



We are in the twenty-third 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.

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NEW ZEALAND REPORTS – COUPLES TRIPS

KAREN AND JIM HINE: “A fabulous four week trip.....have never had a 4 week vacation, or anything close to this one.” There were several dimensions to their trip. It began with Jim going over by himself for 8 days of world class NZ style stalking and sight casting to trophy trout. Karen then joined him for a few weeks of eco-style first class touring on the South Island. They finished with a week at an outstanding Fijian out-island, second honeymoon type, resort. If you'd like to see their entire trip report, click on this link: [NZ - Fiji Combo Trip Report.](#)



What follows are excerpts from their trip report and photos. “....The first two days, we fished different sections of the same river, landing about seven 3-6 lb browns per day, virtually all sight fishing.....My guide for the first 4 fishing days was a NZ legend and an incredible guide.....Next stop was in the central part of the South Island for a charming stay with a couple who operated a quality farm stay. I did four days guided fishing with another Kiwi guiding legend in this rural farming area.” At right/above, Jim with a nice brown taken in the valley with the snow capped peaks – photo below. Jim and a solid rainbow and typical brown. Meals were a treat.



“After Karen arrived.....spent 3 days in Fiordland including.....a magical rainy drive over the Misty Mountains to Milford sound. There were literally thousands of waterfalls coming off the precipices. Every day we were treated to rainbows out our window..... Our New Zealand/Fiji adventure was really a trip of a lifetime.”

Photos below – l to r: Karen and Jim at the end of the rainbow in Fiordland; Waterfalls on the way to Milford Sound: there can be rainy days in the land of the Kiwis; a Fijian fruit bat.



”The trip was capped by incredibly relaxing days in a treehouse cabin with our own plunge pool on an out-island in Fiji. Food and hospitality were again outstanding, and the scenery amazing, if completely different from NZ. The perfect ending.”

JULIE AND MIKE VOLLINK:



Julie and Mike (at left) had a 3 week itinerary with Mike having 8 fishing days in 3 different areas mixed in. Their trip spanned the South Island beginning in the North and ending with Fiordland in the South. Their accommodations covered a wide range of different properties and included a modest hotel, a world class lodge with multiple activities, and an eco-tour wilderness lodge in the Alps. They stayed in five different areas with a travel day between each.

Mike sent this message as they were getting ready to head for home. “Julie and I fly home tomorrow. We had the most wonderful time. The Linde is a very special place. Great property and people, good fishing. The Milford Sound trip was well worth the day. Our guides were both amazing in their own ways. Dean and I actually got along splendidly. Hopefully, I didn’t receive bad marks from the guides. I had all the fun I wanted. We can’t thank you enough for all you did.”

Photos below: that’s Mike with two great browns; a nice rainbow; one of NZ’s spectacular river valleys and his guide with a pretty brown.



COUPLES IN PATAGONIA – REPORT

“Back from Argentina! It was fantastic top to bottom” – that’s the short version of the report from Lisa and Dave Piccone on their trip to the Argentine portion of Patagonia. Photo at right, l to r: Dave, Jeff Keefer, Margie Keefer, and Lisa. The centerpiece of their time was a stay at an award winning, world class, fly fishing estancia, a working cattle ranch that covers 50,000 acres. In addition to their 3 days of guided fly fishing on the waters of the estancia, they played on a nearby challenging golf course, horseback riding, shopping in a traditional quaint Patagonia town, used the steam room and hot tub. Also available were hiking, a spa with massage and yoga and bird watching. Upon departing the lodge, they



headed south for two day hikes and moved further south to see and tour the Perito Moreno Glacier. Their full report can be found through this link: [ARGENTINA TRIP REPORT - LISA AND DAVE PICCONE](#)

Photos, l to r: Lisa with a spunky rainbow; it's traditional here for a full sit down lunch while drifting the river, sometimes involving BBQ, Patagonia style; taking a break from the river; Jeff with a great brown.



NEW ZEALAND REPORTS – GUYS TRIPS

CARSON AND BROCK CUMMINGS: A father – son team, Carson (at right) and Brock fished in two different areas, four days each, on a two week itinerary mixing in a few days touring.

Brock's report: "We just finished up with our last guide today and then drove to Christchurch for 2 nights. Then back to reality. We've had a fantastic trip. You connected us with really great people. Both guides were exceptional. We both caught 7.5 lb browns. One day with Scotty, my son caught 9 & I caught 7 browns. Didn't expect that! The farm stay was a real treat! Thank you for your excellent recommendations!"
Brock



A great collection of trophy Brown Trout photos for the Cummings family!



ROB ESKRIDGE AND RYAN STOCK: Theirs was a last minute "tag on" itinerary. On a referral from one of our past NZ clients, Rob called and wanted to know if I could find a way to add to their already established non-fishing itinerary some fishing on the back end. There was one problem – they were leaving in about a week. We got lucky and were able to put something together in two days.



"We're back from New Zealand - 10 out of 10, thank you so much. Just wanted to offer a big thank you from Ryan and I for throwing this together at the last minute - it just worked out so well. The farm stay was wonderful....our guide did a great job and got us on fish and we just had a wonderful time in the New Zealand wilderness....really appreciate." Most NZ itineraries are put together a year or even two years in advance so that the best options are available.....this is not the recommended approach, but it worked out for Rob and Ryan.



TEN STEPS IN PRELIMINARY PLANNING FOR NZ TRAVEL

Maybe the best news about travel to NZ currently is the exchange rate is very favorable. After over 25 years of personal travel in NZ and assembling a variety of different approaches to itineraries, we have put together a piece titled **TEN STEPS IN PRELIMINARY PLANNING FOR NZ TRAVEL**. If you're considering a trip to NZ, just ask for this information and we'll forward.

CAPTAIN DEAN PASSES



The photo at left was taken in 2000 on the first evening I ever fished with Dean Myers. At that time, Dean was first mate on Martin McCord's Meca mothership in Belize. Over a period of years, Dean would grow into becoming the Captain of the Rising Tide and one of Belize's finest fly fishing guides. Tragically, Captain Dean suffered a severe stroke and passed away. Our readers, who have spent time on the Rising Tide with Captain Dean, will miss him and the experience of living on the water on his Rising Tide and fishing with him.

Art Hinckley (who had fished with Captain Dean for over 20 years) recently joined me on a Rising Tide trip to experience the new era of the Rising Tide, sans Dean. Art commented on our trip: "Everything seems like it's going in a good direction. It will be different without Captain Dean, but all seems solid."

If you want to "visit" Captain Dean, he requested his ashes to be spread over his favorite permit flat, commonly known as "Dean's Flat." After his funeral, his wife Georgia was brought to this flat with his ashes to fulfill his wish. For those of us who have spent time with him, his spirit will always be part of the Belize experience.

BEST 90 MINUTES OF 'CUDA FISHING?

The young lady, Kimberly Ward, in the photo at right, is holding the first fish she has ever caught – a very aggressive, small yellow tail snapper who tried to take down a lure almost as long as it was. She was on a trip on the Rising Tide in Belize. Later in her week, she would have an amazing 90 minutes of barracuda fishing in the early evening, finishing that session at sunset. She would have 6 large 'Cuda attack the surface tube-lure she was trolling. Four of those fish were brought to the boat - all over 3 feet long. The last fish was about 5 feet, too large for the net, and was lost as the guide tried to throw it in the boat with his hands. Photos from her week.....



Photos, l to r: one of the 90 minute 'cуда; Barracuda are teathy creatures; fighting a 'cуда as sun hits the horizon; beautiful conch shell fresh off the ocean floor.



Photos, left to right: anchored Rising Tide at sunset; a 500+ pound Manatee surfacing for a breath: manatee munching on some sea grass on the bottom; Rising Tide with panga, used for fishing, tied to rear of Rising Tide.



Rising Tide website: www.flyfishbelize.com

ST. BRANDONS, SEYCHELLES – ROOM FOR 1 MORE



The remote Seychelles island of St Brandon is famous for large bonefish and big GT's. Photos are from our November newsletter, a collection of photos submitted by Mike Vollink from his previous trip to St. Brandons. Mike is returning with a small group in 2027 (early June week). He selected the week carefully for the best tides based on his experience. They have one spot still open to join them. If you'd like more info, just reply and ask.



WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES

This is a link with a description of who we are and what we do.....also, it lists the destinations around the world where we can provide reliable information and help you prepare for your trip: [Fly Fishing Adventures - About What We Do](#)

JUNE MEMORY PHOTO



Tim Quattlebaum has become a regular contributor to our newsletter. Certainly, Tim's giant sea-run Brown from Tierra del Fuego will provide him many great memories!!

Photo credits: NZ #1 Karen and Jim Hine; NZ #2 Julie and Mike Vollink; Argentina Lisa/Dave Piccone and Margie/Jeff Keefer; NZ #3 Carson/Brock Cummings; NZ #4 Rob Eskridge/Ryan Stock; Belize Kimberly Ward; St Brandons Mike Vollink.

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