



Belize Bonefish Flat



TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- BELIZE REPORT – NEWCOMERS TO THE SALTWATER FLATS
- FERNIE B.C. – TRIP REPORT
- LEARNING WHILE TRAVELING THE GLOBE
- SPECIAL PRICES: Minipi River, Belize, And The Amazon
- SEPTEMBER'S "MEMORY PHOTO"

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.

BELIZE REPORT – NEWCOMERS TO THE SALTWATER FLATS



Steve Davidson (left) and son, Ryan, had their first experience boating bonefish and tarpon this summer using the Meca in Belize as their personal, private floating lodge. For starters, they took casting lessons to prepare for the challenges of fishing the saltwater flats. Additionally, they brought some spinning equipment with them to keep the frustration level of learning to cast on the flats manageable – i.e., they could use the spin equipment in selected situations. Steve's "edited for space" report:

"Great trip - and we really enjoyed Dean (captain/guide) & Carol (cook/steward)! Fishing was slow according to Dean, but we got plenty of shots and learned a lot. Each of us caught bones and tarpon and Ryan (at left below with tarpon) had a really good cast to a pod of tailing permit on the last day.

The recommendation for the spinning setup for beginners was invaluable.....I caught two tarpon, a jack, a red snapper and a mackerel on it. Lots of fun. Next time, we'll probably concentrate just on fly gear.

This was the first time either of us boated a bonefish or tarpon (not the last!). Thanks again for your help and advice. It was very useful."



To see more of the report on the Davidson's trip plus additional photos, click on this link: http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/pe_Belize2.pdf



FERNIE B.C. – TRIP REPORT



This is an “edited for space” comprehensive report from a fly fishing couple who fish everywhere, Julie and Dennis Smith (below right). If you’d like a copy of this complete report, just hit reply and ask.

Overall: good to very good trip. Results:

Saturday: Elk float: 21 cuts (top 18 inches); 5 bull trout (tops = 20 and 24 inches; 1 on a dry)

Sunday: Elk float: 25 cuts (top 19 inches; all on dries-orange caddis)

Monday: Crowsnest River wade trip: 8 rainbows (top 18 inches; mixed bag of flies; about one hour of 15-20+ savage strikes by large ‘bows on stoneflies; only one landed out of 10 hook-ups.

Tuesday - River X: on this particular day, the river lived up to my

expectations, which were pretty darn high. Never experienced this quality of rainbows, except maybe Alaska; very healthy, acrobatic fish; 5 bows landed, all 3-4 pounds (streamers and nymphs); 3 other solid hook-ups (4-5 pounds for two and the third, take your pick: 7-8-10-12 #'s? Only got two looks at him and he was the biggest non-Alaskan trout I’ve ever had on); The 2 smaller fish both jumped a few times, hit the current hot, headed straight downstream, and “dumped” my 6 weight fly line and all the backing from my terribly outmanned Orvis Battenkill reel; having no choice but to gab the backing as the knot alone remained affixed to the reel, one leader broke and one hook bent and pulled. And I won’t mention the 4 or 5 fish we saw from a bluff 50 feet above that were all close to double digits in weight. We had to end the day with 7 small (12-16 inch rainbows) at about 10 PM as the lights went out on the Oldman River.....awesome day!

Wednesday: Elk float: 19 cuts, all on dry; best cut of trip 21-22 inches; best story of trip: 12 inch cut eats elk hair drake in deep, dark green, slow pool. A 35-40 inch bull trout consumes the cut and immediately does NOTHING but sit there; so I let him munch for a good 60 seconds..... after 8-10 minutes of “fighting” this fish, I’m thinking I’ve got a chance, but he heads downstream and I’m dumped again. A good (and true) story.



Biggest surprise: Great food at two different Middle Eastern restaurants

Second nicest surprise: how few boats we saw on the ELK on the weekend (editors note – this is due to permitted fishing limiting the number of rods on the waters in this area!)

Guides: really good group of people: personable and knowledgeable

LEARNING WHILE TRAVELING THE GLOBE



After 26 years of marriage to a passionate fly fisherman, Berniece Patterson decided she would share the fly fishing experience with her globe trotting fly fishing hubby, Pat. For starters, she took casting lessons from a top instructor. Next, for her first fly fishing endeavor, she definitely did not take the path most traveled – i.e., find a western US or BC stream or river to hone her skills. Instead, she took a very extensive path that included, in her first month as a fly rodder, time in Labrador pursuing pike and the giant brook trout of the Minipi River to the wilds of Kamchatka in eastern Russia for rainbows, salmon, and Dolly Varden. Photo at left shows Berniece arriving via float plane at Minipi Lodge in Labrador where she would do combat with the black flies and take her first fish on a fly. Within two weeks, she was in Kamchatka fishing the Zhupanova River.

Berniece commented regarding her international introduction to fly fishing, “now I am spoiled and would have a very hard time spending all day on a California river catching 2 or 3 small fish!”

Photos – left to right: Berniece with Russian Rainbow, Pat with beautiful Dolly Varden, and Berniece with a DV (gotta find a way to spread Berniece’s smile to all fly fishing “models”!)



SPECIAL PRICES: Minipi River, Belize, And The Amazon

Minipi River: there are a few spots remaining for the prime hatch weeks at our favorite lodges for the giant brookies of the Minipi River for summer of 2009. This is the last week to make reservations using the 2008 prices, a difference of approximately \$600 less for the week than the 2009 rates.

Belize – Meca and Seaduction Motherships: two aspects here....first, there are several weeks open during Sept, Oct, Nov, and Dec and they have decided to do something for the first time ever for the fall – offer a 20% discount on any bookings for those months. Next, because of dramatically increased costs, prices for 2009 are going up as of October 1. However, 2009 bookings taken before 10/1 will be at today’s prices. Most months in the first two thirds of 2009 still have at least one open week.



Amazon: Reports from clients who fished from the Agua Boa houseboat operation upriver from the lodge this past season were almost unbelievable, topped by Herb Newman and Rex Setzer who took 27 peacocks over 10# for the week (see reports and photo essays as the bottom of the Amazon page www.flyfishingadventures.org). Due to a recent cancellation, a prime time Jan/Feb week for early next year is open. There is a special price available for a group of six people. If you can put together a group of six (or may have interest in joining with others to make up a group of six), you can reserve the houseboat for the week (max of 6). Regular price is \$4400 per week including the charter flight from Manaus. Hit “reply” if you’d like more details.

SEPTEMBER’S “MEMORY PHOTO”



A father – son double header of trophy brook trout from the Minipi River in Labrador for Jerry Bottcher and son, Evan. Comments from Jerry: “my son and I together with two such noble fish represents the single most memorable fishing moment of this Dad's 37 year fly fishing life. Our week fishing the Little Minipi river ranks as one of the most memorable fishing weeks of my fishing life....and I've been most everywhere!” Jerry is the owner of the Hungary Trout Resort on the West Branch of the Ausable River in New York.

PHOTO CREDITS (top to bottom): banner photo – Steve and Ryan Davidson (note: there are few wadable flats in the northern areas of Belize...bottom is generally too soft); Belize photos – Steve and Ryan Davidson; Fernie photos – Dennis Smith; “Learning.....globe” photos – Berniece and Pat Patterson; peacock bass – Jeff Reinke.

Either phone or drop us an e-mail if you have questions or would like more information about any of our destinations.

**An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
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