



Bristol Bay Area River, Alaska



IN THIS ISSUE:

- TWO WAYS TO DO ALASKA – PHOTO ESSAY REPORTS
- SOUTH AMERICAN UPDATE - FAVORITE CHILE SPOT (DATES) AND GOLDENS ON THE SURFACE
- FERNIE BC – NATIVE CUTTS AND BULL TROUT
- BELIZE TRIP – LOOKING FOR ONE MORE ANGLER
- OCTOBER MEMORY PHOTO

We are in the eighth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on great fly fishing venues, trip reports and insights for our traveling fly fishers. We've been to most locations and pride ourselves in 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

TWO WAYS TO DO ALASKA

This article has trip comments and photos representing the two primary ways to fish Alaska – the fly out lodge and the riverside lodge (a float trip is the less utilized and most rugged third method of fishing Alaska).

John Hall M.D. and his son, Luke, visited the renowned Bristol Bay Lodge in early July. Bristol Bay is a fly out lodge accessing a great variety of waters. John enjoyed the experience and decided to return in August accompanied by his wife, Sarah. Sarah had these comments on the trip: “The bottom line is we had a fabulous time. John enjoyed the second trip of the summer thoroughly, we were very impressed with how well run every aspect of the operation was managed. A lot goes on behind the scenes and the guests can just relax and thoroughly enjoy the fishing and spectacular scenery. Every day really was another day in Paradise.”

Pictured below are the primary species pursued in mid August – l to r: John with silver salmon, the most exciting of the Pacific salmon for a fly rodder; Sarah with a nice Dolly Varden; rainbows; John with a Dolly in spawning colors; float plane arriving to pick up anglers. Pike, Grayling, and other species also available.



Well traveled fly rodder, Mickey Myhre M.D., below center, commented: “Overall, I enjoyed the trip and might do it again. The fishing really picked up when the silvers came in.” Sam Berry, right-cen below, called Bristol Bay “a well oiled machine, everything on a rigid schedule.....” Large rainbow at left with its grandson next to it.



“Loved every minute. Great staff. Great guides. Great fishing. We had an absolutely great time at BBL. And I have never had such beautiful weather. I know the weather on my next visit will be cursed,” commented Jeff Deaton whose July trip was with a group of seven family and friends.

One of the attractions of Bristol Bay is their two outpost camps (at left below). Guests are flown out and spend one night at each camp during their week. This broadens the overall experience and adds a “wilderness edge” to the week. Accommodations are in stationary tents so its not too “rough”. Part of Jeff’s group at right with a few of the guides.



Jeff Deaton provided an extraordinary collection of photos that comprise a photo essay of their trip that can be accessed through this link: Alaska - [Photo Essay Report](#)

Arguably, the finest silver salmon fishery on the globe may be in the Goodnews River during a few select August weeks. This is a spot where numbers of large fish can be taken daily on the surface with various types of poppers and gurglers. Combining the silvers with an outstanding rainbow and dolly population makes the Goodnews one of Alaska’s great fly rod rivers.

Josh Luft-Glidden (at right) is becoming a regular on the Goodnews, returning again this August. Josh has been taking casting lessons and, in his trip remarks, he talks about how that has improved his fishing: “It was a great year up on the Goodnews this year. We had perfect fishing weather (overcast, drizzle almost every day), and I got most of the fish on the surface with poppers. Fish were averaging around 8 -12 pounds with plenty in the 15 pound range. I've been taking casting lessons for the last year and the extra distance has really done wonders for my popper fishing; and on windy days, I was able to cast those large poppers into the wind. The silvers were fresh and hot, and every fish caught had sea lice with tails. The weather and high water made the rainbow fishing difficult this year. I caught a few in the 18-20" range, but nothing huge. The dolly fishing this year was crazy. I took to skating a small gurgler over the dolly flats for the last hour of fishing, and I was getting action on every cast. One of the other anglers even managed to land a 30" dolly.”



Two other Goodnews “regulars”, Paul Souza and John Wilhelm, returned again this year and brought with them two friends, Take Yokota and Ed Bonnett.

Below, l to r: John with pretty rainbow; Paul with large silver on; not all catch and release – they vacuum pack, either fresh or smoked, a certain number of salmon to take home; Josh with big silver.



Paul's comments on this years trip: "Again, we were dead spot on! The fish were in and in serious numbers and bigger than we have seen in the past. To say they were HOT is the understatement of the year. The Dolly fishing on the one day we went far upstream was over the top. All in all a GREAT trip."

Silvers and more silvers.....taking large silvers on the surface is one of fly fishing's great thrills. Below, l to r: Ed and Paul hold nice silvers; Ed and Paul with a double; Take with a large silver.



Below, l to r: fat dolly; guide prepared traditional Alaska shoreside hot lunch; enjoying lunch; popular silver surface flies.



Below, l to r: Take strains with a large silver on; The Goodnews is a serious fishing camp – lodge ambiance is not a big factor....while the food is good and the staff outstanding, accommodations are in stationary tents; John likes to spend time pursuing the beatifully spotted rainbows.



SOUTH AMERICAN UPDATE - FAVORITE CHILE SPOT (DATES) AND GOLDENS ON THE SURFACE

Our favorite Chilean Patagonia lodge sent us these dates that are still open for the upcoming season. Photo essay reports on this lodge are availalbe - if you'd like to see one, just hit reply. Spectacular scenery and lots of fishing variety in a remote area of the Andes where it is still uncommon to run into other anglers! They have both a 7 day and 10 day program.

- January 3 to 10 – 2 anglers
- January 14 to 24 - 1 angler (10 day program)
- January 24 to 31 - 5 anglers
- January 28 to February 7 - 1 angler (10 day program)
- February 14 to 21 - 3 anglers
- February 21 to March 4 - 1 angler (10 day program)
- March 14 to 21 or 25 - 4 anglers (7 or 10 day program)

From the famous Golden Dorado Lodge in Bolivia, Tsimane, comes word that large Golden Dorados are being taken on the surface with skated mice patterns. The 20# fish at right was taken near the end of the recent season – mouse in mouth.



FERNIE BC – NATIVE CUTTS AND BULL TROUT



On the west slope of the Canadian Rockies, the area of Fernie BC is noted for willing native West Slope Cutthroat (left) and possibly the most prolific remaining population of Bull Trout (right). Outstanding scenery and beautiful waters are part of the package. The Elk River watershed has been protected by laws and solid conservation methods which have kept this area and its fishery largely natural and not overfished – i.e., it is the way it's always been and the fish wild and native. Some rivers, such as the Wigwam, are among the most striking freestone



waters in western North America. For accommodations in the Fernie area, there is a wide variety ranging from motels to ski condos. For couples who don't mind being a short drive outside of Fernie, there is a world class ski lodge with spectacular views and a welcoming mountain ambiance. In the summer, this ski lodge becomes a resort hotel.

Sue and Tim Bottoms fished Fernie this summer and focused primarily on the main stem of the Elk River. The Cutt at left above was taken off a submerged log. From Tim (above, l and r): “Loved the Elk and the mountain resort hotel. The river was still recovering from the very heavy rains in June and waters high. Our guide was very engaging and hard working. I would use him again. Caught two big bull trout on the Elk while nymphing--resorted to nymphing when dries were slow. Last day was very good dry fly fishing (ants).....both the view and food were very good.”

BELIZE TRIP – LOOKING FOR ONE MORE ANGLER



Ryan Hawks (at left with permit) is hosting a trip on the mothership Rising Tide in Belize. The focus of this trip will be permit fishing. Their route will take them to the finest permit flats on the globe. These are the flats inside the barrier reef beginning about 15 miles southeast of Belize City and extending south for about 50 miles. The dates of the trip are February 11 – 18. The Rising Tide can sleep six anglers and tows three skiffs. So far, there are five guys committed to going so they have room for one more. Warning: this trip is not the standard variety (tarpon, bonefish, permit and snook) mothership trip that most anglers take in Belize – to sign up for this adventure, you should have some experience with permit fishing and be committed to the frustration and challenge that accompanies pursuing permit.

OCTOBER MEMORY PHOTO

That lovely young lady in her head-to-toe color coordinated fishing outfit and Barbie rod and reel is our granddaughter, Sophia. She is proudly displaying her first rainbow trout ever. Her Dad took the family on an overnight camping trip to a lake within easy driving distance of home. The first evening, Dad explained to Sophia that they would go fishing that evening, but she shouldn't expect to catch anything.....she would have a better chance of hooking and landing her first fish the next morning (managing expectations!). Within seconds after her first cast hit the water, this fish was hooked up. Sophia and grandson, Nico, would catch several, including Nico's first ever on a fly. These fish were hatchery trout and everyone learned how to clean and prepare them for the frying pan.....part of the overall experience. This is where it begins if kids are to have an appreciation and love of the outdoors, nature, and fishing.

PHOTO CREDITS: Banner photo – Jeff Deaton; Alaska - Mickey Myhre, Sam Berry, John Hall M.D., Sarah Knox M.D., Jeff Deaton, Josh Luft-Glidden, Paul Souza, John Wilhelm, Take Yokota and Ed Bonnett; Fernie – Sue and Tim Bottoms; permit – Ryan Hawks.

Either phone or drop us an e-mail if you have questions or would like more information about any of our destinations.



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