

# Tale Waters

July 2008



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

*Website: [www.MVFF.org](http://www.MVFF.org)*

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### Membership Meeting

There will be no general membership meeting in July as the club takes its customary summer break. Most members are busy doing other things and hopefully many of them have gone fishing. Our next general activity will be in September."

### Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 21 July

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 21 July at 7:00 PM at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

### Liars and Tyers

There will be no Liars and Tyers meeting in July as the club takes its customary summer break. Most members are busy doing other things and hopefully many of them have gone fishing. Our next meeting will be in September.

### President's Corner

#### Rio Peñasco Update

The fishing on the Rio Peñasco continues to be good this year; water flows and temperatures



have been conducive to excellent growth and survival of trout. One of our board members fished the stream on Father's Day and reported seeing more anglers than we have ever documented before. I suspect this was a function of higher gas prices making trips to instate sites more desirable and the fact that we have been reporting good to excellent catch rates in recent newsletters. Most anglers that fish the Rio Peñasco rarely see more than one or two others fishing and considering that there is over a mile of good fishing water this may only limit you from fishing your favorite spots if you are arriving later in the day. The lack of any flood flows this year has allowed the submerged weed beds to flourish, but also means that cover for trout and food production will certainly be optimal. The rainbow trout spawned last fall are already at about 6 inches and should reach 10 to 12 inches by later this fall like they did in 2007. We also have reports of smaller trout fingerlings being abundant in the shallows which indicates a second natural spawn (probably by rainbow trout in the spring when they normally spawn). We also received a report of a 21-inch rainbow being caught by a member recently and rainbow and brown trout in the 12 to 18-inch range are common. I suspect that the best fishing is in the mornings and later in the afternoon or when a mayfly or caddisfly hatch is occurring, but admit that I haven't fished there since April when we stocked 300 rainbows in the 7 to 11-inch range.

I hope that anglers will start keeping a log of the numbers and sizes of rainbow and brown trout they catch. The value of this information is that it provides us with a feel for the relative abundance of different size classes of trout. For example, any trout less than 7 or 8 inches have to be from natural spawning this year. Most trout in the 8 to 12-inch range are probably from our April stocking and may show the telltale fin abnormalities associated with hatchery life.

Any trout more than 12 inches are probably from the 2007 year class of trout or trout stocked in 2007 or earlier. Any brown trout are probably from natural spawning upstream that have moved down into the lease. I am particularly interested in the sizes of brown trout being caught because it will help us decide whether we will stock some large fingerling browns this fall. So please report your catch data on our website or call or e-mail me directly. I assure you that this data will be of value and of great interest to the board.

I plan to remedy my lack of fishing the last two months during July and plan to talk about my summer fishing trip in a subsequent newsletter. I plan to fish the Green River below Flaming Gorge, fish and canoe the Henry's Fork and Henrys Lake in Idaho and other rivers between Seattle and Santa Fe. I have talked to several flyfishing friends and relatives and plan to fish with them during my drive. Remember, if you're too busy to go fishing, you're too busy.

Paul

### Project Healing Waters

Randall Vallee reports that the first flytying lesson has been scheduled for 10 July from 9:00am to 12:00pm at Fort Bliss. Volunteers are needed.

Randall reports that all flytying vises have been received except for one. Sportsman's Warehouse is donating the tying materials. Three flytying lessons are planned for sometime in July, exact times of the last two to be determined by the Director of Programs at Beaumont Hospital.

After the flytying sessions it is planned to have casting classes and a fishing trip to the Rio Peñasco lease. The Club has four rods and 10 reels that can be used by participants.

If this is something you like to get involved with, contact any board member.

If you wish to learn more about the project browse their website at [projecthealingwaters.org](http://projecthealingwaters.org).

### Club Outings Planned

A possible trip to the Conejos is being discussed for July or August. Let us know if you are interested.

The annual trip to the San Juan is planned for 17-19 October. Details such as guides are yet to be determined.

A club trip(s) to Kodiak, Alaska is in the planning stages. This trip will take place in late September. If you are interested, contact Bob Silver.

The board is now discussing possible outings for 2008 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, who has volunteered to chair the "Outings" committee.

### Welcome New Members

Steve Heredia

Las Cruces, NM



### Alaska - The Last Frontier?

Paul Turner

I have grown to love fishing and kayaking the rivers and coastal waters of Alaska over the last 5 years and plan to spend as much time as possible there in the next decade with my with family and friends. However, the salmon fisheries face mounting problems that have nothing to do with overfishing by commercial and sports fishermen. These renewable natural resources face problems relating to climate change, increasing land development for extractive purposes, and even threats from the invasion of

dozens of rivers by non-native Atlantic salmon that have escaped from large net pens used for aquaculture along the coast of British Columbia. It is too late to stop some of these impacts, but some concerns may still be possible to address before major damage occurs.

A proposed gold and copper mine (Pebble Mine West) in the watershed of Bristol Bay by an international mining company would create an open-pit mine



**MVFF Monthly Events Calendar**

| Month | Events   | Trips                 | General Club Meeting Topic/Speaker  | Clinics or Lease Projects                                     |
|-------|--|-----------------------|---|---|
| July  | There will be no Liars & Tyers meeting in July   |                       | There will be no general meeting in July                                      | 10 July - Proj. Healing Waters flytying at Beaumont Hospital. |
| Aug.  | There will be no Liars & Tyers meeting in August |                       | There will be no general meeting in August                                    |   |
| Sept. | Liars & Tyers<br>25 Sept.<br><i>Rusty Rat</i>    |                       | 8 Sept. - Planning for coming club trips.                                     | Annual Club picnic - 13 Sept.                                 |
| Oct.  | Liars & Tyers<br>30 Oct.<br><i>Deceiver</i>      | San Juan - 17-19 Oct. | 20 Oct.   |   |
| Nov.  | Liars & Tyers<br>24 Nov.<br><i>Bass Popper</i>   |                       | 10 Nov. - Helen Zagona to speak on Flyfishing Retreat for Women in Creede, CO |   |

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**Fishing Reports**

George Thomas and Ed Woolf fished the Rio Peñasco last week and George indicated fishing was certainly good. Both He and Ed caught about 20 to 25 trout on the day they fished. George said about half of the trout he caught were in the 5 to 6-inch range (this year's rainbows) with the rest in the 10 to 16-inch range. He said that the small trout were actively taking size 20 parachute Adams so he eventually switched to a larger fly to reduce the number of smaller trout he was getting. He also said he had several breakoffs using a 4X tippet at the knot so thought he was causing part of the problem. He was using a RS2 or WD40 as a dropper fly, but was catching most of his fish at the surface. He said Ed was fishing deeper and still caught similar numbers of trout. George fished from the pool at the irrigation diversion all the way up to the upper fence line and caught trout throughout the entire reach.

He confirmed Jim Ellett's comment about the water flow holding up well so far this year and indicated that the water was clear.

We have had several reports lately from the Rio Peñasco. One report from Roswell tells of a man who caught a 21-incher and then immediately hooked and lost one that may have been even bigger. All of the reports indicate that the lease is fishing well and just about everyone is catching fish. Some report catching them on surface flies and others by using nymphs. Jim Ellett reports that the water is holding up quite well this year which is surprising considering how hot and dry it has been.

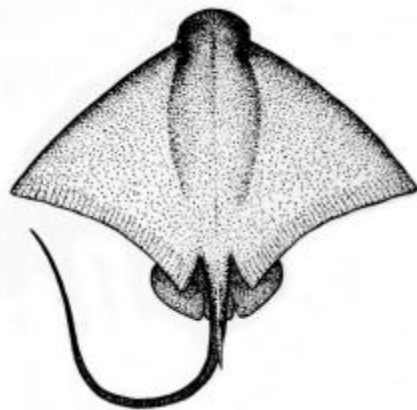
Ron Bellerose recently fished Quemado Lake and caught a lot of fish. Apparently the trick was to fish a nymph just below the surface. Give Ron a call, he'll be glad to supply details.

### Rockport Redfish

The March 2008 issue of Fly Fisherman Magazine listed Rockport, Texas as one of the ten best places for redfish, so Al Trompler, Bob Silver, Tom Wobbe and Al's son, Curtis Trompler decided to check it out. We decided that Redfish and Speckled Trout fishing along the Gulf coast can be fun. We did most of our fishing in shallow water with shrimp and crab fly patterns along the shallow Lagunas that lie between Aransas Bay and the Gulf of Mexico near the Rockport, Texas area. Rockport is a city of about 8,000 year round residents with many more part timers during the summer months. It is located about 30 miles Northeast of Corpus Christi, Texas. Rockport is a picturesque bay front town with many large beach homes, condominiums, motels and RV Parks. The weather cooperated with us, with no rain; however the 85 percent humidity and 90 degree temperatures provided a real change for the desert rats from southern New Mexico. The daily 15-25 mph winds were a constant reminder that we were along the Gulf coast.

In shallow water, the redfish stick their tails out of the water when they feed. This gave us the opportunity to spot them feeding and sneak into position for a cast in front of the fish. The water was easy to wade being less than knee deep with mostly a firm sandy bottom. Other fish on the flats include Speckled Sea Trout, and Ladyfish called the "poor man's tarpon."

The Laguna we fished was probably about 2 miles across so there was ample water for everyone to spread out. Al regularly cautioned everyone to shuffle their feet when walking due to the many Stingrays up to 18"+ found there. The rays bury in the sand waiting for their next meal to come along. Shuffling kept the rays moving; whereas stepping on one might prove to be a painful experience.



Sight casting to tailing Redfish was a new experience for me; however Al has been going to Rockport for over 20 years, so he was a great guide, coach and leader. Those that know Al, Curtis and Bob know they can place a fly with stealth in a spot 6-10" in front of a tailing redfish. It proved to be a challenge for me to quietly keep up with a moving Redfish and make a 60' cast in the wind. The fly has to look like it is escaping. Once the fish sees the fly, they attack it quickly and the fun begins. Redfish aren't too picky about flies, so flies resembling shrimp and small minnows such as gurglers, small clousers and small curved spoon flies in assorted shapes and patterns in sizes 4-6 worked. The gurgler was probably the most fun because you could watch the fish attack the fly on the surface. It is a top water fly that is made from craft fur or hair tail with crystal flash, a foam body with cactus chenille wrapped over the foam and a foam lip to create a gurgling sound when it was stripped.

Redfish and Ladyfish would both just explode on the fly.

We used 7-8 wt rods/reels with floating lines. A stripping retrieve and strip-hook set were important to keep from pulling the fly away from the fish. Al constantly had to remind me "Don't lift the rod, because you take the fly out of their mouth!"

We also spent a couple of days fishing with live shrimp from a boat in Aransas Bay, probably so Al could make sure that I caught more fish.

The trip provided a lot of fun, companionship and another new fishing experience for me. Maybe with some more casting practice, I will develop the ability to place that fly stealthily in front of those tailing Redfish.

Tom Wobbe



Ladyfish

Rockport Redfish



Bob Silver with Ladyfish



Bob Silver with Redfish



Speckled Trout



Red Drum aka Redfish



Masked Marvel, aka Curtis Trompler, with Speckled Trout



Fishing Boats at Port Aransas

MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 16, 2008

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order at 7:00pm in the NMDG&F conference room.

In attendance: Paul Turner, Jim Hulsey, Richard Keding, Randall and Vicki Vallee, Jeff Arterburn, Donna Marie, Ron Bellerose, Blaine Goss, George Sanders, Paul Leaguer and Steve Heredia. Absent: Bob Silver, Gary Mann and Tom Wobbe.

- 1. Minutes of the May Board Meeting were approved as published in the June newsletter. No Treasurer's Report was provided due to absence of Treasurer, Gary Mann.
- 2. No date has been set for the all day event which Gary Mann and others are planning. Thomas See of Sportsman's Warehouse informed Gary that a well known speaker, Lefty Kreh would be available for three days at a cost of \$5,000. Sportsman's Warehouse would pay for half the cost. It is now a matter of scheduling.
- 3. The Free Fishing Day was well attended and six people from the club helped on this.
- 4. Randall Vallee mentioned that he would be the one working on most of the details for the Healing Waters Project because Chris Evey would be on extended TDY this summer. All vises have arrived except one, which is on order. Three flytying lessons are planned for the end of June or early July. The Director of Programs will call and set the date and time. There will also be casting classes and a fishing trip to the lease waters.

Sportsman's Warehouse is donating the materials, which will belong to the club. The club has about 10 reels and four rods. Flyfishing videos are on hand. Volunteers are still needed to help and will be requested by email and the newsletter. Chris Evey told Randall that there may be some grants forthcoming for this project.

- 5. There will be only one trip for the Kodiak Alaska fishing. Jeff Arterburn, Paul Turner, Tim Mack, Tony Gronich and Richard Newton have signed up for this trip.
- 6. George Sanders discussed other trips being planned. Many of the rivers have been blown out and the status of some is unknown. George will be going to the Conejos during the last week of July and early August which should be prime time. It will be mentioned in the newsletter. Otherwise the only organized club trip is to the San Juan Oct. 17-19. Guides for this trip will be solicited.
- 7. The picnic is still tentatively scheduled for Sept. 13.
- 8. Jim Hulsey presented the club signs for members to display in their cars when they fish the lease waters.
- 9. Paul Turner requested that members report how many fish they caught and what type, size, etc. There are more people fishing lately.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

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Free Fishing Day

June 7 was "Free Fishing Day" for the state of New Mexico and activities were conducted at many locations across the state. In Las Cruces the NM Dept. of Game and Fish held a kids' fishing clinic at Alumni Pond at NMSU. About 65 kids, with their parents, showed up to participate. Several MVFF members volunteered their time to go out and assist, primarily by manning several of the learning stations. Format of the clinic was much the same as what we use in our annual Kids' Fishing Clinic in April.

Several days prior to the event NMDG&F stocked about 200 catfish in the 15-inch range. Kids using a variety of baits caught several fish. In many cases the kids were small enough that the fish gave them quite a tussle, especially using the small rods and reel that many of them had. Several had to resort to the old hand-over-hand method. Many of the kids practiced catch and release but a few of the fish went home to make a tasty meal for someone.

**Quick Look Contact Information**

| 2008 Officers of the Club               |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Officers</b>                         |                               |
| • <b>President</b>                      | Paul Turner (575) 523-6880    |
| • <b>V-Pres.</b>                        | Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773 |
| • <b>Secretary</b>                      | Donna Mabie (575) 522-3810    |
| • <b>Treasurer</b>                      | Gary Mann (575) 521-7793      |
| <b>Board Members</b>                    |                               |
| • <b>Position 1</b>                     | Blaine Goss (575) 522-1981    |
| • <b>Position 2</b>                     | Randall Vallee (575) 373-9470 |
| • <b>Position 3</b>                     | Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437      |
| • <b>Position 4</b>                     | Bob Silver (575) 522-6325     |
| • <b>Position 5</b>                     | George Sanders (575) 527-5536 |
| <b>Newsletter &amp; Web Page Editor</b> |                               |
| • Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880             | newsletter@mvff.org           |

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund</b> | <b>\$10,777</b> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|

**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](mailto:membership@mvff.org).

**Angler's Nook**

Donna's Shop is open as usual. Please contact her at (575) 522-3810 for your fishing and tying supplies. She also has membership information and fishing permits.

|  |
|--|
| <b>Club members receive a 33% discount on most items at the Angler's Nook.</b> |
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**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.



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|---|
| <b>RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP - DUE MARCH 31</b> |
|---|

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|--|
| <b>And don't forget to renew your NM fishing license</b> |
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**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.

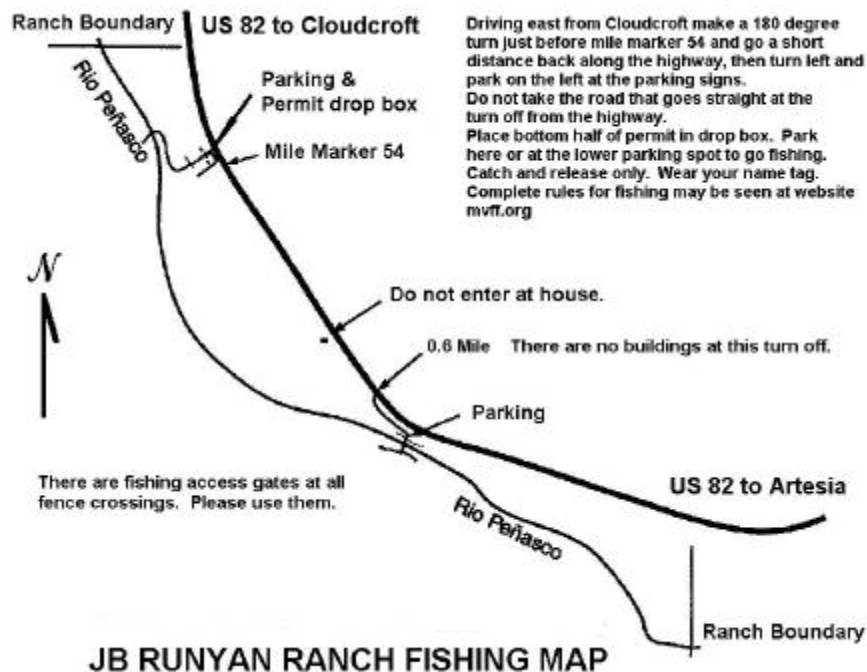
|         |       |            |
|---------|-------|------------|
| 1 Year  | \$20  | Individual |
|         | \$25  | Family     |
| 3 Years | \$50  | Individual |
|         | \$60  | Family     |
| Life    | \$400 | Individual |
|         | \$500 | Family     |

**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.