

CICHLID BLUES



Issue #173

January 2011

Newsletter of the Pacific Coast Cichlid Association

Visit the PCCA at www.cichlidworld.com

CICHLID BLUES

Newsletter of the Pacific Coast Cichlid Association

www.cichlidworld.com

Editor: David Fraguglia.....(408) 391-1983
1026 Pinenut Ct., Sunnyvale, CA 94087
Email: d_frag@yahoo.com

Board of Directors of the PCCA

Sonny DiMeo	President.....	(408) 221-9430
David Powell.....	Vice President	(831) 461-9349
.....	Secretary.....
Anthony Tu.....	Member	(408) 258-8732
Doug Habersaat.....	Member	(650) 962-8340
Mike Gale	Member	(925) 818-9097
Vern Smith.....	Member	(510) 770-1672
David Fraguglia	Member	(408) 391-1983

PCCA Chair Positions

Archivist	Mark Tomasello.....	(714) 661-6295
Auction	Jim Ellenberger.....	(408) 225-0639
Awards	Sonny DiMeo.....	(408) 221-9430
Back Issues	David Powell	(831) 461-9349
BAP.....	Jim Ellenberger.....	(408) 225-0639
<i>Cichlid Blues</i>	David Fraguglia	(408) 391-1983
<i>Cichlidae Communiqué</i>	Jim Ellenberger.....	(408) 225-0639
Conservation & Grants.....	Chuck Rambo	(408) 225-9175
Exchanges.....	Pam Chin	(916) 682-3742
FAAS	Sonny DiMeo.....	(408) 221-9430
Fish Market.....	Kevin Lee	(415) 203-7308
Historian	Doug Habersaat	(650) 962-8340
Membership.....	Jim Ellenberger.....	(408) 323-0639
Nominations.....	OPEN.....
Programs.....	Jojo Espiritu.....	(209) 529-8015
Promotions.....	OPEN.....
Purchasing.....	Chuck Rambo	(408) 225-9175
Raffle	Sonny DiMeo.....	(408) 221-9430
Sales.....	Doug Habersaat	(650) 962-8340
Special Events.....	Chuck Rambo	(408) 225-9175
Web Master.....	Anthony Tu.....	(408) 258-8732

Cichlid Blues is published bimonthly alternating with the *Cichlidae Communiqué*, Journal of the PCCA. The Pacific Coast Cichlid Association was founded in August 1980 to meet the needs of the West Coast cichlid hobbyist and, as stated in *Cichlidae Communiqué* #1, "to create an environment which fosters education and the exchange of ideas in a social atmosphere". By-laws were constructed in 1983-84 and the PCCA was incorporated under the laws of the State of California on January 30th, 1985.

REPRINTS: Original material in *Cichlid Blues* may be reprinted by nonprofit organizations (unless otherwise noted) provided that the PCCA, *Cichlid Blues* and the author are credited and two copies of the publication containing the reprint are sent to: PCCA, P.O. Box 28145, San Jose, CA 95159-8145.

NOTES & NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

PCCA Staff	2
Notes & News	3
Membership Report	3
The Prez Mess	4
Entirely Lost	5
Reflections	6
Next Meeting Notice	13
The Last Word	14

Editor's Notes...

The New Year! AHHHHhhHH!

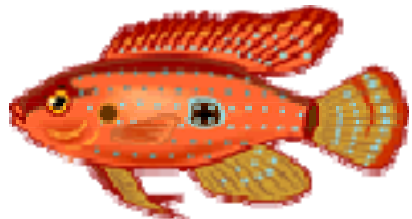
1. Sonny, the Ex-prezz, I'm not sure I'll get used to that.
2. We bid adieu to Vern Smith, The Glass Box will be missed.
3. When I think Reflections, the theme/ bumper song for China Beach pops into my head.
4. Okay, how do you move your entire life in 3 days?
5. PETA, nuff said.
6. Time to vote! Get out the Vote! Vote for new Board Members!
- 7.

- Ed.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

AS OF JANUARY 7, 2011

CURRENT MEMBERS	95
SINGLE MEMBERS	76
FAMILY MEMBERS	6
LIFE MEMBERS	10
CORPORATE MEMBERS	3



THE PREZ MESS

The Ex-Prez Mess... By Sonny DiMeo



We enter a new era here at the PCCA with our new digs at Harry's Hofbrau. I appreciate all of you hardcore cichlidiots for hanging with us through the Round Table years. The room which is reserved for us holds well over 125 people and doesn't have dividers. Additionally, there is a full bar within yards of the room and that makes me a very happy man. Our last two months did not have a raffle and January will definitely have one and our social hour will begin around 5:00 - 5:30PM with the speaker going on around 7:00PM or so. For those of you selling tanks and other larger items or have a lot of fish to sell, please come in through the entrance to the room. Harry's does not want us disturbing the patrons as Saturday is a busy day for them. You will find the food selection very good and the quality of the food even better.

We were supposed to have elections at the December meeting but due to the 9PM late start that we were forced to accept by Round Table, there was no time. We will have voter slips to hand out and need all attending PCCA members to vote and for those of you who are on the BOD of the club, we will have our meeting at Harry's this month either before or after the general meeting. We are required to finish our meetings at 10:30PM so that the cleaning crew can get the room ready for Sunday. This is my last Prez message since I am termed out. It has been a pleasure to serve all of you at the PCCA. I will remain on the BOD and who knows, maybe I will be resurrected to prominence one day.

This month we have the return of one of my top 3 speakers, Spencer Jack. Spencer is funny, Canadian and enjoys hecklers. Now where are you going to find that combination unless you bring Adam Sandler or Robin Williams to the meeting? The topic will be Gymnogeophagus of Uruguay? Though you may not collect these fish, this promises to be one of the best presentations of the year. I am very excited about our new location and I think the additional room, better food and great location will increase our membership. I hope to see you this Saturday and don't forget to get thereat 5:30PM or so to get your dinner and a table.

Sonny

ENTIRELY LOST

Entirely Lost: Inane Ramblings of a Novice Fishkeeper

By David Fraguglia

How did I manage to get myself into a mess like this? Having to move all of my worldly belongings, as well as live fish out of one place, and into another, one that ostensibly can't have fish. Well I'll admit I still have a couple of tanks left, can't get rid of all of the fish, while I certainly tried to with most, I couldn't give up some groups. We'll see if I can manage to keep them alive via the Ellenberger method™.



Taking a small slice of Dr. Ron's column, I can reflect on the fact that nearly all of what I own fits nice and tightly into a 10' by 10' storage space in the greater bay area. I've kept what I need out, the laptop, books, and clothing. Heck I packed the fish food, that was a fun dig.

I'll admit I am rambling, The Blues is undertaking a bit of a change as you can see. Vern has left us, to be replaced by Dr. Ron Coleman. And now our fearless leader El Presidente Sonny, has been termed out, so no more messy notes from him. We'll see who gets to take up the mantle. And if I can manage to find my desktop computer amongst the 10' squared area, I might change the Blues a little bit. Give it a face lift, or adjustment. We'll see, it hinges on finding the computer.

And I've suddenly run out of space. So I'll have to explain the Ellenberger method™ in a coming issue. Look for it.

David

REFLECTIONS

Changes

By Dr. Ron Coleman

Sometime back in the late 1980s, as a somewhat younger man working on my university education, I recall stepping into one of the large aquarium warehouse stores in Toronto (“Big Al’s”) for a little break to see what was available. Retail in Canada was different than it was in the US (at least at the time). Canadian retail, whether you are talking about shoes, tires or aquarium fish is dominated by fewer, larger chains and the notion of the “independent” retailer is rare if not non-existent. Big Al’s was different. They were (are) a group of three large stores spaced evenly around Toronto. Each store had hundreds of tanks, containing fishes that most Canadians had never seen. On this day, a tank of Spotted Raphael catfish (*Agamyxis pectinifrons*) caught my eye. Basically they are stubbly little brown blobs with spots, maybe a couple of inches long. I purchased a couple and I recall that I forked over something like \$4.99 each. A few months later I purchased another one and so I had three. Little did I realize how long that investment would last.



For nearly two decades, I kept those catfish. They lived in various tanks along the way, including a bucket for the 5 day drive from Toronto to California in 1993, finally ending up in a 155 gallon bow-front tank in my living room for the last decade. They were never a lot to look at. They basically hide under wood or rocks. In fact, there have been times when I was sure they had perished because I had not seen them for three or four months. They do not move quickly. Most of the time, they do not move at all. Late last year they started going downhill. As befits a creature that lives a slow life, they died slowly as well. I had to transfer each one to its own little private “basket” in the large tank, to protect them from the very large chocolate cichlids that share

REFLECTIONS

their home. A couple of months ago, my friend Rich Bireley proclaimed that surely one of them had died, given the fact that it was lying motionless on its back. But, upon picking it up, the fish wriggled and vibrated and Rich had to concede that it was still alive, if just barely. Sadly, that fish finally died on November 1, over 18 years after I purchased it, followed a few days later by one of its original buddies. The third one remains (motionless, but very much alive). Eighteen years is a long time for a fish, or so I thought...

It turns out, that like certain other fishes such as oscars, arowanas, lungfish, rockfish and sturgeon, it is not unique for these little catfish to live a long time. A search using Google revealed <http://aqualandpetsplus.com/Catfish,%20Raphael.htm> and a page entitled "How to Succeed with Your New Raphael Catfish". On that page, besides a few of the basic husbandry facts (they come from Brazil, etc) are a number of comments entered by readers who note how long their Raphael catfish lived. People wrote about Raphael catfish living 13, 15, 17, 18, 20 and even 22 years, and some are still going strong!

I cannot claim that I went to extraordinary lengths to keep these nondescript little fish alive. They typically hide under wood and only normally come out at night. Nonetheless they are endearing little fishes, reaching a maximum of about six inches. They are members of the Doradidae. Probably their most unusual trait is that when you pick one up, they make an adorable little squeaking noise, hence their nickname of "squeakers" or "talking catfish". Like so many fishes, many of the "pearls" remain hidden until you know where, when and how to look for them.

The passing of these fish served as a catalyst for some reflection. First, I am struck by how much the hobby has changed since I first acquired these little catfish. So many companies and products have come and gone. My favorite "Fish Net Breeder Baskets" are no longer available so I guard my existing ones carefully. Back then, if you said sponge filter, you probably were referring to the Tetra Brilliant contraptions with the green tubes that were an alternative to the UNDER-

REFLECTIONS

GRAVEL filters so popular back then (yes, people, including myself, paid good money for undergravel filters – lots of them!). The Jungle brand sponge filters appeared (and have now since disappeared) but we now have the ATI sponge filters and various other similar products that work well and make our lives easier. Heaters appear to have gone through a performance cycle from highly unreliable in the late 1980s, to rock steady in the late 1990s, and now back to highly unreliable. And of course, if we want to buy some of these, or even just find out a little about them, we can go online and find out all that we want and more. That certainly was not possible in the early 1990's.

Even the fishes have changed. Species like *Psuedotropheus demasoni* were not even in the hobby back then and yet now are common. Other species were not yet even discovered. And many, many fish names have changed and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The bottom line is that change is inevitable. Some things are lost along the way, but hopefully they are replaced by new opportunities.

I will close this column by pointing out a local change that means a lot to members of the PCCA. Jim Ellenberger has decided to close down his Mainly Cichlids shop in San Jose. For those of us that gathered at “Manly Cichlids” before the PCCA meetings, those times will be missed dearly. I want to thank Jim for many years of wonderful hospitality and friendship and wish him well on his new opportunities.

Ron

SPONSORS

THANK YOU

The PCCA is very fortunate to have many corporate, retail and private sponsors.
Please support them as they have supported us!

AQUATIC LIFE FORMS

1247 N. Mary Avenue
Sunnyvale, Ca 94087
408.245.9600

KRITTER TANKS

Phone/Fax: 650-561-4404
E-mail: gen@krittertanks.com
164 Jefferson Drive
Suite D
Menlo Park, CA 94025
www.krittertanks.com

NEPTUNE AQUATICS

1752 Houret Ct.
Milpitas, CA 95035
Phone/Fax: 408-935-9471
www.neptuneaquatics.com

OUR GENEROUS CORPORATE SPONSORS

Aquaria Inc.
Aquarium Systems
Ecological Laboratories
Fastags
Hartz Mountain
Hikari Products, USA
Kent Marine
Marineland
Ocean Rich Supply
Pentair Aquatics
Python Products
Tetra
Tropical Resources.net
ZooMed

Aquarium Pharmaceuticals
Boyd Enterprises
EG Danner
Hai Feng Food
HBH Enterprises
Jungle Labs
Kordon/Novalek, Inc
Ocean Nutrition
Ocean Star International
Perfecto Manufacturing
Rolf C. Hagen Corp.
Tropical Fish Hobbyist
Worldwide Aquatics

BAP STANDING

By Jim Ellenberger

With this issue being a little late, I have not had the time to update the BAP point totals.

But since this is a new quarter, we will need a new BAP Lite Special: how about any Lake Malawi, Lake Tanganyikan, or Lake Victorian cichlid? Sounds good to me.

- Jim

BAP REPORT & POINT SUMMARY

Current Point Totals -- As of November 11, 2010

Bireley, Rich.....	595	Bousfield, Dan.....	120	Cain, Bill and Tessa.....	3810
Chin Family.....	21255	Coleman, Ron.....	2302	Di Meo, Sonny.....	140
Ellenberger, Jim.....	13352	Fraguglia, Dave.....	140	Francis, Jimmy & Angie..	555
Gale, Mike.....	50	Hansen, Troy.....	1795	Hooks, Roger.....	5540
Hopp, David.....	2872	Huerta, Eric.....	50	Kennedy, John.....	230
Kennedy, Warren.....	1210	Kong, Richard & Brandon..	275	Lambert, John.....	980
Mader, Rolf.....	3010	McLaughlin, Michael.....	1085	Mortensen, Michael.....	298
Plante, Leo.....	1640	Plazak, Kevin.....	6070	Powell, David.....	160
Pyle, Michael.....	550	Rambo, Chuck.....	5005	Rinck, Mike.....	365
Ritchie, Forrest.....	695	Sasakado, Toshiyuki.....	1273	Sexton, Patrick.....	50
Shields, Robert.....	2643	Smith, Vern.....	830	Spielman, Daniel.....	2423
Tomassello, Mark.....	1665	Tu, Anthony.....	9178	Zadnik, Kurt.....	7535

Point Changes in *Italics*

Largest Point Increase – Jim Ellenberger 13002 to 13352 a 350 point increase

These are the current point totals as computed by the BAP Committee Chairperson. If you have any questions, please see the Chairperson at the membership meetings, or contact the Chairperson at the phone number listed on page 2 of the *Cichlid Blues*. Any participants not in good membership standing will be deleted from the BAP points report after a one issue grace period.

FISH MARKET

Members may have 10 lines of advertising free. Additional lines cost 50 cents each. Equipment may also be listed. The PCCA cannot guarantee the quality of items advertised here.

Send your Ads to:
Kevin Lee
461 6th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94118-3009
r2mr2@aol.com

Neptune Aquatics

All PCCA members receive 10% off
Neptune Aquatics Team
1752 Houret Ct., Milpitas, CA 95035
Phone: 408.935.9471
<http://www.neptuneaquatics.com>
sales@neptuneaquatics.com



YOUR AD COULD BE HERE



Acrylic Aquarium Fabrications
www.KritterTanks.com

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome New PCCA Members

Many of you may be reading this issue for the first time as a PCCA member. This space has been designated to both welcome you and introduce you to some of the benefits and services available to you.

First, you should check the mailing label on the cover to see that your expiration date is correct. If it is different from your expectations you should contact the Membership Chairperson noted on page two of this newsletter.

With that out of the way, a list of club services and benefits are in order.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

All PCCA members may participate in regular Membership Meetings, supply items for the auction, run tabs to purchase auction items and utilize other club resources.

PUBLICATIONS

On every even numbered month, each member will receive the *Cichlidae Communiqué*. This award-winning journal is supplemented on the odd numbered months with the *Cichlid Blues*, quite possibly the finest blue newsletter in the entire world.

CONTESTS, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Members are also eligible to participate in club sponsored events such as field trips to other area clubs, seminars on aquarium related subjects, conferences and work-shops.

Additional member benefits include a Breeders Awards Program whose standings are listed in the *Cichlid Blues*, the finest, all blue aquarium related journal

PCCA

P.O. Box 28145
San Jose, CA 95159-8145

Membership Application

Membership Dues

		<u>Printed</u>	<u>Emailed</u>
Single:	One Year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15
	Two Year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
Family:	One Year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20
	Two Year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Foreign:	One Year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15

Foreign includes all locations outside the North American Continent.

Members Receive:

Cichlidae communiqué
PCCA Journal, Bimonthly
Cichlid Blues, PCCA Newsletter,
Bimonthly (emailed)
Free Fishmarket Advertising,
Both publications

- New Member Renewal
 Change of Address

Name:

Street:

City:

State/Zip:

Telephone:

Email (required):

*January 8, 2011
Spencer Jack
"Uruguayan Gym-
nogeophagines"*

Meeting Time and Location

5:00

Harry's Hofbrau

390 Saratoga Avenue

San Jose, CA

Upcoming Events

January 8th
Spencer Jack

February 12th
Jim Ellenberger

March 12th
TBD

January 8th, 2011
Harry Hofbrau

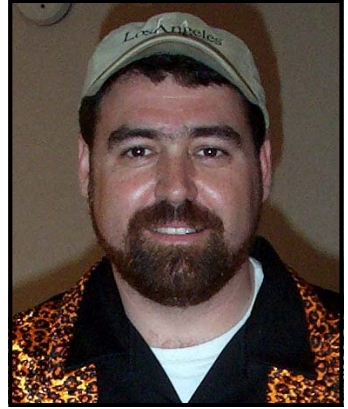
Meeting

Starts Promptly
at 6:00 pm

Social hour at 5:00 pm
Large monthly Auction
Items include fish, aquar-
ium items and books.

THE LAST WORD

The Last Word By Kevin Plazak



Is PETA right? Are aquarists basically bad people with no sense of moral center? Are we, as aquarists, torturing animals and abusing life on this planet? Well... the answer in the broadest strokes are "Hell no"! To be fair, there are a lot of aquarium fish that die every year and aquarists that breed fish frequently have a lot of fish die off. In point of fact, a lot of fish die before their life span is up when they are in the hobby. That said...

Fish that are brought in from the wild (which, at one point or another has been all of them) serve as ambassadors to all fish kind. I'm serious, stop chuckling! Most fish are under water most, if not all of their life. As such, it is wildly difficult to ever see them since we humans spend most, if not all of our life on land. If a fish can't be seen on land, it is likely to never be seen at all. Further, if humans don't see something they frequently put them out of their mind. And with fish out of humankind minds, they don't spend a moment thinking about them. And this is where PETA gets it wrong.

PETA will point to the fish that are killed by the hobby. The morality of a dead fish is enough argument to get them to try to ban all fish from aquaria. All this does is doom the species, the genus and eventually all tropical fish. How do I jump to this conclusion you ask? Simple -- without empathy for tropical fish, there is no awareness of tropical fish. Empathy is built on familiarity which is built in home aquaria. No fish in peoples homes leads to no awareness of tropical fish which leads to apathy. If no one cares about the fish, the habitat near the fish can be pillaged because PETA will not stand up for habi-

(Continued on page 15)

THE LAST WORD

(Continued from page 14)

tats -- only pets.

Spock has always made the point "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, or the one". The fish that are lost while being a part of the hobby die to help build awareness of the fish in the wild. And a species that lives for generations and millennia because of the awareness brought by a fish that lived in the hobby makes their lives worth the sacrifice. If the genes persist because some of the fish were put into our hobby -- that is a good thing. And if the fish die due to poor shipping -- that isn't a great thing, but it will potentially lead to good things.

As an example of people and pets -- dogs evolved with people. People who had dogs in the tribal times were more successful with the dogs than without. Pets have shaped the human species -- PETA, as a tribe, should be dead. Frankly, I wouldn't be all that unhappy if they choose to forgo dogs if technology fades and they are the tribe without dogs... they will be the losing tribe and extinct in short order as evolution meant for humanity. We are geared to have pets and that is as it should be. PETA is an aberrant clan that will serve all species by failing to thrive.

So, when confronted by a PETA spouting fool and they are pointing out all the bad things that came from having pets... ask them about the extinct species of fish in home aquaria. Ask them if extinction is better than having them in aquaria. They probably don't know that aquarists have saved a number of species from extinction. And without us, as extinctions speed up -- without us more species will be lost forever.

Silly PETA...

Kevin

Pacific Coast



Cichlid Association

CICHLID BLUES

Issue #173 Newsletter of the Pacific Coast Cichlid Association January 2011

Pacific Coast Cichlid Association, Inc
P.O. Box 28145
San Jose, CA 95159-8145

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

DELIVER TO:

www.cichlidworld.com