



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222
Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222
www.MVFF.org

August

2018



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Membership Meeting	1
Executive Board Meeting	1
Liars and Tyers	1
President's Corner	1
Project Healing Waters	4
Lady Anglers Update	4
MVFF Fall Trip to the San Juan	5
Club Outings	6
Board Meeting Minutes	6
Photos of Project Healing Waters Trip to the Lease	

Tale Waters Edited by Jim Hulsey — newsletter@mvff.org

Membership Meeting

There will be no MVFF general membership meeting in August. Many members will be fishing and the rest of them should be. The next meeting will be in September. See you then.

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 20 August

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 20 August at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Liars and Tyers will not meet in August. The next meeting will be in September. See you then.

President's Corner

David Carmichael

We Found the Water

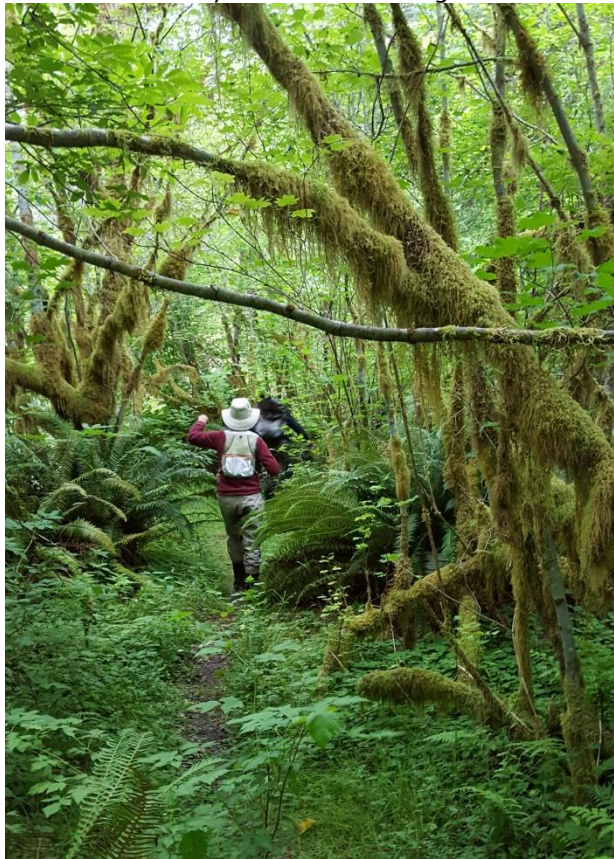
Greetings everyone! When last I wrote you, Miriam and I were making our way through the drought stricken Southwest and southern Plateau regions of the country.



Upon our arrival in the Pacific Northwest, we found the water, in the form of glaciers atop Mt. Rainier and Mt. Olympus, and in cold, clear rivers and streams. Having no experience fishing the Olympic peninsula, we booked a guided wade trip out of Waters West Fly Shop in Port Angeles, WA to get a feel for the north-western portion of the peninsula: the rain forest area. Waters West is a great fly shop and full service outfitter; they even offer rods and waders for rent if you're travelling light or don't own the heavier sort of rods and flies used for steelhead and sea run cutthroat trout. If you're interested in visiting the Port Angeles area, check out their webpage at www.waterswest.com.

According to our guide, the summer steelhead run is not very prolific, but he knew a few holes on the Bogachiel River where they hang out on their way upstream, and we spent the morning giving it a try. After casting streamers all morning, we each had one take but no hookups. We have fished a variety of waters throughout the western US, but I have to say that the Bogachiel was the most difficult wading I've ever experienced, because of the strong currents and large, rounded boulders underfoot. Despite the relatively low water levels that characterize the summer steelhead season, it was still necessary to wade waist deep in some places. Even in the shallow sections, and even with a wading staff, wading was difficult because of the size, shape and slipperiness of the rocks; it was like trying to walk on greased bowling balls. About an hour into our trip, the guide asked what kind of boots we were using, and when he found out we had Vibram soles he understood why we were moving so slowly and awkwardly. Anglers who regularly fish the Bogachiel and Sol Duc use boots with felt soles. As we fish rivers in the Yellowstone region where felt is banned, the next best approach would have been to have studs or cleats on our boots; we did not. The guide was amazed that we didn't slip and fall more than we did.

After lunch we moved to the lower Sol Duc River to fish for sea run cutthroat trout. The rain forest is stunning, with huge, moss-covered spruce, maples, and alders at every turn. While eating lunch under an



Miriam chasing Bigfoot through the rain forest?

ancient big leaf maple, we were treated to the spectacle of a bald eagle flying over the river carrying a sockeye salmon. The salmon was so large that the eagle needed to rest in a tree opposite our position before continuing upstream to the nest. In our two hours on the Sol Duc we each caught two Pacific coastal (sea run) cutthroats and some parrs (juvenile steelhead) on streamers. The cutthroats look like regular cuts but with more spots; and they are super aggressive and very hard fighting. They ranged in size from 10–15 inches. The casting technique is different than what we're used to doing for trout: no mending, using the drag on the line to purposely speed up the fly as it is swept downstream, and delaying the hookset. I missed hooking about 6 fish because of trying to set the hook too soon. There is much to be learned if we're going to fish those waters regularly. And long casts are the rule, so it will be good to learn spey casting. Miriam's ahead of me on

that, as she spent a couple of hours getting a lesson from the guide while using an 11 ft. 7 wt. switch rod.

Fishing at Rock Creek east of Missoula, MT has been on our to-do list for a while, so after leaving the Seattle area, we decided to camp and take a day to fish what is often identified as the quintessential blue ribbon wading stream in Montana. Though I have to say, Rock Creek was running so high, wide and fast that it almost isn't honest to call it a creek; it was a substantial river, unusually high and swift for that time of year. Southwestern Montana and the area around Yellowstone NP received something like 170% of normal snowpack last winter; runoff was several weeks late, and many of the rivers and streams had just become fishable by mid-July. We were there on 7/19, and the week before that was the first of the season in which the streamflow was less than double the norm for that time of year. We heard this from the owner of Trout Bums (www.rockcreektroutbums.com), the local fly shop that also rents cabins in the valley. She also mentioned that the previous week an angler was knocked off his feet by the current and swept downstream for a mile before managing to scramble to safety. The cobbles in Rock Creek are pretty slippery and that combined with high flows makes for treacherous wading.

Rock Creek is a very pretty river that extends from its confluence with the Clark Fork a few miles east of Missoula, to the headwaters about 40 miles to the south. The creek contains many boulders and lots of pocket water interspersed with moderately deep runs.



A quiet denizen of the meadows along the lower portion of Rock Creek

The most productive areas for us and for other anglers we encountered were places where braided channels and small islands provided access to more

moderate flows. According to the fly shop personnel, we did well, given the challenging conditions. Miriam caught 14 fish, and I got 8, including browns, rainbows, cutthroats, and mountain whitefish, mostly on various mayfly nymph imitations. We were also treated to some close encounters with wildlife, including a nursery herd of bighorn sheep, several deer, and lots of birds. We also found many fresh moose footprints but unfortunately didn't see any of the moose themselves.

The Gallatin River outside Yellowstone National Park was our last fishing stop of the trip. We had planned to camp in a USFS campground as we had along Rock Creek, but as we drove the forty three miles from 37 Mile Bridge near Bozeman, past Big Sky and Red Cliff, we discovered that all the campsites in every campground were either filled, or reserved for that night. (I didn't even know one could reserve USFS camp sites.) Getting desperate at about 6pm, and knowing that accommodations would become even more scarce as we neared the west entrance to Yellowstone, we veered off Hwy 191 at the sign advertising cabins at the 320 Guest Ranch along the banks of the Gallatin at the confluence with Buffalo Horn Creek.

What a wonderful surprise the ranch turned out to be! The desk clerk offered us a 30% discount, 10% each for having AAA, for me being an educator, and for Miriam being a first responder. That made what would have been a slightly pricey stay very affordable. The 320 Guest Ranch (originally Buffalo Horn Resort) was established in 1898 by Dr. Caroline McGill. She was Montana's first female doctor, and she believed that time spent outdoors was physically and mentally beneficial, so she bought the ranch as a retreat for her friends. The property is set up to accommodate small groups, family vacations, corporate retreats, and weddings. They have available trail rides, mountain biking, rafting trips, zip lines, skiing, golf trips to Big Sky, and of course, fly fishing. For us, it was really great that the ranch includes frontage on the Gal-

latin River, so we could simply walk from our cabin to the river without having to worry about parking in pullouts or avoiding crowds on other stretches of the river downstream in the canyon section.

The ranch also has its own fly shop and a fly fishing guide who was very helpful even though we didn't book a trip with him. I think we were the first ranch guests all season to actually fish the Gallatin through their property rather than just taking casting lessons on the ranch pond, and he was happy to help us figure out the fishery a bit. One of the patterns he suggested was the lightning bug, and it turned out to be the top producing fly during our day on the river. It is essentially a bead head pheasant tail pattern tied with a chartreuse body and yellow dubbing thorax. I think

it is supposed to imitate a PMD nymph, and it was effective all day. All of the shop's flies were either MFC or Dan Bailey patterns (to promote Montana businesses), but I don't remember which company produced the lightning bug; one or the other if you want to look it up in their catalogs.

We had a good day and caught 26 nice trout in about five hours. The

wading was challenging because of the slippery boulders, but the cleats, studs and wading staffs really helped. The only negative was the horse flies hovering around us all day, despite the application of Deet bug repellent. We ended up covering our heads,



Miriam catching another trout on the upper Gallatin River, 320 Ranch, Montana



Lightning bug pattern, top producer on the Gallatin River

necks and faces with our buffs, and that helped a lot, as did the long sleeves of our tech shirts. Once again, Miriam took the honors with the most fish (14) and the largest, a 16 ½" brown. So dinner was on me, and it was quite a wonderful dinner at that. The ranch has a top notch restaurant, with a good wine list, serious single malt selection, and really great service. We ate bison and elk both evenings of our stay, and enjoyed a really nice complementary continental breakfast each morning. If you're considering fishing the Gallatin or visiting the northwest portion of Yellowstone National Park, check out the amenities online at www.320ranch.com.

Product Reviews

We did some unplanned product testing during our trip, and I thought club members might be interested the results. First, I'd like to thank all the board and club members again for the Fishpond Thunderhead Submersible Lumbar pack I received as an appreciation gift last winter. Although the pack is intended as an alternative to a sling pack for carrying lunch, fly boxes and other fishing gear, I have begun using it mainly as camera bag for my Canon EOS digital SLR when I'm on the water. It doesn't have all the dividers one might expect from a camera bag, but it has an airtight and waterproof zipper closure that really works. I tested it unintentionally on the Bogachiel and Sol Duc Rivers at the northwestern tip of the Olympic peninsula. I slipped and fell in a few times while wading, once up to my armpits. I can attest that the Fishpond Submersible was definitely submersed, and the camera stayed completely dry.

It so happened that I had two full sets of wader boot studs stored in the wader bag, so after our experience with the greased bowling balls in the Bogachiel, I spent an hour attaching the studs by hand to Miriam's Simms Boa boots and my Patagonia Ultralights (see photo). The Simms soles have about double the number of pre-drilled stud holes as the Patagonia boots, so Miriam felt a greater improvement in traction than I did, though we both felt more secure with the studs attached while fishing at Rock Creek. When we reached Bozeman, we stopped at the fly shop we always visit, The River's Edge fly shop. One of the reasons for visiting this shop is their selection of Simms products. The River's Edge (their west location) is just across the street from the Simms factory,

and they are the only fly shop in the country to carry the complete line of Simms products.

As is the case for many women, Miriam has always had some difficulty finding wading boots that fit well because women's feet are generally narrower than men's. Simms has been working on providing boots that are better suited to women's needs, so we stopped in so Miriam could try on their new line of women's boots. She ended up getting a good fit with the Simms Women's Vapor boot with Vibram soles and Cleanstream features that make them less likely to carry organisms from one stream to another. But because of our recent positive experience with boot studs, she had the shop install their own specially packaged set of cleats and studs on the new boots. The package includes the Rivers Edge Hardbite star cleats and boot studs (pictured) and the mounting



Close up of Rivers Edge Hardbite star cleats and boot studs

screws. The star cleats and studs have small pieces of metal welded to the outer surfaces, providing better grip than flat cleats or studs. The screws are wider and less pointy than standard studs, so it is necessary to use a power drill to mount them most effectively. There are 14 traction points on each boot, and Miriam had better traction than she did with her Simms Boas with standard studs, and much better results in the Gallatin than I did with standard studs. The Rivers Edge Hardbite cleats and studs package can be ordered online for \$69.95 at www.theriversedge.com. I will be getting a set for my next pair of boots, and those boots will have more mounting holes than the Patagonia Ultralights I've been using recently. [↑](#)



Ron Bellerose
PHW Coordinator



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing had a great July with 3 fly tying events and a great fishing event with the Wounded Warrior Transition Battalion from Ft Bliss. Thanks to all the volunteers we had to help the soldiers fishing at the lease. A great job was done with the cook out. Had no complaints at all. For all of you to know the food was all donated by the Oscar Moreno cook crew. Thank you so much. (See photos of the event on pages 6 and 7).

We will have two fly tying events in August with our local Vets. Ft Bliss is trying to set up a fly tying and fishing event for September. The fishing will be at Grindstone Lake. Seems that many of the soldiers want to be able to keep the fish. We are also hoping to have a San Juan trip in September with our local Vets.

This will be the last of Project Healing Waters for our Vets unless someone will take the position of Program Lead for this area. More info to come.

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

Lady Anglers Update

The Lady Anglers is a group of women MVFF members who love to fly fish and have fun doing it. Individual members of the group have been busy fishing this summer in New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Montana. The next group trip, which is already fully booked, is planned for the Upper Rio Grande area in Colorado from September 20th to 24th. Our guides for the fall trip will be from Wolf Creek Anglers, the fly shop headed by Brad Shallenberger who spoke at the club meeting on February 12th. We will be floating and wading on the fall trip.



Yellowstone Cutthroat caught in Spring Creek near Livingstone, MT by an anonymous Lady Angler.

Information on Lady Angler events and fishing trips is made available to all women on our e-mail list and through announcements in the Club newsletter and at monthly Club meetings. Beginners are welcome and the only requirement for joining us is MVFF membership. To add your name to the e-mail list, or for more information, contact Mary Hoffman at 505-710-5229. [↑](#)

Fall 2018 MVFF San Juan Trip

3 Nights, November 4th to 7th

Octagon Inn

The Octagon Inn is limited to the first 9 members at a cost of \$140 per angler.

Waters Edge House

The Riverside House is limited to 4 couples. King Suite 1 or 2 at \$310, Queen Suite at \$300 and double bedroom or 2 twin bed room with shared bath at \$295.

Guided trips by Sandstone Anglers

Full day guided float with lunch (2 anglers)
\$187/angler plus tip

Full day guided wade with lunch (3 anglers)
\$133/angler plus tip

All Dinner's are included in the above prices. Dinner's on the 4th, 5th and 7th at the Riverside House. You will have to bring your own beverage. For those members who would prefer to arrange their own accommodation, you can join the group for dinner each night at a cost of \$25.00 paid in advance. All pricing includes taxes. Full payment is due no later than October 1st, 2018. If you wish to join us please contact

Chuck Mueller to book this trip at 575-647-4045 or email at mueller@mvff.org. [↑](#)

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.

Current trips planned are:

- Sept. 20 - 24 — Lady Anglers will be fishing with Wolf Creek Anglers in CO.
- Nov. 4 - 7 — Annual fall Club trip to the San Juan.

[↑](#)

MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

The board did not meet in July. The next Board meeting will be in August. [↑](#)

Project Healing Waters

Fishing Trip to the MVFF Lease



More Project Healing Waters



Quick Look Contact Information**2018 Officers of the Club****Officers**

- **President:** David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
- **V-Pres.:** Tom Johnson (417) 684-7075
- **Secretary:** Jeff Arterburn (612) 720-3456
- **Treasurer:** Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045

Board Members

- **Position 1:** David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
- **Position 2:** Tom Johnson (417) 684-7075
- **Position 3:** Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
- **Position 4:** Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880
- **Position 5:** Robert Ardovino (575) 589-0653
- **Position 6:** Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
- **Position 7:** Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
- **Position 8:** Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
- **Position 9:** Dillen Martinez (505) 401-3640

Newsletter & Web Page Editor

- Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880 newsletter@mvff.org

Membership Committee Chairman

- Bob Silver (575) 522-6325 membership@mvff.org

NMSU AF Student Representative

- Dillen Martinez ()

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.

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.

**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.

***** REMEMBER *****

MVFF MEMBERSHIPS & NM FISHING LICENSES 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, to purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco and to participate in other Club activities such as an 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.

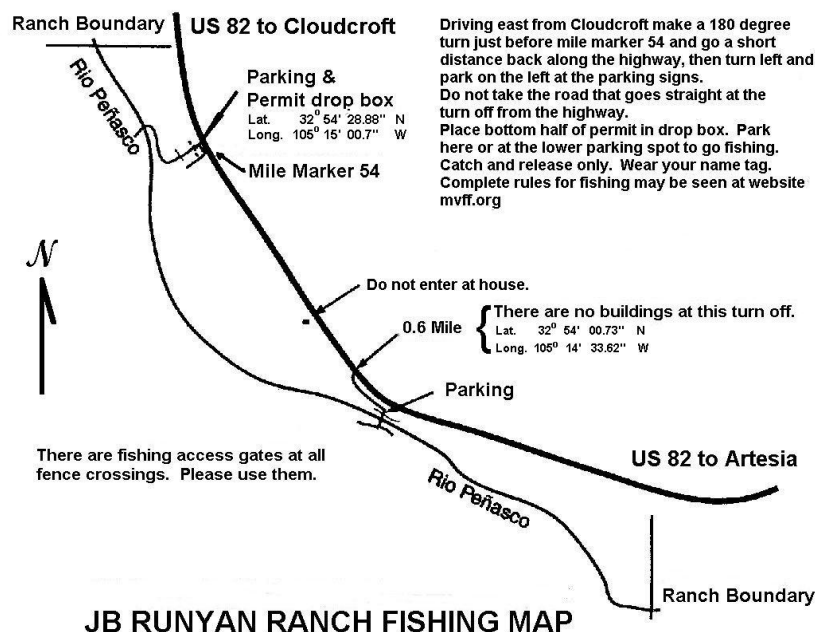
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulse (575-524-1880) or Bob Silver (575-522-6325) 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 Hulse. 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.