



Box 524 • Lander, WY 82520

ORVIS

ENDORSED
FLY-FISHING
GUIDE



2015 NEWSLETTER

2015 NEWSLETTER

2014 felt like a pleasantly varied year for Hank and I. We had plenty of trips into the Winds (various locations), a solid year floating the Bighorn, and a fair number of days on our local streams. The weather service would call it a cooler and wetter summer than usual. The lowlands held on to the green longer than normal and the mountains never lost it. We had good flowers up high all summer and the Boletus mushrooms in August were so numerous that all we had to do to find some for the evening's spaghetti was to look down a few feet away.



Caption will go here

Because of our strong snowpack and plentiful summer rains our small local streams (the branches of the Popo Agie and the Sweetwater) held up well and never got overly warm. Hank spent 3 days with **Wilson Friberg** and his son **Marc** who were able to fish the small, secluded streams they particularly enjoy. On the way they experienced the typical Wyoming adventure—flat tire in a most awkward spot followed by amazing dry fly activity. I fished with **Greg Hagar** and his son **Jonathan** and also **Rich Amerian** (a super, long-time supporter) for two days. **Jim Ferguson** and his niece **Anna** entertained and instructed **Ian Brown** and **Bridget Doran** (who were part of a Greater Yellowstone Coalition bike tour around the Park, stopping for a day of R&R in Lander), **David Stevens** and his son **Kirk**, not to mention Jim's usual September reunion with **Jim Dunn**.

We spent many days down on the Bighorn (quite a few doing "research"). It had plenty of water, probably peaking at 4000 CFS, with a late summer flow never dropping to lower than 1600 CFS. This winter's flows are holding steady at 900 CFS, and that, coupled with "flushing" flow in the spring is what is producing an incredible wild trout fishery. Spring and fall have had wonderful Baetis mayfly hatches with big pods of rising fish. Sometimes we can't catch them, but we are always impressed. Summer usually

brings big dry flies or streamers in shallow riffle water. Be ready or you will be laughing at yourself. Hank guided **Pam and Bill Bryan** (past owners of Off the Beaten Path in Bozeman) on two separate days in May, where they bent a few hooks out on sizable trout on their small dry flies. Hank and I took two boats down on Memorial Day weekend with **Jon and Louise Fairbank** and their daughter **Julia** (living and working in Lander) and her boyfriend **Eric Levy**. Late summer and fall always sees Tricos on the water in the morning. **Peter Riedi** (also riding the Greater Yellowstone Tour) got to experience this on his day off. **Rich Amerian** laughed at all the ones that got away. **Charlie Thomson** from Jackson had never seen fish rising so close together, "wolfing" dries, as I call it. And I finished the guiding season in late October (still fishing dry) with **Mike Carbajal** and his buddy **Rick Helm**.

Hank has spent some of his downtime guiding in Wind River Canyon for Wind River Canyon Whitewater. This is the only concession to float that section of the river and it is extraordinary. Very large fish and some of the time they come up to big dry flies, especially if there is a cicada hatch in early summer. The big browns like to hang out right on the bank. This is 2X tippet time.



Caption will go here



Caption will go here

When we have a heavy snowpack we always wonder what the first mountain trip of the season will bring. This year Hank and I backpacked with **Ruth Esperance** (our former district Forest Service ranger) on the 5th of July. We worry that the ice won't be off the highest lakes, but it was and the fishing was amazing. Ruth was like the proverbial "kid in the candy store." It is so fun to watch such joy. I then went into one of our favorite stream settings with **Ed Walsh, Kenny Visger, and Dick Matushek**. Ed made it possible for Dick to do his number ONE on his bucket list (after a dire cancer diagnosis). **Joan Hamre** helped me with the chores and laughed a lot with us all around the campfire. Kenny knows more "Swen and Olie" jokes than you would believe. We retraced many of the old trips and stories. It brought life into perspective for us all. Meanwhile, Hank was getting ready to bring **Cathy Cowan and Sue Edmiston** into the Winds. These ladies had worked hard to be in shape to do it all, and they did. I think even Hank had a hard time matching their energy and joy. Then Hank had a short "break-in" trip with **Don Bramer** and son **Kraegan**. These guys were in charge of their own provisions, and had so much they even provided homemade biscotti. After Hank left they reported a wonderful adventure, with

full bellies. Meanwhile Jim Ferguson and Anna were heading a trip with **June Aprille** and **Nelson O'Bryan**, joined by friends **Catherine and Dave Hall**. It was reported that June may have been out-fished by Dave. June and Nelson have been joining Jim and Anna for a number of seasons.

Charlie Bobrinskoy brought his entourage of six sons (**Greg, Nick, Mike, Alex, Peter, and Will**), not to mention his son-in-law **Dan Englert**. We've had all of this crew over the years (except for Dan) and there is always plenty of banter and brotherly competition. Hank and I were helped by **Joe Quiroz** (a local friend who has become a fly aficionado) and the three of us had our hands full with this adventurous crew. Hank had been looking forward to their return to give them a chance at the 40 foot cliff jump he had his eyes on. You can see the results on our website (under News) or at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGoBg2EhORg>. I now call these guys the **BroBoys**. Jim and Anna were also in the mountains at this same time with **Mike Reese** and his third daughter (Mike has now

introduced all three to the mountains via Jim and Anna). It still impresses me how important these experiences and memories are to our guests.

Leon Patterson joined me later in August to visit some of his favorite spots. Leon is a real southern gentleman who simply enjoys wild, beautiful country. This +70-year old hiked in and out 12 miles over a high pass. The final trip in August, Hank and I showed **Laurie Andrews** and husband **Perk Perkins** and Laurie's dog **Chico** some golden trout. Perk loves dry flies and everything about being out and Laurie loves to giggle when she catches fish. We broke them both into Tenkara, which seemed to be a big hit.

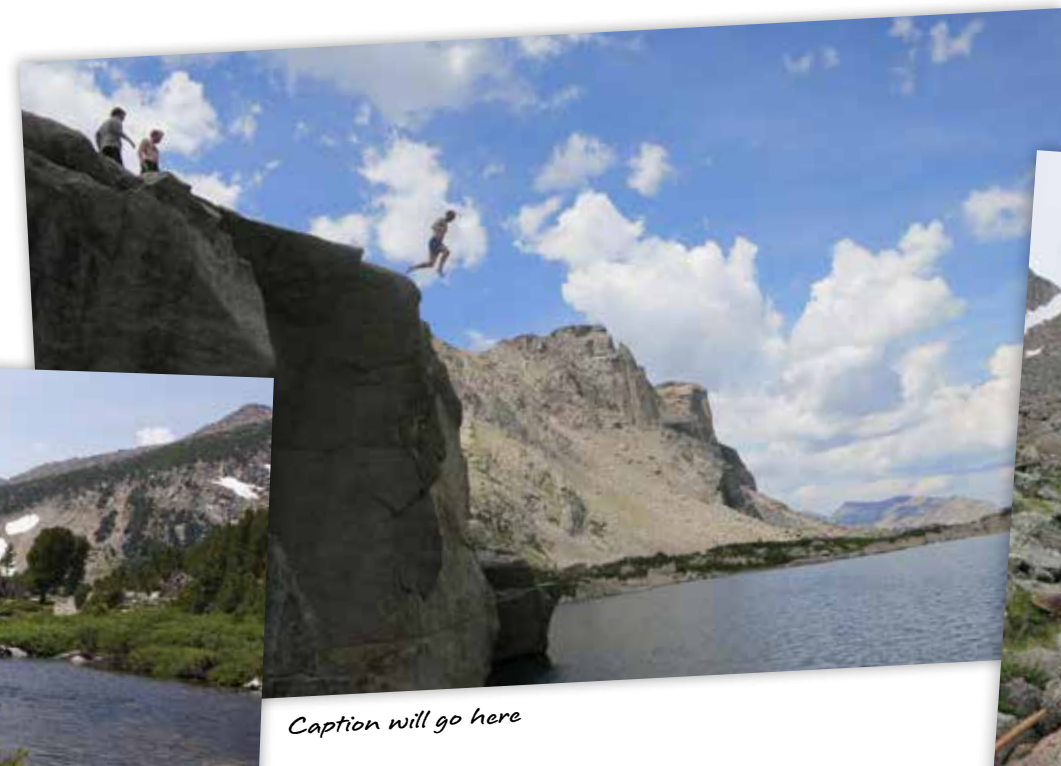
For the finale of the season, Hank was joined by **AJ Yount** for a backpack in September. These guys covered some country and pounded the water with good success. After seeing elk 100 feet from camp, they never quite knew what was over the next ridge. And they just missed the first snow of the season!

As always, in remembering our year, we feel so fortunate for our wonderful guests, great wilderness terrain, good health, and superb fishing. Man, are we lucky. We hope that you will come see us again, if only to stop by and say hi, or fish for a day. As always, we love where we are and what we do.

George Hamer



Caption will go here



Caption will go here



Caption will go here