

Tale Waters

October 2008



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

Website: www.MVFF.org

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newsletter. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies available for beginning tiers.



President's Corner

Of Salmon and Brown Bears

Since returning from Kodiak Island, I have thought about my most notable memories of my trip. Most of them were about salmon and the brown bears that depend on them for food. Because of below normal runs of pink and sockeye salmon this year, we saw more brown (grizzly) bears fishing for salmon along the "road system" rivers than on earlier trips. In fact we often shared the same reaches of rivers for relatively long periods when the bears didn't get too close. I remember watching one big bear while he fished the Buskin River about 150 to 200 yards upstream. It caught and ate four big silver salmon out of a nice pool by the road before coming my direction looking for more. This bear pushed four of us to a raised trail about 10 yards from the edge of the river. Because we didn't know whether he would intercept us if we retreated on this trail, we stayed put as he slowly padded past us about 10 feet below where we were standing. He then veered off the riverbank and surprised three anglers that were coming towards us (one was carrying a salmon). When they saw the bear they all turned and ran which caused the bear to chase them a short distance before one fellow pulled out a pistol and fired some warning shots to scare the bear away. I didn't see this part of the episode, but heard the shots and saw the bear amble back to the river and continue downstream at a leisurely pace. The bear wasn't apparently all that worried about the seven of us and the pistol shots.

It was easy to know when bears were in the area and visible from the road as anglers would be watching

Membership Meeting

Monday, 20 October

The monthly membership meeting will be held on 20 October at 7:00 PM at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. This is a week later than usual due to conflicts in scheduling the meeting room.

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 27 October

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 27 October at 7:00 PM at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. This is a week later than usual due to conflicts in scheduling the meeting room. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Thursday, 30 October

Liars and Tyers will meet Thursday 30 October at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at 7:00 PM. The group will be tying the *Deceiver*. A photograph and recipe is presented later in this

from bridges and roadsides with cameras. Bob Silver took a great video some of you will get to see of a bear catching a salmon in a shallow pool after chasing it down. I saw at least two bears each of the last three days I fished. These bears seemed used to having anglers around watching them and tolerated us if we didn't get too close, but we all gave them room when they were present.

My other most exciting moments were all immediately after hooking up with either a big silver or chum salmon. When it was a big silver it was obvious quickly as they often go airborne soon after their first big run. They also tend to "explode" when they first feel pressure on the line. Anyone that has caught a big silver in a shallow river knows what I am talking about. Bob Silver adjusted the drag on my reel while I was fighting two silvers on the Olds River or I probably wouldn't have beached them. The silvers that are just in from the ocean are really strong fish and are usually in the 10 to 20-pound range so they often break off if you either make mistakes in tying knots or during the fight. I also spent a day fishing on the ocean near Kodiak Island with a charter boat owner. Although I didn't land any big halibut or king salmon, I had a great time and caught several new species for me, including some nice lingcod and a big skate. I kept some black seabass and lingcod fillets and brought back smoked and frozen silver salmon fillets.

On my return trip from Alaska I spent time with Bob DuBey, a former MVFF member and NMSU colleague, who now works on salmon-related issues on the Yukon River drainage. He related the details of a 60-mile raft trip he took in July on the Kateel River to collect genetic samples. The Kateel is a tributary of the Koyukuk River which is a tributary of the 2,000-mile-long Yukon River. No one lives on this river so Bob, his assistant, and their gear had to be flown in and out by a small plane which landed on gravel bars. His gear included a satellite phone, an electric bear fence to set up around his campsite at night, and two shotguns loaded with slugs and buckshot. Most brown (grizzly) bears in this reach have never seen humans and were common along the river fishing for migrating salmon. These bears only fear bigger bears so trips on wilderness rivers can be potentially dangerous. Bob said they encountered bears

constantly and were charged on three occasions by bears protecting their section of the river. Bob and his assistant had to sing loudly and stop often to let bears decide whether they were threats or another food source. On their third day they hit a submerged tree and lost both shotguns when their raft overturned. Bear encounters became more exciting afterwards as bear spray only works as a last resort. When a sow charged their raft to within 15 feet to protect her cub before retreating I suspect they wished they had a shotgun. Bob made it out safely from this 5-day trip, but I think you would agree that his "pucker factor" was bit higher than we experienced while fishing near roads on Kodiak Island.

I hope you can make our regular monthly meeting on the 20th or the San Juan River trip on October 17-19. Call me soon if you want to reserve a ½-day slot with a San Juan guide or if you have questions not answered in this newsletter. Fishing has been great on the Rio Peñasco lately and the club may plan a group trip in November and plan to stock juvenile brown trout later this fall. Remember, if you're too busy to go fishing, you're too busy.

Remember if you're too busy to go fishing, you're TOO BUSY!

Club Trip to the San Juan

17 - 19 October

The final plans for our annual fall San Juan outing have been firmly arranged for 17, 18 and 19 October 2008. It is expected that about 30 people will participate. The Club has arranged for a guide on Friday and Saturday. He will take three people in the morning and again in the afternoon each day, for a total of 12 people. If you want a guide let Paul Turner know. The cost for each angler will be \$50 + tip. The club is paying the remainder of the fees. If you have never fished the San Juan a list of equipment, fly patterns and motel information are available on the Club webpage.

Those members using the guide should be at the Texas Hole Parking lot at 7:30am for the morning bunch and at noon for the afternoon group. Be wearing your gear and be ready to fish.

Most of us will be assembling at the Texas Hole parking lot on Friday morning so if you have never fished the San Juan and you are not using a guide there will be someone available to give advice on rigging and places to fish.

There will be a potluck dinner on Friday the 12th at the small pavilion in Pine Creek campground. This is the same one we used last fall. The Club will furnish the main course, probably barbecue, and everyone should bring a side dish or dessert. We will start eating at 6:00pm.

Since this is a Club sponsored event using club funds, attendees should be paid-up members. This is a great opportunity for all you new members to come out, meet some of the folks and have a good time.

For planning purposes we need to get a rough idea how many are going to attend the dinner. If you plan on being there but do not wish to use a guide let Paul Turner know.

Detailed instructions along with a list of motels and an equipment list may be found on the Club [website](#).



The Club planned to go to El Paso on 11 September to conduct a fly casting clinic for the soldiers. Club volunteers met at Sportsman's Warehouse in the early morning hours and debated whether we should go since it was raining and the forecast was for it to continue for the rest of the day. About this time supervisors from El Paso called and cancelled out. We had planned on meeting them at Ascarate Lake in El Paso so the students could practice casting on water. This class has been rescheduled for 9 October. Present plans call for an outing to the lease in November. The soldiers are really looking forward to it. The military will furnish transportation for them so all we have to do is show up and help them get started fishing. It will be the first time many of them have fished on a stream. We will need as many volunteers as possible for this so as to have as close to a one-on-one instructor-to-student ratio as possible.

Randall Vallee has received 15 rods and reels from PHW for our use in conducting this program. The

Club is in much better shape now as far as equipment is concerned. What is need most is volunteers. We realize that it is difficult for many of you to get away from work in the middle of the week but if you can manage it, you will find that is a very rewarding experience and well worth your time.

There will be a meeting of volunteers at noon on the 7th of October at IHOP. If you are interested come on out and find out what it is all about.

If you have any unused fly rods, fly reels, fly lines, etc that you would like to donate to be used with this program or to volunteer to help out, please contact **Randall Vallee** at 575-642-0212 or 575-373-9470 or **Tom Wobbe** at 575-649-0388 or 575-522-5437.

See www.projecthealingwaters.org for additional information.

Annual Club Picnic

The Club had their annual picnic on Sunday 14 September 2008 at Preciado Park on the NMSU campus. About 30 people showed up and everyone had a great time. The weather was beautiful and the only down side to the whole thing were the flies that showed up when the food appeared. If you didn't make it this year you should make a note to be sure and not miss it next year. A few photos of the event are shown later in this issue.

National Hunting & Fishing Day

September 27 was National Hunting & Fishing day and many sporting and outdoor organizations had displays at the Las Cruces downtown mall. MVFF volunteers, Tom Wobbe, Ron Bellerose, Richard Keding and Jim Hulsey, manned a table with brochures and other Club information.

Women In The Outdoors

John Burleigh

Everyone had lots of fun last weekend (Sept. 27) at the Women in the Outdoors (WITO) event. We got started early setting up and putting all the equipment together. We were fortunate enough to be stationed next to the Dutch Oven cooking group so we had hot coffee early. We had a great turnout. About 30 women participated in the event. There was a lot of interest in fly fishing. We had several groups of

students in the morning sessions. We had a nice age range of women in the classes. The youngest was 10 years old and the oldest was 84. All the participants had lots of fun and learned quite a bit. I think we will see them out on the water soon. I look forward to working with WITO again next year.

Club Outings Planned

The annual trip to the San Juan is planned for 17-19 October. Check the website for additional information on gear, accommodations and guides.

The board is now discussing possible outings for 2009 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

William Brown	El Paso, TX
John Burleigh	El Paso, TX
Wayne Cousineau	Litchfield, NH
Tom Custer	Las Cruces, NM
Frank Gonzalez	El Paso, TX
David LaBarre	El Paso, TX
Gene Montoya	Las Cruces, NM
Ty Perry	Las Cruces, NM
Timothy Pettibone	Ruidoso, NM
Lynn Shuttlesworth	Lubbock, TX
Ryan Shuttlesworth	Lubbock, TX
Shane Shuttlesworth	Lubbock, TX
Robert Trompler	Las Cruces, NM

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Lefty's Deceiver

The center of attention for the Liars and Tyers this month will be *Lefty's Deceiver*.

"The fly can be tied in many ways. The Lefty's Deceiver is not really a strict pattern but a method of tying. It can have various shapes, lengths, and colors. The fly can be tied as short as two inches and longer than a foot for billfish, amberjack, and other species demanding a large offering. It can be tied in a bend-

back fashion or with the hook reversed. It has caught everything from striped bass to baramundi and billfish. To get full benefit from the Lefty's Deceiver, you need to analyze what you are trying to do and match the type of fly to the conditions." - Lefty Kreh

This version of the fly is presented with a movie of Lefty tying the fly at

<http://www.flyfisherman.com/ftb/lkdeceiver/>.



Hook: Mustad 34007 or 34011, #4 to 3/0.

Thread: White 6/0

Tail: Six to eight white saltwater saddle hackles tied at hook bend.

Flash: Rainbow and/or pearl Krystal Flash trimmed to different lengths--some fibers should extend past saddle hackles.

Wing: Two clumps of white bucktail on the sides, one clump of chartreuse bucktail on top.

Throat: Red Flashabou or red Accent Flash.

Eyes: Painted on body (optional).

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Annual Picnic



MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 15, 2008

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

In attendance: Paul Turner, Gary Mann, Ron Bellerose, Richard Keding, Donna Mabie, Tom Wobbe and Jim Hulsey. Absent: Randall Vallee, George Sanders, Robert Silver, Blaine Goss and Jeff Arterburn.

- 1. Minutes of the August Board Meeting were approved as published in the September newsletter.
- 2. The Treasurer's report presented by Gary Mann was approved. The Report shows the Club to have a balance of \$11,392,
- 3. Gary Mann will check into the status of the Norman J. Mabie Scholarship Fund to see when and if the latest student has been chosen.
- 4. The Board decided against conducting an electro-survey of the fish at the Rio Peñasco this year. Mike Anderson had inquired about the possibility.
- 5. John Tavenner has only one person to guide the members on the forthcoming San Juan trip. However, this guide will work for two days instead of one, allowing for a dozen people. This would be three Friday morning and three Friday afternoon with a repeat of same on Saturday.

Paul Turner is working on reserving the pavilion for the Friday evening potluck gathering.

- 6. Jim Hulsey, Ron Bellerose, Tom Wobbe and Mary Hoffman have volunteered to man a table for the National Hunting and Fishing Day on Sept. 27th from 7:30am-1:00pm. Club brochures will be available. Jeff Banegas will make a banner.
- 7. No casting lessons were held for the Healing Waters Project group due to threatening rain. This is rescheduled for October.
- 8. Tom Wobbe reported that we are getting four to five new members each month. 169 members have paid their dues.
- 9. Good fishing reports are forthcoming from the club lease waters. Paul Turner will call regarding the cost of trout for restocking in the Fall of this year.
- 10. Gary Mann is still working on finding a speaker for the all-day workshop and the banquet speaker.
- 11. The banquet will probably be held at St. Paul's Church where it was held last year. The Club will spend about \$500 to buy raffle prizes instead of soliciting donations. More details will be worked out at the October Board Meeting.

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

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Fishing Reports

Club members Blaine Goss and Ray Rodriquez fished the Rio Peñasco on 26 September and reported the fishing to be great. Each caught about 25 fish with the largest being about 17 inches for Blaine and an 18-incher for Ray. Ray had caught a 20" brown the

previous week. As with most recent anglers, they were using terrestrials such as grasshopper patterns. Yellow patterns have been especially effective. Yellow Stimulators and elk-hair caddis should also do very well.

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MVFF Monthly Events Calendar

Month	Events	Trips	General Club Meeting Topic/Speaker	Clinics or Lease Projects
Oct.	Liars & Tyers 30 Oct. <i>Deceiver</i>	San Juan - 17-19 Oct.	20 Oct.	7 Oct. - PJHW meeting at noon at IHOP 9 Oct - PJHW clinic at Ascarate Lake, El Paso

Quick Look Contact Information

2008 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	Blaine Goss (575) 522-1981
• Position 2	Randall Vallee (575) 373-9470
• 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	
Principle Account	\$10,930
Operating Account	500
Total	\$11,430

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.



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.

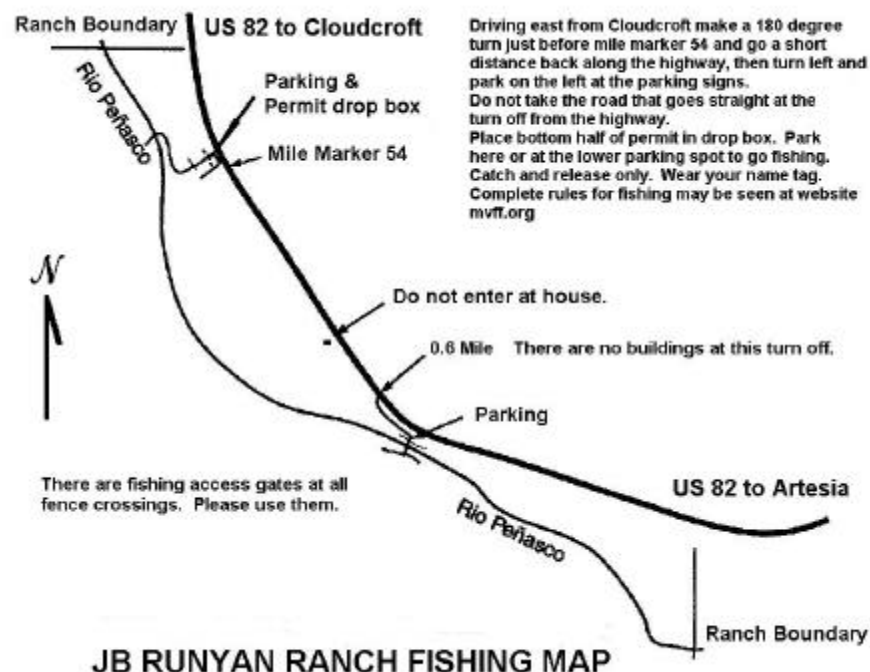
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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 Hulseley. 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.