



Rocky Mountain Cichlid Association

The Cichlidafile

2013 Officers

President: Keith Kiggins
Vice President: Kevin Fehringer
2nd Vice President: Lynn Hopkins
Secretary: Ed Duggan
Treasurer: Sam Chin
Sergeant-at-arms: Corey Theis
Member at large: Terry Havalka
Member at large: Matthew Grant
Programs/Speakers: Bob Grauer
Membership: Terry Havalka
Webmaster: Keith Kiggins
Publications: Kevin Fehringer
Pub. Asst.: Natasha Hedgecock
Grow-out: Steve Huff
Bowl Shows: Corey Theis
Hospitality: Corey Theis

Membership

Membership to the RMCA is \$15 per year, due January of every year. Membership applications any other time are prorated. Meetings are the second Sunday of each month unless otherwise posted. We meet 9 months out of the year, not in July, August, or December. Membership checks can be sent to Sam Chin PO Box 172403, Denver, CO 80217 For more info call Sam at 303-915-4992 or email at samchin57@comcast.net

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is next Sunday, November 10th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Englewood Recreation Center, 1155 W. Oxford Ave. This is our annual election of board members meeting, so plan on coming to select the people YOU want leading your club. We'll have a mini-auction, free pizza, Bowl Show, Growth Contest and door prizes.

From your Vice President...

The time is quickly approaching for giving thanks. No, not Thanksgiving, Fall Auction! Every fall we come together to celebrate the successes we've had in our fish rooms, and to share (i.e. buy) in our friends successes. Last spring we had our biggest auction to date. We sold over \$10,000 worth of fish and dry goods! There's no reason to believe we can't do better this fall. Our auction is the coming Saturday, November 2nd at the First Plymouth Congregational Church. The details can be found on the next page.

Also this month are the all-important elections. No, not that ballot you received in the mail. The Rocky Mountain Cichlid Association board of directors election. This is your chance to vote for the people you believe can continue to lead your club to bigger and better successes. I'm excited about this year's slate of candidates. Check out the article later about the positions being voted upon this year, and the people that are vying for them.

We've also got a cool Growth Contest fish coming for the meeting. If you want to know more, keep reading!

See you Saturday,

Kevin

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Fall Auction

It's that time again! The Rocky Mountain Cichlid Association Spring Auction to be held on Saturday, November 2nd at the First Plymouth Congregational Church, 3501 South Colorado Blvd, Englewood, CO 80123. This is at the southwest corner of Colorado and Hampden. The auction will begin at 11:00 with the doors opening at 9:00 for sellers to register auction and quick sale items. Viewing of auction items begins at 10:00.

Watch for directions in the parking lot regarding unloading and parking. There is a convenient area to load and unload for the auction, but don't plan on leaving your vehicle there! Revenues have been down for the Cherry Hills Police Department. Don't give them an excuse to try and fill their short-fall.

Complete auction rules and seller sheets are available at <http://rmcichlid.org/wp/auctions/>.

Let's all work to make this a highly successful auction. Help spread the news about the auction by handing out flyers at your favorite establishments. The auction is always a good time to share in each other's success' as well as looking for new and interesting fish to stock your tanks with. Come on down and have a great time!

Auction Notes

The Spring Auction went quite well, thanks to everyone paying attention and doing what they should do. Thank you! Here's a few notes on what helped make us successful.

Labels and Seller's Sheet—Many people seem to prefer writing out their own labels. This wouldn't be a problem, as long as your handwriting is good. We had many bags at the last auction that the handwriting was illegible and made things difficult, not only for the auctioneer who is trying to get you a good price, but for the workers who have to write out the auction tag. Do yourself and the crew a favor and use the seller's sheet found on the auction page of the website. You don't have to buy the labels (just print them out on a sheet of paper and cut them out). Also, cover your labels with packing tape to make sure the ink doesn't run.

Bagging—Make sure you bag your fish well. Leaking bags slow down the process and you get charged a rebagging fee. Make sure your rubber bands are tight. Double bag whenever possible. Not only does it minimize the chance of leakage, but it creates gentle curves in the corners so your fish don't get trapped and die in the corners of the bag. This has been enough of a problem that there will be a station at registration to check all the bags for leaks, size of fish, and number of bags.

Size of Fry—Make sure your fry are of selling size. Our auction rules specify that the minimum size is 3/4 inch. This will be checked at the registration table.

Number of Bags—Sellers are limited to no more than fifty (50) items to be auctioned with no more than five (5) bags of the same species or color morph. For example, you could bring five (5) bags of *P. Zebra* 'red dorsal' and five bags of *P. Zebra* 'Chilumba'. You can not bring four bags of *P. Zebra* 'red dorsal' adults and four bags of *P. Zebra* 'red dorsal' fry.

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2013 Elections by Kevin Fehringer

November is our traditional time for elections to our Board of Directors. This year will be no different! As you have read previously, Keith is stepping down at the end of his term this year to focus on other priorities. I want to personally thank Keith for his dedication and perseverance in directing our club to the place it is proud to reside now. He has done a phenomenal job guiding, pushing, cajoling, and driving this organization. We owe a debt of gratitude for his service!

In addition, Lynn Hopkins will not seek re-election as 2nd Vice President. Lynn has served this club well for many years in this capacity. His vision and opinions will be greatly missed.

This year, we will elect a new President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Member-at Large. Ed Duggan, and Terry Havalka have agreed to let their names stand to continue on the board. Natasha Hedgecock, Jesse Schumacher, and Erik Witek have also agreed to stand for election this year.

The time commitment for the board is normally minimal. Our by-laws call for three board meetings a year, although we frequently “meet” via email. The description for the positions are as follows:

The **President** shall preside at all general and executive board meetings at which he is present. He shall exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the RMCA. In addition, the President shall appoint all committee chairmen. The standing committee’s chairmen shall be: Bowl Show, Auction, Program, Growth Contest, Breeders Award Program. The president may establish additional committees as may be required to sustain the functions of the RMCA. The candidate for President is Terry Havalka.

The **Second Vice President**, in the absence of the President and First Vice President, shall assume the duties of the President. The Second Vice President shall assist the other elected officer in times of need. The candidate for 2nd Vice President is Jesse Schumacher.

The **Secretary** shall keep the original minutes of all executive board and general meetings of the RMCA, and one copy will be provided to the President which shall be the accurate and official record of all business transactions. The Secretary shall maintain a current membership list and all such other records as directed by the executive board. The Secretary is also responsible for keeping an accurate record of all attendance of members and visitors and accountability and inventory of all fixed assets. The Secretary will also handle correspondence with any other cichlid association. The candidate for Secretary is Ed Duggan.

There is no specific responsibilities for a **Member-at-Large**, except to attend board meetings. The candidates for Member-at-Large are Natasha Hedgecock and Erik Witek.

While the elections are held in November, the board is installed during the January meeting. If you, or someone you know, would like to try for the opportunity to be elected to the board, please let me know (fehringerk@ecentral.com). I welcome anyone willing to serve on our board.

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Congratulations to our October Bowl Show Winners:

Malawi—1st Chuck Pollet - (*Nimbochromis venustus*), 2nd Erik Witek - (*Nimbochromis venustus*), 3rd Matt Grant - (*Nimbochromis livingstonii*)

Tanganyika— 1st Matt Grant - (*Altolamprologus calvus* Nkata Bay Yellow), 2nd Chuck Pollet - (*Neolamprologus pulcher* Albino), 3rd Chuck Pollet - (*Altolamprologus compressiceps*)

Other African / Asian— 1st Erik Witek - (*Neochromis omnicaeruleus* Muhuru Purple), 2nd Chuck Pollet - (*Hemichromis lifalili*), 3rd Erik Witek - (*Thoracochromis brauschi*)

New World— 1st Matt Grant - (*Acarichthys heckelii*), 2nd Jesse Schumacher - (*Uaru amphiacanthoides*), 3rd Kevin Fehringer - (*Apistogramma agassizi* “Fire Red”)

Open (Fry, 5 min., < 1.5”)— 1st Erik Witek - (*Astatotilapia latifasciata*),



Chuck Pollet's *Nimbochromis venustus*



Erik Witek's *Neochromis omnicaeruleus*



Erik Witek's *Neochromis omnicaeruleus* Muhuru Purple



Matt Grant's *Acarichthys heckelii*



Erik Witek's *Astatotilapia latifasciata* (Zebra Obliquidens)

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Growth Contest—*Cryptoheros panamensis* by Sam Borstein (Photo by Sam Borstein)

Cryptoheros panamensis—The Panama Cichlid

Synonyms: *Cichlasoma panamense*, *Neetroplus panamense*

Meaning of Name:

Genus- *crypto*= refers to breeding habits of fish (Greek), *heros*= original type genus (Greek).

Species- *panamensis*= from Panama, where this fish occurs.

Intro: *Cryptoheros panamensis* is a very pretty, small growing C. American, endemic to Panama. This fish, typed by Meek and Hildebrand in 1913 is not the most popular member of *cryptoheros*, but is definitely one of the more colorful and aggressive. This fish has been thrown around when it comes to phylogenetics. It was thought to be a member on *Neetroplus* for a while, but after looking at teeth and jaw structure, it was moved to *Archocentrus*, and then to *Cryptoheros*. It remains in *Cryptoheros* even after the Schmitter-Soto paper, but is now in a monotypic sub-species *panamius*.



Distribution: *Cryptoheros panamensis* is only found in Panama.

Size: Males-4.5 inches, Females-3.5inches (Maturity: 1 inch)

Sexual Dimorphism: Males are larger than females, and attain trailers to the anal and dorsal fin. Females also take on a black and white breeding dress.

Tank/Care: *Cryptoheros panamensis* is an easy fish to keep. They are extremely aggressive for a member of their genus, so a large tank is needed. *C. panamensis* seems to be only very aggressive within its own species, but will go after other fish. If you want to keep them with something, look for a fast fish that can take a beating. Aggression between individuals, especially males is extreme, and they will eventually whittle down to a pair. I've heard males can be rough on females. This was not my experience. *C. panamensis* is a hearty fish, and really needs no special treatment. They do great if you can do water changes once a week. their color will show more, and in my experience, be more likely to spawn.

Diet: *Cryptoheros panamensis* is an omnivore, and will accept almost any food offered.

Breeding: *C. panamensis* is easy to breed. They will breed young and small, my female was about an inch, my male 1.5 inches when they first bred. These fish once started won't stop. If I pulled eggs or fry, my pair would spawn again within 10 days. Before spawning, the female changes color drastically. Instead of having the mottled red color, they turn a mottled black and white. The change reminded me of both *Neetroplus neematopus*, and *Herichthys carpintis*. *C. panamensis* are great parents. Of course, like most other cichlids, the first spawn may fail, which was my case, but after that, they were marvelous parents. Like many Central Americans, the female stays over and fans the spawn, while the male defends the territory. In *C. panamensis*, my experience is that the female does all the work. She is relentless towards any other fish, even the male. She had all the other fish in a 3 foot tank pinned in the corners, except for the male, who was on the other side. Once free swimming, the female allowed the male into the male in the territory. Together they raised the fry for about 1 month until I pulled the fry.

Fry are easy to raise, and grow quickly. They do great at first on baby brine shrimp, and then on crushed flake.

Conclusion: *C. panamensis* is one of my favorite Centrals. They are nasty, pretty, and easy to keep. If you like members of the convict like fishes, you will love these guys. I do recommend keeping an easier species similar to convicts first, because these can be difficult to deal with. Don't expect to find these at a pet shop. These fish are available from hobbyists though, and are relatively inexpensive.

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Holiday Party

We will hold our annual Holiday Party December 14th at the home of Becky and Terry Havalka. Thank you to both of them for allowing us to come in and celebrate the successes of the past year. Their address is 6406 South Estes Street, Littleton, CO 80123.

The club will provide the main course and non-alcoholic drinks for the dinner this year. We ask that everyone bring a vegetable, salad, bread or dessert. You may also bring adults beverages of your choice.

An invitation will go out later in November after the monthly meeting through our newsletter distribution list.

We will also hold our celebrated White Elephant gift exchange at the Holiday Party. If you wish to participate, bring your gift (fish-themed, of course!) that doesn't exceed \$15 in cost.

We look forward to seeing you there!

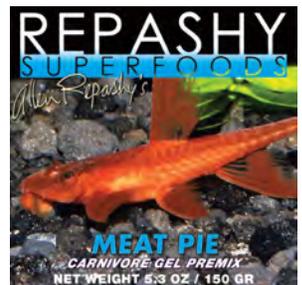
Trading Post

The Trading Post section is dedicated to helping you raise awareness of fish or equipment that you'd like to sell or give away. If you have something you wish to advertise on the Trading Post, email fehringerk@ecentral.com by the end of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

Repashy Foods!

Bob Grauer has Repashy foods gel foods available. Choose from Soilent Green for Aufwuchs eaters (algae-types), Community Plus for omnivores, Meat Pie for your carnivores, Morning Wood for your cellulose eaters, Spawn and Grow for your fry, or Shrimp Souffle for your scavengers. If you haven't tried it yet, what are you waiting for?! If you have tried it, you gotta be out by now!

Bob also has cichlids for sale from Lakes Malawi, Tanganyika, and Victoria. Email him to find out what cool fish he has available at



balibob5151@gmail.com!

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November Bowl Show Categories

Malawi:

GROUP 3: Aristochromis, Caprichromis, Chilotilapia, Ctenopharynx, Cyrtocara, Docimodus, Genyochromis, Hemitilapia, Labidochromis, Melanochromis, Naevochromis, Otopharynx, Placidichromis, Pseudotropheus, Serranochromis, Taeniolethrinops, Tropheops.

Tanganyika:

GROUP 2 Asprotilapia, Baileychromis, Boulengerochromis, Chalinochromis, Cyathopharynx, Ectodus, Gnathochromis, Haplotaxodon, Julidochromis, Lestradea, Loboichilotes, Ophthalmotilapia, Perissodus, Pseudosimochromis, Spathodus, Telmatochromis, Trematochromis, Tylochromis, Xenotilapia

Other Africans/Asians:

GROUP 3: Anomalochromis, Benitochromis, Chromidotilapia, Danakilia, Enterochromis, Gaurochromis, Haplotilapia, Heterochromis, Labrochromis, Lithochromis, Myaka, Oreochromis (*O. esculentus*, *O. mossambicus*, *O. niloticus*, *O. variabilis*), Paralabidochromis, Paretroplus, Pharygochromis, Psammochromis, Ptychochromis, Pungu, Sargochromis, Stomatepia, Thysochromis, Yssichromis.

New World:

GROUP 2: Acaronia, Andinoacara, Archocentrus, Australoheros, Bujurquina, Chaetobranchus, Cleithracara, Cryptoheros, Guianacara, Heroina, Hoplarchus, Krobia, Mesonauta, Nandopsis, Paraneetroplus, Pterophyllum, Satanoperca, Tahuantinsuyoa, Thorichthys, Vieja.

Open: Favorite Fish

Save The Date!



November 2—RMCA Fall Auction, First Plymouth Congregational Church

November 10—RMCA Meeting, Englewood Recreation Center

December 14—RMCA Holiday Party, Becky and Terry Havalka's House

January 12—RMCA Meeting, Englewood Recreation Center

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