



Zhupanova River, Kamchatka



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IN THIS ISSUE:

- KAMCHATKA TRIP REPORT
- THE RIGHT TIME FOR THE PERFECT CAST
- “GOLDEN GRAND SLAM” – A RARE FEAT!
- RECOGNITION FOR OUR FAVORITE FIJII HIDEAWAY
- NOVEMBER MEMORY PHOTO(S)

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've been to most locations and pride ourselves on our ability to research new destinations. 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.

KAMCHATKA TRIP REPORT



The Kamchatka Peninsula, on the eastern edge of Russia, has been called by sports fishermen the “new Alaska.” This giant peninsula (roughly 25% longer than the state of California) is largely unsettled and, unlike the “old Alaska,” uncrowded and has many intriguing rivers flowing into the oceans. Many of those rivers are home to what several believe is the world's best wild rainbow trout fishery (certainly, the only collection of wild rainbow photos I've seen to rival those in this report came from Jurassic Lake and its Barrancoso River in Argentina).

Kamchatka does not have the array of world class lodges that dot Alaska – many think this is part of the appeal of this wilderness. Rather, there are only a couple of remote lodges which fall short of the ambiance of a top notch Alaska lodge. Most of the fishing is done from float trips. The float trips

vary from the real “rough it” type camping trip to the more tame floats which use stationary camps and cabins along the way for lodging.

This report consists of a portion of the super collection of photos submitted by Jerry Saltzgaber (above, left) and Brian Hodges (at right). Although each guy used a different approach, both trips were on the Zhupanova River. Jerry combined a week long float trip on the upper portion of the river using stationary, but rustic, lodging along the way with a week at a lodge on the lower portion of that same river. Brian's trip took place a few weeks later and utilized the same lodge on the lower Zhupanova River.



Below, l to r: shoreside lunch, the Zhupanova, rainbow, stationary cabin and cook at work in his cooking cabin on the float trip.





Above, l to r: two rainbows bracketing a pair of Kunzha (Siberian whitespotted char)

Jerry on the rainbows: “.....biggest rainbows I have ever caught - fat & full of fight. Using a mouse was the best of all. They just killed it. Sometimes they would hit to stun the mouse and then come back to eat it. The takes I liked the best were when they came out of the water and crushed/ate it in one big boom. Most rainbows were over 25 inches & lots of them. I caught a 29, 31 & 31 ½ inch bows.”

Below: “fish on”, three nice rainbows, and a curious observer.



Above, l to r: Kunzha, float trip group, Brian’s 12# bow, and stunning scenery

Brian on the fishing: “All our rainbow takes were on the surface, all on mice. Some of the takes were subtle while others were not. A highlight for me - catching a 12lb pure rainbow at lunch on a mouse while wade fishing on my own will never be forgotten (photo, third from left above). Kunzha are fantastic. Not jumpers, but bulldogs and rollers. They take mostly large streamers.”

To see the complete photo essay report with additional photos and information on logistics, click on this link and scroll down..... [http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/Kamchatka tr 2012.pdf](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/Kamchatka_tr_2012.pdf)

THE RIGHT TIME FOR THE PERFECT CAST

One of those special “fish of a lifetime” is swimming off the edge of the shallow flat.....time for one quick cast.....one shot to make the right cast or that opportunity is gone forever. Seldom do great casts get rewarded properly, but the one in the scenario related below certainly was.

Art Hinckley, Dennis Banks, and Don Wilkerson are back at it again, chartering the mothership *Rising Tide* in Belize to access the finest permit flats on the globe. Those flats are located inside the barrier reef, extending southeast from Belize City for approximately fifty to sixty miles. Much of this area is only practically accessed using a liveaboard as your private floating lodge. This group usually does two 9 or 10 day permit trips each year and the most recent was in late October. Overall, on this trip, they saw fewer fish than normal, but still averaged

about a fish a day – 8 total released. Art's 80th permit was among those eight fish, but Dennis had the highlight of the trip, the twenty-six pounder at left below.

Sight casting to permit on a shallow flat is about exciting as "hunting" with a fly rod can get.....and among the most challenging of all fly rod experiences. Dennis' following rendition of his taking the 26# fish relates that challenge and excitement:



"Most mornings on a Belize mothership trip we wake up a little before 6am, get dressed, sunscreen, and wander up the stairs to check out the weather. Each morning on this trip it was either cloudy, too windy or a bad wind direction, although most days things came around nicely, weather-wise, as the day progressed. On this particular morning I was whining a little bit to Art saying I thought laying around and sleeping a while longer sounded good. However, as usual, my guide, Dean, and I headed out right at 6 that morning. It was very windy and that, along with not seeing many fish the previous day, made my odds seem pretty low. As we started to pole across our third flat, we hadn't seen a fish yet so I was in "killing time mode." All of a sudden Dean says there is a fish pushing water ahead, 200 feet away. As I zeroed in on it I could see it was moving very quickly across the flat. My first cast landed right of the fish and looked to be my only chance based on how quick the fish was moving. Then the fish swam into the glare off the water and we lost it. Dean picked it up again and said it was heading off the flat. It

was moving right to left, away from us, into the wind. I cast and my fly landed about six feet ahead of it. The fish attacked the crab like I've never had a fish attack.....it took off in a blur and all I could do was clear my line and let it go. It took 20 minutes to land and Dean and I were very excited. As you know, it weighed 26 pounds. Based on lack of fish, too windy, and way too early (which was my mind set), I felt that this particular fish summed up fishing and what I love about it."

Thanks to Dennis on a nice job of sharing the story above and congrats to him on making that cast that landed just perfectly, six feet in front of a fast moving permit before it gained the deep water!!!

"GOLDEN GRAND SLAM" – A RARE FEAT!

The season (hopefully not the last season for sport fishing!) at the Seychelles atolls of Alphonse and St. Francois opened recently and the almost impossible feat of taking a "Golden Grand Slam" has been achieved. The fisherman was Mat Ivanov. To qualify for a "Golden Grand Slam", five species must be taken in the same day; below, l to r beginning with top row: Indian Ocean Permit, Giant Trevally, Bonefish, Milkfish, and Triggerfish.



RECOGNITION FOR OUR FAVORITE FIJI HIDEAWAY

For the past eight years, my wife, Marte, and I have tied in a week in Fiji with our annual New Zealand trip. We discovered a delightful hideaway on the island of Qamea (no roads on the island), a resort/spa that had been recently purchased by two Kiwi gentleman. We have watched over the years as they have done an outstanding job of developing their isolated resort to meet their stated goal of a 5 star resort with a 3 star price. Recently, all their dedication was rewarded by being named “Fiji’s Leading Spa Resort” by World Travel Awards at their annual convention in Singapore.

(Note: this is not a prime fly fishing destination – more a perfect second honeymoon type of getaway. However, over the years, I have figured out how to take a few Giant Trevally off their spectacular reefs, including one that went 39 pounds and ate a popper.)



NOVEMBER MEMORY PHOTO(S)

Frank Jackson has become quite the dedicated steelhead angler with the fish to prove it. Good to have Frank and his smiling mug back in our memory photos, this time with two fish from this season. On the left is Frank’s first steelhead taken off the surface with a waking dry fly (Lower Dean River summer run fish).....what a thrill it must have been to watch that large maw open and inhale the dry fly! On the right is a nice male from the fall run on the Kispiox.



PHOTO CREDITS: Kamchatka – Jerry Saltzgaber and Brian Hodges; Belize permit – Dennis Banks; Seychelles Golden Grand Slam – Mat Ivanov.

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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