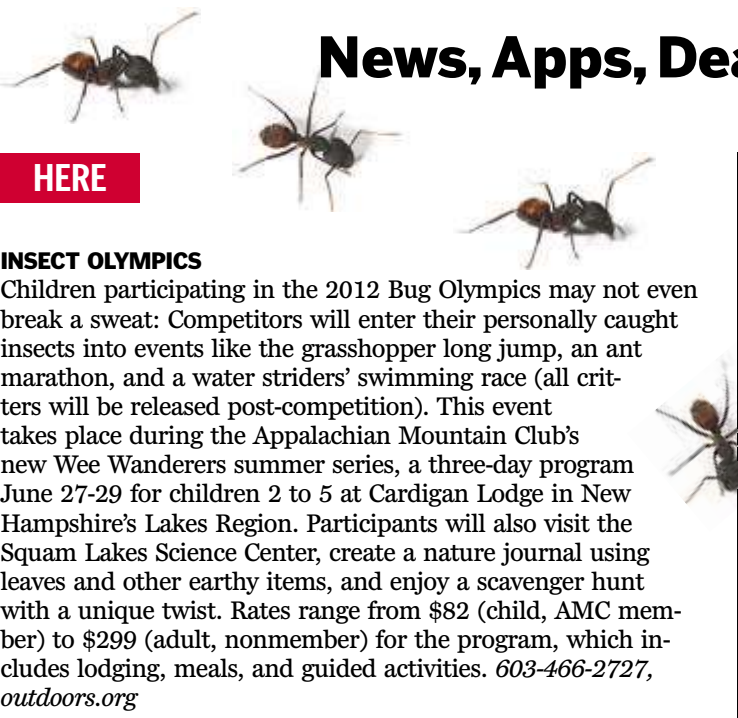


News, Apps, Deals, and Gear from New England and Beyond

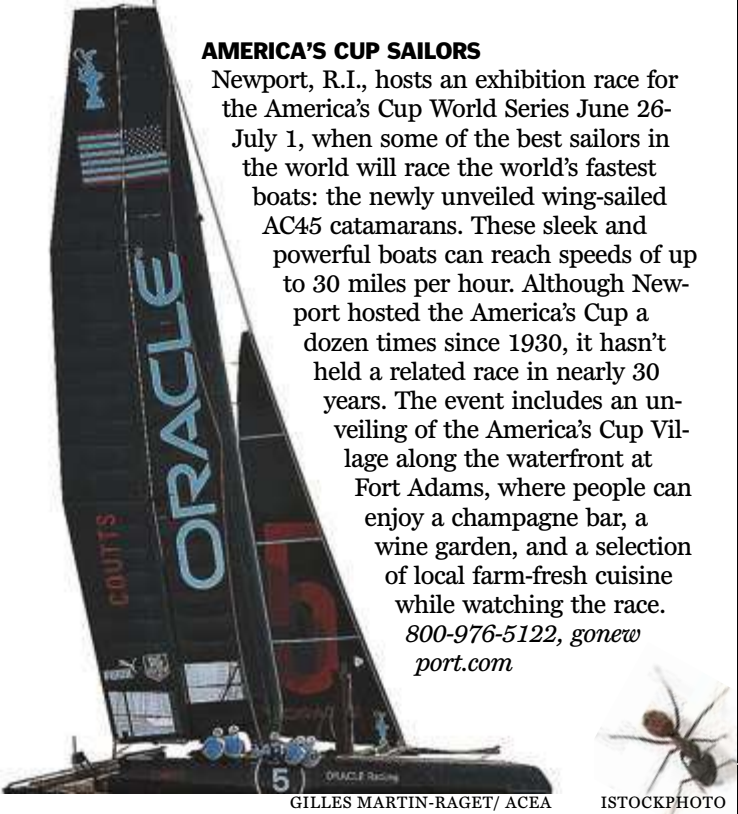
HERE



INSECT OLYMPICS
Children participating in the 2012 Bug Olympics may not even break a sweat: Competitors will enter their personally caught insects into events like the grasshopper long jump, an ant marathon, and a water striders' swimming race (all critters will be released post-competition). This event takes place during the Appalachian Mountain Club's new Wee Wanderers summer series, a three-day program June 27-29 for children 2 to 5 at Cardigan Lodge in New Hampshire's Lakes Region. Participants will also visit the Squam Lakes Science Center, create a nature journal using leaves and other earthy items, and enjoy a scavenger hunt with a unique twist. Rates range from \$82 (child, AMC member) to \$299 (adult, nonmember) for the program, which includes lodging, meals, and guided activities. 603-466-2727, outdoors.org

HILLTOP VIEWS, LUXURY STAYS

The Grand Hotel in southern Maine lives up to its name: The property sits atop Chase Hill and offers guests sweeping views of the Kennebunk River and downtown Kennebunkport. The hotel, opening June 15, is the first new purpose-built hotel in the town's Lower Village in more than 50 years. Its 17 guest rooms have cozy nooks, private balconies, and oversized windows that let in plenty of natural light. The Grand Debut Experience, good through July 15, includes two nights' accommodations, a goody bag, a complimentary cocktail (one per person), and late checkout for \$399, based on double occupancy. 207-967-1505, thegrandhotelmaine.com



AMERICA'S CUP SAILORS
Newport, R.I., hosts an exhibition race for the America's Cup World Series June 26-July 1, when some of the best sailors in the world will race the world's fastest boats: the newly unveiled wing-sailed AC45 catamarans. These sleek and powerful boats can reach speeds of up to 30 miles per hour. Although Newport hosted the America's Cup a dozen times since 1930, it hasn't held a related race in nearly 30 years. The event includes an unveiling of the America's Cup Village along the waterfront at Fort Adams, where people can enjoy a champagne bar, a wine garden, and a selection of local farm-fresh cuisine while watching the race. 800-976-5122, gonewport.com

THERE


HERSHEYPARK

RIDING ON THE EDGE
How about this for a sweet thrill: Hersheypark, an amusement park in Hershey, Pa., has opened the Skyrush roller coaster, the tallest, fastest, and longest roller coaster in park history. It soars 200 feet high, tops 75 miles per hour, and whisks passengers along 3,600 feet of twisting and turning track. Hold onto your hats: The first hill features an 85-degree drop. Even crazier, the mega coaster has winged seating, meaning two of the four people in each car sit on a floorless seat. Those still working up the nerve to climb aboard can watch from a new observation path. 800-437-7439, hersheypark.com

TO SCANDINAVIA IN STYLE

Enjoy refined service and classic European views as you travel through Europe aboard a vintage Art Deco train car. The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express has launched new rail service from Venice to Copenhagen and Stockholm, during which you spend three to five days traveling through Italy, Austria, Switzerland, and Germany en route to Scandinavia. The five-night package (\$5,900) includes two nights aboard the train, one mid-journey night at the Copenhagen Marriott Hotel, and two nights in Venice's Hotel Cipriani at the start or end of your trip. The three-night package (\$4,400) includes one night at each spot. Make reservations soon for the April 2013 trips. 800-524-2420, orient-express.com


ORIENT-EXPRESS

EVERYWHERE



RING-A-LING AT 30,000-SOMETHING
Power up your cellphone and give home or the office a ring on your next Virgin Atlantic flight. The Britain-based airline company now allows six people to text or talk while traveling on its A330-300 planes as part of its new AeroMobile service. According to Virgin, however, "The service is intended for use in exceptional situations, when passengers need to send an SMS, make a quick call, or access an e-mail on a BlackBerry." That is just as well, unless you want to know your seatmate's business. Passengers need to be at least 250 miles outside of US airspace to make an in-flight call (use of cellphones on commercial flights is illegal in this country) and calls cost just over \$1.50 per minute. 800-821-5438, virgin-atlantic.com


GLOBE STAFF ILLUSTRATION

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Fishing on the cheap in Argentina

By Colin Barraclough
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

BARILOCHE, Argentina — It's their size and attitude that make Patagonia's trout and land-locked salmon exert a siren call on the world's fly fishermen. Introduced from Europe a century ago, the fish have thrived in the region's remote, unpolluted water courses, often growing to near-record sizes.

Wild rainbow trout, which average 8 pounds in North America, are routinely landed at 20 pounds. Brown trout, which weigh in around 10 pounds in Europe, are frequently found at more than 30 pounds. Both species are cunning and difficult to catch.

Given that kind of challenge, most fishermen would drop everything to pit their wits against Patagonia's finest.



COLIN BARRACLOUGH FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Moored on the wide-open shore, hoping for a catch from the Río Limay, in Argentina's Lake District.

Those with the cash — from media mogul Ted Turner and singer Rod Stewart to actors Sylvester Stallone and Christopher Lambert — have snapped up tracts of Patagonian land in order to guarantee access to some of the most challenging fishing spots in the world.

Visitors, too, can fly-fish, troll, and spin in Patagonia's ice-cold waters. The chief obstacle is cost: Exclusive fishing lodges charge as much as \$850 per person per day.

Yet landing a king-size trout need not cost a king's ransom. When a fishing buddy proposed a few days' casting near Bariloche, Argentine Patagonia's outdoors hub, I shopped around and found a fully-guided, four-day trip that didn't break the bank.

We had to forgo the convenience of a lodge, which generally combines private fishing spots with gourmet food.

Instead, we got four days in Argentina's bucolic Lake District, with its untouched forests, raging creeks, and shimmering glaciers, two guides with a pickup and a semi-rigid inflatable dinghy, and the use of rods, lines, and flies. We stayed at a decent, three-star hotel overlooking Lago Nahuel Huapi, with food and wine included. At \$400 per person per day, it was just within our budget.

The first morning, our guide, Allan Withington, pushed the dinghy into the fast-flowing Río Limay and we floated through an open landscape of steppe grasses, cypresses,

If you go . . .

Do-it-yourself
InterPatagonia
011-54-2972-429267
www.interpatagonia.com
Check for campsites and fishing lodges. Regulations are available in English from the Argentine Fly Fishing Association (011-54-11-4773-0821, www.aapm.org.ar).

Guide-booked
Four-day packages from Bariloche-based guide Allan Withington (011-54-911-4194-4094, allan@barilochecom.ar), from \$320 per person per day.

and blackthorn, where Andean condors soared far above.

On the second day, after tramping through thickets of lenga southern beech, we pulled on wading galoshes at the shore of glacier-fed Lago Hess.

Each lunchtime, Withington conjured fold-up chairs and dining table, tablecloth and silverware, setting them out under the spreading boughs of a criollo willow or Lombardy poplar. Utterly alone in Patagonia's big-sky landscape, we feasted on free-range, alfalfa-fed steak, washed down with enough beer or wine to quash the thirst of a football team.

By imitating the locals, it's possible to trim costs even further. Those with a rod and line can simply pick up an all-Pa-

tagonia permit, find a stretch of deserted riverbank or lake shore, and make full use of Article 2341 of Argentina's Civil Code. The law permits anyone to access — and fish — any river, lake, or coast, provided you get there by boat or by foot along the water's edge.

When doing it on the cheap, the main difficulty lies in reaching fruitful fishing spots. Fitful local buses and hitched rides can work — but only if you're happy to let fate's caprices take you where they will. A tent, food, and stove are essential.

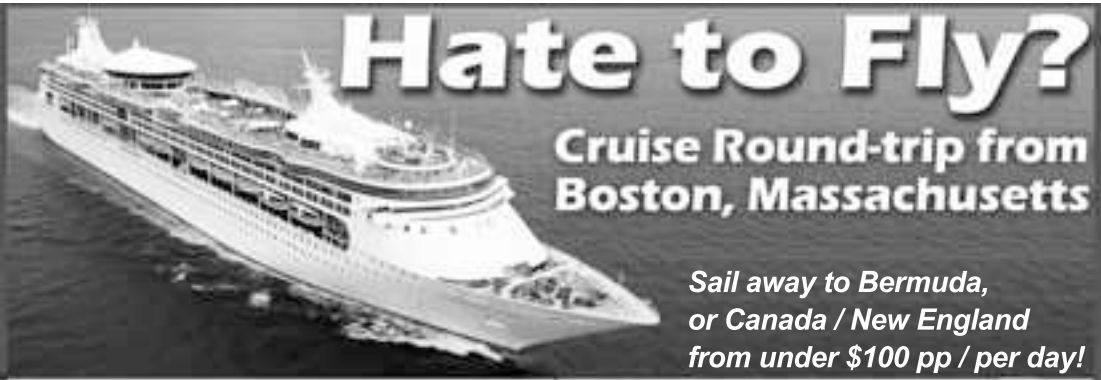
A sensible compromise is a rental car. Last year, I spent a week on Río Aluminé, a pristine, 100-mile river that parallels the Andes as it flows southward from northern Patagonia's monkey puzzle forests toward 12,293-foot Lanín volcano's perfectly symmetrical ice cap. At \$450, the car was my biggest expense, but it meant I could sleep in campsite comfort (around \$10 a day) and search out remote beats by day. In the week, I saw just a handful of other fishermen.

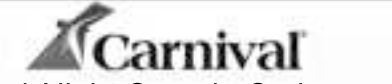
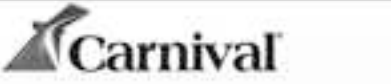
There are ways to trim costs further — by dispensing with flies, nets, and sinkers altogether. Not even a rod is strictly necessary. On southern Chile's salmon-rich, glacier-scythed Pacific coastline, I once found the 16-year-old daughter of a hostel owner perched on the rocks, casting for feisty Pacific salmon. Her line, bobbing in the ocean spume, was fastened to nothing more robust than an empty drink can.

I made a quick calculation of costs: 30-pound nylon line, \$15; salmon lure, \$5, canned drink, \$1. This was budget-trimming taken to an extreme.

"I'm out here every morning at 6," she told me, proffering her chilled, chapped hands to prove it. "My dad's fishing buddies come out a few hours later with all their fancy kit. But they're too late: By that time, I've caught all the fish."

Colin Barraclough can be reached on colinbarra@hotmail.com.


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