



Battle with Milkfish, Seychelles



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We are in the eighth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on great fly fishing venues, trip reports and insights for our traveling fly fishers. We want to help you match the right location with your fly fishing goals and objectives and properly prepare you to fully enjoy the experience. We've been to most locations and pride ourselves on our ability to research new destinations. One of our services is to compare and contrast different lodges/outfitters. Whatever unbiased information on timing and locations we can provide comes at the same cost to you as booking direct – i.e., NO EXTRA COST.

ALASKA FLY OUT LODGE – TRIP REPORT

(Note: the August newsletter carried a story about a stationary Alaska lodge which offered the finest surface fishing for silver salmon during a three week period each August using jet boats for transport – no fly outs. The focus of this report is one of Alaska's premier lodges which uses float planes to access different waters)



Chuck Ferrell, Jerry Saltzgaber, and Chip Fudge made their first trip to one of Alaska's top fly out lodges, Bristol Bay Lodge, in 2007. Last month, they returned bringing three other fly fishing friends with them: Chris Degner, Chris Carey (son), and John Carey (Dad). Jerry captured the essence of their trip in a few words: “Alaska was great as usual. Good time, lots of fish--best fishery in the world for a fly fisherman. We went back because of the wide range of fish & fishing conditions.”

The photo at left captured a fast start to their trip – on their first fly out, right after their float plane dropped them off, all six hooked up with a silver salmon on virtually their first casts and all landed the fish.....a very unusual (and exciting!) way to

begin a fly fishing trip. Left to right in the photo: Chip, Chris D., Chris C., Jerry, John and Chuck.

A special attraction at Bristol Bay Lodge is their two outpost camps which are set on prolific and uniquely private waters. During your week, you spend five nights in the main lodge and one night in each of the remote outpost camps – photo at right. The fly outs to the outpost camps add variety, adventure, and a “wilderness edge” to your trip in addition to supplying productive fishing opportunities. While remote, the camps are comfortable with delicious cuisine and weather proof, stationary, two-man tents.

Alaska provides one of the “fishiest environments” on the planet, fueled by the massive runs of Pacific Salmon. Of the five species of salmon, the silver (coho) salmon is the highlight for the fly fisherman. The variety of species available is amazing – in addition to the salmon are giant rainbows, grayling, arctic char, northern pike, lake trout, and sea-run dolly varden.





Above: guides prepare salmon for packing to take home. A limited amount of salmon are allowed per fisherman to be killed for “take home”. Right – Jerry, Chris, Chuck, and Chip relaxing after a tough day on the water.

John Carey (at left below) was everyone’s hero. At 90 years young, he did not miss a beat the entire week and, at one time during the trip, had taken the largest silver. John identified one of the highlights of the week as being their last day when, collectively, they took over 100 sea-run arctic char (right of John with silver below) between 5 and 11 pounds, topping it off with a 26” rainbow.



Grayling, (above, center) with their distinctive dorsal fin, are a dry fly oriented option, while trophy rainbows (right center) are a prime attraction.

Chip, below left, captured the essence of the week: “We had a great time, love Bristol Bay Lodge, and the management there does an excellent job.”



Note about booking Alaska trips: if you want to book a top notch lodge when the Silvers are in the rivers, you should be planning far in advance as these times at the “A” lodges fill very early.

BANNER PHOTO – “BATTLING MILKFISH???”

The words “battling” and “milkfish” don’t seem to fit together. Somehow, the name “milkfish” doesn’t conjure up an image of a serious aquatic warrior. That would be true for those who’ve never fished for them. In the banner photo at the top, John Bartling is truly “battling a milkfish” of about 30+ pounds on a past trip to the fabulous atolls of Alfonse and St. Francois in the Seychelles. John battled this fish and another he had eat his fly during this morning for almost two hours collectively before losing both – one broke off and the other had the hook pull free.

The milkfish is truly a trophy species of the saltwater flats. They are fished with a fly that imitates the algae which makes up a large part of their diet. To present the fly in the most effective manner requires using a leader which is light enough to not impact the drift of the fly...and, correspondingly, is too light to allow the angler to exert much pressure on the hooked fish – a bad combination. If you’d like to see what a milkfish looks like, this link will take you to a photo essay of that Seychelles trip.....
http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr_seychelles.pdf

FLY FISHING PHOTOGRAPHY 1A – THE HORIZON

(Note: Fly Fishing Photography 1A is a new addition that will often appear in our newsletter going forward. The column will be devoted to discussing the basics of getting the most out of your fly fishing photography. Whether you shoot fly fishing photos to preserve memories of the fish taken and places visited or with the goal of someday being published, great photos of our angling pursuits provide an enduring satisfaction.)

All outdoor photos should begin with one basic goal – get the horizon straight. As simple as this sounds, it used to cause me a lot of stress. Back in the days of shooting with 35mm film, I often got caught up in capturing the main elements of the photograph and didn't realize I hadn't paid enough attention to the horizon until my developed photos returned from the processing lab. Many of my early photographs that could have been publishable didn't qualify due to slanted horizons. Today, with digital photographs, crooked horizons can usually be corrected, but that is not always true as you need extra room around your main subject to work with and that room is not always present. Best to just get it right when you take the photo.



These two photos of son Scott with a large Minipi River brook trout illustrate the impact of a slanted horizon. If we were trying to critique these photos beyond the horizon issue, we might suggest that if the angle of the fish to the sun had been changed just a little, we may be able to better appreciate the spectacular colors present on this male brookie.



The photo at right is a dramatic Belize sunrise shot with Frank Jackson battling a large tarpon....and fighting an "uphill battle." Fortunately, I shot several consecutive photos of this scene and corrected the horizon in the subsequent shots. Silhouette photos like this are relatively easy to shoot and will be a subject for another time. We did get the entire skiff included – in a photo such as this, you don't want to chop off part of the main elements, such as the back part of the boat. And, obviously, getting the full rod bend is crucial.....in a perfect world, we would have done better if we could see the reel silhouetted also.



Taking good fly fishing photos can be an extension of our passion and add another element to our pursuit that increases the overall enjoyment.....and also adds another challenge to the endeavor.

SPECIAL PERMIT TRIP REPORT – DELAYED UNTIL NOVEMBER

Our September newsletter referenced a just completed Belize permit trip which resulted in 17 fish released and a promise for the details in the October newsletter. Due to some timing and travel issues, we haven't been able to collect all the details and photos yet – will be in the November newsletter.

OCTOBER MEMORY PHOTO

John Landis captured the essentials of a great "jump photo" with this Amazon Peacock Bass shot. The colorful full flank of the fish is clearly visible including the orange ventral fin – even the eye can be seen (more distinct in the full size photo). The action is captured with the splash and spray coming off the fish. Even the horizon (shoreline in this case) is 99% straight – a challenge when trying to track a fish in the air.

PHOTO CREDITS: (top to bottom) Alaska – Chris Degner and Jerry Saltzgaber

Either phone or drop us an e-mail if you have questions or would like more information about any of our destinations.



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