



Bonefish Release, Seychelles



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IN THIS ISSUE:

- FERNIE, BRITISH COLUMBIA, REPORT
- FIRST GRAND SLAM – PERMIT FEVER!
- QUOTES OF THE MONTH
- “HUNTING FISH” IN NEW ZEALAND
- NEW ZEALAND – SPECIAL DISCOUNTED OFFERS
- LOOKING FOR PARTNERS
- BELIZE, RISING TIDE: UPDATE ON OPEN DATES, 2017
- SEPTEMBER MEMORY PHOTO

We are in the fourteenth 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.

FERNIE, BRITISH COLUMBIA, REPORT



John Gans has been a regular reporter for our newsletter over the last nine years. His reports have ranged from father-son trips in Alaska to his first forays into the saltwater flats world at Ascension Bay to some east coast fisheries. This past summer, he was looking for a good trout fishing experience in the west and settled on Fernie, BC. John’s son, Henry, was scheduled to join him, but got tied up with work so Bruce Hurd (below at right with a healthy cutt) was his partner for Fernie.

Fernie is located near the base of the western slope of the Canadian Rockies and features wild, native trout as well as large Bull Trout. The scenery is spectacular and there are varied fishing options, enough for a week or more. Generally, it is considered a positive that the waters here are permitted which limits the number of anglers on most rivers. This

“permit protection” has enabled the fishery to remain vibrant and unpressured, unlike so many of our waters in the western United States.

Their original itinerary had the third day scheduled as a non-fishing day to enjoy the area; however, as you can see from his report, they ended up doing some unguided fishing on their own. Their guides were “local boys” we have fished with and have recommended to clients for many years.

John’s day by day report (names of rivers have been deleted at the request of the guides): “We had a great time. It is truly the best dry fly fishery I have ever seen. We floated two days on the ---- River and caught roughly 30 fat cutthroat’s. Voracious takes. Really fun. Day 3 - Bruce and I waded the ----- River on our own and had a similar experience with 20 fish caught on dry flies. The canyon surrounding this river was stunning. We saw some mountain goats which added to the experience. Day 4 - we waded the ----- River with a different guide who did a nice job. Plenty of fish in a tight stream. Day 5 - the main local waters were blown out so we drove to Alberta and floated the --- ----- River. More technical fishing, but we managed to catch 6 large rainbows each with two over 19 inches. Day 6 - we waded the ----- and caught many rainbows and a few cutbows. No real size, but many fish. Again, our guide was very good.”



For lodging, Bruce and John split their week between a condo in Fernie and Island Lake Lodge (a well-known jet-setter ski lodge) located in a spectacular mountain setting. There are many lodging options in Fernie. From John: "Island Lake Lodge was awesome. The food was amazing and not too far from Fernie. We hiked every morning before breakfast and then headed down to the fly shop around 10:30am. The condo was really, really nice, and at \$200 a day was a bargain. From the condo, we walked into Fernie for some very good meals. It was a great trip and we will definitely go back. Next time, we want to make sure we get a guarantee of a day on the ----- and the ----- rivers."



Regarding obtaining permits for certain rivers – these permits are in more demand than in past years (especially for the best Bull Trout rivers) and to get a "guarantee" of permits for the preferred waters, early reservations are usually needed. John and Bruce were disappointed that they were unable to fish a few of these rivers due to permits not being available.

There are many Fernie reports at the bottom of the British Columbia link on our website www.flyfishingadventures.org

FIRST GRAND SLAM – PERMIT FEVER!

(NOTE: this year, we have seen an exceptional number of permit taken in Belize, Ascension Bay, and Espiritu Santo Bay. Since taking a permit is the fly fisherman's greatest challenge, taking your first is cause for great celebration.....and a memorable event in one's fly fishing career. So many of these fish this year have been "first permit" for anglers and reported in our newsletters. It would seem that the increased efforts to protect this great sport fish are paying dividends.)



Since 2012, Mark Wilson and John Siegfried have been making an almost annual trip to fish Ascension and Espiritu Bays from Playa Blanca lodge (Playa Blanca is the sister lodge to Casa Blanca –photo at right - both located on the same beach, 10 miles apart).

This year, Mark and John were joined by Lars Pederson and Paul Boero. During past trips, the permit had eluded them, however, not this year. The group took nine permit with "first fish" being taken by Lars, Paul, and John (Mark got his first permit two years ago). Mark also captured his first Grand Slam on this years trip - a bonefish, permit, and tarpon, all in the same day.



John, with his usual creative flair, gives us this report on his first permit and a truly exceptional day he and Mark had together on their last day: "I lost a little permit earlier in the trip. Then I got about a 4 pounder while wading, Our guide said, "Mr. John, I can hear your heart." Talk about permit fever. My first! That night at the lodge, as is tradition for first permit, I downed a tequila soaked scorpion. Tasted like a match book. No, I am not in habit of eating match books."

The special day: "The last day, we each got bonefish early. We moved to a different spot and then saw two large permit coming straight at us. Mark cast, waited, stripped and, BANG, a 16# permit was landed. I was up next and the other permit was still in the area. He was moving left to right. I cast and BANG, got the 17# in the photo at left. Both on crab patterns. After moving to a different area, ten minutes later Mark was up and landed an 8# tarpon to complete his Grand Slam. I had 8 tarpon shots, but it wasn't meant to be. Another permit also came thru. Oh well. It was like we ordered it up. Would have liked to have gotten a tarpon though - two slams in one boat would have been something."

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

Mark Wilson, on his Grand Slam described above: "A day to remember. My quest for a Grand Slam probably cost me six weeks of my life and \$30,000. Worth it!!"

Reminds me of the famous Mark Twain quote: “Twenty years from now, you’ll be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than the things you did do. Explore, dream, discover.”

“HUNTING FISH” IN NEW ZEALAND



Cheryl and Don Olen were joined on their first New Zealand trip by Mr/Mrs Barry Lundquist. Don (at left, with trophy brown) has hunted fish with his fly rod around the world and had these comments on his NZ experience: “Whole experience was incredible. Wonderful time. Visited Australia on the same trip. All places we stayed were great and enjoyed by everyone including the “farm stay”.....I like “hunting” fish so the New Zealand stalking experience was perfect for me. Conditions were tough for most of our trip, but we did manage some memorable days. One afternoon, I took seven fish, all between 5 and 7 pounds.”

NEW ZEALAND DISCOUNTED OFFERS

Some of New Zealand’s top lodges are offering special discounted offers for the month of December. If you can travel on short notice and have New Zealand on your bucket list, hit reply or give us a call and let’s discuss.

LOOKING FOR FLY FISHING TRAVEL PARTNERS

Occasionally, we have single fly fishing travelers who are looking for a travel partner or partners. We mention this in our newsletter in case there are others in the same situation who are interested in travel to a similar destination. Our role is simply introducing possible traveling partners to each other.

CUBA: First time Cuba traveler looking for company. Primarily fly fishing oriented, but Cuba touring options can accompany travel.

BELIZE: This angler took his first Belize mothership trip this year and wants to return next year. Looking for one to four partners to join him.

BELIZE, RISING TIDE: UPDATE ON OPEN DATES, 2017

As our regular repeating Belize mothership clients determine their dates for the following year, the calendar changes. Space is always limited since the boats only do three trips a month. The update:

Jan – Feb: four open weeks remain during their special “20% Wintertime Discount” period. Some flexibility in dates.

Mar – May: The Rising Tide is booked full during this time, but the Meca has open weeks.

June – Aug: At this time, the following weeks are open – 6/7 – 14; 6/26 – 7/3; 7/16 – 23; 8/29 – 9/6

SEPTEMBER MEMORY PHOTO

Sue and Brian Kelly display a double header of trophy New Zealand browns taken together while fishing with one of NZ’s finest guides. For 2016, this photo would earn our fly fishing “cute couple” recognition.

PHOTO CREDITS: Fernie – John Gans and Bruce Hurd; permit – John Siegfried; NZ Hunting – Don Olen.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,



Don Muelrath
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