

2003 Bull Moose Camp Newsletter

Canadian fishing at it's best! Owner operated by: Tom & Shara Metzner

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What a fantastic summer it was in 2003 with weather almost consistently great throughout the season and just unbelievable fishing. Okay, we did have a few yucky days and even saw a tornado but hey, it was a fabulous summer with more warm days and south winds than we normally get. As to rains, it seemed to rain only when necessary to keep the woods from drying up too much and becoming a fire risk though we did have two brief fire restrictions. Business was good even though the economy is still struggling and we're grateful for that and wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who visited or is planning to visit soon.

We Now Have A Website

As of June we've been on the Internet at www.bullmoosecamp.com and you can now reach us year round at info@bullmoosecamp.com through high speed internet access at both our remote Upper Goose Lake location and our off season Kansas residence. The website will be getting more stuff like downloadable lake maps, this newsletter and as the off season permits, hopefully even more stuff.

This Summer's Fishing

WOW! That's really the way to describe the 2003 season especially when talking about trophy class walleye. Life expectancy of our walleye seems to be in the 20 year range so the rewards of the 'catch & release' program are paying off in a very big way. Keeping track of our numbers of trophy class fish over the years has not been an exact science but certainly something we track fairly closely. In 1990 we may have had 50 27" to 32" walleye caught and we've seen annual increases in those numbers to about 400 per season in 2000, 2001 and 2002... but in 2003 we amazingly saw about 800 of these beautiful fish caught and released! How's that for proof that keeping the breeding and trophy fish healthy and alive REALLY works? As to our northern numbers for 2003 we did very well again with also about 400 36" to an extraordinary 48" fish caught by the Clarks from Texas. Most years we seem to top out in the 46" size zone but they proved that there are some bigger ones out there!

Strange Water Level

In our 14 summers at camp, we've never before had the water level that fluctuated so little. Though the snowfall was pretty normal, a combination of higher amounts of evaporative melt from warm south winds and an extremely dry April and May made for almost no typical spring runoff. We started the season with low water and a fire restriction and even though it rained reasonably regularly allowing us to enjoy most of the summer without high fire risk, there was never enough precipitation to raise the lake more than just a few inches. By season end, we had even reached a lower level tying historical lows.

Weather Overview

While the Midwestern US was tortured with excessive amounts of hot weather this summer, we enjoyed a very nice season with mostly warm weather and many calm or just mildly choppy days which really made for fantastic fishing vacations!

We did though have an extremely unusual weather event on July 4th at 1:00 pm when a tornado passed overhead! Though very rare in this area, they can and do rarely develop and thanks to Ray Bryan's attention to the sky, we stood and watched as it developed rotation and headed towards us. Shortly it lifted off and then passed overhead with little wind and limited, though huge hail. We really lucked out with absolutely no damage though we had about 30 seconds of hail averaging 1 ¼ inch in size with some as large as 1 ¾ inch. Later investigation revealed that it touched down about 13 miles away and stayed on the ground for 8 to 10 miles lifting off right at Mamakwash Falls. It then stayed up for the 5 miles until it passed over our heads and an additional 6 miles before it briefly touched down again up above Eagle Rapids. Thankfully damage was limited to one guest being pelted on the shoulder and getting a whopper bruise, the flora and fauna and some minor damage to buildings and a plastic airplane wing tip at Loon Haunt on Goose Lake which was about a mile north of the twister path but received a much longer duration of big hail than we did.

Share Your Pictures

As always, we've received some great pictures from some of our guests and really appreciate getting to share your memories of fishing at Bull Moose Camp. If you've got some pictures you'd like to share and possibly have used on our website or in future brochures, please send them in because if we do use one of yours, we'll reward you with a cash discount of no less than \$100 on your next visit.

2004 Rate & Deposit Increase

Though we had really hoped to carry over the 2002/2003 rate into 2004 we are unable to do so after all. Continuing increases in liability insurance as well as 'general aviation' insurance combined with a narrowing of over 20% in exchange rates between US and Canadian currency has forced us to raise the rates. To keep the deposit in line with the value of our vacation packages, we are also raising the deposit required from \$100.00 to \$150.00 per person. This is our first increase in deposit requirements in the entire time we've owned the camp.

'04 Bookings

The reservations for 2004 are going very well with many weeks completely booked up again already. If you've not made your reservation yet though, don't panic as we've still got openings available. Call, write or e-mail to book a date soon.

The 20 year plan

... as we call it, is about on track and 2003 saw some concrete poured, a bit of landscaping and some new boardwalks built but replacement cabin construction is still a couple of years away. In 2004, we'll have an engineer certify a completely new waste water system and hopefully get it constructed over the summer. Other major expenditure plans include another entirely new fleet of 15hp Johnson outboards to replace the '01's we've just traded off.

See You Soon

We wish everyone the best for the remainder of 2003 and beyond along with, good health, our best wishes for the holidays, a happy new year and all the joy of sharing life with family and friends!

Your hosts, *Tom, Shara & family*