



Belize Tarpon At Dusk



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We are in the fifteenth 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.

GOLDEN DORADO IN ARGENTINA – TWO DIFFERENT APPROACHES



The Golden Dorado has become one of the world's great fly rod sport fish. If you've fished for them, the reasons are obvious. They eat aggressively, make spectacular leaps, and grow to large sizes, over thirty pounds in some watersheds. Golden Dorado are available in river systems through a band of latitude that covers Northern Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia. This article is going to focus on two different approaches to fishing Northern Argentina and the High Parana River system. If you want to see our report on Goldens in Bolivia, go to this link: [Bolivia Golden Dorado](#)

The Parana River is a massive body of water that runs north to south for over 3,000 miles from Paraguay through Argentina, the second largest river in South America. It drains over 1,000,000 square miles and is as much as 11 miles wide. With a water system this large, there are many braids, mangrove shorelines and lagoons, logjams of fallen timber, and marshes.

The large Golden in the photo above was taken by Don Armstrong on his trip earlier this year. His description of the take: “This fish actually came out of the water about 5 feet from the fly and then came down crashing on the fly. It was a spectacular take. My guide didn't make a big deal out of this fish.....he talked about 50 pound fish. I did not catch any fish that large, but I saw fish I'm sure were fifty pounds.”

This particular guide is excellent – we have fished with him before. He fishes the shorelines and shoals of the main stem of the High Parana. Don further commented on his time here: “Less fish but larger than the other operation I fished with. Was a great place and the food was good as well.”

The second area of the Parana that Don fished was the Entre Rios Delta, a network of river braids, channels, creeks, lagoons, and marshes. Some of the creeks are so narrow that a skiff can barely navigate them. A comfortable mothership is used to access this watershed. Don reported on this portion of his trip: “Great food and great operation. Caught tons of fish, as many as 50 in a day. However, the fish were smaller than the other place I fished on the main stem of the river (referenced above).”

Photos below, l to r: Golden Dorado in the air; The Pacu is a great sport fish, in many ways, like a fresh water permit. In it's mouth is a floating fruit fly – when we were there, I had some of the slowest, most deliberate rises to that fly I have ever seen to that small fruit fly. Obviously, the Pacu wasn't concerned with having to chase the

fly. The silver fish is a Pira Peta, also taken on the same fruit fly. The last photo shows the vastness of the High Parana River.



Photos below, l to r: Casting to sheltered shorelines on the High Parana; the mothership referenced above; the Golden Dorado is a beautiful finned creature with a bad attitude.



SPECTACULAR ARGENTINA COMBO

The mothership referenced above is owned and operated by the same family that has an estancia on Jurassic Lake in Southern Argentina, home of the giant rainbow fishery you've seen referenced in this newsletter. If you have the time and the budget, this is an excellent combo that utilizes the time, expense, and travel hassles of getting to South America to visit two totally different environments with far different fisheries. Our report on our Jurassic Lake visit can be found here: [Jurassic Lake Trip Photo Essay Report](#)

THE "PART REPORT" – NEW ZEALAND

(Note: we are fortunate to have John Part, a real New Zealand veteran who has now released more than 50 browns over ten pounds, file a detailed report on his annual NZ adventures for our newsletter. John will be joining me in Belize in July, along with "his special guide/friend," to attempt to take their first permit.....more on that to come)



"This report covers two trips to New Zealand, one in October 2016 (early spring), and the other just completed in April 2017 (autumn). I choose these months because it is easiest for me to get away from London then. They have the advantage of less crowded rivers, but the disadvantage that dry fly action is limited, and strangely, tends to come towards the end of the day when the sun is disappearing over mountain tops and the air becomes chill. I now always fish with the same guide. We are close friends. This our 17th consecutive year together, so we know each other pretty well. I still get a hard time when I fish badly, usually either a grunt or a sigh, or even a stony silence. But we thoroughly enjoy each other's company, and there's a lot of laughter before the next fish is spotted, and things turn pretty serious.

In each of these trips, visits to the rivers of the north Canterbury plains brought me two fish over 10lbs (one a brute of 13 3/4 lbs – above photo), and a good number of smaller trophy fish in the 8 to 9lbs bracket. Rivers nearer to our Murchison base brought two more 'double digit' fish, the last a real surprise from a local stream better known for its good stock of 4 to 5lbs fish. The usual run of fish is in the 3 to 5lbs bracket. Most taken on #14 or 16 nymphs. This last trip we netted over 120 trout in 14 days, including one day on a notoriously fickle and difficult river (nicknamed 'the river of long faces') where we were well and truly put in our place by every trout tolerating no more than two casts before drifting off to find somewhere more peaceful. I'll be back!

There is no doubt that two years of 'once in a hundred year floods' have reduced fish stocks, either left high and dry on farmers' fields or swept downstream. The power of even normal floods is awesome. It's not unusual to glance at the trees above you on the bank, and see drift wood and other flotsam lodged high in the branches. And don't get your guide started on the controversial use of 1080, and other poisons, on the possums etc! But there are still plenty of fish, and the average size is greater than before.



Fishing with a top quality guide (and this Murchison based guide is one of the best there is anywhere in the world) is worth a lot more than the price. A surprising amount of his value is in choosing where to fish each day.

There is a magic early morning ritual involving the weather forecast, phone calls to farmers and other guides extracting information without revealing anything useful in return, and other more occult practices not revealed to the paying client. Most of our fishing is done with #4 rod and 18 to 22 ft leader. Only if there are challenging rocks for the fish to break me, am I advised to go up to a 5lbs or even 6lbs strain tippet. Playing these fish involves mind games more than brute force, but the one thing I've learnt is to get out of the water as quickly as possible, and preferably well up the bank. This helps to persuade the fish that though there is an unpleasant weight on its mouth, it has no connection with threatening humans. This materially shortens playing time as well as avoiding having the fish dive round my legs and threaten to break the rod.

Add to all this the magic scenery; beautiful mountains often banded with writhing cloud and topped with spring or autumn snow, valleys both wide and open, and steep plunging bush, clear rivers and smudges of trout. This autumn I missed the usual sight of geese gathering for their migration, circling high in the valley in a growing pack until, at some secret signal they set off north in a long skein.

All in all, brown trout fishing in the northern part of New Zealand's South Island is still as good and challenging as ever; the narrow, steep, soft powder couloir of fly fishing. Problem is, if you get tired of it, where else is there to go?"

BRIEF BELIZE RISING TIDE TRIP REPORT

Bill Mudd was on his first Belize mothership trip aboard the Rising Tide. He was joined by two permit veterans who had previously been on a Rising Tide trip, Joe Sugura and Rob Rogers. The fourth fly fisher was John Champion who was approaching double digits in his permit count. Collectively, this group of four has released far more than 100 permit. More than any other species, almost every salt water fly fisher knows how many permit they have taken.

Bill's comments on the trip are short and concise: "Great journey. The crew (Captain Dean, Jose, Noel and Carol) were like family. Did not feel like I was on a live-aboard. Felt like 'home.' Great guides. Great attitudes. Beautiful water."

Photos – below, l to r: veteran permit angler, Joe Sugura welcomes his first fish of the trip. Bonefish after release.....the options of a mothership trip include the variety trip (multi-species) or the dedicated permit trip, which heads south. While this group was on the dedicated permit trip, the occasional bonefish or tarpon opportunity may present itself. Bill with his 21st permit.



John captured one of the joys of the mothership trip (long fishing days) with these thoughts: "The food was well prepared and tasty enough but I would like to see more freshly caught seafood. Everything else was just about perfect. I think this was the first "lodge" type trip I've been on where the guides not only didn't watch the clock...I actually got to fish as much as I wanted to fish. I don't think any of us were left wanting."

Photos – below, l to r: permit release. The Rising Tide in it's marina in Belize City where you meet the boat. After arriving in Belize City and clearing customs, it is a short 15 minute ride to this marina where the trip begins. Your fishing pangas are towed behind; John Champion, on his first Rising Tide trip, releasing his 9th permit.



WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES

This is a new 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 to visit:

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

JUNE MEMORY PHOTO

It is not often we use a photo of someone's wall as our Memory Photo. However, this wall holds a great memory. Rob Pizzie proves that John Part (above) is not the only guy who can take a 10# New Zealand brown. Rob took this beautiful fish on his first trip to NZ. Coincidentally (or maybe not a coincidence?), he was fishing with the same guide that John Part references in his report above.

PHOTO CREDITS: banner – Adam Barker; large Golden – Don Armstrong; NZ browns – John Part; Belize photos – Bill Mudd.



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