Fly Fishing ADVENTURES

Travel Newsletter
October, 2026


Rising Browns, Taylor R., Colorado Rockies

We are in the twenty-third year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on 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.

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PLAYA BLANCA, ESPIRITU SANTO BAY, TRIP REPORT



For the last five years, our mid-September trips to fish Espiritu Santo Bay from one of the Caribbean's finest salt water lodges, Playa Blanca, have had generally good conditions….and good conditions, on the salt water flats, usually leads to decent fishing. Last month's trip delivered good conditions again and, along with it, the usual solid variety of species fishery the area is known for. On our June trip this year, tarpon were the highlight fish – in September, it was permit with over ten fish released (several over 10#); tarpon were also in the mix.

At left is Royce Hudspeth, selected as the "poster boy" for this September's trip. Royce's goal for the trip was to release his first ever permit. Indeed, on his first day fishing Espiritu Santo Bay, he accomplished his goal with this beautiful fish. To make it extra special, he took it while wading and stalking.

Photos below, l to r: Another nice permit for Gordon; It's become tradition to have dinner at the famous Harry's Steakhouse in Cancun on our arrival evening – l to r: Paul Schneider, Pat March, Royce Hudspeth, George Banker, me. Also joining us at the lodge were Gordon McHaney and Chris Cedar; yours truly with a weighed 10# permit – would get my 94th on day 5;







Below, l to r: Pat has become the variety king. He had two permit days" twice, including his 19th – Pat with two of those permit, plus a trigger fish and great "baby" tarpon.






Below, l to r: several permit release shots.






Below, l to r: Celebrating the Mexico Night dinner; Bonefish are often cooperative – Royce with a good Yucatan bone; Royce, following lodge tradition when taking your first permit; the lodges private airstrip where the charter flight from Cancun lands.






Below, l to r: Baby Tarpon for Chris, George, and Paul. Paul would also take the "fish of the week," a large tarpon in the 100# range which, after a massive struggle, he had to the boat and the leader in hand…..everything but the final photo.






Below, l to r: a spectacular sunrise shot from the lodge beach; often we spent lots of time looking for permit at the end of that rainbow; weather in the tropics can be very fickle – there are times when within sight, while on that smooth glassy water, are rain squalls, even thunderheads.






JOY & LOSS FROM SOUTH AMERICAN JUNGLE TRIP





Tim Quattlebaum has become a globe hopping fly fishing angler and appears regularly in our newsletter. His recent trip to South America had some contrasting experiences.

THE JOY: Visiting the Tsimane Lodges in the western jungles of Bolivia delivers a world class jungle fly rod experience combined with an interesting cultural aspect provided by mingling with the native people of this wilderness. Among the jungle river species available, Golden Dorado (left) are the primary target for most, and are an exciting fly rod fish with aerial antics similar to baby tarpon. At right, Tim gets ready to release a trophy Pacu, termed the "jungle permit" by some and a real bulldog. Tim added some extra excitement to his days with optional jungle river helicopter fly outs.

THE LOSS: On his flight to Bolivia, Tim had to make a connection in Bogota, Columbia. Tim's description of what happened here should provide a warning to anyone flying through Bogota: "…at customs in Bogata, they took my three rods out of my case in front of me and stole them. They said I broke their rules and get out of the building. My driver said I was the fifth person he knew of that had happened to in the last few days."

BELIZE – RISING TIDE TRIP REPORT



For this old guy (meaning yours truly) who's been fishing the salt water flats since the 80's, this trip offered a special experience. The permit at left was tailing in less than two feet of gin-clear water on one of our favorite permit flats that is accessed with the Rising Tide. He was my largest permit ever – a weighed 26#. The eat was classic and the over 45 minute struggle that followed was memorable. Twice we had to chase him with our boat for fear he would strip all my backing off my permit reel. We had him close enough that my guide was able to grab the leader, but he bolted off and it took another 15 or 20 minutes before we could get him in the net. Also had a 12# fish to bring my permit quest count to 96 released.

Was joined on the Rising Tide adventure by Art Hinckley (see below) and Kim Ward, both on their second Belize mothership trip this year. Art has been both my permit inspiration and mentor and now has 138 permit

released. He's been taking Belize mothership trips for over 20 years. Kim is a newcomer to fly fishing and used both a spinning rod (for some exciting barracuda action) in addition to her first fly rod sight casting experiences on the salt water flats.

Photos below, l to r: the Rising Tide at anchor; Kim with a cubera snapper, one of three varieties of snappers she would take casting a fly, along with a bonefish and baby grouper; a sunset battle with the barracuda at right.






Photos below, l to r: permit release; a favorite permit flat; an 800+ pound manatee comes up for a breath; Kim and I kayaking – following our Rising Tide experience, we were dropped off at a favorite adults only island resort for a four night stay – fished one half day while here.






THE 100 PERMIT QUEST AND QUOTES FROM WINSTON MOORE – "DO IT NOW"



Winston Moore is a legendary fly fishing figure. He was one of the first fly rod pioneers to prove that permit, on the shallow salt water flats, could be taken with a fly. And he was one of the first to release over 100 permit taken on the flats (112 total). He is now 102 years old, still drives himself to his office daily, and works 9 to 4. He is on the left in this photo with the author of his biography, Mickey Myhre. The biography, WINSTON THE LEGEND, was published 10 years ago.

Over 30 years ago, before I had taken one permit, son Scott and I listened to him speak about permit fishing at an American Sportsman Expo. He was an inspiration and one of the main reasons I took up trying to overcome the frustrations of permit fishing with a fly.

Some of his famous comments on permit, this wiliest of all fly rod targets: "…..the permit mystique continues as you make cast after cast after cast getting continuous refusals, then after having done nothing different, a permit eats your fly." And relating to an incredibly frustrating event I have personally experienced at least a dozen times while fishing for permit: "There are those disastrous times when a permit finally takes your fly, gets it into his crushers (usually you don't know you have a fish with your fly in its mouth), and the hook turns flush with the fly/crab body making it impossible to get a good 'set'……used to drive me nuts."

Years ago, after Winston had reached an age where adventure travel was not possible for him, he sent me this advice which I have always treasured: "For all my adult life I've been preaching DO IT NOW because you just don't know about tomorrow. And for years, I've been seeing people who really wished they had "done it now". Life is short, my friend. ENJOY EVERY MINUTE because NOW is all you really have. With many guys, by the time they have nothing to do but watch TV, they are too old and worn out to do much of anything. Then, it's too late to "do it now." I'm so glad that for almost all of my adult life, I DID IT NOW."

LOOKING FOR A PARTNER(S): FOR A RISING TIDE TRIP IN BELIZE

The Rising Tide trip can be taken by just one person, but for companionship and pricing, usually the trip is taken by a minimum of two people (six maximum). We have a request to put the word out that we have a single angler who is looking for someone to join him for a Rising Tide charter. If interest, hit reply and let us know. Details on the trip are available here: www.flyfishbelize.com

WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES

This is a link with a description of who we are and what we do……also, it lists the destinations around the world where we can provide reliable information and help you prepare for your trip: Fly Fishing Adventures - About What We Do

OCTOBER MEMORY PHOTO



Always hard to keep up with Art Hinckley and his fly rod pursuits…..in October, as referenced above, he was in Belize with me chasing permit and he was on his annual Alaska giant rainbow pursuit in Alaska in September. Art (on left) with a very healthy 28 inch Alaska rainbow….Art has taken many "very healthy" Alaska rainbows, but there's always room in the memory banks for a fish like this one.

Photo credits: Playa Blanca – Pat March, Royce Hudspeth, Gordon McHaney, Chris Cedar, George Banker, Paul Schneider; Jungle – Tim Quattlebaum; Belize – Kim Ward; 100 Permit Quest – Winston Moore; Mickey Myhre.

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