



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

September

2013



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Membership Meeting

Monday, 9 September

The MVFF general membership meeting will meet on Monday 9 September at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. Special guest speakers will be Club members Jim Sorensen and Mary Hoffman. They will give a power point presentation with the highlights of the Club trips this summer.

Refreshments will be served.

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 16 September

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 16 September at 7:00pm at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Wednesday, 25 September

Liars and Tyers will meet on Wednesday 25 September at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at 7:00pm. The fly to be tied is the *Grey Midge Pupa*. This fly was developed by Tim Mack and is effective on the San Juan. If you are planning to go on the Club trip to the San Juan in

October this is a good way to start preparing. The tying session will be led by professional tyer, Tim Mack. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies will be available for beginning tyers.

President's Corner



Summer went by fast with two club trips, one to the Bighorn and the other to the Quinlan Ranch. Now that we are approaching fall it is good time to go fishing but then there is never a bad time to go fishing! We start up our

General Meeting September 9th at the New Mexico Game and Fish. Jim Sorenson and Mary Hoffman have put together a power point from the two club trips that they went on this past summer. The Bighorn was one of the best trips I have ever gone on, just ask Tom Wobbe!

Our club trip to the San Juan River this October is booked and if you do decide to go, you will have to arrange your own accommodations. Know that you are welcome to join the group for both Friday and Saturday's dinner at the Octagon Inn for \$10 per person, just let me know in advance. Teako Nunn owner of Sparky's in Hatch will be serving Green Chile Cheese Burgers on Friday and Brisket on Saturday.

Project Healing Waters will be starting up this month. We will need many volunteers to help our soldiers tie flies and teach them some basic casting skills. Please see Ron Belerose's report in this month's newsletter for dates.

For those members who would like to build a fly rod this winter, I will have a signup sheet at this month's meeting. If we get enough members interested, we will put together a clinic to help you through the process.

Looking forward to see you at this months meeting. In the mean time keep a tight line.

Chuck



Ron Bellerose
PHW Coordinator



Project Healing Waters is moving along at a good pace. I have had a few fly tying events at my house and will be taking a couple of Vets out fishing soon. Ft. Bliss group will be with us on the 25th of September, tying flies and casting. We would like to have 8-10 volunteers to help with this event. We will be going to the lease fishing with the Vets on October 2. I know it is difficult for many of you to make these events but this is the only day that Ft Bliss has to offer this type of training. We could use as many as possible for the fishing event. I expect 20 to 24 soldiers to attend the fishing. If you can only volunteer for one day, we can use you for the fishing. We can get along with less on the fly tying and casting.

The local group of Vets is working out well but it is a slow process. It is nice to work with the local Vets and not have to be on a certain day only. I will be doing the budget for next year and I expect to increase it by 3 or 4 thousand dollars and include a couple of guided trips for them next year.

Thank you all for your help and support for these Vets. It is really a benefit for them to be able to participate and relax by fly tying and fishing.

For more information about PHWFF see www.projecthealingwaters.org. Contact Ron Bellerose (575-680-5516), flyfishnh@hotmail.com if you wish to volunteer to help out.

Lady Anglers Travel To The Arkansas River

Helen Zagona

MVFF Lady Anglers will once again wet lines in the Arkansas River during our Fall Fishing Getaway. We have rented a lovely home on the banks of the Arkansas River near Salida, Colorado the last week in September.

Our back yard stretch of river is perfect for fishing any time of day, but we also will be doing a guided day on another stretch. Guide services will be provided by Royal Gorge Anglers this year. During our guided day, we will be fishing 2 miles of private water without any other anglers present. We also will have days on our own to fish in secret spots that we discovered last year.

We enjoy the restaurants and shops of Salida at the end of our fishing days. We are really looking forward to this trip!!

Club Outings Planned

The board is now discussing possible outings for 2013 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 any of the Board members.

The following trips are currently being planned:

- September (last week) - Lady Anglers trip to the Arkansas River.
- October 10-13 - the Club's annual trip to the San Juan.

Welcome New Members

Bobby Aguilar	El Paso, TX
J. P. Hayes	El Paso, TX
James & Julia Jennings, Jr.	El Paso, TX
Tyson Womble	Lubbock, TX



Rio Peñasco Fishing Report

Tom Wobbe and Bob Silver fished the Rio Peñasco on Labor Day. The water level was slightly low, but mostly clear. The higher flows have flushed away some of the heaviest concentration of weeds. Fish were taking dries, preferring smaller sized flies in

brown or gray. The best were a size 18 AK Parachute Quill Body and a size 18 Parachute Adams. Fish were rising to a size 10 Stimulator, but just not being hooked.

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Grey Midge Pupa

Tim says this is a fly he has modified from a few different patterns. Worked well last fall and spring on the San Juan.



Hook: TMC 200R #18 to #22 or any small curved nymph hook

Thread: Ultra Blue Dun Or Grey

Body: Under body: thread

Over body: Clear Midge Tubing or any small clear tubing

Gills: Fluoro Fiber or similar fine antron white

Wing case: Flashabou pearl or pearl tinsel small over White razor foam

Thorax: Grey Super Fine Dubbing

Other good colors to have are brown, black, olive and even red.

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MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 19, 2013

Submitted by Bob Silver, Acting Secretary

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order at 7:00pm in the NMDG&F Conference Room by President Chuck Mueller. In attendance were Chuck Mueller, Gary Mann, Bob Silver, Ron Warnke and Ron Bellerose and non-Board members Jim Hulsey and Tom Wobbe.

1. Minutes of the May 2013 Board meeting were approved as published in the June newsletter.
2. The Treasurer reported that the Club has a balance of \$12,676. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.
3. Wobbe reported the Club has 209 paid members with 33 new members added in 2013. Permit sales are slightly behind permit sales of 2012.
4. Ron Bellerose reported that PROJECT HEALING WATERS has two events planned for the 25th of September and the 2nd of October with the soldiers at Fort Bliss. We need all the help we can get to make this a great experience for the soldiers. Also the Board will be helping to re-fit the PHW rods prior to the trip to the lease. If you would like to help out call a Board member. The dates, times and locations are:
 - 25 September Fly Tying - New Mexico Game and Fish conference room at 8am
 - 2 October Fish the Lease...leave the K-Mart on Highway 70 in Las Cruces at 5:45am or

meet at the Lease at 8am. A GIANT lunch will be provided by the CowBelles.

5. Bob Silver reported that over the summer, he and Jim Ellett placed about 20 large boulders in the stream from below the irrigation take-out to just above the waterfall. This is the same area where last April a work party placed rocks in two places along the bank and in the middle of the stream. Last weekend Bob and Tom Wobbe checked on the rocks. They have settled by several high flows from the recent rains, but the rocks are large enough that they did not wash away. Now there have been several more deeper runs and pools created.
 6. The San Juan Trip, 10-13 October, is essentially fully booked. Please contact Chuck Mueller with any questions.
 7. Regular meetings will resume. The next Club meeting will be on September 9th at the New Mexico Game and Fish Conference Room starting at 7:00pm. Jim Sorenson and Mary Hoffman will present slides about the Club Trips to the Big Horn and the Quinlan Ranch.
 8. The Board discussed preliminary plans for the annual banquet in January 2014.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

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Yellowstone on the Fly (Or, What We Did on our Summer Vacation)

David and Miriam Carmichael

Our planning for this trip began last December, after we met Molly Semenik at the MVFF regular monthly meeting and participated in the casting clinic she taught. We were inspired to make a return trip to Yellowstone National Park, and to book a float trip with Molly on the Yellowstone River. The trip was an adventure from start to finish. After having our Subaru in the shop for most of the month of June, making sure it was roadworthy for a three-week camping and fishing trip, we set out on July 12. But, only 13 miles from town, the timing belt broke and the engine was blown. After waiting two hours in the 100 degree heat for a wrecker, we were towed in to the Subaru dealer in El Paso so they could assess the damage. It was severe. The pistons were all bent, and getting the engine rebuilt would have taken a serious investment in a vehicle that had already logged 196K miles. More importantly, we would have missed our fishing trip and our guided float on the Yellowstone. So, we resignedly walked from the service bay to the showroom and picked out our new Subaru. As the dealership closed, we unloaded all the camping and fishing gear from the old vehicle, packed it into the new one, and drove off into the moonlight to visit family in Santa Fe on our way north. My daughter and her guy (who is in the auto business) commented that someone should have been filming all that for a Subaru commercial.

From Santa Fe we drove to Taos, where Mary Hoffman and Jim Sorenson put us up for a couple of nights in their wonderful cabin in the woods. We had a great visit, and heard about the success other club members had on the Bighorn River trip a few weeks earlier. Even though we spent more than a week in the Yellowstone area, the only bear we saw on the entire trip was in Mary and Jim's neighborhood. Jim introduced us to the Special Trout Waters section of the Cimarron River where we experienced PMD, caddis and midge hatches during a rainy morning and clearing afternoon. We all caught some nice fish, with Miriam landing the largest trout, a 12 inch brown. We used a variety of flies, including flashback PT, RS2, Copper John, PMD cripple, caddis pupa, and Jim's

Warden's Worry. (You'll have to ask him for the recipe.)

Next stop was Basalt, at the confluence of the Roaring Fork and Frying Pan Rivers in central Colorado. This is blue ribbon trout water country, and fortunately we have friends who live in Basalt and allow us to stay with them whenever we can get up that way. Even better, one of our hosts just took up fly fishing, so we spent a couple of days introducing him to nymphing and visiting a few of our favorite spots on the Frying Pan. In two days Miriam and I caught and released 46 trout, the largest measuring 15 inches. We have often caught rainbows and cuts on the Pan, but this time all but four of the trout were browns and nearly all were caught on moderately small nymphs, such as #18-20 PTs or Copper Johns. This on a river famous for its dry fly hatches.

I thought I would miss my old Forester with the stick-shift, but the new Outback is an automatic with a manual paddle-shifter capability that turned out to be quite effective in the mountains. Even though we drove through Santa Fe, Taos, and then to Aspen via Independence Pass, we averaged 34 mpg up to that point in our trip. We took Miriam's skis along for servicing that we can't get in El Paso, and the rack worked well for transporting the rigged fly rods when driving between different stretches of the river. After some good fishing and good wine with friends, we proceeded to Yellowstone National Park.



We camped in the north-central and northeastern part of the park, avoiding the geyser basin and crowds, and we found some very good fishing. The Gardner River, Lamar River and Soda Butte Creek were surprisingly free of crowds. We were surprised to learn that Yellowstone NP has made major changes to the fishing regulations in an ongoing effort to protect and enhance the native fish populations. As of this year, about 80% of the park is now designated as "Native Trout Conservation Area." This means that all non-native fish (brook trout, rainbows, browns and lake trout) caught in that area must be harvested. There is no limit on the non-natives in the Native Trout Conservation Area. All the native fish (cutthroat trout, mountain whitefish and grayling) must be released. We received a visit from a Park ranger at camp who checked to make sure we were harvesting the non-natives, and we ate fish every day. Interestingly, we heard and read that the ongoing battle to rid Yellowstone Lake of illegally stocked lake trout is proving to be a struggle. However, in the larger rivers we fished, the Yellowstone, Lamar and Soda Butte, we caught almost exclusively Yellowstone cutthroat trout. They are beautiful, and it's fun to watch their deliberate take on a dry. The smaller tributary streams still hold quite a few non-native trout, but their numbers seem to be greatly reduced in areas within easy hiking distance of the established campgrounds. In other words, the new regulations seem to be having the desired effect; we caught many more cutthroats this trip than we did four years ago.



Miriam throwing tight loops somewhere on the Lamar River.

One morning we made the 7 mile (round trip) hike to Grebe Lake to fish for arctic graylings. There are only two or three places in the lower 48 states where one can fish for grayling, and this effort has been on our fly fishing bucket list for a while. The fishing was very demanding because there was no hatch, and because the takes we elicited were very quick and dainty on long tippets. However, using Callibaetis nymphs below indicators, we each caught several graylings... ghostly blue gray with tall, purple-streaked dorsal fins. The grayling is truly an elegant fish hiding out in a magnificent setting.

We learned from Molly Semenik that although our visit was timed during what would normally be peak fishing season in Yellowstone country (mid-late July), the weather had been so warm that conditions were less than ideal, and the fishing had been challenging. The skies had been clear for a couple of weeks, and the water levels in the major rivers are about 30% below normal. The hot temperatures prevented most hatches, and the low water kept the fish hunkered down, especially after noon. We were fortunate to have hatches on a couple of days in the park and we mainly fished the colder streams. We hit the end of the salmon fly hatch on the upper Yellowstone, and fished a couple of PMD hatches, on the Lamar and Soda Butte. Downstream on the Yellowstone outside the park, they had not seen any hatches at all for 2-3 weeks.



Salmon fly in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River, Yellowstone NP. Now that's a bug!

Our time in the national park was wonderful... relaxing evenings in camp, glorious scenery, chilled wine stored in the bear locker during the day, and

successful fishing. Nevertheless, the highlight of the trip was our float down the Yellowstone with guide and casting instructor Molly Semenik. When we met up with her on July 26, she had good news and bad news. The good news is that she had recently finished 2nd in the national fly casting championship, runner-up to one of her students/protégés. The bad news is that this will be Molly's last season as a guide on the Yellowstone. She is retiring and moving to Portland where she plans to get serious about steelhead fishing. She will continue to train fly fishing guides but she is relocating in early 2014. We feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to fish with her; we had a delightful, productive and lengthy day on the water. We floated the stretch from Mallard's Rest to Carter Bridge, but were on the water for 9 hours because we all were having so much fun. Miriam received an entire day of one-on-one casting instruction, and Molly even taught some spey casting techniques. She warned us that the fishing had been slow for weeks, and that a good day might be 2-3 fish apiece. We were all pleased that we did much better, landing 15 fish, including Miriam's catch of the day, a beautiful 22" brown. Molly said it was the 2nd largest trout landed on the Yellowstone this season, second only to a 24" rainbow Molly caught in the spring. My "consolation prize" was a 19" brown, and completing the Yellowstone grand slam: catching a brown, rainbow, cutthroat, cutbow and mountain whitefish, all on the same day. The flies of the day were a Purple Haze mayfly imitation, a bead head caddis pupa, and a jointed sculpin streamer.



Molly Semenik coaching Miriam while she's fighting her trophy brown trout on the Yellowstone River.



Miriam's 22" trophy brown trout caught on a beadhead caddis pupa.

On our last day in Yellowstone country, we drove through the northeastern portion of the park and made a quick parting visit to Soda Butte Creek, where we caught another 15 cutthroat trout in a couple of hours before the rains moved in. Over the course of the entire trip, Miriam and I were fortunate to have caught more than 140 trout, including the two large browns (22" and 19") as well as 40 Yellowstone cutthroats... still my favorites.

It was with some reluctance that we started back to El Paso, especially because the forecast was for fishing to improve with the arrival of cloudy skies and afternoon thunderstorms. But we wrapped up the excursion with an exhilarating visit to the Bighorn Medicine Wheel located between Yellowstone National Park and Sheridan, Wyoming. The medicine wheel is one of the most sacred sites on the continent for a number of Native American groups. It is the holy site that several tribes were visiting when they were attacked by Custer at the battle of the Little Bighorn. We were the last visitors of the day, and experienced the site by ourselves, in solitude just before sunset and the arrival of a large rainstorm. We found the site to be deeply moving. Fortunately, I had a pocketful of bison hair that I had collected for fly tying, and some tufts made a suitable offering to leave in honor of several of my recently departed Native American friends. Visiting places like the Bighorn Medicine Wheel and Yellowstone National Park provided a welcome reminder of how stunningly beautiful and spiritually satisfying the wild places of our country truly are. And the fact that fly fishing opportunities occur in such areas make them all the more special.



Soda Butte Creek; a pretty 17" Yellowstone cutthroat trout caught on a #20 Prince nymph

To go fishing is the chance to wash one's soul with pure air...It brings meekness and inspiration from the decency of nature, charity toward tackle-makers, patience toward fish, a mockery of profits and egos, a quieting of hate, a rejoicing that you do not have to decide a darned thing until next week.
----Herbert Hoover



Sunset over Junction Butte and glacial kettle ponds, tinged by smoke from the Emigrant fire in the Absaroka Mountains.

Quick Look Contact Information

2013 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• V-Pres.:	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• Secretary:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• Treasurer:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
Board Members	
• Position 1:	Paul Turner (575) 523-6880
• Position 2:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• Position 3:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• Position 4:	Ron Warnke (575) 532-5600
• Position 5:	George Sanders (575) 527-5536
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• Position 8:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
• Position 9:	Ron Bellerose (575) 680-5516
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437	membership@mvff.org

Norm Mabie Scholarship FundMarket Value as of 30 June 2012 **\$9,808****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.

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. If you live out of town and wish the print mailed to you please add \$5 for postage. 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.

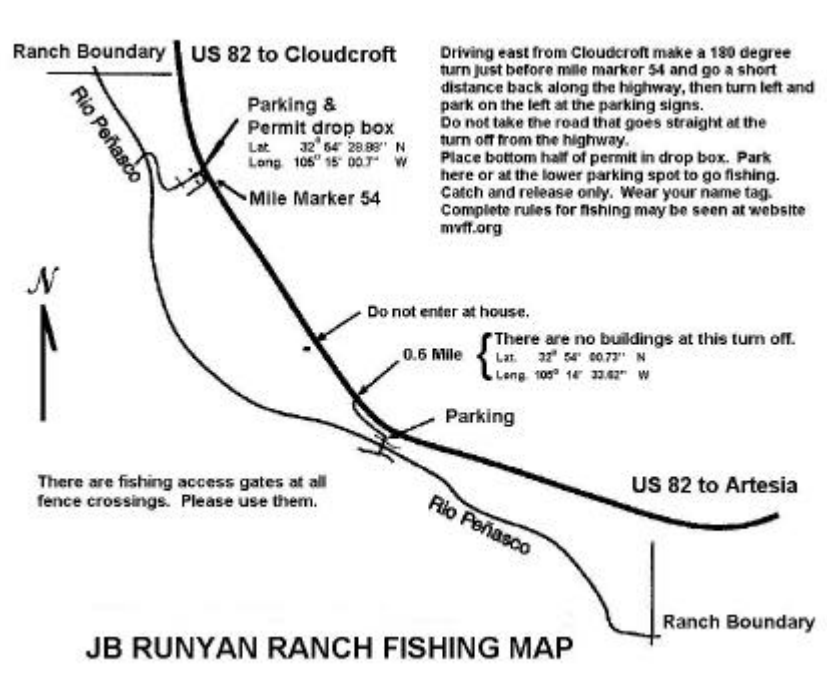
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-524-1880), Tom Wobbe (575-522-5437) and Donna Mabie (575-522-3810) in Las Cruces. 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 (current dues have been paid) 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/Cell 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.