



BIRTHDAYS IN BELIZE

Two of our grandchildren celebrate their birthdays during the same week in July. This year, Abby (13) and Nico (9) both celebrated birthdays in Belize while on a trip with their fathers (Jody and Scott), their Grandmother Marte, and Grandpa Don. Headquarters for our trip was the 58' Hatteras mothership, the Rising Tide, enabling us to move to areas with the best snorkeling and fishing possibilities. "Fishing possibilities" for this trip were defined with a primary objective of finding numbers of fish to acquaint Abby and Nico with the joys of salt water fishing.....size was not the issue, it was action we needed. The snorkeling expeditions were led by Grandmother Marte, who's many years of experience on Belize motherships provided the knowledge of where to go for the most spectacular experience.....and avoid the tourist crowds.

Below left, everyone departs the Rising Tide. Three guide operated skiffs were towed behind the Rising Tide so that the group could split up and go different directions, depending on interests and pursuits. In the breakfast photo, l to r, is Abby, Nico, Scott (Nico's Dad), Grandpa Don, Jody (Abby's Dad), and Grandmother Marte discussing options for the morning.



Below, l to r: Nico got the trip started fast early on the first morning hooking a 40# tarpon – the jump in the photo was the fourth (and last) jump – long line release. Shortly after, he would land his first saltwater fish, a Spanish Mackerel.....the celebration! Next came a Jack Crevalle.



Ocasionaly, there was time for "adult fishing". On two days, in two different areas, there were many baby tarpon jumped near mangrove edges and five fish released. Below, l to r: Baby tarpon. Near a river mouth we found a large concentration of baby tarpon, jacks, and snook – Scott casts to a school of baby tarpon rolling on the mangrove edge.



Below, l to r: Nico and Grandma Marte get ready to get wet; Abby, Jody, and Grandma sharing a coral head; one area where we snorkled was home to a Manatee and her cub; Nico and Scott snorkeling.



Belize has the world's second largest barrier reef protecting the shallow flats and mangrove cays inshore. Trolling near the reef produced barracuda for both Abby and Nico (below).



The most popular fishing area was wherever the boat was anchored – the front of the Rising Tide kept the kids busy whenever there was a spare moment catching and releasing small snappers, jacks, and even a puffer fish. Second from left, Abby gently holds a small snapper. Papa Scott helps Nico unhook a snapper. Most evenings found Abby and Nico trying to wear out their attentive guide who kept fresh bait on the hooks.



The birthday dinner/cake with our excellent chef, Velda, in the background. Captain Dean coaches Abby as she works on a school of tailing bonefish. Nico shows off a sheepshead.



Below, l to r: Blind casting in the evenings in certain channels which have produced exciting results over the years found fish. The main target is 40 to 100+ pound tarpon. While we jumped several of the big ones, none stayed hooked up for the photo. Jody did manage to land a large jack. Average size snapper taken from front of the Rising Tide. Snook. Nico with a jack.



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,

Don Muelrath

Fly Fishing Adventures

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888-347-4896