

*KILLIE NEWS*

A Publication of the Minnesota Killie Keepers Association

An affiliate of the American Killifish Association (AKA)

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**Minnesota Killie Keepers Association  
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**From the Editor:**

Well, no one stepped forward to take over as editor, so you're stuck with me for another year. Please feel free to submit articles, cartoons, pictures and anything else that you think might interest fellow club members. The more items we have to share, the better our newsletter will be.

We have a special treat in this issue. Greg Simpson came out of retirement and battled sore hands to send us a special Christmas cartoon. When I was looking through some old files I also came across a few unpublished cartoons, so you can look forward to seeing them in the next few issues.

As always, email me at [raqbe@usinternet.com](mailto:raqbe@usinternet.com) if you have any questions, comments or items you'd like to see in the Killie News. Until next month,

Happy fish keeping!

*Robin*

The Thursday, November 20, 2008 meeting was held in the Party room at Craig Rees' apartment complex.

In attendance were: Jason Albers, John Aldrich, Brent Aitchison, Randy Bates, Bruce Cameron, Sara Chicos, Robin Engelking, Greg Goodnow, Kelli Huesmann & Jake, Russ & Margie Johnson, Mike Kromrey, Jenny Kruckenberg, Carter McAninch, Doug Pham, Craig Rees, Milo Squires, and Brad & Nancy Swanson,

This will be my last meeting minutes.

20 people showed up for the meeting. Again, lots of eating going on; pizza and all that. A very large turn out, for our meeting, and we even had some people missing from the regular monthly turn out. The club is growing.

After the eating thingy, the voting for officers took place and it went very smoothly.

The Officers for 2009 are as follows:

Brad Swanson – President  
Carter McAninch – Vice-President  
Jason Albers – Secretary  
Craig Rees – Treasurer  
Robin Engelking – Editor

After that everyone did a talk about themselves, of being in the hobby, fish they keep Etc.

Then we moved right into talking about our new website. We have two people working on the website. Doug Pham & Sara Chicos will be working on the new website and getting that completed and up and running soon.

Milo and Craig described the fish, eggs and plants that were to be auctioned at the end of the meeting.

As I was writing this I received a very sad email. Giz Gasior has had two brain surgery operations this last week. Giz is the wife of Jim Gasior who is a member of the Milwaukee killie club, WAKO. He is the one who gave the talk at our show in September. Our hearts and prayers are out there for Giz and Jim with the hope that she gets better soon and has a speedy recovery, because she is really the backbone of WAKO.

I met them in 1980 on my first road trip to a Killie show. They are the nicest people I've met in Milwaukee and I've been going back there every year, for their show. It's the biggest show of the year.

Good luck Giz and get well soon!

Submitted by John Aldrich.

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## Air Supply

### By Bob Wolter

Air Supply was one of the truly great rock and roll bands of the 1980's.

... Ha ha! Fooled you, didn't I? OK, I am not allowed by our editor to write reports on rock bands in the newsletter! So....

If you will recall in a prior article, we had discussed the necessity of and the difficulties in obtaining a reliable and cost effective air supply for our killies.

The most effective small diaphragm pump that I had found was the Tetra Deep Water – running four lines to two 20-gallon tanks or about six lines to 2 ½ gallon tanks. The electricity drawn was about five watts per pump. Sounds like a bet! What is problematic however, is the fact that the diaphragm wears out in a year or so. Sure, there are repair kits available, but they are pricey and seldom work well. So this solution is not cost effective. Upstairs, my: four 55's, four 20 longs, two 10's, and several 5 and 3 gallon tanks, required four Tetra Deep Water Pumps with a net cost of \$80 annually. This clearly was not cost effective.

The good old reliable Supreme belt driven air pump was no longer being made. And so I had to go in a new direction. In your JAKA Volume 40 #1 please read The Next Generation of Air Supply (not the band – Author's note) by Mike Hellweg.

Although getting the full linear piston pump would have required me to drill a hole into the basement (not good), your author went to [www.jehmco.com](http://www.jehmco.com) as Mike had suggested. OH Goodie, Goodie! Here was a special diaphragm pump (DPMH-15) with ½ the total air needed for only \$80. So two pumps could handle both upstairs and down stairs for the same \$160 and would not continuously wear out. Since **both** of the pumps took only the same amount of energy as a 30 – watt light bulb, there was also a nice energy savings built into a conversion.

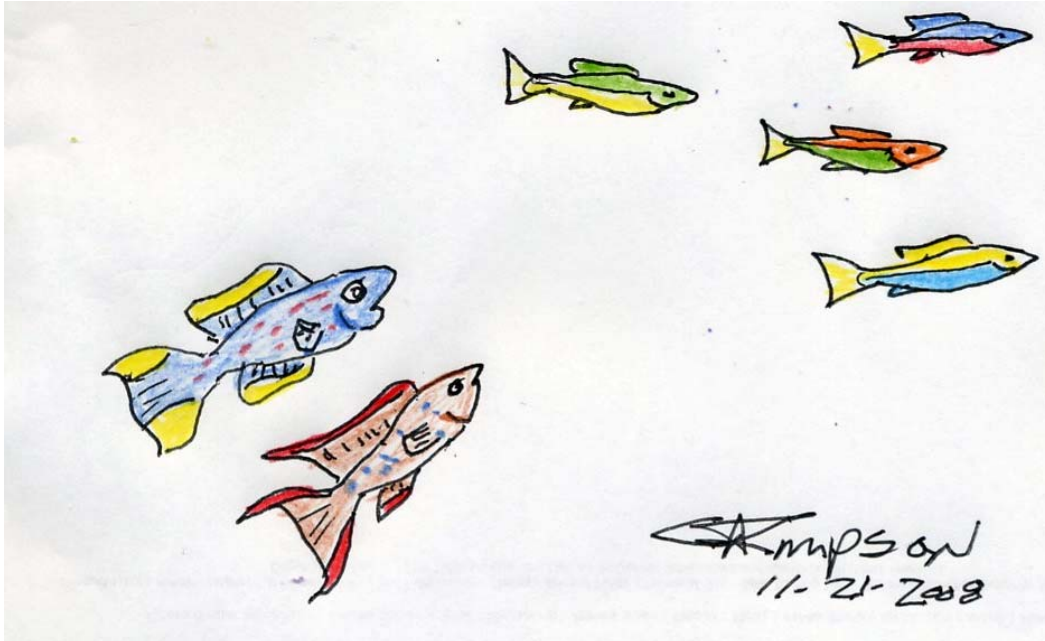
I had a few questions and following the article's advice, I called JEHMCO's John Maier at 1-800-521-6258. John recommended two DPMH-15's and two 12 unit manifolds as my solution. The manifold is akin to the PCV pipe that we used to connect to our Conde Compressors to feed many many tanks. The pressure builds up in the pipe and is then "bled off" through individual airline size valves. There is a good deal of air pressure through these manifold valves, so we can further reduce the pressure through multiple unit gang valves which are available at any pet shop. Please bleed off any excess air lest your poor fish wind up in something akin to a "drug store soda fountain"! You will need both a pump and a manifold. John was a most patient, knowledgeable, and helpful fellow to talk with. John also informed me that they do offer a low cost diaphragm repair kit, but since they sell very few for this long lasting pump, I should call when and if I need one.

JEHMCO also stocks the great Aquarium Technologies sponge filters in various sizes to fit your application. Unlike the Petcrest sponge filters, which require a rock to hold them on the tank bottom, the ATI filters come with their own weighted base.

My pumps, manifolds, and ATI filters arrived shortly: nicely packed with all necessary connections. Everything was easy to set up. I am an exceedingly happy camper and you will be too! So... Happy Camping!!

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The Adventures of Gary Gardner and Andy Australe



“Andy what the heck kinda fish are they?”

“That’s the new colored Christmas Tetra, Gary.”

“What show offs!”

Yup... At least we’re natural!”

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## Temperatures Rising

By Bob Wolter

Last year I was bemoaning the lack of reliable heater options and requested you to stay tuned. Now I hope to reward your patience with some good tested information.

Heaters come in two flavors:

1. Clamp on the side of the tank
2. Submersible – sits on tank bottom or underwater

So what works best?

### **CLAMP ON THE SIDE**

The “old” clamp-on Supreme Heater is no longer available. Both their Heaters and the Supreme Air Pumps were so good that they never wore out. I am still using Supreme Heaters that I had when I was 10 years old – trust me, that was very long ago!

WAKO member Frank Kray is still successfully using his Supreme Air Pump. From my own and Frank’s example, you can easily see why the company is now out of business. In their heaters they used a very thick bi-metallic strip for the thermostat and a high quality heating element that was built to last forever! It was a product you bought ONCE!

Regrettably my recent experience with the Whisper Heater, marketed by Tetra, has been horrible at best. After spending \$20 per unit, I had several that had “sticking-in-closed-

position” bi-metallic strips. I lost some fish because of this. \$20 was wasted on a heater that lasted only a year or so? I said never again and threw them all out!

### **SUBMERSIBLE**

My son-in-law had been using the Hagen Submersible Heaters for about 4 years, and recommended them to me. I tried them out, and after a year, have no complaints. One of the great advantages to a fully submersible heater is that you can make massive water changes without unplugging your heater. Since the heater is on the tank bottom, it reads the water temperature only – no cracking glass, as it never gets below water level. Another big plus is that the insulation on the underwater cords is much better than it used to be. I have no “shocking details” to report. How much? Cost is about \$20 – the same price as the Whisper Heaters available at your nearest pet shop.

Intending to do a large-scale heater switch, I called JEHM Companies John Meier at 1-800-521-6258 to inquire about Hagen Heaters in quantity. While they did not have Hagen, John recommended Jager Heaters, which he felt, were even better and safer. I got them and I recommend them to you. John is a great guy that takes his time with the customer and has great product knowledge. He also gives a discount to AKA members and advertises in JAKA. If you have a computer, check out their website [www.jehmco.com](http://www.jehmco.com).

This begs a question – Do our killies really need heat? Unless you have only native killifish, the answer is – of course! Most of our popular killies are from the tropics. They thrive in temperatures from 68-80 degrees Fahrenheit. Are your killies in an upstairs living area, or are they in your basement? Are they in the center of your living area or near a cold outside wall? Are they higher off the cold floor? A low cost \$2 digital stick on the outside glass thermometer will give you the answer!

If your killies are in the basement, then is heating your basement really the most cost effective method? Heating costs have been in a severe upward spiral. Perhaps you might consider, a Versatop or full hood (which you need anyway) and an individual heater in each of your 10-gallon and up tanks. You’ll be surprised how little electricity it takes to maintain a versa top provided tank at 70 degrees – just watch your heater’s pilot light.

Insurance perhaps? I have tanks in both my living area and basement. Both my living area and my basement tanks have heaters. I don’t like to worry! Although I don’t really need heaters in my living area, they seldom go on. So a one-time cost of \$15-20 per tank is cheap insurance for your valuable fish.

I sleep real well at night!

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## **December Club Communications:**

### **Club Business:**

1) Pizza for the apartment party room meeting dates. I think the pizza thing works great for when the meetings are held at my place. Heck, who doesn't like pizza? We could make this a staple if you like. It's easy for me, being I have to haul stuff up to the room & get ready for the evening. Also handling the blackworm shipment takes time.

So if we want to do this, how do we work out the cost of the pizza? It usually runs around \$22-\$25 for a couple of good pizzas. I guess there are 2 options. One, the club pays for it. Two, everyone throws in \$2 at every meeting to cover the cost.

Let me know what you think.

2) I'm getting some super feedback from members about the auctions we've had the last 2 months. Let's encourage all members to bring in fish, eggs, & plants to the meetings with 100% going to the seller.

What if we open the auctions up for new & used aquarium equipment too? I think that would spice up the meetings that much more. What are your thoughts?

3) We need to have someone do a short talk at the meetings that will provide information for our new members. It does not have to be a prepared talk, it can be off the cuff, but as a killie club with propagating in the hands of us, the hobbyists, we need to make this a monthly priority. We owe it to our newbie's. Plus even the old timers get something out of a talk. We need to see the killie hobby out of the eyes of new & intermediate killie hobbyists.

4) Craig's address will be on the membership page as the contact person on the web site. It would make sense because the check goes to me and then to the bank.

Then I can notify Robin of new members. She needs to know so she can put them on the MKKA email list for the Killie News & keep track of their expiration membership date. Is that o.k. with everyone?

Other than that, the state of the MN killie club is good!!!! We are the strongest that we have ever been.

Please send comments and suggestions to Craig at [killifish777@comcast.net](mailto:killifish777@comcast.net).

## **Kudos:**

Officers for 2009:

President: Brad Swanson	Vice President: Carter McAninch
Treasurer: Craig Rees	Secretary: Jason Albers
Editor: Robin Engelking	

Thanks to everyone for volunteering to be one of the club's officers!

## **Fish and Plants Available:**

1) The AKA Beginners booklet & Ed Warner's Success With Killifish will be available for sale.

2) MKKA & AKA t-shirts will be available for sale.

3) There will be 6-10 pairs of various killifish for auction.

## **Upcoming Affiliate Shows:**

## **Wanted:**

## **Miscellaneous:**

1) We never discussed next year's meeting agenda. If you are willing to host a meeting, please email Craig with the date you are interested in. He is willing to host most of the meetings at the party room, but someone else might like to hold a meeting too.

2) The December Christmas party is on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> at Mike & Erin Kromrey's at 3:00 P.M. It's on the MKKA website.

**Direction's to Mike's Kromrey's house:**

Take Highway 65 north to 219th Avenue. Turn left at 219th and follow to the stop sign at 217th lane. Turn right onto 217th. Mike's house is the second one on the right.

1069 - 217th Lane  
East Bethel  
**763-434-3456**

**MKKA 2008 Calendar of Events:**

**Saturday April 19, 2008** was at the home of Bruce Cameron.

Social time started at 7:00 pm and the meeting started at 7:30 pm. 651-633-6484

**Thursday, May 15, 2008** was at the home of Bob Carter

Social time started at 7:00 pm and the meeting started at 8:00 pm. 651-633-4351

**Thursday, June 19, 2008** was at the home of Milo Squires.

Social time starts at 7:00 pm and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. 952-448-4153

**Saturday, July 19, 2008**, was at the home of Mike and Erin Kromrey

Social time starts at 4:00 pm and the meeting starts at 4:30 pm.

**Saturday, August 9, 2008** cancelled

**Tuesday, August 12, 2008:** was at the home of Craig Rees

Social time starts at 7:00 pm and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. 952-403-6038.

**Thursday, September 11, 2008** was the day we loaded the show equipment from Robin's garage to take to the hotel. We started around **1 pm**. (Thanks, Craig and Milo!) Robin touched up the paint on any killie racks that needed it.

**Friday September 12, 2008** was the day we did the show set-up at Canterbury inn in Shakopee.

**Saturday September 13, 2008** was the 15<sup>th</sup> annual MKKA killifish show.

**Sunday September 14, 2008** was the fish auction and awards presentation. There was a killie talk by Jim Gasior at 10 am.

**Thursday, September 18, 2008** was at the home of Robin Engelking.

Social time starts at 7:00 pm and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. This is the post-show meeting. 763-560-5038.

**Thursday, October 16, 2008** was at the home of Craig Rees.

Social time starts at 7:00 pm and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm 952-403-6038.

**Thursday, November 20, 2008** was scheduled to be at the home of Craig Rees. We will take nominations for Board members for the 2009 year. 952-403-6038.

**Saturday, December 13, 2008** is scheduled to be at the home of Mike Kromrey.

763-434-3456