

NEWSLETTER #46 - MARCH 2006

If you have access to Microsoft word, open the attachment above to see the information below in a more "reader friendly" format.

Fly Fishing Adventures Travel Newsletter, March 2006

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We are in the fifth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on great fly fishing venues 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.

CHANGES AT CLEARWATER HOUSE IN NO. CALIF

During the last 25 years, many of our clients have enjoyed visiting the finest fly fishing lodge in Northern California, The Clearwater House. After all those years, the Clearwater has moved into the new Clearwater Lodge on the Pit River. The "new Clearwater" will offer all the features and services that have distinguished them: exceptional guide team, wonderful food, full range of schools and programs for anglers of every level. All this will be happening in a setting of remarkable beauty on the Pit River between Burney and Fall River Mills. The biggest change will be in the number and variety of guest accommodations (including two and three bedroom cottages) which will facilitate families and groups enjoying the ambiance of the area and the services provided by owner Dick Galland and his team.

All the Clearwater schools and packages of the past will take place at the new Clearwater Lodge. Of special note for beginners to the world of fly fishing is their "Mastering The Art of Fly Fishing" program. There is also a women's "Mastering" program taught by female guides. If you'd like more info or the dates for these programs, hit "reply."

TRIP REPORTS – it IS New Zealand time

Note: Space doesn't permit reprinting these trip reports in full so they are condensed versions. If you'd like to see the full report, just hit "reply" and ask for a copy.

It's hard to explain how special New Zealand is to one who has never been. It's the country, the people, and of course, for us fly fishers, the challenging and unique sight fishing to trophy rainbows and browns in crystal clear rivers and streams. Late January through mid-March is the "prime time" in NZ and therefore we've had several travelers returning in the last 30 days. It is without a doubt the finest couples trip with "world class" fly fishing on the planet. The comments below make an attempt at capturing the essence of the "specialness" of New Zealand and explain why most clients return.

"Thank you so very much for planning and orchestrating our introduction to NZ fly fishing. It was our best vacation ever and certainly an experience, extraordinary in every way. Let's do it again!" Nancy and Wayne Badovinus

"Murphy's Lodge was spot on. I had some good fishing, quite good actually...The Motu, in particular, is a wonderful laboratory for observing trout behavior. My non-fishing wife had a fine time walking in the native forests, birdwatching, and visiting nearby towns. There is plenty for a non fisherman to do around Motu if they have a bit of curiosity. The staff was quite helpful, organizing her trips, etc....." Ralph Stephens (while visiting family in NZ)

"You served up just what we wanted on all points, not necessarily easy with old grumpy travelers accustomed to the comforts of home, wanting the adventures of our youth, but without hardship or inconvenience....I was more than satisfied with bringing in 8 browns on my first day, one eight pounds plus. Four Peaks surprised us all with the elegance of quarters, sophistication of cuisine, and overwhelming attention of our hosts. (From here), we fished the wildest, most beautiful, breathtaking valleys and rivers.....and my guide led me to my ten pound rainbow and 12 other fish..." David Sheldon

“.....thank you for helping us put together what turned out to be an absolutely perfect itinerary! We found every place to be great. Despite running into a cold front on the South Island, the fishing was fantastic, and thoroughly challenging. We both netted a couple of 6+ pound fish and had our shots at a few fish between 8 and 12 pounds. We’re both plotting our next visit.” Alyssa and David Morris (note: David and Alyssa were on a honeymoon trip and Alyssa was very much a novice fly fisher. NZ is not normally a good spot for a beginner, but the right guide and water selection can make it work out if the new fly fisher has enough persistence and Alyssa proved to be up to the challenge with some great fish released. The Morris’ like to “rough it” and mixed in three different wilderness campouts with some upscale stays as part of their package).

“...as part of our two week New Zealand trip in January, I was able to persuade Lori that she would enjoy 4 days of fishing. Our guide was great with Lori, who had never fly fished. She ended up being enthralled with the sport after two days and I was reminded that hiking through beautiful country and scenic rivers is always enjoyable.....luckily, we also caught a fair number of fish. If there is a fly fishing heaven, it will look like New Zealand. All in all, the trip was a home run. We both loved it.” Brian David (similar disclaimer as the one tagged on the end of the Morris’ report regarding fly fishing novices in New Zealand – sometimes it works out well, but.....)

“Well, we are home, and had a most wonderful time. As I’ve mentioned previously, you really understood what we wanted to do on our first New Zealand trip and planned it accordingly. Needless to say, the sight fishing was extraordinary. I think we may have run into a little more bad weather than usual, but that is fishing. We would love to give you all of our impressions....., in the meantime, I have been busily organizing our return trip for 2007” Barbara and Charlie Renfrew

“The trip was a huge success. Obviously, you know NZ and the guides and lodge operators, and they know you. It makes a big difference. Every detail was covered. There were no glitches. I had one day with thirteen takes, nine on the beach, all on dry flies. Polly, a less experienced angler, still caught eight or ten fish, at least one in the six pound range and several 4-6 pounders. We were captivated by the clear water and the absence of other fisherpeople. The paucity of fish, offset by their size, makes for challenging fishing. We fished about half of our days in NZ and traveled about, enjoying the food, the people, and the scenery on the other days.

All in all, a highly enjoyable trip. Thanks for all you did to make it so.” Chuck Longworth

NEW INFORMATION PIECE AVAILABLE REGARDING NEW ZEALAND

We have a new write-up available in word doc form for anyone interested in more information about New Zealand and its unique fly fishing for trophy browns and rainbows. It includes some general info about the special aspects of the country as well as dealing with the proper expectations for the fishing. If you’d like a copy, hit “reply” and request one.

BELIZE FIRST TIMER SCORES ‘SLAM

Schuyler Marshall, on a February trip on the Belize motherships with five friends fishing from the Meca and Seaduction, scored several significant saltwater flats “firsts.” Often, fly fishers on these Belize trips take their first tarpon, and/or first permit, but not in the dramatic manner that Schuyler did. He released his first tarpon and first permit along with a bonefish to complete his first GRAND SLAM. The following comment from Schuyler does capture the feeling of separation from the “real world” that is such an important part of the mothership experience:

“The Belize Mothership trip was like a dream. Caught my first permit and first tarpon as part of a GRAND SLAM. The food was delicious and the guides were outstanding, not to mention the access to rarely-fished waters. The only decisions I had to make all week were which fly to tie on and what kind of cocktail to pour.”

REMAINING “PRIME TIME” BELIZE DATES FOR TWO

The Belize mothership, Meca (for parties of 3 or 4), is fully booked through mid-September. However, the mothership Seaduction (parties of 2), has four weeks still open – price is \$5,800 for the seven night trip, virtually all inclusive. Free DVD is available. Open weeks:

4/28 – 5/5

5/9 – 16

5/31 – 6/7

8/16 - 23

RESTRUCTURE IN THE LELAND FLY FISHING ADVENTURES BUSINESS

Five years ago, Josh Frazier and Leland Fly Fishing Outfitters were looking to expand their enterprise and offer fly fishing travel consulting and booking services. A marriage was consummated between Leland's and Don Muelrath's Fly Fishing Adventures. Since that time, the entire business, including the travel segment, has grown substantially each year and many satisfied fly fishing travelers have returned time and again for advice on their next fly fishing adventure.

A change is about to occur. Because of liability concerns that only a professional travel insurance agent can explain, Leland Fly Fishing Outfitters has to remove themselves from the travel business. With that removal, the formal and legal relationship between Leland's and Don Muelrath and Fly Fishing Adventures will be dissolved.

The Leland shop is recognized in the industry as a dynamic and pacesetter organization with a booming web site in place(www.flyfishingoutfitters.com) and their own fly fishing ranch in Sonoma soon to be constructed. That primary business of Leland Fly Fishing Outfitters will not change and will continue to flourish and be of service to all fly fishers in the Bay Area.

Also, what will not change is that we at Fly Fishing Adventures will continue to provide the "personal touch" in consulting with fly fishing travelers regarding how to best meet the objectives of their next fly fishing trip. Essentially, nothing changes except the legal relationship of Leland Fly Fishing Outfitters with the travel end of the business, Leland Fly Fishing Adventures.

Don Muelrath and Fly Fishing Adventures will continue all it's services that you are accustomed to, but going forward, will not operate under the "Leland banner." Any questions, please give a call.

PRIME TIME LOWER DEAN STEELHEAD SPOT OPENS FOR A SINGLE

We just had a cancellation for one of our spots during what is traditionally considered one of the best weeks on the lower Dean for the hottest steelhead on the globe. Week is July 21 – 28 and the price is \$5500.

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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