

# 2005 news



# 2006 rates

## CHANGE DAY HAS BEEN MOVED-TO WEDNESDAY!

Over the past few years more and more of our regular guests have been asking that Change Day be moved away from weekends, citing easier travel to and from the lower 48 during the middle of the week. Even our European anglers have expressed those same feelings, so we have moved it up to Wednesday. This requires that you arrive Anchorage no later than Tuesday evening, and plan to head back home either on an outgoing Wednesday night or a following Thursday morning flight.

One important aspect won't change. This past season we started using TransNorthern Air Service and their Super DC-3 for our charter flights between Anchorage and camp and that will continue. This modernized classic aircraft has comfortable seats, lots of leg room, and is a lot less noisy. It even has a bathroom! Those of you who did not join us last year will have something to look forward to.

Charter flight times will remain the same. Plan on leaving Anchorage between 9a and 10a, weather



permitting, and returning by 4p – 5p (again weather permitting). Just to avoid possible weather complications, we ask that you continue to schedule your flight home from Anchorage no earlier than 8p in the evening.

### THE PAST SEASON'S FISHING

We had low water again this year, but not nearly as low as in 2004. As is typical with this situation, some aspects of fishing were greatly enhanced, while others were occasionally somewhat diminished. All-in-all, it was a great year with lots of exceptionally good angling action.

There were more kings in the river this year than last, but for some reason not as many large fish as in years past. A few were taken in the high 40s on both plug and fly, but the greatest numbers in the 8- to 20-pound range. We also had many days of bright sun and dropping water, which at times made the game very challenging. But there were still bright fish coming in during the middle of July, and the low water conditions combined with bright sun made it possible to sight-fish for them with floating lines.

A big bonus this year came in the form of sockeyes – lots of 'em; bright, strong, and ranging from 6- to

### 2004 continued ...

10-pounds. Some anglers landed 30 or more in a single day during the second week of July. Historically the Goodnews has never hosted a major sockeye run, but over the past few years this appears to be changing and the runs have consistently increased in size. The should bode well for those who want to try these feisty salmon in 2006.

Another bonus – and one we’ve come to expect because of the events of the past few years – was a bonanza Dolly Varden run. They just seem to be getting bigger every year, and low water kept them concentrated in the lower part of the river from mid-July right up through the camp’s closing in September. Most anglers who fished for them caught one or more in the 25-inch (or larger) range, and the average was 15- to 20 inches. Numbers were high, and hot topwater action was the norm. We see no reason not expect a repeat in 2006.

Both grayling and rainbows were super-hot in June. One angler caught 51 ‘bows in one day! Those who targeted grayling were frequently rewarded fish up to 24-inches on dry flies. The grayling tapered somewhat by midseason, but there was good rainbow fishing throughout the year whenever the weather cooperated. The floats trips did especially well on rainbows. Some of these spectacular trout topped 25-inches.

Being an odd-numbered year, the pink salmon run of ‘05 was hardly the stuff of legend, but there were still enough around to satisfy anyone who wanted to take a poke at them.



However, 2006 should bring a run of serious proportions, and if they follow the trend of the last few even-numbered years, there should be a goodly number of exceptionally large (8-pounds or better) pinks in the mix.

As is so often the case in low water years, the first few weeks of the silver run alternated between fast and slow action from day to day. But by the 3rd week in August their numbers had settled down to the point where most anglers were landing 20 to 40 per day. This remained consistent right through the last week of the season, which ended September 10th. The average size was as good as always, with many reaching the 17- to 19-pound range. ■



## FOR THE MORE ADVENTUROUS

For the more adventurous, Goodnews River Lodge also offers both **3-day** and **7-day Float Trips** aboard Avon Rafts. You will be accompanied by one or more guides, depending upon group size. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the river as you fish and float during the day and setup camp in a new site each night. We promise plenty of fishing on your river excursion. The rate includes round-trip airfare from Anchorage to Goodnews Bay, tents and camping gear, sleeping bags, guide(s), rafts and meals. Other personal items for camping are not provided.

Float trips run from Wednesday-to-Wednesday and require a minimum of two anglers. The maximum is six. As with the Goodnews River Lodge Trips, guest are welcome to take home waxed lock boxes of fish they caught during the week. ■

## best of THE GOODNEWS FOLLIES

Our traditional Friday Night Follies continued throughout the 2005 season, and as usual we had lots of fun and some truly unique awards to pass out. Here are a few of the seemingly endless number of highlights.

The **Master Angler of The Week** award went to young Henry Shouler, who while fishing for kings managed to snag a whitefish right in front of the anal fin, commenting at the time "I can hook them in either end." Not to be outdone, Bill Kappel got the **Best Catch Of The Week** award when the first king he hooked on fly blew up his reel, yet he still managed to handline the 20 pounder to the boat.

Not a year passes without the induction of at least a few new members into the **Jimmy Nix Swim Club**. Some of the lucky winners this year included Tom Lesso, who performed a detailed inspection of the boat bottom from below the waterline by catching his foot on a root as he tried to board. Tom Magee

received his award for going overboard backwards while hanging onto the anchor line. And Bill Haaker executed a very impressive swan dive over the side while fighting a fish, which he ultimately landed in spite of his waterlogged condition.

This year we initiated the **Geico** award, which went to Steve and Terry Morgan for surviving a minor hit and run with a caribou in mid-river. Rumor has it the caribou is nevertheless suing for damages. There were also a number of winners of the various **Deceased Salmon** series of awards. The **Post-Mortem Pink** trophy was shared by Dave Johnson and Mike Emerick, each for snagging a fish on the back cast that had obviously given up the ghost many days earlier. Steve Ward got the **Dead Chum Society** award for hooking a long-dead specimen right in the face. And David Strawn



received the **Post Mortem King** award by hooking a 40 pounder right in the anal fin. It was so far gone that the guide refused to touch it!

When it comes to the **Unique Species** award, the hands down winner will remain anonymous to protect the innocent because he accidentally hooked a baby duck on a mouse fly. The hard part was trying to fend off a head-on attack by mama merganser while landing and releasing the little critter unharmed.

## FLY CASTING SEMINARS

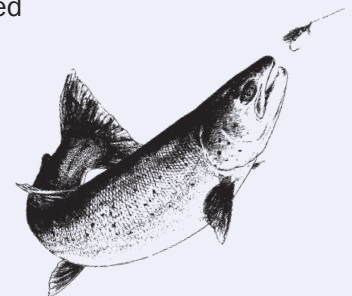
Last season we initiated a few informal fly casting seminars that were so well received we plan to do it again in 2006. Time permitting, a seminar will be conducted by our very popular guides for those interested each Wednesday afternoon after everyone arrives in camp for the week's fishing. Reservations for these seminars are not required.

## SLIDE SHOW PROGRAMS

Mike Gorton or one of the GRL senior staff members would be happy to put on a slide show about the camp and the fishing for any interested group. Contact us for details.

## TRIP INSURANCE

We urge you to consider trip insurance. Especially because our short season does not allow a deposit refund unless that space is filled after your request for cancellation. We offer Travelex Traveler's Insurance. Call for details. ■



# Goodnews RIVER LODGE

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2005-2006 Newsletter

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## 2006 RATES AND FISHING INFORMATION

WEEK/DATES	PRICE	AVAILABLE SPECIES (Bold/CAP = peak weeks of run)
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1	June 21 - June 29	\$5,450/person* Kings, rainbows, grayling
2	June 29- July 05	\$6,250/person* Kings, rainbows, grayling
3	July 05 - July 12	\$6,250/person* Kings, rainbows, chums, sockeyes
4	July 12- July 19	\$4,850/person* Kings, rainbows, <b>chums, sockeyes</b>
5	July 19- July 26	\$4,850/person* Kings, rainbows, <b>chums, sockeyes</b>
6	July 26 - Aug 02	\$4,850/person* <b>Chums, rainbows, sockeyes, pinks, dollies</b>
7	Aug 02- Aug 09	\$5,950/person* Sivers, rainbows, <b>chums, sockeyes, pinks, dollies</b>
8	Aug 09- Aug 16	\$6,250/person* <b>Sivers, rainbows, chums, dollies</b>
9	Aug 16- Aug 23	\$6,250/person* <b>Sivers, rainbows, dollies</b>
10	Aug 23 - Aug 30	\$6,250/person* <b>Sivers, rainbows, dollies</b>
11	Aug 30 - Sept 06	\$6,250/person* <b>Sivers, rainbows, dollies</b>
12	Sept 06- Sept 13	\$4,850/person* Sivers, rainbows, dollies

\*Children under 16 years of age \$2150.00/person

### CAST & BLAST

\$5,450/person. Available Sept 06-13, 2006 only Morning & Evening duck hunt with fishing during the day

### FLOAT TRIPS

- 7 Day float . . . . . \$3,750 per person
- 3 day float + 4 day lodge . . . \$4,850 per person
- 4 day float + 3 day lodge . . . \$4,550.00

The above prices include a round-trip charter flight from Anchorage to Goodnews Bay, deluxe tent accommodations, meals, amenities, daily fishing trips away from the camp, guides, lures and flies, terminal tackle and boat service. At the end of the week we seal your fish in waxed lock boxes to take home and share with family and friends. These rates are based on Wednesday-to-Wednesday stays. No minimum group size is required. Maximum group size is 20. Rates do not include fishing license, King Salmon tag (if applicable), transportation to and from Anchorage and point of departure, or staff tips.

