



Fish On From Atop A Beaver Lodge, Alaska

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**SILVERS LIGHT UP THE DOOM**

It's rare that we can produce a trip report that includes torrential rains and high winds, along with a great fishing experience. The group in the photo at right experienced just that in a mid-August week on the Goodnews River in Alaska (l to r: John Zaro, Pat Hagerty, Jim Hine, Tom Phillips, Harry Hendricks, Tim Bottoms, and Tim Quattlebaum).



Every year, at about the same time, the “fresh from the ocean” silvers pour into the Goodnews. It provides arguably the finest silver salmon fly fishing experience on the globe. The rivers braided structure, coupled with the vast numbers of fish, provides the opportunity for many 30-40 fish days that includes exciting surface action where they will attack poppers/flyies.

Silvers over 30 inches were not uncommon with some hogs in the 15# range taken. Below, l to r: John Zaro, Pat Hagerty, Tom Phillips, and Tim Quattlebaum with trophy silvers.



Below, l to r: Jim Hine and Tom with a double of nearly spawned-out Sockeyes. In the background is the beaver lodge in the banner photo on top. Not surprising that only Jim would risk the unfortunate possibilities that could come with casting from on top of the beaver's home. In this case, friendly and sharing beavers welcomed Jim on top of their home! Harry Hendricks and Tim Bottoms with Silvers in the 35 – 38 inch range, which were their largest of the week. All five species of Pacific Salmon (Kings, Silvers, Sockeyes, Chums, and Humpies) use the

Goodnews for their spawning run. Also, a great fishery for Dolly Varden and Rainbows exist. Some upriver options in smaller tributaries were limited due to the heavy rains encountered. Jim with a rainbow.



**Notable comments:**

“For me the trip was wonderful. Was my first trip to Alaska and did not disappoint” .....Pat

“Silver fishing was nothing short of astounding. 30-50+ fish days for pretty much everybody, except that one really nasty day, but even then, John got 40 in the morning” .....Jim

“Lodge was very basic.....Food was good if you returned to the lodge for lunch...Fishing for the most part was fantastic. We had lots of rain and wind which necessitated 1/2 days twice” .....Tim B.

“I would highly recommend Goodness River Lodge to anyone that wants to catch a ton of fish....It did rain heavy and the water was high. We had to wear waders from our cabin to meals for a few days after the big rains. Didn't kill anyone” .....Pat

“From my lens I thought both the staff/guides & location was memorable. The team was dealt with a bunch of headwinds and they responded with grace” .....Tom

“Even with everything going on, there was never a point when i thought i had had enough. The timing of everything every day was perfect and like clockwork. Super enjoyable” .....John

Below, l to r: dark clouds were part of the week resulting in a flooded river. Double headers were not rare. As is traditional at most quality Alaska lodges, some salmon are kept and packed to take home by the anglers.



Note on booking the Goodnews during their prime Silver weeks – this is a world class angling experience and very difficult to book. Getting space the first year requires luck – booking this group was a two year process.

**LEARNING WHILE CATCHING IN BELIZE!**

(Note: This group has done more than a dozen Belize Rising Tide mothership trips, often with kids along. This report defines “hitting it right” in a spectacular tropical setting.)

Overview of the trip from Dad, Michael Berard: “Great trip. We took three kids on this trip, ages ranging from 11 to 13. The kids had a blast. Captain Dean and the crew catered to our every need and made the week of fishing one of the best we've ever had. Austin (my 13-yr old) started using a fly rod for the first time. He caught his first tarpon on fly with Dean and had shots at permit and bones. My 11-year old (Remy), caught his first tarpon trolling in the channel. Max (Ray's 11 year old son)





caught a mammoth permit trolling the channel. All three boys jumped 80-110lb tarpon and caught cuda, bones, jacks, snapper, and snook." Photo at right above: two nice snook with, l to r, Remy, guide Jose, Ray, and Max. Photos below, l to r: Austin began using a fly rod for the first time on this trip and Captain Dean, who is an excellent instructor for first time fly casters, is giving him a beginner's lesson. Captain Dean and Austin reviewing fly choice for the day. The payoff: Austin would get shots at bones and permit with his fly rod and (the highlight) took his first tarpon on the fly with a cast at dusk. Rising Tide anchored at sunset.



Photos below, l to r: Remy, with his first tarpon ever, decided to join the fish for the release; Max with his first bonefish; Remy with a small snook; and Max with a very large permit!



From William Owens: "I have been many times, over the years, on the Rising Tide. The boat has had some really nice upgrades making the stay even more enjoyable. The fishing seems to be getting better since they have banned netting. Captain Dean and the crew go out of their way to make sure you have a great trip."

**GRAND SLAMS FOR DADS** – Michael has had a Grand Slam on the Rising Tide in the past. On this trip, Papa Ray Styons and William joined Michael with their first 'Slams. Below Ray with a snook, permit, and bonefish.



William – below with bonefish, snook, baby tarpon, and permit – had a fabulous trip. It included a Grand Slam that was just inches from being a Super Grand Slam. He and his guide fished through complete darkness trying to get the fourth fish to make it a "Super." William also had a day that qualifies as SUPER SPECIAL with three permit released for the day. He also had a fourth hooked but broke off.





## MORE – BELIZE TARPON AND PERMIT



Bob Ogle joined son Scott and I for the Rising Tide trip that preceded the fathers/sons trip referenced above. Unfortunately, our conditions were not as ideal. Heavy rains the week previous (and some during our week) had the rivers dumping a lot of muddy waters onto many of our favorite coastal flats and essentially closing them down for our trip. Plus, twice we had two day low pressure systems sitting on top of us impacting the shallow permit flats.

Scott (at left with a tiring tarpon) and Bob primarily focused on tarpon while my passion for the best permit opportunities cause some unusual positioning of our “floating lodge,” the Rising Tide. We have learned how to make it work so each of us

get to spend time chasing our preferred species. Regardless of conditions, Scott often finds a way to get his fly into a good number of the silver kings. This trip included a memorable one hour and 45 minute struggle with a 90# tarpon which included a thunder and lightning storm and monsoon type rains.

Below, l to r: “bowing” to a leaping baby tarpon; early stages of a long battle with an approximately 90 pound silver king; during the final stages of the struggle, a tropical storm with high winds and driving rain; with the conditions, this was the best photo that could be obtained of releasing the tarpon.



Below, l to r: unhappy tarpon nears the panga; a 35 pounder ready for release; the last hour before dark is often very productive tarpon time and the mothership schedule allows fishing through dark; permit were difficult but two did find the net, including Captain Dean holding #80 for me (finally caught up with my age!); Bob jumped several nice tarpon, did some terrific video and photo work in driving rain, and boated a great jack after an immense struggle.



## RISING TIDE 2025 CALENDAR

As of today, there is some flexibility in next years booking calendar for the Rising Tide. Each month has at least one open week available. Please ask if you'd like to inquire about an open slot on the calendar. For pricing and details on a Rising Tide mothership trip, website is: [www.flyfishbelize.com](http://www.flyfishbelize.com)

## A NEW ZEALAND WEDDING WITH STYLE

Fiordland, New Zealand provided the backdrop for Melissa and Frank Whitley to begin the rest of their lives together as man and wife. Their approach was unique. Fiordland is a special place and seldom has it been used as well as Melissa and Frank did on their wedding day.

First, the morning of their special day involved using the crystalline streams and rivers to pursue some trophy trout accompanied by one of NZ's finest guides. Then, the afternoon wedding which included incorporating the spectacular scenery of New Zealand with the assistance of a copter. Can it be done any better?



## A NEW ZEALAND RETURN

It had been several years since Angus Smith had fished in New Zealand and some cranky body parts requiring surgery almost prevented his return. However, Irina and Angus did make it work! They spent part of their time in the land of the Kiwi's touring with friends. He began his fishing time with three days in the northern area of the South Island and finished with three more days in Fiordland (photos below).





## WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES

This is a link with a description of who we are and what we do.....also, it lists the destinations around the world where we can provide reliable information and help you prepare for your trip: [Fly Fishing Adventures - About What We Do](#)

## SEPTEMBER MEMORY PHOTO



Jon Markey took his first Belize mothership trip 15 years ago. He was back again on the Rising Tide this summer and took his 5<sup>th</sup> Belize permit

Photo credits: Goodnews – Jim Hine, John Zaro, Pat Hagerty, Tom Phillips, Harry Hendricks, Tim Bottoms, and Tim Quattlebaum; Belize – William Owens, Michael Berard, Ray Styons, Max, Remy, and Austin; Belize #2 – Bog Ogle; New Zealand wedding – Melissa and Frank; New Zealand Return – Angus Smith.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,  
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