



THE PAWISTIK NEWS



A COMPENDIUM OF HARD FACT AND OTHER NEWS FROM THE BEST RIVER IN NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN

PAWISTIK A RALLYING POINT FOR THE CHUGG FAMILY



Al Wattie with the first lunker of his young life. The river is good for delivering those once-in-a-lifetime memories.

They will allow selected friends to join them, but the extended Chugg family seems to think that an annual gathering at the lodge is the best way to get together, share a few laughs, and catch a lot of fish. Despite the fact that they are not former locals, and make their homes in various parts of Alberta, the rallying point would seem to be our special spot in northern Saskatchewan.

The Chugg family has gathered at the lodge for at least five summers. In fact, one year they couldn't get enough in one trip, so they came up twice over the summer. By the way, this is not uncommon among regulars who know the lodge well.

Friend Al Wattie is one of those lucky individuals, who despite having a different last name, has been allowed to join the family circle. This is a fellow who, previous to his visit to the lodge, had caught a grand total of one fish in his life. As you can see from the photograph, he has caught another one, and many more besides on his first trip to the lodge.



Another perfect day as three of the Chuggs head out to fish.



Four of the Chugg family in front of Tom's- l to r- Dan, Barry, Jeremy, and Ashley.

RANDALL AND CO. TAKE TO THE AIR-AGAIN

What do Corpus Christi, Texas and the lodge have in common? Why, it's Randall Arnold, of course. Along with fellow Corpus Christiites Dalton Myers and Tyrone Connelly (TC), Randall made the trek from that Texas city on the Gulf of Mexico, across about one and one-half countries, to land his Cessna 172 at the Jan Lake International, a nice grass strip about 3,500 feet long and approximately seven miles from the lodge. By rough estimate, the one way trip is about three thousand miles, which means at least one overnight stay enroute.

You may well ask how we coordinate the arrival of anyone arriving by private plane at the lodge, and the answer is simple. We know the day and the approximate time of arrival, and then the pilot uses the simple procedure of buzzing the lodge when they arrive. By the time we get there with ground transportation, our guests will have arrived, secured the aircraft, and should have most of their gear on the ground outside the plane.

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Randall flying, Dalton co-pilot, T.C. mixing drinks somewhere in the back, enroute from Texas to the lodge.



The trio safely arrived at Jan Lake International, just seven miles from the lodge. - l to r- T.C., Dalton, and Randall.

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Randall and the boys had already made the trip in 1999, so they knew the ropes. Also, they coordinated their arrival with that of Jim Davis (Bones), a yearly visitor from Waterloo, Iowa. Bones and his party unfortunately were required to navigate the northward trip via land yacht, but you can't drag a boat into a Cessna 172.

Randall, T.C., and Dalton spent an enjoyable few days at the lodge, catching a lot of fish and having a good time before they made their leisurely way back to the Lone Star State.

And remember, if you consider making the trip by plane to the lodge, and you have wheels, not floats, bring your own tie-downs, as facilities are decidedly limited at Jan Lake.



A fine catch of walleye, caught just below Birch Rapids, and due for the pan on what was probably the first day.

REGINA BOYS DO THE KAYAK THING

As many of you know, the river was, and continues to be used as a canoe route for both local traffic and visitors from down south. However, very few of our guests make use of this ancient form of transportation when they book into the lodge. Everyone likes to slow down when they get to Pawistik, but not to the degree undertaken by Emil Schmuck of Regina.

Emil and his buddy, Rod Ashley, who also hails from Regina, came up last year at the end of June, and they did all their fishing and travelling aboard a two man kayak, catching their dinner and working up an appetite for the meal at the same time.

The first year Emil visited, he indeed went low impact, camping on the lawn in front of Tom's cabin, cooking with wood over an open fire, and generally enjoying being away from the noise and the hustle of the city.

Last year, however, Emil and Rod decided to make sure the weather didn't affect their after fishing experience, opting for one of the cabins instead of a canvas roof.



According to Emil, they caught all the fish they wanted, both for food and excitement, and the quiet and beauty of the river as they paddled along was beyond compare.

As a tip to those arriving in '04, think about taking the time to rent one of our canoes, whether it's to fish at our trout lake or on the river, or just simply to enjoy what the river has to offer at a pace of your own choosing.



Emil Schmuck and Rod Ashley use manpower instead of horsepower when they visit the lodge. Left- Emil with dinner; right- Rod with tandem kayak on dry land.

BACKHOE BACK ON THE ROAD

Thanks to the unstinting efforts of George, one-half of our lodge management team, our venerable backhoe has never had it so good. It took a tremendous beating when we built the basement for Lodge House, and has been limping along ever since. That is, until last summer, when George went on a personal mission to bring the old Case back from the brink.

After having a hydraulic pump rebuilt, changing lines, working on the carburetor, and overhauling the motor, the backhoe ran well for most of the summer. George left it at a local gravel pit, and then ran our one-ton with the hoist back and forth, delivering fill wherever it was needed at the lodge. As a result, most of the potholes that have plagued us in the past have been filled.

I'm now informed that we may have some transmission issues to deal with this summer, but the backhoe is so valuable to have around the lodge that we'll (or should I say George will) do what it takes to keep the old Case chuggiing along. Say hit to the yellow beast when you're up this summer. I swear it has a personality, and will probably enjoy the visit!



This is the kind of rough work our venerable backhoe has been called on to do. Here we are digging a hole in the Canadian Shield during construction of the basement for Lodge House.

A BRIEF WORD ON CATCH AND RELEASE



Weigh it, measure it, and release it....

As beautiful as the scenery at and around the lodge is, few would disagree that the presence of big fish in the river is one of the major drawing cards for guests year after year. It is also true that if we do not catch and then release our big fish, slow growth rates in our northern lakes and rivers mean that a twenty pound plus northern taken from these waters is not replaced for a very long time.

It is in this spirit that we ask all our guests to respect our catch and release rule at the lodge, which is that all northern pike over ten pounds, and all walleye over five pounds, be released so they can continue to replenish fish stocks in the river. We understand that current Saskatchewan regulations allow you to legally keep one trophy of each species, but ask that given increased fishing pressure and the relatively restricted

territory the river represents, you go that extra mile to ensure you have great fishing as long as you come and stay with us.

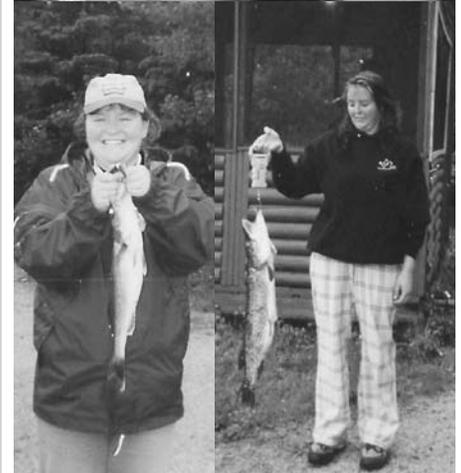
You are welcome to eat as much as you want, and take home your full limits, but please let the big ones go to be caught again.

As a bonus, we still offer a plaque to any fisherman who releases a trophy and has a replica made. The plaque will state the trophy was caught and released by the individual, when caught, and the weight of the trophy. This will make a handsome addition to the mount, to be added below the beauty you could have taken but chose to set free, only to be caught again. We have some of the most conservation-minded people in Canada as visitors, and they join me in urging all guest to do the same.



....don't gut it!

A FEW HAPPY LODGE VISITORS FROM LAST SUMMER....



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For information on rates and availability, please call Scott
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