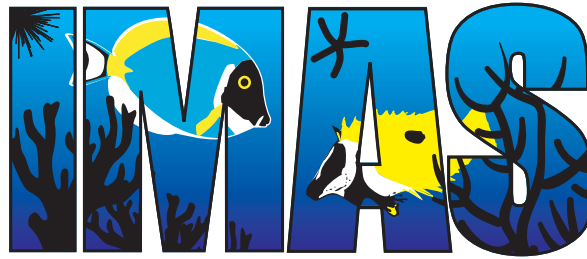


Idaho  
Marine  
Aquarium  
Society



October  
2004

# Newsletter

## ***Planning for our Annual Christmas Party and Raffle***

Last year our Christmas party and raffle was a huge success, no one left empty handed. This year is looking to be even better, with a few improvements. All IMAS members will receive 3 free raffle tickets just for coming. Also, this year you will be able to select the particular items that you want. This gives everyone more of a chance of winning items that suit their individual needs. We are accepting donations now. As of this printing we would like to thank these local sponsors for donating towards this annual event:

**Fish Aquariums & Stuff, Garden Center West, Jen's Saltwater Haven, & Petco.**

Watch for the IMAS posters in the local fish stores for more sponsors and info.

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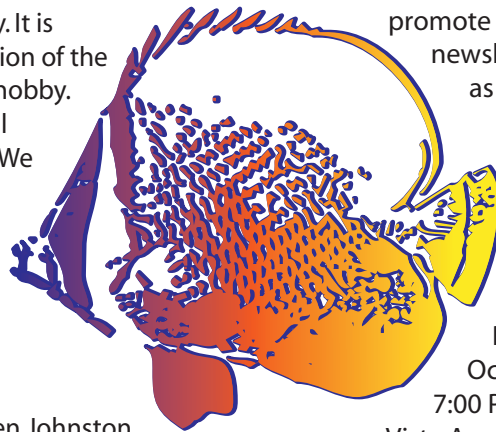
### **Club Info**

Thanks for your interest in the Idaho Marine Aquarium Society. We exist to promote and grow the marine aquarium hobby in the Treasure Valley. It is organized as a loose fraternal association of the people that help each other with the hobby. Activities include monthly educational meetings, newsletters and tank tours. We are also proud to announce our affiliation with MASNA!

#### IMAS Officers:

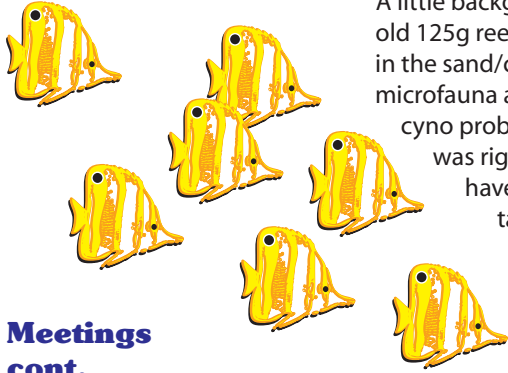
President: Scott Morrell  
Vice-President: Kim Gross  
Secretary: Angela Miller  
Treasurer/Membership Chairman: Glen Johnston  
Newsletter Editor: Christy Griffith  
Publicity Chairman: Chuck Simmons  
Webmaster: Stephen Nipper and Tren Long

Membership fees are an annual donation of \$20 (\$10 for 6 months March - August) to help promote the growth of the club, distribute newsletters, and provide benefits such as local aquarium store discounts, and bringing in expert speakers.



### **Meetings**

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM. Our next meeting will be our October meeting, October 12th at 7:00 PM at the ICRMP Building, 3100 S. Vista Ave, Boise. The topic is Phosban Reactors and Hair Algae Solutions. We hope to see you there.  
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## Meetings cont.

The September meeting was another great learning experience. Scott Morell covered the basics about setting up nano-reef tanks starting with the myths associated with smaller tanks. Shown, were pictures of Marsha Wadsworth's 20 gallon reef to show that a beautiful tank can be with a nano. We discussed water parameters and how temperature, salinity, calcium and alkalinity all affect reefs. Different types of lighting and filtration systems available for nano reef tanks including the pros and cons of each were covered. The animals like coral, invertebrates, and fish that are compatible with reefs were covers with many of the requirements these animals need. Maintenance tasks like water changes, cleaning, and adding supplements were discussed. References were provided at the end with an emphasis on the locally owned stores.

In August, IMAS had the great privilege of having Mike Paletta come and speak about coral propagation and coloring. After Mike and a few of the IMAS members finished playing in the water (whitewater rafting) Mike gave an excellent talk on coral propagation and coloring. This topic covered ALL the basis from basic tank chemistry to problem algae to feeding and maintaining your saltwater reef tank. A big thanks to Mike for coming to Boise and teaching us so much!

## Fighting the Hair Algae Battle

This month I will be speaking about the use of a Phosban reactor in your reef aquarium. This miracle devise has worked wonders for me and my hair algae problems. I wanted to let fellow reefers know that the hair algae battle is not easy to win and there isn't any one thing that will fix the problem, however there are things than can help. Over the last 11 months I have tried almost everything.

A little background. I was able to purchase a poorly maintained, heavily fed 5 year old 125g reef tank November of last year. During the winter move I lost all the life in the sand/cc substrate and some in the rocks. I re-seeded the tank with healthy microfauna and LR from my 55g. After about a week or two I began having serious cyno problems. It was growing strong the tank when I purchased it but the price was right. I treated with red slime remover which worked wonders and I haven't seen it since. However it did open the door for the hair algae to takeover and it TOOK OVER.

These were some of the things I tried:

1) We turned the 55g into a sump/refugium. This was the first advise, get a good macro algae and it will starve the hair algae. This didn't work but it is good for the tank as a natural filter, had to have one anyway.

2) I took out all the rock (150-200lbs, three different times!) and scrubbed it in three different buckets of saltwater. The tank looked great for a week, then we were green again.

3) Added urchins, they ate a few tracks in the hair algae then went to work on the corraline algae.

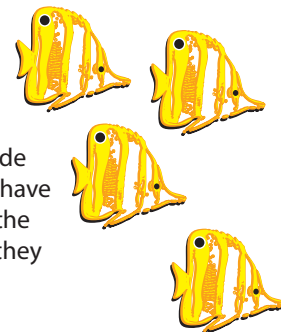
4) Lawnmower blennie, tangs, emerald crabs, scarlet crabs, sally light foots, and blue legged hermits. All of them were seen from time to time nibbling, but none of them made any dent in the hair algae.

5) Started dripping Kalk, tank loved it, no change in the hair algae.

6) Bought a highly recommended cleanup crew (Snails, crabs, cuke, etc.) Added a lot of life but fishing the upside down turbos out is not fun when you have over 100 of them. They ate like crazy the first day and then I am not sure what they started eating.

7) Many Major Water changes with RO/DI water, blow the rock of with a turkey baster and pull algae by hand. Made some temporary improvement right afterwards, but the hair algae was back quickly.

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# Newsletter

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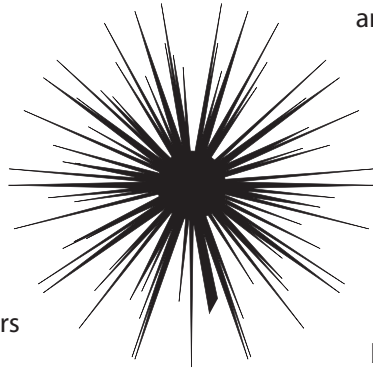
## Hair Algae Battle cont.



8) Starved the tank, fed once a week for 5 months. My fish hate me. They are all fine, lost a little weight and the hair algae still flourished.

## IMAS Digital Library

IMAS is now video taping all of their meetings and events for future reference and individual purchase. Thanks to 2 of our talented members they are taking these recordings and transferring them into DVD format.



9) Bought a bigger skimmer added a closed loop. Lots of skimmate and good circulation. Don't believe it when they say hair algae doesn't like circulation. I had it growing on the output powerhead nozzles.

10) Filters, filter pads and mesh nets, tried them all, never saw any difference.

Finally I went to the IMAS Mike Palletta seminar and he highly recommended a phosphate reactor with Rowaphos. Upon some independent research I found the Phosban media would work about the same and set one up in my sump. This was almost 2 months ago. The difference is clear. The algae is subsiding, corals are very happy and growing again, fish are getting fed daily and I AM WINNING!

Right now we have 3 DVD's Available.

These are:

- Mike Paletta Seminar
- Nano Reef tanks
- Utah Reef tour

I am not saying that the phosban reactor was the only fix. I truly believe that most of the problems (phosphates & waste) were in the tank when I purchased it and adding livestock and more food didn't help. I believe that all of the efforts above played major roles in removing the hair algae. However the phosban reactor is just what I needed to finish the job. To any of you fighting the hair algae battle good luck and don't give up!

Please contact IMAS for more info

Christy Griffith



## Take Your Fish to Work

You can take your saltwater fish anywhere when it is embroidered on a garment of your choice. IMAS will have a few garments available for purchase at the October meeting. These will have an embroidered flame angel with the IMAS name. These are a great way to support our local reef club as well as showing others that you are a saltwater addict too! A catalog will be available for personalized orders as well. Winter is coming, how about a new fleece jacket with this flashy logo?

