



Baby Tarpon airborne



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FLY FISHING ADVENTURES TRAVEL NEWSLETTER – JUNE '07

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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.

AMAZON'S PREMIER LODGE EXPANDS WITH HOUSEBOAT OPTION



Our February and March '07 newsletters carried accounts of exciting trips to the only "exclusively fly fishing" lodge in the Amazon (all our newsletters can be viewed on the "newsletter page" on our website www.flyfishingadventures.org). This lodge, on a clear water river system, has provided an incredible Amazon experience for a few dozen of our clients over the last two years.

Recently, the lodge (which is being renamed) was sold to new owners committed to improving and expanding this unique experience. Their initial plans include operating a houseboat for a maximum of 6 fishermen. This new operation will begin with this coming season, far upriver from the lodge. This houseboat has been in existence for a few years, but utilized primarily by the past lodge owner for personal friends.

Those that have fished this upper region the last few years have reported amazing results, including several 15+ pound peacock bass taken on the fly. Indeed, on our trip 18 months ago, the best single day of our week was had by a couple, Jane and Larry

Henderson. They spent a day and a long boat trip to sample some of these waters and took 60+ fish, including thirteen weighing in at over 10 pounds.





While the lodge has been sold out for some time for the prime time next season, the houseboat operation, because it's new, still has several top weeks with openings. They are offering a special introductory year price of \$4,000 per week for the houseboat (the regular lodge week runs \$4,600 beginning January 1). Several trip reports and rundowns on this trip are at the bottom of the Amazon page on the website, including a photo collection from the Henderson's fabulous day upriver. Hit "reply" if you'd like additional info.

CAMPECHE BABY TARPON – TRIP REPORT

In the last month, we've had two groups visit the city of Campeche on the Mexican Yucatan to pursue the baby tarpon this coastline has become known for. This report comes from Leo Siren. Leo was accompanied by a group of six from the Fish First shop.



"Campeche is an old colonial town with a lot of history and a heavy Spanish influence and was an interesting backdrop for our adventure. There was lots of water to fish with 40 - 50 miles of coastline with mangrove channels and rivers. Also, shallow grassy flats extended for miles off shore and held schools of 20 to 50 fish in the 10 - 20# range. The heavy winds for much of our week limited the flats productivity so we focused primarily on the mangrove edges. Basically this was sight casting from a poled skiff to baby tarpon of 2 - 3# to 15# with a few snook also available. The baby tarpon is like his big brother - when hooked, his aerial antics provide an adrenalin rush. Even though half of our group had never caught a tarpon, everyone caught fish. Generally, it was 4 or 5 fish jumped per day and 1 or 2 fish landed per guy. The hotel provided super accommodations, the food was good, and it was a well run operation with good equipment and boats. Everyone had a good time."



AGEING WITH YOUR FLY ROD



Never thought I'd be in this position - 63 years old with bad knees and wondering how I'm going to continue my fly rod passion into my 80's.....or at least late 70's. You begin to wonder how many more years you have left traipsing up the beautiful rivers of New Zealand on a daily basis. You begin to realize the years for this type of experience have a limit. Physical adventures, like fishing New Zealand (which can involve lots of walking over riverbed stones and, possibly, aggressive wading) are not for the aged or infirm, or at the least, require a day off more often as the years go by. Jim Taylor, while fishing together in NZ a few years ago, first brought this to my attention when he asked, "how

many more years of this type of physical exertion do we have left?" (Note that Jim is in excellent shape for someone that is MUCH older than I am – Jim and one of his many NZ trophies at above/left)



When I consider salt water flats fishing in my later days, I have an easy answer – have a guide do all the work poling my skiff quietly through the water while I relax in the front on the casting platform. And, more specifically, my favorite salt water experience and one that I've been doing annually for over 20 years, is in Belize. The skiffs with this particular operation are set up with leaning posts on the casting platform (photo at left). These brackets help maintain your balance and keep the weight off the legs (and knees). Over many years, I've learned to love the experience of stalking bonefish, permit, tarpon, and snook from this comfortable and stable "floating casting platform."

Freshwater presents a few more issues because often freshwater fishing involves walking and wading streambeds. Maybe I'll utilize a guide propelled drift boat more often. Or, find more operations like the Minipi River where we can stalk cruising trophy brookies from a guide-paddled canoe....or the Amazon, where much of the fishing can be done from a poled skiff. Certainly, first class lodges with private waters, like Three Forks Ranch, offer great stream fishing with limited walking and easy wading.



Five years ago, many of us older folks were inspired by a contribution from Ray Hallberg. After many years of saltwater flats fishing, Ray, at 86 years old, had just captured his first saltwater flats grand slam (permit, tarpon, bonefish in the same day) while fishing in Belize. Over several years of fishing together, his Belize guide and he had created a relationship where, as Ray's ageing eyesight failed, the guide became Ray's eyes and steered his casting to the target with verbal instructions. I recall Ray mentioning how, as he got older, he let the fishing "come to him a little more" than he did when younger. Ray's inspiring report on ageing with your fly rod can be found in total at the bottom of the Belize page on our website (Ray with Belize tarpon at left).

If anyone has other contributions to add to this short list for us "baby boomers," please send them along. Maybe we'll add a page to our website titled "For Old Farts Only."

A 43 POUND RAINBOW AND THE PERFECT CATFISH "FLY"

Ever wonder what the perfect giant catfish fly may be? How 'bout a small basketball? Can you imagine seeing something that looked like a ball bouncing on top of the water only to find it was attached to a catfish? Somehow, this catfish wedged his mouth over this small basketball and couldn't let go. The ball had to be deflated in order to set the fish free.



What does a 43 pound rainbow trout look like? This is the new world record (not fly caught) from Lake Diefenbaker. What a gut!!



PHOTO CREDITS

Scott Ellison with Peacock, Bill Pitman with 16# peacock, Amazon Caiman, baby tarpon, Bob Woznicki photos of Leo Siren holding baby t. and baby t. in the air, baby tarpon on mangrove edge, Jim Taylor/NZ brown, leaning posts on Meca skiff – Belize, stalking sipping brookies on the Minipi, Ray Hallberg w/Belize tarpon and guide Martin McCord, catfish courtesy of Al Bowen, 43# rainbow courtesy of Nancy Siegler.

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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