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We are in the sixth 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.

EXOTIC COMBINATIONS – PART II, CHRISTMAS ISLAND REPORT

Ever had the urge to just pack your bags, grab your fly rods, and consider never coming back? That is the focus of this three part article which started in the February newsletter – combining two or more different natural environments into one trip. Part three will be in April.

This portion of the “combinations” concept is a report from our recent trip which combined Christmas Island and New Zealand. This was our fifth consecutive year of combining a tropical South Pacific stop with the glacier capped peaks of New Zealand. What a contrast, and one that we have come to love, even if the packing nightmares and over weight luggage costs are severe.



The New Zealand portion will be covered in our special New Zealand report coming out tomorrow so we'll just focus on the Christmas Island aspect. Air Pacific has now started scheduled air travel between Christmas and NZ with a stop in Fiji making this combination possible.

My son and I had our first exposure to salt water flats fishing 21 years ago at Christmas Island. Not much has changed in this isolated island environment. It's still has the extensive, hard-packed sand wading flats with large numbers of bonefish available. It remains as one of the top spots for someone to learn to fish the salt water flats. Additionally, a great attraction for the experienced salt water fly fisher are the trevally...and that was the primary focus of my trip. Also, there is an exciting offshore fishery.

I did have a Giant Trevally of at least 40 pounds eat my popper...and he's swimming around with it in the corner of his mouth somewhere in the South Pacific. Fortunately, I was able to get several 20+ pounders to the boat for photographs – angry fish and great sport on a fly rod popper. We fished them three different ways (ask if you'd like more detail on methods) with the most productive being to tease them up and cast poppers. Very aggressive takes, real explosions, and tough fish.

SPECIAL NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER COMING TOMORROW – DELETE??

There is just too much New Zealand news to put in the regular monthly newsletter so we have a special New Zealand report coming out tomorrow. For those of you have no interest at all in New Zealand, sorry to be filling up your mailbox – just hit “delete.”

“HITTING IT RIGHT” IN THE AMAZON

The catch/release reports coming from the Amazon this season have been close to unbelievable. As with all top fisheries on the globe, the potential may be there, but the right conditions have to be present to really “hit it right.” Those conditions have existed. Check out these excerpts from recent clients who have returned from this peacock bass nirvana (full reports are now at the bottom of the Amazon page at www.flyfishingadventures.org).



From Julie and Dennis Smith -

“Truly incredible trip! Numbers and quality and tenacity of peacocks truly rival snook as my favorite piscatorial target. Throw in the visual aspects of almost every strike and fish, and it just can’t be any better.....”



Julie ended up with 151 peacocks, including a 13 pounder that didn’t get away (photo at left) and a 20+ pound chartreuse and fluorescent orange VW bus that smashed my favorite Sage TCR 9 weight into a multi-piece travel stick. 771 peacocks between us..... Great trip and great lodge! I may be ruined for life!” (note: Dennis’ full report has a daily dairy of released fish)

From Bill Pitman -

Best fishing trip ever. I personally caught well over 400 peacock bass. Biggest was 16 pounds. A lady from San Francisco caught a 22 pounder. I also caught a 12, 13, and 15. Numerous 7, 8 and 9’s. In our group a number of 11, 12, and 13. Average smaller fish were 2 to 4 pounds.”

We are holding some prime time late 2007 and early 2008 slots for the only fly fishing lodge in the Amazon. After all visitors from this

season have been given their “first rights” on returning next year, the remaining spots will be available. The lodge is sold out already for two months of next season.

TRIP REPORT – FEBRUARY MECA, BELIZE ADVENTURE

Craig Poff, John Mendola, David Dunmire, and Glenn Sudol, were in Belize in early February on their first trip on the Meca. His report captures the essence of what makes this one of salt water flats fishing’s greatest adventures (full report at bottom of Belize page on web site).

“What a great trip on the Meca last week! Dean, John & Carol were tremendous in both their hospitality and hard work. The sunrise to after sunset fishing schedule was fantastic. We had expectations that we would want to fish more than the guides but Dean & John were ready, willing, and able.....Carol kept us extremely well fed and the accommodations were always ship shape. Although we didn’t land any permit, we lost a few and bounced countless flies off their noses. We had several tarpon and plenty of bones.....On our final day, we had several shots at some monstrous permit on the reef. What a sight to see 30#+ fish hanging in the surf over the white bottom; unfortunately, just like a typical permit, none of them would open its mouth. Luckily there were some tarpon laid up in the surf nearby and they were willing to eat. Johnny & Glenn are going to be in touch soon to start looking for 2008 dates.”



DEFINING A “WORLD CLASS” FISHERY

All “world class” fisheries must have one thing in common to earn that distinction – the possibility of realizing “world class” fly rod action. However, just because the possibility to enjoy that truly special experience exists, it doesn’t guarantee that it always happens that way. It’s still fishing.....and no one yet has found a way to get the fish (or the weather and the conditions) to behave like their supposed to.

Bob Gloger is a veteran of pursuing “world class” fly rod experiences around the globe. We were just discussing his recent trip to New Zealand and Bob shared with me his personal philosophy of expectations when visiting a “world class” fishery: “Generally, on a fishing trip, I’ve found that 1/3 of the days are really pretty good, 1/3 are mediocre, and 1/3 are a struggle.”

All of us who have spent a lot of time develop a definition of what the expectancy



class” fly rod experiences around the globe. New Zealand and Bob shared with me his visiting a “world class” fishery: “Generally, days are really pretty good, 1/3 are mediocre,

climbing on airplanes with our fly rods should be...thanks to Bob for sharing his.

SAN FRANCISCO AND EAST BAY DAYS

One of our services is personal and group slide presentations and discussion on different fly fishing destinations. We do this both in our Napa Valley fly fishing theatre and in homes and offices throughout the Bay Area. During the next month, we’ll be scheduling a day in each San Francisco and the East Bay visiting in homes and offices, whichever is most appropriate. If you’d like to look into the possibility of a get together, let us know and we’ll put you on the list to discuss a time that can work for each of us. A list of the slide presentations we have available is on the “newsletter/trip report” page on our website.

Photo Credits: top - Scott Ellison casts for peacocks; Rich Hosley with his first giant trevally on a fly rod popper; caiman in the Amazon; Julie Smith with peacock, photo by Dennis Smith; Meca with skiff at anchor; tarpon in the air. If you have photos that you feel are newsletter worthy, e-mail them to us for consideration.

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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