



Belize Update – New Mothership Option



NEW OWNERSHIP OF THE BELIZE MOTHERSHIP OPERATIONS...AND A NEW BOAT

Those of us that utilize the Belize mothership adventure as part of our annual schedule of fly fishing adventures are going to love this news! There is new ownership of the operation in Belize and that ownership reflects the passion that we have for this experience. The new owners are a group of guys that for many years have valued highly their trips aboard the *Meca* and *Seaduction* – in fact, they are the creators of the “Belize Invitational” referenced in the newsletter below. They will be operating two boats – the *Meca* and the new addition, the *Rising Tide* (the *Seaduction* has been mothballed). Heading up the Belize side of the business will be Captain (and partner) Dean Myers, who was Martin McCord’s original mate on the *Meca* and, later, became the captain.

NEW ADDITION – THE *RISING TIDE*



The new mothership available in Belize definitely qualifies for the term “yacht.” And, equally good news, the same crew you have enjoyed, in some cases for many years, will be operating it – see the familiar faces below belonging to Captain Dean, Carol, and Noel. More good news is that trips on the new 58’ Hatteras yacht, *Rising Tide*, for 2010 will be priced very similar to the value prices that have been available on the *Meca* for the last several years. Below are details and pricing on both boats as well as the remaining open timeframes.



Features of the *Rising Tide*:

- Will sleep 2 to 6 guests in three staterooms.
- 3 bathrooms, each with hot and cold water shower (tub in Master stateroom).
- Master stateroom has queen bed (below left).
- Upgraded air conditioning throughout the spacious living (below, right-middle) and dining areas.
- Highest quality furniture and fixtures
- built-in entertainment center with a color TV, VCR, stereo system, cassette deck and CD Changer.
- Horizon VHF and GPS unit.
- Engines are twin Detroit Diesel 8V92TI - 650 Horsepower each.
- Kohler 20 Kw generator with sound shield for quiet operation, and a backup generator.



A BELIZE LEGEND – THE MECA CONTINUES

During the last five years, the *Meca* has hosted at least five times as many fly fisherman as any mothership in Belize (it's probably safe to include any motherships in the entire Caribbean in that statement!). She has been the floating headquarters for many fly fishing exploits including:

- at least 20 IGFA Grand Slams – that we know of.
- a 30 pound permit (photo below right) that was Art Hinckley's 50th (he's now at 58 total permit released with 8 on his last trip).
- many salt water "first timers" taking their initial bonefish, tarpon, permit, and/or snook on a fly.
- numbers of 100+ pound tarpon jumped – and mostly lost.



The *Meca* will be the *Rising Tide's* sister ship. She will have a new captain and crew led by Captain Nathaniel Verde (at right). Nathaniel earned his experience while captaining the *Christina* and *Blue Yonder* out of Belize River Lodge.

THE BELIZE MOTHERSHIP EXPERIENCE

If you'd like more information on the overall Belize experience using a mothership as your floating headquarters, click on this link to go to our Belize newsletter:

<http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/66A.pdf>

Explained in the newsletter are:

- what are the features of the trip that people find appealing and unique?
- a good approach to take in pursuing your first salt water flats trip if you lack casting experience on the flats.
- why it's a great personal experience for family or close friends?
- the "permit express" – the ultimate permit fly fishing adventure visiting the finest permit waters and flats on the globe.
- exciting fly rod exploits from a number of people



2010 RESERVATIONS – OPEN DATES

The first people to receive this news were our past Belize mothership clients to give them their first rights to rebook for 2010. We have now completed the rebooking of our 2009 clients so it's "first come, first served" on the remaining open dates. Here are the months with open slots:

RISING TIDE

Jan - 2 open weeks
Feb - 2 open weeks
Mar - 1 open week
Apr - full
May - 2 open weeks
Jun - 2 open weeks
July - 1 open week
Aug - 2 open weeks

MECA

With the new addition, the *Rising Tide*, getting most of the attention for 2010, the *Meca* has good availability for every month as of now.



PRICING – A “DISCOUNTED YEAR” FOR START UP!

The Belize mothership trip has always been the best value in the world of salt water fly fishing....and it's going to be an even better value for 2010. There will be special pricing for both boats during 2010, the “start up year” for the new owners. The pricing for the *Rising Tide* for the year of 2010 will be very similar to the 2009 pricing for the *Meca* for the standard 7 night trip:



Party of two (one guide and skiff): \$7,000 (\$3,500 per person)
Party of three (two guides/skiffs): \$8,600 (\$2,866 per person)
Party of four (two guides/skiffs): \$10,000 (\$2,500 per person)
Party of five (three guides/skiffs): \$12,500 (\$2,500 per person)
Party of six (three guides/skiffs): \$15,000 (\$2,500 per person)
Extra guide and skiff: \$1,500

Pricing for the *Meca* will actually be reduced for the “start up year” in 2010:
Party of one or two (one guide and skiff): \$5,400 (\$2,700 per person)
Party of three (two guides/skiffs): \$7,900 (\$2,633 per person)
Party of four (two guides/skiffs): \$9,200 (\$2,300 per person)
Extra guide and skiff: \$1,500



Price includes transfers between the international airport in Belize City, lodging on the boat, meals, bottled water, soft drinks, good supply of local Belikan Beer, and guiding.

Not included: personal beverages (alcohol), fishing equipment, and gratuities.

COMBINE SNORKELING AND DIVING?

Many of our long time Belize mothership clients combine some snorkeling and/or diving with their fly rod hunting pursuits. The Belize barrier reef is the second largest in the world (next to the Australian reef) and provides excellent snorkeling opportunities that are easy to work into a day on the water. For diving, arrangements have to be made with one of the dive shops on the reef since the motherships are not equipped to supply diving from the boat. However, it is not difficult to set up dive arrangements.

Photo credits: tarpon – Brad Young; permit – Art Hinckley; bonefish – David Blackbird; snook – Steve Mitchell

Please hit “reply” or give a call to discuss your possibilities for 2010.

Thanks,
Don Muelrath
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