Newton- Digital Story Script

“Ayakulik Dreaming”

As a young man in Wisconsin I always knew I wanted adventure in my life. I grew up in the small town of Mosinee and always felt that there was something bigger out there beyond that little town. When I went to college I was exposed to so many different facets of life. Not only was I all grown up, I could choose who and what I wanted to be. When I was nineteen years old I decided that I was going to do something with my summers that was going to make me some money all while fulfilling my need for adventure. I was going to Alaska.

Wasn’t sure what I was going to do, but I had a one-way ticket and someone who would put me up for the summer. I arrived in Anchorage as wide-eyed as I have ever been. Since cousin lived in Homer and needed to get some supplies for his remodel at his house, he picked me up and we took the four and a half hour beautiful drive to Homer. I worked various jobs in homer to pass the summer. I was a deckhand on a halibut charter. I worked for an electrician and a contractor building a house.

I decided to return to Wisconsin to continue college. However, when I was back in WI all I could think about was Alaska. I had caught the bug. While having a fish fry one Friday evening, I overheard a man talking about Alaska. Kodiak in particular. Bears and fishing. So, when this man was alone I went over and introduced myself. We talked about his fishing and bear viewing lodge for hours. I wanted to go there so bad. It seemed too good to be true. I gave him my contact and told him if he ever needed a guide that I was his man!

To my surprise about two months later Tom called me and asked if I could be in Kodiak by May 12th? I said absolutely. I found myself taking my college finals a week early and rushing to catch a plane for Kodiak. After four long flights, the wheels of the plane touched down in Kodiak. What a place! There were eagles soaring overhead, deer and goats in the hills and a nice cool/crisp mist in the air just to keep things damp. It would just be one short Beaver ride in the morning to finally arrive at the Ayakulik River.

Arriving at the Ayakulik made me feel like I have finally made it to the real Alaska. Little did I know how right I was. Nervous, Anxious and excited, I was finally guiding fisherman in Alaska. This has been a dream of mine since I can remember. With a crash course on the river the first week I was there, I was then leading people to their fish of a lifetime. Exciting days were followed by cheer filled nights. Sometimes I even felt like I was on a vacation that I was getting paid for.

All of my wildest dreams could never have done the Ayakulik River justice. With its stunning green mountains, endless run of salmon and majestic brown bears, this is by far the most beautiful place I have ever been. No matter where I go in my life I will always reserve a place in my heart for the Ayakulik river.