



Rocky Mountain Cichlid Association

# The Cichlidafile

## 2014 Officers

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

## From your President...

The January meeting was a busy one. We had a lot of conversation during the Business portion of the meeting, an informative presentation on Fish Diseases by our own Kevin Fehringer (Thank you!), good participation in the Pot Luck and one of the largest Min-Auctions in the last couple of years. Thank you to everyone for your continued support and participation in the pot-luck and mini-auction at the monthly meetings. For those of you who have not been to a meeting in a while you are missing out on some good food and some amazing deals in the mini auction.

As January comes to a close it is time to focus our attention on the Spring Auction which will be the main focus of our February meeting. This month's meeting will be the last before the Spring Auction which is will held on March 8th at the First Plymouth Congregational Church. While this auction will be a typical [live auction](#) as it has been for years, we will be using the MyGroupAuctions website to automate the registration of [buyers](#), sellers, and items for sale. This is an exciting change which brings with it the ability for buyers to preview items that will be included for sale in the auction as soon as they are entered online by the seller (which could be days before the actual auction) as well as the ability for sellers to track the items that have sold and the [selling price](#), in near real time. As with anything new there may be some bumps or hick-ups along the way. In an attempt to alleviate as many issues as possible we will be performing a mock auction during the February meeting that will hopefully give everyone some exposure to the new system and work out some of the kinks before the actual auction. If you are not planning on attending the February meeting please check the rest of the newsletter as well as the RMCA website for additional information on how to use the MyGroupAuctions website. In addition to the mock auction we will have fish bags and rubber bands for sale at the meeting as well as the normal bowl show, pot-luck and mini-auction.

Lastly, we have one other important change for the February meeting in that we will be meeting at the Colorado Academy which is located at approximately Wadsworth and Hampden Ave in Lakewood. This is only a few minutes' drive west of the Englewood Rec Center and will give us some much needed additional space. Again, please see the newsletter and website for directions to the new [meeting location](#).

See you at the meeting!

*Terry*

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## Next Meeting

Our next meeting is a week from this Sunday, February 9th, at 5:30 p.m. at Colorado Academy, 3800 South Pierce Street, Denver, CO 80235. This is a change from our usual meeting location. Our focus this meeting will be to perform a mock auction using MyGroupAuctions.com to educate us on its use and to work out any bugs we might find before our regular auction in March. This will also be our last meeting before the auction, so if you need bags be sure to come! We'll have a mini-auction, a pot luck, Bowl Show and door prizes.

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## February Bowl Show Categories

### Malawi:

GROUP 2—MBUNA—Abactochromis, Cynotilapia, Gephyrochromis, Iodotropheus, Labeotropheus, Labidochromis, Melanochromis, Metriaclima, Petrotilapia, Pseudotropheus, Tropheops.

### Tanganyika:

GROUP 2—JULIDOCHEMIS, LAMPROLOGINES, SHELL-DWELLERS—Altolamprologus, Chalinochromis, Julidochromis, Lamprologus, Lepidolamprologus, Neolamprologus, Telmatochromis, Variabilichromis.

### Other Africans/Asians:

GROUP 2—OTHER AFRICAN CICHLIDS—Alcolapia, Anomalochromis, Astatotilapia, (*A. desfontainii*), Benitochromis, Chetia, Chilochromis, Chromidotilapia, Congochromis, Cyclopharynx, Danakilia, Divandu, Enigmatochromis, Etia, Gaurochromis, Gobiocichla, Haplochromis (*H. burtoni*), Hemichromis, Heterochromis, Konia, Limbochromis, Macropleurodus, Myaka, Nanochromis, Oreochromis (*O. mossambicus*), Orthochromis, Parananochromis, Pelmatochromis, Pelvicachromis, Pharygochromis, Pseudocrenilabrus (*P. nicholsi*), Pterochromis, Pungu, Saratherodon, Sargochromis, Schwetzochromis, Steatocranus, Stomatepia, Teleogramma, Thoracochromis, Tilapia.Thysochromis.

### New World:

GROUP 2—SOUTH AMERICAN CICHLIDS—Acarichthys, Acaronia, Aequidens, Amphilophus (*A. festae*), Andinoacara, Astronotus, Australoheros, Biotodoma, Bujurquina, Chaetobranchopsis, Chaetobranchus, Caquetaia, Cichla, Cichlasoma (*C. dimerus*), Crenicara, Crenicichla, Dicrossus, Geophagus, Guianacara, Gymnogeophagus, Heroina, Heros, Hoplarchus, Hypselecara, Krobia, Mazarunia, Mesonauta, Pterophyllum, Retroculus, Satanoperca, Symphysodon, Teleocichla, Uaru.

**Open:** Rainbows

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## **Don't Leave Your Fish Out In The Cold** *by Tory Brown, President, Colorado Aquarium Society*

One of the important factors in the health of your fish, right after clean water and food, is temperature. What you don't know is that the thermometers in your aquarium are lying to you. It is not a little lie, it is a big lie. Testing off the shelf aquarium thermometers I found a 15 degree temperature swing, only one out of five was within 5 degrees of the real temperature. I am going to suggest that you probably don't know what temperature your fish are, and that is a huge factor in your aquarium success.

As an old time photographer, working in the old style chemistry, temperature was critical to success, I have several laboratory grade 12" glass/mercury thermometers. When I gathered all of my fish room thermometers together and compared them to the laboratory grade thermometers, I saw a 15 degree temperature swing. With over 100 tanks, I have a lot of thermometers and I began wondering where truth was. I took the laboratory thermometers down to a local lab and checked them against their standard to make sure I had at least one that was accurate.

I began throwing away the more inaccurate thermometers and peeling the contact strip type thermometers off and throwing them away. I had no contact strip thermometer that was within 5 degrees. I took my glass underwater aquarium thermometers and weeded them out, they were also very inaccurate, only a few were close enough to survive the cut. Then I took my digital probe thermometers and made a note on each one as to its error. A piece of tape on each thermometer now notes the error and gives a correction for each such as +3 degrees or -2 degrees. I thought I had won the battle, I now knew what the temperature was in each tank. Wrong!

My friend at the laboratory pointed out that digital thermometers are dependent on the health of their battery, they change out the batteries monthly. The digital units rode a boat to get to you, then sat on a shelf, the battery in most new units is weak right out of the packaging. I swapped out batteries and found that I was then changing the correction factor. No matter what fancy brand name was on the digital thermometer or how much they cost, they all are battery dependent for accuracy, and their batteries have very short useful lives.

With over 100 tanks, I don't have heaters, I rely on my home heating system which I have balanced to keep my fish room at 80 degrees. There is a big difference between the tanks near the heat vent (82-85) and the tanks near the windows or door (75-78). There is an 6-8 degree difference between tanks on the lower level of the three tier stands and the top tank. Tank tops, plants and lights also affect temperature. I consider the 2-3 degree temperature drop when the lights are off over night to be a natural thing, and I don't worry about it, but the type of light will impact the daytime temperature. A tank covered with floating plants will run cooler than the identical tank with no plants on the top. Floating plants absorb the light and heat before it can penetrate. A tight cover on a tank will raise the temperature 2-3 degrees compared with an open tank. Even a partial cover will slow down evaporation and raise the temperature 1-2 degrees. I use the "finger in the tank" to see what tanks may be off as I make my rounds feeding, then use a thermometer to verify any major variances. Many times a cover was left off, or a light is about to burn out, but the finger will warn me. With all my planning and work, my stable temperature in my tank room is far from stable. I still have to plan where to put certain fish in order to keep them at the correct temperature. But now, I know what the temperature difference is, where it is, what causes it and I can manage it.

I suggest that you bring in a few of your thermometers to the next club meeting. I will bring in the

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## Membership Dues

Yeah, you were hoping I would forget! It's that time of year again, for everyone to initiate or renew their annual membership for 2014. Sam will be at the meeting with a smile on his face, eagerly waiting to help you sign up! Don't disappoint him and make him wait!

Huh? WHY should you become a member? There are several reasons! First, it's only \$15. What other organization can you join with that low of a membership fee? Your dues are one source of income for the club to perform its duties, such as providing for the meeting space, prizes and awards, paying for speakers, and covering other operational expenses the club has. Second, membership has its privileges. The summer picnic and holiday party are limited to those members. The club provides the main dish for these functions, and we have yet to serve you a LF albino plecostomus! Your membership dues will likely pay for themselves at the auction. Members get to keep a larger percentage of the sales of their fish and goods at the auctions and mini-auctions. Finally, it's the right thing to do. Every penny you put into this club goes right back out to benefit the membership. We try to help you with your goals in the hobby. There are many very good people that can provide great advice to you to make you more successful with your fish, usually because they have made the mistakes themselves. Most are not shy about sharing their secrets to success, but they will equally share in their stories of failures. Invest in your future and the future of your hobby and join us! Don't make Sam have to act like the Sheriff of Nottingham! (You REALLY don't want to see him on a horse!)



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## Save The Date!



February 9—RMCA Meeting, Colorado Academy, Denver, CO

March 8—RMCA Spring Auction—First Plymouth Congregational Church, Denver

March 9—RMCA Meeting, Englewood Recreation Center, Englewood, CO

March 22—CAS Spring Auction, United Methodist Church, Arvada, CO

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# Congratulations to our January Bowl Show Winners:

**Malawi**—1st Dave Schieltz - (*Aulonocara* sp. Red Shoulder)

**Tanganyika**— No Entries

**Other African / Asian**— No Entries

**New World**— No Entries

**Open (Favorite Fish)**— 1st Dave Schieltz - (*Synodontis lucipinnis*)



Dave Schieltz's *Aulonocara* sp.  
Red Shoulder

Tanganyikan  
No Entries

Other African / Asian  
No Entries



New World  
No Entries

Dave Schieltz's *Synodontis lucipinnis*

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## Spring Auction

Don't miss it! The Rocky Mountain Cichlid Association Spring Auction will be held on Saturday, March 8th 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 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!

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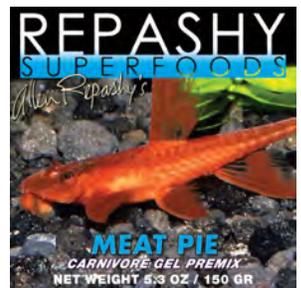
## Trading Post

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 [fehingerk@central.com](mailto:fehingerk@central.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](mailto:balibob5151@gmail.com)!



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