

October, 2001

## MOVING FORWARD

Like all our fellow Americans, we were horrified by the events of September 11, 2001. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families of those lost in the tragedy. We agree with President Bush that the only possible course of action is to move forward and bring our economy and institutions back on line. With that in mind, we are moving ahead with all of our hosted and exploratory trips. In addition, we are urging all anglers to pursue their passion and in the process thumb their noses at the terrorists. Let's show the world that Americans will not be held hostage and that we will not be covered by this dispicable act.

On a more pleasant note, Angling Destinations Inc. has just finished the final touches on our "new" website. You can find Angling Destinations on the web at [www.anglingdestinations.com](http://www.anglingdestinations.com). Our site is chocked full of great photography and has extensive information on all our destinations, reports on most of our recent adventures, as well as an archive of all of our past newsletters! If you have any comments, we welcome your input.

## KAMCHATKA REPORT

*I was told there are 400,000 people that inhabit the 750-mile long Kamchatka Peninsula....275,000 of those people live in Petropavlovsk and the remaining 125,000 are spread out in an area greater than the size of Montana. Kamchatka is a truly wild land and you feel you are on the edge of a frontier the moment you enter Russian airspace. Our flight down the peninsula revealed many of Kamchatka's 127 volcanic peaks, some of which still smolder menacingly above endless forests of birch, poplar and cottonwood. After being met at customs in Petro, we were whisked to our helicopter where we quickly loaded gear and then departed on a stunningly beautiful one-hour flight through the central mountains of Kamchatka... a range reminiscent of Idaho's Sawtooth Range. We set down on the Kolpakova, had lunch, put on waders and began a comfortable routine of fish, eat, sleep that I hope will only conclude with our reluctant departure.*

SSH Journal Entry, July 2001



Our July trip to Kamchatka was simply fantastic. From July 21<sup>st</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> we caught dollie varden (averaging 18" to 19" and up to 7 or 8 pounds) on mice, dry flies, streamers and droppered nymphs.

We caught chum salmon on pink streamers, pollywogs and, strangely enough, nymphs. We caught the rare Siberian kundja char (up to 8 pounds) on streamers fished very deep. But it was the abundance of wild rainbow trout that stunned many of the Alaska veterans in our group. One trip participant estimated that there were over 800 rainbows

caught for the week. The largest fish was a bit less than 25 inches and the average fish was around 19 inches. We caught these full-bodied 'bows on streamers and nymphs, but the most fun was the dry fly fishing and the mousing. We had some exquisite dry fly fishing, especially on the cloudy days when size 10 to 16 blond humpies, adams and elk hair caddis alternately worked depending on the hatch.

These rainbows were deep, powerful fish... strong predators anxious to put on weight for the cold Kamchatka winter. We all remarked that these Kamchatka rainbows were very difficult to see. They are perfectly camouflaged for this their native waters. They might be visible when moving but when still, are almost impossible to see. Eons of evolution have made these

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trout perfectly colored to match Kamchatka's cobblestoned river bottoms. We will all remember this when we see rainbows on some of their adopted waters, not quite easy to see, but certainly not invisible.

Technically, we had great luck both dead drifting and stripping various streamers such as leeches and woolly buggers. Forget mending, sloppy fishing works well in Kamchatka! This is true with mice too. Cast across stream or quarter down stream, let a belly form in your line, then pop the mouse on the swing lifting your rod tip to keep the fly on the surface. High floating mice patterns work best especially if they splash a bit when popped. If a stripped mouse was missed by a large 'bow, stopping, then dead drifting the fly often elicited another attack.

The food served was healthy, delicious and plentiful. Breakfasts were traditional with eggs, oatmeal, breads, doughnuts, crepes and Russian-style French toast. Lunches were often taken between casts. Usually we did a shore lunch with two or three fat dollies delicately spiced, then cooked in foil on an open fire. In the evening, we all met in the roomy Hansen Weatherport dining tent for obligatory vodka toasts, followed by sumptuous dinners consisting of chicken, pork chops and cabbage rolls usually preceded with an excellent soup as a first course. Sleeping quarters consisted of either individual 9' x 9' tents (with cots) for those wanting to tent alone or two Weatherport tents for up to three anglers in each. We had hot showers available each night thanks to a wood burning stove that made both the shower tent toasty warm and ingeniously heated the water stored on an exterior homemade water tower. The camp was very comfortable and dry, especially when you consider that this is one of the most remote places on the face of the earth. Inconveniences were few and we all agreed we lacked for nothing.

The two American and two Russian guides use Lowe 16' flat-bottomed jet boats with 60 and 90 horsepower motors. We ran from 50 minutes above camp to 50 minutes below camp...more miles than you could possibly fish in a week.

The river was beautiful with gin-clear water running over a cobblestone bottom. There was plenty of holding water with every riffle, chute, pothole and shelf seemingly holding fish.

One mile of river could easily provide a whole day of fishing and we had 60-70 miles available to us. We saw no other anglers, in fact, we saw no one except for those in our group! To

put this in perspective, this would be the equivalent of nine anglers on one of Alaska's great rivers like the Alagnak or the Kanektok! And also like these famous rivers in Alaska, Kamchatka's Kolpakova has numerous small side channels that often held large trout. The Kolpakova is a beautiful river with classic trout water. We had no bear encounters, but grizzly tracks were evident on many of the Kolpakova's sandy bars.

All in all, this was great fishing with an enjoyable group in a fantastic unexplored wilderness... an unbeatable combination! We are planning to host trips next summer August 18 - 25 and again August 25 - September 2, 2002. Other dates are available from June through September. If you love to fish for wild fish and have the heart of an adventurer, this is a trip for you.



*"I don't know where you could go in the world to get better wild rainbow trout fishing."*

*Dick Hanousek, St. Paul, Minnesota*

## A New Twist on the Mouse

This pattern comes to us from Will Blair of Kamchatka Expeditions. Although there are many effective mouse patterns, this pattern brings something new to the tying table. Many anglers agree that big rainbows are attracted by the sound of a mouse fly hitting the water. By adding the Fly Foam gurgler collar, Will has created a mouse that will attract 'bows by sound throughout the entire swing. Will's Mouse has tested well in Alaska, Kamchatka and on big browns in Wyoming and Montana.

### Will's Mouse



Hook:	TMC 8089, size 6
Thread:	3/0 brown or black
Body:	Spun deer hair can be varigated by color
Eyes:	Optional
Legs:	Round rubber legs black or brown
Gurgler:	Fly Foam tan
Tail:	Brown chamois

The deer hair should be trimmed longer at the tail allowing the fly to plane on the water's surface. The legs and tail provide good action when stripped. This is a silhouette pattern that can be tied quickly making whiskers, ears and noses cute, but more for the fisherman than the fish.

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## THE FUTURE OF OUR SPORT

### THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ANGLING SKILLS

Because in our culture, it is the duty of the experienced to pass on skills to the inexperienced, and because in the past few years we have seen an alarming lack of skill demonstrated by many anglers new to our sport, we have decided to broach a most sensitive, yet critical, subject. We feel that it is high time that someone with courage and a deep and abiding concern for flyfishing's future steps forth to discuss the increasing lack of commitment by the experienced to pass down *the* most important of angling skills.

For many centuries now, how an angler managed the truth revealed both the accumulated skills of the angler and the level to which he was enjoyed by the angling community. With this in mind (and not much else), we humbly offer some pointers on the fine art of truth management with the goal of training the young and passing this wisdom on to the uninitiated. What follows are important rules to fish by... please pay close attention.

1. ***Always remain plausible.*** This is the most critical component to good truth management. We have a friend that each day always catches a 24-26" trout on a stream that may produce such a fish once a season. Obviously, his prevarication skills are suspect which, unfortunately, brings all his angling skills into question. We still like him, we just don't listen to him because he broke the cardinal rule of plausibility. So our advice is learn your water and learn what your friends will accept - pay close attention to raised eyebrows and stolen glances and always remember truth management skill #1... **"Maybe it didn't happen, but it COULD have."**

2. ***Be creative.*** Don't limit yourself to inches and pounds and perhaps try buffering your story with other emotions like disappointment to throw off your audience. For example, "I hooked a 10+ lb. bone, but decided to break him off when a shark chased him. It broke my heart!" or "The trout was at least 20" and he finally took my #22 Adams, but I couldn't land him because he went through the next rapids and I slipped and couldn't keep up with him (due to my arthritis [optional])." Both statements clearly delineate your superb angling skills, but the feigned disappointment promotes plausibility (see above) and camouflages the absurdity of your story. Your friends will love it and although they don't believe it, they will respect you. Remember then Rule #2... **"Good stories only happen to people who can tell them."**

3. ***Never listen to your guide.*** All guides lie (but for tips, so its OK) and once you have repeated their lie they will desert you like Linda Tripp at a plastic surgeon's convention. Your guide tells you 8 lbs. they will tell their buddies it was really 6 lbs. and this will get back to your friends as 5 lbs. Meanwhile, you've been running around telling everyone about this 8lb. fish you caught. This is a critical truth management error. Your credibility is zero for a least a year. Speaking of this, we had a fellow mail us a picture of a trout the guide told him was 11 lbs. and the picture showed clearly to be barely half that. Of course, we said nothing (*please note this. . . we may lie, but we are polite, Ed.*), but we winced when he told us he had sent a copy of the photo to all his friends. Obviously, with a little training this guy could easily have learned to add on a pound or two and lose the negatives. It seems so easy, but like all angling skills it has to be learned and practiced. So Rule #3 is... **"Never limit yourself by the truth."**

4. ***Never offer information.*** Make your friends pull it out of you - be cool! This is absolutely critical because this hesitancy makes you seem both modest and truthful. Since obviously we are neither, this is a skill you'll want to acquire ASAP (*acquiring this skill immediately earns advanced angling status, Ed.*). When one truly masters this skill, you will enter the most revered of angling stations, that of sage (aka TV Angling Show Host) so rule #4 is... **"False modesty is the best policy."**

5. ***Underestimate if there is proof.*** Again another advanced skill, but if acquired, one that will place you far above the rank and file in terms of truth management skills. So remember, when something does happen and you actually catch a fish and you have witnesses or pictures. . . *pay close attention now as this runs contrary to every instinct an angler has. . .* you must underestimate the size and length of the fish. Yes, we know it goes against our nature, but try it. For example, say a fly pulls from a shark's mouth, lassoes the fish and you land him anyway (this happened to me. . . honest!) in clear view of at least two angling friends. When telling the story, say your fish was 20 lbs. if he was 60 lbs. and that it took 5 minutes to land him if it took 20. You'll find your stories will have credibility for years to come and rest assured, your friends will set the record straight. So rule #5 is... **"Whenever possible, deceive your friends even if you're telling the truth."**

We'll quit here and continue next issue. We've got to go mount this 12 lb. brook trout we caught in our bath tub. We welcome any and all input concerning this important issue!

## SOME PACKING HINTS

*Rod Storey of Oxfordshire, UK sent us these great suggestions. We thought we should share them with you. Rod writes...*

"Anyone who has suffered the ravages of Bahamasair know of their reputation for delayed and cancelled flights and especially for off-loading bags for no apparent reason. Unfortunately, many other airlines are equally skilled at losing bags!

On a recent visit to Greys Point Inn on Acklins Island, Bahamas, I was the only Limey with six Americans. They were the nicest bunch of guys I have had the honour of fishing with for a long time. Thank you for making me so welcome! Of the group of seven anglers, two had their baggage off-loaded by Bahamasair at Nassau and received it three days later. Two others had some of their bags and a set of rods lost by Continental and didn't get them back until the end of the trip. As you can guess, we did a lot of lending and borrowing of tackle and clothing.

Fortunately, I travelled light, taking everything with me as carry-on luggage. I took two, four piece rods packed carefully together in a single 2" rod tube. The big advantage of four piece rods is that you can take them into the aircraft cabin as hand luggage, so they don't get lost or damaged. I also took just one bag. I checked the American Airlines gauge on my return flight and this bag at 22" by 12" appears to fit their criteria for carry-on baggage.

My tackle included everything on Angling Destinations' recommended list,

including two (only) boxes of flies, two reels, one spare spool, one spinning reel, and a waterproof boat bag folded flat. I packed the items I would need for the first two flights and the overnight stay in the front pocket of the bag. This "travel light" policy worked for me. I had everything I needed (and a little more), and I had everything under my personal control at all times.

If you cannot manage to travel as light as I did with everything as carry-on or hand luggage, you can try two techniques. First, take the essentials as carry-on, such as rods, reels, flies, leaders, sunglasses, hat, wading pants, shirt and wading shoes. Stuff soft items inside the wading shoes

to save space. Even if the rest of your luggage is delayed or lost, you can still fish! Secondly, put a large label on each bag which will go into the aircraft hold saying "**Tourist fishing tackle/luggage. Do not off load until (destination)**". This is not foolproof, and some people might be reluctant to identify their expensive tackle in case it gets stolen, but it gives your bags an advantage over those of local people. Finally, if you see your bags being off-loaded, it is worth raising hell so that they are put back on again, as otherwise your vacation will be ruined. As tourism is a major industry of the Bahamas, this can carry some weight. I hope this helps... and I hope it all arrives with you!"

## KEP'S JOY

A RARE MEXICAN GEM

Lifelong angler Elliott Keppler has realized his dream by opening a superb new lodge in the lovely coastal town of Puerto Escondido, Mexico. **Kep's Joy** is a beautiful new villa overlooking the ocean with first-class accommodations, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a lovely open poolside bar and a tennis court. After enjoying a different outstanding Puerto Escondido restaurant each evening, guests

return to the comforts of classic tiled rooms with private bath. This area has exceptional fishing for



sailfish, dorado, wahoo, marlin and yellowfin tuna. The rich waters off Puerto Escondido have avoided much of the publicity and pressure of its well-known neighbor to the north, Cabo San Lucas. As a result, this area is relatively unfished. Kep's Joy uses excellent sportfishing boats captained by experienced and savvy guides to explore this fishery. Your big fly rods are a perfect match for the large dorado, sailfish and yellowfin tuna that prowl just off the famous Escondido surf break. In order to book first time anglers, this maiden year's fee is dramatically lower than most of Kep's Joy's competitors. If you are considering a trip to the "Big Blue", give us a call about this great value.

## Days of the Full Moon, 2001/2002

October 2	January 28, 2002	May 26	September 21
November 1	February 27	June 24	October 21
November 30	March 28	July 24	November 20
December 30	April 27	August 22	December 19

# ANDROS ISLAND

THIS IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON RECOMMENDED DESTINATIONS IN THE BAHAMA ISLANDS. IN AN ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF AVAILABLE ANGLING OPPORTUNITIES, EACH ISSUE OF OUR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS WILL CONTAIN AN ARTICLE ON A DIFFERENT ISLAND UNTIL WE COVER ALL THE FISHABLE WATERS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS ISLAND NATION.

Andros Island is by far the largest island in the Bahamian archipelago. Andros measures over 40 miles from the west coast to the east and stretches over 100 miles from the Joulter Cays in the north to the Water Cays at the island's southern tip.

Three shallow bights bisect the island at its midsection creating the heart of this famous fishery. In addition, much of the island's perimeter is a maze of serpentine creeks, cuts, channels and small mangrove cays that create one of the most extensive bonefish habitats on planet earth. The average bonefish on Andros is three to five pounds, there are good numbers in the six to nine pound range, but many anglers come to Andros because if you're looking for a double-digit "fish of a lifetime", Andros is the spot to get your chance.

Andros Island is steeped in bonefish history and although extensively fished, continues to be the "bonefish capital" of the

Bahamas. It was on Andros Island that the Crazy Charlie fly was invented using local chicken feathers and fishing line. Many of the world's best bonefish anglers cut their teeth on Andros and most experienced anglers consider Andros a "must-stop" on their world tour. In the past decade, much attention was focused on Andros from the angling community. During these years, the number of lodges

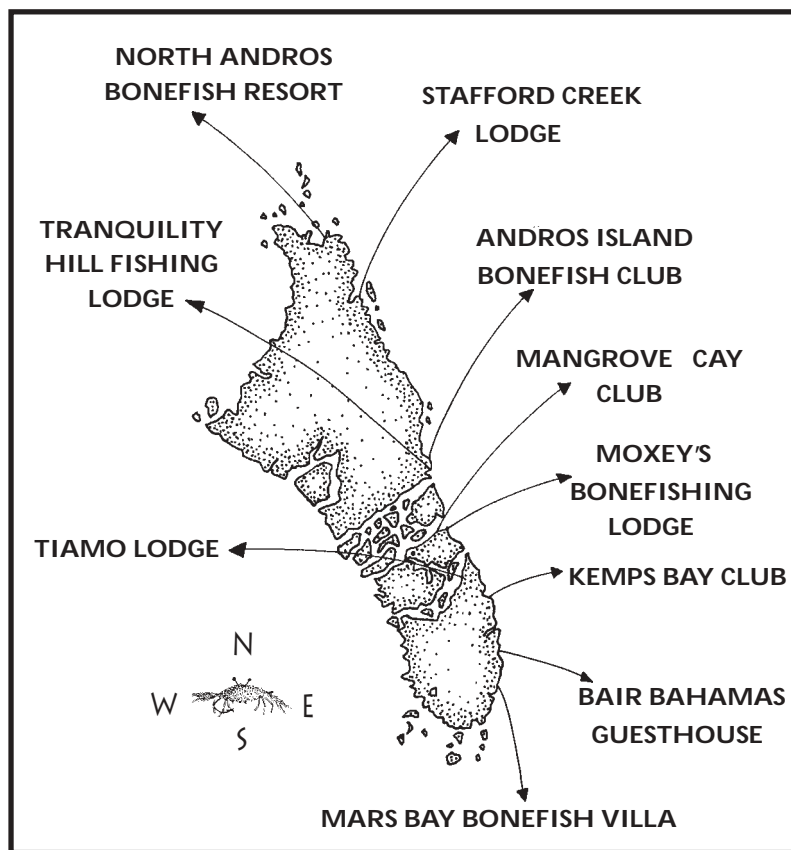
proliferated with many operators choosing to ignore the carrying capacity of their waters opting for short term gain over long term conservation. Angler numbers were not limited and no attempt was made to rotate flats. As a result, the fish became

spooky and, in some cases, virtually uncatchable. At some of the tried and true spots, guides became lazy, placated by a steady stream of anglers often brandishing tips not given in exchange for a job well done, but used as bribes to get guides to take them to less fished areas. Often, they took this money and stayed close to home refusing to motor to more remote flats where the fish were less educated...

*there was certainly trouble in paradise!* Eventually, many experienced anglers began to focus their attention on other islands in the Bahamas. They sought lodges on less traveled islands where sincere efforts were being made to provide quality

angling experiences to visitors. Islands that were like Andros in its heyday. Destinations where guides were compelled by management to fish longer days and to seek more remote water. As a result, many of the lodges on Andros suffered and some failed, but the survivors, along with a few new lodges, recognized that in order to entice fishermen to visit, they would have to make concerted efforts to

energize their guides, rotate their flats, and motor their clients to more remote areas. As a result, quality fishing has once again returned to Andros and since this magnificent island still harbors one of the most extensive and prolific shallow water habitats in the world, Andros merits any serious angler's close attention when planning a trip. What follows are our recommended destinations on Andros Island.



# ANDROS ISLAND, BAHAMAS

## NORTH ANDROS BONEFISH RESORT

... A CLEAN SIMPLE GUESTHOUSE WITH COMFORTABLE ACCOMMODATIONS AND GREAT BAHAMIAN FOOD. FISH THE WEST SIDE OUT OF RED BAY AND THE JOULTER CAYS OFF ANDROS' NORTH TIP... AN EXCELLENT SPOT FOR MORE ADVENTURESOME ANGLERS.

## STAFFORD CREEK LODGE...

PRESCOTT SMITH HEADS ONE THE BEST GUIDE STAFFS IN THE BAHAMAS. GREAT FOOD AND ACCOMMODATIONS ROUND OUT A FIRST-RATE OPERATION. SHOULD BE ONE OF YOUR TOP OPTIONS IF YOU ARE SEEKING THE BIGGEST BONES OF ANDROS. BOOK 6-12 MONTHS AHEAD OF TIME!

## ANDROS ISLAND BONEFISH CLUB

... WHILE EXTENSIVELY MARKETED AND ADVERTISED, AIBC SUFFERS FROM INDIFFERENT HOSTS AND JADED GUIDES. THEIR LOCATION ON CARGILL CREEK OFFERS POOR ACCESS TO THE BEST AND LEAST-VISITED FLATS.

## MANGROVE CAY CLUB

... A TOP-NOTCH CLUB WITH ONLY THE BEST IN FOOD AND ACCOMMODATIONS. THIS CLUB HAS GREAT ACCESS TO THE WEST SIDE OF THE MIDDLE BIGHT.

## MOXEY'S BONEFISH LODGE

... STRATEGICALLY LOCATED, JOEL MOXEY RUNS ONE OF THE BEST BAHAMIAN LODGES IF YOU ARE LOOKING TO FISH THE SOUTH AND MIDDLE BIGHTS.

## KEMPS BAY LODGE...

A LOVELY SPOT ON A BEAUTIFUL BEACH. PERFECT FOR FAMILIES OR MIXED GROUPS OF ANGLERS AND NON-ANGLERS.

## BAIR BAHAMAS...

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A SMALL LODGE THAT OFFERS THE BEST IN GUIDES, BOATS, FOOD AND ACCOMMODATIONS, THIS IS IT. TERRIFIC SERVICE COUPLED WITH THE LEGENDARY FISHING ON SOUTH ANDROS RESULTS IN THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF REPEAT BUSINESS OF ANY LODGE WE REPRESENT.

## TRANQUILITY HILL FISHING LODGE...

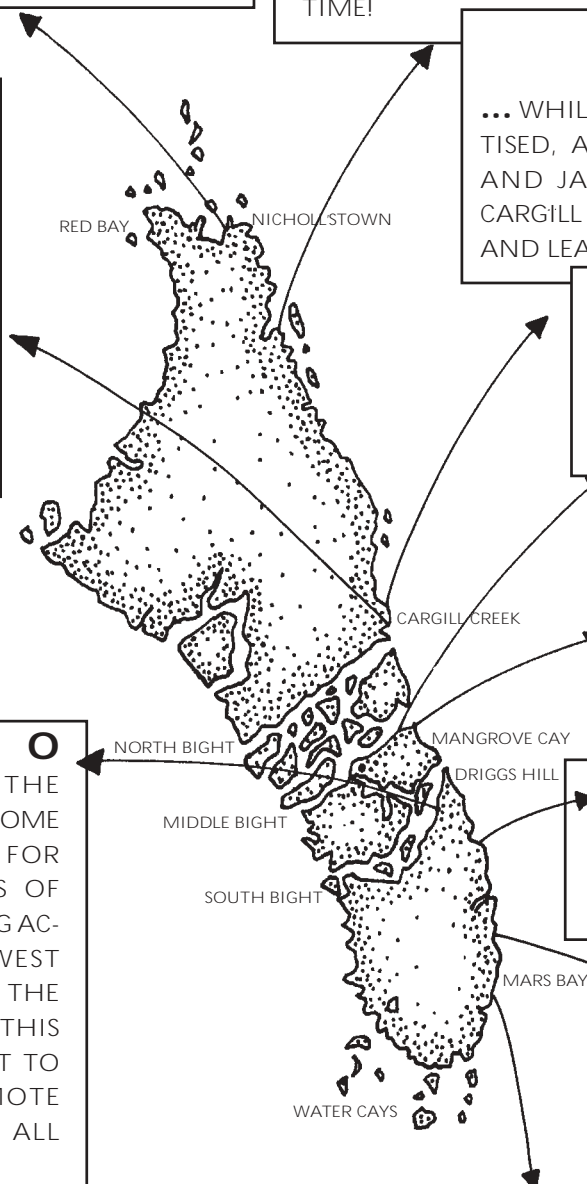
OUR TOP PICK ON THE NORTH BIGHT! THE NEYMOUR AND MACKAY FAMILIES OFFER WARM HOSPITALITY AND GREAT FOOD COMBINED WITH AN EXCELLENT FISHING OPERATION.

## T I A M O RESORT...

THE IDEAL SPOT FOR SOME COUPLES OR FOR SMALL GROUPS OF ANGLERS SEEKING ACCESS TO THE WEST SIDE THROUGH THE SOUTH BIGHT. THIS IS A GREAT SPOT TO COMBINE REMOTE FISHING WITH ALL THE AMENITIES.

## MARS BAY BONEFISH VILLA...

THIS SMALL VILLA IS AT THE END OF THE ROAD ON SOUTH ANDROS ISLAND. THE VILLA IS 10 MINUTES FROM FAMOUS GRASSY CREEK AND IS THE CLOSEST LODGE TO THE SOUTHERN TIP OF ANDROS ISLAND. MARS BAY IS PERFECT FOR 2 COUPLES OR GROUPS OF 4 ANGLERS.



## TIAMO RESORT

### A BEAUTIFUL NEW LODGE

Andros Island is the largest island in the Bahamian archipelago. Andros is really a collection of many smaller islands with the larger north and south islands split by three shallow bights that completely bisect the landmass. These bights carve the island's midsection into a jumbled maze of smaller mangrove cays.

This creates one of the best and most extensive bonefish habitats anywhere in the world. The island's east side fronts the deep blue "tongue of the ocean" and along with the three bights, contains some of the most productive, yet heavily fished, flats in the world. All of the villages, roads, ports and, not surprisingly, bonefish resorts lie on this east shore of Andros Island. The experienced Andros angler can't help but

see that the west side of Andros holds all the intrigue and probably the biggest and least experienced bonefish.

The better fishing lodges on Andros, including Tranquility Hill and Bair Bahamas, recognized this too and subsequently made concerted efforts to get their fishermen to this deserted west side. To fish the west side meant longer skiff rides, but the chance to explore this vast, roadless, uninhabited maze of twisted mangrove cays and their white sand flats cushioned the ride, so to speak. But the ride still took time... time that cut into precious fishing hours. But this was just the way it was... to fish the west side meant shorter days and longer rides.

If you look at a map of Andros,

you'll see that the shortest way to the west side is through the South Bight. But until recently, there were few facilities from which to base a trip into the southwest side of Andros and absolutely no facilities that provided any level of comfort or ambiance. So you can imagine our surprise when an absolutely lovely small resort was built on the South Bight. A resort that not only provides



great fishing to serious anglers, but is ideal for many couples. This may be the dedicated angler's dream come true – great fishing on pristine, white sand flats and all the amenities to please discriminating non-angling family and friends.

Guests at the new Tiamo Resort are housed in classic private bungalows perched above a beautiful white sand beach. All bungalows come with king-size beds (two twins optional) and have private bathrooms with great showers. Daily sumptuous candlelight dinners are served on white linen tablecloths in a lovely dining room. Non-anglers have the use of kayaks, sailboats and snorkeling equipment. Daily nature walks take in the island's sights or one can venture to the

blue holes for snorkeling. These non-angling amenities make Tiamo a perfect destination for couples... while one partner may be fishing, the other can be off exploring, snorkeling or simply relaxing on the beach. Tiamo is reached only by water taxi... there are no roads or cars to sully your experience.

Bonefish guides use 16' Rahming skiffs equipped with 45hp engines that in 20 minutes can quickly get you through the South Bight to the unexplored west side. These guides know the South Bight well and are learning more each trip about the island's remote west side. While there are some smaller school fish on the west side, fish here tend to be larger than average and a double-digit bone is always a real possibility. Don't expect sophisticated teaching guides at Tiamo, but do expect

friendly experienced guides that will work hard to make your day a success. Tiamo is not a high-capacity bonefishing lodge. It is highly unlikely that any more than four bonefishermen will be at the lodge at any time during your stay.

While Tiamo is a perfect spot for couples who seek romantic private lodging, abundant watersports, and unlimited peace and quiet, Tiamo may also be just right for small groups of dedicated anglers who want white sand flats out the front door and access to the remote, "big fish" flats on the west side of Andros. At Tiamo, you'll sacrifice nothing in the way of comfort or ambiance and it all comes at a very reasonable price! Please give us a call for all the details.

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## FLATIRON TROUTFITTERS

A WILDERNESS PARADISE

Let's face it, horsepack trips require an adventuresome, if not hearty, soul. Setting and moving camps can wear out even the most experienced of backcountry travelers. The lure of remote waters and beautiful alpine lakes and streams loaded with fat trout often is not enough to entice an angler, especially one with limited vacation time, to commit to a traditional backcountry horsepack trip. What would be ideal is to have a horse carry you (and all your gear) into a beautiful and remote alpine setting (conveniently equipped with great trout fishing) where you could enjoy all the comforts of a seasonal basecamp complete with hot showers, tables, chairs and great food. If you seek this, we have good news for you!

When our most organized and experienced private ranch

guide told us he was involved in a tent camp operation bordering the Cloud Peak Wilderness Area, we took special note. When he suggested we horsepack into his camp, we immediately rearranged our schedule, packed overnight gear, pulled out our pack rods and dusted off our cowboy boots and chaps. It took us 3.5 hours riding time to reach his **Flatiron Troutfitters** basecamp. The ride was gorgeous! We rode up and over coniferous hills climbing steadily into a fantastic alpine setting majestically perched below the 13,000' east face of Clouds Peak. Even for those of us that are not diehard horse aficionados, the ride was great, incredibly scenic and required no superhuman (or super posterior) effort.

Over the next two days, we explored five alpine lakes and many miles of streams brimming with brook, cutthroat and rainbow trout. The biggest fish were in the two lakes perched on rocky benches above our base camp. It took a little under one hour to hike to one and a little over an hour to hike to the other. Their names will remain a secret! Both lakes are absolutely gorgeous. Each has a panoramic mountain view filling the western sky and each is loaded with cutthroat and 'bows averaging 14" and regularly going up to 18". The biggest fish we caught was 21" and the biggest caught this summer was

24". To see an 18" cutthroat rise from the gin-clear depths to inhale your hopper is an exciting moment and certainly worth all the effort. These high lakes offer simply terrific fishing. Nearer to camp, three other lakes connected by miles of classic trout water produce brookies on nearly every cast and rainbows and cutthroats to 15". This is the perfect father/son trout destination. If you want a beginning fisherman to catch lots of fish and learn a great deal about trout fishing by repeatedly hooking and landing fish, this is your spot. We cannot overemphasize the beauty or

productivity of this wilderness area.

The camp outfitters are true cowboys with lots of experience working with horses and with fishermen. They are an affable group, entertaining and scrupulously concerned about their clients needs. However, this is not a yuppie trout mill, but a remote backcountry camp where



every amenity from heated wall tents to showers to babyback ribs marinated in Chipolte sauce have to be laboriously packed in. Concerning meals, this camp serves hearty chops, chicken and steaks complete with baked potatoes, rice, fresh corn on the cob... you get the idea. Traditional breakfasts of pancakes, eggs and homefries are served prior to the days events. Don't expect to lose much weight, even with all the exercise you'll get finding out what that stream looks like around the "next bend".

This is an excellent trip for adventuresome families and the perfect trip for fathers and sons because of the almost guaranteed success on the rivers and streams close to camp. But it is also a great trip for more experienced anglers. The more remote "hike-in" lakes are top-notch and advanced angling skills will certainly be rewarded. These remote alpine lakes and streams can be visited during the "non-traveling" middle days while the lakes and streams in close proximity to camp are perfect for arrival and departure days. Great food, good horsetock, experienced outfitters, comfortable, yet rustic accommodations, all at a very reasonable price, insure a wonderful western high country experience. Only 10 weeks are available for summer of 2002, so make plans now to enjoy this fantastic experience.

## BAHAMAS NEWS

Concerning the ongoing saga of **Acklins Island Lodge**, it now seems apparent that this beautiful lodge will not be open for fall 2001 as previously reported in our last newsletter. They are still haggling over ownership of the land. According to reports, the Bahamian lawyers involved are moving at the speed a well-sedated conch. This is certainly a disappointment to the many anglers who were hoping to return to this fine facility soon. We will continue to monitor this situation and hope these legal wranglings will end soon so we can accept bookings for spring 2002.

The **Bair Bahamas Guesthouse** on South Andros is humming along smoothly. We consider Bairs to be the perfect spot if you are looking for a small lodge that offers the best in guides, boats, food and accommodations! The only drawback is that usually you must plan your trip almost a year ahead of time to be guaranteed of space. With that in mind, we have just received some important news from the Bairs! The following dates have just opened up: Feb 1-21 for 6 rods, and June 17-30, for 6 rods all during spring 2002. Act quickly, these spots won't last long!

At Sandy Point on Abaco Island, anglers visiting **Rickmon's Bonefish Lodge** reported great fishing last spring and many are re-booking for fall and spring 2002. These veteran anglers emphasize the need to secure the best guide available when visiting this complex fishery. We are making a concerted effort to secure specific guides and therefore honor our client's requests for this critical component. We recommend Patrick, Anthony, Derreck, Kendall, Riccardo, Paul and Ferde as the best guides available when planning your trip.

On the north side of Grand Bahama Island, the new resort at **Water Cay** is planning on opening in Feb. 2002. This area is in the northern Bahamas' "fertile crescent" which consists of Andros, Great Abaco and Grand

Bahama Islands. This area is known for its big 'bones and the north side of Grand Bahama Island is a true "big fish" fishery. The new lodge at Water Cay will have much better access to these flats than existing lodges in the area. With the management team of Water Cay also operating the **Ragged Island Bonefish Club**, we expect the same fine service and attention to detail to be evident at this new lodge.

Speaking of the **Ragged Island Bonefish Club**, this small club earned high marks from die-hard anglers during their first full year of operation. Now, at press time, they have made considerable progress in the construction of their new lodge on the north end of the island. They anticipate moving operations to this new facility sometime during the winter.

Please don't forget both **Grand Bahama Bonefishing, LTD.** and **Pelican Bay Bonefishing** on Grand Bahama Island when planning a trip for both serious anglers and their non-fishing family and friends! Both hotels are absolutely beautiful and have their own private pool, beach and restaurant.

Back on South Andros Island, the **Mars Bay Bonefish Villa** now has new Rahming flats skiffs with 30hp motors, improved meals and a completely renovated beach area. This lovely little villa can handle four angler at a time making it perfect for two couples or smaller group of friends. Mars Bay is the closest lodge to the southern tip of Andros Island and is a solid choice for intact groups looking to get away from the more well-traveled areas.

**Grey's Point Bonefish Inn's** new lodge is now complete (please see the **September 2001 issue of the Florida Sportsman page 128**). This small Bahamian owned inn has good equipment, excellent food, air-conditioned rooms, plenty of water and experienced guides. Grey's Point also has great flats available only 100 yards away from the lodge thus offering extensive after hours fishing. Of all the Baha-

mian lodges we represent, Grey's Point has the best and most accessible out-the-front-door fishing!

Our top pick on the North Bight of Andros Island is the **Tranquility Hill Fishing Lodge**. They have done an excellent job with their "west side" program. For an extra fifty dollars, anglers are motored to this remote side of Andros where large, less experienced fish abound. Something to consider when making your next foray to Andros.

At Treasure Cay on Great Abaco Island, the **Banyan Beach Bonefishing Club** has all the amenities necessary to please mixed groups comprised of anglers and their non-fishing companions. Plus, one of the Bahamas' best beaches is out the front door of your beautiful condominium.

On our May trip to **Inagua Island**, we found a unique fishery, especially for the Bahamas, with snook and tarpon available, as well as bonefish and permit. On our visit, we coralled the best guides and the best boats, employed the best cook and fereted out the island's best accommodations so that our clients can now begin successfully exploring this unique island well-fed and in comfort. To preserve this resource, we are booking only four anglers at any one time. Anglers are housed in a very comfortable condominium that is perched dramatically above the ocean and comes equipped with a stunning evening sunset. If you are interested, give us call and we'll fill you in on all the details.

On Crooked Island at **Pittstown Point**, we are receiving reports from our returning anglers that this is the Bahama's best spot to combine flats and bluewater opportunities. For a complete rundown, please see the **September 2001 issue of the Florida Sportsman page 128**. Pittstown Point's dramatic setting serves as a backdrop for a very romantic spot with amenities worthy of any adventuresome couple's attention when planning a trip.

## CASA BLANCA & PLAYA BLANCA

Sometimes in our quest to find the new and remote, we overlook the tried and true. With that in mind, let us remind you of the great fishing to be had out of Casa Blanca Lodge located on Punta Pajaros on the southern end of Mexico's Ascension Bay. Since 1987, Casa Blanca

has essentially "set the standard" for flat's fishing destinations throughout the world. Excellent custom designed Dolphin Superskiffs,



first class accommodations, gourmet food, friendly, knowledgeable guides and close proximity to a world class fishery are just some of the reasons that many anglers return to Casa Blanca year after year. Casa Blanca is ideally situated enabling anglers to reach miles and miles of hard-bottomed flats and remote lagoons without bumpy open-water crossings. American managed with well-trained guides, Casa Blanca is perfect for beginners and experts alike. While primarily a bonefish destination, Casa Blanca is also an excellent permit habitat with just enough tarpon to fill out a grand slam.

If Casa Blanca is perfect for dedicated anglers, then Playa Blanca is perfect for that same angler when accompanied by non-fishing family members or companions. With the same ownership as Casa Blanca, Playa Blanca is located south of Ascension Bay. Here five thatch-roofed adobe cabanas complete with ocean view terraces and private bathrooms sit above a beautiful white sand beach. Delicious

meals feature Mexican dishes, succulent seafood platters and fresh fruits and vegetables. The hospitable staff takes care of your every need and encourages you to kayak through the mangroves, visit the island's Mayan ruin, or snorkel the spectacular offshore reef. Anglers have easy access to the prolific flats of Santa Rosa Lagoon, Espiritu Santo Bay and Ascension Bay.

Excellent hard working guides use 15' Dolphin Superskiffs to access the tarpon lagoons and bonefish flats, as well as numerous other species' habitats in this biologically diverse Espiritu Santo area.

Recently, Playa Blanca has made available to its guests two lovely alternate accommodations. Casa Redonda is perfect for two couples. This large two bedroom house comes with king-sized beds, ceiling fans, Italian marble bathrooms, gourmet kitchen and comfortable living room. Casa Redonda is located north of Playa Blanca on 15 miles of private beach. The other option, Casa Redonda Suite, gives couples complete privacy and has one bedroom, Italian marble bath, hot tub/shower and the exterior is surrounded with ferns, orchids and other local flora. This suite has a wooden deck with hammocks and deck furniture. A private chef is available at either facility for those seeking the most private experience imaginable.

So whether your group consists of diehard anglers, couples with non-angling spouses or second honeymooners, there is a destination in the Mexican Riviera just right for you and your group.

## KEMPS BAY CLUB

### SOUTH ANDROS GETAWAY

On South Andros at Kemp's Bay, a beautiful old home has a fascinating history. Quite a few years ago, it was called the South Andros Bonefish Club. It was the only real fishing operation on the south island and many anglers loved the out island "feel of the place". Unbelievably, a disgruntled employee with a terminal disease set fire to the structure. The owner, understandingly embittered, left South Andros never to operate on the island again. The lodge briefly reopened a few years ago, but the American managers had trouble with the "ways" of South Andros and retreated after only a season of operation. This lodge has always enjoyed a loyal following mainly due to its "island feel" and its peaceful setting on a spectacular and very private, crescent-shaped, white sand beach. Many of these loyal clients were disappointed when no one moved to reopen the facility.

Now, new owners have stepped forth to lovingly refurbish and remodel this facility and bring it up to its old standard. As one client recently said "This is once again a great place to stay!" They've employed two of the island's best guides and a great Bahamian cook...essential components to any operation! The lodge is really a big house with three bedrooms complete with ceiling fans, two baths, living room, kitchen and screened veranda. The new owners are proud of their accomplishments and this is reflected in the condition of the grounds and the home's interior which is kept spotlessly clean. Guests returning from the day's activities enjoy island appetizers like conch fritters and dolphin fingers while they watch the sun set from the veranda. Meals are served family-style and consist of succulent local

seafood such as lobster, conch and grouper, as well as more traditional fare like chicken and chops. Homeade desserts like key lime pie with an African twist round out a perfect meal. Ping pong, volleyball and numerous hammocks are available for after hours enjoyment. Snorkeling is available immediately off the beautiful white sand beach and the third largest barrier reef in the world and the famous "Tongue of the Ocean" are only minutes away by boat. For the more adventurous, kayak rentals are also available.

The two guides (Lonnix Smith, son of fabled South Andros guide Felix Smith and Lesa Ferguson) bring abundant saltwater skills and local knowledge to



Kemp's Bay. These guides use new Dolphin Superskiffs with 40hp Johnson motors to explore the extensive flats of Deep Creek, Little Creek and Grassy Creek. The lodge has plans to buy a larger center console boat to comfortably ferry anglers to the more remote waters where they will then transfer to their guide's skiffs.

We do not consider Kemp's Bay to be for those who want to fish (and only fish)... these anglers will be better served booking Bair Bahamas, Mars Bay or Tiamo Resort. But for families and small groups of friends (4 or so) looking to enjoy a "mixed bag" of bonefishing and water activities, this is good choice. They will most certainly enjoy a lovely laid back spot on a beautiful, palm studded, white sand beach that combines private home living with a delightful out-island ambiance. Summer rentals of this home are also available when the lodge is closed.

## ALASKA

Alaska is an incredible place . . . especially for the dedicated angler. Many veteran Alaska anglers feel that nowhere else in North America can they experience such incredibly prolific fishing in such a spectacular remote setting. But with all the glitzy ads, glossy brochures and confusing websites, sorting out the destination right for you and your group can be a time consuming and confusing process. We feel confident that we can take the guesswork out of this process and help

you zero in on the best experience for you and your group. We at Angling Destinations have been guiding and fishing Alaska's waters for over 25

years. From the Arctic to the Panhandle to the prolific waters of Bristol Bay, we know and love Alaska. We feel well-qualified to get you to the right place at the right time. If you're considering a trip to Alaska for next summer, now is the time to give us a call. The best lodges, tent camps and float trips sell out early, often by guests returning year after year, so now is the time to plan your trip for 2002!

## SATELLITE PHONE

REACH OUT FROM ANYWHERE!

Need to check in with your office or touch base with your family and friends while you're fishing a remote destination? It *was* next to impossible to make important phone calls from these far-flung destinations. But with the resurrection of the iridium satellite network, keeping in touch while your traveling the globe doing what you do best

is as easy as making a local phone call. Angling Destinations Inc. recently purchased a satellite phone system and we will now make this incredible service available to our clients. You can rent our satellite phone and stay in touch... no matter where you travel on the planet! Our Morotola 9505 state-of-the-art satellite phone is available to Angling Destinations' clients for a \$20.00 per day rental fee and a flat rate charge for airtime usage. So now, no matter if you're walking a flat in the southern Bahamas or exploring the Seychelles aboard our live-aboard yachts, you can simply pick up the phone and direct-dial anywhere in the world. Contact us for rental information.

## FLORIDA KEYS

Here's a deal!... fish the Florida Keys and pursue world class bonefish with fantastic tarpon fishing thrown in for good measure, receive unlimited guide time, all airport transfers, all meals including dinner each night in a different restaurant, the use of a van during your stay, accommodations in a clean, quiet and neat efficiency complete with satellite TV and, with parties of six, receive one day of bluewater fishing all for \$1,950 per person from 9/1 to 12/15 and \$2150 from 12/15 to 9/1, 2002. Sounds great and unusual for the Keys, eh? These Keys guides are thinking, not about what they need, as is so often the case, but about what fishermen want: lots of fishing action, good meals and comfortable accommodations all at a reasonable price. With more and more of our itinerant anglers fishing remote destinations, it seems that the guides in our backyard have finally recognized that they must offer more in order to attract anglers to our great national fishery. Please call now for all the details!



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**Bahamas**

Rickmons Lodge, Acklin's Island Lodge, Grey's Point, Moxey's Banyan Beach Bonefishing Club, North Andros Bonefish Lodge, Grand Bahama Bonefishing Ltd., Bair Bahamas, Ragged Island, Tranquility Hill, Pelican Bay, Mars Bay, Stafford Creek Lodge, Pete and Gay's Guesthouse, Tiamo

**Belize, Mexico**

Belize River Lodge, Turneffe Flats Lodge, Turneffe Island Lodge, Casa Blanca, Playa Blanca, Casa Redonda, Isla Holbox, *Meca* and *Seaduction* Live-Aboards, Costa de Cocos, El Pescador, Journey's End Resort, Sunrise Almond Tree Lodge

**Wyoming, Montana**

Private Ranches Mountain Streams Mountain Horsepack Trips Madison Valley Ranch Ruby Springs Lodge Forrester's Frontier Travel Bighorn River Country Lodge Lewis and Clark Expeditions Montana Birdhunting

**Alaska, Canada, Kamchatka**

Lodges, Float Trips and Tent Camps in Bristol Bay, British Columbia Russia and Northwest Territories including Bristol Bay Lodge Kanektok River Camp Royal Coachman Lodge Kamchatka Expeditions Wilderness Place Lodge

ANGLING DESTINATIONS IS COMMITTED TO PRESERVING BOTH THE FISHERIES WE DISCOVER AND THE FRIENDSHIPS THAT WE MAKE. THE MAJORITY OF OUR BUSINESS IS FROM REPEAT CLIENTS. WE TRY AND KEEP AN OPEN EAR TO CUSTOMER FEEDBACK AND TAILOR OUR FUTURE DIRECTION IN A WAY TO

SATISFY SUCH CRITIQUES.

WHETHER YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR BONEFISH AND PERMIT IN SALT, PIKE AND WALLEYE IN CANADA, SALMON IN ALASKA OR TROUT IN THE ROCKIES, WE CAN DRAW ON OUR COMBINED YEARS OF FISHING THE WORLD TO MEET YOUR NEEDS. OUR DES-

TINATIONS ARE UNIQUE. MANY ARE EXCLUSIVE TO US ... AND WE DON'T MIND SHARING.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS. THEY REPRESENT SOME OF THE ADVENTURES WE HAVE TO OFFER.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CALL!

