

ONE CAST, TWO NIGHT-TIME TARPON

Details of Rich Hosley's late eve tarpon at north Long Cay channel, Belize – Rich hooks up a 40# tarpon about 15 minutes before dark, makes 4 spectacular jumps and takes off on a great run. On for about 10 minutes and hook pulls loose. Rich is reeling his line in and has most of it retrieved when the line tightens up and someone yells, “the fish is still on!” Then about 50 feet to the left of the boat, a great tarpon comes flying out of the water and continues to make two more jumps. All of us realize that this fish is about twice as big as the first one – there is no doubt that this new fish on Rich's line is in the 80# range and that somehow, Rich traded in his smaller tarpon for this new one. Line is screaming off the reel and we realize that the backing is almost gone. Dean fires up the motor and closes distance on the fish while Rich retrieves line. We're now running parallel to Long Cay, pursuing the fish. The fish is running strong and taking line – Rich's reel is screaming with resistance and all of a sudden the spool spins off the reel and lands 8 feet left of the boat in the water. Rich yells, “my reel is overboard.” Don grabs the line and starts pulling in the reel. Soon the reel comes into the beam of the headlamp and we see that the backing is entirely gone and the line is tied to the spool. There is nothing left if the fish makes another run. Quickly, Dean speeds up to try to keep the tarpon from taking any line while the reel is reassembled. Soon everything is back together, but still not operating right – the spool still wants to come off. Realizing we're never going to land the fish with this reel, Dean and Don begin preparing to switch the line to a new reel. Just then, Rich says, “he's gone.” The line is slack – the backing had separated, probably some slack line allowed it to hit a coral head.

TRIP REPORT

Fly Fishing Adventures

888-347-4896

flyfish@napanet.net

