



Hooked Up, Early Morning, Lake Ontario Tributary



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We are in the ninth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on the great fly fishing venues, trip reports and insights for our traveling fly fishers. We've been to most locations and pride ourselves on our ability to research new destinations. Whatever unbiased information on timing and locations we can provide comes at the same cost to you as booking direct – i.e., NO EXTRA COST.

#### ALASKA – SILVERS AND KINGS



It was only a few years ago that the King Salmon fishery on Alaska rivers seemed to be endangered. The numbers of Kings returning had dwindled to such a small number that fishing for them on some waters had been cancelled. It appears that the Kings have rebounded and are now available in great numbers in some rivers. The Goodnews, once a prime King and Silver river, had seen it's King numbers fall off greatly. However, this year was a rebirth with the King run one of the largest in many, many years.

That's Don Olen in the photo at left with a healthy king. Don's comments: "We were fishing far out on the Aleutian Peninsula, about 600 miles from Anchorage. It was a place you can catch kings on a fly in a small river. We didn't weight any fish, but estimates say we took fish of 35#."

The Goodnews River is most famous for its prolific Silver Salmon (at right) runs. Historically, this may be the most interesting place to fish for Silvers. The way the braids set up, it allows for taking numbers of silvers on the surface. Joe Rusconi and Dave Hamilton, on their second Alaska trip, decided to try out the Goodnews River Lodge and its famous Silver Salmon run. There is a prime three week period for the silver run and they timed their trip to take advantage of that timeframe. Comments: "Yes, we hit it right as far as the silver salmon were concerned – caught lots of them. Food was great and we had a terrific time and we liked the guides and staff very much."



One aspect of this trip highlighted by past clients was spending the afternoons, moving upriver, to pursue rainbows and dollies after a morning of silvers. On this topic, not so much from Dave and Joe's experience: "Unfortunately, the Rainbows and Dollies didn't cooperate, maybe because of weird rainfall situation (global warming?)." Water conditions can always impact – seems they "hit it right" on silvers and "hit it wrong" for the rainbows and dollies. The Goodnews River Lodge is the only stationary lodge on the river (due to arrangements with the local Indian tribes). In the past, that has provided for an uncrowded fishing experience. However, Dave and Joe reported there was a lot more traffic on the river than they expected. At times, there was some competition for the best spots (rafters and campers).

## LOOKING FOR PARTNERS

From time to time, we hear of a fly fisher who is looking for a partner (or partners) to join them on a specific fly fishing adventure and we list it in our newsletter. Our role is just that of a facilitator – introducing fly fishers who may share an interest in avoiding single angler rates and sharing the experience at a specific destination.

There is an angler who took his first Belize mothership trip this year and is returning in September of 2017. He has one partner already and is looking for one or two more guys to share the trip with. If you might have interest, hit “reply” and inquire further.

## TAIMEN IN MONGOLIA

Steve Pillsbury checked in with a report on his recent Mongolia trip in pursuit of Taimen, a very large salmonid species unique to these rivers that attain lengths of 40 to 60 inches. The Taimen is a freshwater fish and does not attain its size by foraging in salt water. That’s Steve at right with his guide and a 40 inch Taimen.



Part of Steve’s report suggests that this is not an adventure for everyone. The report:

“Here are some of the highlights from my Mongolia trip. It was a great trip. The guides and support staff were top-notch. However, this trip isn’t for everyone:

- from the east coast it takes over 30 hours in transit to get to UB.
- bathroom facilities at the camp consist of an outhouse (hot showers available in the pm).
- it is not mainly sight casting. I was blind casting every day.



Taimen are the apex predator in the river, so they average about 20 per mile. That doesn’t add up to constant action. They are difficult to hook. Only barbless hooks are allowed.

On the other hand: beautiful setting, good weather, clear water, relaxed schedule, good food, the Gers (yurts: tent-like structures used for accommodations) are comfortable (photo at left), boat system that puts you on new water every day and things run really smoothly logistically. I’m glad I did this trip.”

## NEW VALUE OTG- HD FISHING SUNGLASSES

About a year ago, I received a phone call from a guy touting their new polarized HD sunglasses for fishing. The prices he was quoting sounded too good to be true. He wanted to send me some to try out and get my opinion. I explained that my old eyes required a prescription lens and he replied, “No problem. I’ll send you our OTG style and they will fit right over your regular prescription glasses.” I told him to go ahead and send and I’d try them out. I used these brown lens glasses on a New Zealand trip and two trips to Belize this year.

My verdict – amazing value for \$19.95. I have been using “over the glasses” sunglasses for years to avoid the expense of ordering new polarized fishing glasses every time my prescription changed. I had found my previous “over the glasses” in New Zealand several years ago, but the price was much more than \$19.95.

The brand is Maxx HD and they have a complete line of different styles – not just OTG’s and fishing glasses.....and the prices are lower than you would expect. If you try them out, drop me a note and let me know how they worked for you. The website is [www.maxxsunglasses.com](http://www.maxxsunglasses.com)



## **BELIZE WINTERTIME SPECIAL – STILL SOME OPEN WEEKS**

Three weeks are still open in the months of January and February to book the Rising Tide in Belize at the special “Wintertime Special” price of 20% off. [www.flyfishbelize.com](http://www.flyfishbelize.com) For more details, just hit “reply” and ask.

## **NOVEMBER MEMORY PHOTO**

This may be the most spectacular brown trout photo we’ve ever seen.....Matt Jones with a beautiful fish taken sight casting in a shallow, crystalline, New Zealand stream. How special would it be to see that giant nose come up and inhale your fly?

**PHOTO CREDITS:** banner – Steve Pillsbury;

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