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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.

#### CAYO LARGO, CUBA, GROUP EXPERIENCE



The ten fly fishers (and guides) in the photo at left had a good week in early December at Cayo Largo in Cuba. The group consisted of Steve Voss, Jim Eddy, John MacDonald, Huey Cregg, Scott Ehlen, Greg McCoy, Steve Rose, Mac Ehlen, Ron Graybeal, and Bob Wentworth. The group represented a wide range of salt water experience from some “old salts” to their first ever salt water flats fishing trip.

Logistics for this group were simple – they did not want to go through Havana for the touring experience and the extra few days that adds to the trip. Instead, they flew charter out of Cancun directly into Cayo Largo and spent their full week exclusively on Cayo Largo.

Comments from the group best represent the overall experience:

**HUEY CREGG:** “All went smooth and there were no surprises. The fishing was great (although I spent too much time chasing permit ...), the accommodations were fine, and the food was very good (note: not everyone agreed on the quality of the food?).”

**SCOTT EHLEN:** “.....Very organized and professional. Bone fishing was great. Due to the cold front permit were in the channel's. I probably had about 20 shots but no takes. Tarpon - I had probably 10 shots but no takes. Overall a great time was had by all.”

**BOB WENTWORTH:** “The operation at Cayo Largo (Avalon) was first class....guides etc. Everything in Cuba was exactly on time. Class outfit.....This was my first salt water experience. Thoroughly enjoyed it.”

**JOHN MacDONALD:** “Great trip that went smoothly for the most part. Handling in and out of Cancun/Cozumel was excellent. Logistics in Cayo Largo were easy and Avalon staff and guides did a great job for the most part - very helpful and responsive. Pizza and beer at the end of the fishing day were awesome. Hotel and rooms were a little worse for wear though not unexpected for the location. Food was very ordinary until they opened the main restaurant for the weekend.....Minor inconvenience in the big picture. Like most places I have visited, once you are away from the major cities, the people were delightful and genuinely interested in making our visit an enjoyable experience.”

Photos below, l to r: John MacDonald with nice bone; snook were part of the mix – Steve Voss with a snook; Ron Graybeal and Jim Eddy enjoying a moment on the flats; Huey Cregg with a large bone.



**STEVE ROSE:** “Had a great time and Angela is the bomb! Thank you for your efforts, Cuba was way smoother than I anticipated!”

## NEW ZEALAND FISHING AND TOURING REPORT FROM DAN HARTMANN



Cindy (at right) and Dan Hartmann recently returned from their first trip to New Zealand and Dan submitted a very complete report on both the fishing and touring aspects of their trip. What follows, in a short “bullet point” format, are some of the key aspects of his report. The complete report can be accessed through the link following.

- My wife and I spent 26 wonderful days in New Zealand and I fished 9 of them.
- .....excellent fishing - I landed 2 "doubles" - an 11.5 lb (at left) and 10 lb Brown (below, right)!
- one 8.25 lb beauty.....also, 5 other fish over 7 lbs, 6 over 6 lbs and quite a few in the 4-5 lb range.
- it was the best trout fishing I have ever experienced.....
- log cabins were very comfortable and the food was excellent!
- Fishing was just part of our trip and we toured the South Island starting in Abel Tasman National Park.
- We stayed at two outstanding family owned eco-lodges in different areas – coastal and alps.
- guided nature tours were very informative.....great for couples and families.
- the National Parks were unique, beautiful and worth visiting, but Fiordland is the "crown jewel"...
- We finished in Queenstown..... a really fun town with tons to do
- We really enjoyed our first trip to New Zealand - the fishing was fantastic, the scenery unforgettable, and the people as friendly as anywhere we've been!



This link will take you to the complete report on Cindy and Dan’s New Zealand experience: [NEW ZEALAND REPORT - DAN HARTMANN](#)

## NINGALOO REEF ADVENTURE – JUDY AND SHIZ NAKAWATASE REPORT



The Ningaloo Reef, in the northwest corner of Australia, is very familiar to this writer – in a few weeks, I will be making, after a stop in New Zealand, my sixth trip to fish these shallow waters. In my experience, this is a terrific salt water fishery with several different dimensions (giant GT’s, Indo Pacific Permit, world class Golden Trevally, large bonefish, and several other species).

Judy and Shiz Nakawatase enjoyed an experience here and Shiz (at left with Golden Trevally) does a representative job of explaining the fishery and their experiences.

“Ningaloo Reef and Exmouth Gulf are truly amazing fisheries. Miles and

miles of pristine, crystal clear, water with a large number of fish species for fly casters to target. The weather was outstanding ... sunny, hot, cloudless with very little wind. Our guide commented that a little bit more wind might have been helpful in fooling the sharp eyed and wary permit.

(Photos below: Judy with some of her prizes: a 9# bone, "Indio Pacific Tarpon," and Golden Trevally)



In spite of the abundance of fish available, the catching was challenging. But, if you are able to cast quickly, long and accurately, you had an opportunity to be rewarded with some big fish. With over 10 years of guiding in the region, our guide was very good at locating fish. He was very patient when our casting was not up to par and his lunches were exceptional.

Judy and I enjoyed this outstanding fishery. It was a great learning experience and wonderful adventure to visit Australia with it's friendly people, diverse fauna and marine life."

(We have several detailed reports from fishing the Ningaloo Reef on file. If you'd like to receive one or more of these reports, just hit "reply" and ask for it.)

### IN MEMORY – RAY BEST, A WORLD CLASS GUIDE/GUY



Son Scott and I made our first visit to the remote waters of the Minipi River in Labrador, Canada, in 1997. One of our most vivid memories was the time we spent fishing with Ray Best, guide and camp manager. Every other year since '97, we returned and always looked forward to spending time with Ray – he was a special guy! I always wonder how the special ones, like Ray, will be replaced when they leave us? He had a true love, respect, and knowledge of the outdoors and nature and have a true passion for the sport. Ray had all of that and so much more.....we'll miss him!

Lorraine Cooper (long time owner/operator of the Minipi Camps) reported his passing from a serious heart attack after the season closed. Lorraine shared these comments in memory of Ray: "Ray came to the Minipi family back in 1980, a very gregarious young man all of 19 years of age. He was funny and witty and did he know his fishing! I do feel Ray could have become anything

he wanted to be in this life. He had a brilliant and questioning mind, and he possessed superb people skills. He had many an interesting job offer from places all over the world, and scholarships, he could have left Labrador and studied in the best universities... but Ray loved guiding and he was darn good at it. In many ways, Ray was such an example of the resilience of the people of Labrador who have grown up in an inhospitable land and still see the good in every day. That is what Ray did. We are all so much missing him."

### 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](#)

## FEBRUARY MEMORY PHOTO



This outstanding photo captures Susan McCarthy with one of her permit from her first trip on the Rising Tide in Belize.....nice fish, great smile, and pretty water!

**PHOTO CREDITS:** banner photo – Ron Graybeal; Cuba - Bob Wentworth, Ron Graybeal, Jim Eddy, John MacDonald, Huey Cregg, Steve Voss; New Zealand – Cindy and Dan Hartmann; Ningaloo Reef – Judy and Shiz Nakawatase.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,  
Don Muelrath

Fly Fishing Adventures

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