

NEWSLETTER #8 - OCTOBER 2002

TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE

- Belize trip report
- Dean River and Combo Trip Update
- Ladies Week highlights
- Tierra del Fuego/New Zealand Availability
- Delta and other exciting fly fishing reports

This is the eighth edition of our monthly newsletter with updates on great fly fishing venues 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 most places and pride ourselves in the ability to research new locations – and 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.

A FLYFISHER IS NEVER THE SAME AFTER

sight casting in three feet of water to a 90+ pound tarpon over 5 feet long just 40 feet from the skiff, watching it inhale the fly, explode into the air with gill rattling jumps, peel off over 200 yards of backing in a few seconds, take to the air again and throw the fly.....or, stalking a school of large tailing permit, casting, and watching this premier fly fishers trophy grab your crab imitation and head for the reef. Don Nelson and David Pogran joined Keith Westra (Lafayette shop mgr.) and Josh Frazier in mid-October on a Leland shop trip to Belize aboard the Meca with Captain Martin McCord. They had lots of tarpon (jumped over a dozen), permit, bonefish type action including the incidents above. Also, captured some great variety with Josh and Keith's skiff having a day that included bonefish, a snook, 8 pound cobia, sheepshead, and ten-pound mangrove snapper – all sight cast to on shallow flats or mangrove edges. Everyone reported it was a great trip and David captured the essence of the experience with his following thoughts – “.....It was a lot of fun and a very different experience. The mothership, the Meca, serves as a kind of aquatic RV and tows two flats boats..... go to different areas difficult or impossible for land based lodges to reach.....major focus of the trip was tarpon and permit. The bonefishing is fun, but not the big draw.”

Next scheduled Leland hosted trip to Belize on the motherships Meca and Seaduction is September 19 – 26 for six anglers and we're currently taking reservations for that trip. Of course, other weeks are available for charter, but that will be the Leland hosted trip week. The Meca currently has open weeks in every month but March and April for groups of 3 or 4; the Seaduction handles groups of two.

POSSIBLE LELAND BELIZE TRIP THIS JAN OR FEB???

Some of the guys on the trip referenced above have expressed interest in returning early next year. There are some open dates in Jan and Feb where a joint charter could be arranged. Via this message, we're taking temperatures to see if there is enough interest to put this trip together as a hosted Leland trip with Keith Westra from the Lafayette shop. We would have to decide in the next few weeks, so if you have any interest or questions, let me or Keith know soon.

DEAN RIVER STEELHEAD AND COMBO TRIPS FOR SUMMER '03 FULL

All twelve of our spots at Blackwell's Dean River Steelhead Lodge for next summer are full. Also full is the Dean River/Moose Lake lodge combination trip week (the combo trip only happens one week a summer) that you've seen mentioned in the past two newsletters. Moose Lake Lodge with fly outs for outstanding dry fly rainbow fishing (as well as many varieties of salmon) still has space available during some of the prime time. If you would like to get on the candidate list for either the Dean River or the combo trip for '04, let us know.

LELAND LADY FLY FISHERS OF THE SUMMER OF '02

Dee Dee Monte, Noel Greenfield, Julia Mitchell and her mother, Janet, became our first gals to experience Ladies Week at Three Rivers Ranch in eastern Idaho. All reported having a great time and learning a lot about fly fishing. Julia's comments follow:

"My mom and I had a great time! The Ranch is wonderful and the staff are amazing. We fished the Henry's Fork, the South Fork of the Snake, and the Teton Rivers. Our guide was a total delight. We caught some great fish and the last day was amazing for me. I caught a 18", 19", 21" (rainbows and cutthroats) and a whopping 6pd. 21 inch brown trout."

Congrats to Julia on her "Golden Rod" day – she's now spoiled for life – and thanks to all the gals for being our "pioneers" at Three Rivers Ranch Ladies Week, one of the truly great fly fishing lodges in the US.

Leland's Ladies Week at Three Rivers next summer is July 26 – Aug 1. Three Rivers fills up very early so if you'd like more details, give a call.

SHOP DAYS NEXT TWO TUESDAYS

I'll be in the Lafayette shop next Tuesday, Nov 5, and the San Francisco shop the following Tuesday, Nov 12. If you'd like to discuss possible destinations, view slides of different locations, or just visit about exciting fly fishing venues, come on in. If you have specific interests you'd like to discuss, it's best to let me know beforehand so that I can have the specific slides you'd like to see with me. When possible, I like to work with appointment times so that when you come in, you won't be delayed in getting the information you want. Generally, I'll be available from mid-morning to mid-afternoon unless we have a specific appointment time earlier or later.

TIERRA del FUEGO - RIO GRANDE OPENINGS A POSSIBILITY

We may have a line on some openings on the Rio Grande River for the giant sea-run brown trout for this season. If this is on your list of fly fishing fantasy "must do's", let's get together on the possibilities.

ONE REMAINING SPOT ON NEW ZEALAND TRIP

We have one spot still open for our week at Poronui Ranch in New Zealand hosted by Josh Frazier. The dates are Feb 15 – 22 and can be combined with other activities/locations in New Zealand.

STRIPER ACTION IN THE DELTA IS HOT

Check out these reports:

Bruce Rollans reports that delta guide, Mike Costello, had a day two weeks ago with 4 fish over 10 pounds released at the boat. Paul Wilms took a 24 pounder, also fishing with Mike. Delta expert, Greg Ritland, had a fabulous day with 6 double digit fish (largest 22#) while fishing with Doug Lovell. Note: Doug and Mike are our two favorite delta guides. Lots of big fish showing!!!

OTHER REPORTS

Sallye and Bruce Rollans had lots of action on the lower Sac with several fish in the 18-20" range and one at 23".

Bob Pauli, a very good steelheader (addict is a good word), and his partner took 30 fish in a three day trip in early Oct on the Deschutes. Again, lots of fish in the river.

I was in Belize last week on "business" and did get some time with Charles Westby on the Seaduction. The highlight was my last evening when we released a 17# permit at dark and followed that with a snook and "baby" tarpon caught in the two hours after dark – all three fish were within a pound of 17#. An exciting triple header – personally, love fishing warm, tropical evenings. When the sun goes down in the tropics, lots of things heat up.

Our hosted trip programs for '03 are almost finalized and we should have a complete listing in next month's newsletter. Either call or drop us an e-mail if you have questions or would like more information about any of our destinations

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