



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

December

2018



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Tale Waters Edited by Jim Hulsey — newsletter@mvff.org

Membership Meeting

Monday, 10 December

The MVFF general membership meeting will meet on Monday 10 December at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. The program will feature NMSU fisheries graduate student Lauren Flynn with an interesting presentation titled "*Investigating the Mechanics of Rio Grande Cutthroat Decline and Persistence*". This will be a great opportunity to learn about the challenges facing our native State fish.

The election of Board Members to serve for 2019 will also be held and the winners of the final three Mabie raffles will be drawn.

Doors will open at 6:30pm and cookies and coffee will be served.

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 10 December

Note: this is a different date and time than normal; caused by the disruptions of the holidays.

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 10 December following the General Membership meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Liars and Tyers will not meet in December since it would occur during the Christmas holidays and many of our tyers will have other plans.

President's Corner

David Carmichael

Thanksgiving on the Rio Peñasco



As luck would have it, all my immediate family members traveled out of town on Thanksgiving again this year, so I took the opportunity to play bachelor and spend the holiday doing a little fishing on the

Rio Penasco. Driving alone for several hours, especially on a day when many people are staying off the roads gives one time to think about life, the world, and the blessings for which one should be thankful. As I drove up Trans-Mountain road on the way over the Franklin Mountains, I was thankful to be ascending out of, and leaving behind the brown layer of smog that filled the Mesilla Valley from El Paso to Las Cruces. Arriving in the Sacramento Mountains, I was happy to observe the mountains as silence settles over the forest in preparation for the coming winter. There is something special about being in the mountains in the late fall; the rhythm of life slows down, the woods see fewer visitors and are quieter than in other seasons. The stillness and solitude allow one to focus on the small things that contribute to our appreciation of the high country.

I stopped at Cadwaller's farm in Mountain Park to visit the unstaffed fruit stand that is operated on the honor system, and bought a bag of Winesap apples, my favorite heirloom variety that is almost impossible to find in the city. Heading through Cloudcroft a few minutes later I enjoyed the remnants of the season's first snowfall, and the sleepiness of the village where only a couple of businesses were open for the holi-

day. After a somewhat leisurely drive I reached the Penasco about noon, and spent some time enjoying my Thanksgiving lunch at river side. The feast consisted of smoked salmon, Danish *agurksalat* (cucumber salad), a Winesap apple, and *gember kruidkoek* (Dutch ginger spice cake) for desert. I enjoyed the company of two Great Blue Herons, several flocks of Mallards, turkeys, deer, and some geese. I was thankful to be able to share my spot on the river with those creatures; there are many people in this country who never get to see animals in the wild.

The day was overcast and breezy, with air temperatures ranging from 61 to 57 degrees, and a water temperature of 59. There was no surface feeding activity at noon, so perhaps I missed the BWO hatch, though I had expected it to be later because of the cool, overcast conditions. Ah well; stopping for Winesaps was worth missing the BWO hatch. The fishing was slow and challenging from about 12:30–3:00 pm. Visibility into the water was poor because of the lack of direct sunlight and the surface glare caused by the diffuse, gray lighting. Substantial weed growth is still prevalent in many parts of the river, making it difficult to get deep enough to reach the fish which were mostly hugging the bottom in the deeper runs and holes.



American Grannom (*Brachycentrus sp*) on grip, reel and in the grass

However, in the late afternoon, two different types of caddis began emerging at the same time. One was a small (6mm, #18) black caddis, probably an American Grannom, seen below crawling on my rod and the adjacent grasses. The other was a much larger brownish caddis (16mm, #12 2xl), probably a Green Sedge. After that the fishing picked up, and the most successful flies were a small black hare's ear and lightning bug pattern. After a relatively slow day, it was satisfying to pick up 5 nice trout in the last hour before dusk. By the time I got off the river and headed back to the truck, there was a Trico hatch underway, and one of the 4mm long duns posed for a photo on my windshield.



Tricorythodes sp (Trico) dun resting on the windshield

I feel very fortunate to have made it home safely on Thanksgiving evening. After leaving the Penasco, on the way back up the mountain towards Cloudcroft, I had a very close call with a huge, majestic bull elk that was standing in the middle of the highway a short distance below the Cloudcroft ski area. I came around a bend and saw that I had about 30 yards in which to stop to avoid a collision. Luckily, I was traveling a rather modest 45 mph, and the Toyota FJ has excellent disk brakes, so I was able to stop in time to avoid hitting the elk; and there was a break in traffic, so no one plowed into me from behind while I waited for the elk to cross the highway. A few minutes later, as I sat in Cloudcroft regaining my composure, I worried about the other drivers on the road that evening. Many were traveling much faster than I was; perhaps 60–70 mph, despite the poor lighting at dusk and the crepuscular nature of deer and elk. Maybe some of them were fueled by spirits of the holiday. While I was sitting in a parking lot in Cloudcroft, four emergency vehicles passed me at high speeds, heading in

the direction from which I had just come. The next day I called the sheriff in Cloudcroft to see if there had been a wreck behind me, and he confirmed that there had been a collision with an elk on Highway 82. So, this year, I'm most thankful that I made it home without becoming a casualty. Just something to think about; a reminder to be safe out there as we pursue our hobby.

Pebble Mine Update

As I was eating my smoked salmon dinner on the Penasco, I felt privileged to be able to enjoy wild-caught Alaskan salmon occasionally. I was reminded that the most productive wild salmon fishery in the world, in Bristol Bay, Alaska and its tributaries, is still in jeopardy, along with the many families and communities who rely upon it for their sustenance and livelihoods. My Thanksgiving wish for them is that we as a country of concerned citizens and outdoor enthusiasts will be able to halt the proposed Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay watershed once and for all.

Trout Unlimited, Orvis, and Deneki Outdoors Fly-Fishing Adventures have recently posted updates on the status of the proposed Pebble Mine application, and I refer you to their websites for further details. After more than a decade of scientific studies and legal procedural battles, it was widely thought that the mine proposal was dead in 2014 because of the enormous environmental damage that would result from developing a massive mine in the headwaters of the Bristol Bay fishery. The fishery generates about \$1.5 billion a year to the United States economy and supports about 14,000 jobs. Bristol Bay is recognized as one of the most productive and well managed fisheries in the world, and at a time when other fisheries are collapsing, Bristol Bay supports three major user groups: subsistence anglers, commercial fishing, and sport anglers. In most places in Alaska, 2018 salmon runs were low, but Bristol Bay

experienced record numbers of returning fish, 69% higher than the 20-year average, and the highest number of returning sockeye on record dating back to 1893. This is simply not the fishery any rational resource manager should consider destroying.

The mining permit applicant is Northern Dynasty, a small Vancouver-based company that has never actually conducted any mining and has not been able to assemble a group of partners to fund the proposed Pebble Mine. Several global mining companies, including Mitsubishi, Rio Tinto and Anglo American have backed out of the Pebble Mine project in recent years, and this year First Quantum Minerals did the same, leaving Northern Dynasty without the funding necessary to develop the mine or pay for the required environmental safeguards. Nevertheless, the Trump administration has rejected the scientific findings of the past decade and reopened the permitting process for the Pebble Mine, apparently as part of a pervasive effort to undo anything and everything that was accomplished during the Obama years, no matter how beneficial. In fact, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is fast-tracking the mine permit process, apparently

with the intent to reach a decision before the next presidential election in 2020. Typically, an Environmental Impact Statement process would take many years; the EIS for the much smaller Donlin mine in Alaska took six years, but the Army Corps is trying to rush the Pebble EIS through in less than two years. The governor of Alaska and the Alaskan delegation in Congress are against the mine, as are 65% of Alaskan residents and virtually all the major sportsmen's and environ-

mental groups in the country. Early next year, possibly as soon as January, the public will be asked to comment **for the fourth time** on the mine that almost no one wants. Stay tuned and think about getting involved in protecting the fishery that is near the top of many anglers' bucket list.

PEBBLE MINE

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR

WHAT COULD BE GAINED?

- FOREIGN COMPANY PROFITS
- 2,000 TEMPORARY JOBS
- 1,000 FULL-TIME JOBS DURING OPERATION
- UP TO 11 BILLION TONS OF WASTE STORED ON-SITE BY A COMPANY WITH A TRACK RECORD OF SPILLS

WHAT COULD BE LOST?

- A \$1.5 BILLION FISHING INDUSTRY
- 14,000 JOBS
- 59 MILLION SALMON, PER YEAR
- 417 SQ. MILES OF PRISTINE HABITAT
- 4 WORLD-CLASS FISHING RIVERS
- 35 BILLION GALLONS OF FRESH WATER, PER YEAR
- 60 LINEAL MILES OF PRIME SPAWNING HABITAT
- \$90 MILLION IN TAXES TO THE STATE OF ALASKA

Join ORVIS, TROUT UNLIMITED and 65% of Alaska residents and say "No" to Pebble Mine for good.
Learn more and make a difference at WWW.ORVIS.COM.NOPEBBLEMINE

December meeting of the General Membership

The last general membership meeting of the year will be on Monday, December 10th at 7pm. Our guest speaker will be NMSU student Lauren Flynn who will speak to us about her field research entitled "Investigating the Mechanics of Rio Grande Cutthroat Decline and Persistence." Please join us for what promises to be an interesting presentation.

This month we will be voting to approve the members of the Board of Directors for 2019. All the current board members have agreed to stay on for the coming year, but other nominations can be sent to me by email or made from the floor during the club meeting.

We will also finish off all the raffles in progress for the fly rods and reels being raffled off to support the Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund. All the prizes will be awarded regardless of whether the raffle squares have been completely sold or not.

Due to numerous scheduling challenges later in the month, the regular meeting of the Board will be held immediately following the general membership meeting, and all members are welcome to attend.



15-inch Gila trout caught near the Catwalk at lower White-water Creek, Gila National Forest



Fly Fishing Outreach


Ron Bellerose
Coordinator



We are still doing the fly tying on the second Tuesday of each month. Last month we watched a video on fly casting and then went to the pond to practice. All went well.

The word is slowly getting out that the MVFF club is supporting the Vets along with their partners and kids. I have not made contact with the Wounded War-

rior Transition Battalion yet but I need to get that program back on line.

For more information about the MVFF Fly Fishing Outreach Program contact Ron Bellerose (575-680-5516), flyfishnh@hotmail.com), also if you wish to volunteer to help out. 

Lady Anglers Update

Mary Hoffman



The Lady Anglers is a group of women MVFF members who love to fly fish and have fun doing it. Our fall trip to Colorado was unfortunately cancelled due to water conditions. No other trips are planned at this time but stay tuned. In the meantime, take note that two excellent women fly fishing guides will be speaking at club events in early 2019. Guide and author Molly Semenik will be the guest speaker at the club's annual banquet in Las Cruces on January 26th and will teach two casting clinics to club members earlier that day (spaces in the clinics are limited and reservations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis). Additionally, Taos Fly Shop guide Emily Roley will be the guest speaker at the club's monthly meeting in Las Cruces on February 11th. Try to make these events if you can.



Information on Lady Angler events and fishing trips is made available to all women on our e-mail list and through announcements in the MVFF newsletter and at monthly club meetings. Beginners are welcome and the only requirement for joining us is MVFF membership. To add your name to the e-mail list, or

for more information, contact Mary Hoffman at 505-710-5229.



Board Members to Be Elected

As defined in the Club By-Laws, an election will be held in the December General meeting to select members to serve on the Board of Directors for the coming year (2019). The following nine people have volunteered to serve but others may be nominated at the meeting. The elected members will select officers at their Board meeting in January.

The volunteers are: Robert Ardivino, Jeff Arterburn, David Carmichael, Jim Hulsey, Tom Johnson, Dillon Martinez, Chuck Mueller, Bob Silver and Jim Sorensen.



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President

2018 Whitewater Creek Gila Trout Gala at the Catwalk



The GRG-TU and MVFF volunteers had a great time hosting a booth for the Gila trout celebra-

tion on Saturday December 1st at the Gila National Forest Catwalk Recreation Area near Glenwood, NM. The USFWS Mora National Fish Hatchery sent ~1,700 Gila trout for stocking the recently recovered lower section of Whitewater Creek, including many large (>13") beauty's. The NMDGF organized the event and our groups had a great time working with the USFS and other agencies and local community groups to stock trout throughout the spectacular catwalk section of the canyon. Our booth hosted fun and educational activities including fly casting and fly fishing demonstrations, fly tying, and handed out hot chocolate and cider along with home-cooked biscochitos cookies along with information about fly fishing and conservation efforts in southern New Mexico.



Stocking crew USFS and USFWS



Smokey Bear and some "kids"



Mora National Fish Hatchery truck delivering Gila trout.



Gila trout caught Catwalk 12-1-2018

Above 4 photo's provided by Mora National Fish Hatchery
Photos Catwalk December 1, 2018.

Volunteers needed: Mesilla Valley Outdoor Expo will be held Jan-12-13, 2019

The Mesilla Valley Outdoor Expo will be held January 12-13, 2019, at the Las Cruces Convention Center. The Gila Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers have a booth reserved and volunteers are asked to help provide information about fly fishing and ongoing conservation projects in Southern New Mexico, hand out free Gila trout posters, and sell fundraising items.

GRG-TU Logo T-shirts to support local trout restoration and conservation efforts.

We have some beautiful new fund-raising for trout restoration and conservation T-shirts with the GRG-TU logo in colors: green-on-ivory, and peanut-butter-on black (see photos). These are beautiful, well-made shirts for a great cause at only \$20 each. These are great stocking stuffers and presents for the holidays! Contact Jeff Arterburn for more details and to sign up as a volunteer: jeffgilatu@aol.com.



Green logo on ivory




Peanut butter logo on black



Reel and Rod/Reel Combo Raffle Norm and Donna Mabie Memorial Scholarship

Winners for the final three raffles will be drawn at the December General Membership meeting. Even though they are not fully subscribed the Board decided during the November meeting to go ahead and conduct the drawings..Squares will be available during the meeting for \$5 each.

You can donate online via the MVFF PayPal website prior to the meeting and let us pick your squares or attend the meeting and pick your own squares. **YOU DON'T NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.** 

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.

There are no specific trips being currently planned.



MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 19, 2018

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn, Secretary

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order by David Carmichael at 7:01pm in the NMDG&F Conference room. Board members present were: David Carmichael (President), Jeff Arterburn (Secretary), Chuck Mueller (Treasurer), Bob Silver (Membership), Jim Hulsey and Jim Sorenson. Board members absent were: Tom Johnson (Vice President), Robert Ardovino and Dillen Martinez. Non-Board members in attendance were: Ron Bellerose.

1. **Meeting Minutes.** The minutes from the October 15, 2018 Board Meeting, submitted by Jim Hulsey, were approved as published in the November 2018 issue of the newsletter with a corrected date for this board meeting Nov. 19, 2018.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report with available current account balance statement of \$10,815.79. The report was accepted by the Board.
3. **Membership Report.** Bob Silver reported 225 currently active members, with 4 new members joining in Oct-Nov 2018.
4. **Fly Fishing Outreach.** Ron Bellerose reported that they hosted four veterans with casting video and practice sessions. The fly tying sessions will again be held on the regularly scheduled 2nd Tuesday of the month December 11, 2018.
5. **Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited.** Jeff Arterburn reported that the Gila trout stocking and celebration event at the Catwalk Recreation Area near Glenwood, NM is planned for Saturday, December 1st. Volunteers are planning to arrive and set up at 9am with the public event running from 11am - 2pm. The GRG-TU and MVFF booth will have information, hot cider and chocolate, a kids' casting game, and volunteer fly fishing instructors. The Mora National Fish hatchery is sending ~1,700 Gila trout for the lower section of Whitewater Creek through the Catwalk area, and volunteers will be able to help with the stocking.
6. **NMSU American Fisheries Students.** No Report.
7. **Presentations and Events.**
 - The next general meeting December 10th will feature NMSU fisheries graduate student Lauren Flynn with an interesting presentation titled "Investigating the Mechanics of Rio Grande Cutthroat Decline and Persistence". This will be a great opportunity to learn about the challenges facing our native State fish.
 - The winners of the fundraising raffle boards for the Norm and Donna Mabie scholarship will be selected at the December 10th meeting. Members should contact Bob Silver to purchase the last remaining spots on the board.
 - The MVFF Annual Banquet is scheduled for Saturday January 26th featuring Molly Semanik with a presentation focusing on her most recent book titled "25 Best Off-the Beaten-Path Montana Fly Fishing Streams". She will also be offering fly fishing instruction and a FFI-based "Skills Challenge" program. There are a couple of slots (~3-5) available in the beginner class and (~3) in the advanced class at the time, so interested club members should contact David Carmichael to reserve a spot. The advanced class will cover single hand Spey, and double hauling among other casting techniques.

The Mesilla Valley Outdoor Expo will be held January 12-13, 2019, at the Las Cruces Convention Center. The Gila Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers have a booth reserved and volunteers are asked to help provide information about fly fishing and ongoing conservation projects in Southern New Mexico, hand out free Gila trout posters, and sell fundraising items. Contact Jeff Arterburn for more details and to sign up as a volunteer: jeffgilatu@aol.com

Quick Look Contact Information

2018 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	Tom Johnson (417) 684-7075
• Secretary:	Jeff Arterburn (612) 720-3456
• Treasurer:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
Board Members	
• Position 1:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• Position 2:	Tom Johnson (417) 684-7075
• Position 3:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• Position 4:	Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880
• Position 5:	Robert Ardovino (575) 589-0653
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• Position 8:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• Position 9:	Dillen Martinez (505) 401-3640
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Bob Silver (575) 522-6325	membership@mvff.org
NMSU AF Student Representative	
• Dillen Martinez ()	

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 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, to purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco and to participate in other Club activities such as an 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.

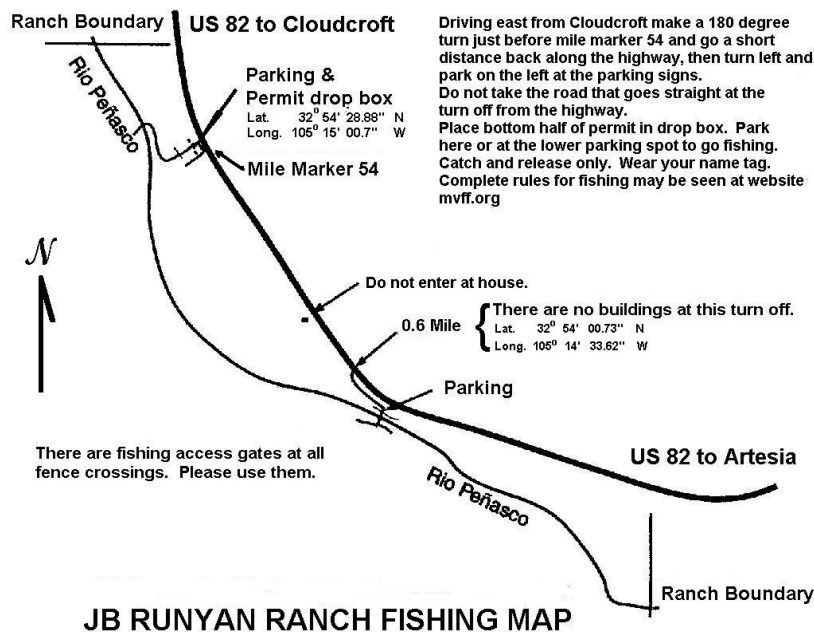
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-524-1880) or Bob Silver (575-522-6325) 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.