had another area that he wanted to fish, so we went then next down this back we caught 5 fish that weighed four to six lbs. We then went to another area that I wanted to check out. We pulled in there and caught two fish in the three to four pound range and I broke off one that was at least seven pounds because we didn't want to give our spot away to a couple other boats that were fish those secondary points out in front of us. It's late the days over. We tallied up what we had boated that day and figured we had around 42lbs. in 8 fish.


Shawn was unable to go on Saturday, So I went out by myself for about 5 hrs. caught 3 fish that weighed around 11 lbs. I'm fired up. Tomorrow is tournament day and I have just had one of the best practices I have had in a very long time. Shawn decides he and his son Eli are going to fish the event tomorrow also. Shawn lives near Patoka and fishes it regularly. This is what I call a Great Guy! Shawn tells me that where ever we fished this week, he wasn't going to fish. Shawn and Eli were going to fish

other spots on the lake and let me have those areas. I drew boat # 5 and was 1st boat to my first spot third or forth cast I caught a 6.51 lbs. fish, Then my partner caught one about four pounds. At the end of the day we had all most 14 lbs. 4th. Big bass. and finished 14th place out of 121 boat field.

Practice is everything in tournament bass fishing, but having great friends like Shawn and Eli are another plus. There are not too many anglers like this in tournament bass fishing today. These fellows are great friends and very good fishermen, although they didn't do so well in this event, Shawn tells me he lost well over his limit that day! This is why they call our sport fishing not catching!

This time if year the fish are continently changing. It's my option that once bass move up from there winter depth they rarely go back. They come to the shallow water to spawn in the spring. When the water temperature and the moon phases are right they will spawn. Spring fishing is just being at the right spot at the right time. As far as Patoka Lake I was really surprised of the quality fish that are in this fishery.

"Good Fishin"
Bill Embry
embrygot2loveit@aol.com



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Outdoors Tales



by Phil Junker

First boating lesson and a little lagniappe

It was supposed to be a short, fun boat ride for the granddaughters. It was kind of a do-over after a storm shortened a ride the previous day. But, the ride turned into something more, something a bit special.

In every column, in every story I write I try to include at least one little tidbit of knowledge a reader might not have previously known. I'm not always successful, but I try.

And given an opportunity around young folks, I try to include a "teaching moment". I was never a teacher, but my wife, Phyllis was, and I learned from



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Grandpa Phil Junker gives grand daughters, Meredith (back) and Allison a boating lesson on Lake Rosalie at the Harbor RV Resort & Marina in Florida. (Photo by David Fields)

her the importance of adding a little something extra to an experience. Down in Cajun Country they call it, "lagniappe".

While in Florida, I had the opportunity to take me granddaughters, Meredith and Allison Fields, ages two and nearly four, for a ride in my fishing boat. Parents Michelle and David also were along.

Unfortunately, storm clouds and wind forced us off Lake Rosalie. We arrived back in the marina just ahead of a brief, but heavy rainstorm.

We decided to try it again the next day. We had a nice trip with the girls, especially Meredith, asking lots of questions about everything from a wide variety of birds to those about the boat. How do you explain to a four-year-old why the motor requires gasoline? Explaining a boat paddle was easier.

As we cruised the south end of the lake, the wind again started to gain strength, but not at a dangerous level. However the girls expressed they were a bit chilly, but when I offered them a chance to "drive" the boat, they forgot about the chill, and both wanted to steer us toward the marina at the same time.

The girls loved steering the old 17-foot fishing boat. They were young captains learning about fishing boats. (Of course, grandpa maintained a tight grip on the steering wheel) even though they didn't realize it.

Meredith and Allison had fun and learned a bit about boating. Grandpa had just as much fun, and maybe more.

###

ETHANOL TROUBLE -- When I arrived in Florida last December, my old boat initially ran fine for a couple days. It has an old Mariner 60-horse engine. I think it is a 1985. It's been a good motor.

After a couple of fishing trips in December, the engine lost power. It obviously wasn't getting enough gas and wasn't running on all three cylinders.

I called a repairman to come check it out. He cleaned the carburetors. It ran well briefly, but then the same problem. He came back two more times (no charge) and finally determined the problem related to the use of ethanol in my gasoline, which had caused the gas line in the motor to deteriorate and break off little pieces the line which continued to foul the plug.

"This what I spend most of my time on these

days," said the repairman as he replaced the gas line with a new material more resistant to the Ethanol.

The engine now has run great since the fuel line replacement.

When I read the following from BoatUS, I thought it was worth passing on to readers:

"Ever since E10 gasoline (gas containing 10% ethanol or more) became widely available several years ago, the nation's largest recreational boat owners group, BoatUS,

has received hundreds of calls and emails complaining about boat engine problems.

The majority of complaints concern older outboard motors, those made before about 1990. BoatUS' Seaworthy magazine asked Mercury Marine's Ed Alyanak and Frank Kelley, who between them have over 60 years of experience, to find out what's made these decades-old outboards more susceptible to ethanol's well-known problems and what owners can do.

1. Vulnerable hoses: In the mid 1980's new standards (SAE J1527) for fuel hoses were developed for "gasohol," which was known to deteriorate rubber and plastics. Since then, problems with hoses have largely gone away, but that doesn't mean they are maintenance free. Tech Tip: Any hose older than 10 years should be replaced. Here's another way to test rubber fuel hose condition: wipe a clean rag along the hose. If you smell gas on the rag, replace the hose immediately.

2. Carburetors: O-rings and rubber carburetor parts on older engines tend to get hard and brittle when exposed to ethanol and then break off in bits and pieces causing clogs, misfires and shutdowns. Pre-1990 carburetors were also made from alloys that didn't stand up to ethanol, leading to corrosion that can cause tiny fuel orifices to clog, resulting in hard starts and poor running. Old carbs are also "dumb" in that they were designed to run on only one type of fuel. Ethanol, however, has more oxygen and affects the air/fuel ratio, causing engines to run leaner and hotter. Tech Tip:

The best solution with old outboards is to run straight gas - if you can find it. Some mechanics may also have the ability to "recalibrate" a carburetor to tolerate E10 (note: gas with ethanol greater than 10% should never be used with any boat engine).

3. Plastic fuel filter bowl: Some older engines may have plastic fuel filter bowls. Tech Tip: If you still have one, replace immediately with a metal bowl.

4. Fuel fill gasket: Keeping water out of the fuel tank is even more important with ethanol as it can eventually lead to the formation of two separate solutions in the gas tank (water and fuel), also known as phase separation. The process is more

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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Top Left: The new dredge Brutus assembled and ready to launch. (Authors Photo) Top Right: Rear View of Brutus. (Authors Photo) Bottom Left: Artist conception of Ag Conversions Plant One. Bottom Right: Artist conception of Ag Conventions Visitor/ Research building. (Reprinted here with permission of Ag Conversions)

Looking Downstream



by Paul McCloud

Ohio's Grand Lake, Grand as Ever

This is an update on the article in The October 2011 Gad-A-Bout.

Its been a tough three or four of years for the communities surrounding Ohio's Grand Lake, St. Marys. The phosphorous, mostly from agricultural runoff into the five tributaries has been accumulating in the plus 13,000-acre lake over several decades. It has led to a dangerously severe blue-green algae infestation. This blue-green algae or cyanobacteria, in the blooming stage are toxic to humans and animals. That is it can make humans sick and can be fatal to many species of animals. The type and severity of the illnesses, if any, depends on many factors including age and over-

all health of the individual. The situation got so bad that in 2009 the state health officials closed the lakes beaches and posted health advisories all around the lake. In 2010 it was even worse and the lake was virtually closed to all recreational use causing a devastating effect on local economies. A major part of the economies of Celina (population 10,000 plus) and St. Marys (population 8,500) is dependent on revenue from recreational use of the big lake. Various businesses that cater to the many thousands of visitors to the lake each season were thrown into a desperate situation.

Local organizations (existing and newly formed) worked with the Ohio EPA, the Ohio Health Dept., the Army Corps of Engineers, the Ohio D.N.R. and Governor John Kasich's office to come up with a permanent solution. State biologists and outside experts conducted tests and some possible actions were devised. Not only did they have to correct the problem of the algae in the lake at the time but reverse the problem of the accumulated deposits of phosphorous that is easily stirred up by the strong prevailing winds above the shallow bottomed lake (average depth by my own accounts six feet). What they came up with was a multifaceted approach of treating the green water with aluminum sulfate (Alum) to kill off the live algae. Funds from Federal and State agencies amounting to over 3.4 million dollars were spent on alum treatments for just over 4,900 surface acres in 2011. Officials pointed out that the alum has no adverse effect on the lakes fishery and other wildlife. Following the huge success of the

alum treatments in 2011, five million dollars has been designated for an even more thorough application in 2012.

An out of balance number of rough fish (sheephead, drum, shad and carp make up 90% of the lakes fish) contribute to the problem with their waste so bringing their numbers under control is also a major goal. In 2011 alone over 18 tons of rough fish were removed through the efforts of the DNR and local organizations with help from many area anglers. On going programs to reduce and maintain a healthy balance between the rough fish and the game fish are being established with several fund raising tournaments scheduled for 2012.

An all out dredging assault to not only remove the phosphorous and nitrate rich sediment but increase the lakes overall depth to plus eight feet and maintain it is underway. The purchase of a new 12-inch high capacity dredge named Brutus that will be permanently assigned to Grand Lake was made in March and the new unit was delivered and launched just last week. It joins forces with a 1952 unit and a 1968 unit that removed over 272,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Southwest area of the lake last year. Much higher

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numbers are projected for this season.

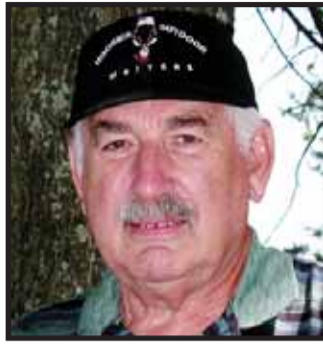
A Wisconsin company, Ag Conversions a division of Amiran Technologies is building a 30,000 square foot manufacturing facility just South of Celina at the intersection of state route 127 and 119. Ag Conversions says this facility will convert the dredged material into a rich high end potting soil. The potting soil business however is not the main business of this facility. A fleet of semi pumping tankers will collect manure from storage ponds of farms around a 300-mile radius of the plant. The manure from hog, dairy and poultry farms will be pumped into a large settling pond at the plant. From there it is pumped into the plant where it will pass through equipment that will separate, concentrate, dry, blend and pelletize the material into a stable fertilizer safe for use in areas such as the Grand Lake area where runoff is of high concern. The state of the art facility will initially employ 60 full time hourly employees plus another 180 plus jobs in transportation and warehousing. It will also mean improved business with local service industries. Once this facility is up and running, Amiran and Ag Conversions plan to build similar plants in California, Texas and Minnesota. The Celina plant will have a 7,000 square foot visitor / research center that includes a glass corridor that looks into the manufacturing facility. With the problem of polluted lakes and reservoirs a worldwide problem the Ag Conversions initial plant will receive much international interest and expects to host thousands of visitors.

Further projects by the local groups and the DNR include restoration of the lakes natural wetlands that help filter and consume mild cases of pollution and improve water clarity. Large areas of water lilies, reeds and cattails not only help clean the water but provide habitat for birds, frogs, turtles bait fish and many other reptiles and amphibians.

Having already seeing much improved water conditions and passed latest fish quality tests (safe to eat) 2012 looks to be the turn around year for Grand Lake St. Marys. I've personally recently observed the lake from several locations and notice an improved clarity to the water. 2012 looks to be the turn around year for the lake. Reports from local anglers are that the Crappies are biting and fish in the 8 to 9 inch lengths are about the average, also nice sized Bluegills are being taken off the seawalls and docks with wax worms. Some anglers experimenting with the new scented panfish lures are reporting surprisingly good results.

Having spent much of my younger years on the lake and her many canals when it was in its prime, it is good to see the old girl coming back so strong. I hope to spend a few days dipping minnows in her waters soon. Your comments and suggestions are much appreciated:
pasports@ydial.net

and that's the news from West Central Indiana



by Don Bickel, Forester

It's bluegill time in Indiana

It's bluegill time. Bluegill, *lepomis macrochirus*, whether man, woman or child, this fish is every person's fish. Willow pole, cane pole, spin cast, spinning or fly rod: whatever the equipment, the bluegill becomes a worthy opponent.

A child's first fish in the Hoosier state probably is going to be a bluegill. This fish can be found in almost all locations that involve water, whether pond, lake, stream or river. Here in West Central Indiana, the prime location has got to be the farm ponds. These watery jewels probably will out produce the larger lakes in any Hoosier, acre for acre - whether considering size or number of fish caught.

While bluegills are a year-round fish, the late springtime is when it receives the majority of attention. This early June time of warming water and longer days of sunshine will begin the activity of spawning. A week ago, my observation of one pond said the fish had not yet begun nest building. But by now, this situation has changed.

When water conditions are right - the temperature of the water seems to have the most influence - the male bluegills move into the warming shallow areas. These shallow areas will usually have a sandy bottom or at least some amount of sand or small gravel mixed into the bottom sediment. The male bluegill fans out a circular depression with its tail. These depressions or nests will be close enough to touch each other and each will be guarded by the male bluegill who built it.

Whether the males are in the shallow water, sometimes less than a foot deep, the females are just off shore in four to six feet of water. When nest building is completed, the females move in and spawning begins. As the female lays the eggs, the males emit sperm and spawning is complete. The females leave the nest sites and the males remain to guard the eggs until they hatch.

The male bluegill becomes very possessive of this nest area and will aggressively defend it against all comers. This particular trait is its downfall. A combination of a No. 6 or 8 thin wire gold hook, a very small split shot, slip bobber and bee moth larvae will have deadly effect on the bluegill population in any spawning or nesting area.

The slip bobber should be no larger than necessary to float the entire rig. The bobber stop should be set at a depth that will just allow the bait to touch



A lily-pad bluegill taken at a four foot depth - Reelfoot Lake in Spring. This Reelfoot bluegill was as big as your hand. (Author Photo)

the fanned-out bed. Unless badly disturbed by other activities, the bluegill will immediately attempt to remove this thing endangering his area and the eggs laid there.

While live bait in many forms will entice the bluegill to action, artificial lures also will produce equally well and the fly rod may out-produce off of them. Since these bedding gills generally are in shallow water, a bobber too large may make enough splash or commotion to drive the fish from the beds. A small wet fly or rubber leg spider when cast on a fly line and light leader, strikes the water easily and naturally.

Many types of small lures - plugs, spoons, spinners and plastic worms - will be attacked, particularly if the bluegills have some size. As a general rule, the first bluegill to establish beds or nests will be the larger males in the pond. As the season progresses, the same beds may be taken by smaller gills when the first hatching is complete. As the early bird catches the worm, it may be the early spawning season fisherman catches the larger bluegill.

At the beginning of the spawning season, don't forget those large female fish waiting in slightly deeper water for the nest-building process to be completed. Set the slip bobber rig at a four to six foot depth and fish out from the area where the males are working on the beds.

This spring spawning season for bluegills is custom-made for fly-fishing. The beginning fly angler can find no better opponent than these bedding gills. These fish are very forgiving if the cast is a bit sloppy and the fly hits the water with a bit of a plop. The rubber-legged, sponge-body bugs are an excellent bluegill enticer. Wet flies or sinking flies will interest those gills bedding in slightly deeper water and not interested in rising to the surface.

Stay with a light-weight leader, four to six pounds and if the area is relatively free of sticks or weeds, give two pounds a try. Make it a sporting venture, not just a trip to fill the freezer all in one outing.



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Happenings in Metamora, Indiana



by Janice Hunsche

Metamora, Indiana Activities for May



Whitewater Canal Lock east on US52 (Across from Hearthstone)

From the Metamora Site:

The Canal Boats open for the season Wednesday – Sunday. Rides at noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm. **May 5th-Bluegrass Family Night** Whitewater Valley Gateway Park (on 52 across from Metamora). The featured group is Cave Mountain. Doors open at 5pm with music from 7pm to 9pm. Cost is \$6.00. **May 25th-Final Friday** from 7-11pm at Lover’s Lane Stage. It’s the usual open mic and free. **May 27th-Memorial Day Ceremony** at 2pm on the Columbia Street Bridge (car bridge). This is the oldest Memorial Day Ceremony in Indiana held annually since the Civil War. The ceremony includes flowers tossed into the canal along with singing to honor past and present soldiers.

www.metamoraindiana.com

From the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site:

May 12th-Webelo Boy Scout Engineering Activity Day from 12:15-4:15pm. Pre-registration required. Webelo Boy Scouts can earn the engineering badge in one afternoon. To register contact the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site at 765-647-6512.

May 19th - Towpath 10K Dash and Fun Run 8am-10am. Cost \$25 per person. Field limited to the first 500 entrants. Experience the rich history and breathtaking beauty of the Whitewater Valley during this sanctioned 10k running race and a

shorter one, two or three-mile fun run. All ages are invited to pre-register or sign up the day of the event. Those who pre-register by May 1 for the Towpath 10K will receive a free t-shirt! The Fun Run and 10k race will begin and end at the Metamora Grist Mill Park. Awards ceremony immediately following the race. Registration packets available May 18th from 9am-5pm at the Gristmill or starting at 5:30am on May 19th. For more information visit the website at <http://www.active.com/10k-race/metamora-in/towpath-10k-dash-and-fun-run-2012> or call 765-647-6512. Sponsored by the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site and Whitewater Canal Trail.

From the Whitewater Railroad’s site:

For more information and reservations be sure to call (765) 825-2054 or visit the website <http://www.whitewatervalleyrr.org/excursions>

The **Whitewater Valley Flyer** 12pm-5pm will start making its regular run Saturday, Sunday, and holidays, May through Oct. (note: train will not run June 16,17,23,24). Depart the Connersville station at 12:01 for a 2 hour layover in Metamora. For more information be sure to call or visit the website.

Whitewater Limited Train Excursion. During the month of May, the Connersville to Metamora train will run every Thursday and Friday. The train departs Connersville at 10:00am with a 2 hour layover in Metamora. NOTE: Special rates are available for school groups by advance reservations.


May 4th & May 18th-Twilight Limited Train to Dinner. The Train to Dinner departs Connersville Station at 6 p.m. and travels to the Laurel Hotel. The cost is \$29 per adult, \$15 for children (special child’s menu) and includes the round trip train ride, the meal, tax and tip. Reservations required.

May 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th-Steam in the Valley Full steam ahead Steam in the Valley returns for two fun filled weekends. The Lehigh Valley Coal Company #126 will make its Whitewater Valley debut. There will be one hour train rides along the Whitewater River and remnants of the Whitewater Canal. Departures are at 10am, 12pm, 2pm, and 4pm from the depot in Metamora. Cost is \$15 per person. Seating is limited, so be sure to book your ticket early. May 12th is National Train Day and the Lehigh Valley Coal Company #126 will have Abe Lincoln aboard. On May 13th, Mother’s Day, there will be special musical entertainment. May 19th and 20th will feature 4 trips daily to the Laurel Feeder Dam. **May 19-Metamora Towpath 10K Dash and Fun Run Local Train.** A special 8am running of our Metamora Local in Historic Downtown Metamora. The train will follow along a portion of the 2nd annual Whitewater Canal 10k Towpath Dash and Fun Run. The Whitewater Valley Railroad will be providing train service for families, friends and observers to take pictures of the

racers and to experience the “dash” in action. **May 19th-Overland Limited Wild West Train** will return for the year. Be sure to join the Circle D Rangers as they protect the Metamora bound train. Trains depart Connersville at 12:01 pm. Finally, on **May 28th catch the Memorial Day Valley Flyer.** This train departs Connersville at 12:01 PM and has a 2 hour layover in Metamora.

Contact the author at Kaleidosaurusbooks@gmail.com

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Camping Here & Beyond



by John and El McCory
From Italy to Greece

At the border of France, going over into Italy I seem to remember getting some type of petrol (gasoline) coupons which we readily welcomed. We found they came in handy near the large and/or busy tourist towns where liters of fuel were quite dear. Not having spent much time in Genoa we motored across the top of Italy to Venice. We'd heard age old rumors that Venice was sinking into the Adriatic so we wanted to see as much as possible in two short days. We don't remember anything about camping there but we remember the pigeons at the plaza of the Doge's Palace. We took tours of the city but not by gondola and were much impressed by the Bridge of Sighs over the Rio di Palazzo. Convicts, being put away for life, would "sigh" as they saw small glimpses of freedom through the white limestone windows with large stone bars. After they were led from the old prison to interrogation rooms, they were placed in dingy cells in the lower palace. Actually this may have been rumor as the days of inquisition were over before the bridge was built. Lovers are rumored to be granted eternal love if they kiss on a gondola at sundown under the Bridge of Sighs so why not head over to Venice?

We had scheduled activities in the Eternal City of Rome so we headed back to the west across the Apennine Mountains to Florence. Touring the museums along the Arno River and seeing the actual masters of famous artists, even for we non-art connoisseurs, was rather exciting, and it brought back memories of a few weeks before having visited the Louvre in Paris. That night we camped on a slope not far from Michelangelo Plaza looking down over the beautiful city of Florence. About a 20 minute walk took us across the Ponta Vecchio, the only bridge not destroyed on the Arno River during WW II. Camping that night was real wet with some people in tents losing items down the slopes. We were glad we had a tight rainproof camping unit.

Driving down toward the Liguria Sea (a small north central pocket of the Mediterranean) surrounded by France and Monaco, Italy, and the island of Corsica, we came in to Pisa. Of course the first thing we asked was directions to the Leaning Tower. We finally found that it was called the Plaza de Miracles. It was quite a trip climbing up the inside and down the outside at the angle it was leaning. I felt tilted when finally on level ground.

In Rome we found our campsite near the top of one of the Seven Hills of Rome. Our neighbor campers had just received their medical degrees from the University of Minnesota and the parents had given one couple a new Mercedes. The other couple received a new VW camper like ours for graduation.

On a couple of occasions we all drove down into Rome and ate dinner at restaurants where we were seated out under the stars. I don't think I've ever told El how much we tipped the waiters and the violinist who serenaded us those nights. During the days we had to choose directions carefully because five days just isn't enough time to really see Rome. Our days were packed and we were able to see only our favorite choices. We hadn't anticipated the crowds at almost every stop. In order to get good pictures we had to wait until other visitors had left the area so we could see what we wanted to photograph. We could have probably traveled several days with the money people dropped into the pools at Trevi Fountain, made famous in the movie, "Three Coins in the Fountain". We saw several people make more than three wishes.

We had heard of Verdi's "Aida" playing at the Baths of Caracalla so we stopped by the ticket booth. Only one ticket was left and I'm sure we looked dejected. A young tour group courier with a group from the United States asked if we wanted to go. He said an elderly couple was staying in the hotel that evening since one had taken ill. He sold us the tickets on the 2nd or 3rd row for less than \$3.00 American, each. "Thunder and Lightning" was also playing in another outdoor theater but our time was nearly exhausted as well as our much younger bodies. We went to the normal sites around Vatican City, St. Peters and the Pieta, and the Sistine Chapel, the ceiling which Michelangelo painted after the Pope commissioned him having seen the three and a half meter statue of David in Florence.

The Appian Way was a rough drive but worth seeing some of the catacombs. Along with the Appian Way other roads leading out from or in to Rome have about 40 different catacombs. They are mostly made of tuff, a soft volcanic rock, easy to carve out, but which hardens upon contact with the outside air. Some of them have as many as four levels of grave sites. St. Peter's remains are in one but St. Paul was buried in a church called St. Paul Basilica Outside The Gates. The St. Peter in Chains Church contains the chains which held St. Peter in Rome. They're in a glass container that moves up and down in front of the altar. The Michelangelo statue of Moses is also in the church. I also climbed to the top of the Coliseum and took pictures of the inside arena. Weathering of the walls over the years prohibits one from doing the same today. The Forum was another famous set of pillars, also weathering by air pollution.

The evenings consisted of talking with any English speaking people in the campground. One man I refer to as an "ugly American" because had had walled his family in by building a fence completely around his camping area and it looked as if he was even on others' sites. He wouldn't talk with anyone and had "no trespassing signs" posted. I forgot until we were on our way out of Rome toward Naples we were to call and meet an International Attorney from Ft. Wayne who was a lead attorney for the Pure Oil Company around the Mediterranean Sea and attorney for several famous Italian actresses. We called and he invited us over to his villa north-east of Rome and apologized for not having called earlier. We had scheduled to visit an Indianapolis couple in Naples, friends of my brother-in-law, and who were with the U.S. Air Force in Naples. They had cooked us the only American meal we had the whole eighty-nine trip and we enjoyed it on their patio overlooking Bay of Naples. It was difficult driving the tiny

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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Two of the many fine crappie we caught despite the wind. Almost all of our fish were this size. (Author Photo)



One of a mess of fine bluegill we tricked into our boat. (Author Photo)

Outdoors



With Rich Creason

Reelfoot Lake — Two Hundred Years Later

As we sat in Billy's War Eagle boat, rocking in the waves created by 30-40 MPH winds, I thought back to what happened in this same spot 200 years ago. The land beneath us and for miles around us was also moving in great waves like the waters on which we were sitting. Three of the largest earthquakes ever felt in North America were changing forever the face of northwest Tennessee.

In mid-December, 1811 through February, 1812, these tremendous quakes all estimated to be over 8.0 on the Richter scale smashed the area of New Madrid, Missouri, just across the Mississippi River from the junction of Tennessee and Kentucky. These tremors ripped through the area, destroying cabins, toppling trees, and buckling the fields with smoke and sulphurous gasses erupting from the fissures. The great river boiled, flowed backwards, created falls, and raised and lowered its water level, alternately draining and flooding the surrounding countryside. After three months of catastrophic shaking and over ten more years or intermittent quakes, the land quieted and Reelfoot Lake remained. Now, 200 years later, despite its extreme birth, Reelfoot is a picture of beauty and

tranquility.

This was my fifth or sixth fishing trip to Blue Bank Resort on Reelfoot Lake. As always, Susie, my wife of over 40 years was with me. We also visited Blue Bank several years ago for an archery deer hunt. But this time, we were going after some of the huge crappie for which the lake is famous. The wind was trying to spoil our plans.

Billy Blakeley, the Head Guide and Manager of Blue Bank Resort, was working hard controlling the boat, rigging the 14 foot B'n'M crappie rods (the only kind he uses) and helping us get unhooked when our jigs snagged one of the many stumps or logs hiding under the whitecaps. We were fishing about seven foot of water, using minnows on jigs, with two jigs about twenty inches apart and a small weight in the middle. A bobber was set for about seven feet. Susie and I had three rods each and Billy had three without bobbers. They were spider rigged with the nine poles fanned out across the front of the boat. The bow was wide enough we sat side by side on padded swivel seats.

Billy had a thirty pound anchor out plus two wind socks or sea anchors to try to hold us steady in the wind. This worked long enough for us to land a mess of fine crappie (the daily limit is 30 per person). The wind continued to increase and the anchor dragged along the bottom until it caught on something. Then the anchor rope snapped. Time to head back toward shore!

Billy piloted his War Eagle boat (www.warea-gleboats.com) toward the huge old cypress trees lining the bank. He put away the 14 foot poles and got out three 10 foot B'n'M poles (www.bnm-poles.com) to which he tied tiny jigs tipped with wax worms. We dropped this offering around the buttresses and knees of the cypress where we started catching beautifully colored, hand sized bluegill. These tasty fish continued to fill our livewell until lunch time.

We didn't have far to go to the restaurant. The Fish House Grill is just inside the doors of Blue Bank Resort. Having sampled their breakfast buffet before going out, we knew the food was great.

I ordered the smokehouse burger with a side of mac n cheese while Susie asked for the Blue Bank burger. We stepped outside to the tables lined on the dock where our waitress brought our meal. We enjoyed the great food and a gorgeous view while watching the mallards swim by and a great blue heron foraging along the shore for his lunch.

We decided the lake was too rough to get any fishing in until evening so we drove through the nearby town of Tiptonville and visited an old friend. Suzanne Cooper, owner of Hillbilly Junction (731-253-8009), is now called The Flag Lady of Tennessee. Besides a huge assortment of souvenirs and mementos of Reelfoot Lake in her shop, she is the source for USA, Confederate, Historic, and Tennessee flags of all shapes and sizes. Many years ago, we spent a couple days with Suzanne and her now late husband Richard. They took us around their county showing us every attraction, relating the history of the area, and treating us to, I think, every local dining establishment. We recalled old memories with Suzanne, and bought several items to take home to our grandson, Benjamin.

We returned to Blue Bank and sat in the rocking chairs outside our second floor room and watched the water, boats, birds and squirrels below. Since we were leaving early the next morning, this was our last chance to just relax. We finally returned downstairs to order our supper. Once again, we sat at the outside tables and waited for our waitress to bring my catfish dinner and Susie's shrimp selection.

After we finished eating, Billy said the waves had died enough if we wanted to go back out and try for a few more crappie before dark. In ten minutes, the boat was headed to another meeting with our quarry. We boated another 15 or so fish before we were stopped by the sun slipping behind the far shore. Within an hour, all of our fish had been fil-

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- May 10th Open Trap Shoot 6pm
- May 12th Hoosier Tree Dog Alliance
 Youth Day 9am to 3pm
- May 17th and 24th Open Trap Shoot 6pm
- May 25th, 26th, & 27th Traditional Archery Weekend
 Friday 7:30am to Sunday 1:30pm
 Contact Roy Bowers 765-584-8089
- May 26th Varmint Bench Rest Shoot 10am start
 Contact Vern Thornburg 765-748-6774
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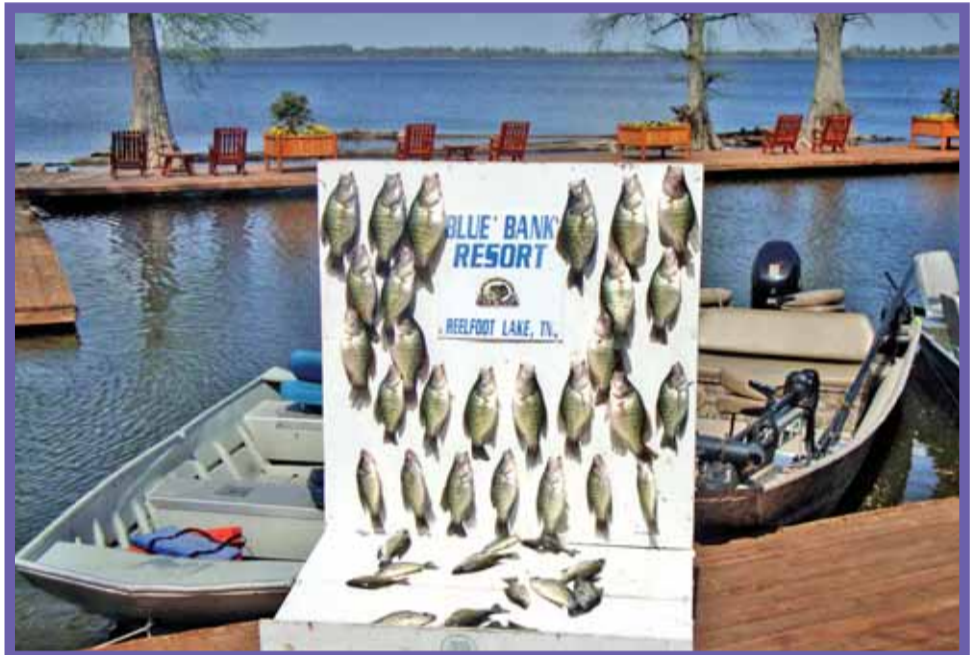
This is Billy's War Eagle boat. Very large, stable, and comfortable. (Author Photo)



Our guide, Billy Blakley and Susie, trying for big bluegill hiding around the base of the cypress trees. (Author Photo)



Blue Bank Resort, lake side. Our room was top left. Outside dining tables were on the lower level. (Author Photo)



The Blue Bank Resort sign ran out of hooks to hang fish every time an angler emptied his livewell. (Author Photo)



These huge cypress trees create great hiding spots for wary bluegill. (Author Photo)



This is a view of part of Reelfoot Lake from the second story deck outside our room. (Author Photo)

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bankresort.com or call 1-877-258-3226. If you're not that interested in fishing, perhaps you would be interested in world famous duck or deer hunting. Blue Bank has all inclusive packages with lodging, boat, motor, gas and bait. Let them know if you

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need a fishing guide, while the hunting packages include a guide.

My next trip to Reelfoot will probably be for a duck hunt. Maybe I'll meet you there.

The author may be reached at creasons@aol.com.

Indiana Slab Masters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Sixth place: Kent and Anita Besaw with 7.73 lbs
Big Fish winners: Brett Cunningham and Josh Kleber with a 2.08lb crappie.

To view the rest of the tournament results and for upcoming tournament information or membership visit www.indianaslabmasters.com

The Indiana Slab Masters would like to thank the local Patoka area businesses that supported the Tournament, special thanks to Poor Boy's Bait and Tackle, Patoka Lake Boat Marine and also to Harvey at Patoka Station and Patoka Lake Marina for letting us use their facilities for Preregistration and as the host lodging.

Tight Lines Everyone

Thanks to Team Bilbrey and Mandrell sponsors for 2012



Dick Patrick - Seabee

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Arkansas, in the process of unloading a new International truck with a "A" Frame rig on it, decided to give it a test run to try it out, so to speak (with the boom in the upward position). When we got back and looked behind us we had knocked down telephone lines and scattered them all along the road. Someone said we jerked the phone right out of the Major's hand. Well I got 90 hours of extra duty for that test run!"

Dick was looking through some of his photos and said, "Ray, here is a photo of that Beatty Bomber that crash landed on Yonton Airfield, not too far from Kadena. The Japs that got out of it alive were wearing grenade belts, they'd jump in our planes parked on the runway, pull the pin out of a grenade and blow themselves along with our plane up at the same time."

I got some Okinawa photos from my brief case of Dad's and compared some of them with the ones Dick had, it was uncanny that many of the Seabees who were on Okinawa had many of the same photos. Dad had a photo of a Baka bomb (pilot guided suicide bomb), Dick had a similar photo except it was larger than Dad's. I got some other photos out of my brief case that a Seabees' wife, Mrs. Maybelle Mooney, who lives in Independence, KS, (she sent me the photos for me to take to our September reunion for all the attending Seabees to look at) I wanted to show them to Dick. A typhoon hit Okinawa on October 9, 1945 demolishing buildings and ships in the harbor, I knew that Dick was there during that typhoon because in one of our earlier telephone conversation he said he lost everything he owned and some souvenirs in that typhoon. Mrs. Mooney's photos showed quite a bit of the typhoon damage on Okinawa, at the bottom of each photo it read 79th NCB Photo - Okinawa.

I asked Dick where he got the photos we were looking at, that he had. He told me he had no idea where he got them, it is all a blur. He remembers some things, but you have to remember we are talking about 1945, sixty-seven years ago, we've all lived a life-time of activities since then and Dick is 85 years old to boot.

I told him I assumed all these years that Dad had taken the photos himself. I know I gave Dad credit for a Marine photo of F4U Corsairs on an airfield, probably Kadena, with the sky lit up with tracer fire in a October 2010 Gad-a-bout, because I found the photo in his scrap book. I have looked high and low for a camera that he might have had overseas with him, but haven't found one yet.

After the war ended and Dick got enough points to go home, he left Okinawa on the Aircraft Carrier U.S.S. Ticonderoga (see photo page 17), disembarking at Seattle, WA. He received his Honorable Discharge at the Great Lakes Naval Station near Chicago, Illinois on January 30, 1946.

After his discharge, Dick went home to Ashland, Kentucky. He worked at a filling station and two other jobs. Then he went to work for the Ashland Water Works, in the Distribution Department. He worked there for twenty-three and a half years retiring as Superintendent. He then worked in a nearby High Rise unit in Maintenance for 14 years, retiring from there too. He's still working part time for the Elks Club in Ashland.

At the age of 76 in December of 2002 Dick became one of the first Kentuckian's to get his High School Diploma under a state law passed in 2002. The law permitted school districts to award diplomas to honorably discharged World War II veterans who did not continue their education and graduate with their fellow students because of the call to arms. Ashland School Superintendent Phil Eason took the diploma to Patrick's home, which is just a stone's throw from Poage Elementary School. Patrick accepted the document surrounded by family members and well-wishers. Senator John Vincent, R-Ashland said, "It's along overdue honor, he (Patrick) represents the best of our country. He was willing to serve at a time of crisis and make personal sacrifices too."

Dick Patrick married Ida Stuart on November 11, 1948, they were married 62 years. In January of 2011, his beloved wife, Ida, passed away from Alzheimer's disease. Dick and Ida had two sons, Daryle and Richard, both have passed away from cancer.

Their son Daryle married Jenny Thomas, they had a son, Steven Arthur Patrick. Daryle was a retired Firefighter, see the beautiful Ashland Fire Department tapestry in the photo at bottom of page 16. Dick's daughter-in-law, Jenny, visits him often. She took our photos the day we were at Dicks house in Ashland..

Their other son, Richard married Jackie Simpson, they had a son, Richard Lee II Patrick and a daughter, Tiffany Dawn Patrick. Richard was the owner of Muzak Music of the Tri-State.

(Notes on the 83RD BATTALION)

Formed at Norfolk, Va., on Feb. 2, 1943, the 83rd Battalion moved to Gulfport, MS., March 16. Leaving for Trinidad in two echelons, the first section embarked April 29, 1943, and arrived May 21. The second section followed a month later. On May 23, 1944, 25 men were detached for duty with CBMU 559 and on May 30 the outfit sailed for home, arriving at Davisville June 5. On Oct. 14, 1944, the Battalion moved to Camp Parks and after two weeks transferred to Hueneme. Embarking on its second overseas tour, the Battalion sailed from San Pedro Dec. 27, 1944, and landed at Pearl Harbor Jan. 3, 1945. On March 29 the unit sailed from Pearl Harbor and arrived at Samar April 22. At war's end the outfit was on duty at the Guiuan naval base on Samar. In September 1945, the outfit was scheduled for shipment to Tientsin, China.

(Notes on CBMU 617 (Unit))

CBMU 617, formed at Davisville, and trained at

Camp Parks, shipped from Port Hueneme, arriving in Okinawa April 4, 1945 and worked on Yontan and Chimu airfields until the Japanese surrendered.

(Notes on CBMU 624 (Unit))

Commissioned September 25, 1944, Operations started at Camp Parks October 11, 1944, received its full complement of men on November 16-17, 1944. Unit moved to Port Hueneme, CA on December 15, 1944. Unit was presented its colors on December 30, 1944. Unit left Port Hueneme on January 16, 1945 aboard the U.S.S. Thurston to Pearl Harbor. Then Unit boarded U.S.S. Meriwether, APA #203 (Amphibious Personnel Assault Craft). The Unit crossed the International Date Line on February 27, 1945, first stop was on Eniwetok in the Marshalls, second stop Ulithi in the Carolinas, next Peleliu in the Palaus, then Samar and Leyte in the Philippines. Okinawa assignment, rebuild and maintain Kadena airfield, an adopted slogan that came to be, "Meet me in Kadena." Unit was ordered to participate in the initial invasion of Okinawa Jima, on the evening before the initial landing. First campsite at Kadena Airfield 1730 on April 5, 1945, Unit servicing Marine Air Group MAG #33, first unit to fly land-based planes in defense of Okinawa. Exceptional work by CBMU 624 prompted Major C.C. Campbell U.S.M.C., to write 'Letter of Commendation,' which became famous, being published in many home town newspapers, Army newspaper "Stars & Stripes" and dramatized over station WNAC, Boston, MA on a national hook-up. After Army Air Corps took over Kadena, Mag #33 and CBMU 624 moved to AWASE Naval Air Base, a more modern facility with some floors. Unit received news of Japans surrender at AWASE. (The information in this "Note" was provided to me by Mrs. Belle Howard 'wife of the late Seabee Buddy Howard' who lives in Forsyth, GA who I came in contact with after sending my initial letter to 79th NCB and CBMU 624 Seabee's.

Outdoors Tales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

common on older boats which are more likely to have accumulated water at the bottom of the tank. Once phase separation happens - the tipping point when water in the gas is either harmlessly ingested or transformed into a corrosive mixture no engine will run on - there's no going back. No fuel additive can restore E10 back to its normal state. Tech Tip: Age and exposure to ethanol can rot fill gaskets or O-rings. Replace them every few years.


5. "Gunk" in the tank: It is still possible that some old outboards and boat fuel systems have yet to sip a drop of E10. But once your boat drinks its first tankful, ethanol will "scour" or dissolve the gunk that's been coating the tank walls (and hoses) for years. Tech tip: You may want to think about hiring a professional to have the tank drained completely of any gas and water at the bottom before adding your first load of E10. If not, keep a supply of filters on hand - they will clog quickly. Always use a fuel stabilizer and avoid using octane boosters that contain ethanol.

For more information on ethanol and boat engines, go to www.BoatUS.com/seaworthy/ethanol.asp.

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Contact writer Phil Junker by email at: outdoorscribe@yahoo.com

For more outdoors with Phil Junker, contact his blog at: outdoorscribe.blogspot.com




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Camping Here and Beyond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

streets of Naples as a garbage person's strike was going on and the trash and stench was more than terrible. Never-the-less, even though she was born in Rome, I could visualize Sophia Loren running through the streets of the slums of Naples as a young girl. No, El, I still have my crush.

We spoke in an earlier article about our experiences in Pompeii. What we forgot was that a couple of sisters from the University of Texas had a mechanical breakdown in their rented VW Bug. El and I picked them up and took them to a VW repair shop in Pompeii and while their car was towed and repaired they went with us to the ruins. It so happens that one sister was fluent in Italian. She asked the attendant if I could pick up scoria and pumice and use the samples in my H.S. Earth and Space Science and I.P.F.W. geology lab class I taught. He said to take it all so they could get to more of the artifacts buried by explosions of Vesuvius. We filled our pockets and El's purse with samples, walked over to look at the then unexcavated, but in much better repairs, the Pompeii coliseum. We bid fair well to the girls at the VW repair and hurried off to meet a ferry going across to Corinth, Greece from Brindisi, Italy.

We drove our VW camper down into the hold of the ferry we would take across the Ionian Sea to Greece. We were told it would take all of twenty-four hours and could go to our vehicle only once to get food or any other item we wanted. We were scheduled to stop and load and/or unload people and goods at the islands of Corfu, Igoumenitsa, and Patras before reaching Corinth. If you have any questions about camping we'll try to answer them. Contact us at: **260-637-3524** or jmacnut@yahoo.com. See you next month in Greece.

John and El McCory

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

On March 25, 2012 my sisters, Wilma and Kathy traveled with me to Ashland, Kentucky to visit with Dick Patrick at his home. We spent close to four hours sitting in his living room hearing about his memories of World War II and the years since. Dick is a Hero, as are all American Veterans who leave their homes, family and friends to live a life of chaos, traveling to distant shores, facing the enemy in a do or die situation, possibly being wounded or killed and hoping to get back home to the same home, family and friends.

I hope that Dick can make it to our 79th NCB and CBMU 624 reunion to be held here in Indiana in September. These World War II Veterans are few now as time marches on and all to soon, as we all will be, only a memory to our family and friends.

This coming September 23-27 is just a moment in time, but for Dick Patrick, Joe Accetta, Bill Burke, Bob Huls, Fred Hummel, Guy Large, Lindy Lindroff, Tim Mahoney, Don Palme, Joe Rudy, Charles Sarahan, Vern Siekmann, John Serra, Conrad Shoup, Jack Taggart and others, it is a special moment. A time when they were all young, ambitious and all members of the United States Naval Seabees serving their country in Alaska, Okinawa, Saipan and Trinidad.

This time when we meet here in Richmond, Indiana at the Quality Inn it will be a special time for me too, these men, some of these Seabees served along side or on the same soil that my Dad did from 1942 thru 1945. Dad was in the older group, he was 28 when he joined, some joined the Seabees even older. The Navy was looking for men who had a trade, a skill, a journeyman, age was not a factor to get the job.

I found this poem in with some of Dad's papers a long time ago. I even memorized it to recite in one of my English classes in high school, I think in 1959. It goes like this:



"The SeaBees"

*"The Navy needed fighters and the Navy need men;
So they organized the SeaBees who would fight and work again
They took electricians, welders, riggers, boilermen, butchers, cooks and bakers, too,
They put them in the Navy and taught them proper things to do,
With machine gun and a rifle the SeaBee learned to shoot,
We used a big machete—a thousand other things to boot;
They taught us how to march and drill, they taught us how to dress;
We even learned to manage to get "seconds" at the mess."*

*"They taught us all these many things in thirteen weeks or less
And what they didn't teach us, the rest we had to guess.
When we finished up our training and left for Island "X"
We had all our own equipment—it sure loaded down our decks.
The Japs they held the island when at last we hove in sight,
We knew that they were ready so we went prepared to fight;
We landed under heavy fire with plenty of shot and shell,
But we rushed up to the beachhead and gave them plenty hell.
We soon had wiped the Nippies out and then we went to work,
Every SeaBee did his duty—a SeaBee doesn't shirk;
We built a mighty landing field, a barrack and a dock
About a hundred miles of road we made from solid rock."*

*"We got things finally squared away, 'twas pretty to be seen;
Then we went back to the beachhead where we saw our first Marine.
They had followed in behind us though it's said they got their first,
We had everything completely fixed—they could even quench their thirst,
From the Halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli
It USED to be the Leathernecks but now it's all SeaBee.
And when we reach the Pearly Gates and Stand at Heaven's Scene
There'll be a SeaBee waiting there to greet the first Marine."
"Author Unknown"*

I'm still searching for more 79th NCB and CBMU 624 members to invite to the reunion. If anyone reading this has someone in their family that served with the 79th NCB or CBMU 624 please contact me as soon as possible. I would like to invite them to our reunion, it will be memorable and fun. Weather permitting we will be having a picnic in Maplewood Park Monday evening, September 24th in Centerville (my home town) with food, Big Band (Glen Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Harry James, etc) style music and dancing.

79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion 67th Reunion September 23-27, 2012 Quality Inn, Richmond, Indiana

In Memory of my father, Seabee MMS 1/c Raymond "Gene" E. Dickerson, 79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion (NCB), Company D, Platoon 2 and Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU)

#624 Veteran 1942-1945.

I will be hosting the 79th NCB Reunion on **September 23-27, 2012** in Richmond, IN. I have permission from the 79th NCB to invite members of CBMU #624 to the Reunion also. Dad was with the 79th NCB in Alaska and with CBMU #624 on Okinawa. Anyone reading this message who served with the 79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion or Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit #624 in Alaska, Saipan or Okinawa during World War II and would be interested in attending our 67th Reunion in Richmond, Indiana September 23-27, 2012 please contact me by:

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The hard fact is, it doesn't matter how much oil we import, we drill for or it magically rains from the sky, the price of gasoline will remain high.

So the bottom line is, in my mind, all our energy sources are commodities governed by the market value and they (whoever owns it) is looking for the best deal that brings in the most money.

It's like my friend, Rich, says, they raise the price of gasoline when they want to, because they know they can.

Our biggest problem here in the U.S. is that we don't have an alternate way of traveling from here to there, except by automobile. In the rest of the world they have alternate mass transportation modes such as trains and buses. We had them back when I was young, but they are no more, except in a limited capacity. I guess we wanted it this way? ■

GAD'S CORNER



Kenny Westerfield caught these crappie on the Salamonie Reservoir. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)

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Ray Newsome - Caught these crappie on the Mississinewa Reservoir. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



Jared Hardin 11-13-11, 175 lb., 9 point Buck. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Paul Warren hooked this stringer of catfish on the Salamonie Reservoir. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

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15.75" X 10.37"	8" X 10.37" 12" X 6.88" 15.75" X 5.13"	5.25" X 10.37" 8" X 6.88" 15.75" X 3.37"	4" X 10.37" 6" X 5.88" 8" X 5.13"	3" X 6.88 4" X 5.13 6" X 3.37	3" X 5.13 4.5" X 3.37	4" X 3.37"	ONE SIZE 3" X 3.37"
96 COL. IN.	48 COL. IN.	32 COL. IN.	24 COL. IN.	12 COL. IN.	9 COL. IN.	8 COL. IN.	6 COL. IN.
1 TIME	1 TIME	1 TIME	1 TIME	1 TIME	1 TIME	1 TIME	1 TIME
\$7.00 PCI	\$7.00 PCI	\$7.00 PCI	\$7.00 PCI	\$7.00 PCI	\$7.00 PCI	\$7.00 PCI	\$7.00 PCI
\$651.00	\$336.00	\$224.00	\$168.00	\$84.00	\$63.00	\$56.00	\$42.00
2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES
\$6.00 PCI	\$6.00 PCI	\$6.00 PCI	\$6.00 PCI	\$6.00 PCI	\$6.00 PCI	\$6.00 PCI	\$6.00 PCI
\$558.00	\$288.00	\$192.00	\$144.00	\$72.00	\$54.00	\$48.00	\$36.00
12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES
\$5.00 PCI	\$5.00 PCI	\$5.00 PCI	\$5.00 PCI	\$5.00 PCI	\$5.00 PCI	\$5.00 PCI	\$5.00 PCI
\$465.00	\$240.00	\$160.00	\$120.00	*\$60.00	\$45.00	\$40.00	\$30.00

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