



# ALASKA TROPHY FISHING SAFARIS

Speaker: Josie Rich

Josie and friend Lori were living in California when Josie met John Rydeen while waiting for a plane. John explained his Alaskan venture and that's all it took. Josie was "hooked". John has been a guide for this camp for 16 years and noted they may need help. Josie and Lori applied and took jobs as cooks (wait - we don't know how to cook!) They flew into camp to find no buildings and 5 people. It was 11 days before their clients were to arrive. Setting up camp was a big job. The tents were wooden frame tents. They used barrels to bury supplies and hide them from the natives and the bears. They would also hoist stuff in the trees like the stoves etc. The supplies had to be flown out to camp. There were several trips - up to 42 steps. There was no mercy shown to the girls. They had tents for tackle, food, cooks, eating and guides. There were also 14-15 tents for clients. This year was one of the worst for mosquitos in the past 20 years. They fogged several times. There were no weekends

or time off. At 5:00 a.m. they started breakfast and served it at 6:30 - 7:00 to the clients. During this time the guides would get the boats ready, make wood runs and fill the wood burners and stoves in the tents. They used flat bottom John boats The main bait was eggs from salmon put in net sacks and dried every morning. They also used Fly. They would go



through a lot of bait. Each day they would also pack a shore lunch. This went on for eight weeks. At 5:00 p.m. they would come in for king crab, pork roast, chicken, ribs and turkey. Well at least



Josie learned to cook 5 things. Actually they would try to spoil the client. The shower was a tent with garden hose with sprinkler head and barrel of water, and a propane heater. You were lucky to take a shower once a week. They would do laundry in a tube using a plunger to agitate and wash. It took a long time to dry due to the climate. They would stay at camp and clean the clients' tents, sweep them out, fill the mosquito coils, fill wood boxes clean showers and cook tents and make sandwiches. They would have one to two hours to do what they wanted. At 2:00 p.m. they would start dinner. Dinner was at 5:00 p.m. after which they could clean up or go fishing again. They would do dishes from 8:00 - 8:30 p.m. then they may go out and fish for themselves. Most of the time they slept on cots. The cook area was very limited when cooking for this large group of 25-30 people in a short amount of time. Sometimes they were so tired they slept on the rocks. There was "absolutely nothing but us out there" everybody out there just wanted to be there and being outside kept us energized.

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## BITS & PIECES

*A mixture of horse sense and common sense about working with people.*

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Every experience is a learning experience. Every time we try something - win or lose - we learn, we grow, we attain more confidence and competence for the next time.

Pat Williams, Basketball Executive