

Alaska

December 2011

For seven years, my friends and I have fished the Kenai River near Soldotna, Alaska, for Sockeye Salmon! In 2012, we need you to fill out our crew!

Homer Marina

Our halibut trips often go out of Homer on the tip of the Peninsula.



It takes teamwork!

Just below the fishing deck, a team works together to bring in a Sockeye.



Best Eating Salmon-- Sockeye



Good Times

When the catch limit reaches six a day, the coolers fill up fast!



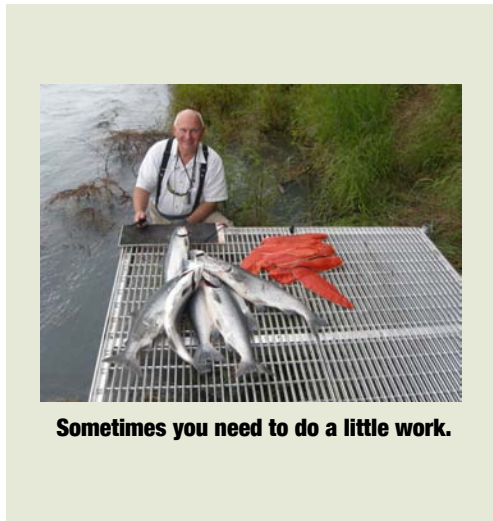
A flyout for Silvers!

Dave and I took a flyout to fly fish for silvers!



For Sockeye fishermen, a piece of Heaven

It started for me seven years ago. I joined my friend, Vic, on his trip to the Kenai Peninsula to fish on the Kenai River in Alaska. He had been fishing around Soldotna for years for sockeye. Vic found a willing and excited audience in me, and his stories had me hooked. He told of bringing home 150 lbs. of Sockeye fillets, of catching and releasing more fish in a day than he could count, of bears and combat fishing.



Sometimes you need to do a little work.

Few Creature Comforts

Vic would rent a motorhome in Anchorage then drive to Swiftwater Municipal Park in Soldotna. That year, there was room for me!

It is a three hour drive to Soldotna from one postcard perfect view to the next. Lakes, trees, rivers, and immense spaces fill your soul and peak your anticipation.

Swiftwater Park is on the bank of the Kenai River. You walk from your camp to the river bank. There is plenty of water at the facet in each camp, but only pit toilets for relief. No power, no shops, no showers, no facilities for washing clothes; but Soldotna is only a few minutes away where all necessities abound.

Fellow campers are in the water fishing all the time monitoring the river. Their enthusiastic yells of "Fish-on!" give plenty of notice of arriving salmon. When the run is heavy, and the limit is raised to six or more fish, it can be work to bring your catch back up the bank to camp.

Combat Fishing

River access is perfect in and around the park either from the bank or from provided metal decks along the water way. Often you can walk out into the River on gravel bars no more than knee deep. The Sockeye run along the bank or along underwater ledges heading upstream to spawn. When it seems as if there is a solid stream of fish running along these narrow paths you may find just as many fishermen standing cheek to jowl along that fish path trying to catch every passing salmon.



Sockeye Fishing, Kenai River.

It just doesn't get any better!



Combat fishing by Soldotna!



On My Own

After a few trips with Vic, I ventured out on my own. I used a wonderful place called the "Wandering Moose" up river from Soldotna for a couple of years. As you can see below it is well kept and has river access. However it is not well suited for a group of fishermen, it is just too expensive.



Leaving the Crowds!!!

Last year, I discovered a new location 16 miles up river from Soldotna proving to be the best spot yet. Our cabin gave us three separate aluminum decks from which to fish and "in the water" river access along the bank, and it is all to ourselves on private property!



Yes, one of us even caught a King from the bank!



What about you?

I need to fill eight beds and now only have three folks returning for 2012. The fellow who caught the King and his son will not be back this year. He is getting married and thinks he should spend the time with his new bride. Dave, pictured on the deck with the sockeye will be back, as will my wife and I.

We have two cabins on the property. We simply share the cost for the cabins, car, and food we cook.



We go the last two weeks in July, 2012, dates yet to be set. Expect costs to be about \$2,500, including airfare for two weeks. Major variables would be adding a fly out or a halibut trip. Each of us brought home at least 150 lbs. of sockeye fillets. Note, there is no smoking. Call me as soon as you can.

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