

# 2018 NEWSLETTER

## After forty years or so of taking people fly fishing into the Winds and recently turning 70, I can't help but reminisce and feel pleased

with the service that we have provided. Our family has been woven into this business and lifestyle and now Hank is our chief mountain guide and is taking over other tasks. Louisa and Molly have helped on trips since they were 12. Paula has always been the worker getting things ready and a complete partner, including being in the mountains with me in the early days. I can't believe we have all been so fortunate. And now with son-in-law **Nick Hunkerstorm**, who helps occasionally, we are moving into the next generation with our eighteen month-old **grandson Luca**. So, this year I am posting vintage photos in our newsletter and I hope you will enjoy them! It reminds me of how many guests come back year after year because of their love of fly fishing and the wilderness. We are coming to the end of these printed newsletters. Anyone wishing to receive an electronic newsletter (whenever that might be), please send your email address to: [sweetwaterflyfishing@gmail.com](mailto:sweetwaterflyfishing@gmail.com).

We had a very busy summer in 2017.

Hank and Jim Ferguson each had full slates. I guided



locally and it was the first time in almost 50 years that I wasn't in the Winds. Our snowpack was beyond BEYOND, causing a few changes. Water was too high locally to fish until late July and the Bighorn didn't start dropping to fishable levels until early August. Nonetheless, it was a fantastic season. The fishing was great and our guests were a marvel.



### Hank Hunker had the following mountain trips:

- **Joe Brereton, Bill Lipe** (along with his son **Samuel** and his roommate), and **Brian Patrick** did an early season backpack into one of our go-to golden spots.
- **Tom Erickson, Frank Brummer** and son **Michael, Mario Schulzke**, and **Bill Austin** kept Hank and his friend-helper **Marco Von Osten-Piazzisi** quite busy.
- **Paul VanderVeen, Mary McHugh, Greg Eddings**, and **Reed** and **Jim Gilmore** accepted all that Hank and Marco had to offer and just plain enjoyed it all.
- **Steve Hollowell** and **Dianne Langmade** experienced the awe of the solar eclipse in the high country with Hank.
- **Steve Wang** spent a week with Hank (imagine that) backpacking and fishing in the early fall.

### Jim Ferguson and Anna (back from Sweden by popular demand) enjoyed these mountain trips:

- **Amal Das**, brother-in-law **Jeffrey Clingman**, and sons **Michael** and **Andrew** explored for goldens.
- **June Aprille, Nelson O'Bryan, Chele Miller**, and **Eugenie Francine** made yet another epic Winds trip. June says they are doing "Buffalo Head or Bust" this summer of 2018.
- **Steph White** (one of my old helpers) tricked her brother **David** and wife **Hilary** along with **Ralph Sampson** and **Larry Friedman** into a short camping trip that they all raved about.



We had so much going on, I'm finding it hard to remember everyone we guided. **Nick Hunkerstorm** and I had a car camp deluxe on the Sweetwater with **Keith Marshall** and his good friends **Jim Joyce, Jerry Mayhue,** and **Paul Boros**. Some were new to the sport but made great progress in their five days on the stream.

The following fished with us on the small streams around Lander or floated the Bighorn (this includes Jim, Nick, Hank, and George): **David Crosswy** and his father **Milton, Rich** and **Nathan Popwell, David White** and **Larry Friedman, Allen Branton** and son **Matthew, Steve Hollowell** and **Tom Niedzialek, Landon Wyatt, Ted** and **Jennifer Bloomquist, Ted** and **Peter Brown, Jim Dunn, Jake Baldwin, Greg Eddings** and his wife **Elaine, Marshall Garrett, Lee Boyd, Debra Riguera** and friend

**Bob**, and last and certainly not least **Mike Vandierdonck. Fred Mueller** finished Hank off like he usually does with a week tour of the local streams and rivers in the fall. Hank always enjoys this

end of the season questioning Fred's technique and why he isn't getting that much better (age?).

We have another solid snowpack in the Winds and our reservations are strong. We do have spots open and some special trips. See the website: [www.sweetwaterfishing.com](http://www.sweetwaterfishing.com). Paula has fully retired and now we are doing just what we want. Some of that includes guiding



for me. Together we had adventures in New Zealand, Iceland, Scotland and France last year. We enjoy our grandson Luca. We're thinking he's about ready for the drift boat. This summer we are planning on several trips of our own into our favorites spots in the Winds. We'll be around to pester our children, get food ready for trips, take care of the garden, irrigate the fields, and go fishing a lot.

All the best with laughs and big, bear hugs,

*George Hunker*





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