

Tale Waters

December 2009



Mailing Address: MVFF, P.O. Box 2222, Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

Website: www.MVFF.org

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Membership Meeting

Monday, 14 December

The monthly membership meeting will be held on 14 December at 7:00pm at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. John Tavenner will present a program titled *Tackle and Techniques for the San Juan River*. John owns and operates Sandstone Anglers on the San Juan. He was one of the guides used by the Club during our trip in October. It promises to be very interesting and entertaining. Coffee and cookies will be served.

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 21 December

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 21 December 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 December since the regular scheduled date falls right in the middle of the Christmas holidays. Meetings will resume in January.

President's Corner



Winter Fishing. The dropping temperatures and shorter days mean some changes in tactics are necessary on the water. The springs that feed the Peñasco help to moderate the drop in water temperature and the fish will continue to feed, but there are fewer insect hatch's that are worth their effort to move, so that means getting your fly patterns to the depth at which the fish are holding is most critical. It probably means you need to **add more weight** to get your nymph, bugger, worm or egg in front of the fish! I find winter fishing to be very rewarding, your footprints through the crusty layer of snow will likely be the only evidence of two-legged visitors, and the familiar tug and spray of water when you land a healthy, colorful, vigorous fish are even more satisfying to me than on a prime summer day. I usually don't expect the same numbers of fish to net, but a good hatch of BWO's will get the fish going and you can be very successful progressing through the hatch from nymphs to emergers and dries. The strong reproduction we have been getting in the stream means we have an excellent population of stream-born fish that are thriving and amply reward the angler's skill.

The December 14th Meeting will feature a presentation titled *Tackle and Techniques for the San Juan River* by John Tavenner, including video demonstrations to illustrate the critical skills of line-mending. John has fished the San Juan River since 1985, and began guiding soon after. John and his wife, Monica, started Sandstone Anglers, Inc. in 1999. John is an excellent instructor, and this will be a great opportunity to learn and hone your angling skills.

The election ballots for the 2010 MVFF Board will also be collected at the December meeting, with the

opportunity to include write-in candidates, so please let us know if you would like to serve on the Board. Your raffle ticket purchases this year provide chances to collect some premium fly fishing gear and help support the club's activities through the year. The prizes will be awarded at the Annual Banquet on January 16th, and all members and families are invited.

With the New Year rapidly approaching we are beginning to plan for activities in 2010. The extremely successful Project Healing Water's volunteer program will continue. After receiving positive responses to the casting clinic and workshops that were provided in 2009, and requests for more support to beginning fly fishers in the club, we are considering offering additional opportunities for fly fishing instruction, and a mentoring program.

The November meeting generated a great deal of discussion and there seems to be sufficient interest in forming a Trout Unlimited chapter. The benefits of TU chapter formation include help in organizing and leveraging increased funding for efforts to improve trout habitat and increase fishing opportunities in the Gila region, and synergize with the goals and objectives of the MVFF while reaching other interested individuals from this area.

Thanks to all of those who have volunteered for MVFF activities throughout the year. Wishing you all the best for a Holiday Season and Happy New Year!

I hope to see you streamside.

Jeff

New Mexico Trout Conclave 2010

Saturday, 30 January

January 30 2010 will be the biggest day for you to get in on some great information from Dave and Emily Whitlock. Dave is a very interesting artist, author, fly designer, speaker and a pretty darn good fisherman. He has some stories that will keep you on the hook longer and never tire you out! Plus when he gets out of line, Emily is there to get him back on track! Dave and Emily are passionate about providing fly fishing instruction, and really enjoy tying a Whitlock Sculpin. See ya there! Another guest speaker is slated for this conclave and will be announced shortly.



Ron Bellerose

PHW Coordinator



We will be starting our next session of Intro to fly fishing for the Vets at Ft. Bliss on Thursday, January 22 with fly tying and knots. It is expected to be held at the NMG&F conference room, same as last time. I am in hopes of getting several Vet Reps from the area to attend our annual banquet in January. There will be a special PHW raffle at the banquet, the money to be used for PHW events. We will have a TFO special Project Healing Waters fly rod for the raffle. Tickets will be sold at the banquet only and you must be present to win. More info to follow for the January newsletter.

For more information about PHWFF see www.projecthealingwaters.org.

Contact Ron Bellerose (575-541-0807, roncor@hotmail.com) if you wish to volunteer to help out.

Lady Anglers

Helen Zagona

The MVFF Lady Anglers are now planning our next adventure. We had a fantastic Fall trip to the Pecos in October (see the November Newsletter) full of fall colors, cooperative trout, and wine and conversation in the evenings! We would like to have at least two trips this year. We are planning a Spring trip to the Lease with guides from our club and we are looking forward to a Fall trip again this year to a yet-to-be-determined destination. We also hope to coordinate future clinics and classes for our club Lady Anglers. All women club members (of any skill level) are welcome. Please keep watching the newsletter for more details or feel free to call Helen Zagona (575-532-5668) for details.

Club Outings Planned

The board is now discussing possible outings for 2010 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 George Sanders, (575) 527-5536, chairman of the "Outings" committee.

- Spring - Quemado Lake
- October - San Juan

Welcome New Members

Mark Alam	Carlsbad, NM
Wallace Downs	Las Cruces, NM
Konn & Kellye Ulmer	Midland, TX
Meagan Ulmer	Midland, TX



Fishing the Lease in Winter

Bob Silver

Fishing for trout generally changes in the winter no matter where you are. But, I wanted to give those interested in wetting a line this winter some additional tips. Trout are most active in water that is 55 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit. In anything more or less, their activity slows down. If you have a stream thermometer, check the water temperature and put that in the Club's fishing report on the web page. It would be interesting to know. During the winter, fish spend less time hunting food and spend more time near the bottom to conserve energy where the current is slower. Likewise, insects that are a trout's prey are also affected by winter time temperatures. While insects such Bluewing Olives and midges still hatch, it happens later in the day once the sun has warmed the bottom where the nymphs live. Trout, by staying near the bottom, are closer to their prey when they emerge. Also consider the angle of the sun where you are fishing. You are much more visible to a trout when you are standing in the sunlight than when you are in the shade. Also some parts of a stream receive much less sun so fish may move to warmer parts of the stream like where a spring enters the stream. These are places where more insect activity may occur as well.

What to do? Fish deeper. If you aren't touching the bottom once in awhile add more weight in small increments until you do. The bugs are smaller in the winter too. A size 18 Pheasant Tail or Hares's Ear

with some flashback material is a good lease fly. Our fish spawn in the fall so try an egg pattern. Also during spawning fish are less actively feeding. Walk the stream bank very slowly and wear dark colors to avoid spooking fish. Better yet, try staying out of sight and observe the stream from a distance as much as possible. Look for small insect hatches or look for signs of feeding fish. Sunlight will reflect off the side of a fish as it turns catching emerging nymphs. Fish may become more active later in the morning or early in the afternoon as bugs begin emerging.

Google Earth and the Fishing Lease

A neat feature of Google Earth recent updates are the photos taken along roadways. In fact one is taken at the turn into the lease at Jim Ellett's house. To find the lease with Goggle Earth, find the "Fly To" box on the upper left side of the Google Earth search page. Type in, 4938 Rio Penasco Road, NM. This is the street address in Goggle Earth of Jim Ellett's ranch where the permit box is located. The address for the turnoff to the lower bridge is 4850 Rio Penasco Road, NM. Look for little camera icons on the road. Each is a picture taken by the Google Earth mapping vehicle at the spot. You can also pan the picture in a 360 degree circle to see the views to the side and back. Pan the photo at 4938 Rio Penasco to see the driveway into the lease. Try it and you'll see what I mean.



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Thanksgiving on the Rio Peñasco

David Carmichael

A week before Thanksgiving, my daughter Andi and I learned that the other members of our family would be traveling out of town over the holiday, so we decided to spend our Thanksgiving Day on the Rio Peñasco. And what a day it was. When we arrived shortly before noon, the air temperature was in the low 40s with a slight breeze under a clear, sunny sky. After a couple of hours some thin clouds moved in and the air became chilly quickly, but it was still a productive day on the water. Andi caught 8 fish and I caught 5, including four rainbow trout apiece, all of which were chunky and feisty, and ranging in size from 13-15 inches. We both used March Brown Baden Powell special edition 5wt backpacking rods; they are great for nymphing and pack down into an 18 inch case.

The river was running a little high, but still very clear; the water is as beautiful as I've ever seen it, and the bright turquoise blues below the falls are especially striking. Midges were coming off the water by noon, but we didn't see any surface feeding activity, so we soaked a seine for a couple of minutes and found

large numbers of small mayfly nymphs (size 20 or 22) and some large drifting caddis larvae, either green rock worms or spotted sedge. All the trout I caught were hooked on a green chenille rock worm pattern or bead head olive hare's ear. All the trout Andi caught went for a size 18 bead head flashback PT.

Interestingly, the timing of the seasons seems a bit out of whack; Andi caught a 15 inch brightly colored male rainbow in the upper part of the lease, and as she was releasing the fish it released a load of milt. It seems rather early for rainbow spawning activity; perhaps other club members can provide some insight on this.

On this trip we saw many deer, hawks and a porcupine on the lease, and saw a few elk along the highway. As we had our Thanksgiving dinner (baked turkey breast, smoked salmon, pumpkin pie and dried cranberries) at the bank of the river, listening to the waterfall and watching the wildlife, we were truly thankful that we have such a great place to fish and talk and enjoy nature. I hope all of you had an enjoyable and meaningful holiday too.

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MVFF Monthly Events Calendar

Month	Events	Trips	General Club Meeting Topic/Speaker	Clinics or Lease Projects
December	Liars & Tyers No Meeting		14 Dec. - John Tavenner will present <i>Tackle and Techniques for fishing the San Juan River</i>	5 Dec. - NM Trout Fly Tying Symposium
January 2010	Liars & Tyers 28 Jan. <i>BLM nymph</i>		No general meeting - banquet instead - 16 Jan.	30 Jan. - NM Trout Conclave 2010



Election of Board Members for 2010

It is once again that time of year when we elect a slate of board members to run the Club for the coming year.

All of the nominated candidates have volunteered to serve. Please mark your choices on the ballot below by checking the square in front of each name. If you or any of your friends are interested in a position then write in the name in the appropriate place and mail

the ballot to the address on the newsletter letter head or bring your marked ballot to the December membership meeting. The Board will certify the results at the Board meeting in December (which all members are invited to attend) and will elect new officers to take office at the Club banquet on 16 January 2010.

<p>Please vote for only nine members.</p> <p>The nine nominees receiving the most votes will constitute the new Board of Directors.</p>		
POSITION	√	NOMINATED CANDIDATE
Executive Board		Paul Turner
Executive Board		Jeff Arterburn
Executive Board		Jim Sorenson
Executive Board		Gary Mann
Executive Board		George Sanders
Executive Board		Tom Wobbe
Executive Board		Bob Silver
Executive Board		George Thomas
Executive Board		Randall Vallee
Executive Board		Chuck Mueller
Executive Board		(write in candidate)
Executive Board		(write in candidate)



Quick Look Contact Information

2009 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• V-Pres.	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• Secretary	Donna Mabie (575) 522-3810
• Treasurer	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
Board Members	
• Position 1	Paul Turner (575) 523-6880
• Position 2	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• Position 3	Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437
• Position 4	George Thomas (575) 532-5614
• Position 5	George Sanders (575) 527-5536
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund	
Total	\$11,003

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.

Bamboo Rod Repair

Club member Karen Erickson is interested in working on old bamboo rods. If you have one that needs repairs give Karen a call at (575) 524-7729.

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. 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.

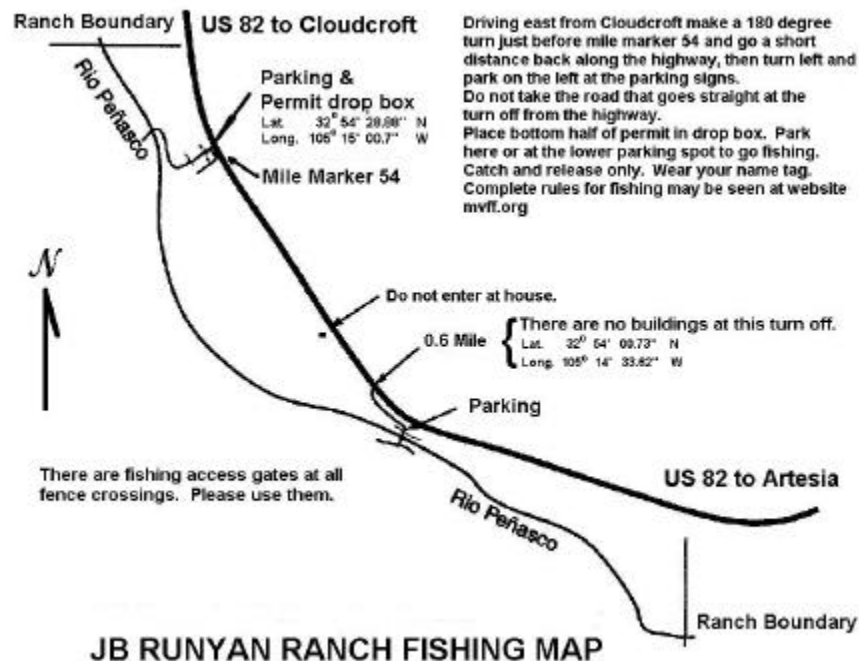
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from any of the Club Officers or Board Members and are also available at the *Angler's Nook* (575-522-3810) in Las Cruces and the ATF fly shop in El Paso (915-225-0570.) 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 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 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.