



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE ANGLING REPORT

January 2008 Vol. 21, No. 1

DATELINE: CANADA

Trip-Planning File

Northern Pike On Fly: Who To Call For A Trip

(Editor Note: Fly fishing for Northern Pike is mushrooming in popularity these days. Here's why and who to call for a trip. Correspondent Michael Pearce filed the report.)

Right about now record numbers of fly anglers are reserving summer trips to Canada's far north for one of fly fishing's newest stars – northern pike. That's right. While some old-school anglers may recoil at the thought, Hall of Fame fly anglers such as Lefty Kreh, Larry Dahlberg and Flip Pallot have all made repeated trips northward to fish for pike. So have owners of some of the best trout-based fly shops in the Rockies.

It's true that fly fishing for wilderness pike isn't for everyone, especially anglers who revel in the challenge of spending hours picking the right dry fly, making a perfect cast and then landing an acrobatic fish on spider-web tippet. Pike rule northern

waters with the same ferocity as the wolves and bears that rule the land, meaning they savagely strike at flies the size of canaries. Indeed, pike are the perfect fish for the office-bound angler who wants to catch a summer's worth of fish in one week and drop a photo on a co-worker's desk afterward of a fly-caught fish as long and thick as his leg. Pike are also a great fish to



get a spouse, or child, hooked on fly fishing because they will likely get into scores of fish up to three feet long, or longer, on a daily basis.

One of the reasons for the ferocity of northern pike is that they spend about eight months of the year under ice. That makes them tend to pike-out

the other four, from about June through September. Unpressured and focused on getting the most from a limited forage base, they can be some of the most unwary fish on the planet. Boats passing within yards, or another fish writhing against a hook can get them more excited than spooked. Harvey Kroll, manager of Saskatchewan's Hatchet Lake Lodge, regularly hears tales of pike trying to wrestle a fly from a hooked fish's mouth, or guides deliberately running their boats into dense weeds to flush fish into open water, where they immediately turn to take a fly. Piscine Einsteins, they ain't.

Interestingly, fly anglers targeting pike tend to be more successful than spincasting or baitcasting anglers. Why? Because a five- to 10-inch deceiver or bunny fur leech looks more realistic than any spoon or spinner. On cold-front days, and when the ice-out bays are super cold, the ability to fish slowly with fur and feathers is another huge advantage.

It's the take, as well as the size and numbers of fish, that provides much of the excitement in wilderness pike fishing. Anglers can see probably 90 percent of the attacks, and it's nothing to watch a 15-pound fish travel many yards to torpedo a fly at full speed. Others may rise from unseen weed bed lairs and slowly stalk your fly, gradually cutting the distance before opening and closing their mouths on your fly only a few feet from the boat.

As for the fight of a pike, I admit that it is good but not great. The fish are built for speed, not distance, and they tend to tire quickly. Also, pike anglers usually use pretty stout tackle – 7- to 9-weight rods, 0X leaders with wire tippets and No. 2 to 4/0 hooks. Again, pike fishing is a long way



SUPPORT OUR
CORPORATE SPONSORS



IN THIS ISSUE

Louisiana

Lefty Kreh Checks In
On A Redfish Trip
PAGE 3

Colorado

Shhh...! This May Be Our
Top Trophy Trout River
PAGES 4 - 5

Special Report

Two Steelhead Reports:
The Klickitat & The Karluk
PAGES 5 - 7

Chile

There's Good News
On That Fly Import Ban
PAGE 8

Christmas Island

Capt. Cook Hotel Improves.
Plus, Other Island News
PAGE 8

Subscriber-Written Reports

Reports From California, Maine,
Brazil, Kenya. Plus, 2 Controversies
PAGES 9 - 16

THE ANGLING REPORT

from casting tricos on 6X for 20-inch rainbows in fast water, but still...

Fly fishing for pike does have its challenges. Wind can hamper casting,

though there's usually a sheltered bay or inlet to be found. Cold fronts can neutralize Northerns the same way they neutralize other fish. And, fi-

Honor Roll Subscribers

■ The *Angling Report* encourages subscribers to file reports on great places to fish and/or important news developments that help the rest of us decide where to go (or not to go!) fishing. Subscribers who file unusually important and useful reports are placed on our Subscriber Honor Roll and are sent a complimentary *Angling Report* Honor Roll Fishing Cap. If you have been on an interesting trip recently, send in a letter-length report and see if you can get on our Subscriber Honor Roll. Our Honor Roll Subscribers are:

Honor Roll Subscribers

Peter Aravosis
H. Whitney Bailey
Frank M. Bainbridge
Steve Baird
Weaver Barksdale
John Baskin
Will Bauer
Mac Beatty
Luther Birdzell
Elbert J. Bivins
Steve Blake
Bernie Blau
Matthew Bowes
Philip E. Bowles
Hal Boylan
Harry J. Briscoe
Debra Carr Brox
Bernard Butlin
Jim Cannon
Joe Carabello
Otis Carney
Daniel Carpenter
Daniel Chait
Russ Chandler
Gary Coelho
David E. Combs
Matt Connolly
Gordon L. Cox
Bob Dahlberg
Duane C. Dahlgren
Peter H. Debaun
Craig Derby
Don DeStefano
John W. Dickerson
A. Newton Dilley
Terry Donovan
Daniel J. Downey
Donald G. Dusanic
Chuck Eichner
Mel Eisen
Michael and Lara Ekwall
Andrea Fioretti
Leroy Fletcher
Andrew French
Giovanni Gatti
Christopher Gill
Thomas Gorman
Robert J. Gormley
Gary M. Gradke
Fritz Grasberger
Bob Grayson

Dick Gushman
William P. Hall
Dick Hamilton
Dave Harman
Charles R. Hartz
Dennis Hatfield
J.L. Heiman
Jeff Hellerbach
Jim Hendrix
Mark Herzog
Rodger Hess
Jerry Hirzel
Ronald W. Hoag
Carl W. Hoffman
Roger Hoffman
Michael Hopper
Richard Hosier
Philip S. Humphrey
David W. Hunter
Jim Johnson
Craig Johnston

Barry Leeds
James Levinsohn
Marjorie Lilienthal
Robert E. Long
Norman R. Lucia
Joe Mackay
Jeremy Main
Jan Maizler
Arnold Markowitz
George A. Marzluf
Walter Maslowski
Keith Matthews
Rex D. Matthews
Tom & Kathy McCartney
Gene McConnell
Ernest E. McConnell
Fred McCormack
Ann McIntosh
R.W. McMeekin
Patrick Meitin
Jim Merritt



Evan R. Joubert
R.F. Kayser
E.P. Kelleher
Mark Kelly
Captain Mike Kenfield
Robbie Kerr
Don Kimel
Garry King
Adam Kline
David J. Kornreich
Tom Kovich
Fritz Krieger
Peter G. Kumpe
John Lachin
Ken Langell

Edward H. Miller, III
Hobby Morrison
C. John Naquin, Jr.
H. Eugene Noll
Elmer E. Normandin, III
Dott. Carlo Orombelli
Thomas Parkinson
Mark Pattie
Frank Perkins
John S. Powell
Larry Pratt
Don Pratten
David Prescott
Mitch Redding
Ferrario Roberto

Bud Robertson
Lee Ann Ross
Raymond B. Ryan
Michael Santangelo
Ted Schmidt
John F. "Jeff" Schneider
Marvin Schultz
Stephen J. Selway
Richard Schauer
Richard F. Shafner
Steven M. Shapiro
Eric Shea
Barry Silverman
Ron Simpson
Tom Snowden
Ken Spalding
Richard A. Spencer
Tony Spiva
I.T. Starr
Pat Stead
Keith Stinchcomb
Avery Stirratt
William S. Stoney
William M. Stout
Bill Stroh
Paul D. Summers, Jr.
Peter Swartz
Steve Tennis
Buz Tindle
Robert S. Tomes
Marco Travaglia
Bill Turner
David Vanderwerken
Carl von Essen
J.A. Waitz
W.H. "Bill" Waldron
David L. Warnock
Eugene M. Weber
Tim Welch
Gerry Wendrovsky
Jim Williams
Eruk Williamson
Lynn Williamson
Tom Williamson
John W. Willingham
Leon H. Wittig
Hubert S. Wood, Jr.
Chatt G. Wright
Robert Wright
Larry Ydens



THE ANGLING REPORT

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER
Don Causey

MARKETING MANAGER
Edi Bell-Suffoletto

INFO. SYSTEMS MANAGER
Nicholas Titus

MANAGING EDITOR
Barbara V. Crown

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Tracy Sanchez

ILLUSTRATIONS
Gordon Allen

WESTERN FIELD EDITOR
Hugh Gardner

The Angling Report
800-272-5656

The Angling Report (ISSN: 1045-3539) is published monthly by Oxpecker Enterprises, Inc., 9300 S. Dadeland Blvd., Suite 605, Miami, FL 33156-2721. Periodicals Postage Paid at Miami, FL, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Angling Report, 9300 S. DADELAND BLVD STE 605, MIAMI FL 33156-2721. The Angling Report is not a booking agent, nor is it affiliated with a booking agent, outfitter or guide.

How can we help you?

New Subscriptions: A one-year subscription costs \$49. Add \$11 per year in Canada/Mexico. \$29 overseas. Visa/MC/Amex ok. Contact us on the web (www.anglingreport.com), by phone (305-670-1918), by fax (305-670-1376), by e-mail (mail@anglingreport.com), or by regular mail (The Angling Report, 9300 S. Dadeland Blvd., Suite 605, Miami, FL 33156-2721).

Online Extra Upgrade: One year cost \$24, in addition to regular subscription fee. Puts one on list to receive e-mail invitations to go fishing FREE in return for filing a report. Also, invitations to review (and keep) fly tackle. Unlimited access to our Trip Planning Database also included. Plus, e-mail and hard copies of monthly newsletters. Same contact details as above.

Trip Planning Materials: Same contact details as above. By phone, fax, e-mail or regular mail. Do your own searches on our web site, www.anglingreport.com. Click on "Trip Planning Tools." Thousands of pages of subscriber reports and previously published articles.

Subscription Questions: Same contact details as above. On our web site, www.anglingreport.com, click on "Subscribe."

THE ANGLING REPORT

nally, most North Country lakes are huge, meaning there are thousands of acres of water with few, if any, pike. And that is where a good guide comes in. If you go pike fishing, insist on being assigned to a guide who knows local waters and how to handle a fly fisherman.

Importantly, most pike waters tend to harbor another desirable fish – the grayling. A good set of grayling rapids with a caddis hatch in full-swing can provide dry fly fishing that is about as good as it gets in terms of numbers. Catches of 50 to 100 grayling per person per day are common; that includes anglers with modest fly fishing experience. Mid-hatch grayling hit about anything that floats.

Even a bright fly line or a fly dragging in the current can inspire hits.

So, where can you get into some pike fishing this coming summer? There is quality pike and grayling fishing all across northern Canada, and you can get into it from facilities as simple as a rental cabin that includes a small motor boat in the package to a full-service luxury lodge deep in the wilderness. Here are three of the latter that come highly recommended by avid fly fishermen I've spoken to:

- Hatchet Lake Lodge (800-661-9183; www.hatchetlake.com): One of the strongest names in quality wilderness fishing, Hatchet Lake Lodge has been a fly-in destination for more

than 40 years. It's still run by northern legend, George Fleming, who left his native Scotland at the age of 17 for adventure and built an impressive lodge largely with his own hands in extreme northern Saskatchewan.

The lodge sits on Hatchet Lake, which is larger than most major American cities, but the best trophy pike and grayling fishing is usually found in the 20-plus surrounding lakes that anglers are flown in and out off on a daily basis. Each lake has its own reputation: one for huge pike; another for high pike numbers and great grayling; another for a good mix of both species. The fly-outs aren't cheap, mind you. The place is known as much for its great customer

● Lefty Kreh On A Redfish Trip ●

(Don Causey Note: Renowned angler and fly caster Lefty Kreh weighed in recently with a rave review of a trip to Louisiana in search of redfish. Thanks, Lefty, for staying in touch with The Angling Report.)

■ I recently spent two days red-fishing near Dulac, Louisiana with some friends. I have fished for redfish with a fly for decades all the way from North Carolina to the western part of Texas. My experience leads me to believe that the marshes of Louisiana have by far the best redfishing available anywhere.

We fished with Captains Gary Taylor and Blaine Townsend. Both captains run Hells Bay skiffs and couldn't be more likeable and professional. We fished at the edge of the Gulf of Mexico in water less than four feet deep, much of it half that depth. If you want to catch smaller fish — from three to 12 pounds - the guides assured us fly fishermen have often caught 50 fish here during a single day. All of this is casting to sighted fish, mind you.

On my recent trip, we focused mostly on larger fish. I didn't keep catch numbers, but I think that, between the three of us, we caught a half dozen fish that weighed more than 20

pounds, and I saw larger ones. Fish from 14 to nearly 20 pounds were sighted frequently.

The guides say the best season for trophy reds here is from mid-November to mid-January. Of course, weather can be a problem during that time of year. But, because you are in a marshland, most of the fishing and



boat running is in protected waters.

We used 8-weight rods, and the hot fly pattern was the Pumpkin Pie Fly. Actually, I suspect these big fish see so little fishing pressure many patterns will work. The key to presenting to a trophy redfish is to use a fly that you can drop almost on its nose and that sinks quickly. For these big reds, I found that a leader no

longer than six feet was adequate. The longest cast any of the three of us made in two days was judged to be no more than 30 feet. All the fly patterns we used were dressed with metallic eyes. I would guess their weight at about 1/24th of an ounce.

If you prefer to chase the fish here in the air-clear shallow marsh lakes and lagoons, most flies the guides recommend are not weighted. Leaders at least nine feet long are recommended for fishing the shallow, air-clear ponds.

I had put off for more than 20 years redfishing this particular area. I realize now it offers the best red-fishing I've seen anywhere. We stayed at Captain Blaine Townsend's motel/restaurant, Sportsman's Paradise, less than an hour's drive from the New Orleans airport. Our skiffs were no more than 15 minutes from the motel.

I am sure there are other great guides in this lightly populated area, and I apologize for not recommending them as well. I can certainly recommend Captain Blaine Townsend (985-594-7772); and Captain Gary Taylor (985-641-8532). The phone number for Sportsman's Paradise is 985-594-2414. — *Lefty Kreh*.

THE ANGLING REPORT

service and meals as its world-class fishing. A five-day/four-night package is \$3,695; nine days and eight nights is \$5,395. Fly-outs range from \$350 to \$400 per person, depending on the number of anglers.

• Gangler's North Seal River Lodge & Outposts (866-515-6343; www.ganblers.com): Located within the legendary North Seal River drainage of northern Manitoba, Gangler's was probably the first fly-in lodge to start pushing fly fishing for northern pike and grayling. That's probably be-

cause lodge owner, Ken Gangler, is a widely-traveled fly fisherman in his own right.

Like Hatchet Lake Lodge, Gangler's offers access to more than 20 lakes. They provide daily fly-outs, or anglers may be dropped off at wilderness outpost camps, each with its own camp manager, guides, great meals, web access, etc. Gangler says at least 40 percent of his clientele do at least some fly fishing during their trips. The main lodge has a complete pro shop and fly tying equipment for

those in need. Most years, the lodge offers instructional fly fishing clinics led by some of the best people in the industry.

How good is the fly fishing? Legend Lefty Kreh has been there eight times. Last summer, a fly fisherman landed and released a 50-inch pike estimated at close to 40 pounds. Seven-day trips here range from \$2,595 to \$3,995, depending on the camp one chooses.

• Nueltin Fly-In Lodges (800-361-7177; www.nueltin.com): Nueltin's

□ Rocky Mountain Roundup A White (River) Christmas

By Hugh Gardner

■ Things get a bit grim for Rocky Mountain trout fishermen this time of year. Except for a few tailwaters, things are pretty much locked down until March, and thoughts naturally turn to planning next year's adventures. In my case, the White River of northwest Colorado tops the list.

Colorado's third largest river, the White River originates in the Flat Tops Wilderness Area, flows westerly between the Yampa to the north and the Colorado to the south, eventually joining the Green in Utah. After 35 years of fishing all over the mountain West, I would say that the White is probably the least-visited and least-understood of all major fisheries in the central Rockies.

It is also, I believe, one of the best trophy trout freestone rivers in the Lower 48, if not the best of them all. Including its tributaries, the White is an ideal place for hitting a grand slam – all four major trout species – in one day. And except for the brookies, all three of the others could well be over 20 inches. I know it may be hard to get your head around that fact, since trout in wild freestone rivers usually top out at around 20 inches, but here specimens up to 26 inches are not uncommon, including wild-strain cutthroats. The first time I ever stepped into it, at a public access point just off the highway, I almost immediately caught a five-pound rainbow. Holy wooly bugger!

Why the White is so little known seems to be a combination of factors. First, it's located in remote ranching country, a long drive from Denver and 120 miles or more from the nearest commercial airport. Unless you're in the booming regional oil and gas business, it's way off the beaten path and has a 1950s feel to it. Fly fishing infrastructure is limited – there may be flies for sale, but there's no real fly shop offering guide services. There were three high-end fly fishing resorts in the valley in the recent past (more on that in a minute), but even then the White seemed to be off the radar screen of most fly fishing travelers.

Another reason the White is seldom visited, even by experienced Colorado anglers, is a perception that it's all locked up by private ranches. There was once some truth to this, but today, thanks to the state Division of Wildlife, some 8.5 miles are publicly accessible (maybe 20 percent of the main stem prime water from Meeker upstream to the hamlet of Buford), not to mention up the North Fork to Trappers Lake, the South Fork headwaters in the White River National Forest and the fabulous high mesa of Flat Tops Wilderness itself. It's strange that public waters here are better than many private waters elsewhere, but hey, I'm not complaining if the public remains ignorant. This area is a perfect place for self-guided RV or car-camping adventures, the kind of fishing I most enjoy. The main downside of public waters here is that imported oil patch roughnecks tend not to observe catch-and-release ethics.

Finally, the area has never been, and still isn't, effectively promoted, except for its big game hunting, which is a big business in the fall. Try to Google fly fishing Colorado's White and see what you get. Beyond the stuff for Arkansas' White River, it won't be much, and it probably won't be current. For several years now, the valley has been undergoing a major transition, with the arrival of some very wealthy investors buying choice historic ranch properties. And now another major transition is taking place. It gets its impetus from some investors in expensive fly fishing resorts, exclusive real estate developments and private retreats, who apparently prefer that the White not be promoted at all, at least not so that it shows up on Google.

Financier Henry Kravis of KKR is one such investor, who still owns considerable acreage in the valley. He sold the Seven Lakes Ranch property, near Buford, to famous golfer Greg Norman, who in turn operated an ultra-high-end fly fishing resort (cheapest rates over \$1,000 per night). Following his recent divorce battles, during which owner-

THE ANGLING REPORT

fishing lakes and rivers cover about 14,000 wilderness miles within some of the most remote parts of Manitoba and Nunavut. The home lake alone is about 120 miles long, with another 23 fly-out lakes available. In addition to the five-star main lodge, they offer outpost "camps" for luxury corporate retreats. Also available are drop-off, semi-guided camps and basic "on-your-own" fishing.

Lodge owner Shawn Gurge avidly pushes fly fishing and says it's a "huge" portion of his business. Big

pike are one of his specialties, but he also like to tout the region's great fly fishing for world-class grayling. Grayling of 20 inches are common, and fish to 23 inches have been landed.



Nueltin's rates range from \$2,595 to \$4,795, depending on the number of days and which of Nueltin's five facilities you choose. — *Michael Pearce.*

SPECIAL REPORT

Subscriber Input

Two Steelhead Reports: The Klickitat & Karluk

(Editor Note: The Klickitat River in Washington State and the Karluk River on Alaska's Kodiak Island are many miles apart, but they share a common appeal – namely, healthy runs of steelhead. We are indebted to Honor Roll Subscriber Bill Turner for a review of the former and Brian Griffith for a review of the latter. Enjoy!)

ship of the lodge was apparently contested, the lodge was closed to everyone but Norman's personal friends. Another former fishing-oriented resort in the valley, Marvin Ranch, has also been privatized by its new owner, Goldman-Sachs financier John Winkelried.

Another major valley investor is entrepreneur Bill Wheeler, who owns Elk Creek Lodge, chosen in 2005 as one of the top six fly fishing lodges in North America by *Outside* magazine. Today, it is known as the Elk Creek Ranch, a real estate development open only to residents and their guests. The lodge has been completely rebuilt as a restaurant, tavern and resident gathering place, with a general store and a full-service fly shop to open next spring. This seems to be a prototype of new real estate developments in the West oriented around fly fishing, much like developments oriented around golf courses... except here the links are ponds (12 of them), and a river runs through it. The ranch has 21 miles of private river access, including seven on the White itself (including leases) and 10-plus on the South Fork (the YZ Ranch). Of the 50 or so "cabin" sites planned, about 17 are still available. Average price: About \$1.5 million. Check out the ranch web site at www.elkcreekranch.net. Readers interested in owning here should contact designated agent Tim Casey of Mountain Marketing Associates (tim@mmabreck.com or 970-453-2571).

When these resort operations were privatized, the top guides who formerly worked there (10 years of fly fishing guiding experience each, minimum) banded together under the banner of Smoking River Guides. "Smoking River" was the Ute Indian name for the White, for its frequent fogs in spring and fall. This consortium is the best contact in the area for top quality local guide service. They also can make arrangements for lodging at their own cabins, or a wonderful local ranch-style B & B, the K Bar T. Contact them at www.smokingriverguides.com; or 970-878-5258.

Just about my only stable point of reference amidst all this change on the White is the Sleepy Cat Ranch, something of a old-fashioned ranch-style treasure. It's not just

convenient to the fishery, but has several public-easement ponds and stream miles directly attached to it. With modestly priced cabins, motel rooms and a restaurant/bar, this is an ideal place for the RV or car-camping explorer to headquarter (www.sleepycatguestranch.com; or 970-878-4413). For other local budget options, contact the Meeker Chamber of Commerce at 970-878-5510 or www.meekerchamber.com.

If you don't need a guide, consider joining the Rocky Mountain Angling Club (RMAC). Founded in 1992, this is the most outstanding "fishing club" I know of anywhere in the Rockies. They have leases to three private ranch properties on the White, totaling about five miles, one in particular considered by hard-core members of my acquaintance to be the best mile of trophy trout water in North America. Membership requires a \$350 initiation fee and \$100 annual dues – hardly more than the cost of a day's guided fishing on more famous rivers. Daily rod fees on their 50-some properties, shared with the property owner, average about \$60. On the White, rod fees are about double that, the highest in their program, another indication of the quality of this water.

RMAC has about 1,700 members, about 400 of which (to my surprise) are out-of-staters. Some members I know take full advantage of this program and fish RMAC properties dozens of times a year, but the average member fishes only two or three days a year. Two fishermen per day per ranch property is the norm; some owners permit no more than six total a week. In other words, none of these properties gets over-fished, and you'll never have unwanted competition. The serious angler with business or family ties that bring him to Colorado frequently may find membership in this club a wise (and economical) investment in top-flight fishing opportunities. The club, I should note, also has prime properties, or reciprocity arrangements, in other states, including Montana, Wyoming and New Mexico. Contact Pat, Don or Jimmie for more details at 303-421-6239. Their web address is: www.rmangling.com. — *Hugh Gardner.*

THE ANGLING REPORT

Bill Turner On The Klickitat River:

The Klickitat River is a gorgeous tributary of the Columbia River in southern Washington State. My wife and I fished the Klickitat this past September with Jack Mitchell of Steelhead Ranch near the town of Goldendale. Mitchell built his reputation guiding the outstanding rainbow trout fishery on the Yakima River near Ellensburg. Lately, he has focused his energies on fishing the Klickitat through The Steelhead Ranch.

As steelhead rivers of the Great Northwest go, the Klickitat is a small stream. But what it lacks in size it more than makes up for in scenery. It was named a National Wild & Scenic River in 1986 and features fantastic basalt canyon scenery and continuous wildlife sightings, including bears, cougars and turkeys. At almost 100 miles in length, the Klickitat is one of the longer undammed rivers of the Northwest. It drains into the mighty Columbia River near the Town of Lyle, between Hood River and The Dalles, Oregon.

My steelheading experience before this trip had been limited to the tributaries of Lake Erie in New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. The conventional wisdom is that steelheaders in the Great Lakes drainages drift egg and nymph patterns, while those in the Northwest swing streamers and flies on spey and regular fly rods. Increasingly, however, in recent years, there has been a cross-fertilization of techniques, and no river exemplifies that more than the Klickitat. We spent 90 percent of our time drifting egg and nymph patterns from Mitchell's Clackacraft drift boat, and only about 10 percent of our time wading and swinging streamers.

Like many fish, steelhead tend to be more active in low light conditions, and our experience on the Klickitat bore that out. The first day, we floated from Leidl Bridge to the Slide In, fishing hard from 10 am to 4 pm with no action, save a few rainbow trout. However, from 4 o'clock to

dark, we hooked seven steelhead, all on egg patterns. As is typical of relatively new steelheaders, our landing ratio didn't match our number of hooked fish. In fact, we landed only two of the seven we hooked the first day out.

Wild steelhead from the salt certainly are turbo-charged fish! The first one we landed, an eight-pound hen, took me into the backing twice on a 10-foot Sage XP 8-wieght. As soon as she was hooked, she headed for the Columbia River, dragging us downstream about a quarter mile through two rapids and three pools before we finally landed her. While the second fish we landed didn't run as far, it too was a wild fish that



fought hard. Needless to say, a sturdy reel with a bombproof drag system is a must here.

Our second day of fishing was brighter and warmer, and the steelhead all but shut down completely. Floating from Stinson Flat to Icehouse, my wife hooked a nice 10-pounder late in the day. She fought it for about 15 minutes before the hook finally pulled out. She had the fish close to the boat three times, but it refused to come to the net. Our day closed with the sound of a tremendous, crashing leap of a king (Chinook) salmon that Mitchell estimated at 25 to 30 pounds.

The day after we left, I should note, Mitchell's clients hooked 13 fish. That's steelheading; come to think of it, that's fishing. In the Pacific Northwest, one must make the most of the hookups he gets because,

unlike Great Lakes steelheading, it certainly is not a numbers game.

If you want to give this fishery a try, 7- to 8-weight rods in lengths of nine to 10 feet are standard. One rod should be rigged with a floating line and the other with a VersiTip line. A 13-foot spey rod can be useful in some longer runs. As for Mitchell, he is one of the hardest-working guides I have fished with anywhere in the world. He watches every cast like a hawk and does everything he can to help maximize your chance for a hookup on that drift. His frequent advice is neither heavy-handed nor intrusive; rather, it is educational, always helpful and encouraging.

As for The Steelhead Ranch, it boasts a beautiful view of 12,307-foot Mount Adams to the north and 11,239-foot Mount Hood to the south. One can take in the sweeping panorama from the porch. Accommodations are very modern and comfortable. Mitchell can handle up to six anglers at a time. Home-style meals are delicious and hearty. The cost of a two-day/two night program is \$795 per angler; \$1,495 for four days and four nights. While Mitchell does not personally offer activities for the non-fishing partner, the unique Columbia Gorge with its impressive Discovery Center in The Dalles, as well as Mount Adams and Mount Hood are all within day-trip range. The Maryhill Museum of Art, something of an anomaly for rural central Washington, also is nearby. Portland is the closest major airport, about two hours from Steelhead Ranch. We flew into Sea-Tac airport and drove a rental car from there. — *Bill Turner.*

(Postscript: Turner tells us he booked his trip through The Evening Hatch. Contact them at 866-482-4480; or www.theeveninghatch.com. While staying in the Seattle area, incidentally, Turner says he also experienced a delightful day catching sea-run cutthroats in Puget Sound with Dylan Rose of Emerald Water Anglers Guide Service. Tel. 206-545-2197. Web: www.emeraldwateranglers.com.)

THE ANGLING REPORT

□
Brian Griffith on the Karluk River:

"This was my first try at steelheading, and while I have always wanted to catch these fish, I was leery of making a long and expensive trip for a species it is easy to get skunked on. Mark Cowan of Pescador Solitario allayed my concerns by telling me I could expect eight to 10 steelhead hookups per day on the Karluk River, plus plenty of opportunities to take Cohos, dillies and rainbows. He did not oversell the Karluk.

"We stayed in a comfortable yurt, had great food, saw a wide array of wildlife (including 10 to 12 bears) and enjoyed wonderful fishing. Out of the 6½ days of fishing, we spent 4½ targeting steelhead near the camp and two days of fly-out fishing upriver, where you could catch a seemingly limitless number of Dolly Varden, plus Cohos and a few rainbows. During the steelhead days, I went 23 out of 43 on steelhead. My biggest steelhead measured 32 inches. The largest anyone in camp took during the week measured 36 inches. Coho were plentiful enough to keep you very busy

all day if you wanted. These are large fish, some quite bright. An 18-pound Coho on an 8-weight is fun.

"Fishing was exclusively with single-handed rods and floating lines. The Karluk was easy to wade, and the entire river could be fished. The fish were not overly aggressive due to the



dropping water temperature, but if you put the fly near them they would take it. They were difficult to land without a net, but there were so many takes I did not worry too much about losing a fish.

"The highlight of the week for me was the wildlife - Arctic foxes, tundra swans, bald eagles and lots of bears.

The bears were all well behaved and stayed on the far side of the river, which allowed us an excellent opportunity to watch them for extended periods. While the guides carried bear spray, none of us ever felt threatened.

"Cowan is a well prepared individual. He had all the bases covered. He and guide Paul Tickner were excellent steelheading teachers, and they knew the river well. Camp was well run, and the food was good in both quality and quantity.

"There is some hiking involved in getting to some of the fishing areas; anyone who goes should be prepared for 45 to 60 minutes of walking along riverbanks and across tundra. The weather is cool and often damp, so proper gear is a necessity.

"This is one steelhead fishery where even a novice can catch fish while learning the ropes. Cowan offers a great trip at a reasonable cost, and I could not have been more pleased with the experience."

(Postscript: The cost for a seven-day trip this past fall was \$3,950, plus flights. Details: 800-908-9011. Web: www.remoteflyfishing.com.)

● Briefly Noted ●

Things To Do... Places To Go... New Developments

■ It now truly appears to be official. Vladivostok Airlines will begin flight service from Anchorage, Alaska, to Petropavlovsk, **Kamchatka**, on July 7, 2008. The carrier has received the final permits needed to start operations and has opened an office in Seattle to start issuing tickets in February. That is good news indeed for anglers contemplating a trip to the Kamchatka Peninsula this coming season.

The plan is to start this year by offering the route on a seasonal basis and expand to year-round operations in the future, depending on the success and demand for the flights. Vladivostok's General Director Vladimir Saibel says the airline is

committed to this route as part of its aggressive expansion of international service. There's talk that the airline may further increase service in the US with flights to Seattle and Houston.

Flights will run twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays except July 10, August 21 and 28, and September 4 and 11. The service will end this first season on September 15. Vladivostok is using a brand new TU 204-300 craft with 132 coach seats and 10 first-class seats. Round-trip Economy Class tickets are scheduled to cost \$1,890 to \$2,590, depending on when the tickets are bought and the kind of restrictions one agrees to on refunds, etc. Business Class tickets will cost \$3,390 to \$3,690. The airline pro-

vides a baggage allowance of two pieces of checked baggage totaling up to 75 pounds, plus one carry-on of 17 pounds. Extra checked bags will cost \$200 each and are limited to 50 pounds.

To purchase tickets, contact Red Star Travel (800-215-4378; travel@travel2russia.com); or TM&I Travel (800-596-2297; info@travelmeet.com). Both are taking reservations now and will start issuing tickets in February. All of the Kamchatka fishing operators we have spoken to say they plan to use Vladivostok's service for the 2008 fishing season.

(Postscript: If you are jumpy about this new service - and who isn't after what has happened the last two years

THE ANGLING REPORT

– you can reach a Vladivostok representative at the airline's Seattle office, 206-443-1614; info@vladivostokair.us).

□

■ Anglers headed to **Chile** this coming season will be glad to hear that the ban on feathered flies into that country has been lifted. You'll recall that the Agriculture and Livestock Service of Chile (equivalent to the US Department of Agriculture) passed a ban last year on the importation of all feathers, including those on fishing flies. The reason was a fear that avian flu would be introduced to Chile through infected feathers used in various products. Agriculture officials were stopping any arriving tourists that they could identify as anglers and confiscating their flies.

Well, that is all over now, thanks to the efforts of the Sportfishing Committee of the Coyhaique Chamber of Commerce and Aysen Region Senator Antonio Horvath, who convinced officials at Agriculture and Livestock that the treated feathers used to create fishing flies are not potential carriers of the avian flu or any other pathogen. Anglers should still expect to have their flies inspected, and they should be sure they are free of any blood or fecal residue. As long as flies are clean, traveling anglers should have no problems.

□

■ Loyal fans of the Captain Cook Hotel on **Christmas Island** will want to know the place is under new management. Seems the Government of Kiribati, which runs the hotel, has finally noted comments from guests about a slip in service and a need to freshen up the look of the place. To get the job done, they hired Tinia Teuriaria, who has a background in hotel management and a track record for turning around the service at another hotel in Tarawa. Joe Koziara of Frontiers International (Tel. 800-245-1950. Web: www.frontierstrvl.com) tells us improvements already implemented include a fresh coat of paint, new bed linens and fixtures and a maintenance check on vehicles. Boats

have likewise seen repairs and an upgrade in motors is in the future. The meal service has been improved as well, he says.

Another plus for this season, says Koziara, is that six bungalows associated with the Captain Cook are again available now that an environmental clean-up crew that was lodged there has finished its work and left. Some of the bungalows are air conditioned and offer a great lodging alternative to the hotel-style rooms.

In a recently submitted Trip Report, subscriber Jim Vogel confirms there have indeed been improvements at the Captain Cook. He says things have definitely been spruced up and the meals improved. "All of the employees are working together to make the whole operation smoother and the



service better than ever before," he writes. Vogel goes on to say that the guides also are working harder and longer to ensure a quality experience. "Christmas Island is still the most reliable bonefishing destination on Earth," he says of his fishing experience this past September. He reports catching plenty of fish up to eight pounds, as well as a six-pound golden trevally and two giant trevally up to 55 pounds.

If all that good news interests you in a trip, Koziara says there are openings for this season. The cost of a seven-night/six-day package is \$2,134 per person, double occupancy, including island transfers and meals. Airfare from Honolulu runs about \$949, and the government of Kiribati has decided to waive visa requirements for

Americans and Canadians.

As for other Christmas Island operations, there is some news about them to pass along, too. Howard McKinney at FishAbout (800-409-2000. Web: www.fishabout.com) says The Villages has added another two-unit bungalow. You'll recall The Villages is a locally owned and operated facility located right on the beach, allowing anglers to jump into their boats just steps from their doorway. The place can now handle groups of up to 12 anglers, McKinney says, although he says most groups will top out at about eight persons. Regardless, McKinney says head guide Teannaaki has personally trained enough guides to handle the place at full capacity.

McKinney says The Villages is already heavily booked into 2008, but has some openings. A seven-night/six-day package is \$2,000 per person, not including airfare.

As for Christmas Island Outfitters, seems this operator has added an 18-foot Boston Whaler-type boat to its fleet just to chase trevally outside the lagoon. Brian Gies of Fly Water Travel (800-552-2729. Web: www.flywatertravel.com) says the smaller boat with its 80-horsepower Yamaha is more maneuverable. It also has a casting platform on the bow, which makes it easier to fish from. He says it's three times faster than the boat they previously used for this type of fishing and has proven to be a real "trevally-chasing machine."

Christmas Island Outfitters houses anglers in four beachside bungalows about halfway between London and the airport. The cost of a seven-night/six-day package with this outfitter is \$2,120, including bluewater fishing.

□

■ Remember our report about Claudio Tagini, an Italian agent who arranges custom fishing trips for Europeans headed to the US West? We mentioned that he also arranges similar trips in Europe for American anglers, but we did not have any first-hand information on those trips at the

THE ANGLING REPORT

time. Well, subscriber Jack Franzen tells us he gave Tagini a try during a recent visit to **Italy**. He writes:

"I contacted Tagini to book some guided fishing on a trip I had scheduled to Italy. I'm pleased to report that he put together a wonderful day of fishing. The day started with our rendezvous near Lake Como north of Milan. On the way to our intended fishing spot, we were joined by another angler, Tiziano, who was very knowledgeable about the water we were planning to fish, the Sesia River.

"On arrival at the river, but before hiking down to it, we stopped at a rustic café to take some refreshment. Tagini cautioned me that no one comes to Italy specifically to fish for trout. And there are reasons for that, he said. I told him I understood all that, but if you are already in Italy, at the foot of the Alps and in the presence of a cool mountain stream, one would be crazy not to give it a try.

"Momentarily, we made our way to the river, arriving at the tail of a flume, where I could see a half dozen very large trout nymphing in the current. On my 10th cast, I landed a really nice brown of maybe three pounds. As the day progressed, we fished downstream for a ways and then back upstream to a stretch of very inviting pocket water. We all caught fish. My first was the largest, but none was smaller than 12 inches and most were around 14. We had brookies and rainbows, as well as browns. A slam!

"My day with Tagini was quite a success. I'd recommend booking a

trip with him, here or abroad. My one-day excursion cost several hundred euros. The cost varies according to the water you want to fish. Tagini planned every detail of my day and worked around the only problem that developed – a minor hiccup over our intended meeting place. He's a US resident, and he speaks flawless English. I suspect the trips he arranges for Europeans in the US are as well executed as mine. My only regret is I had only one day to fish. I'm not complaining, though, since the



'bookends' to my day of fishing were in Como overlooking the lake and four days in Reggio Emilia, Italy's premier food region."

(*Postscript*: Tagini says Franzen's trip cost a total of \$330, including transportation from his hotel and back and streamside lunch. He warns, however, that this is the very low end of the scale and most days of fishing will cost more, especially with gas in Italy costing \$6 a gallon. He says to expect the cost for a day of fishing in Italy to hover around a few hundred Euro, which is about \$400 to \$500 dollars.

You can contact Tagini at American Western Adventures by e-mail at: awaflyfish@aol.com. His web address is: www.awatravel.net.)

□

■ And, finally, here is a sad bit of news. Jim Chapralis has passed away at age 75. Chapralis, of course, was the founder of one of the first major fishing travel agencies, Pan Angling Travel Service. The agency booked trips all over the world and created a template for today's sophisticated angling travel business. His early success sending anglers to remote locations helped lay the groundwork for the creation of today's elaborate network of fishing establishments.

In all, Chapralis is thought to have booked 40,000 fishing trips. The agency, during its heyday, issued a monthly news-type bulletin, which provided a rough model and inspiration for the creation of *The Angling Report*.

Chapralis, in recent years, turned his hand to book-writing and competition fly casting. You can find a complete list of his books on the web site, www.anglingmatters.com. Here at *The Angling Report*, we offered one of his recent books for sale a while back, *Master Your Fly Casting... And Have Fun Doing It*. His latest volume, released almost the same day he died, is *Le Shack... A Very Special Fishing Place*. Copies are available for sale on the above-mentioned web site.

Chapralis is survived by his wife, Sally, and a sister, Angela Javella. Farewell, Jim Chapralis.

● OUTFITTER CRITIQUES ●

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

(This section of The Angling Report is based entirely on subscriber-written Angler Network Forms. Our policy on these forms is we publish excerpts in the newsletter of Angler Network Forms as received and exert no censorship. Agents, guides, lodge operators and/or outfitters who disagree with anything said about them in this section are free to submit a rebuttal. Only paid subscribers may file Angler Network Forms or request printouts of them. As a subscriber, you can help extend the reach of this program by filing an Angler Network Form yourself. You should have found one inside this issue of your newsletter. For details on how to order printouts of Angler Network Reports, see Trip-Planning Database Service Box.)

■ Subscriber Ken Spint is impressed with the fishing he experienced in **California** this past October with Guy Jeans of Kern River Fly Fishing (866-

347-4876; www.kernriverflyfishing.com). Spint fished the Kern River around the town of Kernville. The river here is divided by Lake Isabella,

creating a number of different fishing opportunities, including lake fishing, river fishing and tailwater fishing in the lower section of the river. Spint

THE ANGLING REPORT

says he fished the Upper Kern, just north of town, where he caught 15 to 20 trout a day. Most fish measured 12 to 14 inches, but several stretched out 16 to 18 inches. Most of the fish were rainbows, but he says there were also some browns and a number of rainbow/golden trout hybrids.

Spint says the Upper Kern is a high-volume stream in the spring and summer, with raging Class IV rapids. But in the fall, the water levels drop and the river becomes mostly pocket water that most anglers will find easy to wade. The river flows right through town, and there is good fishing all along its length. He warns, however, that restricted and difficult-to-access areas make a knowledgeable guide almost a necessity when fishing the Upper Kern.

Spint has high praise for Jeans, whom he describes as one of the best guides he has ever fished with. He says Jeans was team captain of the Western Fly Fishing team, and he knows how to fish and loves doing just that. In order to ensure his clients catch fish, Spint says Jeans carries two or three rods with different rigs ready to go. At each pool, he says they tried dry flies first, then what he says is called a Czech nymphing setup, followed by a nymph dropper setup. Spint describes Czech nymphing as an old technique that is popular in European fishing competitions. He says two or three heavy weighted nymphs are tied off the main line and flicked, not cast, upstream of a seam. The angler does not really search for, or sight, fish using this technique. While some anglers might question this style of fishing, Spint says it was actually quite effective. He often caught fish within nine feet of where he stood.

Spint says having several rigs readily available at each pocket water made for some intensely focused fishing. It virtually assured him of catching fish at every spot. He goes on to point out that Jeans has a unique knowledge of the Kern River because he has scuba dived most of its holes

and seen what is there. Spint gives a cost of \$325 per day for one angler; \$350 for two. He says Jeans is offering some new floattrips on the Kern this coming season and that he intends to check them out too.

□

■ Subscriber John Sheppard recommends the day of fishing he enjoyed near Nashville, **Tennessee**, this past September on the Caney Fork River with guide Steve Sylvis of Game Fair LTD (615-353-0602. Web: www.gamefairltd.com). Sheppard says the Caney Fork is full of brown and rainbow trout from 10 to 14 inches, but warns they can be quite picky. He says he and Sylvis went through a dozen different flies before they hit one that worked.



Because the Caney Fork is a tailwater, Sheppard says the water flow depends on whether the dam is running all of its generators. He wanted to float the river, but says there was not enough water when he was there. Instead, he says they walked and waded the whole day. Turns out, the river is very easy to wade, according to Sheppard. He says the bottom is covered with pebble- to golf-ball-sized stones and has no boulders. He says the river was only about 200 yards wide where he fished and that he spent the day casting streamers in very clear water to fish from 40 to 50 feet away.

Although Sheppard says this is not the place for a multi-day trip, it is a fun one-day destination for anyone visiting Nashville. He gives Sylvis high marks, noting that he provided plenty of advice without hassling him

or becoming impatient. He says Sylvis provided all the gear except boots and waders. "He is an excellent guide, and I would recommend him to anyone," he says. Sheppard gives a cost of \$300 for a day of fishing during the week, \$350 for weekends.

□

■ Subscriber Paul Oldaker is happy with his annual trip to **Alberta's Bow River** this year with guide Mike Nash of Westwinds Fly Shop (403-278-6331). Oldaker is a geologist who travels to Calgary on various work projects every year and sets aside some time to fish the Bow. He went twice this year, first in late May and again in September. During his first trip, he says the river was high due to runoff but was still fishable. Since the water was so cold and deep, he says they mostly dredged the bottom with San Juan worms. A slight caddis hatch made some dry fly fishing possible. He reports that he and his fishing partner caught about 10 fish apiece from 12 to 24 inches. The bigger fish were in the deeper water. They caught both rainbows and browns while floating a 10-mile stretch of the Bow just south of Calgary. He warns that May is an iffy time to fish the Bow, as it can be quite muddy one week and clear but still high the next. When he returned later, in September, he says the Bow was lower and the fish more concentrated. He says this time of year is more reliable, and unless a major rainstorm hits the Bow it is usually fishable about any day.

Oldaker says the Bow is convenient to fish if you are in the Calgary area, as it passes right through the city. Although the river is estimated to contain 2,000 fish per mile of water, Oldaker says he does not consider it a prime fishery these days. He calls it a great one- or two-day add-on to a trip, not a destination one should plan a trip around. He gives Mike Nash and the Westwinds Fly Shop high marks and recommends them to fellow anglers. He reports a cost of \$550 a day for two anglers.

THE ANGLING REPORT

■ Subscriber Barry Leeds is so pleased with the spring Atlantic salmon fishing at Stewart's Old Pine Lodge in **New Brunswick** that he has fished there for the past five years. Here is what he says about his most recent trip: "Fishing on the Miramichi River continues to improve from year to year. Most of our fishing this past spring was on the Little Southwest Miramichi, with some time spent on the Northwest Miramichi. I fished the first week in May for five days and caught 43 salmon and grilse. The salmon to grilse ratio was 2:1 in favor of the salmon. My largest salmon was 44 inches and estimated at 22 pounds. A few others were near the same size, with most in the 30- to 35-inch range. The grilse were all 20 to 25 inches.

"I have fished for bright salmon, but I'll take seven to 10 spring salmon a day to maybe one or two bright salmon a day. Don't get me wrong, though: Spring salmon fishing is not a hook-up on every cast. There are times when you can cast flies for two to even four hours and not get a hook-up. These spring salmon can turn off as quickly as they turn on. You know they are in the river because they bump your streamer for hours but don't take. Then that magical moment comes....

"Stewart's Old Pine Lodge lies on the banks of the Little Southwest Miramichi. The lodge has its own guides (always from the Stewart family), and it's just you and the guide for the day. Because of the high water, you are always casting from a boat (no waders necessary). I use either an 8- or 9-weight rod with either sink tip or intermediate (Orvis clear) line. Flies are tied and supplied by the lodge. Although I always tie and bring my own large streamers, I seem to do better with the Stewart's flies. Over the past five years I've averaged between four and 12 hookups per day. As a bonus, there are also some nice brook trout available.

"The cost per day is \$300 US, in-

cluding lodging, lots of good food, personal guide and boat with a jet outboard. Roy Stewart is the lodge manager and can be reached at 506-836-7609. Or send an e-mail to: rstewart@nbnet.nb.ca."

■ Subscriber Richard Bischofhausen has filed a rave review of the bonefishing he enjoyed around **Grand**

Bahama this past October with the Pinder brothers of Grand Bahama Bonefishing (330-650-2636; www.grandbahamabonefishing.com). Bischofhausen says this was his 15th trip in seven years with the Pinders. "Why would you go anywhere else to bonefish?" he says, explaining that he has fished Mexico, Christmas Island, Alaska, Belize, the US West

More Fishing Reports

(Editor Note: Over the past few months we have received reports on fishing trips in the following parts of the world. All of these reports have been added to our files and copies of them can be obtained through our Trip-Planning Service. See page 2 for details on how to place an order. Online Extra subscribers can view the full text of these reports free on our web site at www.anglingreport.com/online_extra/index.cfm.)

Florida: Victor Raposo fished the Lower Keys for tarpon and permit this past June with Gordon Baggett of Bahia Honda Sporting Club (Tel. 386-405-0105. E-mail: gordonlbaggett@aol.com). He calls the operation a "tarpon trifecta," offering excellent fishing, guiding and accommodations/meals. Raposo says he fished during the famous palolo worm hatch, when the water boiled with tarpon. He reports landing several fish from 50 to 100 pounds. He says the guides provide custom-tied flies, leaders and good equipment for anglers who don't want to travel with rods. Raposo says he enjoyed his trip so much that he is returning again this season.

Idaho: Sam Campbell and his daughter fished the South Fork of the Snake near Swan Valley this past June with the South Fork Lodge (Tel. 877-347-4735. Web: www.southforklodge.com). He says they fished with two guides, Ooley and Brett, who were wonderfully patient with his daughter and helped her catch lots of fish. He gives a cost of \$850 for a three-day package, including lodging. He says they stayed in a new five-bedroom cabin set apart from the lodge, featuring a beautiful fireplace, wet bar and fridge and a deck overlooking the South Fork.

Utah: Sam Campbell and his son fished this past June on the Green River near

Dutch John, with Denny Breer's Trout Creek Flies & Green River Outfitters (Tel. 435-885-3355. Web: www.fishgreenriver.com). Because the "B" section of the river was blown out by a storm, they fished the top section of the stream for three days with three different guides. Campbell says each guide approached the same water differently, producing a successful day each time. Campbell reports catching "tons" of cutthroats, rainbows and browns up to 22 inches, and says they had eight double hook-ups one day. He gives a cost of \$400 per day. Campbell says they stayed at the Flaming Gorge Resort (Web: www.flaminggorgeresort.com) about 15 minutes away from Dutch John.

Northwest Territories: William P. Hall says he agrees with subscriber Peter Regan who filed a positive report this past September on Kasba Lake Lodge. Hall says he went to Kasba Lake a few years back to catch a trophy grayling and some northern pike. He says his guide took him to a number of bays and inlets in the lake where the water was calm and he could cast to the banks. In two days, he reports catching 37 northern pike and says he could have caught many more except that it simply got tiring and his forefinger became bloody from all the stripping. Using a lighter rod, he says he fished for grayling in areas where the fish eagerly hit his dry flies. He also caught a 29-inch lake trout. Hall ranks the experience right up there with fishing Alaska. His only warning is that anglers should wear foul weather gear while traversing the lake in a boat because howling wind and spray can be a problem. Hall booked his trip to Kasba Lake through Paul Melchior of Angling Escapes (Tel. 847-441-3195. Web: www.anglingescapes.com).

THE ANGLING REPORT

and most every major Bahamian island. "Nowhere will you find the consistent quality of fish, highly professional and knowledgeable guides, ease of travel and quality accommodations," Bischofhausen concludes.

Over a six-day period on his latest trip with the Pinders, Bischofhausen reports catching more than 70 bonefish, mostly three- to five-pounders, but with some larger fish mixed in weighing up to 10½ pounds. He also jumped two tarpon, caught a three-foot lemon shark on fly and took a shot at a 40-pound permit. In addition to the fishing, he says he tacked on a few rounds of golf on two afternoons after returning to the docks.

□

■ Subscriber Allan Craig says he fished in **Brazil** this past November under the new ownership at Agua Boa Lodge, formerly the Royal Amazon Lodge (www.aguaboamazonlodge.com). You'll remember we told you about this change in ownership this past June. (See Article ID 2012.) Well, Craig says the new ownership is doing a good job. The staff and management are the same despite the change in owners, Craig says, and he praises them profusely for their service levels. He says the staff was very helpful in recovering his entire group's lost luggage from COPA Airlines. (See "Airline Complaints" elsewhere in this issue for a complete report on the problem with COPA). He is also impressed with their continuous attention, from the ice-cold drinks pressed into anglers' hands as they arrived, to the efforts of the guides to keep them on fish, to the professionalism and easy-going temperament of the lodge manager – even after Craig managed to break a rod the manager loaned him the first day.

As for the fishing, Craig says the water was unusually high in the Agua Boa but began falling and clearing upon his group's arrival. The Agua Boa, you'll recall, is famous for its crystal-clear waters and fly-fishing-only status. Craig says the fishing was

ok the first day and improved throughout the week. He reports that everyone caught 30 to 50 fish a day, including numbers of butterfly peacocks in the two- to four-pound range and larger *temensis* peacocks to 18 pounds. He says that while he caught some fish on 3/0 gurglers on top, the most productive method was using a sinking 300-grain line with weighted clousers. Some of the fishing was by blind casting into pockets near cover, but Craig says the members of his group also often spotted fish while the guides either paddled or poled the 18-foot boats.

Craig describes his trip as a great experience and says the Agua Boa should be on every fly angler's list of places to fish. He gives a cost of \$4,500 and says he booked his trip



through Larry Schoenborn of Fishing with Larry (800-205-3474; www.fishingwithlarry.com).

□

■ Remember our FREE Fishing Trip report on Casco Bay, **Maine** in the August issue? Subscriber Joe Tomlinson reported about fishing the area in a flats boat with Captain Eric Wallace of Coastal Fly Angler (Tel. 207-671-4330. Web: www.coastalflyangler.com). After submitting his report last August, he sent us the following note: "I received some input from anglers who have fished with Wallace, and I think their comments will give fellow subscribers a more complete picture of him as a guide.

"One of the anglers I spoke with is Jerry Gibbs, the veteran fishing editor for *Outdoor Life*. He has fished with Wallace a number of times and de-

scribes him as, 'the real McCoy - one of those guides who truly puts his heart and soul into his work and is fun to be around.' It's interesting to note that Gibbs, who has fished all over the world, chooses to live on Casco Bay. It says something about the fishery.

"Lanier Woodrum from Roanoke, Virginia, is an *Angling Report* subscriber and an experienced saltwater fly fisherman. He fished with Wallace in June and describes him as 'a very knowledgeable guide who is also fun to be with — an all-too-rare combination.' In June there tend to be good numbers of fish available, but they tend to be smaller. He described a typical day as taking 20 to 30 fish in four hours, with things shutting down as the day brightened. The largest fish he caught was a striper of about 30 inches. He mainly caught fish on mud and grass flats by casting to signs of fish activity, rather than sight fishing to individual fish.

"Tom Brunnelle, who lives in southern Maine, fished with Wallace in early July after winds reverted to the prevailing southwesterly flow. He and his son had a very enjoyable day, boating 12 stripers and blues. He noted that he had about 15 other hookups, but, because he mainly fishes freshwater for trout and salmon, it took some time to adjust to the more aggressive hook set required for this type of fishing. He said most of their fish were in the 20- to 28-inch range. He had very positive comments on Wallace, noting his patience and helpfulness in working with him and his son.

"And finally, Tim Youmans, who lives in southern Maine, has fished all over the world with lots of guides, and he rates Wallace as one of the top one or two guides he fishes with. He says it's a lot more fun to fight stripers and blues on the flats because the fish need to run - not just go deep as they do when hooked up in deeper water. He says that regardless of fishing conditions, Wallace does a great job finding ways to get into fish...."

THE ANGLING REPORT

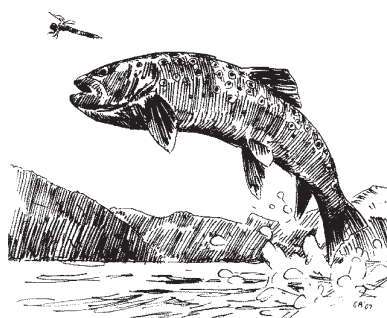
■ Still in **Maine's** Casco Bay, we have a report on another guide in this region; it's from Honor Roll subscriber Frank Perkins, who fished one day this past June with Captain Jay McGowan (Tel. 207-833-6054; or cell-321-213-1146. E-mail: harpswell.fishing@yahoo.com). He reports catching a dozen stripped bass in a couple of hours. Fish averaged 20 inches, with the largest going 26 inches. Perkins says McGowan grew up on Orrs Island in Casco Bay and knows where to find the fish. He says they got into a school of active stripers where he landed a fish every two or three casts. The water was only eight to 10 feet deep with the fish near the surface hitting poppers, small clousers and surface flies. Perkins says he was able to see fish well enough to sightcast part of the time. Other times, he cast to swirls and below circling birds.

Perkins says he enjoyed his day of fishing and would do it again. He describes McGowan as a personable guide who knows what he is doing. Besides striped bass, he says McGowan also guides for bluefish and mackerel in Casco Bay from June until October. The rest of the year, he says McGowan lives and guides on the east coast of Florida in the Melbourne area, which is where they originally met. Perkins says McGowan uses a 21-foot center console boat and charges \$400 for a half day for up to two anglers.

■ Subscriber Jerry Estruth has good things to say about his trip to the Kamchatka Peninsula in **Russia** this past September with Paul Allred of Ouzel Expeditions (800-825-8196; www.ouzel.com). Estruth says he spent a week floating a river Ouzel calls the Karpushka. He says they set up a new camp each day and used rafts to access areas that he waded to fish. He reports catching many rainbows averaging 26 inches, with his largest measuring 32½. Additionally, he says there were enough 18- to 20-

inch char to keep an angler busy all day. While he says they sometimes used big egg-sucking leaches, most of the fishing was conducted with mice patterns. Estruth says he found fish in every deep pool, along trees and brush, sometimes along banks and sometimes in holding areas in deeper water. He describes the fishing as simply awesome, and says the fish felt like slabs of beef on his line when they jumped during a fight.

Estruth goes on to praise Ouzel's operation and staff. He says the Russian guides were wonderful. Although they were not right next to him or continually pointing out where he should fish and how, he says they were always accessible and helpful when needed. Estruth says his group consisted of experienced anglers who



were allowed to fish as independently as they wanted. Although they had a translator in camp, he says the guides spoke some English and the head guide and camp manager was an American. He says the camp cook produced excellent meals, including a dish made from wild mushrooms she picked around camp. In the evenings, the guides played the guitar and sang around the campfire. He gives the whole experience an enthusiastic thumbs-up and says the only bad part about the trip is the travel involved. Estruth flew through Seoul, South Korea, and says the trip is long and tiring. Despite that, he plans to return again next season.

■ Continuing subscribers will remember our report on a luxury tarpon lodge in **Nicaragua** called Rio Indio

Adventure Lodge. (See Article ID 1747.) The place is located on the southernmost tip of Nicaragua's Miskito Coast on the banks of the San Juan River, which serves as the border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. It is surrounded by the rainforest of the Rio Indio-Maz Biological Reserve and offers tarpon fishing in the ocean inlet as well as fishing for snook, mojarra and other river species in the bay and river.

What occasions this re-mention is a note we received this month from subscriber John J. Jackson, III. Jackson visited Rio Indio this past October and although he did not fly fish, his update on the tarpon fishing there is well worth noting. He writes: "My wife Chrissie and I went tarpon fishing for 2½ days at the mouth of the San Juan. We are both experienced tarpon anglers and were anxious to explore this location. The Rio Indio Adventure Lodge is one of the most elaborate lodges of its kind we've ever experienced. The architecture and ambiance of the lodge, its jungle setting on the crystal clear lagoon and the pleasant staff were worth the trip alone.

"We fished off the bar at the river mouth and up and down the coast, all within a few miles of the lodge. We drifted and jigged with one-ounce jigs. We also trolled with the jigs and eight-inch Rapala lures when trying to locate greater concentrations of tarpon. Both methods worked. We hooked nine fish, all over 100 pounds, and tagged and released two tarpon approximately 135 and 150 pounds. We were told this was slower-than-usual action.

"Two other couples were also at the lodge for the tarpon fishing. They each jumped five to seven tarpon per day and caught two per day. All the tarpon were over 100 pounds.

"We had absolutely no trouble crossing the bar at the river mouth in the lodge's 26-foot, twin-engine offshore boats. The boats have high sides to brace your knees when landing a fish and are well laid out. The

THE ANGLING REPORT

seas are supposed to be calm in September and October; while we were there, they varied from dead calm to two feet.

"We flew from Miami to San Jose on American, then flew to Bara Del Colorado in the far northeast corner of Costa Rica, where we were taken by boat to the lodge in Nicaragua. That last leg was a scenic river trip that took approximately 1½ hours, including a brief stop to clear both Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Customs on the San Juan River. We are making plans to return next year."

(*Postscript:* Contact Indio River Lodge at 866-593-3176; or visit their web site at www.rioindiolodge.com.)

□

■ And, finally, remember subscriber Lee Ann Ross' report in the September issue about fishing for Nile perch in Uganda? Well, she's back this month with a report on another exotic location, namely **Kenya**. She writes:

"My favorite place to fish in the entire world is the Chania River in the Aberdare Mountains of Kenya. I spent eight years in Kenya working for the US foreign aid program (USAID), so I had time to check out the fishing there. The Aberdare Mountains form a 767-square-kilometer national park west of Mount Kenya. This was the home of the Mau Mau during the fight for independence. To get there, you travel from Nairobi to Nyeri (154 kilometers) via paved road and enter the park by either the Kiandogoro gate behind the Outspan Hotel or the gate that leads to the famous Treetops Hotel. Alternatively, you can drive via Naivasha and enter through the Mutibo gate. Whichever way you choose, the roads into the park can be trying in the best of weather. In the rainy season, they're hopeless. Be sure to drive a 4wd vehicle.

"As you climb up in elevation, dense rain forests with lush overhanging moss yield to bamboo forests, which in turn give way to moorlands. The highest peak is Lesatima at 13,120 feet. The moorlands average

around 10,000 feet.

"The trout are small; 12 to 13 inches is a good fish. But the spectacular waterfalls make up for any shortcomings in size. You can fish the Chania River above the falls by the road, or you can work down to the bottom of the waterfall following a primitive, steep path. The best fishing I ever had at the pool under the waterfall was following a hail storm. I caught a fish on every cast.

"At the Kururu River, you find an even larger 900-foot waterfall, complete with a viewing deck built by the British army during a training mission. There is wonderful fishing upriver in the forests. On one trip to Kururu, I watched 40 elephants cross the river as I ate lunch on a bluff. The woods are thick and the solitude supreme.



"Fishing the small falls on the Gikuyu can be rewarding, but watch out for the muck upriver. The elephants come here to drink, creating mud that can trap you like quicksand. There is a cave behind the waterfall accessible by an old wooden walkway built during the filming of *Queen of Sheba*. Another waterfall lies just below the Sappar Hut Camp. Further afield, the Hani River offers some of the best fishing in the park.

"Anywhere you fish in the Aberdares, you need to be alert for buffalo, lions and other potentially dangerous animals. At each stream, painted rocks in the parking area warn, 'Beware of Lions.' I never took an armed ranger with me when I fished, but you can arrange to have one join you at any of the gates. Check with the Kenya Wildlife Service (www.kws

.org) for the latest arrangements.

"The only places to stay in the park are the *bandas*, or cabin camps, run by the Kenya Wildlife Service. Recently refurbished, Fishing Lodge is the largest *banda*, handling up to eight guests. I've stayed there probably 20 times and simply love it. For full details, go to www.kws.org. Click on "KWS Bandas" in the left-hand margin. There's also the Treetops Hotel or the Ark, both lodges offering game viewing at night near the edge of the park. You can also stay outside the park at the Aberdares Country Club or the Outspan Hotel and come into the park on day-trips. To book any of these accommodations, visit www.lets-go-travel.net. Click on 'Kenya' and then 'Aberdares.' The park entry fee is \$40. Accommodations run \$50 to \$200 per day."

Controversies

- Subscriber John Baskin has good things to say about the food, service, lodging and guiding provided him by Valhalla Lodge on the Sustut River this past October, but he is disappointed that the river blew out during his trip, making it very difficult to catch any steelhead. Valhalla Lodge is owned by **Sweetwater Travel**. Baskin's trip was booked by **The Fly Shop**.

Baskin says the river blew out the very day he arrived and remained muddy for the rest of the week. He says the only angler on the trip who had any success was one from Washington State, who caught two steelhead that weighed about 18 pounds and lost another that was estimated to weigh 20 pounds.

We sent a copy of Baskin's report to the Fly Shop and Sweetwater Travel, and received the following reports from those firms:

Pat Pendergast at The Fly Shop: "Thank you for the email and the opportunity to reply to John's evaluation of his trip to Valhalla Lodge this past October. I can certainly appreciate the disappointment John felt about the number of fish he saw and caught. John Baskin is my hero! I was

THE ANGLING REPORT

fortunate to fish for steelhead with John many years ago on the Sopochneya River in Kamchatka. Unfortunately, that trip was not much more productive than his trip this past fall to the Sustut River. There were few fish in the river, we experienced bitter cold temperatures and the fishing was extremely tough. John was 78 years old or so back then, and he fished the hardest and longest of any of us, including the young bucks. The guides were dumb-struck! The Russians were very respectful (honored) by John's effort. John is the quintessential steelhead fly fisherman who does not rate a trip solely on the number of steelhead brought to hand but on the opportunity to do so – the total experience.

"John's week fishing on the Sustut River was brutal to say the least. In fact, I would bet that you have received a ton of trip reports from folks voicing their concern about the low number of steelhead caught this season on any of the great rivers in British Columbia. The rivers of the Skeena Drainage were especially hard hit. Very low numbers of steelhead got to the tributary rivers of the Skeena, including the Bulkley, Sustut, Babine, Kispiox, Copper, etc. This was a direct result of the commercial sockeye gill-net fishery that is devastating the wild steelhead of BC. The steelhead are considered by-catch (a nuisance to commercial fishermen), and they are supposed to be released alive from the gill-nets to make their way up river. Anyone who has seen a gill-net knows that the likelihood of getting a steelhead out of one alive and in good enough shape to swim a few hundred miles upstream to spawn is highly unlikely. You get the picture. For every steelhead that is caught by an angler in BC six die in gill-nets....

"But back to John Baskin's trip.... In addition to very low numbers of fish, John had to contend with a heavy rainstorm the week before he arrived and a subsequent mudslide on the Bear River (major spawning tribu-

tary of the Sustut) that totally blew the river for better than a week. Clearly, John and the other anglers faced a dismal situation. It is worth noting, incidentally, that the nine anglers at Suskeena Lodge, sister lodge to Valhalla (the same week), landed nine steelhead total for the week; 540 hours of fishing, 60 hours per landed fish. The steelhead fishing that week on the Sustut was awful and there was nothing anyone could do to fix it.

"I might point out, that several anglers decided to leave early due to the dismal conditions. Those anglers who hung in there through the end did see conditions improve the last day of their trip. Several steelhead were hooked and landed that afternoon. One was a fish in excess of 20



pounds, lost at foot while landing.

"At any rate, John Baskin's report is dead-on accurate. All the aspects of the trip that were under the control of The Fly Shop and Steelhead Valhalla were executed above average, as John points out in his report. Still, I can understand his not wanting to return in the future. Here at The Fly Shop, we feel awful about what happened, and I am sure the folks at Valhalla Lodge feel the same way." – *Pat Pendergast, The Fly Shop.*

Jeff Vermillion at Valhalla Lodge: "Indeed, fishing was tough John's week due to a blown river and less than stellar returns throughout the Skeena Watershed. Bottom line is these guys came prime time and hit poor conditions and a weak return of fish.

"I am sorry Baskin and his group

didn't have a good week, as that means they may not return and likely feel the lodge is responsible for their poor experience. I like John Baskin, and I feel as badly as he does that he had a poor trip. I do, however, want to point out that the Skeena is our last chance to save a great wild steelhead-producing watershed. Where else on earth are you going to fish for wild steelhead up to 35 pounds in jaw-dropping scenery if the Skeena watershed is mismanaged to the point that stocks collapse? The time has come for anglers to use catch results from their trips and the *Angling Report* for something other than a barometer for when to switch destinations. Helping these destinations overcome the conservation threats they face is a much better legacy to leave our kids. The Skeena is our final stand for wild steelhead." – *Jeff Vermillion.*

□

■ Subscribers who saw Hill Blanket, Jr.'s downbeat assessment of **Mark Kniprath's operations in Chile** should be aware we have now been copied on an acerbic rebuttal comment from Kniprath. The back-and-forth comment on Kniprath, you'll recall, began with a positive report in these pages in the November issue written by Managing Editor Barbara Crown. She pointed out that Kniprath is selling his fly-out operation in southern Chile and moving to the Chilean side of Tierra del Fuego, where he will be targeting sea-run browns, sea-run brookies and steelhead. Blanket's critical comments were directed at both of Kniprath's operations, and they were sharply critical of both. As for Kniprath's rebuttal, he gives as good as he got. While we aren't comfortable with the tone of some of Kniprath's comments, we generally welcome this kind of back-and-forth comment as it nudges readers toward a fuller understanding of destinations and the character of the professionals who outfit for them. Here is what Kniprath wrote to a prospective client who saw Blankett's comments and was troubled by them:

THE ANGLING REPORT

"Hello (name withheld). As regards the bad report from clients from last season, I am not surprised by their attitude. For my part, I can only say that I am relieved they will never come back to Tierra del Fuego. Every few years, we get a client or two who are very difficult and, no matter what we do, are not happy afterward. Part of the blame is mine, but most of it is due to their attitude and lack of skills and patience in fishing. We had a new guide last season who was, to put it honestly, not worth a s****. I fired him last season after the above group complained, and he will never work for me again. That was my fault. Now, let me explain the proverbial rest of the story. These four guys were well into their 70s and in very poor physical condition. Unless you are fishing

in a stock pond, all fishing requires some walking. For example, we have two small rivers, one 10 minutes and the other 20 minutes from the lodge. These rivers have beaver ponds, and they are very good for resident fish that average 18 inches. A fisherman willing to cover two to four miles of river, slowly fishing all the small pools, can have excellent fishing. The walking is not difficult. They did not want to fish these two rivers due to the walking involved. The Rio Grande is 40 minutes from the lodge and had plenty of sea-runs in it during their trip. The upper section does not have as many fish as the lower end in Argentina, but the scenery is much better and the fishing is all done with floating lines, not with 400-grain, heavy, sink-tips, as is done

in Argentina. Fishing for sea-runs is for dedicated, patient fisherman. The average is about one fish for every four to five hours of fishing. The fisherman whose comment you read complained about the wind, did not follow the guides' instructions, quickly lost confidence and, on several occasions, wanted to leave after an hour or two of fishing. The one place we fish that is over an hour from the lodge is Fagnano Lake/Azopardo River. It has big brookies, rainbows, browns and even a good number of sea-runs. This destination is an option for our guests. When we fish it, we normally spend one night in a cabin there, fishing two full days in that area. Hope this answers a few of your concerns. Feel free to contact me if you are still worried." - Mark Kniprath.

Airline Complaints

• Subscriber Allan Craig says **COPA Airlines** threw him some real curves on his flights to and from Manaus this past November on a trip to Agua Boa Amazon Lodge. For starters, the airline made an unannounced schedule change, which required him to make some expensive changes to his connecting flights and overnight in Panama on his return home. Worse, he says COPA could not open the baggage compartment on its flight from Panama to Manaus, so it simply returned to Panama with all of the passengers' luggage aboard, including that of 10 anglers in his group who had a charter flight scheduled the following day. Ultimately, after 48 hours, the luggage was delivered to the lodge. "Next time I fly," Craig writes, "I'll pack my carry-on more thoughtfully. I could have been without my luggage for the whole week!"

(Don Causey Note: Indeed, it is important to think through carefully what you put into your carry-on bag these days when you fly. Top of the list should be important medicines, eye glasses, fishing glasses and all travel documents, including a

photocopy of the identifying page of your passport. A change of underwear and socks is crucial, as is a jacket and compact rain gear. Personally, I always try to fly in shoes I can fish in if worse comes to worse. As regards getting to the Amazon, by the way, the most reliable way to do that is through Miami on TAM airlines. The



COPA flight may seem more convenient from the west coast, but complications like those experienced by Allan Craig are common.)

□

• Subscriber John Baskin is furious with **Air Canada** for leaving his luggage behind on a flight to Smithers, British Columbia, this past

October. He is convinced Air Canada did this so it could take on more cargo. He says five or six others on the flight had the same problem he did.

(Don Causey Note: Indeed, here at *The Angling Report* I am hearing of numerous instances of airlines deliberately leaving bags behind so more passengers, can be crammed into planes. South African Airways has been one of the largest offenders in this regard, leaving thousands of bags behind this past summer so seats could be filled with passengers on its flights from the US to South Africa. We'd like to do our part here at *The Angling Report* to hold airlines accountable for this kind of behavior. So, let us know if you suspect, or have proof, that your bags have been deliberately left behind by an airline anywhere in the world. I'll publish what you send. In the interest of checking this matter out a bit further, I contacted Scott T. Mueller, author of *The Empty Carousel: A Consumer's Guide to Checked and Carry-On Luggage*. We have been selling copies of Mueller's book to interested

THE ANGLING REPORT

subscribers on our web site, www.anglingreport.com. Scroll down our Home Page and look on the left-hand side. Mueller is an expert on the subject of lost and mishandled airline luggage. Here is what he has to say about airlines deliberately leaving luggage behind. His comment provides some important food for thought. For sure, next time I'm headed to a remote area on a regional carrier and it appears the plane is going to be full I am going to start asking some questions about luggage. Mueller writes: "As for John Baskin's negative experience with Air Canada, it is true that regional carriers do sometimes take on passengers whose baggage they cannot accommodate.

Airlines would rather bump bags than strand passengers when there are seats available. This kind of thing is common on certain routes where weight and balance is an issue. Those routes are out there, but they aren't advertised when you book your seat. The correct way of bumping bags is to notify affected passengers so there are no surprises on the other end. Unfortunately, this does not always happen the way it should. In cases where bags are bumped for passengers, there should be no freight or mail on the airplane. The question I have for Mr. Baskin is, does he know for sure freight or mail was loaded instead of his checked luggage? If the answer is yes, then does

he know what the significance of the freight was? There are a few circumstances in which bags can be bumped for cargo. Emergency freight needed in a particular area for emergency-related reasons has priority, as do human remains. An airline that bumps passengers' bags for normal cargo is violating rules of ATA (Air Transportation Association) and IATA (International Air Transportation Association), and is courting trouble with government overseers, such as the Department Of Transportation in the United States. An airline that makes a practice of doing this would, in my opinion, face stiff penalties in most countries, and surely face tough scrutiny."

Back of the Book

(All items in this section are paid advertisements. Ads cost \$1.50 per word. They are published as a reader service. For more details on our ad rates and policies, contact: Edi Bell, The Angling Report, 9300 S. Dadeland Blvd., Suite 605, Miami, FL 33156-2721. Tel. 305-670-1361. Fax 305-670-1376.)



Fly Fishing Patagonia

Fly fish in Argentina's fabled waters around Junin de los Andes. Fish the Chimehuin, Malleo, Collon Cura, Alumine and Traful Rivers with us for rainbow, brown and brook trout, plus landlocked Atlantic salmon. Three-day float camp trips available. Seven nights/seven days in Argentina or Chile from \$2,500. Contact: Andes Outfitters

Martin Carranza

Tel: 786-266-5068

E-mail: mcarranza@andesoutfitters.com
www.andesoutfitters.com

Trophy Redfish

Fly fish 25 miles from New Orleans in skinny water year round. Specializing in catch-and-release sight casting. Accommodations for up to eight guests, includes meals. Four flats boats.

Capt. Gregg Arnold - 504-237-6742

Advertise With Us!

Call Edi. Tel. 800-272-5656.

Maine's Casco Bay

Fishy structure and countless acres of mud and sand flats, combine with large tides and cool water to keep an active bite all summer long!

Learn more at: www.coastalflyangler.com.

Capt. Eric Wallace 207-671-4330.

CUBAN FLY FISHERS

Cuba - Las Salinas

Fantastic bonefishing, permit, tarpon.

One guide per fisherman. Excellent rates.

Tel. 011-44-207-731-6871 (England)

E-mail: mike@cubawelcome.com

Web: www.cubawelcome.com



THE BEST OF KAMCHATKA

The Best Of Kamchatka

Your trip to Kamchatka deserves to be the sole focus of your agent/outfitter. Kamchatka is all we do and we do it right. We provide the finest rivers, staff and equipment. Spectacular trips to the Ozer-naya and Two-Yurt Rivers; or our newest program, Rainbows from Above Fly-Out Lodge.

Will Blair, Owner/Operator

Tel. 877-707-0880

Affordable Bahamas Bonefishing

Acklins & Eleuthera

Budget fishing packages for anglers desiring to fish Eleuthera or Acklins. Fully-guided or unguided fishing, or both. Check out our photo galleries and trip reports on the web at:

www.cattarauguscreekoutfitters.com

Tel. 716-479-2327.

E-mail: vtobia@aol.com

Park Lake, Labrador, Canada

World Class Speckled Trout

What are you waiting for!!!!

Unrivalled numbers of speckled trout await the catch-and-release enthusiast. Remote, fly-in location in Labrador. References aplenty!! Fourteen years of operation at this location. Trout fishing at its best. Contact us for availability and pricing for 2008.

Tel: 709-896-3301

Fax: 709-896-5557

E-mail: parklakelodge@hotmail.com

www.parklakelodge.com



unique fly-fishing destinations

Kau-Tapen www.kautapen.com

Toon Ken www.toonken.com

Villa Maria www.vmarialodge.com

Bella Vista www.bvistalodge.com

Futa www.futalodge.com

Pira www.piralodge.com

Bairs www.bairslodge.com

Or see all the Nervous Waters Lodges at:
www.nervouswaters.com

For additional information on any of the destinations listed, please contact

Santiago Seeber at:

santiago@nervouswaters.com

Tel. 877-637-8420

THE ANGLING REPORT



Grand Bahama Bonefishing

It is seldom that one finds a destination to vacation with your spouse and/or do some serious bonefishing. The Pinder Brothers have put the perfect package together. Second-generation Bahamian guides with vast flats to fish. For more detailed information visit:

www.grandbahamabonefishing.com.

Malbaie River Outfitters

Malbaie River Outfitters (Orvis Endorsed) offers world class Atlantic salmon fishing on eight Gaspé Rivers. The rivers are gin-clear and hold salmon up to 40 pounds. Peak dry fly fishing is July/August. Simon Gawesworth offers a beginner's Spey school June 1-6. An advanced Spey School is offered June 8-13. Fishing season is June-September.

Tel. 603-472-4043 October-May

Tel. 418-645-3965 June-September

E-mail: info@malbaieriveroutfitters.com

Web: www.malbaieriveroutfitters.com

World's Greatest Redfishing

Fly fishing and light tackle.

Corporate groups welcome.

Call Gulf Coast Outfitters in SE Louisiana.

Tel. 877-redfish (733-3474)



"Adventure...it's our Tradition"

Every year, Westervelt Sporting Lodges participates in outfitting trade shows across the country. There you can meet with our experienced guides to book a trip or to complete the final details for your angling adventures.

January 18-20, 2008
The Fly Fishing Show
Marlborough, Massachusetts

January 25-27, 2008
The Fly Fishing Show
Somerset, New Jersey

February 8-10, 2008
The Fly Fishing/Wingshooting Show
Charlotte, North Carolina

March 15-18, 2008
LL Bean Fishing Expo
Freeport, Maine

Tel. 800-281-7991
www.westerveltlodges.com

The Best of New Zealand Fly Fishing

For over 15 years, we have specialized exclusively in New Zealand fishing and travel. Fly fishing is our central focus, but we are experts in many other activities and accommodations available in New Zealand. We create exclusive fishing programs, as well as sightseeing and other nature-based activities. Call for brochure or visit New Zealand's most exciting fishing site: www.BestofNZflyfishing.com

Mike McClelland

10544 W. Pico Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90064

Tel. 800-528-6129

E-mail: info@BestofNZ.net

Chilean Patagonia

Thank you for a successful season.

Now booking for 2008-2009.

- Floating lodge – the PUMA in Lago Yelcho. Capacity six fishermen. Fish the bays and rivers, including the Futaleufu, of the 28-mile-long Yelcho Lake. Mostly dry fly fishing for true trophy rainbow, brown and brook trout of three to 15 pounds. The closest thing to flats fishing there is in fresh water. PUMA has been in operation for 17 years.

- Our second lodge is nine years old and located halfway between the lake and the ocean (25 kilometers from the lake) on the Yelcho River. No roads; you travel by boat. Pristine river fishing for browns and rainbows, with occasional cohos, Chinooks, Atlantics and sea-runs. Also available are other lakes in the immediate area, including the lake that every client from the 1998-2006 seasons, including legendary guide Bill Curtis, said "was the best dry fly fishing he ever had." The lodge accommodates eight fishermen.

Puma Fishing LTD.

Contact: Dr. Stephen Selway, D.V.M.

Tel./Fax (Apr. 30 to Nov. 30)

516-775-0827.

Tel./Fax (Dec. 1 to Apr. 27)

954-922-5389.

E-mail: fishhorsesjs@aol.com

OUZEL EXPEDITIONS

*Float Fishing Adventures on
Wilderness Rivers.*

**Guiding in Kamchatka since 1991
in Alaska since 1978.**

Paul, Sharon Allred & Todd Hiibner

www.ouzel.com
paul@ouzel.com
1-800-825-8196

Fly Fishing in Mongolia

Taimen, lenok, grayling, comfortable yurt camps and floattrips with

Andy Parkinson's Fish Mongolia

Tel. 866-427-9668

E-mail: andy@fishmongolia.com

Web: www.fishmongolia.com



Flies for the Serious Angler. Specializing in tarpon, bonefish and permit flies. Check out our new patterns for this season. Fantastic, custom-tying program for all your other needs. Visit www.ssflies.com; or call 207-452-2343.



JARDINES DE LA REINA - CUBA

2,800 square miles of flats and only 10 flats skiffs. Which 280 square miles of flats are you going to wade today? Bonefish, permit and tarpon.

See January 2005 *Angling Report*.

Cell: 011-39-33581-49111

E-mail: Avalon@avalons.net

Web: www.avalons.net



Fish Cape York Australia

Fish Australia's northern tip of Cape York, where freshwater rivers flow through mangrove jungles into huge estuaries and then on to pristine sand flats and beaches, all of it teeming with over 50 different kinds of game fish. Trevallies, barramundi, queenfish, permit, tunas and big barred mackerel are just a few of the headline species. Just offshore in the shallow Gulf of Carpentaria, pelagics bust bait under seabirds. All of this is fished from guided skiffs while living and dining in comfort aboard Carpentaria Seafaris mothership, "Tropic Paradise." This is a fishing adventure that no fly or light tackle angler should miss. Bring an appetite for fabulous fishing and gourmet food. Join us for the "Best Week of Fishing on the Planet!" 2008 price is now US\$4,850 and is based on dollar exchange at the time of deposit.

Call for a DVD, a color brochure and available dates.

Tel. 888-409-2008, 305-872-0179

E-mail: howard@fishabout.com

www.fishabout.com