

# Tale Waters

September 2009



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

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

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starting at 7:00pm. The group will be tying the *Charlie Boy Hopper*, a fly that should be effective at the lease this fall. The tying session will be led by Tim Mack. Tim manages the ATF flyshop in El Paso and is an accomplished tyer. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies available for beginning tiers.



## President's Corner

Fall has arrived in the high country, bringing shorter but cooler days and my favorite time to be on the water. Why does work always have to get in the

way?

We have several events taking place this month. You can start by bringing your lawn chairs, side dishes or desserts and appetites to the MVFF Annual Picnic that will be held Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> in Preciado Park on the campus of New Mexico State University. Check inside the newsletter for details and directions.

In September the MVFF resumes a regular monthly meeting schedule at the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish conference room starting at 7pm on the second Monday of the month. We are looking forward to seeing your familiar faces and hopefully hearing some fishing stories from this summers activities. There are also quite a few new members who have joined the club during these summer months, and we really hope to see you at the meetings, along with any guests and others who are interested in fly fishing.

The September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting is aimed towards preparations for the upcoming club trip to the San Juan, featuring Bob Silver with a presentation on the techniques, tackle and approaches to fishing this world-renowned tailwater. The San Juan trip scheduled October 2-4 accommodates anglers of all skill levels, and the club supplements the opportunity

## Membership Meeting

Monday, 14 September

The monthly membership meeting will be held on 14 September at 7:00pm at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. Bob Silver will lead a discussion on what is needed to fish the San Juan. Members who plan on going on the club trip to the San Juan in October and have never fished the river should plan on attending. It will be very helpful. Coffee and cookies will be served.

## Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 21 September

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

## Liars and Tyers

Thursday, 24 September

Liars and Tyers will meet Thursday 24 September at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room

for members to gain experience fishing with a guide, as well as individually or with other members. There are limited numbers of time slots available for fishing with Guides, so please read the detailed instructions in the newsletter and contact the organizers to reserve your positions as soon as possible.

The MVFF Lady Anglers are heading up to fish the Pecos later this month, and should have a great time there.

The Project Healing Waters Volunteers have a particularly active program this month, with fly tying and on-stream sessions, and if you can possibly help out please contact Ron Bellerose for more details. This group gives so freely of their time for such an important cause, and our thoughts and prayers go out to all the active duty service members and veterans.

I hope to see you streamside.

Jeff

## Annual Club Picnic

Saturday 12 September

The Club will have their annual picnic on 12 September 2009 at Preciado Park on the NMSU campus. This is the same place as last year. If you are not sure how to get there, directions are at the end of this article and there is a map posted on the web page and also on page 6.

The Club will supply hamburgers and hotdogs along with plates, flatware, condiments, etc. You should bring a covered dish or dessert along with any other snacks you might like. You should also bring a lawn chair.

The picnic will start at 11am and go to 2pm, but preparations will begin about 10:30am. If you want to come out early and help set things up it will be appreciated. We will try to get there early enough to grab the covered area in case of rain. Cooking preps must be completed so cooking can begin at 11am or shortly after.

Come on out. We always have a great time.

Directions:

**From I-25:** Exit at University Ave. and turn west at the end of the freeway ramp. At Espina St. (the fifth traffic light) turn left. At Stewart Ave. (the third stop

sign) turn left. At Sweet St. turn right. At Gregg Ave. turn left. Preciado Park will be on your left.

**From I-10:** Exit at University Ave. and turn east onto University Ave. At Espina St. (the first traffic light) turn right. At Stewart Ave. (the third stop sign) turn left. At Sweet St. turn right. At Gregg Ave. turn left. Preciado Park will be on your left.

There is a map showing the location of Preciado Park at NMSU on page 5 of this newsletter.



Ron Bellerose

PHW Coordinator



Project Healing Waters is ready to get into full swing after taking the Summer off. Our first meeting with the Vets will be on September 17. We will have 25 Vets and several representatives of Veteran Organizations attending our fly tying and fly knots portion of introducing fly fishing as a form of relaxation. We will be meeting at the Las Cruces Game and Fish Office conference room. We expect the Vets to be there at 9:00am and will be leaving around 12:00. If our volunteers could show up around 7:30am to set up the fly tying vices it would be greatly appreciated and will give us more time to work with the Vets.

We will meet again on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September to practice casting with the Vets. This will take place at Lake Ascarate, in El Paso. We will meet the Vets at the lake at 9:00am. They should be able to use the flies they tie at the first meeting to learn fly casting and maybe even catch a fish. Car pool place and time will be published at a later date.

We are planning on going to the lease with the Vets on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October to fish the river. With at least 25 Vets wanting to fish, all the volunteers we can get will make this trip a great success for both the volunteers and the Vets.

I will be getting information on the purchase of Project Healing Waters clothing through Orvis, or whatever company is presently supplying the clothing for PHW. I will get this info out to you as soon as I can. Hope to see you all on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September.

For more information about PHWFF see [www.projecthealingwaters.org](http://www.projecthealingwaters.org).

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

### MVFF Member in Afghanistan

Josh Vallee is one of our younger members and is a soldier stationed in Afghanistan. We are taking donations for a goodie box that we will be sending him each month. If you would like to contribute to this project, here is a list of some of the items suggested by his proud parents, Randall and Vickie Vallee. Bring them to the next meeting:

- Baby-type cleansing wipes in softpacks not in boxes (the plastic boxes take up too much space)
- Old or new fly fishing magazines
- Jerky, dried fruit, protein bars, etc.
- Sun screen, chapstick
- Powdered gator-aid type drink mix in soft packs not cans (cans take up too much space also)

### Casting Clinic a Huge Success

In early August, the Club hosted a casting class given by Bob Widgren of the Los Pinos Flyshop in Albuquerque. This turned out to be very successful. Classes were broken into women's, beginners and intermediate casting. Bob is a FFF Certified Casting Instructor and thanks to his tutelage about 20 members are now better fly casters. Those in the classes thought it was well worth their time and effort. If there is interest for more classes, contact Bob Silver. Bob Widgren also gave us certificates for 20% discount at the Los Pinos Flyshop. They are good until October 31<sup>st</sup>. We will have them at the September meeting, but contact Jeff Arterburn (575-524-0773) if you want one sooner.

### Annual San Juan Trip

October 2 - 3, 2009

It's time for a trip to the San Juan River! It is a MVFF tradition to fish the San Juan in the fall. This year's trip is planned for Friday and Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**POTLUCK:** We will have a potluck dinner on Friday night, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 6:00pm. Please bring a side dish to go along with the BBQ main course. The potluck will be held at the Pine Main Picnic Group Shelter, which is located in the Pine River Campground. The Pine River Campground is located at the top of Navajo Lake Dam. Follow the signs for the Main Picnic Group Shelter as you enter the Campground.

**CLUB MEETING:** On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Bob Silver will give a presentation about the San Juan at the September Club meeting. This is our first meeting following the summer break. It will be at the New Mexico Game and Fish Conference Room starting at 7pm. Also, please check the MVFF website for a list of equipment and other suggestions for the trip. Bring any questions about the trip to the meeting.

**LODGING:** The Pine River Campground is the best place for those planning to camp. If you are not camping, here are some other suggested places to stay. This is a popular time of the year so make your reservations soon.

- The Octagon Inn (<http://www.octagoninn.com>)
- Dee's B&B (<http://www.dsbandb.com/>)
- Abe's (<http://www.sanjuanriver.com/>)
- Rainbow Lodge  
(<http://www.sanjuanfishing.com/lodgingandmeals.htm>)

**GUIDES:** We are making arrangements to have two guides on Saturday. Please contact George Thomas (575-532-5614) to make a reservation. Each guide will take three fishermen for a half-day. We can accommodate only 12 fishermen so please call George to reserve a spot. The cost for the members is \$50 plus a tip to the Guide. Checks must be received by September 15<sup>th</sup> to hold your reservation. A guide can be a great help your first time on the river or if you are not familiar with the San Juan.

Finally, a good website for more information about the San Juan is <http://www.ifly4trout.com/>. Hope to see you there.

### Club Outings Planned

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, chairman of the "Outings" committee.

- Sept. 30 - Oct. 3 - MVFF Lady Anglers are planning a trip to the Pecos River near Santa Fe.
- Oct. 2-4 - the Club's annual trip to the San Juan. See previous article.

**Welcome New Members**

Larry & Judy Bates                      Odessa, TX  
 Larry Donalson                              Wichita, KS

Taylor & Peggy Eighmy	Lubbock, TX
Marvin Foust	El Paso, TX
Deborah Hamlyn	El Paso, TX
Warren Kilgore	HAFB, NM
Mike & Cindy Lancaster	Hobbs, NM
Brent & Pam Pillers	Lubbock, TX
Daniel Reynolds	El Paso, TX
Mark Seiler	Austin, TX
Matt Seiler	Austin, TX
Tim & Kassi Shaw	Alamogordo, NM
Terence & Sue Spence	Las Cruces, NM
Jim Tester	Las Cruces, NM



**Alaska on the Cheap**

Paul Turner



Kay and I just got back from Alaska where we worked as temporary galley staff at a fishing lodge started by a couple we knew at Oklahoma in the late 1960s. The main

reason for taking this job was the opportunity to use the lodge's boats and fishing gear during our time off. A small room and meals were provided plus we had our fish processed and frozen for free so it was an inexpensive way to go. We were fortunate to be teamed with another couple from Las Cruces that we have known for over 20 years and that I had worked with in the past at NMSU. Getting to know the lodge's staff and the paying guests was another plus. A former graduate student friend from Oklahoma and a couple we knew from NMSU were lodge guests there for a week. Bruce now lives in Farmington and fishes the San Juan weekly and gave me some salmon leaders and tippet as mine disappeared from my checked bag during our trip. Incidentally, Bruce offered to share his expertise with MVFF members that would like to benefit from about flyfishing the San Juan.

I took my flyfishing gear, but we spent most of our free time fishing for halibut and salmon with the other Las Cruces couple. Flyfishing for pink salmon was productive as they were abundant along the shoreline near the lodge. We were able to land a

good number of halibut that met the lodge's recommended minimum length limit of 32 inches; the four biggest ones boated were 41, 50, 52 and 77 pounds. We also caught silver, chum and pink salmon while trolling along the coastline. Other fish caught and released while fishing for halibut were cod, rockfish, sculpin and sharks. Kay and I did bring back nearly 200 pounds of vacuum-sealed and frozen halibut and salmon fillets, but before I get hit up for a MVFF fish fry be advised that I have plenty of relatives and friends that eat fish. One flyfishing friend from Idaho even offered to pay for shipping him a 50-pound box of halibut fillets!

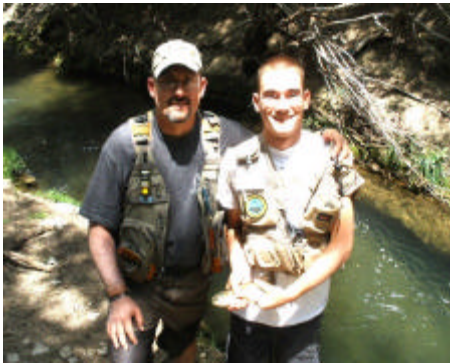
The scenery at the lodge and during the 2-hour boat trip from Juneau out to the lodge, which is located about 10 miles south of Gustavus and the entrance to Glacier Bay National Park, was spectacular. The higher mountains along the coast had patches of snow and the entire area is heavily forested. We saw killer and humpback whales, sea lions, seals, porpoises, sea otters, bald eagles and many other sea birds during our time on the ocean. Kay and I also spent 3 days in the Juneau area while staying with friends there that I have flyfished and kayaked with in past years. Michael plans to join me for some flyfishing and backpacking later this month in the Gila Wilderness where we will fish for Gila trout; he is looking forward to fishing without a raincoat and seeing the sun for a change.

Back to my title, Kay and I spent about \$1,500.00, including airfare and baggage fees for 4 fish boxes, during the 18 days we spent in Alaska. It helps to have friends in Alaska and an annual companion ticket available with Alaska Airlines. We had to work pretty hard while at the lodge to offset the use of their boats and housing, but it was an enjoyable

experience. Kay even said she would have liked to work another week at the lodge when it was time to leave. With our freezer now stocked with halibut worth at least \$1,500.00 I guess you could say the Alaska trip didn't cost us anything, but our time. Regardless of the cost-benefit ratio, it was a great experience and the memories will last a lifetime.

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**A Vallee Good Day at the Lease**



Randall & Jacob with a nice fish.



Jacob with another.



And another.



Taking it easy.



Nice fish!



Working upstream.

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**Have You Been to the Lease Lately?**



**Charlie Boy Hopper**

The center of attention for the Liars and Tyers this month will be the Charlie Boy Hopper.

The Charlie Boy Hopper was developed by Charlie Craven and he has this to say about it: "I developed this pattern several years ago while guiding on Colorado's Tarryall Creek. My clients were going through Dave's Hoppers at an astounding rate and I figured there had to be a better option. While Dave's fly works fine, it becomes waterlogged after a couple fish and is a pain to tie. The Charlie Boy Hopper (named after my son) meets all of my requirements in a hopper pattern: active rubber legs, incredible durability, realistic silhouette, good visibility and great flotation. The best part is it is especially easy to tie. I like to fish Charlie Boys in the standard tan color, as it seems to be the most common color of the naturals, as well as in yellow, green, olive and even blue/green. The blue/green color (with red rubber

legs) matches the hoppers found in the hay meadows along many of our mountain streams here in Colorado. The Charlie Boy Hopper also works great as an indicator dry with a dropper. Its high visibility and superior flotation make it a natural for this application." Charlie has a great web site at <http://www.charliesflyboxinc.com/>.



- Hook:** TMC 5212 or 5262
- Thread:** UNI 6/0 or 8/0
- Wing:** Elk hair bleached over Krystal flash
- Legs:** rubber medium
- Body:** 2mm Foam two strips
- Note:** need super glue to seal tail. Color depends on you: yellow, tan, olive, black, etc.

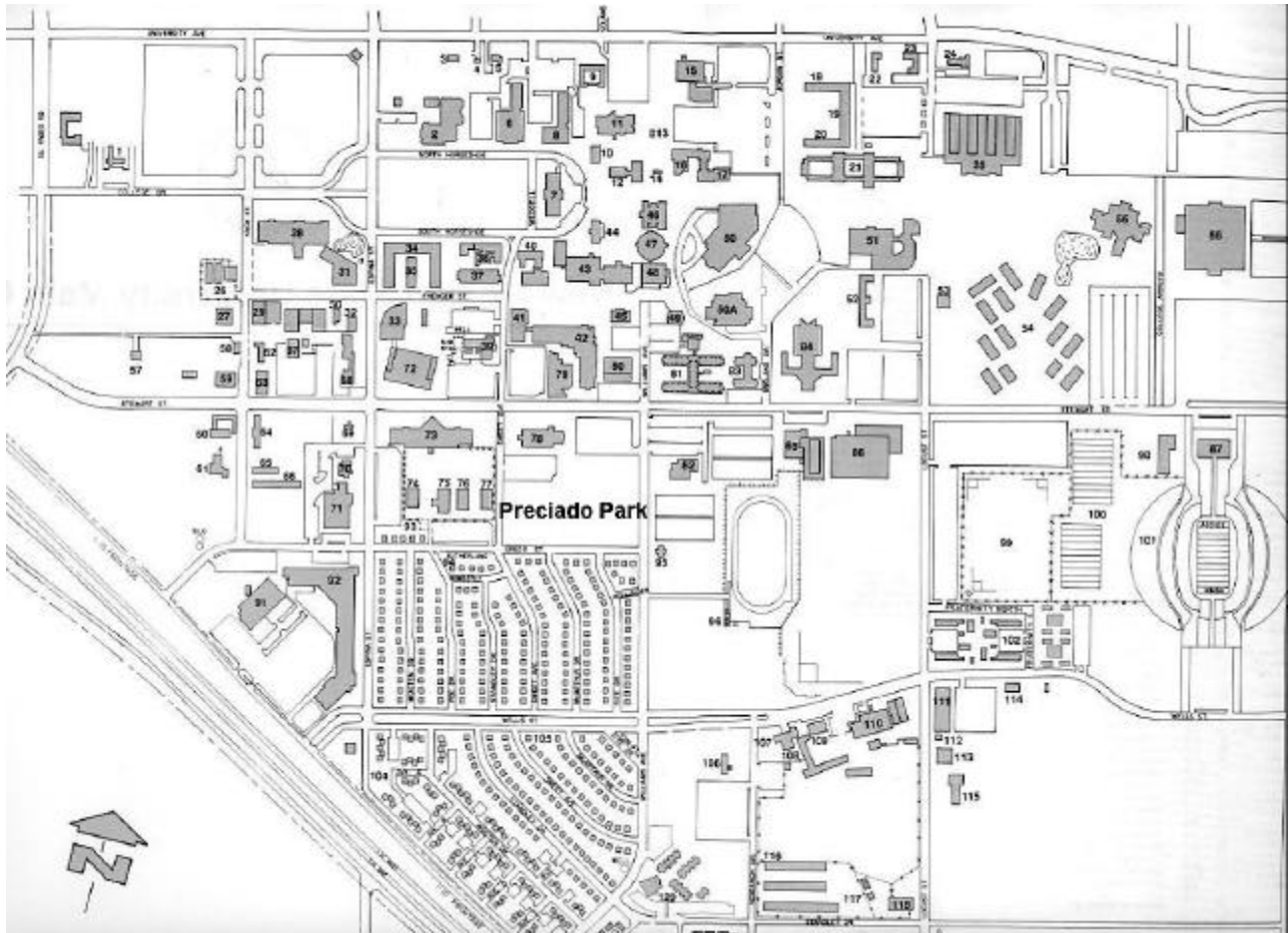
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**MVFF Monthly Events Calendar**

Month	Events	Trips	General Club Meeting Topic/Speaker	Clinics or Lease Projects
September	Liars & Tyers 24 Sept. "Charlie Boy Hopper"	Sep. 30 - Oct. 3 - MVFF Lady Anglers trip to the Pecos.	14 Sept. - Bob Silver will speak on preparing for the San Juan trip.	12 Sept. - Annual Club picnic to be held at Preciado park, NMSU 17 Sept. - PHW Fly Tying session. 24 Sept - PHW Casting session at Ascarate Lake
October	Liars & Tyers 29 Oct.	2-4 Oct. - annual trip to the San Juan	12 Oct. - Jeff Arterburn will speak on Rockport Redfish.	15 Oct. - PHW fishing trip to the Lease.
November	Liars & Tyers 23 Nov.		9 Nov.	



Map of NMSU Showing Preciado Park



Casting Clinic



**MVFF Board Meeting Minutes**

Monday, August 17, 2009

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn, President

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

In attendance were Jeff Arterburn, Tom Wobbe, Ron Bellerose, Jim Hulsey, Robert Silver, Gary Mann, George Thomas and Donna Mabie.

1. Minutes of the July Board meeting, as published in the August newsletter, were approved with no corrections noted.
2. The Treasurer’s Report as presented by Gary Mann was approved and shows a balance of \$13,843.
3. The membership report was presented by Tom Wobbe.
4. The September programs and upcoming meetings were discussed. The annual club picnic is scheduled for Sept. 12, 2009 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at Preciado Park, with setup beginning at 10am. The general meeting Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> will feature a presentation on fishing the San Juan River by Bob Silver, in preparation for the club trip Oct. 2-4. Arrangements for guides are being established, and the board authorized George Thomas to follow up on contacts and make commitments. Camping reservations are open on a first-come basis at this time, and requests for the group site to hold the pot-luck dinner on

Friday night need to be completed. Information about the trip will be published in the Sept. Newsletter. The club has been asked to participate with a booth at the Oct 10<sup>th</sup> Hunting & Fishing Day event in Las Cruces. The desired date for the Annual Club Banquet is Jan 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010, and the room needs to be reserved for this time.

5. Gary Mann and Jeff Arterburn presented an update on the status of the Norm Mabie Scholarship and pending changes in administration of the award through the NMSU Department of Fishery and Wildlife Sciences, following a recent meeting with Mark Gladden.
6. Ron Bellerose presented a progress report and plans for Project Healing Waters that include a fly tying session, fly casting event at Ascarate Lake, and fishing trip on the Rio Peñasco.
7. The August fly casting courses presented by Bob Widgren received strong positive responses from the participants. The tackle workshop for the MVFF Lady Anglers was also well received. The Board also discussed other possible opportunities to provide programs that will enhance fly fishing skills and knowledge.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30p.m.

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**Rockport Redfish**



Be sure to attend the October meeting to hear the exciting story behind these pictures.



**Quick Look Contact Information**

2009 Officers of the Club	
<b>Officers</b>	
• <b>President</b>	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• <b>V-Pres.</b>	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• <b>Secretary</b>	Donna Mabie (575) 522-3810
• <b>Treasurer</b>	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
<b>Board Members</b>	
• <b>Position 1</b>	Paul Turner (575) 523-6880
• <b>Position 2</b>	Randall Vallee (575) 373-9470
• <b>Position 3</b>	Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437
• <b>Position 4</b>	George Thomas (575) 532-5614
• <b>Position 5</b>	George Sanders (575) 527-5536
<b>Newsletter &amp; Web Page Editor</b>	
• <b>Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880</b>	newsletter@mvff.org

<b>Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,003</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).

**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.

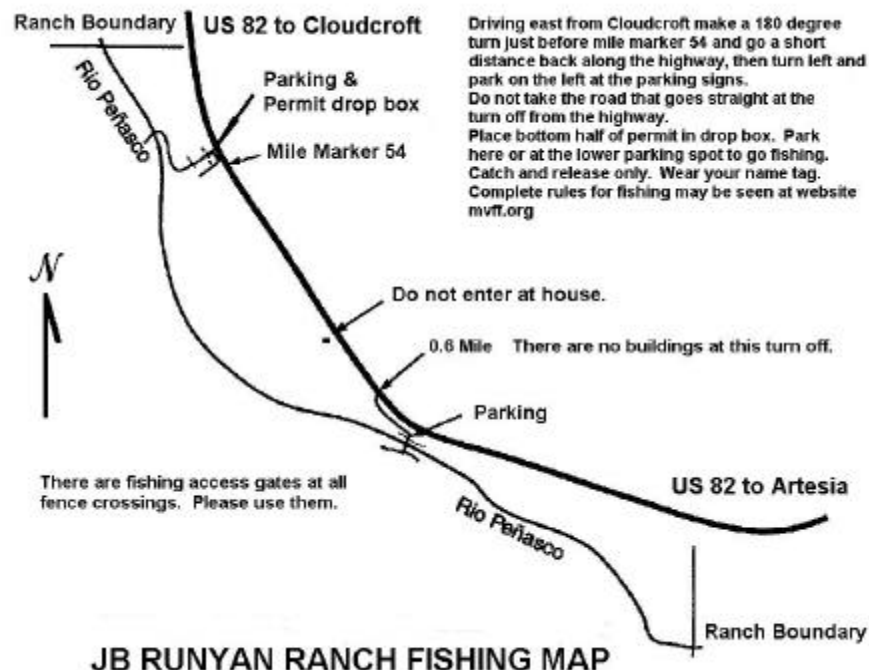
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

### 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 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.