



Christmas Island Flat



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## FLY FISHING ADVENTURES TRAVEL NEWSLETTER – MARCH '08

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We are in the sixth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on great fly fishing venues, trip reports and insights for our traveling fly fishers. We want to help you match the right location with your fly fishing goals and objectives and properly prepare you to fully enjoy the experience. We've been to most locations and pride ourselves on our ability to research new sites. One of our services is to compare and contrast different lodges/outfitters. 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.

### CHRISTMAS ISLAND REPORT



Recently returned from a trip to Christmas Island in the South Pacific were Greg Schurger (with GT at left), Pete Rodrigues (center with Wahoo), and the Prime Time Advance Party gang from Oregon consisting of Steve Rewick, Loren Irving (right - Blue Fin Trevally), Dan Re, and Joe Bankofier.

While Christmas Island earned its reputation as a great bonefish fishery with miles and miles of extensive flats, the variety of species is what attracts many veteran salt water flats anglers. In addition to the bones, the group took Blue Fin Trevally, Giant Trevally (including 3 fish between 20 and 30#), and offshore species that included Wahoo and Yellowfin.

Some of the specific comments included –

Greg: “Christmas Island is an unbelievable fishery in the middle of the Pacific. 1300 miles south of Hawaii, just far enough to keep the hordes away and preserve the fishery. Spent a week fishing with the best native guides - two days dedicated to blue water hitting a great Wahoo bite, three days after bonefish and one day after the Giant Trevally.”

As the anointed spokesman for the PT Advance Party, Steve (left w/GT) commented: “Had a great trip to Christmas. We did have some winds in the 20-30 mph range....a buddy and I and caught big Giant Trevally of 22 and 29 pounds.....the bone fishing was good with some small trevally thrown in.....the guides were all top notch and very instructive. Peter, the head guide, had everything down to a T.”



Christmas bonefish



## **REDEFINING “REALLY” HITTING IT RIGHT IN THE AMAZON!**



The definition of “hitting it right” while fly fishing for Peacock Bass in the Amazon keeps getting redefined. During the early part of 2007, our newsletter was filled with client reports and photos from “hitting it right” with peacock bass in the Amazon. Then last month’s newsletter had the fabulous results obtained by guys fishing from the houseboat operation upriver from the main lodge. Now comes another report from Herb Newman (at left) and Rex Setzer (below right) who were on the same trip referenced in last months newsletter.

How is “really” hitting it right now defined? How ‘bout defining it as two guys fishing together for the week taking 27 peacock bass over 10 pounds with several in the 13-14# range and a large fish of 18 pounds!!! These results were obtained by casting flies and poppers at the only “fly fishing only – catch and release” operation in the Amazon on the clear water Agua Boa River system. It should be noted that both Rex and Herb had the advantage of experience, this being their second trip to the Agua Boa, having fished from the main lodge last year.



After monitoring the exciting reports coming from this very special fly rod adventure for the last few years, I’m not sure what will happen next.....but it’s hard to imagine a pair of fly fishers topping this for sheer numbers of 10+ pound fish in one week?

Herb and Rex put together a descriptive photo journal of their adventure which you can access through this link: [Agua Boa Amazon Lodge Photo Journal-Herb Newman](#)

## **BELIZE PERMIT REPORT – HEAVY PRESSURE NEAR PLACENCIA?**



Steve Littig, Art Hinkley, and Mike Bertoldi are “hard core” permit fishermen who annually take an 11 day trip on the Meca live-aboard in Belize. They cover all the best permit flats on the globe during their trip, pursuing this most prized and challenging of all fly rod targets. Over the years, the route their trip has taken has evolved. Their most recent trips have begun in Belize City (where they board the Meca) and fish their way south, finishing with the flats in the area of Placencia and flying out of that southern Belize town.

This February’s trip was successful with several nice fish taken, including the beautiful 18 pounder pictured with Steve, one of his three permit released.

Throughout the last several years, Placencia has developed a reputation for great permit fishing and it appears that reputation may be hurting the fishing in that area. Some comments from their trip:

“That afternoon we moved the Meca down to Tarpon Cay (near Placencia). The fish there were incredibly spooky. We think they are getting too much pressure from the lodge there and the boats from Placencia. On every flat we fished it felt like someone else had recently been there. One time we left a flat to go to another flat that someone else had just left, and they went to the flat that we had just left.....Even Lincoln Westby (owner of Blue Horizon Lodge) stopped by and expressed the same concern about the pressure. I think the next trip we won't go further south than Blue Grounds.”

Hopefully, we're not going to see a repeat here of a situation observed in so many destinations on the globe where unique and special fishing was once found – too many fisherman chasing too few fish resulting in destroying the quality of the fishery by over-pressuring the fish. Some restraint by all interested parties, plus some sound fisheries management, can make all the difference. Can't imagine the Belize government supplying the leadership to make this happen so who knows what happens next?

(Note: the trip also resulted in Art Hinckley taking his 50<sup>th</sup> permit, a very special fish in more ways than one! The April news will provide more details)

## CHILEAN ANDES – OUR FAVORITE SPOT



The Chilean Andes provide a spectacular backdrop for a fly fishing adventure. Over the years, we have found our favorite Andes destination to be in one of the few remaining areas that doesn't attract a lot of attention or traffic. So many areas in Patagonia are losing the “remote feeling” that was present 10 or 15 years ago, due to the numbers of visitors. Russell Schreck recently visited what has become our favorite Patagonian lodge and his comments reflect why the area covered by this particular lodge and the options offered are special:

“We had an outstanding trip in the Chilean Andes. Everything from the food and accommodations to the guides and overall service attitude was exemplary. We caught a combination of rainbows and browns, mostly on the surface, with many fish over 20 inches and at least 6 over 24” with a 27” brown the largest. One highlight of the trip was an overnight float trip through the Andes, spending the night in a riverside cabin. We didn't see another angler all week, except for those with us at the lodge. It certainly had a remote feeling to the entire trip.”

## SPECIAL NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER COMING.....IF YOU HAVE INTEREST

Within the next week or so, we'll be sending out what has become our special annual New Zealand newsletter. If you have any interest in New Zealand and its unique stalking and sight fishing for trophy browns and rainbows in its crystalline rivers and streams, you may want to read it. This advance notice is provided in the interest of not filling up your mailbox with what you may consider junk – if you have no interest in New Zealand, just hit delete when you see it.

**PHOTO CREDITS:** Christmas Island flat – banner photo, Loren Irving; Christmas Island photos – Greg Schurger, Steve Rewick, Loren Irving; Peacock Bass – Rex Setzer and Herb Newman; permit – Steve Littig.

Either phone or drop us an e-mail if you have questions or would like more information about any of our destinations.

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