



Tarpon Search, Belize



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We are in the twenty-first year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on the 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.

REPORT: A RETURN TRIP TO BELIZE FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS

Twenty years ago, a group of our son's college friends joined him and I on a mothership trip to Belize. Twenty years later, several of them joined son Scott (at right with tarpon from this trip) on the same trip to celebrate his 50th birthday. Also joining the group were grandson Nico (Scott's son) and yours truly. This was a mixed group of anglers – some fly fishers exclusively and some spin



fishers – with a goal of just having fun together and catching a variety of the many species available in Belize.

Left to right around the table: Scott Muelrath, Don Muelrath, Kevin Pennington, Bob Ogle, Kim Laur, and Nico Muelrath.

The Rising Tide (at right anchored with the pangas, used for fishing, tied behind) was their floating home on the water as they fished the inshore waters of Belize inside the barrier reef. This reef is the second longest barrier reef in the world and helps create a rich marine environment. Also contributing to that environment are hundreds of mangrove shorelines, shallow flats, and several jungle rivers which empty into the Caribbean.

The daily schedule was up early and ready for the first casts of the day at 6:00am. Around 9:00am, return to the Rising Tide for a hearty breakfast and then out for the prime sight fishing time of the day, until lunch around 2:30. After a short break, back out for the evening session until drinks and dinner sometime after dark.



A variety of fish were released including different species of jacks and snappers, barracuda, tarpon, snook, ladyfish, and bonefish. Below, left to right, 1st row: Bob with a Jack, Nico with a 'Cuda, Kim with Jack, Kevin and 'Cuda. 2nd row, l to r: Don and Snook taken from mangrove edges, Bob and Ladyfish, Mangrove Snapper, Scott and Jack.



Below, l to r: casting in certain channels at sunset can produce reasons for a late dinner; everyone is ready to shove off for a mornings fish; Captain Dean gives fly casting lessons to Nico.



Below, l to r: Final stages of getting a tarpon ready for a photo; Horse Eye Jack; fly and spin rods stored for the night.



THIS MONTH'S DESTINATIONS TO CONSIDER: BULL TROUT IN FERNIE B.C. AND ICELAND



If I had to pick one reason why Bull Trout are an exciting fly rod pursuit, it would be that you can fish for 28" to 32" inch fish that are easy to see in pools and streams where they make their annual spawning runs. The Bull Trout fishery in the Fernie area of British Columbia has been well protected over the years with limited, permitted, fishing pressure and closing areas during prime spawning times.



We get positive feedback from virtually everyone who fishes the Fernie area of BC with our favorite outfitters. The setting is beautiful Canadian Rockies country, the fish plentiful and many of them willing to eat on the surface, and the guides do a nice job. And, there are several options, starting with the main stem of the Elk River and including other rivers in the area along with smaller walk'n'wade tributary streams. The numbers are supplied by the native West Slope Cutthroat while the Bull Trout provide the "big fish opportunity." There are various lodging opportunities from upscale ski condos to a resort in a spectacular setting.

Click this link to see more on the Bull Trout fishery: [Fernie Bull Trout Report](#)

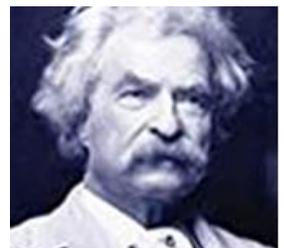
ICELAND A spectacular country teeming with rivers and lakes and outstanding scenery and areas of isolated wilderness! Best of all for the fly fisher, a collection of outstanding species available from giant native browns to trophy Atlantic Salmon to Arctic Char and some of the finest sea-run brown trout fishing on the planet. We work with two outfitters in Iceland, one of which we've been associated with for over a dozen years. They have exclusive contracts with many landowners for some of the best waters in the country so you can experience diverse fishing for many different species. Many of their waters were in the hands of local fishing clubs for decades and had been closed to all others. Itineraries are customized to put you on the best waters at the prime times. Warning: Iceland itineraries carry a heavy price tag.

Below, on left, hefty brown trout and, on the right, Atlantic Salmon.



FAMOUS MARK TWAIN QUOTE (Relating To Adventure Travel)

Occasionally, Jim Hine (with this month's memory fish) reminds me of the quote from Mark Twain relating to pursuing adventure travel: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do.....Explore. Dream. Discover." I'm sure Mr. Twain was not relating that quote to fly fishing destinations, but it certainly applies. Collecting fly fishing dreams and memories from around the globe takes you to the most spectacular places on earth with the added attraction of checking off a Bucket List of the world's great gamefish!



TSIMANE IN BOLIVIA WITH A 25% DISCOUNT AND LOOKING FOR PARTNERS: PERMIT IN BELIZE



PERMIT IN BELIZE: we have a veteran Belize permit fly fisher who is looking for one or two others to join him on a Rising Tide dedicated permit trip sometime this spring. For more info on the Rising Tide trip and the different species available, check out this website: <http://flyfishbelize.com/trip-reports-photos>

TSIMANE LODGES IN BOLIVIA: Two of our regular travelers have had to cancel their return trip to Bolivia, scheduled for prime-time this summer (last week in July). This is an outstanding jungle fly fishing adventure with trophy Golden Dorado (at right) as the primary pursuit, but other species available. They are offering their two spots at a 25% discount. To see a trip report on this destination, click here: [Tsimane - Bolivia Trip Report](#)



WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES

This is a link with a description of who we are and what we do.....also, listing the destinations around the world that we can provide reliable information regarding the experience and how to prepare for your visit:

[Fly Fishing Adventures - About What We Do](#)

JANUARY MEMORY PHOTO



All “first fish” taken with a fly rod are benchmark fish for a fly fisher. Such benchmark “first’s” include:

- First 20 inch trout
- First 5# brook trout taken on a dry fly
- First 10# brown trout
- First bonefish
- First tarpon
- And the most challenging of all fly rod firsts – first permit

For Jim “Mad Dog” Hine, he has taken fish from the waters of Alaska in the north to Golden Dorado in Boliva, including many saltwater species in Belize. However, Jim’s first steelhead came recently from the Trinity River in Northern California and is this month’s memory fish.

PHOTO CREDITS: Belize - Scott and Nico Muelrath, Bob Ogle, Kevin Pennington, Kim Laur; Golden Dorado - Steve Simco;

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
Don Muelrath
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