





A NEW MAKAIRA Is Born

BY CAPTAIN TRED BARTA

Well its true, the 36' Rybovich previously named PELAGIAN is now renamed MAKAIRA, my boat name for the last 40 years. Powered by a pair of 3126 Caterpillar diesels. She's a proven fish raiser. The vessel, owned by Jim Turner, owner of Casa Vieja Lodge and myself will be available for charter for those interested in light tackle billfishing. On board will be two 2-pound, two 4-pound, two 6-pound, two 8-pound, two 12-pound and four 16-pound conventional rods and Avet reels. This personal tackle is owned by both Jim and myself. The Avet reels are special, being blueprinted with special cams & drags. Capt. Jason Brice has world-wide experience with the last five years spent fishing in Guatemala. With Capt. Jason at the helm and two experienced light tackle mates in the pit, it makes MAKAIRA ready for the task at hand. MAKAIRA has also been modified for my wheel chair, so if you are handicapped like I am, this crew is well trained for your fishing requirements.



When it comes to fly-fishing we have on board, two 16 weights for big blue marlin, two 12 weights for sails, and a 10-weight, 7-weight, and 5-weight for dolphin and bonito. MAKAIRA hosts the most elaborate light tackle locker in the fleet. Why? Cause that's all I fish. The heaviest tackle on board the MAKAIRA are the 16-pound rigs for blue marlin. There are always two mates on board for bait and switch and they are trained for ultra-light tackle.

Aboard the MAKAIRA, our aim is not to release 70 sails a day on 20-pound and 30-pound test, but

to provide multiple shots on light tackle and catch em' for release.

There's a huge misconception learning to use ultra-light tackle on sails and marlin. Aboard MAKAIRA as a novice, your first sail will be on 16-pound test. Watch out after that, it's 12-pound, 8-pound and 6-pound outfits. By the third day you will be addicted. Last year the Turner girls, Emily, Bridget and Mary Kate and Jim and myself caught and released three sails on 8-pound test. It was their very first try on light tackle. Today they're hooked!

If you haven't caught a sail on a fly,

MAKAIRA is the best place to start with a 20-pound tippet then down you go.

Aboard MAKAIRA, if you don't laugh, you're just not alive. Our number one priority is to have a good time first, and of course catch a bunch of fish. For a special date, fish with me on June 25th through July 1st. It's the Barta Family Billfishing Camp.

I will be at the lodge for a once in a lifetime experience. Bring the kids, mom, dad, grandparents and friends. Every morning there will be a early morning seminar. I will fish a different family aboard

MAKAIRA each day. At night, the kids and I and all the captains will make teasers out of balsa wood, add skirts and paint and drag em' the next day. We'll shoot the longbow & wooden arrows, and make sailfish flies. The net is you'll learn more about billfishing in three days then you could ever imagine. Crews will patiently work with your kids. If you're not prepared to laugh, joke and be happy don't come. It's going to be a blast and is a value-packed experience.

At the Barta Family Billfish Camp captains welcome you on the boat no matter whether you are a novice or an expert. This is unprecedented. Miss a fish, run over a line, who cares. It's about family, it's about learning and it's about having fun. Can you imagine being on the

bridge with the great Capt. Ronnie Hamlin, Capt. Chris Sheeter or Capt. Jason Brice. The experience is unbelievable at any price anywhere in the world.


Casa Vieja Lodge consistently catches so many thousands of sails and blues a year, it's no longer about the number's. Captains and mates have already proved themselves, so there's no competition amongst them. It's all about our guests having a great time. Please join me for the Barta Family Billfish Camp. Kids under 17 go for free. There has never been a camp like this. Contact: Tred@casaviejalodge.com


My dear friend Jim Turner loves custom old boats, and the tradition of times gone by. Casa Vieja operates two Rybovich, a 37 and 43 Merritt and two Game Fisherman. These

boats of yesteryear have been completely renovated, and repowered. Its like taking a stroll down a dock in Palm Beach, Fl. in the early 1950's and 60's.

Jim's personal vessel, a 41' Rybovich, THE TWENTY looks like it came out of Rybovich boat-works new yesterday. The truth of the matter is that no one can really ever afford to go to Casa Vieja Lodge based on the investment of Jim's dream. The place is a bargain and the experience unduplicated anywhere in the world.

This Thanksgiving, Jim's mom, dad, grandkids and entire family were at the lodge. My wife Anni, mom and the girls fished on the CAPT. HOOK and the men fished aboard the MAKAIIRA. They kicked our asses.





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New to the lodge as a result of my passion for hunting, we now offer a half day of pheasant hunting in the mountains. Very few people realize that Guatemala City is at about 5000' elevation, we hunt pheasants at 6000 to 6800 feet, the scenery is magnificent, the air temperature is about 15 degrees cooler than where we fish at sea level. The pheasants are in beautiful condition and they are hard flying. The combination of great gun dogs, and handlers, magnificent mountain scenery, and a cabana for a fully catered lunch is just cool.

On my last trip to Casa Vieja, I caught two sails and a blue marlin in the morning and by 4p.m. I

killed eight pheasant then back to the lodge for a pheasant, dorado and shrimp dinner. What's wrong with this picture? By this fall, I will add a full duck hunting program. So blue marlin fishing by morning. Duck and pheasant hunting in the afternoon.

For those who hit little white balls and love to adventure into the Interior of Guatemala, my wife Anni has designed six custom trips for those who want to take the day off. One of them is golf at a world class course about 45 minutes from the lodge with lunch. The course will rival any course in the United States. Another trip is to the beautiful city of Antigua where you will

shop till you drop. Then there's volcano climb's, trips to San Jose and special overnight trips in the mountains. All excursions are in our private vehicles with professional guides. The trips are safe, supervised, and an absolute ball. Anni loves to guide them herself. You're in for a treat.

MY PASSION

Help me help the kids. Across from the lodge at Casa Vieja which is about five minutes from the custom fleet of boats, rests a school which houses over 175 students in a brick and metal building the size of your kitchen. The school has been knocked down three times by the



***FLEET CAPTAIN & HEAD of FISHING OPERATIONS
TRED BARTA'S "Makaira"***



1961, 36-foot Rybovich powered by 3126 Cats is ready to rock and roll on light tackle. Tred's personal tackle is on board, two 2-pound, two 4-pound, two 6-pound, two 8-pound, two 12-pound and four 16-pound conventional outfits, with blueprinted reels and custom rods.

The crew is hot as a tamale on the fly rod for sails and blue marlin.

Aboard Makaira there is a variety of fly rods ready for bait and switch.

The crew will put your billfish nearly in your lap then choose your tackle.

Don't book Makaira if you don't enjoy laughing. Aboard Makaira it's contagious. Makaira can fish up to six clients and the cost shared by all. It's extremely affordable and you can take my word on it. You'll never see fishing like this. Please bring your wife and kids as my crew and I love to teach and the amount of opportunities are unprecedented.

Congratulations to Casa Vieja's Captain Ronnie Hamlin for receiving the IGFA Legends Award.

Till next tide, never give up. Never say never.

Casa Vieja Fleet Captain Tred Barta

To book a trip or participate in the Barta Billfish Camp

Contact Tred@casaviejalodge.com

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floods, yet there's a 100-percent attendance. During the rainy season, many kids swim the small rivers or arrive by panga. Most of you know that myself and over 70 sponsors raised one million dollars for the IGFA Junior Angler's program at the Barta Blue Marlin Classic at Walkers Cay, Bahamas in seven years. We have raised in seven years \$600,000 on the way to a million for the Boys and Girls Club Billfish Tournament in Beaufort, N.C.

I will now build a new school at Casa Vieja Lodge for the kids with the full support of the Turner family and my wife Anni. The proposed 4000 feet structure of mason block and metal roof, and soccer field should cost about \$120,000. At the lodge we have developed a sailfish pool. You miss a fish, \$10 goes to the

school. You break a line, \$25 goes to the school. As a donor, your name goes on the wall of heroes recognizing your donation. If you want to be part of God's work, join me. I thank you in advance.

MY GREATEST HOUR

Recently, fishing with Capt. Hook, Ron Hamlin, I fished aboard the 41' Whitar. Jim Turner was 10 for 10 on 12-, 8-, and 4-pound test while I was 0-12 on 4-pound. It was embarrassing, then in the last 10 minutes of the day I caught a nice sail on 4-pound. The next day Ronnie Hamlin was on the camera for the TV show and we caught two blue marlin and several sails aboard MAKAIRA. In my greatest hour as a T4 complete paraplegic in a wheelchair, I wired one of the blue

marlin with four guys holding onto my chair and myself. Ronnie Hamlin was 20 feet off my transom filming. It was ridiculously dangerous, and I don't recommend it for anyone. But I did it! Paralyzed I may be, crippled I am not. What a great honor.

ATTENTION BEGINNERS, LADIES AND KIDS

There's is no place where more patience and humility is served on a platter than Casa Vieja. Crew's are trained by myself on teaching, supporting and helping learn the mechanics of our sport, from rigging baits to hooking up on dead bait with circle hooks.


The truth be known. Lady anglers especially beginners are superior to men on light tackle. They listen,

have a much more delicate touch, and in general, feel the fish on the line much better than men. The Pacific sailfish averages between 65 to 120 pounds and is the perfect fish for light tackle. Spectacular aerial performances combined with world class boat handling makes the fight fun without discouraging children. Casa Vieja Lodge is responsible for introducing more women and children into our sport than anywhere else in the world due to the incredible amount of opportunities they have. If you're a beginner, we welcome you with open arms.

IN CLOSING

Thank you for letting me share with you my new home at Casa Vieja as captain of the fleet and head of fishing operations. You might say it's a new beginning with a new body. The new light tackle club will celebrate anglers who catch sail on 2-, 4-, 6-, 8-, and 12-pound line as well as individual recognition for light tackle, blue marlin and fly rod catches.

Casa Vieja already represents the greatest sail fishing in the world. Its my new home and I hope it will become the world's greatest light tackle destination in the world. It's a place where the shrimp are the size of a rhinoceros, the sunsets are romantic, the hors d'oeuvres at poolside are delicious. I have travelled worldwide in every ocean for almost five decades. Casa Vieja Lodge is where the billfishing is the best. If you want to talk about Casa Vieja adventures contact me at: Tred@casaviejalodge.com, twitter or facebook.

Till next tide, Tred Barta 

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



TRED BARTA is a unique individual who has fished the northeast canyons long before many of us wet our first line. He is a non-stop writer, and people enjoy his no nonsense way of telling it the way he sees it. His hit TV show on Versus, "The Best and Worst of Tred Barta," has the ratings going through the roof and his charity tournaments have raised well over one million dollars for children. Tred's views on non-calcutta, honor system scoring, and "your word is your bond," has changed the landscape for tournaments to come.

Captain Tred Barta's knowledge of boat handling, boat design, and propulsion brings to the table an interesting viewpoint on hull design, shaft angle, high and low pressure flow analysis as it relates to boats, props, and seaworthiness. The man was born out of the box, in your face and will probably always be that way, but make no mistake; he's a pretty knowledgeable guy and is highly respected in the industry.

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