


# CICHLID BLUES



*Issue #174*

*March 2011*

*Newsletter of the Pacific Coast Cichlid Association*

*Visit the PCCA at [www.cichlidworld.com](http://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

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*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 30<sup>th</sup>, 1985.

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# NOTES & NEWS

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Editor's Notes...

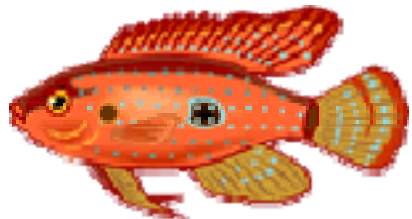
1. Guest Editor...guess who?
2. David, the New-Prez, I'm not sure I'll get used to that.
3. Dr. Ron is back from Costa Rica! Did he take any cute girls?
4. The Ellenberger method™ explained.
5. Morality and Ethics, from Kevin? What is this world coming to?

- Ed.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

AS OF MARCH 10, 2011

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| CURRENT MEMBERS   | 95 |
| SINGLE MEMBERS    | 79 |
| FAMILY MEMBERS    | 6  |
| LIFE MEMBERS      | 10 |
| CORPORATE MEMBERS | 0  |



# THE PREZ MESS

## The Prez Mess...

By David Powell

Following in the great political traditions established by our government, I would like to take full credit for all of the great things that will happen this year due to the hard work of our past President. I would also like to blame any difficulties that we will face on events already set in motion by the same guy. Seriously though, thank you Sonny for another great two years. It is an exciting time to be involved with the PCCA. Our new location is excellent! This place is so much better than trying to hold a meeting across three separate small rooms. This coming meeting we should have more tables and we are looking at putting a row down the middle like we had at the old Round Table. What did you think of the way the fish bags were put out for the auction? The intent was to allow more people to look at the bags at once. Let us know what you like and dislike as we try to figure out the perfect setup for the meetings. If you know anyone who no longer comes to the meetings, make sure to tell them about the new location.



As I sit writing this message, I hear my house heater kick on yet again. I think that our January speaker (Spencer Jack) forgot to take the cold back home with him when he visited. It makes me wish that I had some of those Uruguay cichlids that he showed so that my tank heaters wouldn't be running all of the time! Well, maybe only one tank, as I do love my Rift Lake Cichlids. Jim gave a great talk in February. Who knew that so much thought needed to go into shipping fish? Jim let us in on many of the tips and tricks that he picked up over the years in his store. Speaking of Jim, let's hope he finds a local job soon. R.D. Webster from Ocean Nutrition/SF Bay Brands was set up at the meeting to show us what foods they have available for our fish. SF Bay Brands has been a sponsor of the PCCA for many years and we were glad to have them at the meeting. Our April speaker will be Pam Chin. She will be showing us pictures and talking about her latest trip to Africa. It will be a talk you won't want to miss.

Happy fish keeping!

*David*

# ENTIRELY LOST

**Entirely Lost: Inane Ramblings of an Expert Fishkeeper**  
**By Jim Ellenberger**



How did I manage to get myself into a mess like this? David moved and he left me doing this issue of the Blues. The guy is a Mac guy, and that means that the software that is used to put the Blues together is either not available for the Mac or it is very expensive. I hope Dave quickly finds his new house so he can get his PC out of storage, gets a good internet connection, and can get his fish room going.

I hoped you liked the cover, it was Dave's idea. That is the new home of Mainly Cichlids, which is in my garage. Not nearly as big as before, and the selection is smaller, but it is a lot less work and my dogs like to come in, so it is to my liking!

So David mentioned in the last issue that he would explain the "Ellenberger method™" when you run out of room. Actually, it works both ways, when you have too much room or not enough room. All you do is change the font size and you can make anything fit. Here are some examples:

If you have too much space, you can increase the font size.

If you don't have the space, you can decrease the font size.

Of course, you don't want to mix them because that would look bad.

*Jim*

# REFLECTIONS

Both sides of the road

By Ron Coleman

I recently returned from a research trip to Costa Rica and we had the good fortune to visit some rivers that I had not seen before, namely those on the east side of the Osa Peninsula. The Osa Peninsula is on the southwestern edge of Costa Rica and is best known for Corcovado National Park. Corcovado is one of the most untouched regions of Costa Rica and yet therein lies the issue. The only reason I could visit these streams on the edge of the park, and why I had not visited them in the past, was because the former dirt trail to this region was now a brand spanking new paved highway.



As some may know from my previous talks to the PCCA, I have had the good fortune to explore Costa Rica for the last twenty years (starting in 1989). It is not a huge country, but it has an incredible diversity of habitats in a relatively small space. The Central mountain range creates a rugged landscape ranging from fast-moving mountain streams to lazy coastal lagoons. Cichlids of many different species live and thrive in these varied habitats. I do not have the funds to partake in “cowboy ecology” of the kind you see in movies where the scientist takes off in a helicopter and lands in some remote untouched land. I drive. On roads. Granted, I may utilize a 4 wheel drive vehicle and we have been known to leave the good roads for a few miles here or there, but largely we are limited in our explorations to where the roads go.

# REFLECTIONS

As the roads push further, so do we. I recall about six years ago when the derelict Pan American highway that runs down the western slopes of Costa Rica, from Nicaragua down to Panama and beyond, was surfaced with solid new asphalt. Our previous adventures up towards the northwest had been incredibly slow, averaging 10 miles per hour, with kidney jarring potholes by the thousands per linear mile. Now, that same mile can be crossed in a minute and we are able to push further into the northwest than ever before.

Just a few years ago, the road down the Pacific coast was almost impossible to transverse during the wet season. The bridge south of Manuel Antonio park was not just a single lane, but it had basically two sets of planks, one for each set of tires. You had to drive perfectly straight across the bridge, all the time fearing that your tires would fall off of the planks, leaving you stuck and stranded in the middle of the bridge. In my nightmares, I expected that the locals, incensed that I had gotten stuck on their only transportation lifeline, would simply walk out and heave my vehicle over the side of the skeleton bridge. Of course they never did that but it left a strong impression in my mind. Now, in place of the rickety structure is a brand new two-way paved bridge and most travelers cross without a thought. Much has been gained, but something has been lost as well. All down the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, the new four-lane highway has brought tons of business, tourists and even a few scientists such as myself, but the area is no longer remote in the least. It is dotted by restaurants, hotels and gated communities, definitely an improvement in the eyes of some, but an incredible loss in the eyes of others.

One of the last vestiges of true remoteness is the Osa Peninsula.

# REFLECTIONS

Not too long ago the only way to get there was by boat or horseback. Now you can drive there. That is not to say that it is a simple drive. While the road on the peninsula is great, as of January, the connector to the mainland is still only for the faint of heart. In one place, fully half of the road had slide down into a valley, marked only by a stick with a little piece of yellow tape on the top of it. We made a note of that stick as we drove one way during the day; it was a valuable thing to remember when we came back to that spot in the pitch of darkness!

And yet, it was because of the new road, and the adventurous connector to the mainland, that were able to find new populations of *Archocentrus sajica*, an attractive relative of the convict cichlid, down the east side of the Osa Peninsula, in rivers where they had never been recorded previously. There is also a fish, namely *Astatheros diquis*, down there somewhere that eludes us. We thought we had found that fish before on the mainland, but what I had found turned out to be *Astatheros altifrons*. The true location of *A. diquis* in the wild remains a goal and the only way we are going to find it is using one of those new roads.

# SPONSORS

## THANK YOU

The PCCA is very fortunate to have many corporate, retail and private sponsors.  
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Worldwide Aquatics

# BAP STANDING

By Jim Ellenberger

Well, I finally got the BAP totals updated. I had to, I needed to turn in all of our submissions into the ACA for their Breeder of the Year award.

This is the last month of the BAP Lite Special for Malawi, Tanganyikan, and Victorian cichlids. Next quarter (April thru June) will be any Central American cichlids for the BAP Lite Special.

- Jim

## BAP REPORT & POINT SUMMARY

### Current Point Totals -- As of March 10, 2011

|                              |              |                           |      |                           |             |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Bireley, Rich.....           | 595          | Bousfield, Dan.....       | 120  | Cain, Bill and Tessa..... | 3810        |
| Chin Family.....             | 21255        | Coleman, Ron.....         | 2302 | Di Meo, Sonny.....        | 140         |
| <b>Ellenberger, Jim.....</b> | <b>14577</b> | Fraguglia, Dave.....      | 140  | Francis, Jimmy & Angie..  | 555         |
| Gale, Mike.....              | 50           | Hansen, Troy.....         | 1795 | <b>Hooks, Roger.....</b>  | <b>5620</b> |
| Hopp, David.....             | 2872         | Huerta, Eric.....         | 50   | Kennedy, John.....        | 230         |
| Kennedy, Warren.....         | 1210         | Kong, Richard & Brandon.. | 275  | Lambert, John.....        | 980         |
| <b>Mader, Rolf.....</b>      | <b>3010</b>  | 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.....         | 2818         | Smith, Vern.....          | 830  | Spielman, Daniel.....     | 2423        |
| Tomassello, Mark.....        | 1665         | Tu, Anthony.....          | 9178 | Zadnik, Kurt.....         | 7535        |

### Point Changes in *Italics*

#### **Largest Point Increase – Jim Ellenberger 13352 to 14577 a 1225 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:

**David Fraguglia**

1026 Pinenut Ct.

Sunnyvale, CA 94087

[d\\_frag@yahoo.com](mailto:d_frag@yahoo.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>  
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# 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):



*March 12, 2011*  
*Pam Chin*  
*"Exploring Lake*  
*Malawi"*

**Meeting Time and Location**

**5:00**

**Harry's Hofbrau**

**390 Saratoga Avenue**

**San Jose, CA**

Upcoming Events

March 12th  
Pam Chin  
Lake Malawi Travelogue

April 9th  
Kevin Plazak  
Apistogramma

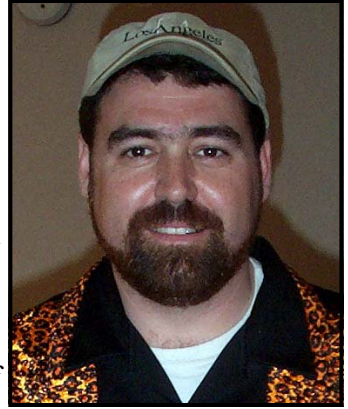
May 14th  
Chris Clevers  
Nutrition and Foods

March 12th, 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



Morality and ethics... you can already feel the fun drain from this article... stick with me here.

Morality is a personal thing. A code of behavior that works for a person. If you are okay with eating hot dogs, you'd say it is moral to eat hot dogs. If you feel eating weiner dogs (Dachshund) is immoral -- you probably wouldn't do it. Morality is also flexible -- you might feel eating hot dogs is okay as long as the meat that is in it is from farm animals. You won't actually read the ingredient list most of the time and I know farmers who own Dachshunds...

Ethics are a bit different. Ethics are not flexible -- which has always given me fits when trying to sort it out. Is it ethical to shoot one innocent person to save 20 innocent people? Apparently, that isn't ethical. It is moral if your moral code allows for that. Ethics are black and white standards for behavior. And this is where we reinsert the fun in the article.

The pursuit of happiness. Yep, I'm going deep. The pursuit of happiness is right in there in our Declaration of Independence. It is an American value to pursue happiness -- but not the way it has been bent to serve the greedy. The statement our founding fathers meant is that our nation -- all of us together -- are to pursue happiness as a nation -- not as individuals. We are not anarchists chasing singular dreams by ignoring our fellow Americans. We are all in this big melting pot together, pursuing an illusive happiness.

Are there any cichlids in this... ANY? Please, I'm getting there...

People don't do well without plants and animals. We eat them, they

# THE LAST WORD

are a part of our family, our "tribe", our nation. Respecting our ties to the animals -- in this case, cichlids -- will enhance our life. In keeping cichlids we are pursuing our own happiness. And treating these fish well is something that improves our knowledge of the fish and (most importantly) our empathy for all cichlids. And when you have ties to the natural world and share that empathy with folks who do not know the simple beauty and joy of a cichlid with fry -- you are spreading that knowledge when the time works.

Dramatic pause... pull back the camera to reveal his point...

Cichlid keepers are one piece of the larger puzzle of the pursuit for happiness. We are truly serving our nations goals by ethically keeping our fish. Ethically treating them, housing them, feeding them, breeding them... and folks who dilute species blood lines are not ethically caring for their fish. They are destroying the species by removing the genes that make up the two species in the hybrids. It might be moral but it sure as hell is not ethical.

Also not ethical is trying to stop fomenting empathy for fish. It is not even moral. Folks who are trying to regulate our cichlid trade are, in fact, doing so outside the constitutional mandate set forth by our founding fathers. And more importantly -- their creations are motivated by greed and ego. And that is why the pursuit of happiness has nothing to do with one individual; it is our nations happiness that is at stake by misunderstanding our constitution.

Jimmy Durante had it right... he was a damn good American.

Make someone happy,  
Make just one someone happy,  
And you will be happy, too.

*Kevin*