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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 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 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.

ARGENTINE PATAGONIA – PART THREE OF OUR ‘TIP TO TIP’ ADVENTURE

Parts one and two of our “Argentina tip to tip” reports, covering the diversity of the Argentine fishery, were in the February and March newsletters. The subjects of those reports, in photo essay format, were Jurassic Lake and Golden Dorado in the Parana River. The focus of this month’s report is the traditional Patagonia trout fishing on the eastern edge of the Andes in Western Argentina. A link is provided at the end of the report for those wishing to see the more detailed, complete report.

Watching trout swim and feed in their natural environment has always held a fascination for me. More so, watching them approach and eat your fly is even a greater thrill. And for me, the greatest thrill of all is to capture the sequence of those activities with a camera. We had several of those opportunities on the Chimu River in a stretch of seven miles of protected water as it meanders across the Tipiliuke Estancia.

Below, the trout’s view of a take:

“That looks like it might be tasty. Let’s take a closer look.....I want it.....something feels strange.....!!!”



“OOPS”

View from the other side

Let’s do that again sometime.



On our recent Argentina trip, before we moved on to do battle with Golden Dorado, Josh Luft-Glidden and my wife, Marte, and I visited Argentine Patagonia and its classic trout fishing waters. Josh's itinerary included waters from near Esquel in the south to San Martin in the north. Due to some late hassles with plane schedules, Marte and I were restricted to the world famous lodge of Tipiliuke near San Martin. Tipiliuke was recently honored with the Sporting Classics Award Of Excellence as the world's top fishing lodge of 2011.

TIPILUKE

The charm of Tipiliuke as a world class fly fishing lodge begins with the Chimihiuin River. Guests visiting the lodge can fish the waters in the surrounding area, but most never wander off the estancia to fish.



The Chimihiuin is a classic trout river with a good population of fish and a solid average fish size with the possibility of a trophy-sized fish (at left below, healthy brown rests in the shade).....both browns and rainbows.



The Chimihiuin has lots of variety with smaller braids, willow covered sections, boulder strewn areas, brush piles, overgrown banks – even its own spring creek (above, right).

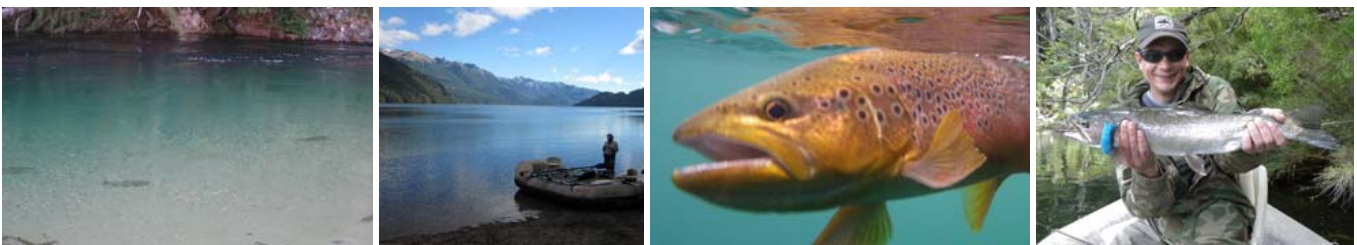
A variety of activities makes Tipiliuke more than just a fishing lodge. From bird watching to horseback riding, there is an array of guided non-fishing activities that make this a very attractive stay for a non-fishing spouse.

From the outdoor sportsman's point of view, there are a variety of hunting experiences in addition to the fishing. This is best represented by the Tipiliuke Grand Slam, a very unique Grand Slam. The 'Slam consists of:

- brown trout of at least 16" and rainbow of a minimum of 18"
- 5 California quail
- 1 snipe
- a wild boar of at least 100#
- a Red Stag with a minimum of ten points

SOUTH TO ESQUEL

The corridor from just north of San Martin south to Esquel and on to the Chilean border crossing at Paso Futaleufu is Argentina's trout heartland. This 800 km stretch of land that borders the eastern slope of the Andes is home to such famous Argentine rivers, in addition to the Chimihiuin, as the Malleo and Colon Cura. After his stay at Tipiliuke, Josh Luft-Glidden (below, right) fished in the greater Esquel area with independent guides and enjoyed productive fishing.....and good guides. Some photos from his time there follow.



If you have interest in more detail and photos, this link will take you to our complete report on this part of Argentina: <http://flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/patagonia.pdf>

BELIZE REPORTS: FIRST PERMIT, LARGE COBIA, SURFACE TARPON



The section of the Belize barrier reef at left is one of the most spectacular spots in the realm of salt water flats fishing for casting to tailing permit. Over the last twenty plus years, I've spent many, many hours pursuing tailing permit in the rollers coming over the reef at this spot. Very difficult fishing.....permit fishing is challenging enough, but when you add in the dimension of the wave action in the shallows on top of the reef, it becomes almost impossible.....but it is the most beautiful place in the world to fail at catching permit, especially at sunset.

This photo was taken by Terry and Gary Butts (below with baby tarpon) on their recent mothership trip on the Rising Tide, their third Belize mothership trip. This year, they were joined by some friends, the Talbotts. Dallas Talbott was on his only second salt water fly fishing adventure. This trip would be special for both Gary and Dallas as they would take and release their first permit (Dallas at right).

Gary's comments on the overall experience: "From my perspective, the Belize Motherships (Meca & Rising Tide) offer unique access to some of the best saltwater flats fishing in the Americas. In contrast to fixed based lodges, the client is free to choose the fishing location, the target species, the fishing schedule, cocktail hour, and dinner time. The number of permit I have seen in the last 2 years is astounding and when the stars are aligned just right, you might actually catch one or two with a fly."



Bob Woznicki and Ed Kruse had some unique top water action on their recent Meca mothership trip. Excerpted from Bob's report on the trip: ".....while casting 500 grain sink tip lines for tarpon in the evening, I decided to switch to a dry 12 wt line as some rolling tarpon were appearing in the channel. I tied on a Pole Dancer, a Striped Bass fly that we use for top water action. It looked good on the water and didn't take long for a 100+ tarpon to find and inhale it. The battle lasted a little over an hour before the 60lb fluorocarbon shock tipped wore thru. Next time, I'll use 100lb mono. I did land a 40 pounder (below, at right) the following morning, again with a top water fly....."



Staying with the top water theme, Ed took the permit above on a Crease fly. Taking tarpon and permit in Belize on surface flies.....not a common occurrence. Ed also took the Cobia, above center – finding cobia while

looking for tarpon and permit is not unusual, but this was the largest we know of taken with a fly in Belize.....however, not on the surface – the Cobia was taken with a Blanton Flashtail Clouser subsurface.

LOOKING FOR PARTNERS.....SOME LATE OPENINGS

KAMCHATKA: Now that the flight from Anchorage to Kamchatka has been reinstated, interest in this remote fishery is picking up. One of our globe hopping clients is booked for a two week Kamchatka adventure in late August and early September. His trip is split – half on a float trip with stationary camps and the other half with a lodge experience. Could be interested in someone accompanying him.

ALASKA: Four guys are booked into a rugged Alaska float trip in mid August. Trip is geared for rainbows and silvers. Have two slots open to join them.

AFRICA: Best combination of pursuing Tiger Fish and game viewing in Africa most likely takes place in the Lower Zambezi National Park where the fish have been protected from native netting. Have a single who's booked for this adventure in mid-October (prime time for both) – would consider someone joining him.

BELIZE HOSTED MOTHERSHIP TRIP: The Fish First shop has a Rising Tide trip booked for May 21 – 28. The trip will be hosted by owner/manager Leo Siren and has one slot open.

RISING TIDE, BELIZE: a few prime time weeks are still open on the Rising Tide in Belize: 5/31 – 6/7 and 7/5 – 12. Website - www.flyfishbelize.com

ASCENSION BAY: Beginning June 1, one of the top Ascension Bay lodges is offering a 2 for 1 special.

BOB CAZORT PASSES



Many of our readers will recognize the smiling face at left. Bob just lost a long battle with lung and heart issues and passed on. He was a big fan of the Belize mothership experience and recruited many others to take the trip. He knew every mangrove bush in Belize that ever held a baby tarpon or snook and that's basically all he fished for during his 3 or 4 trips each year. In recent times, he would show up in Belize carrying an oxygen tank – Bob was a warrior, a real Texan who lived life on his terms.....we'll miss him. He often said that when he left this world, he wanted to have his ashes spread across the water in Belize. His son-in-law, Taylor Collins, will make that happen when he goes down in August.

APRIL MEMORY PHOTO

Jeff Reinke sends this cool underwater photo of a Goodnews River Silver Salmon. The pink fly is a subtle accent.

PHOTO CREDITS: Esquel – Josh Luft-Glidden; Belize, 1st half – Terry and Gary Butts; Belize, 2nd half – Bob Woznicki

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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