



# TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of  
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2222  
Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222  
www.MVFF.org

December

2016



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## Membership Meeting

Monday, 12 December

The MVFF general membership meeting will meet on Monday 12 December at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. The speaker will be Club member, Bob Silver. Bob will discuss the recent Club fishing trip to Kodiak Island. Cookies and coffee will be served.

## Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 19 December

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 19 December at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

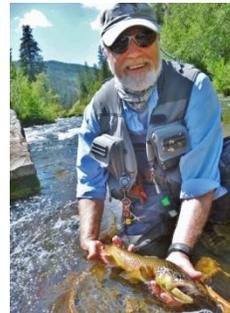
## Liars and Tyers

Wednesday, 28 December

Due to scheduling conflicts and the Christmas holidays, the meeting date has been changed to Wednesday 28 December rather than the regular 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. The fly to be tied is the *Stimulator*. The tying session will be led by professional tyer, Tim Mack. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies will be available for beginning tyers.

## President's Corner

David Carmichael



The El Paso Independent School District and UTEP don't do a very good job of coordinating vacation schedules. As a result, Miriam had Thanksgiving week off during which she went to visit her family in Indiana; I had to work most of that week,

so I was on my own for Thanksgiving. Rather than hang around the house watching football, I decided to load up the FJ and fish the San Juan for a couple of days. It was a great way to experience some solitude, enjoy the outdoors and practice a new set of fly angling skills. As many of you know, a long drive to a fishing destination gives one plenty of time: time to sing along with songs by The Eagles, time to enjoy the scenery, and time to think about the important things in life. The Eagles album only accounted for an hour each way, so I had 12 hours (round trip) to think about other things, such as what to be thankful for on a Thanksgiving sojourn. I thought I'd share some of my musings.

The drive from El Paso or Las Cruces to the town of Navajo Dam goes through an incredibly diverse and beautiful range of landscapes, many of them nearly completely free of billboards and the other trappings of city life. The wide vistas of the Chuska and San Juan Mountains blanketed in fresh snow were stunning, as were the cinnamon and vermillion sandstone cliffs in the southern Jemez Mountains and the distinctive silhouette of Cabezon Peak along the Rio Puerco. The scent of juniper and pine on the wind was rejuvenating. And that was all before reaching the San Juan valley which was alive with deer, waterfowl and other wildlife. I'm thankful that those landscapes are still relatively unspoiled and available for us to enjoy.

New Mexico is one of the poorest states in the country when measured by the income levels of its residents, but it is rich in natural resources and cultural diversity. I am thankful that a fishery of the quality of the San Juan exists within our state and is accessible to us on public lands. I am grateful that government agencies including the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and New Mexico State Parks work together to manage the quality of the fishery and maintain public access to it.

Traveling to and from the San Juan also takes you through the lands of a number of Native American groups: the pueblos of Isleta, Sandia, Santa Ana, Zia and Jemez; the Jicarilla Apache reservation and the Navajo Nation. And around the Quality Waters one of the radio stations with the best reception is KSUT, the Southern Ute station out of Ignacio, Colorado just to the north. Native American cultures in New Mexico and the Four Corners region are not just surviving; they are thriving. When I need fuel,

food, or have other reasons to stop and interact with people along the way, I often choose to visit Native American lands and businesses. I am thankful that in New Mexico we can experience a sort of cultural diversity that simply doesn't exist in most parts of the country. I am also thankful that despite our country's dismal past (and occasionally dismal present) treatment of Native Americans, they still have some places of their own where they can be themselves on their own terms.

I booked lodging with the Orvis endorsed Fisheads River Lodge ([www.fisheadsofthesanjuan.com](http://www.fisheadsofthesanjuan.com)) and had a room overlooking the river. I am thankful for Fisheads' friendly and thoughtful hospitality. Their restaurant, the Back Cast Café, closed at 1pm on Thanksgiving, but when I arrived about 4pm, I found a full Thanksgiving

dinner (turkey, ham, pinon stuffing, green beans, potatoes and pumpkin pie) in the refrigerator in my room! What a great way to fuel up for an early morning on the water the next day.



*Great Blue Heron and assorted waterfowl at The Big "Y"*



*Somewhere on the Lower Flats*

The fishing was pretty decent, 10–12 fish caught each day, including several over 17 inches. The go-to flies were black or gray midge pupas and emergers in size 22, and the most productive was the Don King UV emerger pattern. I want to thank Chuck Mueller for telling me about Greg Sabin at San Juan River Flies ([www.SanJuanRiverFlies.com](http://www.SanJuanRiverFlies.com)). After the club trip to the San Juan in October, Chuck showed me the Euro indica-



*Sandstones of the San Jose formation form the bluffs along the San Juan River*

tors that Greg makes, and I ordered some that arrived just before Thanksgiving. The short Dacron indicators work great for shallow nymphing. They allow you to fish with a straight line and much less mending than is the case with the more traditional San Juan setup. If you are interested, Greg has a video demonstration of the technique on his webpage.

Finally, I am thankful to be a member of the Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers. It is great that we have such a diverse group of members who share common interests in conservation, fly fishing and improving our skills and angling opportunities. We are successful because so many members devote the time and energy needed to keep all of our activities going; I thank you all.

One of our most important club functions of the year is our annual banquet, the time of year when we have the largest number of club members together under the same roof. Planning for the banquet is entering the final stages, so I'd like to say a few words about the program and activities. As in the past, the event will be at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Las Cruces, and the date is January 28. Our guest speaker will be Robert Younghanz, aka The Bug Guy. Robert is an experienced angler, fishing guide and professional entomologist who will be demonstrating and discussing the collection and identification of aquatic insects. A few club members will take Robert to visit the Rio Peñasco lease on the 27<sup>th</sup> where he will sample the

insect fauna. The next day he will conduct an afternoon workshop at Alumni Pond on how to collect and identify bugs, and then in the evening he will discuss how those activities can improve our fishing success. I'll provide further details in next month's newsletter, but you can also access his web page for more information at [www.the-bug-guy.com](http://www.the-bug-guy.com). At our next club meeting I'll circulate a

sign-up sheet to see how many members would like to attend the collection workshop so we know how many people to expect. If you live out of town and/or are not going to the meeting you might want to email me so I can add you to the list.

There will be a lot of great raffle prizes, so start thinking about buying your tickets. Prizes will include a new Sage X fly rod built by Bob Widgren, a Winston Boron III LS rod that I'm building, a hand-flaked traditional obsidian knife I'm making, and a guided fishing trip. We'll provide a more complete list next month after the prizes committee has completed its work.



*Ray Kirby and Dominique Lujan display the crocheted flag to be auctioned at the annual banquet*

There is also a special item that will be auctioned off at the banquet. Club member Ray Kirby spent many hours crocheting the American flag blanket shown in

the photo above. The flag measures a whopping 90" by 48" and includes a single gold star to honor those mothers who have lost a son or daughter in combat. It took Ray about 10 weeks and a lot of love, dedication and passion to complete this project. Bidding will start at \$200, and those who cannot attend the banquet may enter a bid by contacting me or Tom Wobbe. All proceeds will be donated to Project Healing Waters.

I hope to see you at what should be a very interesting program, an opportunity to continue our support of Project Healing Waters, and a fun, year-end celebration of our camaraderie.



Ron Bellerose  
PHW Coordinator

Project Healing Waters is very active. We will have 3 fly tying days in December and several days of fishing at the local ponds. I also plan on a day of fishing at the lease.

A big thank you to the Sportsman's Warehouse for their support of PHW. We were able to get a total of \$752 from the raffle and donations. Also to all the fly tiers, I have a lot of fly tying material at real low prices. Actually no price, just donations. I will bring some of the materials to the next fly tying class.

If anyone is interested in taking over the administrative end of PHW, please let me know. Some computer skills are required. It would be quarterly reports of activities, budget requests and a little more.

Next month's fly tying will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of December at Counseling Las Cruces, 133 Wyatt Drive Suite 3, from 10am until noon.

We can also use a couple of volunteers to help the Vets with their tying.

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For more information about PHWFF see [www.projecthealingwaters.org](http://www.projecthealingwaters.org). Contact Ron Bellerose (575-680-5516), [flyfishnh@hotmail.com](mailto:flyfishnh@hotmail.com) if you wish to volunteer to help out.

### **Beginning FlyFishing Class**

One of the Club's objectives is teaching people how to fly fish. Jeff Arterburn and Bob Silver have put together a class over 3 evenings for 90 minutes per class of the basics to help those new to the sport get on the water and catch fish. The first class will be held December 6, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00pm. About 8 people have signed up. The topics Jeff and Bob will cover are:

- Fly Rod Basics, Gear/Equipment, the Cast, Questions?
- Leaders, Connections and Knots, Dry Flies, Nymphs and Streamers.
- Stream Craft: reading the river, understanding hatches and choosing which fly to use.

Then on a weekend we will plan a trip to the lease for a day.

Based on the degree of interest there will probably be another class scheduled for early in 2017.

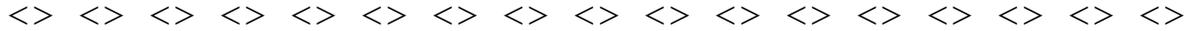
### **Club Outings Planned**

The board is now discussing possible future outings and would welcome suggestions from members. Where do you want to go? Let them know. If you have comments or suggestions for additional trips pass them to any of the Board members. Trips now in the planning stages are: none.

### **Welcome New Members**

Ron Sanders

Carlsbad, NM



### MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 21, 2016

Submitted by John Kennedy, Secretary

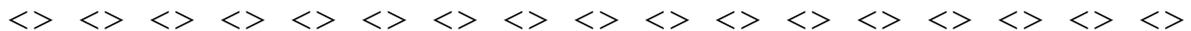
The MVFF Board meeting was called to order by President David Carmichael at 7:00pm at *The Game* restaurant. Board members present were David Carmichael, Jim Sorenson, Gary Mann, John Kennedy, Chuck Mueller, Dennis Lanpher, Bob Silver and Jeff Arterburn. Non-Board members in attendance were Tom Wobbe, Ron Bellerose, Jim Hulse, Will Lubenau and Dominique Lujan.

1. The minutes of the October 17, 2016 meeting were approved as published in the November, 2016 issue of the newsletter.
2. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$12,647. The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved.
3. Tom Wobbe reported the the Club has 362 members. Some members are not paid up, and their names will soon be deleted from the membership roll. There was a brief discussion about setting up PayPal to allow people to join the Club.
4. The Kids' Fishing Clinic in Las Cruces for 2017 will be March 25<sup>th</sup>. The Club will purchase Zebco spin casting combo outfits for prizes.
5. Ron Bellerose reported on Project Healing Waters. See his full report of activities in the December newsletter.
6. Jeff Arterburn reported for the Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited. A grant for the Willow Creek project came through, to include fish surveying, stream restoration, etc. There was also brief mention of the Western Native Trout Initiative. For further information contact Jeff.
7. There was a brief discussion of funding the Norm Mabie Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund.

8. The December 2016 general meeting speaker will be Bob Silver, discussing the recent Kodiak Island trip.
9. The annual Banquet and Raffle will be on January 28, 2017 at St. Paul's Methodist Church. The speaker will be the "Bug Guy." He will go up to the lease on January 27, 2017.
10. There will be new member flyfishing classes in December, the dates to be announced soon. There have been 8 sign-ups. There will be 2 to 3 classes about 1½ hours each. The classes will be at the University Alumni pond, and possibly the lease.
11. Nominations for the Board so far are Will Lubenau and Evan Classen.
12. Under New Business:
  - There was a discussion about the Club hosting a fly fishing film tour. Jeff Arterburn and David Carmichael will look into this.
  - There was a brief discussion about having a general meeting once per year in El Paso.
  - A date and time in December for Liars and Tyers will be announced.
  - The Club will spend approximately \$2,200 for the Annual Banquet & Raffle prizes. One prize may be a camping/fishing trip on the Conejos with Bob Silver and Jeff Arterburn towards the end of June/early July, 2017.

The next Board meeting will be on December 19, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.





**Quick Look Contact Information**

2016 Officers of the Club	
<b>Officers</b>	
• <b>President:</b>	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• <b>V-Pres.:</b>	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• <b>Secretary:</b>	John Kennedy (612) 720-3456
• <b>Treasurer:</b>	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
<b>Board Members</b>	
• <b>Position 1:</b>	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• <b>Position 2:</b>	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• <b>Position 3:</b>	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• <b>Position 4:</b>	Ray Rodriquez (575) 520-5768
• <b>Position 5:</b>	John Kennedy (612) 720-3456
• <b>Position 6:</b>	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• <b>Position 7:</b>	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• <b>Position 8:</b>	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
• <b>Position 9:</b>	Dennis Lanpher (575) 642-2946
<b>Newsletter &amp; Web Page Editor</b>	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	<a href="mailto:newsletter@mvff.org">newsletter@mvff.org</a>
<b>Membership Committee Chairman</b>	
• Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437	<a href="mailto:membership@mvff.org">membership@mvff.org</a>

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund	
Market Value as of 30 June 2014	\$11,487

**Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund**

The Norm Mabie Memorial Scholarship Fund is an endowed fund at New Mexico State University which is funded by MVFF member donations. Earnings from the fund are used to provide scholarships for students at NMSU majoring in fisheries or related fields.

The recipient of each scholarship is determined each April by the MVFF Board with the award being made for the fall semester.

Even though the fund is endowed additions can be made to it at any time. The larger the fund, the more earnings are available for award. If you are interested in contributing please make checks out to the **NMSU Foundation** and on the "for" line of the check, identify "Norm Mabie Memorial Scholarship Fund for deposit only." All contributions are tax deductible. For any questions please contact one of the Officers or Board members. If you have not made a donation to the fund please give consideration and help honor Norm.

**Current Email Addresses Needed**

Many of the email addresses in our files are not current as members change to other internet providers. These addresses will not be distributed, but will only be used to relay club information or reminders for club meetings and other club events. Please send your address changes to [membership@mvff.org](mailto:membership@mvff.org).

**Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Print**

Help support the MVFF Habitat Restoration Projects and purchase a limited edition "Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout" print. This beautiful printing of an original watercolor of our native state fish is a limited series of 150 high quality 12 x 18 prints that are numbered and signed by New Mexico artist Michelle Arterburn. The cost of each individual print is \$25.00, with the proceeds dedicated towards habitat restoration projects. If you live out of town and wish the print mailed to you please add \$5 for postage. See the MVFF website for purchase.



**\*\*\*\*\* REMEMBER \*\*\*\*\***  
**MVFF MEMBERSHIPS & NM FISHING LI-**  
**CENSES EXPIRE ON 31 MARCH**

### Membership Information

Membership is open to anyone who supports the activities of the club. Membership fees are shown below. Members are provided with the opportunity to attend informational monthly meetings, purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco, and participate in other Club activities such as a summer picnic, annual awards banquet, casting clinics, fly tying classes, and Club sponsored fishing trips.

There are several options for the payment of dues. A family is defined as a club member, their spouse and all children 17 years of age or under.

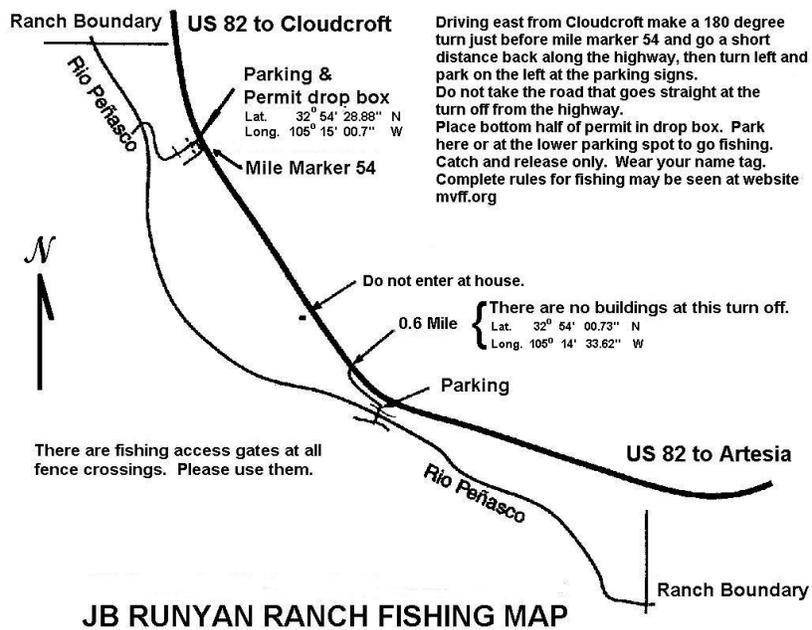
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

### Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulseley (575-524-1880), Tom Wobbe (575-522-5437) and Donna Mabie (575-522-3810) in Las Cruces. Permits can be obtained from the land owner, but you should phone (575-687-3362) the night before to ensure someone will be there to sell them to you. Permits can be ordered through the club web page (mvff.org) by filling out the form and mailing as directed. Cost is \$25.00 per day. Kids under 18 fish free but must be accompanied by an adult club member with a permit. You must be a current member (current dues have been paid) of MVFF to fish the lease. Please wear your MVFF identification badge while on the property. New or replacement badges can be obtained by contacting Jim Hulseley. In addition, members can purchase a one-day, one-time permit for guests.

#### Directions to the Lease:

Follow NM 82 east from Cloudcroft, NM or west from Artesia, NM. The turn off to the lease is located on the right side of the road about 100 yards before mile marker 54 coming from Cloudcroft or 100 yards on the left past mile marker 54 coming from Artesia.



MESILLA VALLEY FLYFISHERS, INC.

PO Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

Membership and/or Permit Application

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current member? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Do you need a name badge? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ or renewal \_\_\_\_\_?

Membership Categories: Individual Family Circle the one desired.

1 Year \$20 \$25

3 Years \$50 \$60

Life \$400 \$500

For family membership: Name of spouse \_\_\_\_\_ No. of children \_\_\_\_\_

Note: All memberships expire on 31 March. New memberships received on or after 1 January will expire on 31 March of the following year.

Membership fee if applicable \$\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Permits @ \$25 per permit = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total =\$\_\_\_\_\_

Send remittance with this form to the address shown at top of page.