

[HIGH DESERT ANGLER NEWSLETTER](#)



We are the oldest established fly fishing business in Santa Fe, Serving Northern New Mexicans and anglers world wide since 1985.

Inside this issue: Run-off status.

Bugs, Hatches and the High Water..

Safe wading tips!!

Micro casting rod!!!! COOL!!!

Streamtread and Kling-on soles!!

The run-off for Northern New Mexico is in full force in case you haven't noticed, but the streams are fishing surprisingly well. The Jemez area streams are always first to go into run-off, but they are also the first to clear. We have had great reports from the East fork and the main stem of the San Antonio, as well as the main stem of the Jemez. The Guadalupe is almost always the last to clear on the Jemez side of the Rio Grande so expect that drainage to take a little longer to clear. The San Pedro Parks Wilderness area has the potential for more snow pack than what we see in and around the Caldera, so it is usually safe to expect that the de Los Vacas is the stream bringing in the bulk of the run-off water rendering the Guadalupe less fishable. It is high and chocolate in color for the first week of May. The Sangre de Cristo side of



the Rio Grande is a whole different story. The elevation is much higher for one, and the basins are much larger even though the streams are not all that much larger. The streams flowing west are getting a lot of sun, and are really full and approaching above normal flows. This run-off is around 10-15 days early. This is the same situation over on the Pecos, I really don't think we will see any record flows over here but I do expect the streams to rise more before we see our peak flows. If the weather gets really warm quick then I think we are in for some higher flows, and a shorter run-off. If we get some cooler weather, especially in the high country, this run-off could be more normal and extend into the first week or two into June.

So speaking of Run-off and it seeming a couple of weeks early, I have been getting some interesting ques-

tions about bugs. More specifically: Does this mean the stonefly hatch is early too? Actually this is a good question, and the answer is yes, the hatch could be a little early. The hatch could be a little early. There I said it twice, but what I mean is, don't expect the hatch to be significantly early. We are talking about maybe a week, a week and a half. From what I know about our stones and the times they hatch I would be really on the look out on the Guadalupe around



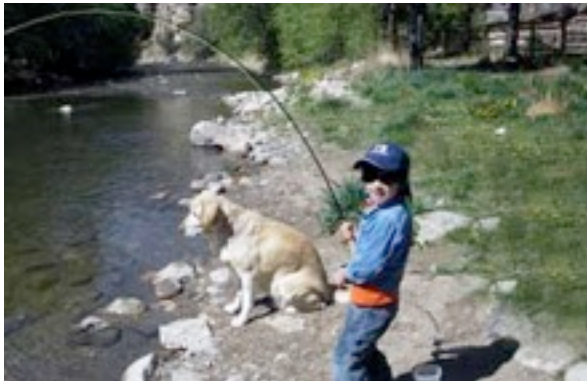
May 15th –the 20th this year, and on the Pecos, after Memorial Day. The Pecos seems to start around the first week of June, and the Jemez two or three weeks prior. That being said, I have seen them both go at the same time, both late and early. Throw the Chama into the mix and it's possible we have big bugs hatching all over at the same time. The short, smart answer is just go fishing!! Use stone fly nymphs with an attractor of some sort. Look in the foliage and around the edges of the stream to see if there are noticeable stages in the bugs you can see. If the nymphs have changed into a fast crawling bug all around the dry rocks and climbing

onto the willows then get ready.. It's on right now!! If the stones are on the edge of the river and still in the water, well we still have a few more days, maybe even a week before it really kicks off. My two most evident things to consider are first: The water temps need to be between 48 and 55 degrees. Second: The water needs to be coming down in flow and clearing.

Ask me if I am waiting for any of those things to happen and I tell you I have been fishing hard since the ice came off and don't plan on stopping until I see ice in my guides and covering my favorite stretch. By then I'll be ready for pike anyway. Call or check the stream report for conditions, but get out there and fish, trust me you will like it high water or not!!!

High water means sketchy wading so I am keeping this section in the newsletter for one more week!!! I took a dunk in the Pecos on Sunday and I was pleasantly prepared!! So read this one again, you will thank me for it if and when you go in. Here are a few common sense ideas to help keep you safe, dry and warm. Heck lets face it, fishing in the high water is fun, it can be a real challenge, and very productive as well. First off, wear your chest highs, and a belt. Run-off time is no place for hippers unless you know exactly what you're getting into. Think about what you wear as well, it can still be cold in the morning, and the water is frigid. Try the quick drying materials, and some nice layering pieces for both the upper and lower body. I find it comfortable to be in a pair of fleece pants, or

some quick drying fishing pants with my Capilene underneath. A light shell and a light Simms Rivertek shirt is usually enough midday. This way if I do take a stumble, I have far less water coming in my waders with the belt around my waist and a waterproof shell on the out side, I went in over my head on a small tributary in B.C.



chasing Steelhead, luckily the guides talked me into wearing this system and I didn't hardly get wet at all. I watched Ed get thrown out of a raft on the San Juan one winter during an evasive maneuver, he went way under water, he even blew bubbles, and once we got him in the boat he wasn't even damp except for his hair. My point here is just to be prepared, and always take an extra pair of clothes. When it comes to the actual wading, use a staff!! I'll bet all my guides have one, and I know I do. Pick your spots to cross or access the hole you want to fish and more importantly make sure you have an exit strategy too. Just like when you were a kid, don't climb up if you're not prepared to climb down!!

OK, OK, OK so the water is a little BIG for you right now, I understand. Trust me, the water will come down, and when it does, don't you want to be ready for that perfect presentation? Have you been practicing your roll cast? How about a reach mend, or a pile cast?? Well I have been talking about a casting class all winter and now the season is really close. You can still take a class, just call and reserve a spot NOW, but I have another tool for you and it is in the way of the new and improved micro casting rod by Echo and Tim Rajeff. You remember the old FLY-O's from Joan Wulff right? Well this is a graphite rod in a condensed package and a great two part yarn line and leader combination that is a kick in the pants to cast. We have been using them in our Tai-chi fishing classes, and it is the favorite toy here in the shop with the guides and my 8 year old as well. The darn thing casts really nice, and the yarn turns over like a real leader in slow motion. It is small enough to play with on the couch watching the weather before bed, and can help you with your timing on that perfect loop, or the proper set up for a tight roll cast. Come check one out, it makes a great gift, or just a fun addition to the inside casting course.

The Streamtread, and the Kling-on soles are out and getting some interesting reviews, so far they both have been received well. The Streamtread by Simms and Vibram comes on most of the Simms boots. The rubber compound seems a bit stickier than the older Aquastealth and comes with

out studs. The Studs are available as an extra and screw right into the sole. This is a nice option given the fact that you can put in as many as you need in the places you want them. The Kling-on sole from Korkers seems sticky too, and this model either comes with or without studs. This way you get to decide, and there is no hassle of putting in a stud, or taking it out for that matter. On a personal note, I still like the ease of changing soles with the Korkers. I have all of them, including a boat sole, and I LOVE THEM!!! I will be testing the Streamtread in the River-shed boot this summer and I look forward to trying them!!

Youth Fly Fishing Photo contest update: Thanks to all of you that have sent in some pics so far! We are keeping them all in a separate file for a final review, so far so good, great job to the parents and kids. I know once the high water comes down and we get to the summer break we will see some more really great smiling faces with some great fish, remember take a kid fishing.... They LOVE IT!!

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