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We are in the seventh 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 sites. 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.

**PECOS RIVER RANCH, NEW MEXICO, TRIP REPORT**



We made an exploratory visit to the Pecos River Ranch in Northern New Mexico a few years ago. What we found was over six miles of private access to the Pecos River on a 6,500 ranch. The overall ambiance of the ranch could be described as having an “upscale southwest flavor.” It is located at an altitude of over 6,000 feet in the southern tip of the Rocky Mountains. The fishing in the Pecos was outstanding with a healthy population of rainbows to 24 inches plus a scattering of browns. The river itself is a “cozy” size and excellent wading. At the time, we didn’t add it to our list of “preferred properties” because there were some ownership issues that needed solidifying. In the last 90 days, we have put together a

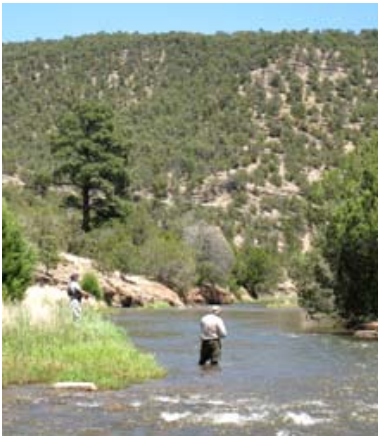
solid program utilizing an outfitter in Santa Fe who knows the ranch and the overall area well. The program is an excellent “four night, three days of fishing visit” – can be shorter or longer. In the month of June, we had six clients visit the ranch and the feedback has been very positive.



Bob Friend, Barney Osher (at right with ‘bow), and their traveling band of four fly fishers enjoyed their stay. Bob reported: “You get an A+ for this one. We all had a great time. Fishing was superb, the manager was a great hostess, and our guide was the best teacher I’ve ever fished with. Overall, a good experience and one we will repeat.”

Russell Schreck and MayIn Malquist (at right with Pecos double header) made a five night visit. The Pecos River on the ranch was not new to Russell as he had fished it last November. Some excerpts from Russell’s detailed report: “.....The days were near perfect with the temperature ranging between 70 to 75 degrees. The trip was also superb because our guide was one of the consummate fly fishing instructors and a person you enjoy being around..... In the four days of fishing I caught somewhere between 80 to 100 trout with the majority of the fish over 15 inches and trending towards and over 20 inches.....Fishing in the evening without a guide is encouraged and a number of large fish were caught in the evening hours within view of the lodge.....My fishing partner and I were mesmerized by the river and the ranch, are antsy to return and are planning another trip to the Pecos in the fall.....the ranch, is a tremendous facility.....”





The price is, based on double occupancy and shared guide, \$1,250 a day/night for two (\$625 a person) and includes accommodations, meals, and guide.

Timing: this is one western spot that doesn't fish well in July or August – too much rain and the river colors up or too hot and the water warms. Best times are March and early to mid-April before run off, June, mid-Sept through mid November. Naturally, the very early and very late seasons can be weather sensitive. A good place for newcomers to fly fishing.

Reservations: this is not a spot that takes in large numbers of anglers. If you lack flexibility in your travel timing, it's best to make your reservations far in advance so the dates you need will most likely be available.

Russell Schreck did a nice job on a detailed report of their trip. That report can be accessed by clicking on this link or copying and pasting into your browser:

<http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/Pecos%20River%20Ranch%20Report.pdf>

### REMNANTS FROM THIS YEARS AMAZON TRIPS



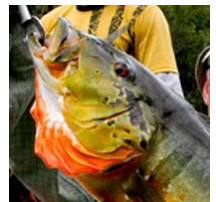
These photos and reports arrived too late to make our previous Amazon newsletter reports. Comments from Steve Peskoe on his second trip to the “fly fishing only” Agua Boa River: “Back from my Amazon adventure. We stayed on the houseboat. Water was a little high but the fishing was still great as was the hospitality. This was my second trip. I stayed at the lodge in '06. Anyone who has the opportunity to see the Amazon rain forest in its pristine state or to fish for Peacock Bass is fortunate indeed, but to do both is ridiculously lucky! I hope there can be a third as it's overall such a wonderful experience.”

Joe Bankofier is part of the “Prime Time Advance Party” consisting of Joe, Loren Irving, Steve Rewick, and Daniel Re - their early '09 adventure was visiting the Amazon. Joe had some terrific photos including the June newsletter banner photo of two fishermen in a poled skiff in the Amazon. Left to right below are more of Joe's photos – Butterfly Peacock Bass, Loren Irving with a trophy Temensis Peacock Bass, and the head of the cayman, the Amazon crocodile. The peacock's are among the most aggressive sport fish on the planet.



### AMAZON SLIDE SHOW, FISH FIRST ALBANY SHOP – NEXT TUESDAY, JULY 21

We'll be at the Fish First! shop in Albany next Tuesday afternoon and early evening. At both 4:00 and 6:00pm, we'll have a slide presentation on fly fishing for peacock bass in the Amazon basin. If you have any interest in the Amazon, or would just like to discuss fly fishing destinations, stop in and say hi. For instructions on locating the Fish First! shop at 1404 Solano Ave, Albany (510-526-1937), click on “directions” at [www.fishfirst.com](http://www.fishfirst.com) The shop is four blocks from the BART tracks.



## ANOTHER BELIZE REPORT



Bill Pitman (pictured with bonefish and tarpon) and his gang have been making a Belize trip on the Meca a part of their fishing calendar every year beginning in 2005. Here's Bill's report from his June trip: "Here are a couple of fish pictures. The tarpon was about 45 pounds. Absolutely fantastic trip. Weather almost perfect. No rain, wind at 10 to 15. Fought a 100 lb tarpon for two hours. Hooked up at south end Long Key. Pulled us all the way back to the Meca, a few miles, before the hook broke. Also, caught a 16 lb permit. Had shots at permit on every venture. With this kind of permit action, can see no reason to travel south to Placencia. Overall fishing good and steady. No great numbers, but all day action. Crew as usual was great." Bill Pitman



## GIANT TREVALLY EXPERIENCES.....AND FAILURES – PART 3, FIJI

The May and June newsletters carried the first episodes of this three part story about some spectacular failures in the first two years of my pursuing Giant Trevally with a fly rod. This third part comes from Fiji, a place not known for its great fly fishing. In fact, for us, it was not fly fishing that attracted my wife and I to this isolated Fijian island we have visited five times now in conjunction with our annual New Zealand pilgrimage. The attraction was that this was our perfect "second honeymoon" type resort with wonderful snorkeling and diving, comfortable bures (bungalows), super service and cuisine.....then I figured out a way to add Giant Trevally to the mix on our fourth trip.

On our first three trips to this tropical paradise, I spend some time each trip unsuccessfully trying to find a way to productively catch fish on a fly. Yes, I learned how to catch small reef fish along with a few small trevally and one night, casting a popper after dark from the beach in front of our bure, took an 8# red snapper.....but, nothing worth getting excited about. Then, on a trip to Christmas Island, I learned a technique using a spinning plug (with hooks removed) as an attractor to bring G.T.'s to the surface (equipment used in photo at left) where a fly rod popper could be cast to them. Our first year using this technique in Fiji produced results WORTH GETTING EXCITING ABOUT including the 39# G.T. that can be viewed through the link below.



Early this year, our first trip after the discovery of the new technique last year, we were back at our little getaway island on our way to New Zealand and I was determined to get a G.T. over 50 pounds using the new approach. We had raised a few fish that would have exceeded 50# the previous year, but couldn't keep them on the surface long enough – they were there! We were fishing a spectacular reef with rolling waves crashing on top of it not more than 200 feet from our boat. My guide would cast the surface plug toward the reef, reel like lightning, and hope for a chasing

G.T. to come crashing through the surface in pursuit of what he thought was dinner. My guide, Eric, had a way of letting me know a fish was chasing, just in case I didn't see it. He would yell as loud as he could, "he's coming, he's coming!" As we worked our way down this particular reef, on about his fifth cast, he's yelling, "he's coming, he's coming – a very big one.....cast, cast, cast.....cast, cast, cast!!!" He didn't need to yell.....a blind man could have seen this fish chasing the plug, the top half of the fish out of the water in a crazed state. It was a GIANT Trevally, probably 60 – 70# - don't know for sure as all this is happening very fast.....but is certainly BIG and he was angry. Anything landing within 15 feet of him was going to get eaten. This is a cast I can make, even with the prevailing ocean wind blowing.



The boat had an anchor rope that was tied on the front and came across the top of the bow and then down into a fore compartment. I make my backcast....a little too low. The guide is now frantically yelling, "cast, cast, cast..." I'm trying to.....as soon as I get my tandem-hooked popper out of the anchor rope. Frustrated, I glance up just as the guide quits reeling the attractor plug. Not more than 10 feet from the boat, the GIANT Trevally inhales that hookless surface plug....and then spits it out. He's the biggest G.T. I've ever seen, including photos. Would he have eaten my fly rod popper

if I would have gotten it any where near him? Gotta think he would have. Nice cast, Don! Another defeat at the hands of a large G.T. – why is it that it's the really big fish that seem to create the most spectacular failures?

If you'd like to know more about this Fijian getaway spot, click on this link and scroll down to the bottom – it is a report on our '09 NZ-Fiji trip and the Fiji portion is last segment.  
[http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr\\_NZ\\_Fiji.pdf](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr_NZ_Fiji.pdf)

## JULY “MEMORY PHOTO”

This is the time of year when reports begin to come in from the Minipi River in Labrador. In addition to its giant brook trout, the Minipi is famous for its spectacular sunsets. On a trip there last summer, Joe Brancato captured this fabulous sunset shot. In the lower section of the photo, the front end of one of the famous red canoes of Anne Marie is visible. All that is needed to make this photo “world class” are some rings dotting the glassy surface.....it's that vision that attracts fly fishers to the Minipi.

PHOTO CREDITS: Minipi banner photo – Jerry and Evan Bottcher; Pecos River – Russell Schreck, Barney Osher, Toner Mitchel; Amazon – first peacock, Steve Peskoe...other three, Joe Bankofier; Belize – Bill Pitman.



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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