



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

August

2014



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Membership Meeting	1
Executive Board Meeting	1
Liars & Tyers	1
President's Corner	1
Project Healing Waters	1
Club Outings	2
New Members	2
13 Habits of Highly Effective Anglers	2
Al Trompler Obituary	4
Conejos River Fishing Report	6

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, 18 August

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 18 August at 7:00pm at 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



The Club trip to the Conejos was a huge success. Unfortunately, I had to drop out at the last minute, but kudos to George Sanders and Bob Silver for unlocking the secrets of the Conejos. Later

in the week, I was able to get up to the Meadows section of the Conejos for a day. Following Bob's

recommendations, I had the best fishing day I have ever had on that river. I need to get to Elk Creek yet to see if the trout are still feeding on dry flies—so many fish, so little time.

SAVE THE DATE. We had to change the date for the annual banquet to February 7th in order to accommodate our guest speaker's schedule, but Landon Mayor will be our guest speaker. Landon guides on the South Platte River in Colorado, is the author of several books on fly fishing and is a frequent and entertaining speaker. We are planning other activities during the day of the banquet, so look for additional information in future newsletters and emails.

MVFF has been selected as the Volunteer Organization of the Year by the Aquatic Resources and Education Division of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. So if you have ever helped out at a Project Healing Waters event, a Kids' Fishing Day, a Free Fishing Day, an Outdoor's Expo, a Wounded Warriors event or any of the other volunteer opportunities we have had, stand up and take a bow. The Club will be honored at a barbecue dinner at the Albuquerque Shooting Grounds on Saturday, August 16 at 5:00pm. They can make it to the event, please drop me an email at president@mvff.org and let me know how many in your party.

Tight Lines,
Jim



Ron Bellerose



Project Healing Waters is in the hot summer slow down mode. We are still doing our fly tying at the Las Cruces VA Clinic on the last Wednesday of the month,

1:00pm.

A special thanks goes out to Jerry and Sue Spence for their donation of fly tying materials and equipment. Great items that can be used by the Vets.

Expect more info on PHW for the Fall.

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.

Club Outings Planned

The board is now discussing possible outings for 2014 and would welcome suggestions from members. Where do you want to go? Let us know. If

you have comments or suggestions for additional trips pass them to any of the Board members.

The following trips are currently being planned:

- Gunnison River—Sept. 6-10—This is a "Lady Anglers" event
- Kodiak—October 4-12—six people are signed up.
- San Juan Nov. 6 - 9 the Club's annual Fall trip to the San Juan.

Welcome New Members

Brandon Mabry	Las Cruces, NM
Kandace Medlin	Lubbock, TX
Brannon Rodgeo	Cresbyton, TX
Leary M. Sooter	Livingston, TX

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13 Habits of Highly Effective Anglers

Credit belongs to Denekti Outdoors, www.denekti.com

How can you become better at fly fishing? I came across the following article from Denekti Outdoors. Here are 13 tips that help and are shared in common by anglers who catch fish, plus one (#14) that I added from my own experience and observation.—By Bob Silver

1. **Check your knots.** Every single time they tie a knot; effective anglers give it a good tug to make sure it's strong and seated correctly. Every time. It is very unusual for a really good angler to 'break one off'. Practice tying knots so that you can tie them quickly.
2. **Keep your hooks sharp.** Almost any time he touches his fly, a great angler will check its point to make sure it's sharp. If it's not, he'll sharpen it or replace it.
3. **Organize your gear.** It's kind of obvious when you say it this way, but having the right gear for the situation, organized so you can find what you need, helps a lot. If you look inside the gear bag of an effective angler, you don't see a big pile of doo doo.
4. **Fish the near water first.** Anglers who catch a lot of fish always make some short casts into the near water first. If you tromp right into the run and launch one out to 70 feet, your chances of catching that fish right on the bank are exactly zero.
5. **Listen to your guide.** You're fishing with a guide for a reason – she knows the water better than you do. Truly good anglers don't get all chest-thumpy and think they know better than their guide – they let their guide do her job, and listen to what she says, and then they catch more fish.
6. **Keep your fly in the water by minimizing false casts and re-casts.** You're only fishing when your fly is in the water. False casting and re-doing slightly sub-par casts wastes time and increases the chances that you tangle your line, snag your buddy, etc. A fly in the air catches no fish – keep it in the water, even if it wasn't the best cast you ever made in your life.
7. **Keep the fly in the water by not constantly changing flies, sinktips, etc.** Wasting a few seconds at a time by false casting too much is one thing...wasting 5 minutes at a time by constantly changing your rig is brutal. We're trying to keep today's article positive, but in this case we'll say it like this – the least effective anglers we know burn an hour or more per day re-rigging when it makes little to no difference. Focus on presentation and keep it in the water.

- 8. **Take what the day gives you.** Fishing is complicated, and a bunch of variables impact what kind of techniques are going to work well on any given day. Effective anglers aren't rigid about their plans - they look at weather, water conditions and more, and base their plan on those variables. They know that over the long term they'll be able to fish the way they want to fish, and that they'll have a lot more fun and catch a lot more fish in the process
- 9. **Let the fish eat.** How often have you heard someone say "man, I was way too slow on the hook set"? OK, if you're fishing for permit maybe so, but in most freshwater situations it's a far more common sin to set the hook way too early. Relax and let him eat it!
- 10. **Practice your casting.** Golly this is such a no-brainer that it's shocking how rarely supposedly 'aspiring' anglers do it. Good anglers practice their casting, especially before a big trip. We'll invoke the Pebble Beach metaphor yet again - would you really spend all the time and money to go play Pebble Beach for 4 hours without going to the driving range a few times first? Of course not - so why do so many anglers spend \$5,000+ and 9 days on a fishing trip without practicing their casting even 2 or 3 times for 10 minutes each? The world will never know. Don't even get us started on brand new rods and lines...you're swinging that new club for the first time on the first tee at Pebble? Really?
- 11. **Never stop learning.** Truly great anglers know that they can learn something about fishing from almost anybody. Get a bunch of actual experts

- together and you'll find that they're constantly asking each other questions, trying new techniques, changing things up and keeping an open mind. That's a big reason they're as good as they are. If you think you don't have a lot more to learn about fishing, you're wrong.
- 12. **When in doubt, check for knots in your leader, a fouled fly, etc.** Effective anglers don't want a boneheaded problem to screw up a fish on which they've done everything else right. When they throw a tailing loop (when, not if) they check to make sure they don't have a wind knot. If they've been fishing an articulated pattern for a few minutes, they strip it in to make sure it's not fouled. If you have any doubt, make sure your rig is right.
- 13. **Stay positive.** If you're mad about your bad casting or that fish you just lost or the guy who just low-holed you or the new cover sheet for the company TPS report, you're not going to catch very many fish. This is a fact. Effective anglers are anglers who are positive and grateful to have the opportunity to spend a day on the water. This is a very powerful effect that we don't totally understand - you certainly fish better when you're happier, but beyond that somehow the universe just knows.
- 14. **Finally....Get your eye sight checked.** I knew I needed glasses when I started to fish the San Juan and began using size 24 flies. As I get older I need them all the time to read and to do close up work. Stop fuddling with your knots if you need glasses. Get them and it makes the whole fly fishing experience much more fun.

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Al Trompler

July 30, 2014

Editor's note: The Club lost a valued member with the passing of Al Trompler. Bob Silver and Jeff Arterburn express the feelings of the entire club.

The Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers' have lost a great friend, mentor and fishing companion. Dr. Al Trompler passed away on July 30, 2014. Al was a dedicated angler and long-time member of MVFF who traveled the world in pursuit of his passion for salmonids and finding the best places to sight fish the saltwater

flats. He cultured a deep knowledge and appreciation of the lore and history of fly-fishing, and more than anything else, he liked to pass on his experience, knowledge and enthusiasm for the sport. He was like that favorite Uncle who traveled to exotic locations to do cool things and included you on those adventures and we will be forever grateful to him for that. We all admired Al's passion and concern for the outdoors whether hunting, bicycling, fishing, birding or simply just observing. He was known for his "trip of the



month" fishing trips and shared his experiences with presentations at MVFF meetings numerous times. He led the club's first do-it-yourself trip to Kodiak, AK where he "did-it-all" for us and started a tradition that continues to this day. He packed as much into

his life as he could all the way to the end. Something we should learn from and do. Our hearts are with his dear wife Helen, his sons Curtiss and Robert, daughter in law Sharon, and grandson Ryan.

Tight lines Al, we will miss you!



In Memoriam

Raymond Allison "Al" Trompler

1941 — 2014



Al passed away July 30, 2014. His battle with cancer is over. The struggle was long and

difficult but he did not lose the battle. Instead he lived all his days with determination, vigor and humor. He survived with cancer for many years, always with a hope and a promise of yet another fishing trip.

Al was born Raymond Allison Trompler on May 29, 1941 to Raymond Trompler, Sr. and Julia Allison Trompler in Hillsboro, Texas. He loved scouting and spent his youth on the plains of far north Texas learning to hunt and fish, activities that he enjoyed all his life.

He graduated with highest honors from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas and attended the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, graduating in 1966. Al served his country as a

medical officer in the US Army and later completed his residency in Pathology at William Beaumont Army Medical Center, El Paso, Texas. Following his residency, he accepted a position in Pathology at Memorial Medical Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico. He later became the Medical Director of the Laboratory of that hospital. In 1984 Al accepted a position as Staff Pathologist at Scott and White Memorial Hospital and Clinic in Temple, Texas. He specialized in surgical pathology and cytopathology. He also served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Texas A&M University College of Medicine. Al was a strict and exacting teacher and mentored many new doctors in the field of pathologic medicine. He retired from Scott and White in 1999 and returned to Las Cruces.

Al is survived by his wife, best friend and favorite fishing buddy, Helen Zagona. He is also survived by his son Robert A. Trompler and daughter in law Sharon Trompler and grandson Ryan Trompler, all of

Las Cruces, New Mexico; and by son Curtis Trompler and companion Judy Mendez, of Austin, Texas. Al and his sons shared a special closeness and enjoyed many vacations together and all became excellent fly fishermen. He is survived by many cousins, brothers- and sisters-in law- and his beloved niece, Caterina Zagona-Prizio. Al was very active all his life and made many friends along the way. He was an accomplished skier, honing his skills each winter at Taos Ski Valley. In his earlier years, he took up running and ran with the Mesilla Valley Track Club. In later years he became an avid cyclist and rode every week (that he was not fishing) with Bike and Chowder Club where he met many other riders whose friendships he cherished. A born naturalist, Al discovered birding in his later years and was an asset to annual bird counts by MesillaValley Audubon club. He spotted a few fairly rare migrants to New Mexico in the process. As a passionate fly fisherman, Al was active in the Mesilla Valley Flyfishers Club and made some of his closest friendships there. He found that Las Cruces offered many

of his favorite pastimes and he had a special fondness for the community and its people.



Al's family wish to thank the staff at Mesilla Valley Hospice and especially Susan Brooks, RN for their unending support and comfort during the last months of Al's illness.

Al never gave up on life and lived each moment to the fullest. His many friends and colleagues will gather to remember him and celebrate his life

at 3:00 PM on Sunday, September 21 at Getz Funeral Chapel, 1410 E. Bowman Ave, Las Cruces, NM.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that those wishing to remember Al may give to the St. Jude's Children's



Hospital of Memphis, TN in his memory. He had a close working relationship with this hospital and a strong belief in their mission. Donations may also go to Mesilla Valley Hospice or the charity of your own choice. Notes of condolence may be sent to: tromplermemorial@Q.com.

The season is ended.

There was not enough of it: there never is.

—Nick Lyons

Conejos River, Colorado

Fishing Trip Report by Bob Silver



George Sanders plus two more friends and I camped at the Mogote Campground in Colorado from July 11th to the 13th. The monsoon season has started and the weather was a nice break from the heat of the summer. It was in the

high 40's at night and in the 60's and 70's during the day depending on the rain and the elevation. We had regular afternoon thundershowers. Since rain can make the river murky, we decided to go upriver and fish the Meadows in the upper Conejos a few miles below Platoro on Friday, our first day. We did very well and decided on a repeat for Saturday as well.

The best combo of flies was a bright red or orange worm as the top fly with a lime-green or rust colored caddis larvae with a black beadhead as the second fly. Fish seemed to key on brightly colored flies or flies with a flashback. We also caught fish on a Lightning Bug and Flashback black wired stoneflies. The dropper flies were about a size 16. We didn't try a Copper John, but I bet a red or black one would have worked too.

Half the fish took the worm consistently through the day and we varied the 2nd fly when the action slowed down. The fish were holding in the deeper runs and so we varied the weight to keep the flies near the bottom of the river. Bring enough tackle and flies as getting stuck on the bottom was common. I used a 9 foot 4X leader and 4X and 5X tippet. There was lots of insect activity all day ranging from midges up to the big Green Drake mayflies.

The Conejos is well known for the Green Drake hatch in early July. On both days about 10:30am we were lucky to be in the right place when a hatch began. On Friday it was rainy and cloudy and the hatch lasted

about 2 hours. Saturday was sunny so the hatch only lasted about 45 minutes. But each day the fish took size 12 dry flies. FUN!

At first you notice a big grayish mayfly emerge and slowly fly off the surface of the river. Then you see the 1st splashy rise of a fish. Then suddenly there are more mayflies rising and every fish in the river is on the surface slashing at the emerging drakes. Seeing all of this activity reminds me of popping popcorn in a microwave oven. At first not much happens and then you hear the first kernel pop. Then suddenly the whole bag is popping at once. We were almost panicking trying to change leaders and flies quickly to participate in the spectacle. You never know how long a hatch will last and when fish will stop rising to the surface. I landed 5 fish on dries that day, but literally missed 20 strikes from the excitement.

After that hatch, it was back to nymphing, but we had steady fishing both days. Each day the action slowed down about 2:00pm. and seemed to pick up about 3:30 or 4pm, but we were pretty tired by then. Bring a rain jacket if you fish the Meadows and watch the weather. Besides the fishing, we had a few spectacular sizzling lightning strikes too.

The Mogote Campground was clean and well taken care of. We stayed in the Upper Loop, which is the furthest away from wet land by the river and the mosquitoes who love me. We stayed in a popup, but 5th wheels and RVs would find the layout of the Upper Loop easy to handle. Many of the sites are pull-throughs. You can find out more about the camping from this link <http://www.reserveamerica.com/camping/mogote/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=70027>

It was definitely a thumbs up trip.

Bob Silver

Quick Look Contact Information

2014 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• V-Pres.:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Secretary:	Dave Medler, Jr. (575) 434-9313
• Treasurer:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
Board Members	
• Position 1:	Paul Turner (575) 523-6880
• Position 2:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• Position 3:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• Position 4:	Ray Rodriquez (575) 524-9420
• Position 5:	Dave Medler, Jr. (575) 434-9313
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• Position 8:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
• Position 9:	Dennis Lanpher (575) 642-2946
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437	membership@mvff.org

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund	
Market Value as of 30 June 2012	\$9,808

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.

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, 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.

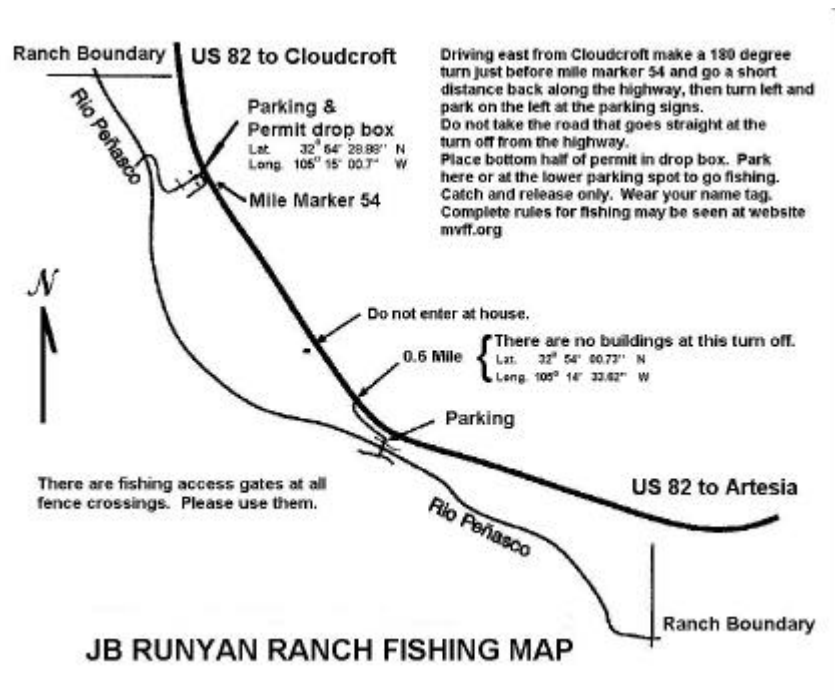
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (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 Hulsey. In addition, members can purchase a one-day, one-time permit for out of town 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.