



**AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY**  
ORGANIZED 1870  
**IDAHO CHAPTER**



## GILL RAKER GAZETTE

Volume 19, Number 3

December 1999

Mark Gamblin, Editor

Insider Call for Papers

100th Annual Meeting March

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ted Koch

I find myself just a few months into my tenure as Chapter president reflecting on whether I'm doing the right thing in pushing this Snake River salmon and dams issue. I also wonder what others think of my actions so far as an ExComm member. It seems that a few members are my critics, more are supportive, and most are silent.

Regardless, I know that those who have been my critics have at least been kind enough to treat me with respect and professionalism. But all too often, unfortunately, that is more than I can say for the critics of my critics. This issue has been, and will continue to be around us for a long time, so we'd better learn how to deal with it as professionals in as productive a manner as possible.

I arrived in Idaho as a graduate student at Idaho State University back in 1988, fresh off a project where we were trying to re-create an extinct run of Atlantic Salmon in the Connecticut River. When I met my colleagues in the Idaho Chapter, I asked how the region had the wisdom to keep its salmon runs. The answer I got was essentially, "There hasn't been enough time to kill them all yet." This assessment has proven to be alarmingly true, it seems.

Over these last 11 years for me, I have observed sometimes acrimonious debate over salmon and dams boil within this Chapter. Because of this, when I was serendipitously inserted into a leadership role within the chapter, I decided that I would somehow allow the chapter to collectively decide what its position was on this most important issue, and move on. I did not seek to pass a resolution to have something to waive in decision-makers faces. I was shocked when 92% of my colleagues voted in favor of such a strongly worded statement as we did back in March, saying that dams must go to save salmon.

Since then, as I have continued to learn more, I have been just as surprised at how direct and obvious the evidence seems to be against keeping dams and salmon, too. It's almost as if some of us cannot see the forest for the trees. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Science is nothing more than the refinement of everyday thinking." And this quote rings more true to me in my reflections on this issue than any other because it seems that some have known the truth in the chapter's resolution for a long time.

For example, when I was traveling the state as the Idaho Wolf Recovery Project Leader for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I remember speaking to community members in Salmon, Idaho in 1994. The tense discussion shifted from wolves to saving salmon, and person said, "I know we need to get the cows out of the creeks, but why are we wasting our time and money when everybody knows it's the dams?"

At the time, I didn't "know it's the dams." But I believe I know that now. It is particularly interesting that it took the chapter until 1999 to make as clear of a statement on the issue as that Salmon rancher. We're largely there now. But not all of us are there. The vote on the resolution was not 100%. So what to do with those who disagree, or at least are not willing to agree?

I have been quoted in the media on the issue of salmon and dams on a few occasions now, and one quote that is often used is the one where I say, essentially, "We scientists in the majority opinion on this issue owe a debt of gratitude to those scientists who question the majority. If no one was asking questions, it wouldn't be science."

Not only do we owe a debt of gratitude to those in the region who question the need to remove dams because they help keep us honest, but to many of these individuals we owe a debt of gratitude for working hard over the last 30 years to find ways to save salmon with the dams in place. If were not for their hard work, there might not be any salmon left to save.

For these reasons it pains me greatly to hear and see these people get attacked personally, under the guise of science. Some attacks seem to be issued because their research program funding is tied to the existence of the dams. Or perhaps some believe that they've made millions of dollars serving the industries that benefit from those dams. While these criticisms may have a factual basis, and while it's possible they might even be motivating some of those who disagree to not see things as clearly as they should, these criticisms are irrelevant to the scientific debate.

I personally believe that dams must go to save salmon. I disagree with those who say they do not. While there is some uncertainty that dams must go, I believe that uncertainty is small. However, I have yet to debate with a scientist on this issue where I felt he or she was being truly dishonest with me. I've occasionally wondered if they're being dishonest with themselves, but never with me. Because of this fact, I'm willing to go to bat every time for those with whom I disagree, to defend their right to their scientific opinion. And I beseech those who behave otherwise to stop.

Not only is it unprofessional to attack personally the science of those who question the need to remove dams, it's less effective than arguing the facts. Who is capable of listening dispassionately to objective arguments when they're being attacked personally? We must boil down our arguments on this issue to those basic elements where we can all see the core ideas that we eventually choose to believe. If those who disagree with the idea of removing dams are really so biased in their opinion, then it stands to reason that their scientific arguments should be easy to dismiss. I urge all of us to focus our energies in this manner.

Some have criticized their colleagues from their own personal perspective, and for that I have no judgement because it is not my place to say. I realize that many involved in this debate have been injured in their past relationships, or they take the argument of saving salmon personally, and their lashing out is a personal reaction, not a scientific one. If people who work as scientists want to attack someone personally, fine, but don't do it under the veil of science.

I think Dr. Ted Bjornn's plea for reasoned scientific argument on this issue at our March annual meeting was most timely and most eloquent. What I heard from Ted was a simple request to remain civil and debate ideas, not personalities. While I think we succeeded in heeding Ted's plea at the meeting, my experience is that we often fail in other fora - especially behind closed doors. We would do well to listen more carefully to the wisdom of such patriarchs of our chapter.

#### UPDATE ON SALMON AND DAMS RESOLUTION

The ExCom suggested I prepare an update on the status of the Snake River salmon and dams resolution that 92% of you voted in favor of adopting at the March, 1999 annual meeting in Boise. In June of this year, the ExCom voted unanimously to adopt the resolution, as directed by the membership vote. We then forwarded the resolution to the Western Division AFS for review and to present it to the membership at the Division annual meeting in Moscow this summer.

At the Division meeting, 72% of the members voted to adopt the resolution. However, at that meeting it became clear to me that the usefulness and appropriateness of having so many members who were so detached from the issue cast such an important vote may not be entirely productive. There were a lot of bad feelings. I also felt we lost an opportunity to educate our fellow Division members on the issue. And had we better educated our colleagues, an informed vote would have been even more supportive of the resolution and more meaningful to the AFS.

Regardless, I recommended against forwarding the resolution to the Parent Society at this year's annual meeting because I worried that doing so would prove to be more divisive than informing and productive. Instead, the ICAFS ExComm is considering other methods to get the word out on the science of salmon and dams. One idea suggested to me by our new Executive Director, Dr. Gus Rassam, is to publish the resolution in Fisheries with discussion essays both supporting and opposing the resolution.

Interestingly, the media reported on the passage of the resolution by the ICAFS in what I considered to be a favorable manner: they reported the overwhelming support by the scientist members for the resolution, but were careful to include the fact that the resolution does not advocate dam removal. The Lewiston Morning Tribune reported that the ICAFS says dams must go to save salmon, but, "that organization - quite professionally - is leaving it to others to decide whether the fish are more valuable than other uses of the river." They added that ICAFS gave, "the kindness of candor".

News stories I read all seemed to be careful to include the fact that the ICAFS was not advocating dam breaching. Nonetheless, some within the Chapter saw this action as advocacy. Partly in response, I asked Boise State University political science professor John Freemuth to communicate his feelings to the Parent Society, which he did. His statement was that adoption and sharing this resolution did not constitute advocacy because we were not saying that dams should go no matter what.

In developing and presenting the resolution for a vote, the ExCom sought to avoid the advocacy arena altogether, and instead just focus on the question of: do the dams have to go to save salmon? But in reflection, I guess I can see why some members feel adopting this resolution was advocacy, especially after a recent interaction with graduate students (always a dangerous proposition!). Just a couple of weeks ago I participated in a University of Idaho class discussion about the resolution where eight out of nine students concluded from reading the resolution that its adoption constituted "Policy Advocacy". After a class discussion it seemed some students could see that it originally may not have been intended to be advocacy, but without the additional insights, they saw it as advocacy. One simple idea they offered that would have helped avoid seeing it this way was to include a statement that, with this resolution, the ICASF did not advocate dam removal! Things seem so much clearer in hindsight. I felt a little silly claiming to be avoiding advocating for dam removal, yet I failed to see the wisdom in inserting such a simple, direct statement in the resolution.

Some of the students quickly added that they saw nothing wrong with scientists being advocates, and that perhaps AFS should come out advocating for dam removal. This certainly comports with the fact that the first-stated objective in our Constitution directs us to "promote the conservation, development, and wise use of the fisheries". Also, at a recent talk I gave representing the Chapter at Lewis and Clark State College, I received interesting feedback from state and federal political leaders, and a leader of the Pulp and Paper Workers Resource Council. They counseled that the AFS message would be much more effective if it acknowledged and tried to address the social and economic ramifications of the resolution. Is there a professional way for us to do this?

Now I'm not so sure what to think. I don't believe I'm comfortable having the ICASF boldly advocating dam removal because we don't aspire to be a very politically astute organization, and we don't necessarily know what's best for society at large. However, I'm hearing from several respectable sources within and outside of the Chapter that we'd be doing more of a public service if we didn't try to avoid the "A-word" so much.

In summary, the resolution is now a part of the ICASF's and Western Division's position on the issue. I will be working with Gus Rassam and others to include the resolution and essays arguing the resolution in an upcoming issue of Fisheries. After that, I'm not sure where to go next. I would be interested to hear your reflections on whether adopting the resolution constitutes advocacy, and whether we should not try to avoid the "A-word" and just come right out and advocate dam removal, or at least consider and take a position on broader issues than just the science. Please help by offering your opinions and your time and support for action.

## **2000 ANNUAL MEETING FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Brett Roper, President-Elect**

2000 Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries  
Society Annual Meeting  
and Call For Papers  
March 13-15, 2000  
Coeur d' Alene Resort, Coeur d' Alene

This year's annual meeting will take place from March 13 until March 15 at the Coeur d' Alene Resort in Coeur d' Alene. The meeting will start at 0900 on the 13th and end at 1200 on the 15th.

For those of you who haven't been here before the setting for this year's conference is a world class resort located on the shore of Lake Coeur d' Alene.

Talks for this meeting will cover a wide range of topics but currently the plenary session is planning to address populations and threats to adfluvial, fluvial and resident native fish species.

Whichever your preferred technique, please submit abstracts electronically either as plain text or WordPerfect format attachments to an e-mail, or on disk by mail.

### **Lodging**

The resort has a block of 75 rooms available for each night from March 12 until March 14. Because the Coeur d' Alene Resort was willing to offer government rates (\$59 a night) it is imperative you make your reservations early. Currently the Resort is willing guarantee these rates only until February 2, 2000. To Make reservations call (800) 688-5253 and identify that you are associated with the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. If you have any

questions please call me at: w(208)765-7488 or h(208)664-9688.

The January 2000 newsletter will contain a pre-registration form for early sign up for the meeting along with additional details.

### **EXCOM MEETING**

**Jeff Dillon**

The ExCom met on October 25, 1999 at the McCall Fish and Game office. We spent some time discussing the upcoming annual meeting theme, topics for the plenary session, and possible panel participants. Note the announcement and call for papers in this issue, and look for more annual meeting details in the next newsletter. Rumor has it that Rick Wilkinson has flamed out after an exceptional run as funding committee chair. Ted has recruited a replacement in Kevin Meyer and Tony Lamansky (see their first committee report in this issue). Thanks to Kevin and Tony for taking over this important assignment. We agreed that travel to National should be funded for the Chapter president-elect rather than president (the president becomes past-president at the time of the National meeting). Ted will attend National 2000, but Brett will forgo in 2001 and let Mark attend as president-elect. Dave Hogen gave an update of Palouse Unit fund raising and volunteer activities.

We also continued discussions on salmon, dams and the Chapter resolution. The focus was on ensuring clear and adequate representation of Idaho Chapter views to parent society leadership. Ted has been asked by several groups to comment on salmon and dams, and has done so on his personal time. ExCom agreed that it is appropriate for Ted to speak as ICAFS President on behalf of the Chapter for issues related to the resolution. The ExCom will meet again January.

## ICAFS EXCOM

President Ted Koch	PHONE: (W) 378-5293  E-mail: ted_koch@mail.fws.gov
President Elect Brett Roper	PHONE: (W) 765-7223 (H) 765-7488  E-mail: broper/r1_ipnf@fs.fed.us
Vice President Mark Gamblin	PHONE: (W) 525-7290 (H) 524-1012 FAX: 523-7604 E-mail: mgamblin@idfg.state.id.us
Secretary / Treasurer Jeff Dillon	PHONE: (W) 525-7290 (H) 523-6340 FAX: 523-7604 E-mail: jdillon@idfg.state.id.us
Nominations Chair Terry Marrett	Phone: (W) 387-1328 (H) Fax: E-mail: trmarret@usgs.gov
Past President Cindy Deacon- Williams	Phone: (W) 939-8697 (H) 939-0975 Fax: 939-4086 E-mail: cdwill@cyberhighway.net

### NOMINATIONS....

Terry Marrett

Nominations are open for the position of Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Nominations Chair. The Secretary/Treasurer and Nominations Chair officers are both one-year commitments. The Vice President position is a four year commitment, moving up the ranks to President Elect, President, and finally, Past President. If

you are interested in running for office, or know someone who is, please contact me. Elections will be held at the annual meeting.

### SECRETARY-TREASURERS REPORT

Jeff Dillon

First of all, a big thanks to past secretary-treasurer Fred Partridge for taking time to go over the books with me prior to the October ExCom meeting. Fred did a great job putting and keeping things in order, which has made the transition easy so far.

1999 Annual Meeting - Revenue from registration fees totaled \$10,800 and net from the raffle and auction was \$4,766 for a total of \$15,566. Meeting costs including room rentals, snacks and the banquet were \$11,750. So, the Chapter cleared a little over \$3,800 to apply to future projects and activities.

As of August 31 (last available printout), ICAFS assets include two certificates of deposit totaling \$3,379.30 plus \$7,838.79 in checking, for a total of \$11,218.09. Approximately \$5,700 of this has been committed, but not paid, for items such as a Tomelleri westslope cutthroat original (for future fund raising), riparian committee brochures and Endowment 2000. Brett Roper has also put down a \$500 deposit towards accommodations for the 2000 Chapter meeting.

### ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Cindy Deacon-Williams

This is the first call for award nominations. If you know of a chapter member who has gone beyond normal expectations, write a brief accounting and submit it to Cindy Deacon-Williams before January 15, 2000.

Awards can recognize a one time contribution, or

long-standing record of contributions. They may go to someone for outstanding research, management actions, service to the Chapter, leadership, etc. If you know of someone who has made a significant contribution during the past year, or deserves recognition for their long-standing commitment and contributions to the profession and the resource, I strongly encourage you to forward your nominations to Cindy. If you have any questions, give Cindy a call.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### FUNDING

Kevin Meyer, Tony Lamansky

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We are in the process of getting solicitation letters drafted and hope to mail them out within the couple of weeks, then we will start banging doors for donations. We are in the process of lining up the mugs, t-shirts and print framing for the meeting fundraiser. Raffle tickets will be sent out in the next newsletter *with incentives to sell*, so start strategizing now for maximizing your ticket sales.

Anyone wishing to donate items or help out at the raffle/auction please contact:

Kevin Meyer or Tony Lamansky

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Nampa Research

1414 E Locust Lane

Nampa, Idaho 83686

(208) 465-8404

(208) (FAX)

E-mail: [kmeyer@idfg.state.id.us](mailto:kmeyer@idfg.state.id.us)

[tlamansky@idfg.state.id.us](mailto:tlamansky@idfg.state.id.us)

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### PUBLIC EDUCATION

Jim Fredericks, Chris Downs

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This fall, ICAFS members have continued to meet with public school classes to give presentations on Idaho fish and habitat issues. As most of you are aware, the Idaho Chapter has a \$10,000 endowment at the University of Idaho

We have had several "return customers" and we are pleased with the teacher contacts and in-roads to area classrooms the program has produced. In addition, a "Trout in the Classroom" project in cooperation with Trout Unlimited proved to be very popular with teachers and students in the Boise area and will be expanded to two additional classrooms this year. Finally, we have continued work on developing an ICAFS web page. We now have software that will allow us to construct the page ourselves, rather than to pay a consultant. This will be a site that members can refer to for newsletters, committee reports and updated information relating to membership, legislation, references of interest and links to other sites. We hope to have a page ready to present to the chapter at the annual meeting.

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### STREAM HYDRAULICS

Karen Smith

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The Stream Hydraulics Committee is working on the stream management manual. An update will be forthcoming in the near future.

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### RIPARIAN

Dale Allen

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The riparian management brochure has been printed with funds contributed by AFS, TU and the Lowman District, Boise National Forest. Copies of the brochure are being distributed through the Lowman District office and the Southwest Region, Idaho Department of Fish and Game office in Nampa.

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### UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO SCHOLARSHIP

Tim Cochnauer, Dave Bennett

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### PROJECT 2005

As most of you are aware, the Idaho Chapter has a \$10,000 endowment at the University of Idaho

to provide scholarships to fisheries students. Our goal is to award two scholarships each year, one each to an undergraduate and a graduate student.

The present endowment generates only enough money for one scholarship. The Idaho Chapter executive committee has been willing to fund the additional scholarship through its fund raising activities. In order to have the endowment fund both scholarships, an additional \$10,000 is needed. The scholarship committee is proposing to achieve that goal by the year 2005. Using simple math, the amount needed annually is \$2,000. That amount equates to less than \$7 per member per year. This will be the first call for donations to the fund. We will be promoting this throughout the Chapter's newsletters and at the annual meeting. We will even take suggestions on how to raise this money. You can start by forwarding a check (for any amount) to the secretary/treasurer designating the money to be part of the endowment

This year's recipients were announced in the following letter from Department Head, Dr. George LaBar.

Dear Tim,

The Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is honored to name this year's American Fisheries Society Scholarship's undergraduate recipient as Andy Dux and this year's graduate recipient as Kathy McGrath. Your scholarship helps to recruit and retain quality students like Andy and Kathy. Quality students educated in ecology and management of natural resources will be the educated professionals of our future.....Again, the department is delighted that the American Fisheries Society Scholarship is encouraging outstanding students to continue their education through our program. Thank you for your continued support!

**PALOUSE UNIT**  
Erik Stark

The Palouse Unit has been busy this semester.

In September, the Unit teamed up with Idaho Power and conducted bull trout redd surveys on St. Joe River tributaries (upstream of Red Ives). The redd surveys are used to assess population trends over time. In October, several members also volunteered their time teaching fish and aquatic ecology topics to about 70 Moscow area sixth graders, which was very well received. Dan Schill, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) research biologist, visited the Unit and discussed his research regarding barbed and barbless hook angling mortality. Thanks for taking time out of your busy schedule to spend an afternoon with us. We continue to raise money to attend this year's Idaho Chapter meeting in Couer d' Alene; soup feeds, salmon bake, and a steelhead fishing trip raffle have all been very successful fund raising events. Coming up the first week of December, we plan on assisting IDFG spawn kokanee salmon on Granite Creek, a tributary to Lake Pend Oreille. In addition, several funding requests are currently being drafted in an effort to raise money to allow several Palouse Unit members to attend the AFS Annual Meeting in St. Louis in August, 2000. If you have any comments or questions about the Palouse Unit, please contact Eric Stark or David Hogan at 208-885-6434.

The Palouse Unit would like to recognize the following members or past members who have recently graduated from the University of Idaho. Congratulations!

#### **Graduate Students**

John Cornell, M.S. - *"Bull Trout - brook trout interactions"*

Richard D. Nelle, M.S. - *"Smallmouth bass predation on juvenile fall chinook salmon in Hells Canyon reach of the Snake River"*

Craig D. Rabe, M.S. - *"Effects of winter flood-landslide events on mid-elevation North Idaho streams"*

Scott Everett, M.S. - *"Life history and ecology of three benthic fishes of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers"*

Yasunari Kiryu, Ph.D. - *"Toxic responses after parentel applications of erythromycin to*



*salmonids*"

Tami Reischel, M.S. - *"Migration routes and fallback events of adult salmon and steelhead at Bonneville Dam on the lower Columbia River"*  
Lance Clarke, M.S. *"Juvenile kokanee diet and growth, and zooplankton community dynamics in Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho"*

### **Undergraduates in Fishery Resources - Spring 1999**

James P. Bronson  
Wade P. Cavender  
Rebecca Jo Dodds  
Robert P. Glennon  
Jodi C. Neil  
Robert G. Ryan  
Danielle J. Schiff  
Kevin L. Traylor  
Jacob A. Venard  
Tyler Wagner  
Cody L. Williams

### **AFS STUDENT WRITING CONTEST**

Laura Hutchcroft (Parent Society)

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) is holding its annual writing contest to recognize students who do an excellent job communicating the value of fisheries research to the general public. Undergraduate and graduate students are asked to submit a 500 to 700 word article explaining their own research or a research project in their lab or school. The article must be written in language understandable to the general public (i.e. journalistic style). Students may write about research that has been completed, is in progress, or is in the planning stages. Most important is that students write their articles in a manner that the general public can understand so people can appreciate why the research is important and how it could help society and the fisheries resource.

The top three winners will be invited to the AFS annual meeting (at winners expense), where their articles will be prominently displayed at the poster session; they also will be given a plaque recognizing their achievements. The winning

articles will be published in FISHERIES. The deadline for submission of articles is January 15, 2000. Please mail five copies of the article to Laura Hutchcroft, AFS; 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110; Bethesda, MD 20814. If you have any questions, please contact Laura at 301-897-8616 ext. 201.

### **EDITOR'S NOTES**

Mark Gamblin

This is a reminder and a request for materials for the January newsletter. If anyone has information for the newsletter, I will need it no later than January 7, 2000. Those Committee Chairs who did not get a report in to me for this edition, be advised, I will be contacting you for an update to the January edition. Happy holidays to all!

**COMMITTEE LEADS**

		Home	Work	Fax
<b>Water Quality/Quantity Anadromous Fishes</b>	Brett Roper	208-765-7488	208-765-7223	
	Dan Herrig		208-378-5321	
	Greg Mauser		208-334-3791	
<b>Native Fishes</b>	Ed Lider	208-765-6157	208-664-2318	208-769-3062
	Mike Owen	208-245-5885	208-245-2531	208-245-6052
<b>Riparian Public Education</b>	Dale Allen		208-465-8441	
	Jim Fredericks		208-769-1414	208-769-1418
	Chris Downs		208-769-1414	208-769-1418
<b>Stream Hydraulics Funding</b>	Karen Smith		208-465-8404	
	Kevin Meyer		208-465-8404	
<b>Membership Palouse Unit</b>	Tony Lamansky		208-384-3157	
	Jill Silvey			
	Co-Presidents:	Erik Stark, Dave Hogan		208-885-6434
Vice President:	Andy Dux			
Secretary:	Darin Jones			
Treasurer:	Will Young			
Undergraduate Rep.:	Tad Kisaka			
Graduate Rep:	Lorrie Haley			

**Call for Program Contributions  
WDAFS Y2K Annual Meeting  
Telluride, Colorado  
July 16-22**

The location and dates are set for next years annual meeting. The place is Telluride, Colorado, and the facilities have been reserved for the week of July 16-22. The Program Committee has begun planning for a fun, interesting and relevant meeting, but we'd like your help. After all, it is your meeting. The more ideas we get for workshops, symposia and sessions, the better we can make the program for you. At this time we are informally soliciting your ideas. They don't necessarily need to be refined or finalized right now; we can do that a little later. What's important is that we hear your ideas for the Y2K meeting program.

If you have something in mind for next year's meeting, let us know. Remember, this is the first WDAFS meeting of the new millennium! Together we can make it the best. Send, call, or e-mail your contributions and ideas to:

Bill Bradshaw  
Program Committee Chair  
Sheridan, WY 82801  
307-672-7418  
Bbrads@misc.state.wy.us.

Thanks, we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
WDAFS Y2K Program Committee