

# MOUNT MASSIVE LAKES, INC.

P.O. BOX 1981

LEADVILLE, COLORADO 80461

"A Tradition of Fishing Excellence"

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## TROUTLINE                      FEBRUARY 2018

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Rampart Supply, 1801 N. Union Blvd., Colorado Springs, at 9:30 a.m. The BOD will be finalizing the 2018/2019 budget at this meeting. Please feel free to attend and share your ideas.

**ELECTIONS BOD:** Any member wishing to run for a term as Director, please contact Kevin Lentz at 303-425-7373 or [klentz4@comcast.net](mailto:klentz4@comcast.net). The BOD elections will be held at the annual meeting in May.

**ICE CONDITIONS:** If you are at the club recreating during the winter months, please keep in mind that the thickness of ice varies from inlets to outlets and also from lake to lake. With an exceptionally warm winter, there have been areas of weak ice throughout the lakes. The most unstable ice will be by the inlets, outlets, and any place where springs enter lakes. Please be careful anytime that you are on the ice.

**SNOWPLOWING CLUB ROADS:** If you are planning on coming to your cabin this winter, please be advised that the staff only plows the main roads needed to complete the daily chores. All other roads are untouched and full of hard, drifted snow. There are several snow removal services available from Leadville.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** The annual meeting will be held on May 19, 2018. We will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the club shop. The Board of Directors along with Club Staff will be reviewing 2017 and discussing the outlook for the 2018 season.

**WATER FLOWS AND SNOWFALL:** Our water flows have been stable and we are still running water throughout the entire system. So far, we have had very little snowfall this winter, only 42.1" since October 1<sup>st</sup>. Last winter, from October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 to January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, MML had significantly more snow, totaling 73.1". In order to have a good water year, we rely on late winter/spring snow storms which provide a lot of moisture to add to the current snowpack, along with a cool spring to allow spring runoff at a steady rate. Over the last five years, the average amount of snowfall from March through May has averaged 47.4". According to USDA Colorado SNOTEL, the Arkansas River Basin is currently at 56% snowpack, compared to one year ago today when it was 159%. Although this number is hard to relate to the location of the club, Weston Pass has a satisfactory amount of snow.

**ROADS:** Club roads are managed in three tiers:

1. All weather roads for the year around management of the club.

2. Primary fishermen roads that allow about 80% of our fishermen access to the lakes (ex: around Snowden or #6).
3. All other roads.

If you have a cabin or travel the tier 3 roads be advised that, except for general maintenance once a year, these roads will not be weatherized until all the other roads are weatherized.

If members, their guests or their contractors abuse or misuse any roads the responsible member can expect to receive a bill to repair that road.

When roads become full of water, please refrain from going around the hole/puddle. We don't want to ruin the vegetation or create a bigger hole. We will repair these issue areas with road base or slag when the time is appropriate.

**FISH CULTURIST HIRED:** After a three month search, we hired Elgin Rusch from Leadville. Elgin will start his tenure with us on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Elgin is a Leadville native who brings a vast amount of expertise in mechanical knowledge as he previously worked at the Black Cloud Mine and various construction supply stores in Leadville. Elgin successfully navigated the application process along with a competitive interview in front of Brent, Bryan, and 6 board members.

**CABIN IDENTIFICATION:** Per request from the Lake County Sheriff's Department, please display your cabin number with light colored or reflective painted numbers to make it easier for all responding emergency personnel to locate your cabin.

**WINTER SAMPLING VOLUNTEERS:** During the winter we sample each lake to check the abundance and condition of the fish population by ice fishing. So far, our sampling has provided excellent data and great fishing for all species of fish. We still have six Lakes remaining, 8,10,11,14,21, and 26.

Don't have ice fishing gear? No problem. MML has extra gear available for those who would like to help out. If you are interested, please contact Brent at 719-293-5441.

**2017 CREEL CENSUS DATA:** Total hours fished rose significantly from 11,839 hours in 2016 to 12,647 hours in 2017. Catch Per Man Hour (CPMH), number of fish caught per hour fished, increased for the second consecutive year from 2.29 in 2016 to 2.45 in 2017, which is slightly over our target of 2.30 for MML. The "Big 6" Lakes, which are Lakes 5,6,9,12,19, and 20, had 73% of the total hours fished in 2017, the same as 2016. The CPMH for the Big 6 Lakes rose to 2.47 in 2017 from 2.33 in 2016. This data shows that our catchable stocking schedule for 2017 was well planned and executed. For our stocking schedule to be effective and meet our fishery goals, we analyze our summer and winter lake samples and creel census data to implement the best fishing opportunities. With additional fish available to stock in 2018, we will work through our

2017 catchable stocking schedule to make adjustments and improvements for each month, lake by lake, to keep our creel census numbers comparable to 2017 and to provide better fishing.

**2018 FISH STOCKING:** We will be stocking our 2018 Triploid rainbows and Kamloops super catchables on April 30, June 4, 5, July 9, 30, and August 13. The Kamloops super catchables will be stocked at ice off to prevent rearing pond mortality from spawning behavior. We expect to stock nearly 15,400 fish this year. If you would like to help stock on any of these dates, please contact Brent at 719-293-5441.

**2018 TRIPLOID RAINBOWS:** We currently have 17,453. They are 27 months old, 16" long, and weigh an average 24.7 ounces (1.6 pounds). The biggest fish of this year class are in Pasture Pond, which measure 16.5" and weigh 28.1 ounces (1.8 pounds). As spring nears and the ice recedes from the ponds, we will continue feeding these fish to increase their size before stocking. We will hold back 2,500 of this year class this summer for our super catchable program in 2019. We plan for a 10% unaccounted mortality each winter from predation (coyotes, eagles, etc.). During our fall grading in 2016, we kept extra "runts" in Hatchery Pond to replenish the ponds the following fall. We added nearly 2,000 fish to the 2018 catchable rainbow year class last fall before ice on. This is our first year adding these extra fish into the catchable year class. We hope this will help to achieve our goal of having additional fish to stock. Our 2018 fish stocking will provide excellent fishing as we return to our fishery management goals of stocking 16,000 fish, 28,000 pounds, with an average size of at least 28 ounces. The 2018 catchables are located in New Pond, Pasture Pond, and Rainbow Pond for the remainder of the winter.

**2018 KAMLOOPS RAINBOW SUPER CATCHABLES:** These super catchables are 40 months old and we have 2,147, which are the last of the Kamloops rainbows. They are 19.5" in length and weigh 48.5 ounces (3.0 pounds), which is slightly larger than the size of super catchables stocked last spring. Last spring, the catchable Kamloops rainbows showed aggressive spawning behavior which accounted for significant mortality in the rearing ponds. These fish are currently full of eggs and beginning to show signs of spawning behavior. We will be stocking these fish at ice off to prevent significant mortality loss. This class of fish is currently in Pond Two.

**2019 TRIPLOID RAINBOWS:** This year class of fish is 10 months old. We currently have 23,545 and they are 10" long. They are slightly larger than the 2018 rainbows were at this time last year. Instead of getting rid of extra fish after our fall grading, we decided to keep 3,000 "runts" to hold in Hatchery Pond over the winter so we can replenish our numbers of lost fish due to disease and predator loss this winter. These fish have begun to show the early signs of Cold Water Disease. Currently, we have been treating them with medicated feed, picking pond mortalities daily, and evaluating the effectiveness of treatment. After the first stocking of the year, these fish will be thinned out to Pasture

Pond, which will give them additional room to recover from sickness and get healthy. These fish are in Pond One, Jones Pond, and Hatchery Pond for the winter.

**2020 TRIPLOID RAINBOWS:** Our triploids are growing fast and they are already at 2.0". We currently have 37,482 and they are 3 months old. When these triploids reach 3" in March, we will grade them and save the biggest 30,000. We will keep the extra fish to help replenish our numbers in case we have substantial loss due to disease and/or predators throughout the summer. Grading allows us to keep the bigger fish, keep uniform size, and gives us an accurate number of remaining fish. These fish are currently in spring water which is consistently 48 degrees, optimal growth temperature. As these fish keep growing, we will continue to move them into additional tanks to keep them thinned out and healthy. Once the water outside warms up, we will move these fish into the Hatchery Raceways.

**2018 BROWN TROUT:** We currently have 5,225 fry which are 1.2" long. Once these fish reach 3" in mid-June, we will stock 2,270 into Lakes 6,9,10,11,12,15, and 18.

**2018 TIGER TROUT:** We currently have 1,664 tiger trout that are 1.2" long. The survival rate of tiger trout this year was 25%, which is up from only 10% during fall spawning in 2016. High grading (using the best available fish) along with practicing proper spawning techniques significantly increases the survival of this species. Tiger trout have a substantially lower survival rate than all the other species we have at MML. The low survival of this species is due to crossing fish from different genera. Once these fish reach 3", we will stock 1,100 into Lakes 1,2,15, 21, and 26.

**2018 CUTTHROAT TROUT:** Our cutthroat trout are in the hatchery and are growing well. We have 4,449 and they are almost 3". Once these fish reach 3", we will stock 2,475 into Lakes 2,3,4,5,7,8,12,15, and 20 at ice off.

**CUTBOWS:** We received an order of 5,000 eyed cutbow eggs from CPW in December. These fish just started eating and are growing well. We will stock some of these fish as fingerlings throughout the club and add the remaining fish into the 2020 catchable stocking class.

**SPRING ROLLOFF CONTAINERS:** Each Spring, MML has two roll off containers available for member use which are located just south of the dumpsters. Last spring, MML paid an extra \$2,400 for "dirty" loads. These "dirty" loads contained prohibited items such as construction materials, appliances, oil, paint, tires, auto parts, etc. These prohibited items must be hauled to the dump or disposed of accordingly. The Lake County Landfill is located at 1500 CR 6, Leadville, CO 80461. The hours are 8am to 4pm, Friday – Tuesday. For more information, please visit <http://www.lakecountyco.com/landfill>. The first roll off will arrive during the week of May 21, after the annual meeting weekend.

**FOR SALE LIST:** Is no longer part of the Troutline but is located on the MML website. If you would like to post your cabin for sale, please visit the website and follow the instructions. If you have any questions, please call Gregg Anderson at 303-324-9893.

**MML WEBSITE:** If you have not had a chance to check out the new website, please do so at [mountmassivelakes.org](http://mountmassivelakes.org), password Fishing1. The “for sale section is now up and running and also check for updates in the “Managers Corner” section for the latest news and recent activity from MML staff. The website will also provide information such as fishing status, club updates, BOD meeting dates/times/locations, annual meeting date/time, and previous club material such as Troutline. We would like to thank BOD member Gregg Anderson for all the great work he has done to make this new website successful and current.

**MML VEHICLE WINDOW STICKERS:** We have new MML stickers (old ones don't need to be replaced) for members to place on the window of their vehicles. Please stop by the office next time you're at the Club if you would like one.

**DUMPSTERS:** As spring nears, please remember that our dumpsters are for household trash only. Construction materials, furniture, appliances, oil, paint, tires, auto parts, etc, are prohibited and must be hauled to the dump. To save the club money, we remove three dumpsters after Labor Day weekend until May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Lake County Landfill is located at 1500 CR 6, Leadville, CO 80461. The hours are 8am to 4pm, Friday – Tuesday. For more information, please visit <http://www.lakecountyco.com/landfill>.

**NEED COPIES OF MT. MASSIVE LAKES BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS, LAND USE APPLICATIONS AND RULES AND REGULATIONS OR MAPS OF THE CLUB?** They are available to the membership and can either be downloaded from the website or are available in plastic file holders mounted on the wall inside the Clubhouse, just to the right as you enter the Clubhouse door. If you elect to acquire them at the Clubhouse, limit one per member, please!

**LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATIONS:** Remember, if you are planning a construction project at your cabin you will need to follow MML rules and regulations governing land use. These rules, published on the website or available at the clubhouse, include submitting a Land Use Application to the Land Use Committee for their approval, **prior** to starting construction. The rules state "**A PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR INSTALLATION OF NEW CABINS, OUT BUILDINGS, ADDITIONS TO PRESENT CABINS, OR CONSTRUCTION OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS, FENCES, ANTENNAS, FLAGPOLES, SIGNS, PARKING AREAS, ROADS, CONCRETE, OR ANY DISTURBANCE OF THE LAND**". Please remember that the land use committee only operates from May – October. Applications received outside of these months will be reviewed as time permits. For prompt approval, please properly submit an application, including drawings, elevations, and neighbor approvals. If there is a question about whether or not you need to submit an application, or to submit an application, please call Land Use

Committee members, Bill Bennett at (720) 300-9949, Janice Good at (719) 207-1596, Brent Groenke at (719) 293-5441.

**IS YOUR CABIN TITLED PROPERLY?:** The Lake County Assessor wants to remind Club Members that when they transfer their cabin and membership to a new owner, to an heir or to a trust, they will also want to change the title to their cabin by deeding it to the appropriate entity. If you have recently acquired a membership and cabin or put your membership and cabin into a trust, be sure to record the appropriate document (ie. a "Quit Claim Deed" or "Bill of Sale") with the Lake County Clerk and Recorder so that the title to your cabin matches how you want your membership titled. This will prevent Lake County Tax notices being mailed to the wrong address and eliminate a lot of headaches for you down the road. Simply filling out a Mount Massive Lakes "Transfer Form" will not officially transfer the cabin into your name.