

November 1996

Randy wears mink fur hat given him by Russians

Randy Reeve Goes to Russia

Randy Reeve of ODFW has just returned from a month in Russia, working on steelhead on the Kamchatka Peninsula with Moscow State University (MSU). This scientific expedition, under the auspices of the non-profit Wild Salmon Center and MSU, was to study the habits of the endangered steelhead by using the radio telemetry techniques Randy has used successfully in the Siletz River drainage. The Russians have only rudimentary knowledge of steelhead, but unlike in the U.S., when a species is endangered in one river, the entire drainage basin is closed for that species. Only about 6-8 people in Russia have any knowledge of steelhead, which are found only in the Kamchatka Peninsula.

Randy took telemetry equipment donated by Advanced Telemetry Systems with a dry cell battery (essential to the success of the project) donated by Les Schwab Tires Company of Newport. He worked with Dmitri Pavlov, the head ichthyologist of MSU, and Ksenya Savvaitova. In addition, American fly fishermen paid between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to be allowed to go over and assist with the research. The fishermen caught 17 steelhead and Randy then inserted the radio tags into the fish stomachs and released the steelhead. They then tracked the fish over 25 miles of the Utkholok River. In addition, a data tracker was installed in the mouth of the Utkholok to pick up signals of fish going into the tidal area.

The area is all tundra and almost totally uninhabited. There were far more grizzlies than people. The expedition was careful to stay right on and by the river, as the shoulder-high grass next to it was loaded with grizzly signs. To reach this deserted area, the team first flew into Petropavlovsk at the south end of the peninsula, then drove eight hours north to the town of Esso, past badly deteriorated concrete villages and a few ornately decorated older houses. Next, the expedition flew into the area in Russian helicopters (MIAs like those used to move troops in Afghanistan) and a Russian camp crew provided meals for the scientists. They dined on two-course meals every night, including fresh-caught ptarmigan and caribou. Randy saw the spectacular white-shouldered Stellar Eagles, but no grizzlies.

Knowing no Russian, Randy found he was forced to focus on the basics of communication and by the end of the month had learned to play a very complicated card game called "Crazy Russian." His guides told him that there are more active volcanoes in Kamchatka than any other region of the world, with eleven volcanoes active since 1990. Esso was all thermally heated, with fresh greenhouse tomatoes. He also admired the 6-wheel drive army vehicles with controls that allowed the driver to adjust the air pressure up or down on any of the individual tires while they were

driving. They could bleed air out to get better traction and then on smooth roads pump more air into them to firm them up.

This Bud's for You!

This Bud (Balloch) does work for you and your families as a Red Cross Blood Drive recruiter and donor (EPA). He and the other recruiters Tonya Builder (NMFS), Jessica Waddell (NOAA) and Jodene Summers (ODFW) made it possible for us to reach our 40-pint blood drive goal this last month. Special thanks also go to Marcia House, Linda Conser, Susan Mills and Kelly Rossbach for pitching in at the last minute to help with registration and the canteen.

The HMSC has gained quite a good reputation for meeting or exceeding our blood drive quotas and for being so pleasant to work with. Those of you who donated blood, thank you for making it possible to give 120 people another chance at life. To those of you who haven't discovered the wonderful feeling of helping another at virtually no cost, there will be another blood drive in March. At that drive we will need more volunteers to serve as escorts, registrars and canteen hosts, so there will be plenty of chances to participate.

News and Brews from the Astoria United Nations

The new school year has brought new research, new students and an unexpected award. Paul Dion, a fisheries consultant from Chile, spent a month in Astoria with Michael Morrissey doing superchilling for Oregon trawl-caught fish. He worked on boats in Astoria, Newport and Brookings and the industry was impressed with the quality of fish and extended shelf-life as a result of the superchilling process. Jae Park and B.Y. Kim (visiting professor at the lab) attended a USDA Regional Research Committee (NE-123) meeting in Columbus, Ohio in October. Jae has been the OSU representative since 1993, for this organization of selected food scientists that focuses research work on the functional properties of food proteins.

Several new students have joined the Seafood Lab this Fall. Ozlem Akpinar from Turkey and Shin Hee Kim from Korea are studying under Haejung An, while Jassi Kaur from India and Shu-er Shiu from Taiwan are studying with Michael Morrissey. Ole Torreson from the Marine Research Institute in Bergen, Norway visited the Seafood Laboratory to discuss proteases with Haejung An and also give a lecture on salmon aquaculture in Norway. He reported that if the markets are there, Norway could be producing 1 million metric tons in ten years.

Michael Morrissey won the 2nd Annual Brew Competition in the Department of Food Science in Corvallis. He and fellow brewmeister Paul Benoit have won two years in a row to the chagrin of the Corvallis brewers. They named their beer "Fishmonger's Ale" and say that there is no truth to the rumor that Pacific whiting juice is added as their secret ingredient.

Chadwick Gets \$275,000 Grant

Bill Chadwick of the NOAA VENTS program is happy to report that he has received a three-year, \$275,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. Bill has developed an instrument called an extensometer that uses acoustic signals to measure seafloor spreading. Last year he deployed his prototype instrument and found what modifications were needed. The extensometers are placed like a kilometer-long picket fence across a seafloor spreading zone. Each of the twelve instruments sends an acoustic signal to its neighbor twice a day. The time it takes for the signal to reach the other instrument measures the distance between the "pickets." As the seafloor spreads, the data recorded by the instruments allows researchers to determine if the spreading occurs on a consistent basis or if it moves sporadically.

The instruments will be placed on the Seafloor Observatory, an area about 200 miles west on the Juan de Fuca Ridge set aside by the RIDGE program for intensive study of seafloor processes. Each of the modified extensometers will have an acoustic modem that will allow the data to be picked up by a ship overhead, instead of having to be picked up and pulled to the surface to be read. Batteries will keep the instruments going for several years, although funding has been provided for a shipboard visit the next summer after installation.

The Seattle Pacific Marine Environmental Lab (PMEL) will be building the instruments (see diagram) for deployment next summer by the *ROV Jason* out of Woods Hole. The Canadian *ROV Ropos* came to an untimely end this last season. It was being hauled on board during a terrific storm and the cable snapped. *Ropos* fell into the sea and they were unable to retrieve it. Fortunately, no one was injured and there was no damage to the mother ship despite the wild swinging of the ROV.

Siletz Bay Tidal Marsh Restoration Project Underway

The Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge is one of the newest USFWS coastal refuges, which started by a donation by John Gray of a parcel right off of Highway 101 in 1991. The Refuge now has 416 acres, thanks to a \$500,000 land acquisition budget last year and this year. Once a salt water tidal marsh, this area was diked and drained to be used as pasture over 60 years ago. Trees were able to grow in the changed environment, but in the big storm of 1981 the dike was breached and the resulting salt water intrusion killed the trees (the patch on the east side of 101 right before you reach Lincoln City).

The failure of the tide gate and breach in the dike have begun the conversion back into tidal marsh. The USFWS is working with matching funding by Ducks Unlimited to make the conversion complete. Surveyors are currently determining the elevations and current status of the entire dike. They plan to fill the dike with dirt from the borrow channel and level that area. This will maximize the tidal flow and increase the productivity of the marsh for ducks and other waterfowl, shore birds, salmon smolts and other species that use the estuary as a nursery. A pair of bald eagles use the area and there is a great blue heron nesting colony there as well.

This will be the first tidal marsh restoration project on the coast (see map for location). There are additional restoration plans that await purchase of other parcels in the Bay.

The Softer Side of Science

Sara Heimlich-Boran will be working with the marine mammal group, doing what she calls "the softer side of science." This will include document preparation, technical writing and logistical support. Although she was born and raised in Hollywood, California, Sara has become quite a traveler. At age 14 she moved to Geneva, Switzerland, where her parents underwent training as physicians. When she reached college age, she moved back to the States and earned her B.S. from Evergreen State in Washington and her M.S. in Marine Science from Moss Landing (Cal State).

She then did research on orcas in the San Juan Islands for twelve years before moving to Cambridge, England, where her husband had a full scholarship. While there she worked eight years with the Sea Mammal Research Unit on ASCOBANS (Agreement on Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Sea). This was the first international agreement in Europe to cover cetaceans not covered by the International Whaling Commission. Harbor porpoises are especially hard hit in Europe.

Once again back in the States, Sara and her daughter Erin (13) are getting settled. She is an artist in several mediums and enjoys hiking and juggling. She also speaks French and Spanish fluently and considers herself an expert in packing.

New Public Wing Computer Support Person Arrives

As part of the support staff for the renovated public wing, a new computer support position was developed and funded. Dan Cutter will be responsible for making sure that all the computer programs and closed loop videos will remain in working order in the new interactive displays. A native Oregonian, Dan served two years in the Navy as a Nuclear Electronics Technician before coming back to civilian life.

His stint in the Navy developed a love for sailing and he recently purchased a 30-foot sailboat, which is his current home. He is still learning to sail and looks forward to doing that out of Newport.

Man Stacks 2 1/2 Million Tons of Hay

Tony Watson, Physical Plant Manager, stacked two and a half million tons of hay between the time he was 9 years old and when he graduated from high school. Born and raised on a farm in Idaho, Tony, his father and brother set up a custom hay-stacking business. Often getting by with four hours of sleep, they would be up at 3 a.m. in all kinds of weather to stack hay. Not surprisingly, after graduation Tony moved to the island of Kona, Hawaii to get warm for three years. While he was there he met his future wife, who hailed from Depoe Bay, Oregon.

Before he came to work at the HMSC in 1986, Tony had worked in dredging, carpentry, construction, and then commercial fishing for king crab and black cod on the *F/V King and Wing*. Right before he came as a temporary replacement for Hugh Peterman at the HMSC, Tony had been working for six years at Little Whale Cove as a maintenance man.

Many people know that Tony teaches Tae Kwan Do and is a third-degree black belt. He got into martial arts after sustaining a stress fracture of one of his vertebrae while cleaning up after the 1982 wind storm. The doctor gave him a list of activities to do that would strengthen the muscles in his back. The first on the list was swimming and he did that for a year without much improvement. The second on the list was martial arts and so he and his son Kasey went to a Tae Kwon Do demonstration and decided to sign up. Although Kasey went on to other activities, Tony has continued and now teaches Tae Kwon Do for the Lincoln City Parks and Recreation Department. He is involved in tournaments all over the Northwest.

In his spare time Tony still enjoys being in the outdoors: fishing, hunting, hiking, mountaineering, skiing, rafting and spelunking. Tony and his wife Krista have two children, Kasey (17) and Autumn (11). Krista works at the Oregon Employment Office.

Personnel Notes

Bob Randall just couldn't get used to retirement and is now back at work with EPA as a part-time SES management assistant. He works on receiving and purchase orders four days a week. He enjoys being with his old colleagues while not having to worry about major headaches. Welcome back, Bob!

Karin Lamberson has joined her parents at the HMSC (**Janet** works for EPA and **Philip** for ODFW). Karin, a junior at Newport High School, is a student worker at the Guin Library.

Eric Geisler has moved on from his position as computer support for Bruce Mate's group for another position elsewhere.

NOTE: All basketball players are asked to please be careful with Bill Hanshumaker. We need him!

Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 12 for the annual noon HMSC Christmas Potluck!