

# Silver Hilton Steelhead Lodge

December 2010

## Inside this issue:

- A Great Season
- Spey Rod Believer by Rex Lester
- Babine Splendor by George L. Spector
- Historical Catch Record
- A Note from Steve Myers
- Reservations Policy 2011
- Silver Anniversary Cup
- Ferguson Cup
- Credits
- Contact us

## Post-season 2010

### A Great Season

From day one 2010 was shaping up to be one of those years the steelheader only dreams of. The first 3 weeks of the season were undoubtedly “Steelhead Paradise” and the dries and sparsely tied wets were the flies of choice. The Paris Hilton became extremely popular and our inventory became scarce.

Basil’s evening catch record log was a lengthy process as a great many fish were being hooked. Many anglers had double digit days and, as I look through the catch records, I am astonished at some of the numbers!

Week 4 turned out to be the best of the season with 269H/185L. Lou Rago went on to have a 12 for 13 day with 10 of them from Dry Fly Diner and mostly on dries and G.L. I am sure that Lou would agree that this day would rarely be repeated and created a wonderful and lasting memory.

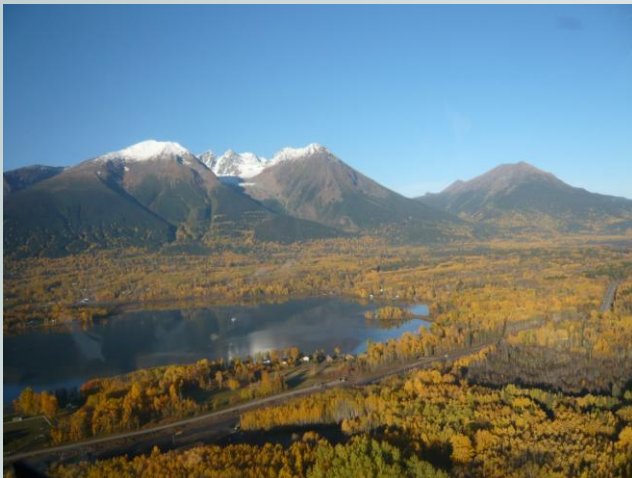
I am always surprised at how conditions can change from week to week. Whenever we get a September dusting of snow in the surrounding hills you know it is just a matter of time before we lose the river. And this year was no different. On 25<sup>th</sup> of September everything changed and conditions were just not the same for several weeks. Week 5

showed an improvement, but by the start of the 6<sup>th</sup> week conditions again deteriorated and this created a lot of hard work for the results.

Things picked-up again for the remainder of the season and the catch records showed this improvement. The river was slowly dropping and by late October the levels were getting close to early season conditions. The weather was extremely mild for the last part of the season, and this made for some fantastic fishing right to the last day. Week 9 was to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> best week with over 200 fish hooked!

So 2010 was a season to remember. For some it won’t be matched any time soon, and for others it could have been better. All in all we were fortunate to have a significant number of Steelhead in the system and, if not for Mother Nature, we can only wonder at what might have been! For now, it appears as though the Skeena and its tributaries are producing healthy runs. If we can properly manage our commercial fisheries, continue to discourage fish farming off the north coast, and keep a balance of tourism and resource based industry, then we will be able to enjoy the Skeena and its tributaries for many years to come.

Brian Schneider  
Lodge Manager



Hudson Bay Mountain

“Steelheading is not about the number of fish you catch, but about the places it takes you – in fact and in mind – and the escape from reality that it provides. It’s about the lifetime of friends that you make and the memories that you weave into the fabric of your mind”

∞ Alec Jackson

## Spey Rod Believer – by Rex Lester



Rex with a 24.5 lb. buck caught this year with his Spey rod

tried to get him to come and fish the upper part. He declined. He told me later it was the opportunity of a lifetime and he did not want to spoil it for me. What a guy!

Linus had his own excitement though while fishing Trotter's Rock that same day. He had a big black bear on the gravel bar right behind where he was fishing. David Holland fired up the boat and ran the bear back into the woods. I'm always looking over my shoulder when fishing and never go out without bear spray. In my 23 years I've never seen a bear come out of the woods and get that close to a fisherman. Unfortunately, everyone was so surprised that no one got a photograph of the bear.

Rex Lester  
Week 3 Guest



Back in 1998 I caught my biggest Steelhead ever. A 27 pound behemoth for the record books that I'll never forget. Twelve years later, 2010 was an exceptional year for me too. The 24.5 pound buck I caught was extra special because it was my first large Steelhead ever landed on my new Spey rod. I have been a holdout for years, comfortably using my 9 ft. traditional rod. But after this year I'm a believer in the advantages of the Spey. I had a blast!

Up to this year, 1998 was my best year in terms of hooked and landed. The water levels in Week 3 this year were similar to 1998. Both years were "Steelhead Magic" to be sure.

I made the decision to get a Spey rod when I saw that the river had changed over the years. In some runs, using the nine foot rod, I just couldn't get the fly out into the seam where the Steelhead were holding. Besides, I have to admit, I was tired of Lani Waller coming in a run behind me, with his Spey rod, and picking up the fish I had missed with my shorter casts.

Also, as I had been told by my fellow Steelheaders, you can cast a Spey rod all day without damage to your rotator-cuff, and other body parts. An important element as we get older! I still used the nine foot rod for dry fly fishing where the seam was closer in.

One afternoon this year, in a little over an hour, Upper Eagle produced eight hook-ups and six landed. Five on a dry fly and three on this year's hot fly, the Paris Hilton. I have never seen anything like it. Steelhead seemed to be behind every rock.

Linus Niedermeyer was fishing the lower half of the run and I



Rex caught this 27 pound behemoth in 1998

"Soon after I embraced the sport of angling I became convinced that I should never be able to enjoy it if I had to rely on the cooperation of the fish."

☞ Sparse Grey Hackle



## Babine Splendor by George L. Spector

2010 was a great year for me. I got to spend a week at the world renowned Silver Hilton Steelhead Lodge. And what a week it was! Nestled in the heart of British Columbia, the Babine River was every bit the steelhead Shangri-La that I had imagined. It was a river of rivers, beautifully quaint and quite intimate. It is truly the last of the pristine wilderness rivers on earth.

In Smithers I was informed by Cynthia Schneider, my first friendly contact from the Silver Hilton Lodge, that the helicopter ride to camp is just a taste of things to come. "It is only the icing on the cake!" she said. I told her I'd never been on a helicopter before. "You'll love it," she said. And I did.

Once the skilled pilot maneuvered us through the snow and ice laden mountains, I realized that the exhilarating ride really does provide a window to this remarkably rugged and pristine area. Flying through the canyons gives one a true "up close and personal" feeling of this vast wilderness where towering conifers abound, and wildlife flourishes. One can truly see how this is home to some of the highest concentrations of Grizzly Bears in North America. It is a land of moose, Mountain Goats, and Grizzlies, where humans are mere visitors to be awed by this natural splendor.

Upon arriving at Triple Header, we were greeted by our friendly hosts, Aaron and Brandi. One can easily see how a yearly homecoming to this remarkable place is something everyone looks forward to. The first thing that struck me was how wonderfully organized the remote camp is. It is a jewel nestled in the Babine River corridor. From the open bar to the well stocked Pro Shop, Steve Myers' commitment to excellence truly shines here.

Triple Header's single bedroom set-up enables you to kick



Triple Header

back and relax from the daily grind back home. It is where one can immerse himself in nature among the wildlife, but still enjoy the comforts of home. The clean rooms and cozy, comfortable living area really puts some high priced hotels to shame.

Being in the company of seasoned steelheaders, such as Russ Fisher and Paul "Dry Fly" Fitzgerald, I felt a bit intimidated. Bad enough that I was not a spey caster, coming to this steelhead river-of-rivers was a bit overwhelming. Aaron changed all that. Through his expert teaching skills, I was spey casting the very next day! With a little tweaking from fellow expert guide, Basil, I was well on my way to having some worldly fun on the Babine without navigating obstructions on every back cast.

The week of enjoying a slice of heaven, from the culinary delights of Brandi, and fun but instructional guiding from the three expert guides, one really gets the sense that we are "honored guests". Nothing is left out, from being served coffee in bed to having your own pool on the Babine. But most of all what strikes you is – the professionalism. Everyone at Silver Hilton knows how to treat their guests and treat us right they do! This is a fine organization.

The Babine is a remarkable river, unspoiled in her glory. Moreover, one can see that it would take a major commitment to run a fly-in only camp situated in a National Park. I was told every piece of glass must be shredded and flown out! I believe it takes a lot of hard work, financial commitment, and dedicated conservation efforts with minimal invasive footprints to run a fine camp such as this in the woods. After spending a week at Silver Hilton, I believe the Babine has truly found a steward in Steve Myers.



George Spector's 23.2 lb. Steelhead

George Spector





## A Note from Steve Myers

Well, what a year this was! Except for a few days, I think everyone will agree this was a year to remember.

Your contributions to Save the Babine are helping in our efforts to save the pristine environment of the Skeena watershed as noted in our "Thank You" letter for the 2011 contributions. It's great to see that we are helping to make a difference not only now, but for future generations.

Looking forward to 2011, Fly Water Travel are in full swing with the bookings and it's great to have them on board.

Thank you all for coming and making this year very special. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our great staff for all their hard work and effort in making our stay at the Silver Hilton comfortable and, I hope, memorable!

Best Regards  
Steve Myers



Steve Myers

## Payment Policy – 2011

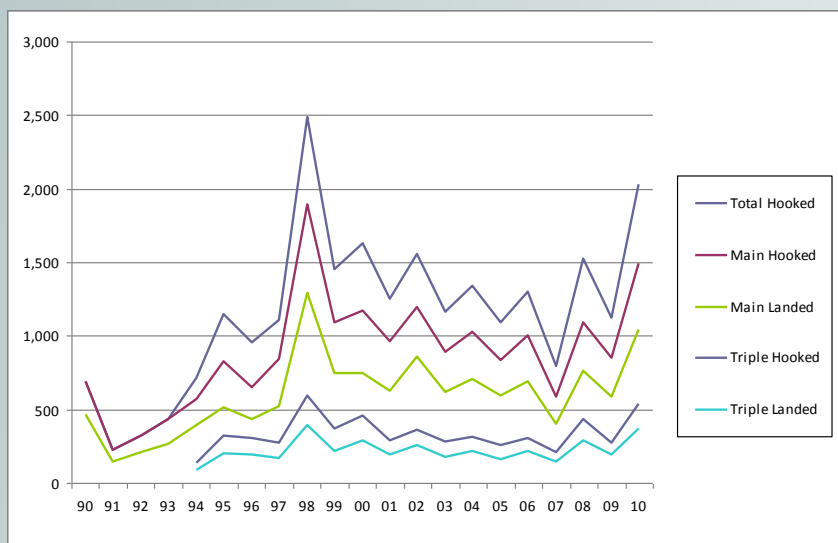
Fly Water Travel have sent out the invoices for the 2011 season and the deposits have started to come in. Below is the payment policy. If you have not received your invoice yet, please contact Fly Water Travel at the address below or by phone at 800-552-2729.

- 50% deposit is due by December 1, 2010 for the 2011 season. Final payment is due April 1, 2011. Invoices will be mailed out by Fly Water Travel.
- Late payments may result in cancellation of your permanent or temporary space.
- In the event of a cancellation your payment is non-refundable unless a suitable replacement is found. Unfortunately, as Committee to Preserve the Babine River Wilderness, known as Save the Babine, is a charitable organization, we cannot refund contributions once a "Thank You" letter has been mailed out to you.
- All deposits and final payments are to be made by check.
- All payments should be sent to:  
Fly Water Travel  
27 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Ashland, OR 97520
- Checks for your Silver Hilton stay should be payable to: Fly Water Travel  
Checks for foundation should be payable to: Save the Babine



### Historical Catch Record

Year	Main Lodge		Triple Header		Grand Total
	Hooked	Landed	Hooked	Landed	Hooked
1990	693	463			693
1991	226	148			226
1992	324	210			324
1993	435	264			435
1994	571	392	139	85	710
1995	826	511	320	200	1,146
1996	651	437	307	192	958
1997	841	518	269	170	1,110
1998	1,893	1,295	596	396	2,489
1999	1,087	742	365	214	1,452
2000	1,170	750	461	291	1,631
2001	965	623	285	195	1,250
2002	1,195	860	360	257	1,555
2003	890	616	277	179	1,167
2004	1,028	703	312	218	1,340
2005	837	594	253	163	1,090
2006	999	689	303	217	1,302
2007	583	400	209	145	792
2008	1089	765	433	287	1,522
2009	851	584	275	193	1,126
2010	1493	1043	536	371	2,029
	<b>18,647</b>	<b>12,607</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>3,773</b>	<b>24,347</b>





# Silver Hilton Steelhead Lodge

## Contact Us

### Main Office

Silver Hilton Lodge  
28 W. Grand Avenue, Suite 10  
Montvale, NJ 07645-2100

Tel: 201-930-9000

Fax: 201-930-1463

e-mail: [admin@silverhilton.com](mailto:admin@silverhilton.com)

Website:

[www.silverhilton.com](http://www.silverhilton.com)

### Camp

Brian Schneider

Tel: 250-877-9252

e-mail: [silverhilton@xplonet.com](mailto:silverhilton@xplonet.com)

### Fly Water Travel, LLC

27 Third Street  
Ashland, OR 97520

Tel: 541-488-7159

Tel: 800-552-2729

Fax: 541-488-7160

e-mail: [ken@flywatertravel.com](mailto:ken@flywatertravel.com)

Website: [www.flywatertravel.com](http://www.flywatertravel.com)

## Credits

Special thanks go out to all those who contributed to this season's newsletter, especially Rex Lester and George Spector. Who knew what great writers these anglers were? Thank you guys!

We're always looking for interesting, or newsy items to add, so get your pens and pads out and start writing!

We'd like to give recognition and thanks to those whose photographs were used in this edition of our newsletter. So thanks go to:

Ken Morrish of Fly Water Travel, our Lodge Manager, Brian Schneider, Stephen Myers Jr. who took out photo of Smithers Mountain which we used for the Christmas card this year. Also guides: Mark McAneeley, David Holland and Aaron Henderson, and all the guests who took pictures for our files.

The 2010 photographs are available for view on our Website [www.silverhilton.com](http://www.silverhilton.com)

## Silver Anniversary Cup

For those anglers hooking a Steelhead over 25 lbs. in our 2010 season.

September 24, 2010	Bob Brucker	26 lbs.
October 26, 2010	John Dale	25.5 lbs.

## Ferguson Cup

We introduced this cup in 2007 in memory of John Ferguson who died that year while doing the thing he loved best – fishing on the beautiful waters of British Columbia. This cup honors those anglers who caught a Steelhead over 20 lbs. on a dry fly.

September 29, 2007	Lou Rago	22.5 lbs.
September 18, 2008	Dick Larsen	25.5 lbs.
September 20, 2008	Lou Rago	22 lbs.
September 28, 2008	Tom O'Neill	26 lbs.
October 2, 2008	Russ Fisher	23 lbs.
September 11, 2010	Gerry Gospodnetich	20.5 lbs.
September 24, 2010	Bob Brucker	26 lbs.



Congratulations go to Bob Brucker. He earned an inscription on both cups this year. Great job!



John Dale's 25.5lb steelhead.  
The Happy Angler!



Gerry Gospodnetich  
With his 20.5 lb Steelhead for the  
Ferguson Cup