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We are in the sixteenth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on the 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.

REOPENING REPORT – CASA AND PLAYA BLANCA LODGES

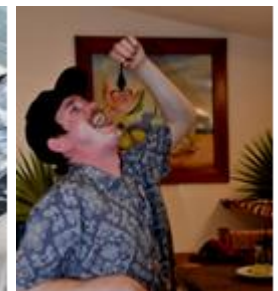


We were there last week as September marked the reopening of the two world class lodges on the Mexican Yucatan – the sister lodges, Casa Blanca (Ascension Bay) and Playa Blanca (Espiritu Santo Bay). For me, this was a “Back To The Future” trip as we have been to these lodges several times in the 90’s and early 2000’s. The lodges are located about 12 km’s apart on a beautiful Caribbean coastline. Access is had via a 40 minute charter plane ride south from Cancun.

For our week, there were only three of us at Casa Blanca and two anglers at Playa B. This allowed us to rotate our fishing days between the two bays, Ascension on the north and Espiritu Santo to the south (note: this rotation does not work during most seasons when both lodges are usually full). I was traveling with Art Hinckley and we were joined at Casa Blanca by Joe Dudra, a veteran Casa B. regular who

spends about six weeks a year fishing here (and has released over 200 permit). At left is Joe with a nice permit.

Below, l to r: lodge photo shot from charter flight; snook: permit release; a young angler, Spencer McHaney, fishing with his Dad, took his first permit on a fly during their trip. One of the lodge traditions is (for those who take their first permit) eating a scorpion with a shot of tequila – Spencer fulfills the tradition!



Fishing in each bay vacillates as permit schools move in and out of the two bays. For our week, the baby tarpon (to about 45#) and snook (to 14#) were more productive in Ascension while there seemed to be better permit

action in Espiritu Santo. There is also a prolific bonefishery, but during our week, no one was fishing bones. Overall, the five of us released over a dozen permit. The fishing in each bay, and comparatively, can vary on a day to day basis.

Below, l to r: baby tarpon; slick water was often present, making the wary permit especially difficult; a large permit, hooked by Joe, fell victim to a shark during the battle; an osprey builds her nest.



The entire fishery is located in the environmentally protected 1,000+ square mile Sian Ka'an Biosphere, a World Heritage Site. Since it had been almost 20 years since our last trip, it was rewarding to see that the sea-life (including the sport fish) protections have actually been increased and are enforced. Native netting of the fish is illegal and the numbers of giant sea turtles we saw were astonishing, compared to our earlier trips. We had days when 30 or more sea turtles were encountered.

20% BELIZE REOPENING DISCOUNT – RISING TIDE

We are more than a little anxious to get back to some of our favorite salt water flats.....above we helped reopen Casa Blanca in September. In October, we will be there for the Belize reopening and four of us will be on the Rising Tide (Belize reopened on Oct 1).

The Rising Tide captain, Dean Myers, wants to fill some open slots he has during the next four months and is offering a flat 20% discount on all bookings between Nov 1, 2020 and Feb 15, 2021. This is the website for the Rising Tide trip: www.flyfishbelize.com

REOPENING NEWS – FAVORITES LIKE NZ, SEYCHELLES, SOUTH AMERICA, NINGALOO

NEW ZEALAND: Closed as of now. No one knows for sure what is going to happen when their season opens in November. There is a prime minister election on Oct 17 that could have a large influence on the reopening approach. Assuming NZ does open, the top guides and lodges, which are normally fully booked a year in advance, will have open slots on the calendar.

NINGALOO REEF - EXMOUTH, AUSTRALIA: Same as NZ without the election.

SEYCHELLES, ALPHONSE ISLAND: open and early season reports are strong.

LAGO STROBEL (JURASSIC LAKE), ARGENTINA: Will be open for the new season. Jurassic rainbow - right.

SOUTH AMERICA: In general, South American destinations will be opening soon for their new season. Space is still available at some of the lodges that are normally fully booked by this time.



SOME LOWER 48 STUFF.....

While international travel was, for the most part, difficult this summer, many revisited some favorite haunts in the USA. Terry and Gary Butts have been frequent New Zealand travelers in past years and found a small slice of NZ in Wyoming this summer. That's Terry at right with a NZ style brown. Gary reported: "We caught 5 of similar size that day. Note size of stream (a small trib to one of our favorite streams). Very New Zealand like."

Son Scott and friend, Kim Laur, do their version of a Northern California fly fishing tour almost every fall. In addition to the banner photo from the Pit River, they captured some of their other highlights with these photos:





WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES

This is a link with a description of who we are and what we do – at no cost to you.....also, listing the destinations around the world that we have covered. Our reliable information will help you properly prepare for your trip and create realistic expectations.....and maybe prevent missteps. [Fly Fishing Adventures - About What We Do](#)

FUNNY HUSBAND-WIFE STORY FROM THE AMAZON



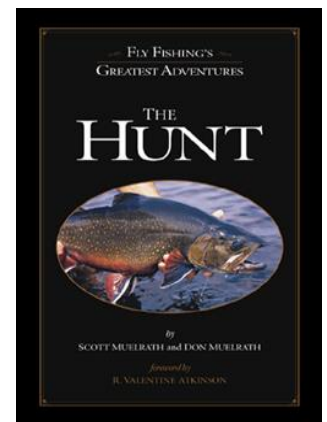
Annette (at left with Peacock Bass) and Rob Pizzie fish all over the world – from New Zealand to the Seychelles, they’ve used a lot of air miles. Before you read this story, you must know that they REALLY ARE a loving couple. Rob relates, with his usual creative and humorous touch, the story of what happened on their Amazon trip this year.....“Well, we were four days in and standing in the skiff on a beautiful morning. The guide was high on his platform and Annette and I were casting to hordes of butterfly peacock bass. The guide and I moved in unison to one side of the boat, creating an imbalance, and Annette flew over the side into the piranha, stingray, and crocodile infested water. Horror! She was using my favorite rod and reel and she had her cell phone in her pocket with pictures of my big fish on it. I moved quickly, secured the cell phone and rod/reel, and then hauled her back into the boat. Man that was close!”

AN AWARD FOR FLY FISHING ADVENTURES



Prior to this year, the last award we received was in 2006, the year we published THE HUNT – FLY FISHING’S GREATEST ADVENTURES (cover at right). The first edition of THE HUNT was awarded Book Of The Year honors in the category of “Sports, Recreation, and Fitness” by the Independent Book Publishers Of America.

We are located in Napa in No. California. This month, Fly Fishing Adventures was recognized, in the category of “Fishing And Hunting Guide Services,” as the BEST OF NAPA 2020 - at left. The reality is that Napa does not have many outfitters or guide services so the competition was certainly not as intense as encountered by THE HUNT for Book Of The Year honors. That being stated, all recognition is appreciated – at least someone likes us.



OCTOBER MEMORY PHOTO

September is the time for large rainbows in Alaska. Art Hinckley was there last month and had this report: “Caught a lot of nice fish in Alaska. Biggest was 28 inches. Had 3 on 30 inches or bigger, but couldn’t get them landed. Weather was perfect all week.”

PHOTO CREDITS: banner – Kim Laur and Scott Muelrath; Casa Blanca – Joe Dudra, Art Hinckley; Jurassic rainbow – Gary Hughes; big brown – Gary Butts; No Calif – Kim Laur, Scott Muelrath; Amazon – Rob Pizzie.



An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
Don Muelrath
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