



Fishing Report for week of 17 to 24 October, 2004

Guests: Steven Forrest, Michael Forrest, Don Sturzenacker, John Gramatky

Weather: Hi 2; Lo -10C. Sunshine, cold temps and SNOW.

We finally got our wish. The weather turned cold and clear. Very cold. Water temperatures went from 4C to close to 0C. Our guests from southern California pulled on their heavy long johns and toques to brave below freezing temperatures and catch a few “summer” steelhead.

The first day on the Bell saw, John, a legitimate steelhead virgin, land a 37” buck. A very memorable battle as the buck screamed out 100 yards of backing. An event and a fish that will never be forgotten. It was John’s first day ever spey casting and he liked the results. Don also had a big day hooking 7 fish. Although shut out the first day, Stephen and Michael both had steelhead to the beach by day two. Although water conditions were some of the best we had experienced all season the fish were slow and tanked up. As the water temperature dropped the fish became less active and afternoon fishing was the key to success. The rest of the week was productive and we landed steelhead everyday.

Later October has been infamous for giving us “interesting” fishing conditions. This year was no different. On Thursday the snow started to fall. By Friday AM we had over a foot of fresh snow on the ground. It was a winter wonderland on the river. Stunningly beautiful, peaceful and quiet. Only the joyous yelps of John broke the silence as he landed another big buck in the snow. It was the way the week had started and it seemed a fitting way to end the season.