



# TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of  
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2222  
Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222  
www.MVFF.org

December

2015



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## Membership Meeting

Monday, 14 December

The MVFF general membership meeting will meet on Monday 14 December at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. Guest speaker will be fishing guide and Club Member Bob Widgren. Bob fishes all over New Mexico and Colorado. He is very familiar with the insects found in our smaller streams and rivers and the artificial flies and the techniques for catching fish. Most of a trout's diet consists of nymphs of various aquatic insects. Because nymphs live below the water surface, fishing an artificial nymph effectively to resemble a real nymph requires certain special skills. Bob's talk will be on how to be an effective nymph fisherman. He will get into types of insects most common in our streams and how to imitate their life cycle and drift pattern well enough to fool trout. If you want to learn to be a better nymph fisherman then you should plan on attending. Cookies and coffee will be served.

## Liars and Tyers

Liars & Tyers will not meet in December due to the holidays. See you in January.

## Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, 15 December

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Tuesday 15 December at 7:00pm at *The Game*. All members are welcome to attend.

## President's Corner

Jim Sorenson



In September, Ron Bellerose asked me if I would like to fish the Green River with him. Having heard George Sanders' "Tales of Fishing the Green River," I said sure. Well, it was

mid-November before the stars and our calendars aligned so that we were both free to go. In the future, just remember, if Ron asks to go fishing in November, he's from New Hampshire—and chances are you're not!

It is only a 14 hour drive, so we decided we could do it in one day. We left Ron's house at 4:00am and didn't hit our first snow-packed highway until San Ysidro, NM. No problem, just slow down and stay in the lane that the trucks had turned to slush. By Bloomfield, the roads were dry again and stayed that way until the first mountain pass after Purgatory Ski area in Colorado. From there to Ouray, CO, not only were the snow plows out but so were the Avalanche Patrol, the road graders and front end loaders working to clear the already-accumulated snow. No problem, we soldiered on and got to the Flaming Gorge Resort by 6:30pm, on the same day we left Las Cruces.

The next morning, we met our guide, David Schneider, at 9:00am. The weather was mid-20's and breezy, but by afternoon, the wind was blowing 40 to 50 miles an hour with gusts in excess of 65 mph. Nonetheless, David got us into some great fish. Both

the Rainbows and the Browns were spawning and males of both species were hanging out below the redds, waiting to feast on eggs floating down the river. In the first hour and a half, before we even got in the drift boat, both Ron and I had had a great day of fishing. The Rainbows were 16 to 20+ inches and fat as a small football. Because of the spawning season, the male Rainbows were colored in bright shades of red to deep purple. The Browns were similarly sized and richly colored in shades of gold, tan and copper. Because of the wind, it was difficult to get a proper drift while fishing from the boat. David got us to some great areas to wade however. So long as we could cast our flies to the right area, the fish would take them. By 3:00pm, however, it was difficult to stand up and impossible to cast any distance whatsoever and we called it a day. It may have been a slighter shorter day, but Ron and I both agreed that it had been a great day of fishing.

The next day was a spectacular fall day for fishing—cool but not cold, no wind and clear sky. We didn't catch as many big fish as we had with a guide (Imagining that!), but we caught enough for it to qualify as a darn good day on any river. Between the size of the fish and the strength of the stream current, my lifetime H to L ratio suffered a bit. On Friday, another cold front moved through. We fished until 11:00 am when the wind picked up. Ron managed to find us a honey hole that morning that held lots of 10- to 12-inch fish, but we also caught a fair number of the lunkers that we had been catching the previous days. Rather than brave the torrent that afternoon, we drove home along the western route and missed all the snow-packed roads.

Mary has a quote on the refrigerator at our cabin. I'm paraphrasing it, but it is to the effect, "An adventure is an event experienced under extreme conditions, but fondly remembered in warm comfort." We had an adventure.

By all accounts, the Club trip to the San Juan was another rousing success. We owe a big debt of gratitude to Chuck Mueller who works hard to organize these trips and makes sure everyone has a good time. We are a volunteer organization and the organization is only as good as the effort that volunteers are willing to put into it. So, the next time you see Chuck, thank him for his hard work.

Don't forget the casting clinics with Bob and Lee Widgren at Alumni Pond on the NMSU campus on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Bob will also be our guest speaker at the December General meeting. At that meeting, we will elect directors for 2016. It is not too late to put your name in nomination if you would like to serve on the Board next year. Liars and Tiers has been canceled for the month of December because of the Christmas holiday and the Board meeting has been moved to December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at *The Game*. As always, Board meetings are open to any member that wishes to attend.

We hope to begin selling tickets for the annual raffle at the December Board meeting. Last year, we experimented with having fewer but larger prizes and the Club lost money on the raffle. This year, we are not spending as much as we did last year on raffle prizes, but we are having more prizes so there will be more winners. We will publish a list of raffle prizes as soon as it is available. Please support the raffle, as it is a source of revenue for the Club.

Finally, the tentative date for stocking the Lease is December 5<sup>th</sup>, but it is subject to weather. Watch Tom Wobbe's emails for further information. We can always use help while stocking to try to distribute the fish as widely as possible. Our plan is to stock again in March and May 2016 to try to assure everyone a quality experience while fishing the Lease.

Happy holidays to everyone and more great fishing trips in 2016!

Tight Lines,

Jim



Ron Bellerose  
PHW Coordinator

Project Healing Waters is working with our local Vets in December. We will have fly tying on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Las Cruces VA Clinic starting at 1:00pm. We will also be doing quite a bit of fishing at the local ponds this month. No dates are set yet.

We had a great fund raiser at Dick's Sporting Goods last month and I am in hopes of having another one this month.

We are still getting new PHW participants in the local area. Hopefully, most of them will join the club.

I am in the process of ordering fly rod blanks for rod building classes. I have 5 or 6 Vets that will be building their fly rods in 2016.

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

## Casting Clinic

Sunday, 13 December

How are your casting skills? Have questions? Could your casting use a tune up? Just beginning to learn to fly fish and need some help? Or are you a reasonable caster and ready to learn how to double haul?

Bob Widgren, from Albuquerque, will be in Las Cruces to give a casting clinic on Sunday Dec 13<sup>th</sup>. Bob is a certified casting instructor and has been our casting mentor for years. He will also be our December speaker at the regular Monday meeting on Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. So he was kind enough to come down early to give this casting clinic. We are splitting the clinic into two parts for Intermediate/Advanced casters and for those beginning to learn about fly fishing. You won't find too many teachers better than Bob for all skill levels.

Please notice we have separate times for each class. Also come a little early so that you have time to assemble your equipment and we can start on time.

**When:** SUNDAY December 13<sup>th</sup>. **Intermediate/Advanced** Casting Class at 8:30-10:00am; **BREAK;** **Beginning** Casting Class at 10:30am-Noon.

**Where:** Aggie Memorial Pond, NMSU Campus, west of the Pan AM Center.

**What to Bring:** The fly fishing equipment that you plan to fish with. As a courtesy we will check it over to make sure you have it properly setup.

**What will be taught:** Intermediate/Advanced techniques such as single and double hauling and demonstration of solutions to your questions. For Beginners, how to assemble your rod and basic casting skills so that you can start fishing.

**Weather:** On Sunday the weather forecast is sunny and calm but cold, 42 at 8am and 55 by Noon. Bring a jacket, chair etc.

**RSVP:** Please RSVP so that we have an idea how many plan to attend the casting classes. Contact Bob Silver at 575-642-5865 or [rsilver@nmsu.edu](mailto:rsilver@nmsu.edu).

## Basic Fly Fishing Classes

Also in addition to the casting classes, the Club would like to have an idea of the number of people, especially just starting out, who would attend a basic fly fishing class or a more advanced class as well. There are several members in the Club who would teach a class if there was enough interest. Please send Bob Silver [rsilver@nmsu.edu](mailto:rsilver@nmsu.edu) an email and tell him if you would be interested in a class.

## Club Outings Planned

The board is now discussing possible future outings and would welcome suggestions from members. Where do you want to go? Let them know. If you have comments or suggestions for additional trips pass them to any of the Board members. Trips now in the planning stages are:

- Summer 2016 —trip to Lee's Ferry

## Welcome New Members

Eddy Burkett	Lovington, NM
Jack Wingard	Las Cruces, NM
Luis Gomez	Lovington, NM
Karan Lewis	Las Cruces, NM
Dennis Bickford	La Luz, NM



### MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 16, 2015

Submitted, John Kennedy, Secretary

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order at 7:00pm in the NMDG&F Conference Room by President Jim Sorenson. All Board members were in attendance. Non-Board members in attendance were Ron Bellerose, Jim Hulsey and Tom Wobbe.

1. Minutes of the October 19, 2015 Board meeting were approved as published in the November issue of the newsletter.
2. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$13,584. The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved.
3. Tom Wobbe reported the club's membership at 310, five additional members since the last report.
4. Ron Bellerose reported on Project Healing Waters. On Wednesday November 11 there was an outing with 14 vets. On Saturday November 14 the Wounded Warrior Transition Battalion went to the lease, 5 soldiers fishing with 6 volunteers. On Wednesday November 25 there is a V.A clinic fly fishing event. The December fly fishing event with the Wounded Warriors Transition Battalion will be at Alumni Pond.
5. Jeff Arterburn provided the Gila / Rio Grande Chapter - Trout Unlimited report. Various projects are being discussed and/or are underway. Jeff indicated that new Board members are needed. Contact Jeff if you are interested.
6. On Sunday November 8 five members of the American Fisheries Society participated in a fly tying and casting clinic.
7. There was discussion and agreement on the need to stock the lease. It was decided that 750 8- to 10-inch fish be stocked at 3 different times, 250

now/soon; 250 in February or March; and 250 in the Spring. We will check with fish provider Bill Parker on his availability, and concerning weather conditions.

8. Bob Widgren will be our general meeting speaker on Monday, December 14. He will also do a 2 part casting clinic on Sunday December 13, 1 ½ hours each session - 8:30am intermediate and advanced; and a 10:30am beginners class.
9. The Annual Banquet Raffle Prize Committee has purchased some prizes. It has a \$2500 budget. The Annual Banquet will be Feb. 20, 2016.
10. There will be a separate prize for Club participation, a guided trip with Noah Parker's group.
11. One nomination for the 2016 Board was received, David Carmichael from El Paso. Board member Paul Turner will be stepping down, and the Board thanks him for his service.
12. There will not be a Liars and Tyers meeting in December.

New Business:

1. The Club was invited to attend a meeting in Albuquerque on Wednesday, December 9 for a discussion on possible changes in the State Game Commission, and commissioners qualification's. Jim Sorenson volunteered to attend.
2. Chuck Mueller also reported that the recent November 12-14 San Juan trip ws a success. There were 20 fishermen.

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, December 15, 7:00pm, at *The Game*.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.



"A good trout taken in winter is savored, perhaps more than the easier fish of summer."

*Steven J. Meyers*

**Quick Look Contact Information**

2015 Officers of the Club	
<b>Officers</b>	
• <b>President:</b>	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• <b>V-Pres.:</b>	Vacant
• <b>Secretary:</b>	John Kennedy (612) 720-3456
• <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>	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• <b>Position 3:</b>	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• <b>Position 4:</b>	Ray Rodriguez (575) 524-9420
• <b>Position 5:</b>	John Kennedy (612) 720-3456
• <b>Position 6:</b>	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• <b>Position 7:</b>	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• <b>Position 8:</b>	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
• <b>Position 9:</b>	Dennis Lanpher (575) 642-2946
<b>Newsletter &amp; Web Page Editor</b>	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	<a href="mailto:newsletter@mvff.org">newsletter@mvff.org</a>
<b>Membership Committee Chairman</b>	
• Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437	<a href="mailto:membership@mvff.org">membership@mvff.org</a>

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund Market Value as of 30 June 2014	\$11,487
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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.

**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. 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 LI-**  
**CENSES 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.

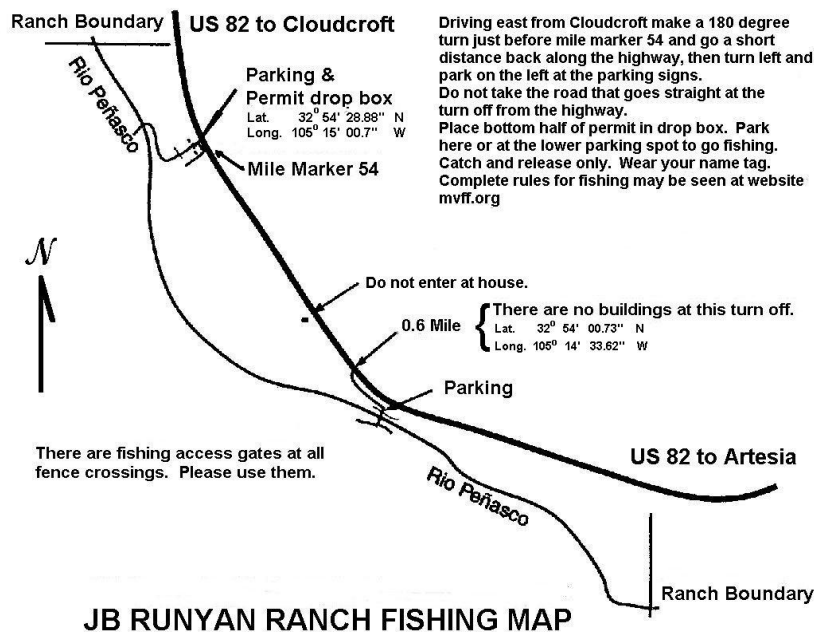
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

### 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 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.