



# Cross Currents

February 2008

## Greetings from President Dean Rapp

It is hard for me to believe that January is soon to past and the cold days of February lay ahead. With much regret I was unable to attend the January meeting which from what I've been told was enjoyed by all. I had hoped to share a fishing story or two as over the New Year weekend a close friend of mine flew in from California and he enjoyed his best fishing day at Bennet ever, while I probably caught more on dry flies than I have in a life time. Yes, that is correct...20 degrees and they were hitting on top. I have a very simple dry fly pattern that has really worked well in the park over the past few years. Perhaps I can actually show up for the February meeting and demonstrate just how simple it is to tie. Please remember, I tie flies to FISH not to look at or sell.  
(continued on page 2)



**Aerial photo of the Boundary Waters**

## *2008 Conservation Banquet*

The annual MMTU conservation banquet will be held at Stony Creek Inn on February 22. Mark your calendars to hold the date for this important event. Mike Kruse is Chairing the banquet committee. Contact Mike if you are interested in helping with the banquet. This has been an active year for the chapter, we have: sponsored scholarships for women to attend a Casting for Recovery Retreat in Missouri, worked with helping kids learn to fish at Kids Trout Outing, donated to conservation efforts on the Big Hole in Montana, made a major contribution to the purchase of the Bohigian Tract (now the Bohigian Conservation Area), assisted with stream improvement projects on the Bohigian Conservation Area on Mill Creek, and sponsored the Little Piney Insect Survey. All these activities mean that our reserves are depleted, so please come to the banquet and bring your friends.

## **February 5 Meeting: Michael Riley, Fishing the Boundary Waters**

**Michael will regale us with tales of his trips fishing to the Boundary Waters on the Minnesota / Canada border. The February 5 meeting will be held 7 pm at D Rowe's, located off Forum, just north of the intersection with Nifong. We have a room to ourselves and a nice opportunity for dinner and at drink at this venue. Please join us.**

Among the items on the auction list this year are a guided trip in Colorado, a graphite fly rod custom built by Dean Rapp on an Orvis blank, Winston and Orvis fly rods, Lamson and Orvis fly reels, a bamboo rod built by Bill Lamberson, a copy of "An Outdoor Journal" signed by its author, former president Jimmy Carter, and a trout carving by Big Sky Carvers.



*The President continues:*

I'll keep this message short as the joys of home ownership call me on this early Sunday morning. I have a hot water heater valve to install. Yesterday, as I cleaned the basement concrete floor in preparation for staining, the gaskets in the drain valve decided to crack. I assume the hot water heater was just trying to be helpful and clean the floor for me. Of course that is not what I thought at the time.

For those that don't know I'm working hard on finishing out my basement and turning it into a 1200 foot toy room where I can build fly rods, tie flies, reload shells for my favorite FN .30-06 or trusty S&W .357 and even act like a gunsmith from time to time. This is something I had in my last house in St. Louis and has truly been missed. I look forward to completing this project because it will give me room to invite others over to share in these hobbies. Speaking of which, several have expressed interest in learning how to build fly rods. Let me know if you're interested because as soon as the toy room is complete I plan on honoring those requests.

I look forward to seeing you at the February meeting and don't forget the Banquet as well.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

March 4: Gary Eaton – Fishing the Caribbean. Gary's currently away doing research for this program (see following page for more February fishing destinations).

### **Internet Review**

The Trout Underground is a blog kept and written by Tom Chandler. Tom is a free-lance copy writer living in the Upper Klamath Valley, California with Wally the Wonderdog. You may have seen his latest contribution in the latest *The Drake*, magazine. He comments on a wide spectrum of issues from fiberglass fly rods to chili slaw dogs with a certain lack of seriousness or care, my kind of guy. Tom keeps the site frequently updated except when absent on longer fishing trips. The photography is very good and ranges from artistic to whimsical. When needing a mid-day daydream this is the place I go: <http://troutunderground.com/>

Curt

## February's Top Ten List Ten Places to Fish in February

10. Bethel Park – don't burn much gas, bring your augur, and take home some trout.
9. Bennett Springs – catch and release on dry flies, but don't expect solitude even in February.
8. The Sport Show Fish Tank - no solitude here either, but good winter fun and much to see.
7. Blue River – fish below the dam during your Colorado ski trip.
6. North Umpqua – THE SPOT for winter steelhead, great summer steelhead fishing as well.
5. The Firehole – access may be difficult, but the name alone recommended this listing.

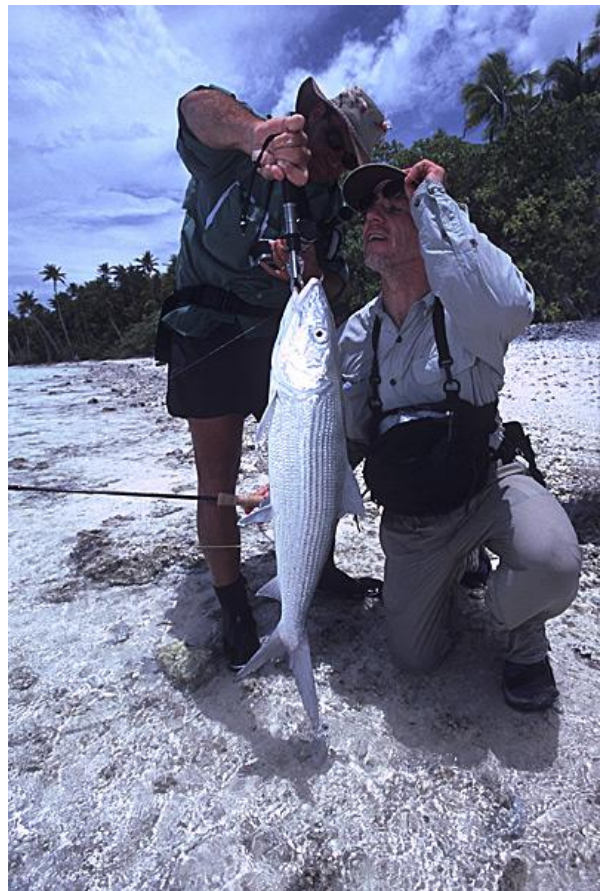


4. Florida Bay – Some of the biggest, baddest bones in de world live here.
3. Tierra del Fuego – like the Firehole, the name may be misleading because it's not really warm and it's very windy, but the trout are huge!

2. New Zealand – It's summer!



1. Anaa Atoll, French Polynesia – bonefish where it is warm and there is no cell phone service!!



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*Cross Currents, the Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited newsletter, has a circulation of approximately 300. Regular chapter meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, except for July. The meeting place is the Missouri Department of Conservation, Resource Science Center at Stadium Blvd. and College Ave. in Columbia, Missouri. Meeting time is 7:00 p.m.*

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