



Hasbala LAKE LODGE Highlites

"2007 SEASON"



"Where the Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut Borders Meet"

5326 West Mohave Street Phoenix, Arizona 85043 • Ph: 1-602-908-1532 • email: ron@rockhardtdesigns.net • www.hasbalalake.com

OUR "2007" SEASON "IS NOW IN THE BOOKS" AND IT IS TIME TO DO A LITTLE REMINISCING. We had another wonderful season up at the lodge...

The fishing was good, the weather decent once it got settled in and like always nature constantly reminded us just how very special Hasbala Lake, really is.

I hate to sound like a broken record but I'm gonna, once again our guests, every one of them were a pleasure to have in camp. Once again...we had lots of Repeat Guests and all of our New Guests were very nice people and I may be wrong...hope not, but I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

MYSELF, RENE, RONNIE AND PIERRE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALLOF YOU FOR COMING UP TO HASBALA LAKE.....WE DID ENJOY HOSTING EVERYONE OF YOU!

I want to say a few words about a good friend. Denny Anderson passed away this past winter. Denny was planning on coming up to Hasbala Lake Lodge again this summer and we missed him. Denny had become a good friend more than a guest. Denny was a very good person... a gentleman and one heck of a pike fisherman.



DENNY ANDERSON



WE GOT INTO THE LODGE ON JUNE 4TH this year and there was not a bit of ice on the lake or shore so there must have been an early “spring break up” or “ice out” but who really knows for sure, no one even flies over the place until we get there, it’s that far out of the way, kind of neat eh.

One thing I do know for sure... our dock was like a big pile of match sticks when we got there. There must have been a heck of a north wind blowing the ice into the dock to do the damage it did as there is very seldom any...it’s well built, at least I thought it was. Nature is so darned powerful. Putting up a temporary dock set us back a bit.

WE HAD A GOOD OLD FASHIONED BLIZZARD in the middle of June this year, just like the good old days! When I had my old lodge almost every year right around June 12th we would get about a foot of snow, it would melt the next day and then the weather would settle into summer. This year we had the foot of snow with a 30 mph north wind and to say the least, it was cold for a couple days. It’s the first time since we built the lodge in 1997 that we’ve had any snow in June to speak of.

MY WOLF WAS BACK for a third straight year. As you can see in the photograph he was in reasonably good shape. He shows up like a ghost... wanders around camp for a bit as if he owns the joint...then disappears like one.

What amazes me most is the fact it doesn’t seem to bother him a bit we are around, he’s not the least bit scared or aggressive... he just couldn’t care less, maybe a little curious. He also shows absolutely no interest in the garbage down by the dock and I find that interesting.

Pierre first noticed him out his cabin window, grabbed his camera, opened the door and there he was five feet away looking at him, Pierre took a few pictures before he slowly walked away. Pierre said he has spent sixty years in the bush and never seen a wolf act like this one.

I do have a theory though. We are pretty sure there is a wolf den a mile or so north of the lodge and they have become accustom to us being around, but who knows for sure, I don’t. This year I had another wolf come thru camp in the middle of the day, he was alot heavier set than my wolf...maybe the alpha male of the pack. He thought he owned the joint too and you know what... he did.

It’s wonderful having them around, just don’t get to cocky, even if they act like the family dog when they drop in, because they ain’t. Wolves in the pack are at the top of the food chain up at Hasbala Lake.



NOW LETS GO FISHING.....

FISHING AT HASBALA LAKE is consistently “good” and sometimes spectacular and it seems every year we have a few surprises and discoveries and “2007” was no exception.

During our June blizzard our guests just didn’t want to go out on the water and I didn’t blame them in the least. So, Pierre said he would take a few of the guests over to a couple small lakes on the river he had always wanted to check out, it was only a ten minute walk and they would do some exploring and fishing from the shore.

What made it exciting... was that these lakes had never been fished before...ever.

And as usual, Pierre’s idea was brilliant. I don’t know what it is, but the man knows where there is fish, it’s quite uncanny. Pierre has mentioned several other lakes he wants to check out as time permits and I can’t wait.

As it turned out the guests had a wonderful time and returned to camp with stories of standing in a foot of water off a sandy beach and having pike and lake trout literally at their feet and finding a very old campsite, which Pierre figures might be one of his descendants and seeing some beautiful scenery.

Two weeks later two other guests walked over to these lakes for a full days exploring and fishing. They returned with the photos on the right and yes...they did land the pike. We will be putting a boat/motor on these lakes and it will add a lot of enjoyment for our guest’s.

You know when I really think about it, we have only scratched the surface up at Hasbala Lake. I can’t help but be reminded that Hasbala Lake is the last real and undiscovered frontier...it really is. The possibilities, discovery and adventure are literally endless and that excites the heck out of me. We are “opening up” a virtually untouched and unspoiled wilderness, one of the very few left in this crazy world. Let us not forget our very big and very real responsibility.



OUR LAKE TROUT FISHING WAS VERY GOOD THIS YEAR, it usually is but this year it was exceptional. Sure...Northern Pike is still our strongest suit and our guest's do love to catch Northern Pike, Big Northern Pike, more than anything but you know what, a lot of them are beginning to realize Lake Trout are also an awful lot of fun. Actually...Hasbala Lake Trout fight better "pound for pound" than Pike.

A lot of my guests have fished for Lake Trout at other lodges they have visited...a lot of them tell me they did not fight like a Hasbala Lake Trout and there was not near as many of them. And I point out it's genetics and habitat and that they are very closely linked, then explain that it goes like this...

It all starts with habitat and Hasbala Lake does have perfect habitat and this results in a strong genetic pool...then both produce and maintain a large, healthy, strong fishery... as long as it is looked after and managed properly.

"Nature" never does anything without a reason or purpose, never. Also, in nature all things are dependent upon the other...right from the very smallest bug to the very biggest bear. When we are out in nature enjoying ourselves... we must base our behaviour on these two points.

We have always claimed that Hasbala Lake has wonderful fishing simply because it is so darned consistent. That is, our guests get a lot of action, they catch a lot of fish and most trophies... sure we have our slow days but not many, compared to most lodges.

And the simple reason we can say that we have wonderful fishing with any degree of honesty is the fact we have "habitat" and we look after it.



DICK JENSEN 39" TROUT



RENE DUROCHER



JOHN MOODY 49 1/2" PIKE



RODNEY LUETGE 47 1/2" PIKE



BOB SINGELYN 47" PIKE

OUR “2007” NORTHERN PIKE FISHING was no different than usual...very good and very consistent. Our guests landed some very nice sized trophy pike and as well the numbers of fish caught, were right up there. Very cold weather soon after spawn did slow the 38-43 inch pike down a bit but they returned to normal after awhile.

We were catching Pike in all slot sizes and that is what we want, that is a sure sign of a healthy fishery. It may sound just a bit crazy but we do want our guests catching some small pike. One unusual thing this year was having our guests catching Lake Trout in the Pike bays, well into summer.

CATCHING ARCTIC GRAYLING ON THE FLY

is becoming more popular at Hasbala Lake Lodge every year. In fact I will let you in on a dirty little secret...when it comes to Arctic Grayling Fishing, Fly Fishermen have quite a bit more success, it's actually not even close, no contest. So, some day you may want to do a little “gentlemen fishing” as I like to call it.

OUR MANITOBA MASTER ANGLER fish were right up there again this year, with an average of one Master Angler fish per guest.

I have sent in all of your applications and some of you have told me you have already received your badges and certificates... so they are right on the ball this year.

We will have some fish ranked right near the top again this year. Last year... Paul Litz's Grayling ranked third largest while Denny Anderson and Micheal Opatril both caught Northern Pike that ranked fifth biggest caught in the Province.

Not bad for a small little lodge like Hasbala eh!

WE WILL BE UPDATING OUR WEBSITE shortly...Our “2008” Guest Package Rates will be posted and we will have a whole bunch of new photographs from our “2007” season. Our website address is www.hasbalalake.com if you want to go and have look. Our website contains a handy contact page if you want information on a “2008” Fishing Trip. Please contact us anytime by phone or e-mail. Take care.



PIERRE WITH GUET'S GRAYLING



HARRY BAKER PIKE



DIANE SINGELYN