

NEWSLETTER #7 - SEPTEMBER 2002

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This is the seventh edition of our monthly newsletter with updates on great fly fishing venues and insights for our traveling fly fishers. We want to help you match the right location with your fly fishing goals and objectives and properly prepare you to fully enjoy the experience. We've been most places and pride ourselves in the ability to research new locations – and 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.

KAMCHATKA EXPLORATORY TRIP

We did an exploratory trip to the Kamchatka Peninsula in late August of 2002. We found an area of stunning scenic beauty that has hardly been touched by today's sportsmen. The Kamchatka Peninsula (Russia's eastern edge – a five hour flight from Anchorage) is 750 miles long punctuated by volcanic peaks, majestic mountain ranges, endless forests, and water - miles and miles of streams and rivers which, in many cases, have yet to see a tied fly. There are over 1,100 rivers and only three of them have seen a stationary trout camp as of this past summer. There's lots of exploring still to be done.

In many ways, the fishery is similar to what Alaska was 50 or 75 years ago, but there are some distinct differences. Trophy rainbows are the headliners, but, like Alaska, there are great populations of char, salmon, dolly varden, etc. The timing and impact of the anadromous fish entering the rivers needs more definition – they don't parallel the Alaska timetable and vary in some rivers. The insect populations are much greater than Alaska, producing hatches that get the big "bows" active on the surface during certain times of the summer.

We spent a week with some American outfitters who have a real spirit of adventure. Three of the guys that accompanied me had also fished with these adventurers in 2001. Last year, they had an unbelievable week of catching big rainbows on the surface on a river that was fished by less than 15 people all summer. These three are already committed to returning next year for their third consecutive year. The outfitters have already explored a target river for next summer that is full of big rainbows and never been fished! They are putting together a program to run limited trips on this river during the best dry fly period (either three or four weeks of only six fisherman each) during the summer of '03. Details are not available as of the date of this publication, but we are negotiating to send a small group over during one of those weeks next summer.

This is truly wild country. The city of Petropavlovsk has a quarter-million people, but it is the only major population center. The rest of the landmass (larger than Montana) has a sparse population of 125,000. This trip is not for everyone. You must have a sense of adventure to overcome some of the inconveniences associated with being among the first fly fisherman to fish a particular river. Few Americans have set foot on this tundra.

While there are certainly interesting aspects of travel to Kamchatka, the major justification for this trip is the opportunity to catch large wild, native rainbows on the surface in water that has not seen more than 10 or

20 fishermen before your arrival. Kamchatka will be on our list of experiences to share for the summer of 2003. Let us know if you have any interest in exploring this vast new “world class” fishery.

Next up on the exploration trail for Leland’s is the new bonefish location in French Polynesia – we’ll be stopping there following our New Zealand adventure in February.

WINTER ADVENTURES IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE OR THE TROPICS

If you’re planning a fly fishing adventure some time this winter, time is getting short. Especially if you want to go where it will be summer (the Southern Hemisphere) or where it’s warm year-round (the tropics). For instance, most of the best guides and lodges in New Zealand are already full and piecing together a trip, if it can be done, requires lots of flexibility on the part of the traveler. Some winter ideas that are winners include:

The Chilean Andes and Fjords: Our six weeks traveling and fishing in Chile uncovered some great fly fishing adventures. Maybe the best package we’ve experienced is a split trip: half focused on the coastal fjords and the other half in a traditional Andes lodge. The coastal fjords can be accessed either by mothership trip or using the upscale Puyuhuapi Hotel and Spa as a base of operations (we’ve done both and if you want creature comforts, the obvious choice is the Hotel/Spa). The Hotel/Spa is isolated on an island in the fjords and can only be reached by boat or small plane. Fishing is for trophy rainbows, browns, and silver salmon. There are many great Chilean lodges, but if I only had one choice it would be to fish from “top of the line” Isla Monita on the northern end of Yelcho Lake during the dragon fly hatch. Big fish congregate to chase the dragon flies and it’s a terrific top water experience. My largest resident brown trout came from this fishery.

Tropical Bonefish Lodges: From the established locations such as Casa Blanca on Ascension Bay to the Bahama’s or new discoveries such as French Polynesia, there is space available at some destinations. We’re holding a prime April week at the most unique of all the Bahama lodges, Flamingo Cay. It’s unique in that it’s the only lodge on the entire West Side of Andros and it has character, charm, and amenities not found in the traditional Bahama lodge. As of today, we still have four spots open on this trip that will be hosted by Josh Frazier.

New Zealand – 2 openings possible: We have a pending cancellation from a client holding two spots for our February week at Poronui Ranch. If you have interest, let us know.

Belize Mothership Trips: Fishing for tarpon, bonefish, permit, and snook from the Meca (parties of three or four) and the Seaduction (parties of two) have weeks still available. The Seaduction has lots of availability while most months still have a week open on the Meca. Meca weeks still open: 11/18 – 25, 12/12 – 19, 1/16 – 23, 2/15 – 22, 5/11 – 18. If you’d like to have a copy of the new video of this salt water fly fishing adventure, let us know.

SIGHT CASTING IN THE LAS VEGAS DESERT

Our son, who’s resided in Las Vegas for the last year, has been telling me about the exciting striped bass fishery in Lake Mead and Lake Mojave, about 30 minutes from LV. Last weekend, he reported an early

morning session with about a dozen fish released (3-4 #'s) and several others hooked and lost. All were caught sight-casting to fish exploding on the surface chasing minnows with a floating line. I said, "OK, I'm in – let's do it next Sunday." Naturally, the fish weren't as aggressive on my morning as the previous week, but it is a fishery worth checking out if you're in Vegas and want some relief from the casino environment. For more info, you can contact Shawn at the Las Vegas Fly Shop at 702-838-6669.

UPDATE ON AVAILABILITY: DEAN RIVER COMBO TRIP

The article below about the Dean River combo trip ran in last month's newsletter. We have received positive response to the concept of combining these two different fishing environments and opportunities into one trip. To date, it appears we have one group of six almost completed and are working on the second group (only space for two groups of six). We must have these reservations in soon (got an extension of a few weeks to complete reservations in process) to secure this space so if you have any interest, let us know asap.

Dean River Steelhead, King Salmon, and Outstanding Dry Fly Trout Fishing – An Exciting Combination Package For July '03.

This past July, we had several of our traveling fly fishermen visit two of British Columbia's premier fly-in lodges: Moose Lake Lodge and their sister lodge, the Dean River steelhead camp. Reports from those going either place were of outstanding service, comfortable and scenic surroundings, good food, and an outstanding, isolated angling environment. The waters fished in early July (including the Blackwater R. and the upper Dean) from Moose Lake Lodge offer some of the best dry fly fishing for native rainbow and cutthroat on the planet with 50 and even 100+ fish days are possible – and almost all on dries. The Dean is simply the "Dean" of all the steelhead rivers with great catch rates of large, "hot", fresh from the ocean fish. Many of the weeks on the Dean for steelhead have been booked for years by the same "steelhead addicts" and getting space is impossible.

Leland's Fly Fishing Adventures has made an arrangement with both lodges (same ownership) for July 4 – 11, '03 that allows a combination package with three full days fishing from each location. This will combine the fast action of dry fly fishing on some of BC's greatest rivers (all fly out adventures) and streams with the opportunity to catch the steelhead of a lifetime. Also, that week has seen the height of the king salmon run in the Dean the last few years so the river will have both steelhead and kings available. The price will be \$4,250pp for the seven night trip which includes the charter flight from Vancouver and all the fly outs from the lodges.

THE CATCH: We can reserve this combination package for either an intact group of six or twelve for that week only and the reservations must be confirmed by deposit before October 1. If you have a party of two, three or four who would like to reserve this adventure, we'll do the coordination to put fishermen together so they add up to six or twelve. This is a very special experience in an environment of stunning natural beauty combining some of the greatest possibilities in the realm of fresh water fly fishing and it's not that far from home.

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

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,

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