

MAVEN'S HIGHLIGHT FILM

2006

4/19 Prehistoric fly rodder, **PAT JACKSON**, whose 4 part cast is unable to form a loop of any shape, simply because of a 50 knot gale, selects a spinning rod and pulls the season's first smallmouth from a secret Moose Pond cove. Between the paragraphs of his lengthy history lesson, he manages to subdue 9 portly largemouth bass between 2 and 5 lbs. The wind finally subsides as the smell of buffalo burgers fills the hallowed halls of Ricky's Diner.

4/20 **ALAN DONALD** wastes little time feeding his white spinnerbait to three acrobatic smallmouth. After launching Maven's favorite Terminator into the claws of a towering oak, he suggests deploying a trained squirrel to retrieve the costly lure. A 4 lb. largemouth and his 4th smallie of the day, interrupt **MR. ALAN's** story about the giant smallmouth that he caught while "high speed" trolling a Johnson Silver Minnow. The Maven is struggling to swallow **ALAN's** outrageous definition of "high speed" when a Peregrine falcon illustrates the true meaning of the term. The heat seeking aerial assassin takes out a mallard duck directly over the canoe, generating a shower of feathers that launches a violent duck down coughing fit from the Falmouth house painter.

4/25 Retired Maine guide, **PAT JACKSON**, with the first leaves on the trees and the first bass on the beds, nails the season's first smallmouth on a fly. As the water warms to 54 degrees, he consummates the noteworthy "Moose Pond Slam" by adding a bulky Largemouth and obese chub to Maven's log.

5/4 Creative web master and reformed surgical tube troller, **ERIK WHITTON**, achieves a personal goal of catching his first freshwater fish on a fly, when a 2.75 lb. smallmouth is bamboozled by his tiny crawfish pattern. A peanut butter and fancy jam sandwich provides the necessary energy for **ERIK** to add an additional 8 bronze leapers while a red shouldered hawk offers support from a nearby tree.

5/5 After years of begging, **ANDY EISENHAUER** convinces the Maven to transport him through the sacred gate, and finds himself floating on the holy water of Moose Pond. Despite being pestered by black flies, the versatile angler boats 6 quality largemouth between 3 and 5 lbs. A taunting phone call from an irritating Vermont physician, pressures the Lexington turncoat to reveal Maven's transgressions with terms like "trolling", "backlash" and "failure to flip ball".

5/8 Last year's "Hawg Master", **NIELS JENSEN**, is demoted to the "Prince of Pickerel" when he conquers more than two dozen of the pugnacious green hammer handles. In spite of his recent elbow surgery "to cure his penchant for wind knots", he can only manage one fly caught smallie before switching to a bait caster. Upon learning that his bass is nothing more than a lowly sunfish, he shows visible signs of disappointment and within minutes, inflicts an epic backlash that renders Maven's Calcutta useless. Although **MR. JENSEN** manages to land 5 different species, he finds himself one chub shy of the coveted "Moose Pond Slam". The day ends with stuffed peppers and tapioca pudding at Ricky's Diner.

5/9 Modern day pioneer, **NIELS JENSEN**, who, with his arm in a cast and without the aid of oxen, built his own stone wall, is treated to a three destination trip. Beginning on the Cousin's River, **NIELS** gets his string stretched by the first striper to swim up the east coast from North Carolina. Less than hour later, he is fly casting for smallmouth on the Androscoggin River and whining about his long list of bodily malfunctions. After doing the math, he is convinced that he is being charged "\$15/erection and \$8/dump". After 9 smallmouth visit the Peenoe, the GMC heads for the brackish waters of Brunswick, forcing the Maven to be bored by **MR. JENSEN's** favorite recipe involving suet and bird dung, his endless thatch tirade, not to mention his colon's fascinating response to a new brand of yogurt.

5/17 A pair of Orioles flies in from Baltimore and lands on the branch of the very tree that is hooked by the first of many errant casts made by antiquated angler, **PAT JACKSON**. After landing a 3.5 lb. smallmouth, a tiny largemouth and 19 more trees, **PAT** is required to write, 100 times in Maven's notebook, "I promise not to hook another branch." He regains his composure, puts 6 more bass in the Peenoe, but relies on his "Moose Pond Slam" T-shirt to finish the deal with a monumental chub.

5/19 After making a basket full of roast beef, provolone, and crunchy lettuce sandwiches, investing \$100 in fishing licenses for himself and daughter **SYDNEY** and riding 140 miles in the Maven mobile, **CHARLIE RUFF** finds himself stuck in the mud. **SYDNEY** displays obvious disappointment, when the Maven winches out the GMC and heads for home, robbing her of a chance to be the first Syracuse coed to pee in a portable Peenoe toilet.

5/24 **PETER NOYES**, whose pet bunny eats electrical wires and head butts the hand that feeds him, lands three bulky bronzebacks and makes it back to the big city in time to race around Casco Bay on his personal 150' catamaran.

5/25 Just days after purchasing his new Peenoe, **TIM HILL** removes the embarrassing decal, paints it green and heads for Moose Pond. His first three fish earn him the coveted "Slam" but he doesn't stop there. His next 4 fish represent 4 different species, and he becomes the first angler in history to complete the "Impossible Consecutive Slam". **MR. HILL** appears anxious when the Maven challenges him to repeat the feat alphabetically.

5/29 All-American and Olympic hopeful tower diver, **VICTORIA TUDOR** joins sister **PILAR** and her dad, **BOB** on a two hour Kennebec River striper blitz. 41 stripers enjoy a speedy release, while **VICTORIA** plants a wet kiss on #42 before sending it home.

6/1 **PAUL FRINSKO**, having recently evolved from tarpon to trout, joins sidekick **BRIAN NOYES** on the season's first upriver striper trip. **PAUL** employs conventional techniques while **BRIAN** chooses to bite the head off his lure and drench it in Smelly Jelly before launching it into the current. 48 stripers and 2 smallmouth are recorded before a floating rock annihilates Maven's skeg.

6/2 Fresh water angler **ADAM GRAVEL** and his foxy fiance **CARRIE**, take advantage of perfect Kennebec River striper conditions. The action is so fast and furious that, while **CARRIE** battles her umpteenth schoolie, **ADAM** actually hooks another on his back cast. When the all-time record of 144 is tied by **CARRIE**, **ADAM** nails #145 and promptly breaks out the red Gatorade to celebrate. The action and the rain continue until the total reaches 153 and **ADAM** heads for Rainbow Lake.

6/5 Although 12 year old **ROSS ARNZEN** and 10 year old **ANNALIESE CHANG** beg for mercy, the cold-blooded real estate tycoon, **STAIGE DAVIS**, convinces **BREK ARNZEN** to roust them out of bed at 3 AM in order to be fishing by 4. After nearly colliding with a deer at Gilbert Head, Maven attempts to become a world class multitasker. With hungry stripers busting everywhere, he a) struggles to keep fresh slug-gos on the hook of the demanding **MR. DAVIS**. b) distributes kitchen utensils to be used to divide and consume Ma Arnzen's famous pumpkin bread. c) prescribes, procures and parcels out Zantac tablets to **BRECK** to alleviate his acid reflux. d) encourages **ANNALIESE** to kiss her striper while orienting the boat to her satisfaction. e) attempts to stop the bleeding from his "striper" thumb and f) monitors **ROSS** in the vomitorium while **BRECK** basks in the glory of catching the record breaking striper #154.

6/6 Shortly after SanDiego businessman, **ROB NOBLE**, scores on his first cast of the day, he decides to move back to Maine. Former heathen, **ERIK WHITTON**, experiments with a 5 wt. fly rod, and nails multiple stripers. **ROB's** dad, **TUCK**, using his patented "1 wrist twitch" sets the consecutive fish catch record of 9 fish on 9 casts. The Maven reaches for his notebook to jot down **TUCK's** first "post 9 for 9" comment, "There is no way that **ALAN DONALD** will ever match that!". He puts frosting on the cake by selecting an ultra lite rod and bagging the season's first tagged striper. The 109 fish day ends with a **TUCK/ROB/ERIK** triple.

6/9 Dental fly rodders, **CHARLIE RUFF** and **PETER LaLIBERTE** take advantage of a tiny window of opportunity between rain storms to keep Maven's 100+ fish string alive. While small fish specialist, **CHARLIE**, is jotting down the web site from a can of "Ass Kickin Peanuts", **PETER** switches to a floating line and bags the top fish of the day. 112 stripers are logged before "On the Rox" heads for the launch, arriving just in time for **CHARLIE** to open his lunch box and serve his mouth watering roast beef, cheddar, crunchy lettuce and home made mayo masterpieces.

6/12 Pollock specialist, **BLAKE WILKES**, invites the wrong guy to extend Maven's "century" string to five. The totally unprepared **BARRY LUNQUIST**, sporting an unacceptable pair of hiking boots, admits that, although he possesses neither a sink tip line or a leader, he does have a bunch of bananas in his waterproof duffel. Not even the best effort of **BLAKE** himself can entice a striper, or even a pollock, until all the bananas have been consumed. Despite a serious case of banana breath, **BARRY** manages to catch the season's first "outside" striper while **BLAKE** contributes to the 21 striper total.

6/13 After promising the Maven that he would inform his guest to wear non marking deck shoes, **PETER BLACKMAN** arrives sporting a smelly pair of size 13 black soled running shoes. Following his half baked apology, he agrees to fish "barefoot", hops aboard and immediately requests a blanket for his cold feet. While sipping diet Moxie, he cheers for **SCOTT FRALEY**, who catches his very first striper. With **PETE** on the fly rod and **SCOTT** on the ultra lite, the pair accounts for 67 stripers. As **SCOTT** lands the day's top fish, a giant snapping turtle floats by to inspect the trophy.

6/14 **ALAN DONALD** and daughter **DARCY** flaunt their game faces, determined to make up for their "1" day of 2004. While the cerebral **DARCY** explains the difference between "mean" and "median", **ALAN** describes the story line of the movie "Alien vs. Musky". Half way through his joke about the pig with the wooden leg, he realizes that he has just managed to catch 3 stripers on 3 consecutive casts and instantly embarks on some luke warm trash talking to his absent, but arch rival, Tuck. By noon, the fish count has steadily climbed to 99, and at 12:01, **ALAN** is connected to the season's first giant. When Goliath lets go and David takes his place, **MR. DONALD**'s disappointment is evident. The day ends with a fish total of 102 and big fish honors going to **DARCY**.

6/15 Smiling **BOB LaLIBERTE**, attempting to hook every fish that attacks his slug-go, sets the hook with such ferocity, that several key components of Maven's Penn reel fly overboard. The equally zealous but less explosive brother **PETER**, lands the season's first pollock along with a rambunctious crab, but is unable to bag a third bizarre species necessary to complete some sort of extraordinary slam. **JAY WIETecha** follows instructions, acts like a normal person and supplies the sandwiches. "**SILENT BILL**" **CUNNINGHAM**, steals the show with his 35" monster, but shows no apparent signs of joy, enthusiasm or interest. After observing the epic struggle, **BOB**, **PETER** and **JAY** begin to cast like **BILL**, retrieve like **BILL** and even ask to be referred to as "**BILL**". Of the 128 stripers landed, not only the biggest, but also the most, are caught by..... you guessed it.... **BILL**.

6/16 Island dweller, **MATT HOFFNER**, who employs a gorilla to promote his business, makes the mistake of choosing a sunny day to invite his daughters to go fishing. Nurse striper practitioner, **BRIANNA**, learns quickly that her 2005 50+ day will not be repeated. Chinese speaking and scull rowing sister, **LAURA**, catches the most and biggest fish of the day and earns not only the "Rookie of the Year" award, but also the prestigious mechanically separated chicken treat. 21 stripers are successfully landed but **MATT**'s crucial radio interview is nixed.

6/19 Kennebec veteran, **JOHN COOPER** picks a perfect day to introduce the father-son team of **RALPH** and **DALE DANIS** to striper fishing. With birds diving, fish busting, and the **DANISes** wielding fly rods, the Maven presides over his first double secret handshake ceremony. **JOHN**, still recuperating from the previous day's triathlon, serves as Maven's witness when **RALPH** and **DALE** swear never to reveal or recreate the ritual. After 134 stripers are landed and released, **JOHN** maintains the food karma tradition when he assembles hearty sandwiches from the freshest ingredients. The Maven enjoys the bread, ham, tomatoes and cheese but can't hide his disappointment at the lack of vidalia onion.

6/20 The Maven joins veteran striper anglers, **RICK ABBONDANZA** and **DALE AKELEY** in their attempt to taunt, harass and hassle ambidextrous salmon angler, **LARRY VanPERSEUM** until he makes one successful strip set. With **DALE** dispensing Cubans, and **RICK** supplying songs and sandwiches, hordes of diving gulls reveal a massive school of hungry stripers. **LARRY** and **DALE**, expertly launching flies into a stiff breeze, account for the majority of the 65 stripers, while **RICK**'s limited ability confines him to lobbing a jig (downwind) with a spinning rod. He not only shows great pride in his three new nicknames..... 1) "Jigmeister" 2) "King of Jig" and 3) "Mr. Jiggy", but also puffs up his chest after landing the day's only mackerel.

6/21 In the midst of Montreal rush hour traffic, a reckless **ANDY EISENHAEUER** uses both thumbs to push all the buttons on Maven's GPS, rendering it useless. After two two martinis, and without the aid of the owner's manual, Maven completely disassembles the unit and repairs the damage.

6/22 After discovering scissors and knives in Maven's back pack, airport security agents teach him a lesson by smashing his bottle of Kahlua and confiscating his prized waxed cotton rain jacket. Seven veteran salmon anglers criticize **SCOTT TIMOTHY**'s blasphemous loop to loop connection.

6/23 After an unsuccessful attempt to adjust the straps on his new chest pack to fit the unusual dimensions of his old body, **NIELS JENSEN** hides Maven's vest and earns the title of "prick bastard". The **FABULOUS COOPER BROTHERS** lead a chemically enhanced sing-a-long.

6/24 The **FABULOUS COOPER BROTHERS** return from the Northwest River with a cooler full of native "breakfast" brook trout, while **SCOTT TIMOTHY** returns with wet clothing (the result of his second swim) and stories of the trip's first landed salmon. Maven, looking forward to more pickin and grinnin with **RICH** and **BOB**, settles for **SCOTT**'s editorial on the sad state of dog food and a tedious narration by **NIELS JENSEN** about how he nearly became a librarian.

6/25 After a hearty breakfast of trout and eggs, **ANDY EISENHAEUER** seductively presents his green butt to a pair of berserk grilse, and is instantly transformed into a salmoholic. Before he has time to express his joy to the envious **JOHN BUTTERLY**, he checks his mental calendar. The look on his face makes it crystal clear that he has just become aware of the significance of his wife's 60th birthday. When **STEVE WILLIS** lands his first grilse, partner **NIELS JENSEN**, rather than offering congratulations, predicts the size of **STEVE**'s colostomy bag. After hearing the totally accurate exaggeration of Maven's "suicidal salmon" spectacle, an immature and less successful angler, in a fit of jealousy, short sheets Maven's bed. **ANDY** is the most likely culprit, but all others (except Brenda and Ivan) are potential "prick bastards". **RICH COOPER** cons Brenda out of 3 bottles of "Thirsty Lizard" and joins brother **BOB** for a medley of show tunes.

6/26 Under the influence of **SCOTT TIMOTHY**'s chunk style coffee, the gang consumes flap jacks while focusing on a remedy for his disgusting varicose veins. Numerous bear sightings are upstaged by the three salmon day of the newly annoited **BOB COOPER**. Nearly three miles down river and three days after it vanished, **NIELS JENSEN** recovers the favorite hat of **RICH COOPER**. Much to the chagrin of **JOHN BUTTERLY**, **NIELS**' outspoken digital dictionary proves that sturgeon are not catadramous, but other members of the group seem more concerned that it refuses to pronounce "dickhead" or "pussy".

6/27 Both **STEVE WILLIS** and **NIELS JENSEN** steal the "salmon king" title from **BOB COOPER** with a pair of 4 fish days. **JOHN BUTTERLY** finally sheds the embarrassing title of "salmon virgin" and promptly volunteers to serve as camp cook for both steaks and Sicilian Salmon. In full view of all group members, he actually touches himself to determine the difference between medium and medium rare.

6/28 With air in the 80s and water in the 60s, a long awaited rain stimulates the salmon, and 7 of the 8 Sandhill River "team" members connect with silver bullets. **SCOTT TIMOTHY**, who refuses to accept any advice from his guide, relies on illegal tactics to get his string stretched. His first comes at 3:20 AM while casting from a spot above a sign that clearly states "NO FISHING ABOVE THIS SIGN". Well aware that no angling is permitted after dinner, he wears his waders to bed and slithers out of the lodge at midnight to take three more. **RICH COOPER** walks to the falls for a 4 AM tune up, and shortly thereafter, is photographed back at the lodge, taking a pre breakfast nap. In a fit of jealous rage, **JOHN BUTTERLY**, pretending to help **ANDY EISENHAUER** secure the largest salmon of the trip, gently reaches out to cradle the monster, and then suddenly and intentionally grabs **ANDY's** leader and snaps it with an abrupt tug. **BOB COOPER, STEVE WILLIS** and **NIELS JENSEN** attempt to interpret **JOHN's** caustic behavior while consuming adult beverages, and celebrating their roles in the 17 salmon day.

6/29 Even before the coffee finishes percolating, **NIELS JENSEN** engages in a contentious reprimand of **STEVE WILLIS** for regifting his Orvis fly rod. By the time the Maven emerges from his bunk to function as referee, the two have made up and are debating the subtle differences between "un" and "non" . When the discussion deteriorates to "dis" vs. "dys", the Maven loses interest, and welcomes **ANDY EISENHAUER's** enactment of his three favorite wrestling movesthe "half" , the "full" and the "Father" Nelson. **SCOTT, NIELS, RICH** and **STEVE** are the last to hear a screaming reel, before the float plane arrives. On the bumpy flight back to Goose Bay, **JOHN BUTTERLY**, points his camera at the vomiting **SCOTT TIMOTHY**, but lacks the cold blooded malice necessary to snap the photo.

6/30 After pounding two large cups of coffee from Tim Horton's, **SCOTT TIMOTHY** gets the shakes and drops the room key into the toilet.

7/4 Although **GARY FERGUSON** wins the coveted Slim Jim with a pair of 7.5 pounders, he mourns the loss of the season's #1 striper, which wraps around a nearby lobster pot. He later nabs a clam with his jig, and misses the "mollusk slam" by a mussel and a periwinkle. While waiting for a severe thunder storm to pass, **CHRISTIAN** reveals tooth marks on his bubble gum slug-go and prepares for some serious bluefish inflicted "groinage". 51 stripers succumb before a macho osprey attacks an eagle.

7/5 After a tedious downriver "crawl" through dense fog, **JEFF BENNERT** munches on a bunless hamburger, sings higher than Mariah Carey, and then casts his chartreuse deceiver to a rocky ledge. His strategy pays off when he finds himself connected to one of the season's top fly caught stripers. Retired naval admiral, **TIM HILL**, embarrasses himself with a feeble rendition of the slug-go song, but does his part to bring the striper total to 34.

7/6 Before his first cast, **PETER NOYES**, maintains that his fly line "was short sheeted" and spends his first hour grubbing with a world class bird's nest. Son **BRENT**, fly casting like a pro and strip setting like a veteran, hooks up at will until **GUY FREEMAN** whips out his banana. The catching is held to a minimum until **GUY** consumes 4 spicy garlic treats as an antidote. Glassy conditions at the beach, reveal a huge school of "finning" stripers in the 5 to 7 lb. class, and **PETER** casts a floating line to convince them to eat his crease fly. 71 stripers are taken from 11 different spots, with **Brent** winning the big fish jerky treat and **GUY** only one banana blunder away from "Rookie of the Year" .

7/7 At 4:30 AM the Maven drives past the car of career criminal **MATT ZWIEG** who is attempting to be congenial while calculating the damage of his ticket for a) speeding b) expired sticker c) no insurance card and d) outdated registration. Not even an additional citation from Officer Maven, for wearing black soled shoes, can dampen **MATT's** spirits, and at precisely 6:18 AM he is the proud recipient of the season's second secret handshake. Political activist, **JONATHAN SHENKIN**, who doesn't believe that infants or toddlers should be permitted to smoke in automobiles, catches a fish on his very first cast. Fashion risk taker, **CHARLIE RUFF**, hooks a "serious" striper on a fly, but when the monster surfaces and sees his red pants and turquoise shirt, it makes a face and spits the hook. 31 stripers get an aerobic workout with **MATT** earning big fish honors.

7/10 **DONNA LaLIBERTE**, itching, scratching and begging for Benedryl, gets off to a fast start by catching the season's first sturgeon and bluefish, before completing the slam with a striper. Close Carolina friend, **REV. ANDREA** , adds another blue before fly casting phenom, **DOUG LaLIBERTE**, for the second year in a row, nails the trip's top fish. **PETER LaLIBERTE**, functions in a supporting role, but manages to participate in a father-son double. The fish total reaches 23 and the wind speed climbs to 30.

7/11 **MIKE BARRETT**, chewing and dribbling into his brass spittoon, explains to the Maven, the complexity of marrying the same woman twice, and then becoming a two time widow when she croaks. Nephew **MIKE**, equals his uncle in the Skoal slobbering competition, but surpasses him in the striper contest by nailing the top fish of the day. Human fish finder and prospective Barrett in-law, **JOHN THOMAS**, catches his first striper after many "O-fers" on Lake Mead. 27 stripers are recorded before a dangerous thunderstorm unleashes hail and havoc.

7/12 **ALAN DONALD**, discounts his traditional medley of musky tales, to tell the joke about the mouse and hyena at the bar. Talented son **JAMES**, who recently abolished the glazed breakfast lard and cheese sandwich from his daily menu, observes dozens of stripers accompanying his hooked fish and proclaims, "We have discovered a fishing G-spot!" The 38 fish day ends with a 13 lb. father-son double, and **ALAN** wastes no time reminding the Maven to "grow another thumb" in preparation for his September guest who is a "fish catching machine".

7/13 Red hot fly fisherman, **RANDY BILLMEIER** catches dozens of stripers with the long rod, but relies on a slug-go to nab his "Slim Jim" fish from "Moose" Cove. At precisely 10:29 AM, nature photographer, **MEL BERGUIS** speeds up his retrieve, hooks his first striper on a fly and participates in a rare secret handshake ceremony. Professor **JIM KACHMAR** makes a timely connection to key a "triple" at Silent Man Point. By trip's end, the fish count reaches 62 and the Jones Brothers is gliding back to Fiddler's Reach.

7/14 With tournament bass angler, **BRIAN LUCE**, monopolizing the bow, **MATT PAQUIN** and **JOE SAUCIER** determine who will be the first to succumb to motion sickness. **MATT** pours water on his head to avoid his impending bout with reverse peristalsis, while **JOE** nails the top fish of the day.

7/17 Hummer salesman **FRED PAPE**, fails to catch a single marlin, but manages to land a multitude of chunky stripers on a fly. While experimenting with a spinning rod, he cranks in a clam and quickly decides to "shuck and release". As usual, **BRIAN NOYES** demonstrates a high level of fly casting skill, but when mouths water in anticipation of Thanksgiving sandwiches, he disappoints his companions with fluffer nutters. **BRUCE KAY**, after earning the "big fish" award, hurts the Maven's feelings by refusing to accept the tasty mechanically separated chicken treat. With 51 stripers in the log book, the GMC heads for the big city. Only **FRED** remains awake to prevent the Maven from taking a premature nap.

7/18 After spending 15 minutes reviving a 36" striper that had been released by a bait heathen, awesome fly caster, **ROB GLENN** hooks a linesider that he has trained to unwrap itself from a lobster pot. His attractive 17 year old daughter, **MICHELLE**, just moments after losing a big fish, hooks another and quickly proclaims, "He ain't going nowhere!" She enjoys lunch at 8:30 AM, and because her afternoon nap begins at 9, she misses the dolphin and seal show. Despite being pestered by a troller, the duo totals 24 stripers and makes it back to the launch in time to head for Greece.

7/19 Unlicensed Bahamian cat neuterer, **DAVE HASKELL**, spends the early morning in pursuit of shallow water stripers and blues. When the fish count reaches 10, he indicates that the time has come to fetch mother **MABEL** and get down to some serious mackerel trolling. Because of **DAVE**'s outrageous decision to sneak a banana on board, the 91 year old **MABEL** is limited to a single fish. She does, however, manage to get wicked excited after hooking a clump of rockweed.

7/20 Bright sun and calm seas pave the way for lots of "swirlage" but limited "chewage" for professional bee keeper, **STEVE WILLIAMS** and his expert angling son, **SAM**. After admitting to be a "closet" bait fisherman, **SAM** looks over his shoulder, chuckles, and has the nerve to say, "Give that slug-go a rest and wack the gnats off your face, Dad." One hundred stripers show interest, but only 18 are landed.

7/21 Simply because he is required to clean his shoes before boarding the boat, famous dentist, Harvard professor and world class cook, **CHARLIE RUFF**, appears irritated and implies that the Maven must be gay. Basketball coach and part time dentist, **JOHN CLARK**, catches the first 5 fish and then slows down in hopes to receive a future invitation. **NOEL AUSTIN**, whose last fish was a largemouth bass landed in 1981, casts with confidence and contributes to the 20 fish total. The day concludes with the sound of crunchy lettuce.

7/24 **GARY FERGUSON** promptly impresses his wife and daughter with a pair of 9 lb. river stripers. 9 year old **CIARA**, follows his lead, and within minutes is tugging on a 24 incher. The lovely, **MARY DENISE**, who has difficulty maintaining visual contact with her sinking slug-go, gets a "dancing lesson" from the Maven and immediately hooks up. **GARY's** final fish of the day tips the scales at 13 lbs. and triggers a celebratory pepperoni feeding frenzy. The Maven suggests a "rub it in" call to humble brother-in-law, **MARK FLANNERY**.

7/25 Self proclaimed idiot, **ANDY GRAHAM**, recounts the details of his north woods wilderness fishing trip. He admits packing the New York Times, a case of fine wine and his fluffy pillow, while failing to attach a spare tire to his Peenoe trailer. The Maven nearly wets his pants laughing when **ANDY** describes the display of sparks and flying metal fragments that emanated from the one wheeled trailer when the road turned from gravel to tar. Rookie angler, **DAVID SIEGAL**, wastes little time demonstrating his talent and bags his very first striper at 6 AM. However, when he reveals a bunch of undocumented alien bananas, he is downgraded to a tiny pollock. **ANDY's** decision making improves, and he brings the fish total to 24, including an award winning 9 pounder.

7/26 Local entrepreneur, **DICK ARONSON**, renowned for hiring 80 year old twins to run his business, lobs a slug-go near the feet of a great blue heron. The action that he imparts to the lure, is so realistic, that the bird decides to dine. After pulling the slug-go from the beak of the stealthy predator, a chunky striper grabs it and puts a serious bend in **DICK's** rod. He pulls the bulky 6 pounder from the swift current, but refuses his spicy garlic "reward" declaring, "There is not enough Protonix on this boat!" **MR. ARONSON's** faithful bride, **ADELE**, does not even hesitate to accept her garlic treat after landing the top fish of the day, but insists on recycling the tabasco enhanced Slim Jim.

7/27 **BOB COOPER**, determined to make up for last year's contentious deck marking episode, puts the Maven at ease by wearing an unblemished pair of latex soled canvas slippers. His peace pipe continues to smoke, when, in an obvious gesture of reconciliation, he offers the ultimate compliment to the Maven with a sincere, "This coffee doesn't suck!" With **BOB's** greedy son **JOHN**, monopolizing the bow, and catching most of the stripers, his tolerant brother **RICH**, is banished to the stern to "pick up the scraps" with his slug-go. Justice is served when the unselfish **RICH**, without any mention of his lustrous hair, nails the biggest striper of the day. When the fish count reaches 42, talk shifts from stripers to sandwiches.

7/28 Just hours after an all-out shopping spree at Dan & Whit's General Store, **ANDY EISENHAUER** and **JOHN BUTTERLY** arrive with gifts for the Maven. **JOHN** makes the official presentation in hopes that the Maven will abstain from incessant referrals to the ANADramous status of sturgeon. The Maven expresses his gratitude for the Sandhill Salmon cap, the wide mouth pee can and the box of shoe condoms before reminding **JOHN** that eels, and only eels, are catadramous. Apparently unfazed by the heckling, **DR. B** lobs his slug to a guilty rip and skillfully sets the hook into the enormous jaw of the 15 pound pig that blasts his plastic impostor. During the reel screaming struggle that ensues, **ANDY EISENHAUER**, in predictable fashion, sits silently in the stern, struggling to untangle his fly line. Baffled by **ANDY's** calm demeanor during the laborious encounter, the Maven insures that he share his innermost feelings, by "goosing" the Yamaha just as the ticking time bomb puts a coffee cup to his lips. **ANDY** officially "snaps" when he demands an entire roll of paper towels to clean the coffee off his glasses. The 25 fish day ends in the parking lot with "**BIG FISH**" **BUTTERLY** routinely accepting his tabasco enhanced mechanically separated chicken treat.

7/31 Whining about his swollen ankle, **NIELS JENSEN** seems preoccupied with corn fed salmon. He applies a new brand of sun block, which not only allows his "skin to breathe", but also creates low light conditions around the boat. For 5 solid hours, his fly rod remains flexed, resulting in a record breaking 65 one man striper total. His 12.5 pounder, takes him well into his backing and assumes the top spot on the 2006 fly rod striper list. Back at the Maven estate, he limps around the lawn, performing a lengthy and thorough thatch inspection.

8/1 Self proclaimed "Fluke Master", **NIELS JENSEN**, ties on his new fluke fly, hooks a striper on his first fluke fly cast, and in the goofy voice of a simple minded flukish predator, bellows, "I fluked you!" When the Maven convinces him to switch back to a chartreuse deceiver, **MR. JENSEN** stops behaving like a fluking idiot, makes a long cast to a shallow water cruiser, and hooks the 2nd biggest striper of the season. New dad, **GRAHAM HALL**, lands stripers up to 8.5 lbs. with wire, and loses numerous blues without. After numerous Grampy-Dickhead doubles, the fish total reaches 54, and it is back to Cumberland to rendezvous with Grammy and Jen. **NIELS**, in full view of his wife and daughter, shares his "Little Man" with the lovely Roxanne.

8/2 Reformed heathen, **ERIK WHITTON**, hooks and lands a nice beach striper on a fly, and immediately proclaims, "Hannah is pregnant!". Ancient entrepreneur, **TUCK NOBLE**, rather than offering congratulations, replies with a matter of fact, "See you in 20 years." With **SHEP SHEPPARD** surveying the seas for more fish, and **TUCK** sucking on more Marlboros, **ERIK** switches to a spinning rod. When a striper makes a pass at his slug-go, in predictable fashion, he prematurely sets the hook and instantly repents with a heartfelt, "Excuse me Maven, for I have yanked!" Just minutes before **TUCK**'s back goes into a full spasm, he gets vertical and joins **SHEP** and **ERIK** for a rare Dickhead "triple". The fish total reaches 51, with **SHEP** and **ERIK** sharing "big fish" honors.

8/3 Although master angler **MICHAEL KAHN**, successfully "pumps" numerous stripers to the boat, he struggles to steady his coffee cup in the 5' waves. After dribbling all over his chin, jacket and the deck of Maven's boat, he is forced to use Molina's sippy cup. **MICHAEL**'s "bootylicious" bride, **PEPI**, wearing a stylish pair of surgical booties, lands a nice 8 pounder and wins the "big fish" peppermint patty. Showing no signs of fashion shame, daughter **JODY**, catches 6 stripers in a row while wearing Maven's boots, but forgets her "Lady J" and refuses to field test Maven's new portable toilet.

8/4 Milano cookie junkie, **ADAM KLINE**, is surrounded by aggressive stripers and finds no need to troll with shrimp or lobster tails. With **MICHAEL** and **PEPI** pooped out from the previous day's fishing, he has the bow to himself, takes advantage of perfect catching conditions and, single handedly, enters 53 stripers into Maven's log. Lacking an angling adversary, his 7 pounder is not eligible for the mechanically separated chicken award.

8/6 Local geezer, **PAT JACKSON**, alternates between lobbing the jitterbug that he received as a birthday gift in 1921, and removing a perpetual backlash from his recently purchased baitcasting reel. Although a big fish tries to eat his small fish, it is **PAT**'s golf champion bride, **CHRIS**, who lands the #1 prize, a chunky and acrobatic river smallmouth.

8/8 Three generations of **MORRIS**es successfully cope with 20 knot winds and rough seas. **ROB** gets off to a fast start with an award winning 7+ pounder that takes like a salmon. Son **JACK**, having upgraded his slug-go skills, hooks up in the heavy current and bags a scrapper that is just ounces shy of his Dad's. **ROB**'s father, **JOHN**, avoids a bout of motion sickness, and connects with a schoolie adorned with tag # 26357. Over achieving nephew, **JOHN "BUZZ" WRIGHT**, while wheeling and dealing on his Blackberry, invokes a two hour fish catching moratorium, but is forced to witness a **MORRIS** "triple" when he loses cell phone reception.

8/9 Quintessential story teller, **ALAN DONALD**, finishes the one about being slammed in the head by his sister's musky lure, and has just started the one about the white piranha, when he goes "3 for 3". He immediately makes eye contact with **TUCK NOBLE**, whose back problem has him fishing from the handicapped access area, and says, "6 to go!" **TUCK**, still trying to repress **ALAN**'s tale of the \$1500 porta potty, simply blanks out his pain, launches his slug-go and overpowers the top striper of the day. Fly rodder, **ERIK WHITTON**, struggles with a massive snarl.... stage #1 "This doesn't even make sense." stage #2 "Can you believe this?" stage #3 "I just had a moment of clarity!" stage #4 "I have accomplished something!" stage #5 "I'll have coffee now." During a 2 minute lull in the action, **MR. DONALD** chimes in with, "My slug-go must have stepped in something." The 53rd "Graveyard" striper is recorded just before **TUCK**'s back gives out and just after **ALAN** completes the one about the Puffin on a plate.

8/10 The **FABULOUS COOPER BROTHERS** emit a disturbing cacophony, resulting from an unbridled late night burrito fest, and aggressively avoid each other while the Maven discreetly remains upwind. When **RICH**, enjoying a rare opportunity to fish from the bow, is confronted with the day's first hungry striper, he proclaims, "I have swirlage!" but quickly admits, "I suffer from premature yankage." Brother **BOB**, while fighting a 4lb. Richmond Island striper, notices a flock of sheep patrolling a rocky ledge, instantly loses his fish focus and embarks on a medley of sheep jokes that extends well into the lunch hour. By noon, 50 stripers have been landed and gastric noises have diminished to normal "**COOPER BROTHER**" levels. Maven's tip includes a generous amount of cash and a bag of canvas deck shoes.

8/11 At a nameless island in an anonymous river that flows into one of the larger oceans of the world, **JOHN BUTTERLY** strengthens his hold on the nickname "BIG FISH". He makes a long cross current cast and convinces a mammoth striper that his 7.5" slug-go is about to expire. The hawg launches itself into the air as it inhales the lure, and **JOHN** makes a conscious decision to crank and not yank. With line screaming off **JOHN**'s reel, and Maven trying to move the boat into "battle" position, **ANDY EISENHAUER** bellows "Fish on!". Although the Maven prepares **ANDY** to sacrifice his fish, good fortune rules, and miraculously, both stripers are landed. **ANDY**'s fly rod trophy is a beautiful 7 pounder and **JOHN**'s brute, which dips the Boga to the 18 lb. mark, is the #1 striper of the entire season! The most exciting double of all time is reviewed, savored and replayed until fish #30 is landed and the final gourmet sandwich is consumed.

8/14 Luscious and uninhibited **NACHELLE WIEGMAN**, struggling to land her slug-go in the ocean, settles for consistent contact with ledges, beaches and nearby hillsides. Despite her flawed depth perception, she locates enough casts in the striper zone, to win the "most fish" award. Skillful sturgeon angler but feeble minded boyfriend, **JAKE**, licks his camera battery and discovers that his tongue conducts electricity.

8/15 Unorthodox fishing champion, and future TV fishing show commentator, **JOHNNY MILDRUM**, hooks up early and often. Referring to his dad as "Ernie", "Honey" and "Einstein", the amazing caster can accurately measure the length of a fish at the precise instant of the hook set. His amazing technique, mysteriously produces more "40s" for him than for his dad, **KURT**. Electronics genius, **ADAM WHITE**, laughs with such vigor that he pops a stitch in his recent lip wound and bleeds all over himself. Seventy five stripers enter Maven's log, with **KURT** earning the "big fish" Slim Jim.

8/16 **ALAN DONALD** wasting little story time, expects the Maven to believe that he actually discovered a toad in a hornets nest on his roof. He then has the audacity to suggest that the **ALAN** clan is hosting the 2006 Highland Games, that will feature the ancient test of strength known as the "musky throw". Self proclaimed "King of Skippers", **JEFF BENNERT**, uses a fly rod in lieu of a "green stick" to nail a pair of 5+ pounders. When the final 8 stripers bring the fish total to 50, and the Maven explains why they resulted from a Double Dickhead Double, and not a Double Double Dickhead, the Jones Brothers speeds back up the river. The prone and dozing **MR. DONALD** is pummeled on the casting deck when the boat bounces off a "Vinkley" wave.

8/17 Determined to validate his "Waterville" retrieve, **BRIAN NOYES** bites the head off his Fin-S Fish, hooks it in a humorous manner and bags one of the season's top bluefish. After mistaking his pollock for a cobia, he returns to form and nabs a 6 lb. striper on a fly. **ROB GLENN**, noticing some grass clippings on his shoes, and recognizing that he is about to be scolded, makes a feeble attempt to distract the Maven with a less than brilliant idea to substitute the ludicrous term "WhizzBang" for the traditional "double". The 70 fish day ends with a Dickhead "WhizzBang".

8/18 A rainbow completely encircles the sun and accurately portends an exciting bluefish day for **CHARLIE RUFF**, his daughter **SYDNEY** and her hunky boyfriend, **JP**. A scenic early morning tour of Casco Bay precedes 4 hours of non stop fish catching action. After numerous "doubles" and one "triple", the fish count reaches 34, the lunch bell rings, and the Maven transports the trio from the slug-go graveyard to the Dolphin. **JP** learns to like fish chowder, **SYDNEY** settles for chicken fingers and **CHARLIE** inhales a kosher lobster roll. The Maven's tip includes a generous amount of cash, a delicious Dolphin meal and a 6 oz. bottle of Professor Phartpounder's Colon Cleaner Hot Sauce.

8/22 Island neighbors, **MATT HOFFNER** and **BILL SOMMERS**, while battling early morning "Diamond" stripers, wave to family members peering through picture windows. **BILL**, enjoying his first break from diaper duty, makes history by becoming the first Maven client to crank rather than yank on his very first slug-go swirl. His status improves to "Maven's favorite client" when he catches 7 bluefish on the same lure! **MATT** lacks the discipline to call off the catching, repeatedly postpones the return trip and then relies on a high speed golf cart and 225 of Maven's horses to power him to the ferry.

8/23 **SEAN CARROLL**, the only western Maine farmer to dabble in oil futures, introduces teenage angler, **SHAWN TRAINOR**, to the world of salt water fishing. Numerous **SEAN/SHAWN** striper doubles generate joy and merriment, while disrespectful trollers evoke fishing's own version of road rage. Twenty eight stripers and **SEAN's** magnum bluefish provide steady action.

8/24 Antique smelt and cunner fisherman, **AMADEO REALI**, peels off 4 layers of warm clothing, and after discovering his arms and hands, picks up a rod and hooks a striper. Legendary rock star, **AL BUTLER**, coping with artificial foot surgery by wearing one shoe, takes much longer to hook up. After missing a dozen hook sets he exclaims, "I'm getting close..... my rod just got bent!" **AL's** long time pal, **MIKE REALI**, son of **AMADEO**, catches the very first striper of his life and moments later adds #2. His teenage son, **JOSH**, representing the third generation of **REALI's**, aces out **AL** with a quick change of direction cast. Although he seems pleased to land the top fish of the day, he appears troubled when **AL** bestows upon him the label "side swapper". **MIKE** ends the day with fish #50.

8/25 Mean spirited button pusher, **ANDY EISENHAUER** goes directly for the captain's jugular when he hops aboard On the Rox with grass clippings on his shoes. Before the frantic Maven can decide whether to respond with a broom or rake, **ANDY** tips over an uncovered bottle of lime aid. The Maven is still steaming, when **ANDY** fails to properly dispose of his sandwich wrappers, wallows in rubbish and transforms Maven's noon dining experience into an acid reflux festival. To make matters worse, the Maven cringes at the sound of exploding Jones Brothers gel coat and Yamaha paint chips precipitated by the rapidly regressing fly casting skills of **JOHN BUTTERLY**. **ANDY**, apparently oblivious to the anxiety that he has inflicted, "showboats" for some nearby bait fishermen, while **JOHN** assumes that he is repenting for the boat and motor damage by reading from his silly children's book entitled, How Goat Island Got its Name. 64 stripers manage to get caught, with **JOHN's** 7 pounder suspiciously bagged in that gray area between "trolling" and a "passive retrieve".

8/26 Florida "cracker" **JOE LUTZ**, never before outside the confines of the "sunshine" state, finds himself in the middle of a striper blitz, but is powerless to put down his camera . He leaves most of the catching to sidekick and uncanny slugaholic, **STAN YORK**. **STAN**, wearing his FrogTogg sperm suit, lands the majority of the 60 stripers while **JOE** ogles the rocky ledges and appears stunned by any nearby hill with a summit higher than 20'.

8/27 Perched on the bow of Maven's Peenoe, **STAN YORK** works his slug-go magic. After nailing 45 stripers and a 4 lb. blue from an immense school of "busters", he asks the Maven to move him to an area where there aren't so many stupid fish. **JOE LUTZ** calls from Florida to tell **STAN** and the Maven that his one day vacation in "Vacationland" was worth the trip. "Next year", he declares, " I plan to live on the wild side and stay for 2 days".

8/28 **STAN YORK** is treated to the "Moose" Pond experience and capitalizes with his floating worm. Blind casting over dense mats of emergent vegetation produces largemouth up to 5 lbs. and a pair of not-so-small smallmouth. His largest weighs in at 4 pounds, and earns the top prize for 2006.

8/29 Although rain threatens, the Maven is thankful that **STAN YORK** decides to leave his sperm suit in the bag. **STAN** is thoroughly enjoying the steady action provided by acrobatic smallmouth bass, when his 4.5" slug-go is eaten by a viscious creature the size of a Monitor Lizard. A 40" Northern Pike is the culprit, and with Stan's rod stressed to the breaking point, it pulls the Maven's Peenoe, against a powerful current, over a mile upstream.

8/30 In his attempt to wage another battle with a colossal "Tooth-a-saurus", **STAN YORK** gambles with a "pumpkin pie" slug-go. After the Maven logs in 38 smallmouth and a pair of chubs, he hears a sound that reminds him of the good old days. His eyes triangulation on the familiar "zipping" sound, and sure enough, **STAN** is chucking and winding his old favorite.... Tiny Torpedo.

8/31 The standards of **ALAN DONALD** have obviously slumped, as it only takes a pair of back to back stripers for him to blurt, "Two for two, Tuck!" Thousands of eider ducks fly over the boat, prompting **MR. DONALD** to expound on the damaging effects of feathers in the carburetor of a 4 stroke engine. The Maven buys **ALAN's** story about the bass that he conditioned to eat on command, but refuses to fall for the one about the exploding whale that results in a crushed automobile. When daughter **DARCY** reels in a massive clump of rockweed along with a trophy pollock, she contends, "I felt compelled to cast into the 'zone of improbability' ". The main event takes place at 10:34 AM when vacuum cleaner technician and **DARCY's** future hubby, **CHRIS BUSSIERE**, hooks one of the season's top stripers and muscles it to the boat in a style reminiscent of a young Chuck Norris. By 1 PM, 61 stripers have been bagged, world famous steak sandwiches have been consumed, and **ALAN** has made an unsuccessful attempt to hook a Monark butterfly with a milkweed lure.

9/1 Outlandish and uninhibited physician, **JOHN JOSEPH** defies all odds with the first flounder to be seen in these parts since 1984. He immediately expresses his joy with a semi-naked swim at Naked Beach, while entrusting his foxy wife **TERRI** to the semi trustworthy Maven. Six year old daughter **CHARLOTTE** needs no help landing a pair of stripers, while Maven's youngest client ever, **BENNETT**, born just 3 years ago, takes joy in the catching but doesn't buy into the releasing. Although the Maven anxiously awaits **TERRI's** request for a naked swim at Semi-Naked Beach, he settles for photographing her huge bluefish.

9/2 **STAN YORK's** Maine visit finishes with a flurry. A cove full of busting blues and diving birds gets him so excited that he tosses his Berkeley lipping tool overboard. 71 fish later, he has forgotten about his \$29 loss.

9/3 Versatile angler, **BRIAN NOYES**, is anxious to add another species to his fish list. With smallmouth clearing the water in pursuit of mating damsel flies, **BRIAN** remains focused on the merciless ambush predator lurking in the weeds. At 2:26 PM the 22" green missile wages an all out assault on his lure and **BRIAN** adds "Northern Pike" to his extensive list of exotic species.

9/5 **TUCK NOBLE**, going head to head with arch rival **ALAN DONALD**, not only wins the "big fish" award, but also steals some of **ALAN's** signature fishing terms such as, "swirlage", "bumpage" and "steak sandwage". Reflecting on his evolution from bait heathen to slugaholic, he hints that he may need to enroll in a 12 step program. **ALAN** deflects his defeat with continual reference to his impressive mackerel-pollock-striper slam, and when the Maven attempts to present **TUCK** with the coveted SlimJim, promptly takes center stage with the story about the golfer whose shoe laces popped during a forceful swing. By 1 PM the fish total of 35 exceeds by two, the number of devoured blondies.

9/6 Silky smooth fly caster, **ANDY GRAHAM** puts on a clinic, taking 37 of the day's 50 fish. After hooking 4 in a row, as well as a 5 pounder from a sitting position, his confidence soars to such an arrogant level that he responds to Maven's "Let's move." with, "Let me catch this fish first!" **STEVE WILLIAMS**, functioning primarily as the "designated teaser", attempts to imitate **ANDY's** fly by gluing feathers to his slug-go. In total desperation, he casts to a lump of floating chum, identified by the Maven as a dead seal.

9/7 Although the waste line of **MICHAEL KAHN** reveals his rededication to physical fitness, his addiction to mobile technology compels the Maven to bestow upon him the nickname, "Crack Berry". His entertaining daughter, **JODI**, upset at her turquoise slug-go for attracting only pollock, reveals that brother **ARI**, at age 15, lined his gym bag with tin foil and walked out of an "all you can eat" restaurant with 87 lbs. of pizza. The Maven, who is proud of **ARI** for "just saying no" to dipping, respectfully refers to him as **DOCTOR KAHN**, but follows up with a series of AKAs... "Dr. Yanker", "Dr. Smell Fish", "Dr. Wise Ass" and "Dr. Screw up". The 30 fish day ends with **ARI** earning the SlimJim, **JODI** boating another pollock and **MICHAEL** reviewing a text message from his accountant.

9/8 After a hearty breakfast of orange juice, dry toast and bowl of CrackBerry Crunch, **MICHAEL KAHN** has his game face on. After losing his hat, and forcing the Maven to execute a high speed "about face", he connects with the top fish of the day. **ARI KAHN**, now known as "Dr. Tangle" and "Dr. Hog the Bow", is unable to earn his second mechanically separated chicken treat in as many days. **ADAM KLINE**, has no problem landing a pair of stripers on **JODI's** turquoise slug-go but decides that a "rub it in" call is not in his best interest. When his potential Slim Jim winning fish comes "unbuttoned", he responds with the quote of the day "You let yourself go, you son-of-a-bitch!" The 39 stripers that make it all the way to the boat are not verbally abused.

9/11 Nicator pickerel maven, **MIKE KRAMER** copes with the cold weather by searching for a striper that is "wearing a sweater". **MIKE's** son **JORDAN**, recent graduate of the Vassar School of Park Rangers, is focused on a repeat of his '05 performance. Soon to be fly rodder, **STEVE WILLIAMS**, bags the day's lone pollock along with numerous mid-sized stripers. At 12:45, diving gulls reveal a school of busting schoolies, and the fish count reaches 56.

9/12 Bassmaster wannabe, **JEFF BENNERT**, landing fish faster than Rick Clunn, Roland Martin or Kevin Van Dam, is forced to slow down when he connects with a 7 lb. Slim Jim striper. **ALAN DONALD**, complaining that the Maven does not have a fireplace on the boat, barks "Get your frozen slug-go treats, here!". Maven's eyes roll when **ALAN** details the story of the dozen grouse flushed by a muskie, and passes an entire steak sandwich through his nose when **MR. DONALD** describes the involuntary bowel movement of his hunting dog. Moments after the one about the "live bomb" door stop, a school of aggressive stripers provides the opportunity for 42 hook ups in 42 minutes, and the fish total hits 102.

9/14 The Maven gets very excited to hear **ADAM GRAVEL** describe his 27" smallmouth episode, but when **ADAM** is unable to provide a photo or notarized affidavit, he suspects an over active imagination or bad drugs. **ADAM's** foxy new bride, **CARRIE**, sporting a stylish short sleeve sweater, impresses the Maven with her side arm casting technique and amazing bladder control. **KURT HOWARD**, on his very first cast to the mouth of Kurt's Creek, lands the top striper of the day. The 52 fish day ends with a **MR. & MRS. GRAVEL** "double".

9/15 Taking pity on absent minded **JOHN BUTTERLY**, who is visibly upset at the prospect of spending a day on his favorite river with no rod, reel or patch, the Maven presents him with a belated box of pistachios, and loans him all the equipment that he needs. After breaking off his first fish, he blames the Maven for setting the drag too tight and moments later, complains about the same drag being "self loosening". **ANDY EISENHAUER**, who normally casts "big" but catches "small", reverses the trend, experiences a casting meltdown but manages to earn the mechanically separated chicken treat. His bright green Sea Habit, that he insists is blue, catches fish almost as well as it "dings" Maven's boat and motor. **JOHN's** smoked Sandhill salmon sandwiches put a succulent exclamation point on the 59 fish day.

9/17 With his wife out of town, **DOUG REIGHLEY** wears the pants in the family and gives himself permission to fish with the Maven. After consuming a bastardized "Popeye" from Bill's Pizza, he lands 6 stripers between 5 and 7 pounds and a small blue. On the drive home, he provides a list of lame reasons for drinking warm water.

9/18 Enjoying his "best fishing trip ever", **BRAD GILBERT**, impresses the Maven with his powers of observation. Not only does he spot a dead seal and a dead fish, but manages to detect a live striper feeding on the horizon. The Maven reluctantly follows **BRAD**'s directions to the spot, watches him make a single cast and is stunned by the instant hook up. Adapting quickly to the sink tip fly line and specialized strip set technique, **FRED PAPE** lands multiple stripers including the day's award winning fish. After a stealthy search for the Holy Grail of stripers, the Maven falls backwards off the spotting tower and crashes to the deck in a lifeless heap. Hundreds of "hawgs" flee in full panic mode while the Maven takes an inventory of his wounded components. Physical pain is overshadowed by utter embarrassment.

9/19 **PETE** "Thumbster" **PELLETIER**, the only angler on earth to favor his thumb over his trigger finger to control the line, is the first to cast and connect. Before the Maven can comprehend **PETE**'s "upside down and backwards" cranking technique, hard core togue troller, **DAVE NOEL**, bellows "Fish on!" After 6 hrs. without a successful hook set, **TODD NOEL** threatens to sew on a sacrificial pickle and drag it behind the boat. Before abandoning all hope, he recognizes the relationship between the ring tone of his dad's cell phone and **PETE**'s pulsating rod. He promptly makes an undercover phone call, his dad's phone rings less than two feet away, and he simultaneously drives a hook into the jaw of the top striper of the day.

9/21 **JOHN LEONARD** makes it perfectly clear that he is a blood relative of **ALAN DONALD** by testifying that he did, in fact, catch a 5' Minnesota musky adorned with his Grandpa's missing bucktail jig. Although **ALAN**'s attempt to authenticate **JOHN**'s story with his own eye witness report, is rejected by the Maven, he forges ahead with the one about the man who snagged a monkey with a banana flavored slug-go. He then goes on to explain that it is possible to attach a chicken to a golf club in such a way, that it will squawk in response to an improper grip. When **JOHN**'s jet lag wears off and he gets his "game fish face" on, he contributes to a 45 striper day, but it is **ALAN**, who nabs the big one and wins a box of "Ass Kickin Corn Nuggets".

9/22 Just as **ALAN DONALD** admits to having a crush on Shirley Jones, a VERY big striper inhales his well placed slug-go. After a lengthy battle, history repeats itself AGAIN..... he loses the beast. High priced Oregon wine taster, **JOHN LEONARD**, is splashed by a giant sturgeon that leaps and farts just a short cast from the boat. After acknowledging his support for performance enhancing fish drugs, **JOHN** lands a "juiced" striper and wins the mechanically separated chicken treat. Before heading for Boston, his two day total reaches 83.

9/25 **RANDY BILLMEIER** wins the "rock-paper-scissors" contest with **DALE AKELEY** and earns the right to be the first fly rodder on the casting deck. Handicapped by a band aid on his trigger finger, and while inexplicably singing the Beverly Hill Billies theme song, **RANDY** nails the top striper of the day. He looks at his watch and begins the count down that will culminate in a Slim Jim award ceremony. **DALE**, between cigars, one liners and cell calls, scores repeatedly by "bottom bouncing" a jig. Although sandwich artist, **RICK ABBONDANZA**, weaves his fly line into his shoe laces, he manages to catch a pollock. While battling a striper that he hooked on a pink jig, **RICK** notices a larger fish nearby that he labels "ass sniffer". His goal of 53, established as a tribute to Big Papi's home run count, is achieved.

9/27 Sedation dental patient, **BOB SCHNEIDER**, remains conscious long enough to record the rare Scarborough Siam (pollock/mackerel/striper). With stripers "popping" everywhere, **DAVE HASKELL** nails a healthy 8 pounder on a fly, and exclaims, "It doesn't get much better than this!" **BOB** doesn't hesitate to reply with, "The Swedish Bikini Team could parachute in". **DAVE**, who is willing to pay alot of money to fish directly in front of his own cottage, reveals the immense volume of his bladder (and I'm not talking "gall") when he fills the "Little John" to the brim. The contents drip off the 2 quart container and onto the hygienic gunwale of Maven's boat, prompting the tinkle champ to concoct a fictitious leak in the container at the 20 cc level. 54 stripers provide hot fishing on the chilly autumn day.

9/28 Florida fly casting genius, **IRWIN BECKER**, best friend of world famous angler, Flip Pallot, makes flawless back casts, but is unable to hook a Maine striper until the Maven provides him with a fly that incorporates an actual hook. At 7:56 AM he is the proud recipient of a secret handshake. **BRUCE "SP" SMALL**, whose daughter owns a company that manufactures mechanically separated chicken treats, hogs the bow and basks in the glory of his new nickname, "**Savage Predator**". **PETER FURNARI**, X-soccer player who is scheduled for an artificial knee, subdues numerous stripers, and impresses the Maven with his capacity to stand on one leg for 6 hours. Although social director, **KENNY MEYERS**, is very concerned about the success of his three companions, he manages to make enough casts to take a beautiful 8 pounder that earns him the "big fish" Slim Jim.

9/30 The Maven sustains a severe hematoma, a pair of contusions, as well as an open wound trying to silently make it from the top bunk to the bathroom. He manages not to disturb **BELLA**, who sleeps comfortably on the bottom level.

10/1 While skillfully piloting the "Slippery Snatch" down the class 4 rapids of the Grand Ronde canyon, **SCOTT TIMOTHY** acknowledges that his parents forced him to drink from a sippy cup until he went off to college. The Maven employs a **GOLDEN** "silly legs" to hook his jumbo steelhead.

10/2 **NIELS JENSEN**, is so guilt ridden for short sheeting Maven's waders with an apple and bag of dirty laundry, that he intentionally trips over a barbed wire fence, and tumbles down a steep embankment into a sharp rock. His first aid, involving ice, pain killers and beer, prompts him to tell a story about Howard Stern and Mickey Mouse soap. **SCOTT TIMOTHY**, who insists on fishing before breakfast, is forced to delay his first cast with a streamside dump. It is apropos that his early morning steel rises to a Yuk Bug.

10/3 Rumbling gastric tones echo through the canyon as **SCOTT TIMOTHY** and the Maven await the arrival of **NIELS JENSEN**, who has promised to deliver fried egg breakfast sandwiches. **NIELS**, who decides to cover every inch of Jensen's Folly before delivering the chow, arrives just as **SCOTT** departs to visit Mick Jagger at a local nursing home.

10/4 **NIELS JENSEN**, feeling unusually confident after winning the "peacock farm" argument, wastes no time catching his first Oregon steelhead. In a thick cloud of BWOs, and with a bobcat and herd of big horn sheep looking on, a snake tries to eat his prize. Under the influence of free wine, **NIELS** and the Maven present **BILL VAIL** with a rough draft of the rhubarb shake marketing plan.

10/5 **NIELS JENSEN** struggles with his "greased line" weighted fly presentation and is encouraged, by suicidal thoughts, to resume his standard floating fly swing. He is rewarded with a magnificent steelhead and a gorgeous native rainbow trout. A celebratory "Mounds" shake precedes 9 hours of sleep.

10/6 After a fishless morning, **NIELS JENSEN** and the Maven prepare for the long ride back to Spokane. The Maven demonstrates how physics can be utilized to "unstick" frozen ferrules, and takes great joy hearing **NIELS** admit that the technique is superior to his own method that involves "a couple of obese guys falling backwards". Less than an hour after **NIELS** leaves his signature odor in the tiny cabin, he takes responsibility for a second explosion. This one, involving a bottle of Frapucchino, creates a hideous mess in the GMC, and forces the Maven to spend the next 1/2 hour in search of the mysteriously vanishing bottle cap. Mexican food and margaritas lead to the possibility of Deja Vu all over again.

10/10 85 years of coaching experience, embodied in octogenarians **CHARLIE BUTT** and **CHARLIE BATTERMAN**, fight a strong north wind to reach the fishing grounds. Coach **BATTERMAN**, who admits to being amazed by the sight of his own eyebrows, joins forces with the Maven to form a "divers' relay". The relay kicks coach **BUTT**'s butt 8 to 5, but the recently unretired swimmer wins the "big fish" competition.

10/13 Former friend **KURT** bails at the last moment, leaving **GARY FERGUSON** to cope single handedly with the cold, wind and slow fishing. The Maven finds two places to tuck away out of the wind, and **GARY** works his magic. When even the seals have given up, he lands a dozen stripers on tiny jigs, but his two stories of Christian's escapades take center stage. #1: Christian brings an obscene poster to school that gets him into big trouble, but makes **GARY** proud. #2: Christian disposes of a "liquid" mouse in a convenient spot for the family dog to roll in the disgusting mess. **GARY** is NOT proud this time!

10/17 Legendary outdoor writer, **JERRY GIBBS**, wants pollock and the Maven delivers. After his first dozen, he celebrates with a peanut butter and olive paste sandwich. Fly casting specialist, **BRIAN NOYES**, using a new, but not improved, Topher Brown casting stroke, develops a massive tangle in his running line but has no problem fixing it in less than an hour. He reverts back to his normal stroke and takes the day's only striper. The 26 pollock total breaks the old record set in 1994 by a pair of 8 year old girl scouts, who celebrated with peanut butter and JELLY sandwiches.

10/19 With a Monark butterfly perched on his head, **TIM HILL** casts a 7" Hellgie into the 50 degree water of "Moose" Pond and pulls out a bulbous smallmouth that weighs in at 3.75 lbs. The butterfly appears ecstatic but doesn't move.

10/24 With ice on the dock, a strong north wind and only one striper still swimming in the Kennebec, **DR. JOHN "JJ" JOSEPH** still wants to go fishing. **RICHARD MA**, who **DR. JOSEPH** describes as "the lowest life form..... an intern", casts like a real doctor but hooks up like a cadaver with donated testicles. Retired scuba diver, **TODD KUWAYE**, who, in 1983, ran out of air in a cave 60' below the surface, proves by his casting skill, that his brain remains more than 40% functional. The final salt water trip of 2006 ends when **DR. "JJ"** hooks and lands the one Kennebec striper that has yet to migrate back to the Chesapeake Bay.

10/27 Perfect smallmouth conditions prompt **GALYN SHAW** to beg the Maven to introduce him to the magical waters of "Moose" Pond. With new snow visible on the peak of Mt. Washington, he drops his Carolina rigged Ozmo, into a 10' creek channel and locates the mother load. In an action packed 45 minute span, he hauls in 9 "serious" smallmouth.

10/30 Despite a strong northerly wind churning up white caps on "Moose" Pond, **PAT JACKSON** manages to deploy the anchor properly and probe the bottom with Maven's new invention, a Carolina drop shot Ozmo. With the hands of a frozen surgeon, he convinces 3 semi-dormant smallmouth to chew in the 48 degree water. On the way to Ricky's Diner, he details the role of Nova Scotia and Africa in the American Revolution, but the Maven's thoughts remain riveted on chicken pie.

10/31 Packing a fresh bag of Ozmos from LLBean, **TIM HILL** wraps up the 2006 season. Disappointed by the lack of pickerel action, he settles for a pair of chunky bucket mouths and a 2 lb. smallie. When the Maven lowers his digital thermometer to the bottom, and informs **MR. HILL** that the water temperature has dropped to 42, he proclaims October 31 to be the official opening day of the hibernation season.

TOP 5

2006

LARGEST STRIPERS: FLY FISHING

1. NIELS JENSEN	12.5 LBS.	CHARTREUSE DECEIVER	7/31
2. NIELS JENSEN	9.5 LBS.	CHARTREUSE DECEIVER	8/1
3. DAVE HASKELL	8.0 LBS.	CHARTREUSE DECEIVER	9/27
4. ANDY EISENHAUER	7.0 LBS.	APFEL HERRING FLY	8/11
5. BRIAN NOYES	6.5 LBS.	SEA HABIT	6/1

LARGEST STRIPERS: SPIN CASTING

1. JOHN BUTTERLY	18.0 LBS.	7.5" SLUG-GO	8/11
2. JOHN BUTTERLY	15.0 LBS.	7.5" SLUG-GO	7/28
3. BILL CUNNINGHAM	14.5 LBS.	2.5" JIG	6/15
4. CHRIS BUSSIERE	13.5 LBS.	6" SLUG-GO	8/31
5. GARY FERGUSON	13.0 LBS.	7.5" SLUG-GO	7/24

LARGEST BLUEFISH

1. TERRI JOSEPH	8.5 LBS.	4.5" JIG	9/1
2. SEAN CARROLL	7.50 LBS.	4.5" SLUG-GO	8/23
3. BRIAN NOYES	7.0 LBS.	4.5" SALT SHAKER	8/17
3. JOSH REALI	7.0 LBS.	7.5" SLUG-GO	8/24
5. ROB GLENN	5.5 LBS.	CREASE FLY	8/17

MOST STRIPERS

1. BREK ARNZEN, STAIGE DAVIS, ROSS & ANNALIESE	154	6/5
2. ADAM & CARRIE GRAVEL	153	6/2
3. JOHN COOPER, RALPH & DALE DANIS	134	6/19
4. PETE & BOB LaLIBERTE, BILL CUNNINGHAM & JAY WIETecha	128	6/15
5. CHARLIE RUFF & PETER LaLIBERTE	112	6/9

TOP 5 2006 (CONTINUED)

LARGEST SMALLMOUTH BASS

1. STAN YORK	4.00 LBS.	PLASTIC WORM	8/28
2. TIM HILL	3.75 LBS.	7" HELLGIE	10/19
2. GALYN SHAW	3.75 LBS.	CAROLINA RIGGED OZMO	10/27
2. GALYN SHAW	3.75 LBS.	CAROLINA RIGGED OZMO	10/27
5. PETER NOYES	3.50 LBS.	TERMINATOR SPINNERBAIT	5/24

LARGEST LARGEMOUTH BASS

1. PAT JACKSON	5.0 LBS.	TERMINATOR SPINNERBAIT	4/19
1. ANDY EISENHAUER	5.0 LBS.	YOZURI CRYSTAL MINNOW	5/5
1. STAN YORK	5.0 LBS.	FLOATING WORM	8/28
4. STAN YORK	4.5 LBS.	FLOATING WORM	8/28
5. ALAN DONALD	4.0 LBS.	TERMINATOR SPINNERBAIT	4/20

LARGEST TROUT (STEELHEAD)

1. NIELS JENSEN	6.2 LBS.	SILVER HILTON	10/5
2. NIELS JENSEN	6.1 LBS.	FREIGHT TRAIN	10/4
3. SCOTT TIMOTHY	6.0 LBS.	UNDERTAKER	10/3
3. SCOTT TIMOTHY	6.0 LBS.	YUK BUG	10/2
5. SCOTT TIMOTHY	3.0 LBS.	UNDERTAKER	10/2

LARGEST SALMON

1. SCOTT TIMOTHY	14.0 LBS.	SILVER TIP	6/28
2. STEVE WILLIS	10.5 LBS.	COSSEBOOM	6/28
3. SCOTT TIMOTHY	8.0 LBS.	SILVER TIP	6/29
4. NIELS JENSEN	6.0 LBS.	MYRON'S GLITTER BUG	6/27
5. BOB COOPER	5.5 LBS.	RED BUTT	6/26

LARGEST MACKEREL

1. MABEL HASKELL	1.00 LBS.	CHRISTMAS TREE	7/19
2. ALAN DONALD	0.09 LBS.	JIG	9/5
3. RICK ABBONDANZA	0.08 LBS.	JIG	6/20
4. BOB SCHNEIDER	0.07 LBS.	JIG	9/27
5. ALAN DONALD	0.06 LBS.	JIG	9/5

MAVEN'S HALL OF FAME

(5 LARGEST FISH OF ALL-TIME)

LARGEST STRIPERS : FLY FISHING

1. JOHN HYNES	23 LBS.	BEAVER BELL WAHOO FLY	7/20/98
2. JOHN HYNES	22 LBS.	CHARTREUSE DECEIVER	6/27/95
3. JOHN BUTTERLY	21 LBS.	POGEY FLY	8/7/98
4. PETER BLACKMAN	18.5 LBS.	POGEY FLY	6/18/97
5. DAVE BELL	18.5 LBS.	CLOUSER MINNOW	7/12/94

LARGEST STRIPERS : SPIN CASTING

1. PETER DOREMUS	29 LBS.	9" SLUG-GO	7/20/98
2. STEVE WILLIAMS	27 LBS.	SHAD JIG	7/24/96
3. JOHNNY LANDRY	26 LBS.	9" SLUG-GO	7/12/99
4. STEVE WILLIAMS	25 LBS.	9" SLUG-GO	8/21/98
4. BEN JENSEN	23 LBS.	6" SLUG-GO	6/25/98

LARGEST BLUEFISH

1. BROCK APFEL	16 LBS.	BROCK'S GROCERY FLY	8/9/90
2. DAVID HAYNES	15 LBS.	ATOM PLUG	7/29/98
3. RICHARD LAWLER	14.5 LBS.	ATOM PLUG	7/10/92
4. STEVE WILLIAMS	14.0 LBS.	6" SLUG-GO	9/6/00
4. STEVE WILLIAMS	14.0 LBS.	7.5" SLUG-GO	7/26/05

MOST STRIPERS

1. BREK ARNZEN, STAIGE DAVIS, ROSS & ANNALIESE	154	6/5/06
2. ADAM & CARRIE GRAVEL	153	6/2/06
3. MATT & BRIANNA HOFFNER + JORDAN McQUILLAN	144	6/17/05
4. JOHN COOPER + RALPH & DALE DANIS	134	6/19/06
5. PETE & BOB LaLIBERTE/ BILL CUNNINGHAM/JAY WIETecha	128	6/15/06

LARGEST SMALLMOUTH

1. JOE CODD	5.25 LBS.	NEAR NUFF CRAW FLY	4/23/99
2. JOE CODD	5.0 LBS.	NEAR NUFF CRAW FLY	4/29/98
3. BROCK APFEL	5.0 LBS.	PIG AND JIG	10/24/91
4. JOE CODD	5.0 LBS.	NEAR NUFF CRAW FLY	4/23/99
5. MIKE KENFIELD	5.0 LBS.	SPINNERBAIT	4/28/99

LARGEST LARGEMOUTH

1. KURT HARLING	9.20 LBS.	SPINNERBAIT	5/2/01
2. TIM HILL	8.44 LBS.	CRAW WORM	5/1/93
3. CHRIS LARSEN	8.0 LBS.	PIG AND JIG	6/4/89
3. CHRIS LARSEN	8.0 LBS.	BLACK WIDOW JIG	10/9/97
3. KURT HARLING	8.0 LBS.	SPINNERBAIT	5/2/01

LARGEST ATLANTIC SALMON

1. BILL KNOWLES	16 LBS.	BLUE CHARM	8/23/93
2. SCOTT TIMOTHY	16 LBS.	BOMBER	10/14/96
3. MIKE MARINO	16 LBS.	GENERAL PRACT.	10/14/96
4. DAWSON LIST	15 LBS.	BOMBER	8/17/92
5. PAUL DOLBEC	15 LBS.	ALLIE'S SHRIMP	10/9/01