



Long Tall Sally

By Lori-Ann Murphy

Tales from the Water: Three Fishing Guides Share Their Recent Adventures

Rick just sent me a pic of a giant rainbow trout he caught this morning in a Montana lake. It's huge! What warms my heart is that he is fishing after his second knee replacement. Sitting in a float tube with his dog Abby running around, he can focus on what truly matters: fishing. Captain Rick Ruoff's 50+ year guiding career - known as "one of the best" from the Florida Keys - yes with beat up knees and a stubborn constitution, finds real peace when he has a wild area in Montana all to himself. Landing a big fish really helped his healing - this I know.

Rachel is in full swing guiding on the Ausable River in New York. I think this might be her 33rd? year? It was 87 degrees yesterday, but it snowed on Sunday. She guided a 78-year-old man, who persevered and landed a beautiful brown trout. She has guided him several times over twenty years and now he's less stable, can't wade like he used to, but he forgot all about that when he brought a beautiful fish to hand yesterday afternoon. Rachel will be joining me in Montana next month. We are hosting and teaching for our [RWFFA Back 2 Basics Fly Fishing School](#) (2 spots open) and we are super excited to fish with the Juliana's from New York for a week on the Madison River. Whoa. Gonna be big fun! We still have a few spaces open for our [RWFFA Madison River Trip](#) in July if you can get away.

Our [Tarpon Quest in Belize](#) brought together two adventurous couples eager to improve their flats fishing skills. We held a casting clinic - I love helping people enhance their casting, I was trained by the best and get to pass it down. Den, an accomplished caster, corrected a nagging tailing loop by adding a "drift" to his backcast, impressing his guide and thrilled wife, Diane. Diane was stoked with the new power she has found in her line hand - and watched her line fly to new distances. Sheldon, who needs a rotator cuff repair and suffers from partial blindness and aphasia, used his non-dominant arm and incorporated a haul to land his fly successfully. And Phyllis was all smiles as she told me how a gentle reminder from her guide Eduardo to stop her cast earlier - landed several bonefish for her. They were all beaming last night as Delsia and Norma served up the best of conch fritters and stew chicken.

Fly fishing is many things to all of us. And when we play together in shared waters we find connecting with a fish is also a big connection with each other. And then we find out a bit more about ourselves and our journey as well. How many of you have told your doctor you have to heal before your fishing trip! Young or old, this is what we do. Go fishing.

These stories from afield are a reflection and tribute to the kind of people we encounter in our life of fly fishing. From the guide to the angler to the solace of a private time with a fish - it's all there, to make our hearts sing.

[Rick, Rachel and I will be hosting our 2026 Argentina trip next April.](#) Our outfitter is SET - they have a great motto: "It's all bout the people." And that pretty much sums it up! I don't know about you, but if I'm going on a fishing trip, I sure want to be surrounded by fun people who love their fishing.

I'm loving this time of being together for our special RWFFA Trips. Let's make some new stories! Let's find something that works for you to fish with us soon.

"Cast to your dreams!"

L-A



Contact Us



Reel Women Fly Fishing Adventures Patagonia 2025. Join us for 2026!



Contact Us!

Argentina! Open to All Angler's
Dates: April 1-4, April 4-11, 2026

Women's Tarpon Quest

7 nights lodging, 5 days fishing

Prime time for fishing the flats of Ambergris Caye for giant tarpon. A thrill of a lifetime!

Dates: June 6-13, 2026

Women's Madison River Trip

7 nights lodging, 6 days fishing - 3 free fish days with clinics and 3 days shared guided drift boat fishing the Madison River.

Dates: July 26-Aug 1, 2025 20% OFF! July 11-17, 2026

Women's Guide School on the Madison River

6 nights lodging 5 days intensive fly fishing and rowing course with veteran guide Anni Shores

Dates: July 20-26, 2025 20% OFF!

Women's Yellowstone River Trip

4 nights lodging, 3 days fishing the world famous Yellowstone River

Dates: September 10-14, 2025 20% OFF! September 8-12, 2026

RWFFA SLAM - Open to All Angler's!

7 nights lodging 5 days fishing

A great time of year to fish the flats of Ambergris Caye for bonefish, permit, tarpon, snook....

Dates: December 6-13, 2025. December 8-12, 2026

Women's 10th Annual Permit Quest!

7 nights lodging 5 days fishing

Prime time for permit on the flats of Ambergris Caye.

Dates: February 7-14, 2026

Let's go saltwater fishing in Belize!



Reel Belize

Lori-Ann Murphy
Make Your Connections Count!

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