

December 2012

Post-season 2012

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What a Great Fall Season

2012 went by in a flash with a GREAT Steelhead season! From day one the Babine was low and clear and the fish were there. The weather was outstanding right into October with conditions, at times, suitable for fishing in a T-shirt. We did have some river out days but they were few, and the river recovered quickly.

With such great water conditions floating lines seemed to be the preferred method for the most part. The dry-fly fishing was outstanding with aggressive fish everywhere. Whether using a dry, grease lining, or a weighted fly, the floating line worked well. Large Intruder style patterns were not necessary, and small sparsely tied flies seemed to be the top choice on the menu.

Each week of the season produced catch results equal, and in many cases, far better than average, with total close to equaling the exceptional angling in 1998. The difference between 1998 and 2012 was the astonishing number of very large fish from the 1998 season, which were not there in 2012. Although the season was great, the big bucks were harder to come by.

As the weather was warm and sunny for many of the weeks, the later weeks saw some unseasonably



cool temperatures that proved to be challenging at times. Ice in the guides and cold hands and feet can take their toll, and a hot thermos of soup was a welcome treat at lunch time. Even with the cold weather the fish were bitey and the late season proved to be productive.

I am always amazed at the commitment of our anglers returning every year without fail, and at times having to sit and wait for the river to clear from that rain storm or that snow melt which can turn the river into a spring flood.

We always look forward to the helicopters landing and being able to greet the friends who we haven't seen in a year, and, to our new anglers, it was our pleasure to have shared the Babine with you.

Until next year,

Brian Schneider
Lodge Manager



“Be patient and calm – for no-one can catch fish in anger.”
Herbert Hoover



Brian Schneider

Saving our Babine River Wilderness

It is that time again when we pause, and say “Thank you,” for your help and participation in another successful season at the lodge. As you know, we had great fishing this season, with mostly cooperative weather- with the exception of an unusually cold ending. As usual, our catch record spoke for itself and for the quality of our fishery, and so did our anglers. Your patience and tenacity, your fishing abilities, your loyalty, financial aid and your good spirits make up a large part of what we truly are.

This year proved this beyond any doubt. As you may know we were faced with a difficult circumstance when we learned that a mining company had submitted a plan to chemically extract minerals from the upper Babine River area and Babine Lake. As always, such proposals and ideas are complicated and sensitive. In this case, the plan would have provided jobs and employment for the local community, an obviously important consideration. The mining company also provided an environmental impact study which claimed there would be no toxic damage to the Babine watershed, including Babine Lake.

On the other hand, many local experts claimed that the environmental impact study provided by the mining company was scientifically flawed, and toxic damage to the watershed and the flora and fauna, including the steelhead and salmon runs, was real and would last for decades. The Babine River Foundation and many local residents, including First Nations, listened carefully to both sides. In the end the BRF decided to conduct an independent environmental impact study using independent scientists and environmental experts familiar with this kind of mining and the specific characteristics and sensitivities present in the upper Babine watershed.



Lani Waller

We sent our study to the BC government scientists, who looked at our data and compared it to the Environmental Impact study conducted by the mining company. The provincial government concurred with our study, saying that the risks were indeed very real, and outweighed the advantages, including employment opportunities and income derived from corporate taxes, and from the extraction and sale of the minerals.

We would not have been able to fund such a study without your financial help.

So once again thank you for all you have done, and best wishes for the coming year.

Lani Waller



The Basil Bullwinkle by Mark McAneeley

“Angling is extremely time-consuming. That’s sort of the whole point.”

Thomas Mcguane

A Note from Steve Myers

What a great year this was! The season ended with some all-time high weekly catch records.

Some of you may recall when I purchased the lodge back in 1998 we had one of the best steelhead runs in history and 2012 turned out to be another year for the record books. While we didn't have a lot of large 25lb plus fish on the river, the fact that we saw so many in the mid-teens perhaps bodes well for the next few years to come.

Like many of you, I am already thinking of the upcoming 2013 season. It's amazing that after, only being off the river a couple of months, one dreams of returning to this special place.

Thank you for joining me in being great stewards of the river by supporting the Babine River Foundation which has done so many great things to preserve this amazing class-one river.

In closing, I'd like to once again take this opportunity to thank our wonderful staff who helped to make our visit so memorable.

Best regards,

Steve Myers



JoAnna Ballarini, Steve Myers,
Frank Angelino and Bob Wood



The Gate

2013 Pricing Policy

Due to the increased cost of running the lodge, we have initiated a rate increase for the 2013 Season. The new rates are as follows:

Week 1 and 9 - \$5,050 plus \$250 for Save the Babine.
Weeks 2 thru 8 - \$7,750 plus \$250 for Save the Babine.

Fly Water Travel have sent out the invoices for the 2013 season (except for Week 9) and the deposits have started to come in. If you have not received your invoice yet, please contact Fly Water Travel at the address below or by phone at 800-552-2729.

All payments should be sent to:

Fly Water Travel
27 3rd Street
Ashland, OR 97520

2012 Catch Record

	Main Lodge		Triple Header	
	Hooked	Landed	Hooked	Landed
Week 1	116	72	closed	closed
Week 2	233	171	60	47
Week 3	342	241	69	46
Week 4	207	157	74	53
Week 5	221	153	56	35
Week 6	302	207	111	74
Week 7	161	115	40	24
Week 8	165	126	67	54
Week 9	100	80	closed	closed
Total	1847	1322	477	333



Paul Kranhold & Hunter Galloway
Week 3 Guests



John Meighen, Tom Keelin, Row Lohman and
Rob Arnold – Taking a lunch break on a cold
day

Silver Hilton Steelhead Lodge

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Credits

We're always looking for interesting, or newsy items to add to our Newsletters, so get your pens and pads out and start writing! You can e-mail ideas to Brian@silverhilton.com.

Our Lodge Manager, Brian Schneider, guests Rick Kustick and Paul Kranhold. Also guides Mark McAneeley, David Holland and John Gale, and all the guests who took pictures for our files.

The 2012 photographs are available for viewing on our Website www.silverhilton.com

Silver Anniversary Cup

Here are the anglers who hooked and landed a Steelhead over 25 lbs. in our 2011 & 2012 seasons.

2011	Bruce Levin
2011	John Von Schlegell
2011	Bill Stivers
2012	Chris Travis

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. Here are the recipients of this honor for the 2011 and 2012 seasons.

2011	Charles Smid
2011	Chris Buckley
2012	Steve Myers
2012	Ron Mallory



This is not the trophy steelhead that Chris Travis caught, but another fine fish



Ron Mallory with his trophy fish for the record books