



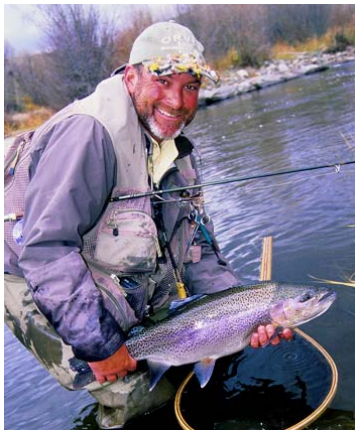
FLY FISHING ADVENTURES TRAVEL NEWSLETTER – AUGUST '07

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We are in the sixth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on great fly fishing venues, trip reports 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 to most locations and pride ourselves on our ability to research new sites. One of our services is to compare and contrast different lodges/outfitters. 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.

THE “CAT’S MEOW” OF U.S. FLY FISHING OPERATIONS



How do you measure the U.S. fly fishing operation that could earn the “Cat’s Meow” moniker? Obviously, it must start with the fishing itself. Next, you try to measure the overall ambiance of a destination, level of service provided by the guides and staff, menu and cumulative cuisine, and most important of all, the comments from experienced, globe hopping anglers who’ve just been there.....fly fishers who’ve experienced the best there is and have a good basis for comparison. Throw in the fact that it’s the priciest U.S. operation we know of and provides an experience that apparently lives up to that price based on the fact that virtually every visitor rebooks for the next season.

We’ve had 15 clients so far this summer visit Three Forks Ranch in northern Colorado. All 15 of them already have dates reserved for 2008 at this 250,000 acre Rocky Mountain outdoor playground. And yes, this is also a good couple’s destination - over half of our clients have been couples.

Comments such as “plenty of beautiful, private water with lots of 4 to 6 pound fish” and “I’ve never caught so many fish over 20 inches” are commonplace. And, the majority of the fishing is done in small, comfortably waded, streams – over 16 miles of private water just for the clients of Three Forks. However, it’s not just the fishing - it’s the overall operation that gets rave reviews.

Some recent reports:

Melanie Walters: “We loved Three Forks and we have space booked for October of 2008. I’m proud to tell you that I caught two 17” trout on one cast and netted them both!! The people were great, the food was excellent, and the place was beautiful. The only negative thing I can say about it is that it is very, very expensive.”

Chris Sahn (corporate group of six friends/associates): “Landed 12-20 fish/day, most in the 16 - 20” range, but I had several “hogs” on my line, failed to land them. We were using 5 & 6X tippet so the big boys would just break us





off. **INCREDIBLE** place!! We had a great time, the staff are very professional and Peter's food at Hidden Valley was delicious. Our dates for next year are confirmed." (Chris with rainbow on left)

Starting in '08, the new lodge and spa will be completed adding another element to what is already the owner of the U.S. "Cat's Meow" recognition from this fly fishing travel consultant.

This comment from Jim Taylor's first visit last year sums it up: "First class operation from beginning to end and everything in the middle. Only negatives are the price and getting space." To see a more detailed report of our initial exploratory visit to Three Forks, just hit "reply" and we'll forward it to you.

ALASKA "FAMILY WEEK"

The top Alaska lodges provide a wonderful fly fishing adventure in stunning surroundings and one of the fishiest places on earth. With their numerous fly outs, outstanding staff, and tasty cuisine, they come with a price tag in the \$6,800 - 7,000 per week range per person. One of our favorite Alaska lodges, Bristol Bay Lodge, also has two outpost camps for overnights to add to the Alaskan adventure. One of Bristol Bay Lodge's great features are their two family weeks during the summer. These are weeks where two family members (father/mother/son/daughter – regardless of age) visiting together get a 50% price break on the second party.

John Gans and son, Henry (age 11), along with Chris Kirsten and son, Will (age 12) visited Bristol Bay the last week of July during "family week." John reported on their trip: "We had a great time. It is REALLY FISHY up there. Henry, on his first fly fishing venture, used only a fly rod to catch Grayling, big Rainbows, Chum Salmon, Sockeye Salmon, Dolly Varden, Char. You name it....he was into it - caught between 10-25 fish a day. Hearing him yelling with joy as a 24 inch Rainbow ripped all the line off his reel on a 5 weight rod was a dream come true for a fishing father.

John, Henry, Chris, and Will



The staff was great and the out camp experience was excellent. Beautiful scenery and very comfortable. Salmon fishing was a little slow at the time we were there, but that was fine with us as we prefer to catch big Rainbows (average size 18 inches, large fish of 23-26 were caught too) and loads of voracious Dolly Vardens (many over 22 inches). Chris added: "We had a really nice time fishing 6 different venues; the boys liked the adventure and the abundance of good sized fish; nice staff and location. Thanks for hooking us up with a choice outfit." At left: Henry with a beautiful Dolly Varden.

BRISTOL BAY PRIME RAINBOW WEEK DISCOUNTED – Due to an unexpected cancellation, some premium rainbow trout space has recently become available at Bristol Bay Lodge. Just two rods are being offered as the discounted rate of \$5,850 per week (\$1,000 off the regular price) for Sept 8 – 15, '07.

THE ROCKIES: FERNIE, B.C. AND COLORADO

In July, Cary Swartz ventured to the waters of the White River Valley, a Colorado private waters experience with a more affordable price tag than Three Forks Ranch referenced above. Cary was joined by one of his veteran fly fishing friends and two "first time fly fishers." Thanks to Marv Fisch, one of the newcomers, for submitting this report. It is refreshing for us veterans to hear from someone on his first experience with a fly rod in hand: "It was a great trip. As you know, it was my first, so I have nothing to compare. The ranch house itself was very nice. Large rooms and a warm ambiance. Food was EXCELLENT. Everyone was very nice. Overall, a fun time, and I told the boys I would consider another trip next year. The highlight was a 24" brown trout that broke the line as Bo (my guide) attempted to net it. I should have let out some line, but it was the largest



fish I hooked and wasn't sure how to bring it home. Chalk the "one that got away" to inexperience. By day three, I had a much better idea of what to do – 6 netted and 6 lost...great action."



Josh Luft-Glidden also visited the White River Valley in April and returned to the Elk River drainage in Fernie in July. Last year, Josh reported on his first Fernie adventure that included a "fantasy day" of Bull trout fishing. That report is on our website with details – see British Columbia page, report at bottom of page. This year's trip points to the value of having options in a fly fishing destination as the Bull Trout were not showing yet in the tributary streams; also, some heavy rains eliminated float trips on the main stem of the Elk. Instead, Josh focused on some of the small tributary streams and fished "walk'n'wade" with this report: "The small stream fished great, and I caught about 60-75 cutthroats (all on dries) in my two days on the creek. Good action all day and a nifty Green Drake hatch right around sunset that would whip the cutthroats into a frenzy, the water fairly

boiling with fish. At the height of the hatch I would be disappointed if my fly reached the end of my drift without attracting a strike, and I was rarely disappointed. The fish were of excellent quality, and ran about 14"-16" on average with several specimens in the 19"+ range. I even managed to land a bruiser that topped out at 24"!

MORE FROM THE DEAN AND MINIPI (LABRADOR) RIVERS

Last month we featured a few reports from the Minipi River (giant brookies) in Labrador and the Dean River (steelhead). Now comes a few more.

Don Powell, pictured at right with a beautiful Minipi brookie, contributes this report on his initial experience in this isolated part of the globe: "I loved the Anne Marie lodge at the Minipi Camps - easy to see why it is one of your favorites! This was my first time and I am enthralled at the uniqueness and remote nature of the experience. I owe that to Joe Shirshac who has been after me for at least ten years to go there. Best of all, I enjoyed the evening hunts, positioning for the right cast to the cruisers. We had a blast "bracketing" those rising fish. We hit the weather right in late June. I was lucky enough to get 13 by myself including a 6, 7, and 7 1/4 pound brookie. The 'big one' awaits!" (note: a Minipi brook trout must be over 3# to be counted as a catch – the small brookies from the riffles don't make that count)



Don Nelson reports from his annual week on the Dean for its summer steelhead run that the group of six that were there with him totaled "51 fish for the week, with a few in the 18# range. I caught 10 fish in the 10 to 12 lb range." Beau Purvis had his last day on the Dean turn into something special with the big fish pictured at left.

PHOTO CREDITS

Chris Sahn, Three Forks rainbow; John Gans for the Alaska photos; Don Powell, Minipi brookie; Beau Purvis, Dean steelhead.

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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