

Tale Waters

November 2007



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Website: www.MVFF.org

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Membership Meeting

Monday, 12 November

The monthly membership meeting will be held on 12 November with Bob Silver speaking on "Salt Water Flyfishing".

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 19 November

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 19 November at 7:00 PM at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Thursday, 29 November

Liars and Tyers will meet Thursday 29 November at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at 7:00 PM. The group will be tying the *Elk-Hair Caddis*. This is a great dry fly and one of the most used flies. Tying will be demonstrated by Joseph Lopez. A photograph and recipe is presented later in this newsletter. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies available for beginning tiers.

President's Corner

Paul Turner

I was quite pleased with the results of our stream survey on the 27th. We should all appreciate the efforts of club member Mike Anderson, fisheries graduate student at NMSU, for bringing the gear we needed for the survey and taking his Saturday from a busy schedule to be in charge of the survey work. Mike is working on a fisheries project on the Valles Caldera National Preserve in the Jemez Mountains for his graduate research and has said he could give a talk to the club on his findings next year. We had nine MVFF members participate in the survey and four members that were fishing the lease on the 27th. We all took a lunch break in Jim Ellett's backyard for grilled hamburgers and fixings provided by the club and Jim. I think I can say for everyone that it was a great day for being out and enjoying the sunny day and great company! I'll prepare a more in depth article on our survey later after I get a chance to check the scale samples we took from some of the rainbow trout to confirm whether they were from natural reproduction.

We had 24 MVFF members attend our evening cookout on October 12th after a great day of fishing on the San Juan River. Jerry Saiz and Rick Hooley guided club members on the 12th and did a great job of getting us oriented to trout fishing on the Juan. If you get a chance to use either of them on a future trip to the San Juan, I'm sure you will be pleased with their guiding. Both have websites that we will include on the MVFF website for your future use. The weather was great for this trip although I wished that they hadn't dropped the river to 250 cfs on the weekend we were there in preparation for the stream improvement work to start the following week. I think all of us caught some nice trout and most of us broke off quite a few big trout on the 6X tippetts we were using in the crystal clear water. My wife needs

more practice handling big trout on light lines, but that only comes with more experience so we will have to put in more "work" on that.

My wife, Kay, and I represented MVFF at the annual banquet of the Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen on the 25th and gave a plug for the club when we handed out the door prize and cutthroat trout print provided by MVFF.

Keep Jeff Arterburn in mind as he recovers from his hip replacement surgery. I suspect he will attend Bob Silver's presentation on saltwater flyfishing on November 12th so I hope we have a good turnout for the meeting.

October was a busy month for the club and now that I know how good the trout population is on the Rio Peñasco I have a trip in mind for November. Remember if you're too busy to go fishing, you're TOO BUSY!!

Paul

Preliminary Electrofishing Results

Paul Turner

Our October 27th survey of the Rio Peñasco gave us a good idea why the catch rates have been consistently high this summer. We used a pulsed DC electrofisher to sample five representative sections of the river and netted 54 trout ranging from 9 to 16 inches in total length. The water depth and velocity were relatively high in the narrower sections of the river so we were only able to sample the shallower sections less than 4 feet in depth. We used long-handled dip nets to capture the trout as they were temporarily stunned by the low-voltage electrical current and then held the fish in 5-gallon buckets until we measured and weighed them. We also collected some chubs and longnose dace to get a feel for the size of the minnows that are available as prey for the larger trout. We used low voltage so the fish recovered quickly from their "shocking experience" and the handling process. River flow was higher than normal for this time of year and has been above normal this year according to Jim Ellett. He also indicated that there had been no water diverted from the river above the waterfall this summer so that helps explain the presence of trout down to the lower fence boundary. We only sampled about 10% of the river and probably netted only 50 to 75% of the trout we saw during our efforts because of the swift currents, so the number

of trout collected was probably less than 5% of the total population. Of the 54 trout measured, four were brown trout (14 to 16 inches) that were nearly ready to spawn. Of the 50 rainbow trout collected, 18 were in the 12 to 16-inch range and the rest were from 9 to 12 inches. All of the trout were in good condition with no apparent wounds from being caught and released. We did notice several with apparent wounds from predatory birds. Most of the rainbows less than 12 inches are probably from natural reproduction as they showed no indication of fin irregularities that are typical of stocked trout and appeared to be immature and in good to excellent condition. If these are trout from this year's year class observed as small trout (3 to 6 inches) this summer by several club members, they are growing rapidly and should all be in the 11 to 13 inch range by next spring. Because we have sufficient numbers of adult brown and rainbow trout for natural spawning to occur this fall or next year (rainbows), I feel that it is unnecessary for MVFF to stock any trout this fall. The larger trout were all approaching spawning condition and the relatively high water flows this year should increase the likelihood of another year class of naturally-spawned trout next year. With some luck we may even get a year class of brown trout produced next year. For club members planning to fish the Rio Peñasco in November I recommend that you quickly release all brown trout without taking any pictures as they should be spawning this month. If you catch any females (won't release any milt and won't be hook-jawed), you might note if they appear slack bellied as this will indicate that they have spawned recently. The two 16-inch female browns we caught were obviously heavy with eggs on the 27th.

A few photos of the day's activities are presented later in this newsletter.

Permits Now Available at ATF Fly Shop

MVFF members may now purchase Rio Peñasco Lease fishing permits at the ATF FLY SHOP in El Paso. The shop is located at 1845 Northwestern, Ste D, which is off Transmountain Rd. Phone: 915-225-0570. Hours: 11-6 Tues-Fri and 10-5 Sat. Membership applications are also available at the fly shop.

Club Outings Planned

All Club sponsored outings planned for 2007 have been taken and provided much quality fishing and camaraderie for the participants. The board is now discussing possible outings for next year 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

Bruce & Mathew Begin	Las Cruces, NM
Michael Flynn	Las Cruces, NM

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MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 22, 2007

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. The meeting was held at the Village Inn because of access problems with the NMDG&F conference room.

Attending: Gary Mann, Paul Turner, Richard Keding, Jim Hulse, Tom Wobbe, George Sanders and Ron Bellerose. Absent: Jeff Arterburn, Donna Mabie and Bob Silver.

- Minutes for the September board meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.
- Gary Mann presented the treasurer's report which was approved.
- It was reported that Jeff Arterburn was doing well following hip replacement surgery.
- Expenses from the San Juan River outing was discussed. Paul Turner is to send letters of appreciation to guides Jerry Saiz and Rick Hooley.
- Plans were discussed for the Rio Peñasco electro-fishing survey to be held on 27 October.
- Plans for the coming annual banquet were discussed. The site used in past years may not be available due to fire damage and Paul Turner is to seek an alternative location. The preferred date for the event is 12 January, depending on site availability. Possible speakers were discussed with no decision being made. Two hundred dollars were allocated for door prizes.
- Paul Turner will represent MVFF at the Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen's banquet on 25 October. The club is donating a trout print and a \$25 gift certificate for Sportsman's Warehouse as door prizes.
- A discussion was held on the desirability of a club sponsored trip to the Arkansas River during the summer of 2008. Richard Alm has offered to coordinate the outing. It was decided to gather additional member inputs before making a decision.
- Tom Wobbe is to check on attaining additional signs for use at the Rio Peñasco lease.
- A request from Alex Mares for MVFF participation in the grand opening of the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park on February 2nd was discussed. It was decided that the Club would participate in a manner to be determined later.
- Tom Wobbe reported that 145 MVFF members have paid their 2007 membership dues.
- The board voted to donate \$100 in memory of MVFF member and board member, George O'Conner, who recently passed away.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Electro-Fishing the Rio Peñasco



Quick Look Contact Information

2007 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President	Paul Turner (575) 523-6880
• V-Pres.	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• Secretary	Donna Mabie (575) 522-3810
• Treasurer	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
Board Members	
• Position 1	Richard Keding (575) 382-7498
• Position 2	Ron Bellerose (575) 541-0807
• Position 3	Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437
• Position 4	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• Position 5	George Sanders (575) 527-5536
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund	\$10,677
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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.

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.

Club members receive a 33% discount on most items at the Angler's Nook.

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.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP - DUE MARCH 31

And don't forget to renew your NM fishing license

Elk-Hair Caddis

The center of attention for the Liars and Tyers this month will be the *Elk-Hair Caddis*.

Al Troth's *Elk-hair Caddis* is one of the most widely used fly patterns in the United States, and his simple and elegant technique of tying a hair wing has been modified and adapted to suit hundreds of other patterns including Randall Kaufmann's *Stimulator* and *Hot Butt Caddis* series, Hans Weilenman's *CDC&Elk*, and Craig Mathews' *X Caddis*.

Dubbing, hackle, and wing color can vary widely on this pattern. Try wrapping a peacock herl body instead of dubbing. A yellow body with grizzly hackle makes a good Yellow Sally imitation. A dark elk or deer hair wing is harder to see in some lighting

conditions but makes a better imitation of early season *Brachycentrus* caddis than the light wing in the standard *Elk-Hair Caddis*.

Information for the *Elk-Hair Caddis* presented here was taken from web sites

<http://www.flyangleronline.com/flytying/fotw/112299fotw.html> and <http://www.flyfisherman.com/Learn2Tie/elkhaircaddis/>. Detailed tying instructions can also be found at these sites. If you are not familiar with these sites, they are two of the very best for fly tying and pattern archives.



- Hook:** Standard dry fly, sizes 8 - 18.
- Thread:** Tan prewaxed 8/0, 6/0, or 3/0.
- Body:** Yellow, olive, or natural Hares Ear fur dubbing.
- Rib:** Very fine gold or brass wire.
- Hackle:** Brown or furnace dry fly hackle, palmered.
- Wing:** Bleached or Natural Elk Body Hair fibers.



MVFF Monthly Events Calendar

Month	Events	Trips	General Club Meeting Topic/Speaker	Clinics or Lease Projects
October	Liars & Tyers 25 Oct. House & Lot	Club trip to San Juan - 12 - 14 Oct.	1 Oct. - Marc Wethington, NMDG&F, will speak on San Juan.	27 Oct. - electrofishing project at Rio Peñasco Lease.
November	Liars & Tyers 29 Nov. Elk-Hair Caddis		12 Nov. - Bob Silver will speak on "Salt Water Flyfishing".	
December	Liars & Tyers 27 Dec. Stimulator		10 Dec. - George Sanders will speak on "Fishing the Green River".	

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.

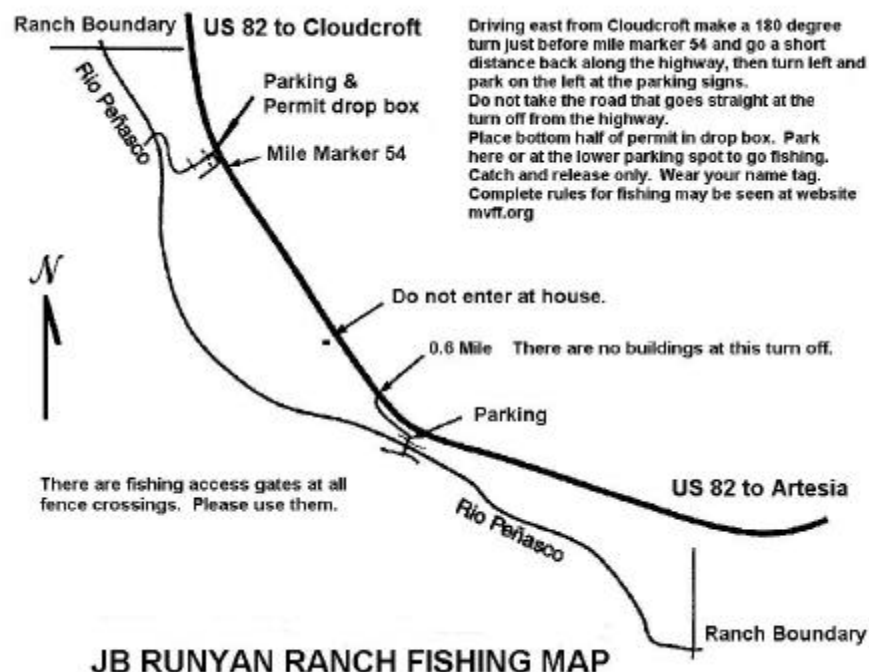
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.