



IN THIS ISSUE:

- REFLECTIONS: A DOZEN YEARS OF NEW ZEALAND
- DESTINATION SLIDE PRESENTATIONS IN FISH FIRST SHOP, SF BAY AREA, APRIL 4
- THE GREATEST FISHERMAN – A VIDEO WITH PROOF
- 2014 – LOOKING FOR PARTNER(S).....ATLANTIC SALMON ON THE PONOI RIVER, RUSSIA
- LOOKING FOR PARTNER: THIS MAY/JUNE.....TARPON/PERMIT IN BELIZE
- DELETE THE ANNUAL NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER?
- MARCH MEMORY PHOTOS/STORY – AN ALL-TIMER!!

We are in the eighth 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.

REFLECTIONS: A DOZEN YEARS OF NEW ZEALAND

The photo at right from our recent New Zealand trip depicts a classic NZ scene. The river is at the bottom of an isolated, steep walled, high country canyon. At the back end of this pool, there are two large brown trout feeding. See if you can find them? On the left side, almost half way down, in front of the large rock, is one. The other is almost directly to the right of the first one, about one inch in from the right edge. A tip....don't look for fish – rather, look for dark, straight lines; i.e., their shadows on the bottom. Both of these fish are in excess of six pounds.

The largest fish in the pool doesn't show in the photo – it's at the head of the pool where the white-water riffles end and only shows himself when he comes to the surface to eat. It is the sort of fish that makes your knees get weak and your pulse race when he sticks his nose out of the water and inhales an insect. These three fish comprise the ultimate trout fly fishing triangle!



Note: if you can't find the fish, scroll to the bottom of this newsletter to see a "can't miss" version of the photo.



New Zealand is famous for its sight casting to trophy trout in beautiful streams and rivers. In a dozen years of visiting NZ, we've witnessed some amazing situations relating to large trout feeding in shallow water. However, it's hard to match the scene above topped off by the very large fish at the head of the pool sipping dry flies.

This has been an annual adventure for us since '02 when we fell in love with EVERYTHING that is NZ. What is included in EVERYTHING? Well.....EVERYTHING – the people, the country, the world class accommodations/lodges and guides/hosts/hostesses, the cuisine, and everything even includes the fishing! Some reflections on those dozen

years can be accessed through this link – includes some thoughts on the overall New Zealand experience, the perfect couples trip including some touring, and the importance of the right guide, the secret to successful fishing in NZ..... http://media.wix.com/ugd//02e769_e1c4ba54562ed2da497cc7510beae622.pdf

DESTINATION SLIDE PRESENTATIONS IN FISH FIRST SHOP, SF BAY AREA, APRIL 4

I'll be in the Albany Fish First Shop (near Berkeley) on April 4 from 3:00 until 6:30 with slide presentations available on:

- saltwater flats (Belize and Ascension Bay)
- New Zealand
- Argentina – Golden Dorado (right) and Jurassic Lake
- Alaska
- Giant Brook Trout of the Minipi River, Labrador
- Fernie, BC

If you'd like to make an appointment for a specific presentation, please hit "reply" and let's set a time.....or, just stop in and let's visit.



THE GREATEST FISHERMAN – A VIDEO WITH PROOF

Thanks to Don Smith for providing this link to a video with proof confirming who is the greatest fisherman of all - a classic example of using an "attractor pattern".....click on link to go to  Oiseau-pecheur.mpeg

2014 – LOOKING FOR PARTNER(S).....ATLANTIC SALMON ON THE PONOI RIVER, RUSSIA

When the finest Atlantic Salmon (at right) fisheries are discussed, the conversation usually turns to the Ponoï River on the Kola Peninsula in Russia. As an example of how prolific this fishery can be, the 2012 season saw the same week as referenced below average over 10 fish per day per rod! That is incredible Atlantic fishing. Most knowledgeable anglers put the Atlantic in the same category as a fresh run steelhead at the top of the ladder of the most spectacular fresh water fish!

There is a group of eight fun anglers (most of this group travel regularly with us) who are already booked and deposited for a week in late May. For some of the group, it will be a return trip. They will probably tie in some touring in Russia with the week of fishing, but that is optional. What they are looking for specifically is help in getting the group to ten anglers so they can get the group discount that is available for a group of that size.

This is a very pricey trip which reflects both the quality of the overall operation as well as how spectacular the fishery is. If interested, you should prepare to be in five figures just for the week's fishing on the Ponoï.



LOOKING FOR PARTNER: THIS MAY/JUNE.....TARPON/PERMIT IN BELIZE

We have a veteran of a few previous trips on motherships in Belize looking for a partner to share a tarpon/permit focused trip this May or June using the Meca as their base of operations. Respond ASAP if any interest.

DELETE THE ANNUAL NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER?

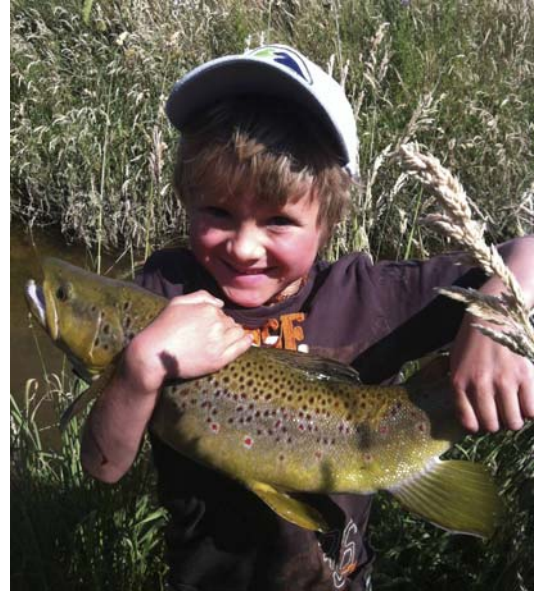
Sometime in the next few weeks, our annual New Zealand newsletter will show up in your inbox. This newsletter will have its usual array of information about:

- how to approach and enjoy a New Zealand trip
- highlights from current trips
- some tips from a NZ veteran who has released over forty browns that weighed over 10 pounds and only fishes the early and late season.

We don't want to be filling your inbox with material you have zero interest in, so if New Zealand is not on your bucket list, just hit delete.

MARCH MEMORY PHOTOS/STORY – AN “ALL-TIMER”

Indeed, this may be the most fun memory photo story ever! It takes four photos and some details to fully communicate the story. On our recent New Zealand trip, we had dinner with some long time New Zealand friends, the Birt family. There we met 5 year old Ruben – in the photo at right. The Birt's own a parcel of land with several acres and on the backside of the parcel is a drainage ditch. Ruben comes running home one day and reports to Dad that he saw a very large trout from the bridge while he was crossing over the drainage ditch.....he's very excited and wants Dad to take him to catch it. Dad thinks, “yeah, sure, a large trout. I've seen a few 8-10 inch fish at times in that ditch, but nothing large.” Dad cracks it up as his son just expressing childhood exuberance over seeing a fish in that ditch. For two hours, Ruben does not relent, insisting that Dad take him to try and catch that fish. Dad finally gives in and says, “OK, let's go take a look.”



When they get to the bridge, Dad observes about a five pound brown trout cruising in this very small body of water, eating whatever he can find on the surface and below. The mood of the day changes with that observation! Using Ruben's rod, father and son take an hour of trying to set things up right so that fish will eat a surface fly that Ruben is presenting – they are making this presentation through the railing on the bridge with the hope of not spooking the fish.

Finally, after repeated attempts and failures, everything get's lined up just right and the fish sees the fly. The photos below.....

Left: fish approaches and is ready to eat.

Center: explosion in the tiny ditch as the hook is set

Right: the best part, Ruben with his rod THAT HE PURCHASED WITH HIS OWN MONEY AFTER CHRISTMAS!



PHOTO CREDITS: Atlantic Salmon – Jerry Saltzgeber

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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