



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

September

2020



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

Meetings

Editor:—Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Club will hold no meetings in the foreseeable future.

President's Corner

David Carmichael

What we Would have Done during Summer Vacation



Like many of you, Miriam and I would have preferred to spend our summer vacation traveling and fishing our way through the western U.S. Specifically, we had planned to visit Yellowstone country where we had reserved a cabin on the Gallatin River with friends and club members from Santa Fe. But, as has become clear, vacation travel in the U.S. is responsible for much of the spread of COVID-19. I just read that an analysis of cell phone records indicates that the attendees at the Sturgis motorcycle rally traveled to 61% of the counties in the nation after the 10-day event in South Dakota last month. New cases resulting from the rally have been documented in 11 states. At the moment, nearly all of the counties experiencing the greatest increases in cases are rural; at least we didn't contribute to that sort of transmission of infections.

It would have been nice to catch a few Yellowstone cut-throat trout like this 17-incher netted during a previous visit to Soda Butte Creek in Yellowstone National

Park. Instead, I took a nostalgic virtual fishing trip with Molly Semenik and Tom Rosenbauer on the Yellowstone River by drift boat, and by wading the Gallatin. Nostalgic because Miriam and I have done both of those trips on previous visits to the region. Virtual because it was a video. Here's the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jl6Yi7bCf98>

Speaking of Tom Rosenbauer, here are the links to a couple of nice little videos on Tom's must-have flies for trout, and the ones you might want to consider using especially in the fall:

<https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/tom-rosenbauers-12-essential-trout-flies>

<https://www.tu.org/blog/rosenbauers-top-10-fall-trout-flies/>

I was saddened to learn that on July 14 a fire in the main business district in Gardiner, Montana near the north entrance to Yellowstone NP, destroyed several iconic businesses, including the Two-Bit Saloon, the Yellowstone Raft Company, Rosie's Bistro, and Red's Blue Goose Saloon. Gardiner is one of our favorite places to visit when in Yellowstone country, and we have patronized most of those businesses, as well as



Fire damage in Gardiner, MT. (Graeden Roesler photo for Billings Gazette)

Park's Fly Shop and the Gardiner Guest House just across the street. Fortunately, the fly shop and B&B

were not damaged, but the losses are a tough hit, especially coming so closely after the reopening of the park which had been closed down for COVID. I heard from Richard Parks that the Two-Bit liquor license is being transferred out of Gardiner to a business in Emigrant, which is 30 miles downstream, about half way to Livingston. That will likely have some impact on the local economy as businesses consider whether to rebuild in the block that was anchored by the Two-Bit. Most of the immediate needs for the folks directly affected by the fire have been addressed, though longer term issues are still up in the air, pending insurance settlements. According to Richard, the best way to support the community, if you are so inclined, would be to send funds to the Gardiner Food Pantry.

Given that my daughter lives in Seattle, we would have probably also made a quick (!) trip over the Olympic Peninsula for some fly fishing before heading back to the Southwest. This is not the year to fish for pink salmon from the shores of Puget Sound (that happens in odd-numbered years), but it would have been a good time to explore the thin blue lines on the peninsula. By thin blue lines, I mean the small, isolated streams and creeks that are shown on topographic maps only as thin blue lines. In other words, our kinds of fisheries. I've written before about the attractions and advantages of fishing on small waters like we have here in New Mexico, but this Sage video provides a visually spectacular version of that story.

https://www.sageflyfish.com/experience/sage-blog/blue-line-adventures?utm_source=Sage+News-Letter&utm_campaign=027d6b3115-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_08_12_03_43&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a4f998861d-027d6b3115-85104805



17-inch Roaring Fork rainbow caught at dusk on a green pupa

Environmental News

There has been an interesting development in the on-going saga of the proposed Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay watershed. On August 24, it was widely reported that the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) had declined to issue the necessary Clean Water Act permit that would allow Northern Dynasty to proceed with the building of the proposed Pebble Mine. This statement is true as far as it goes, but some clarification is necessary. The COE determined that the proposed mine would cause significant damage to the environment, so *as currently proposed*, the mine will not receive a Clean

Water Act permit. While this is certainly an encouraging development (if you're rooting for clean water and sockeye salmon), it is not the end of the process. The COE has given Pebble Mine proponents 90 days in which to respond with an updated mine plan that would address the COE's environmental concerns. One wonders how much to expect from a mine plan prepared in 90 days, if the

one(s) prepared over the past dozen years were so inadequate, but it is now part of the process. Perhaps we might think about doing a couple of things: celebrate by eating some wild-caught sockeye salmon from Bristol Bay, and make plans to contact elected officials to get the EPA to end the proposed mine project once and for all. For more information, and suggestions on how to take action, visit www.defend-bristolbay.com.

New research reported in Nature Communications (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-17726-z>) suggests that Alaska's salmon are getting smaller. They are spending fewer years living in the ocean and are returning earlier to spawn, compared to

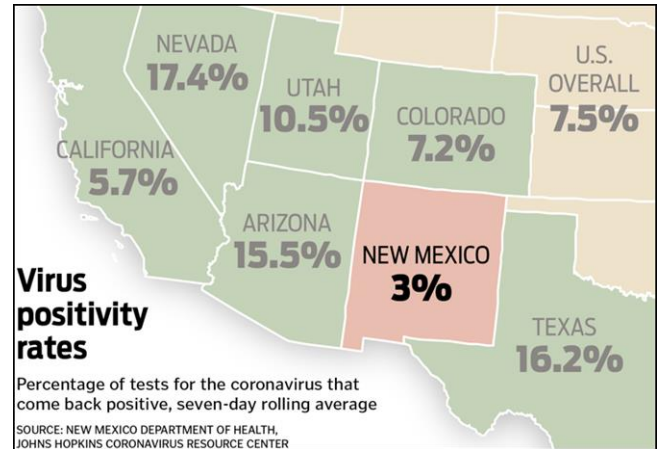
30 years ago. They could be the same age at spawning but growing more slowly while at sea, or they could be reaching sexual maturity more quickly and spawning at a younger age; the answer is not yet clear. There are several different factors and scenarios that could account for the observed reduction in size, and researchers haven't yet nailed down the cause. Unlike other research I've mentioned in past newsletters, commercial netting doesn't appear to be a factor in this case. The authors suggest that increased competition between wild and hatchery salmon may be involved, along with climate change, which is consistently associated with reduced salmon size (because of reduced productivity of warmer ocean water). The reduction in salmon size is a concern because it reduces the market value of salmon products, and reduces the amount of nutrients returned to the ecosystem after the salmon spawn in headwater streams.

Another recent study, this one out of the University of Exeter, has found traces of plastic in every sample of five different seafoods tested. Researchers examined the tissues of squid, prawns, oysters, crabs and sardines, and plastic was found in each. The amount of plastic in a serving of sardines was 30mg, the size of a grain of rice (https://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/homepage/title_809571_en.html). All of the plastics were of the types commonly used in packaging and synthetic textiles. Plastic really is ubiquitous in our environment, and microplastics are entering our diets not only from seafood, but also bottled water, sea salt, beer, honey, and the dust that settles on our meals. Wow; I would have thought recycling would be more effective in preventing such contamination.

COVID Notes

Here is a map from the New Mexico Department of Health summarizing recent data on the percentage of positive COVID-19 tests in New Mexico and neighboring states. As you can see, we're in pretty good shape, and the state has eased some of the restrictions on businesses that have been in place for the past couple of months. So far, we haven't seen a jump in this statistic related to the beginning of the fall semester at area universities, but some states in the Midwest are now exhibiting in excess of 20% positive test results.

The travel restrictions imposed by New Mexico are doing a pretty good job of keeping transmission down, and those restrictions haven't been lifted yet. Thanks for doing your part by limiting non-essential travel.



Diversions, the Good Kind

Here are a couple more fly-fishing stories for your enjoyment. This one is from Fishpond, and it celebrates the simple joys of fishing with kids and watching them learn about the outdoors.

<https://fishpondusa.com/fishpond/the-pond/tales-from-the-pond:-bryan-huskey/>

The second one is a marketing piece from Winston Rod Company; I like that it provides a glimpse of the Winston rod factory floor, the tour of which I missed by an hour the last time I traveled through Twin Bridges, MT. But beyond the desire to sell rods, I think it really does capture some of the emotional and spiritual pull of fly fishing in ways we can all appreciate, regardless of the cost of our fly rod. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxTFN-g-EVc>



A Poem

Editor's note: By this time many of us are but cabin-fevered hulks looking for a ray of sunshine, signaling the end has arrived. We're not there yet, but, Mary has sent us a ray of encouragement by writing us a poem.

Coñejos River

The wind. It twists your lines
and leads your casts astray.
Puts flies in trees
and hooks
in your new shirt.



Fishing will teach you how to make the simple complicated,
and the complicated simple.
Fishing will teach you patience.

Fishing will make you crazy.

Watch the river now – find the pocket behind the rock.
The water there is flat and slow,
between the waves of current rushing on both sides.

Throw a fly in the shaded pocket – let it drift.
Tempt the fish you cannot see that lives in that dark hole.
Think of nothing but your fly – drifting, drifting.

Then – a strike. A fish jumps in the sun,
flashing colors of the landscape – w
late summer green, gold and brown.

He runs – let him go.
He tires – bring him near the net.
He jumps – and then he's gone, victorious.

Stand on the bank, laughing.
Can you love a fish?

Mary Hoffman August, 2020



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



GRG-TU Logo T-shirts to support local trout restoration and conservation efforts.

You can help support our native trout conservation/restoration and outreach/education efforts by purchasing one of our beautiful T-shirts with the GRG-TU logo. We have two colors available: green-on-ivory, and peanut-butter-on black. These are great looking, well-made shirts for a great cause at only \$20 each. Please include \$5

for shipping if you want the shirt(s) mailed. Contact Jeff Arterburn to get yours, and to sign up for the next volunteer event: jeffgilatu@aol.com.



Green logo on ivory



Peanut butter logo on black



Backup! Backup! Backup!

**Trials and Tribulations
Of a Newsletter Editor**

By Jim Hulsey

Perhaps some of you have been wondering why the newsletter is so late this month. No, I didn't go on strike, and no, COVID-19 didn't get me, and no, it wasn't a test to see if anyone reads the newsletter.

Mother Nature did me in by sending a stroke of lightning my way resulting in the quick death of my desktop computer which I had built from components—including a water-cooled CPU, separate graphics processor, Tera bytes of disk storage and max memory—a few years ago. I named it Colossus. Of course, with all the new components produced in the intervening years, it was not so colossal any more even though it still looked pretty impressive.

Having noticed some lightning in the clouds moving our way, I was headed for Colossus to turn it off when I thought I saw a brief blink in the lights, but I couldn't swear to it. Sure enough, Colossus was off. We had dropped power twice in the previous few days and had come through it ok, so I was optimistic that all would be well again. I didn't try booting it up until the next morning and for awhile things looked good, but then it reached a point and froze up. Everything stopped. I booted again, same result. Another half dozen times, same result. Then I tried going through the Bios and booting using the emergency boot thumb-drive I had made, not too recently. Same result. Now things were starting to look rather grim.

From this point everything went downhill. After I had tried a little of anything and everything for a while, I decided that what I had was an unrecoverable error and

after all of my ministrations it was probably unreasonable to expect a recovery. I bid Colossus a fond adieu and started to take stock of my situation.

Let's see now. I ordered a large capacity external disk drive recently and made a full backup of my data drive so I shouldn't be in too bad a shape there. Now just when did I do that? Oh, the middle of June I see. My how time flies when you're hunkered over a hot computer. And what have I done in that time period? Well there were two issues of the newsletter but no problem there. I can always recover them from the web site. I've probably scanned forty or fifty documents in my paper reduction process, but I haven't shredded the papers yet so I can recover them, but it'll be a lot of work. Uh oh, I did my taxes in July and everything was stored digitally. I have no paper on them. That's a big problem, but I'll worry about it later. For right now I'll assume my data drive is ok.

I dug out my laptop which I had bought about a year and a half ago but had never brought up to speed. Now was the time to get it going. Now I faced the problem of installing a copy of MS Office Pro on it, the reason I hadn't finished setting it up to begin with. I had balked at spending about four hundred dollars for it. Talking with my son about the problem, he told me about a site he had found on the internet that sold nothing but MS Windows and Office. It seemed a little suspicious to me but since he had had good luck with it I decided to give it a try.

I went to the site and found out that sure enough they had what I wanted, cheap. I could get a copy of 2019 MS Office Pro for \$50. Unbelievable. I decided what the heck, I'll give it a try. I paid for it and in a few minutes received an email giving the address of a download site and a product number. With a few minor difficulties I got the software installed, entered the code and held my breath. It activated. I was almost back in business.

One of the first things that I did upon deciding that I was not going to get Colossus back up and running was to order an external HDD docking station. Since I was in a hurry I paid extra for two-day shipping and in about six days received the unit. I removed the data HDD from Colossus and installed it in the dock, again held my breath and booted the laptop. Voila! It worked. I had all my data back, including taxes. Well almost. Of course, my emails, contacts and calendar

were still missing since they are on the system drive. I'll worry about that later.

My first project was to get the newsletter out, only three weeks late. I should have known that it couldn't be that easy. Seems as if Microsoft had been busy during the interval between putting out the 2007 edition of Office and the 2019 edition. I've fought my way through most of the obstacles, but I'm still not sure all their improvements were really improvements.

So here is the newsletter, enjoy it. But before you do anything else **BACK UP YOUR HARD DRIVES**.

So, what about Colossus? I think that I will get a new motherboard and CPU along with some high-speed memory and rebuild. Laptops are just not what they are cracked up to be. Since it will rise from the ashes (figuratively) maybe I will name it PHOENIX.



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.

After many years of organizing trips, Chuck Mueller is stepping aside, and we really need other volunteers to step up and take on these projects. Maybe you have a trip you would like to head up. Please think about it and let David or Chuck know if you can help out.

No trips are currently being planned.



MVFF Library

MVFF has a considerable library which is now in the custody of Club member Mark Dankel. Mark would like to make these books available to members. If you wish to borrow any of these books let Mark know and he will bring them to the next membership meeting. Mark can be contacted at mpdankel@msn.com.

A list of the books can be found in the November 2019 issue of Tale Waters.



Board Meeting Minutes

There was no Board Meeting in August and, so, no minutes. The Board will not meet until September at the earliest.



Quick Look Contact Information

2020 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	Jim Sorenson (505) 710-4264
• Secretary:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• Treasurer:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
Board Members	
• Position 1:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• Position 2:	Ron Bellerose (575) 680-5516
• Position 3:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• Position 4:	Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880
• Position 5:	Robert Ardivino (575) 589-0653
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	Bob Silver (575) 642-5865
• Position 8:	Jim Sorenson (505) 710-4264
• 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) 642-5865	membership@mvff.org
Lady Anglers	
• Mary Hoffman (505) 710-5229	

Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund

The Mabie Legacy 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 scholarship recipient is selected each April by the faculty members of the NMSU Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology.

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 "Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund, for deposit only." All contributions are tax deductible. For any questions please contact one of the MVFF Officers or Board members. If you have not made a donation to the fund please give it consideration and help honor Norm and Donna Mabie.

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.



******* 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.

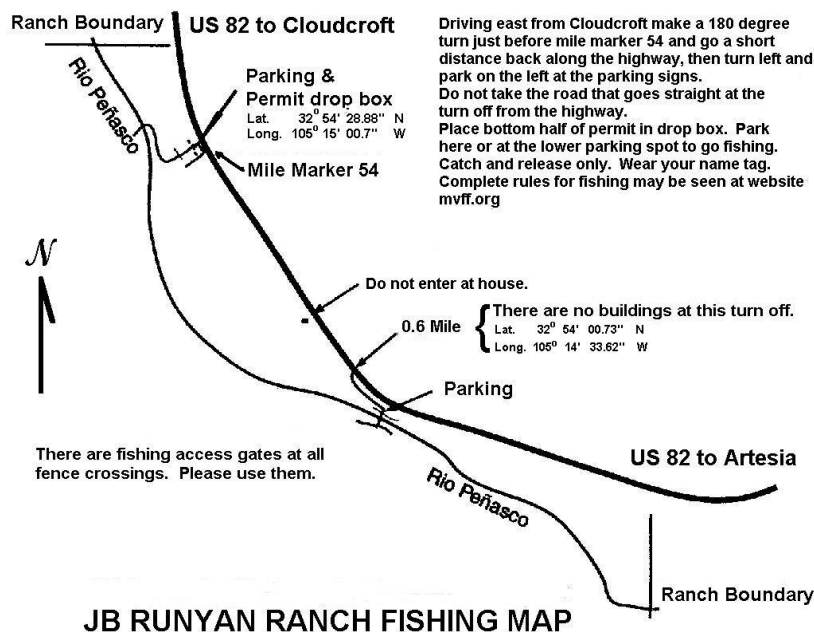
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulseley (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 or, if you had rather, you may pay through PayPal. 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 Bob Silver. In addition, members may purchase 1-day, 1-time permits for up to 2 guests per trip. Each guest must have a permit. One-time means a person can go as a guest one time only and must be a member to ever go again.

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.