



REPORT: ALASKA FLY OUT LODGE II



Chuck Ferrell, Jerry Saltzgaber, and Chip Fudge made their first trip to one of Alaska's top fly out lodges, Bristol Bay Lodge, in 2007. Last month, they returned bringing three other fly fishing friends with them: Chris Degner, Chris Carey (son), and John Carey (Dad). Jerry captured the essence of their trip in a few words: "Alaska was great as usual. Good time, lots of fish--best fishery in the world for a fly fisherman. We went back because of the wide range of fish & fishing conditions."

The photo at left captured a fast start to their trip – on their first fly out, right after their float plane dropped them off, all six hooked up with a silver salmon on virtually their first casts and all landed the fish.....a very unusual (and exciting!) way to begin a fly fishing trip. Left to right in the photo: Chip, Chris D., Chris C., Jerry, John and Chuck.

A special attraction at Bristol Bay Lodge is their two outpost camps which are set on prolific and uniquely private waters. During your week, you spend five nights in the main lodge and one night in each of the remote outpost camps – photo at right. The fly outs to the outpost camps add variety, adventure, and a "wilderness edge" to your trip in addition to supplying productive fishing opportunities. While remote, the camps are comfortable with delicious cuisine and weather proof, stationary, two-man tents.



Alaska provides one of the "fishiest environments" on the planet, fueled by the massive runs of Pacific Salmon. Of the five species of salmon, the silver (coho) salmon is the highlight for the fly fisherman. The variety of species available is amazing – in addition to the salmon are giant rainbows, grayling, arctic char, northern pike, lake trout, and sea-run dolly varden.



Above: guides prepare salmon for packing to take home. A limited amount of salmon are allowed per fisherman to be killed for "take home". Right – Jerry, Chris, Chuck, and Chip relaxing after a tough day on the water.

John Carey (at left below) was everyone's hero. At 90 years young, he did not miss a beat the entire week and, at one time during the trip, had taken the largest silver. John identified one of the highlights of the week as being their last day when everyone collectively took over 100 sea-run arctic char (right of John with silver below) between 5 and 11 pounds, topping it off with a 26" rainbow.



Grayling, (below left center) with their distinctive dorsal fin, are a dry fly oriented option, while trophy rainbows (right center) are a prime attraction.



Chip, below left, captured the essence of the week: "We had a great time, love Bristol Bay Lodge, and the management does an excellent job there."



Note about booking Alaska trips: if you want to book a top notch lodge when the Silvers are in the rivers, you should be planning far in advance as these times at the "A" lodges fill very early.

Photo credits: Chris Degner and Jerry Saltzgeber

Don Muelrath

Fly Fishing Adventures

888-347-4896

www.flyfishingadventures.org