

## Moose Lake News

Continued from Last week.

We arrived at Smoothrock Lake. One of the largest lakes that Mike has a camp on. There is one other camp on this lake, but it is located one hour away by boat to the north. Everything at this camp checked out ok. There with no bear damage & the solar power was in good shape.

We then flew on to Lake Wabakimi. The Provincial Park that Mike's cabins are in, is named after this Lake. Wabakimi was ok also, with just some minor damage. Our last stop for the day was to fly into Coles Lake, the Lake where we would spend the night. I checked for damage while Mike serviced all his batteries for the solar system. I noticed that something had rubbed mud up and down on the entrance door that went into the boat house. There were also scratches on the door about 7 feet up from the ground. Mike said this must be at least a 300 lb. bear. Mike said I'm going to get my rifle and keep it in the cabin for the night. If he tries to get into the cabin tonight he will be in for a surprise. Mike got his 30-30 and put it next to his bed. It was now time to some serious fishing.

We had about 3 hours left of daylight so we said we would eat supper later. I wanted to fish. Our goal was to catch as many if not more walleyes then we caught at Oliver. I was getting my rod put together while Mikes was in the boat already jigging right next to the plane which was in front of the cabin. We use a two-piece rod when we fly because of room and space on the plane. By the time I had my two rods ready Mikes caught and released 4 walleyes. I got in the boat and we both started having fun. Nonstop action 17 inch fish 19-inch fish 15-inch 24-inch fish. WOW what fun. We kept catching walleyes and a few Northern Pike, just to make it interesting for over 3 hours. We did move to a few other spots. All but one spot had very active fish. Have you ever got tired of catching walleyes? I almost told Mike let's fish for Northern Pike for a change. But I kept my mouth shut knowing Mike is a big walleye fan. Our goal that late afternoon was to catch and release at least 100 walleyes or more than we caught at Oliver. We did accomplish that. We got back to the cabin just before sunset. We had some dinner, yes it was fish fry. Boy was that delicious. Fried potatoes and Canadian walleye fresh out of 67-degree water temperature from this beautiful spring fed lake. This lake also has an area that has brook trout.

The next morning, we were up at five looking for dry firewood for the wood stove in the cabin. Mike has some men coming in for a Moose Hunt this fall around the middle of September. It gets cool during the night at that time of the year. Mike wanted firewood handy so the hunters could warm up the cabin after a long day in the woods, moose hunting. After moving some firewood, it was time for a Northwoods breakfast. After breakfast around 10 AM it was time to fly to this special lake which was very close to Coles Lake. In fact, a person will be able to portage into this lake once Mike gets the trail cut open. Mike said it is time to go so we got into his plane. We buckled up and were off the water within minutes. 10 minutes later we landed. What a beautiful lake. We taxied up to a sandy beach area where Mike had his boat on a lift. We lowered the boat into the water after putting the water plug in. Two pulls of the motor and it was running. We motored about 10 minutes away from the plane and started to fish. Like Mike said bang, bang, bang, they started to hit our 1/8 and 1/4 ounce jig with a plastic twister tail. Was this fun. It reminded me of catching bluegills on the Chippewa Flowage this last spring. Like Oliver and Coles Lake it was nonstop action. When we decided to quit fishing, we totaled 303

walleyes in 9 hours of fishing between the three lakes. WOW! We docked the boat and got back into the plane and took off.

It was now time to stop at one more of Mike's camps, Kenoji Lake. Another walleye factory with trophy Northern Pike besides. The camp checked out ok. No problems with the bears but some serious problems with Mike's solar batteries. Mike did what he could to repair all the corrosion around the battery terminals and the wires. It must be repaired before winter because batteries need a charge in them to prevent them from freezing. This may take another flight up from the airbase. We needed some parts that were not available up in the bush. There is no hardware store anywhere close. We made a note of what we needed and perhaps will fly back up later in the week. \$1500 a trip is what it cost him for each trip to his camps.

Well, it is time to head back to the airbase. We got what we call a push coming up hear or a tail wind. Going back, we will have a head wind and it will be a rough flight unless we go to 8000 feet. It is more fun to fly at 1500 feet, you can see more wildlife. On the way back we flew over several forest fires that were burning in Ontario. We watched the Canadian Water Bombers drop water from 500 feet unto the fire. **We will have the conclusion of my story next week.**

Last Thursday I was out fishing Moose Lake with a good friend of mine from Chicago, Steve Guillen. We fished for only about 2 hours. The bite was very tough. We did catch two walleyes and a Rock Bass. That was it. Joel Miller from Mystic Moose Resort informed me earlier that fishing on Moose has been very tough. Steve did have a follow by a musky and I got bit off a few times. Those don't count if you don't get a hook in them. We will keep trying, Steve is here for 5 days.

Birthday's this week are Fred Taylor & Laura Berlage both on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Sept., Betty Haling on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Jerome Johnson on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Ann Berlage the 14<sup>th</sup>, & Ryan Ross on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday to all. There is one anniversary this week. Happy Anniversary to Rich and Lori Good on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>.

That is all we have for this week. I hope everyone will enjoy the beautiful fall type weather we are having. Any news that you may have can be sent to Jim Onarheim at [jonarheim@centurytel.net](mailto:jonarheim@centurytel.net). Or 715-462-4448. Stay Safe!