

# PORT LIONS LODGE NEWS

VOL 14 NUMBER 1

WINTER 2009

## GREETINGS FROM THE ANDRESENS



Bob Martin with grandson Daniel and daughter Sue

### THOUGHTS & REFLECTIONS

(Received from Bob Martin, Silver City, NM)

Steve and Peggy,

For the last 9 years I have had the pleasure of visiting your lodge. It started with my being generous and treating my wife to a trip to your lodge on our 40th anniversary. Shortly after we had made the arrangements she broke her leg. I called and Steve told us to come ahead, that you would make it work. My daughter Sarah was concerned and had to go with us even though she did not like to fish.

You made it all work. Marie had a wonderful time and as I recall Steve even carried her from the boat to the shore because of the cast. It was quite a sight. Sarah (after being yelled at by Coach Steve) became a pretty darn good fisherman and decided she loved it.

Since that first time I have returned 8 times bringing all of my grandchildren and several friends and without exception, one and all, have had a wonderful experience both in fishing (which has always been wonderful, each grandchild catching a larger fish than the last) and in enjoying the true beauty of Port Lions and the surrounding area.

Your lodge is wonderful, the food unforgettable, and the fellowship we have shared with you and your family and people from all over the United States will always be in our memories.

This year I brought the last of the grandchildren (so far) and his mother. Daniel was only 10 but he caught more fish than he ever dreamed. Monday was bad. Tuesday the weather was awful but the rest of the week we loaded the boat.

My sincere thanks to both of you for the wonderful visits. I will cherish those visits. We will try to come back even though we are getting a little older.

Kindest regards to both of you.

Bob Martin.



### IT IS MORE THAN FISHING

Eight guys were just completing a week long fishing trip here on Kodiak Island. One day resulted in a limit of king salmon, one day with a limit of silvers, one day with a limit of halibut and another day filled with ling cod, yelloweye, and tiger rockfish. It is early morning on the last day. We stopped in front of Whale Island and watched as the morning sun lit up the sea side cliffs. The light was brilliant on the kittywake rookery and the two waterfalls cascading down the mountain. We tied the two boats together, cut the engines, and drifted on the slow moving tide. Kerry Johnson and Donovan Raboy both spoke about their friendship with Jeff Boardman. And then each distributed a small capsule of Jeff's ashes into the clear waters of Marmot Bay. After a few moments of silent reflection Kerry finally said, "Let's go fishing," and Jeff went with us. He would have wanted to be remembered like this.

After having fished the waters of Kodiak Island with his father and friends for 9 years, he and Kerry organized a trip for their friends from Hawaii. Jeff loved his trips here and wanted to share his experiences. But Jeff passed away unexpectedly. It was sudden and unforeseen. He was here on Saturday and gone on Monday. His friends were shocked. But Kerry convinced Jeff would want them to go anyway so he continued to put the trip together. The whole week was fished in memory of Jeff Boardman. And the closing ceremony seemed to epitomize not only Jeff's love for this wilderness, but his friends' love for him. Rest in peace Jeff Boardman, you are loved.

### A QUARTER CENTURY OF TIGHT LINES

I have been enjoying my visits to Port Lions for 25 years! Time flies when you are having fun! In the mid-1980s my wife Christy and I came with Dr. Jack Gofman and his family when Steve and Peggy were just starting their business. Gofman was a world-class nuclear medicine researcher who dared to publish inconvenient truths about the effects of radioactive fallout on human cancer rates. He also was a commercial salmon fisherman out of San Francisco.

(continued on page 2.)

## GAL'S CORNER

(Submitted by Deb Green, Orlando, Florida)

My very sage girlfriend said "...if I am going to golf or fish, it better be fun!" She was absolutely correct. When Kevin invited me to tag along for a fishing trip to Kodiak, I was game. I did not expect the trip of a lifetime. I had no idea what I had signed on. I quickly learned if I listened to Steve, "...get your rod tip up, keep your line tight and reel, reel, reel..." I would catch a fish bigger than myself. I wasn't sure if I was happier than Steve when I caught my BIG halibut, but I know I was very proud to be first in line for dinner that night.

I call Port Lions Lodge "the Ritz of Kodiak" thanks to Peggy. The lovely accommodations, five star meals and the breath taking view with live entertainment, eagles, foxes, and bears, are better than any Broadway show. I cannot think of a better place or time, than a fishing trip to Port Lions Lodge.

Like they say "...girls just want to have fun—and catch lots of salmon and halibut."

## FAVORITE TRIP OPTIONS AT PORT LIONS LODGE

A variety of trips are available at Port Lions Lodge. We deep sea fish for halibut all summer long. And we only travel ten minutes from the dock to do it. Trolling for kings and silvers is good all summer long also. Boat out trips for silver salmon in their spawning streams is best in August and September. Trolling for giant kings in the early spring is awesome. Add the spice of variety with black bass, ling cod, and dolly varden for a complete fishing package.

- \* 5 day boat out for silver salmon, halibut, and salt water kings. Overnight at the lodge and fish silvers and halibut at different spots each day. (August and September)
- \* 5 day trophy king salmon trolling. Kings from 50 to 80 pounds chasing the big herring runs of Kodiak Island. (April and May) Good halibut too!
- \* 5 day package trolling for kings, fly fishing sockeye and halibut fishing. (June and early July)

Each trip includes six nights lodging, meals, and most tackle. Custom trips are available for groups.

## A QUARTER CENTURY OF TIGHT LINES (continued)

The six of us huddled together in the cockpit of Steve's original Boston Whaler in the Kodiak "mist and breeze" and thoroughly enjoyed catching large silvers in the magical Marka, Litnik and Danger Bays. Even Christy got into it. Back in those days we drifted Whale Pass for halibut. On the way home one evening we pulled a trap with a big, fat king crab. We boiled it on the beach that evening and enjoyed it as the full moon rose. These were pre-lodge days when we stayed at the Lion's Den and cooked our own meals.

Since then I've enjoyed many trips to Port Lion's lodge with family, friends and on my own. Steve and Peggy are great friends and hosts. They have let me use their lodge as a second art studio and I have been able to do some lovely fish prints for them, the guests, and to bring back to California to display in galleries here.

The time spent fishing and at the lodge is always full of unique experiences, fabulous food, great conversation, card games, and storytelling. We always feel like family in Port Lions.

The range of fellow fishers is intriguing. Among the most memorable was Annabelle, a diminutive 80 year old with a salty tongue and fireless approach to angling. She brought along a slightly younger male fishing companion who she totally wore out during the week. She turned her attentions to me, but I resisted her efforts to recruit me as her new fishing partner. Last I heard Annabelle was fishing in Russia with a new companion.

The other unique ones were the seasick Texans. They were "gung-ho" to chase silvers, lingcod and halibut in Shelikoff Strait. After the beautiful 45-minute boat ride, we arrived to find a few small swells in the Straits. The macho Texans promptly took ill and we spent the rest of the day chasing fish in protected coves on the way back towards Port Lions.

This year we enjoyed yet another wonderful trip to Port Lions with a group of long-time friends. The silvers were leaping and the well-fed halibut and kings were willing to take our offerings. Again Steve and Brett were patient with my experiments using small "hairballs" (1 to 3 ounce bucktail jigs). This time they worked well for halibut up to 117 pounds.

I'm already longing for our next trip north and wondering what adventures await us.

—Chris Dewees



## LING COD

Genus ophiodon elongates, family hexagrammidae, is not a cod at all, but a member of the greenling family. They can get up to 80 pounds and 60 inches long. Voracious

predators, they provide a fierce battle when hooked. And their flakey white meat is delectable table fare.

They are protected from fishermen early in the summer because of nesting habits. After July 1st we fish for them along rocky reefs and outcroppings. They are extremely territorial and tend to hang around the same general area where they were born.

This summer we had the best ling fishing ever. It took good weather and mild tides but we caught lots of big fish.

One day we had two just under 60# in the same day. And we caught them over 50# many different times. In the process we also discovered some large yelloweye rockfish, the bright orange ones! Jiggging the rockpiles has never been better.

## HALIBUT REPORT

The big news in halibut these days is IFQ (Individual Fish Quota) for fishing guides. It looks like halibut guides will have permits to catch a certain number of fish based on past records. Since we have been in business for such a long time we are anticipating no problem in our allocation. Our limit remains at two per person per day and we typically

have no problem providing you with an exciting venue in which to catch these big fish as well as plenty of meat to take home.

This past season provided lots of fish over 100 pounds and some well over 200. Some we released were even bigger. Peg and I went to Whale Pass in October and caught a 150 pounder for our own freezer. What a privilege to live here.

## SALMON FISHING

King Salmon trolling started a little later than usual this past season but some days we were limited out before noon so I would have to say it was pretty good. Most days it was pick one up here and one there and then fish for halibut. Whenever we tried to get two boats on the same spot it seemed like only one produced so we ended up trying to fish two spots most of the latter summer. And we are still picking them up in the late fall early winter too. I would have to say that this is one of my favorite fisheries because of the nature of the fish. See the story of one tough fish we caught off Leto Point.

Silvers were thick in the water in front of the lodge and many people caught them after we returned home for the day. And as usual we spent many complete tide changes fishing for them in the mouth of the streams. The runs were as strong or stronger this year and even the commercial seiners did better this season. We are fortunate to have so many good runs close to us.

## RATES 2009

Prices for next summer are \$3695 per week. We are reserving the right to apply the gas surcharge should our cost be exorbitant. See our web site at [www.portlionslodge.com](http://www.portlionslodge.com) for the rates and descriptions.

We still get the best remote salmon and halibut fishing in Alaska at well below the top rates charged out west.

And with the addition of the new catamaran we now boast the best two boat lodge operation on Kodiak.

## DEPOSITS DUE

The reservation procedure at Port Lions Lodge requires that we have a 50% deposit to hold your spot on the schedule. Full payment for your trip should be made at least 60 days prior to your trip. We make every effort to refund your money at any time that you must cancel. However, if we have turned people away because of your reservation, and we are unable to book replacements in time, we reserve the right to keep your deposit. Usually we are able to replace canceled guests if we are notified prior to 60 days from the trip.

The best idea for taking care of possible cancellations is trip insurance. Our website has a link to good trip insurance information. You can get reimbursed for all or part of a trip for a reasonable premium.

## LODGE LOGISTICS

Although we are able to provide custom trips for small groups our favorite package is a five day six night trip beginning and ending in Kodiak city. We like to have our guests arrive on Saturday and spend a day in the city of Kodiak prior to coming to the lodge. Then in case of inclement weather they don't miss a day of fishing.

We provide transportation to the lodge on Sunday afternoon. It is either a short plane ride or a drive over the mountain and boat ride to Port Lions. Sunday there is fishing near the lodge but we spend most of the time getting unpacked and organized for the week ahead. We are up bright and early Monday morning to take advantage of the best fishing situation available at the time. Five days of great fishing and fantastic food mixed in with wilderness adventures in the Gulf of Alaska is an awesome experience.

Saturday morning we pack up the luggage and frozen fish and transport everyone back to Kodiak for the flight home.

## SECURITY & SHIPPING

Airline shipping regulations have changed again. And it varies from airline to airline. You have to pay extra for anything over 50# up to 70. Please check with your airlines regarding extra luggage and overweight luggage.

We will make every attempt to help you with shipping your fish home via Fed Ex or in some cases Alaska Airlines freight. Alaska Air is cheaper but requires that you go to their freight office to pick it up.



## RECIPE CORNER

### Salmon with Cilantro Salsa

8-10 Servings

- 4# Salmon filets
- 3/4 cup lime Juice
- 2/3 cup thinly sliced green onions including some of the tops
- 2 T. pickled jalapeno peppers diced
- 1&1/2 cup minced fresh cilantro
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves crushed

Drizzle 2 Tbl. lime juice over the filets. Mix together the garlic, green onions, peppers, cilantro and olive oil. Spread 1/2 cup of this mixture over all the filets. Let this set for about 30 mins up to 8 hours (cover and refrigerate) before grilling or baking. Grill over med. hot coals and turn once. We use wire grilling racks for ease of turning. Start with the fresh side facing the hot coals. Put on a hot serving platter and pour a little more salsa on top for color and tin slices of lime for garnish. Any extra salsa can be put in a side dish.

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

RESERVATION INFORMATION: Steve Andresen | P.O. Box 51 | Port Lions, Alaska 99550 | (907) 454-2264 | 1-800-808-8447



Dan And Sue Larson show off Sue's king.

## SPECIAL SPRING NEWSLETTER

All of you that have already paid deposits and made plans for next season can find a checklist of things to bring on our website. We will also be sending out another newsletter specifically for next spring that will have information on lures, flies, and pick-up schedules for you.

## WHAT NOW? A KING SALMON STORY

The big king hit the trolled spoon like a typical train. The reel screamed out as the drag

held the initial long run in check. Jessie Raboy of Wailuku, Hawaii grabbed the rod out of the holder and held it high. I pulled the throttle of the twin Yamahas into neutral and helped the rest of the men clear the downrigger gear and the other rod.

The wind swung us parallel to the waves as the king turned and rushed the boat. "Dip the rod!" I screamed as the fish shot under the boat and stripped line off. Jessie was hanging over the side with the rod doubled under water and the fish still taking out line in the opposite direction.

"What do I do now?" he exclaimed.

"I don't know!" I replied. And I didn't know what to do. I couldn't drive forward because the line was only a few feet in front of the engines. I couldn't back up and turn because the wind was so strong it kept us in the trough no matter how much power I applied.

Luckily the fish turned left and swam forward of the boat. After what seemed like an eternity of Jessie holding the rod upside down under the boat he finally managed to straighten up and fight the fish off the bow. But even when we got it close the big king held deep and it took tremendous effort to coax it up close without breaking something.

When it finally came to net Jessie was elated and I realized again that many times it is just plain luck that determines if we land the fish.

## CD OFFER

Steve's championship fishing instructions and quotes! Increase your fishing ability and up your total catch by listening and memorizing these great impromptu commands from your favorite fishing coach. "Get your tip up!", "Reel, reel, reel!", "Don't give him slack!", "Don't short line him!", "Let him run!", "Don't set the hook!", "Get the rod off the rail!" "Leave his head in the water", and more.

If you miss the excitement of having Steve holler instructions while you battle those big salmon and halibut, now is your chance to get back in the action. For only \$59.95 you can have the complete CD which also includes an autographed picture of Steve with his gaff in hand, ready to haul your big halibut on board.

And as an added bonus, you get free, a short video of Steve catching his own king salmon and netting it himself. (a \$39.95 value) all for the low price of \$59.95. That is a total value of almost \$100.00!

This is a cash only sale and the offer expires December 1, 2009. Steve and Peggy want to go to Hawaii this winter.

# PORT LIONS LODGE NEWS

VOL 14 NUMBER 1

WINTER 2009

P.O. Box 51  
Port Lions, Alaska 99550  
907.454.2264  
1.800.808.8447

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