



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

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2018



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

Membership Meeting

There will be no MVFF general membership meeting in January. Instead we will have the Annual Banquet. There are some changes this year so be sure to read about them elsewhere in this newsletter.

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 15 January

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 15 January at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Wednesday, 24 January

Liars and Tyers will meet on Wednesday 24 January at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at 7:00pm. The fly to be tied is Rick Takahashi's *Go2 Prince*. The tying session will be led by professional tyer, Tim Mack. Don't miss out. Ex-

tra vises and supplies will be available for beginning tyers.

President's Corner

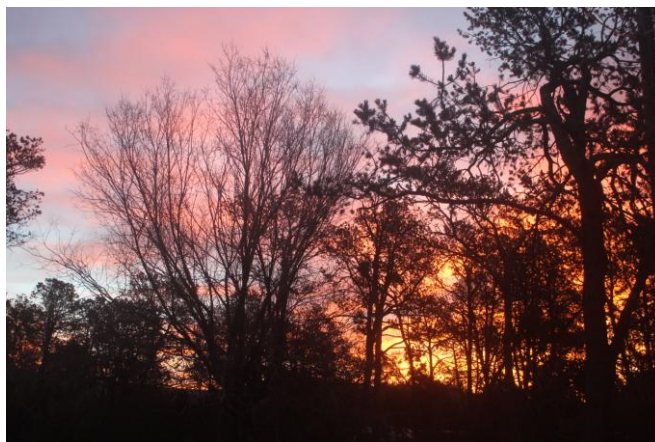
David Carmichael

Hidden Waters Notebook: Pecos River and Cow Creek



The morning begins with a brilliant coral pink and gold sunrise that makes the sky appear much warmer than the 25 degrees it actually measures. As sunrise fades, the

sky transitions to a thin gray overcast of the sort that accompanies still air and aquatic insect hatches. The forest is enfolded in a thin blanket of clouds that seems to muffle the sounds of nature, as if the rivers, creeks and animals are easing through the forest in an effort to be more quiet than usual. Although the river below the village of Pecos is fishing well on Copper John nymphs, upstream we have the river and the woods to ourselves, except for the denizen of a pop-up camper trailer parked at the Mora River



New Year's Eve sunrise over the Pecos River

campground and one angler at the Willow Creek conservation area.

The Santa Fe National Forest is still and quiet; deer approach the water more gingerly than in the fall, as they are more exposed when the oaks, alders and

mountain mahogany are leafless spindles that provide little visual cover. The higher water flows of summer and early fall are greatly diminished; what were once



Ice formations on Upper Cow Creek

noisy riffles and splashy falls are now calmer, flatter currents wending their ways along and under the ever increasing ice deposits. Water murmurs softly as it slips through miniature ice canyons adorned with otherworldly frozen stalactites. Shallow flows spread silently

across expansive sheets of ice, and where unfrozen channels still occur, icicles grow down towards the water surface, muting the gurgling sounds of currents finding their way beneath the ice. Where there are pockets of calm open water, a modest midge hatch is often visible. But the midge hatch is sparse and understated, in direct contrast to the sometimes chaotic insect clouds of summer and fall that involve multiple species of stones, caddis, mayflies and terrestrials. The land is resting, and the river flows quietly and gently, as if to avoid intruding on the quietude.

Annual Banquet Reminders

Now that the holidays are behind us, I hope all club members will make time to attend our annual banquet. There will be no regular meeting of the general membership this month; instead we will have a catered dinner at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Las Cruces on January 27th. If you didn't receive that new fly rod you hoped for at Christmas, now is your chance to win one of three fly rods in our banquet raffle. You should have received an email from Bob

Silver containing an attachment with blank raffle tickets that you can mail in ahead of time, or submit on the evening of the banquet. Look for more details elsewhere in this newsletter, the December newsletter, and in emails sent directly to the club members.

Our banquet speaker this year is Carol Ann Morris, fly angler, artist and fly fishing photographer. Her banquet presentation will be a PowerPoint show called



"Fly Fishing Photography 101: How to Capture What You See." Her talk should be of interest to everyone who wants to improve the documentation of their fishing successes, or produce more pleasing images of the beautiful places where trout live. Carol will also

make an informal afternoon presentation at NMSU in which she will discuss her work as an artist and fly fishing photographer. So far, 15 club members have indicated their intention to attend the afternoon event, but it is not too late to sign up. If you do plan to attend, and have not already signed up, please let me know so we can make arrangements for an appropriately sized room at the University. When the venue has been finalized, an email will be sent out to the club membership.

Carol will be accompanied by her husband, Skip Morris who has authored 18 fly fishing and fly tying books, most of which have been illustrated by Carol. Some of his books and some of Carol's pen and ink artwork will be available for sale at the banquet. For a preview of her drawings, check out her Etsy online store, CarolAMorrisFlyFish. I hope to see you all at the banquet which should be a very interesting and exciting event.





Ron Bellerose
PHW Coordinator



Project Healing Waters is about to enter the new year with fewer Vets participating in the program. With the cut backs at Ft Bliss we have not been recruiting new participants.

Went to the lease 3 times with a Vet this month and had a great time. Also my Grandson was here and he did very well. Many fish were caught by all, mostly with a variety of Copper Johns. Bad news is that we saw signs of bait fishing and on the 28th we saw another fisher and when he saw us he disappeared very fast. River is more difficult to get to, long handled net is a must and during the colder weather waders are a must.

Hope to have good news about our program next month.

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. ▲

MVFF Lady Anglers

By Mary Hoffman

The Lady Anglers, a group of women MVFF members who love to fly fish and have a good time doing it, will be getting together in the first quarter of the year to plan our fishing trips for 2018. Information on the trips will be made available to women on our Lady Anglers 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 join our e-mail list, or for more information, contact Mary Hoffman at 505-710-5229 or westerngirlnm@gmail.com. ▲

MVFF Annual Banquet

SAVE-THE-DATE

The MVFF Annual Banquet will be held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs, Las Cruces,

NM 88005 on Saturday **January 27, 2018**. Doors will open at 5pm and food will be served about 6pm.

This year the meal will be *fully catered* by Sparky's from Hatch, NM. So instead of wondering what to bring just come, relax, and enjoy the evening with friends. Banquet tickets will be \$10 per person, but that includes two free raffle tickets (*a \$10 value.*) Children under 18 are free. Dinner tickets will be sold at the door. The reason we went to a catered dinner is because of a new rule that anyone in the state who works with food in any sort of way must have food handler training and hold a food handler's card. That includes fundraising events like our Banquet and it affects the church's kitchen, which we use for the Banquet.

Speaking of raffle tickets, the Prize Committee really outdid themselves with over \$3,000 in prizes including a CUSTOM-built Sage X 7'9" 3-weight fly rod by members Bob and Lee Widgren of Custom Fly Rod Crafters in Albuquerque. We have two additional rods to give away, a Cabela's 8-weight Three Forks/Prestige Plus Fly Combo with Fly Line donated by Tom Lightfoot and winner's choice of either a 9-foot 6 weight or 8-foot 4 weight Winston BIII. In addition to the rods, we will be raffling prizes that include a Fish Pond Cimarron Duffle Bag (\$170) and Delta Sling Pack (\$150); a Nomad Native Net and a Nomad Hand Landing Net (\$125 each); Simms Wading Staff (\$100); 6-Rio Trout Lt Fly Lines (\$80 ea); 4-MFC River Camo Fly Boxes (\$20 ea); and Leaders and Tip-pets spools plus more.

A page of 4 tickets was emailed to every current MVFF member. Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 per page. Follow the directions on the tickets and mail your checks to MVFF, PO Box 2222, Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222. You can print extra pages of tickets and they will also be sold at the Banquet.

The Banquet is always a fun event, the food is great and we have a tremendous speaker with Carol Ann Morris. Her artwork and fly fishing photography have appeared in Gray's Sporting Journal, the Yale Angler's Journal, and Fly Fishing & Tying Journal.

See you there! ▲

Raffle Prizes for Annual Banquet

The Prize Committee met recently and came up with the following list of prizes to be raffled at the Club banquet to be held on January 27, 2018. It's a great group of prizes and has a total value of more than \$3,000.

ITEM	QTY	VAL Each
Fly Rods		
Widgren Custom Sage – 7'9", 3 wt.	1	\$900
Winston Boron IIIIX – 4 pc, 8', 4wt	1	\$850
Cabelas 3 Forks 9', 8wt rod/ Prestige Reel w backing and line	1	\$240
Rio Trout Lt Fly Lines		
WF3F	2	\$80
WF5F	2	\$80
WF6F	2	\$80
Fish Pond		
Nomad Native Net	1	\$126
Nomad Hand Landing Net	1	\$126
Cimarron Wading Duffle	1	\$170
Delta Sling Pack	1	\$150
Simms		
Wading Staff	1	\$100
MFC – Camo Fly Boxes		
American Pride	2	\$20
Bead-Head Nymph	1	\$20
Brown Trout	1	\$20
Ketchum Hook Remover		
STANDARD (for hook sizes-16 thru med-size streamer)	1	\$20
Mangrove		
Sun Gloves – sz lg	1	\$16
Trout Hunter		
"Trout" Knotless Tapered Leaders	10	\$5
Fluorocarbon Tippet Material	7	\$25
Nylon Tippet Material	10	\$8



Mesilla Valley Outdoor Expo

January 13-14



The Mesilla Valley Outdoor Expo will be held Jan 13-14, 2018, at the Las Cruces Convention Center. The Gila Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers

have a booth reserved so stop by to learn more about ongoing fly fishing and conservation projects in Southern New Mexico, and pick up a free Gila Trout Poster!

The Mesilla Valley Outdoor Expo is the largest Outdoor, Hunting, Fishing & Sporting event in Southern New Mexico and the West Texas region.

Show Dates & Hours

- Saturday, January 13, 2018 – 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Sunday, January 14, 2018 – 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Admission – Expo Tickets Available at the Door

- General Admission \$8
- Military ID (active & retired) \$5
- Children 10 & Younger FREE

For more info about the expo see:

mesillavalleyoutdoorexpo.com

<https://www.facebook.com/MVoutdoorexpo/>

If you are interested in helping out to staff our booth please contact Jeff Arterburn by email: jeffgilatu@aol.com ; or cell: (575)649-9729 ▲

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Jeff Arterburn reported that he has started distributing the new Gila Trout posters that were developed by the AZ-TU partners with support from a grant from the Western Native Trout Initiative and the Arizona and New Mexico Trout Unlimited Councils. A small version of the poster can be seen on page 7.

Jeff also reported that the Willow Creek Working Group will be meeting in early January, and planning for submission of a grant for USFS Citizen Science Program is under development. Other upcoming events include:

- The Gila Natural History Symposium will be held February 22nd-24th, 2018 in Silver City.
- The annual Native and Wild Trout Conference is scheduled for April 12th, 2018, in Phoenix, AZ.
- The TU Western Regional Meeting will take place April 27th-28th-2018, in Keystone, Colorado. ▲

Board Members Elected

As defined in the Club By-Laws, an election was held in the December General meeting to select members to serve on the Board of Directors for the coming year (2018). The following nine people were selected:

Robert Ardovino, Jeff Arterburn, David Carmichael, Jim Hulse, Tom Johnson, Dillon Martinez, Chuck Mueller, Bob Silver and Jim Sorensen. The Board will select Officers and Committee Chairmen at the January, 2018 board meeting. ▲

are interested, email Chuck Mueller at chuck_wagon46@hotmail.com. ▲

Rod Building Clinic

A rod building clinic is being proposed for those members that would like to build their first fly rod. The clinic would be broken down into 3 work sessions on Saturdays sometime in February and March. If you

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 trips presently being planned. ▲



Go2 Prince

by Rick Takahashi



- Hook:** Size 14-16 Mustad 3399A
- Bead:** Gold 3/32 (14) 5/64 (16)
- Thread:** Olive 8/0 Uni
- Tail:** Brown hen hackle
- Body:** 3 strands of Peacock herl
- Rib:** Pearl Krystal Flash
- Hackle:** Brown Whiting Farm saddle
- Wing:** White Poly yarn
- Collar:** Peacock Ice Dub



MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 18, 2017

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn, Secretary

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order by David Carmichael at 7:05 pm in the NMDG&F Conference room. Board members present were: Jeff Arterburn (Secretary), David Carmichael (President), Jim Hulsey, Bob Silver (Membership) and Chuck Mueller (Treasurer). Board Members absent: Tom Johnson (Vice President), Robert Ardivino, Dillon Martinez and Jim Sorenson. Non-Board members in attendance: Ron Bellerose.

1. **Meeting Minutes.** The minutes from the November 20, 2017 Board meeting were approved as published in the December 2017 issue of the newsletter.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer's report and current account balance statement of \$10,650.80 was presented by Chuck Mueller, and accepted by the Board.
3. **Membership Report.** Bob Silver reported 195 active members, with 4 new members joining since November.
4. **Project Healing Waters.** Ron Bellerose will be continuing with some adjustment of activities. He is surveying participants to best meet their interests and needs. He will continue with the fly tying sessions two times/month. Ron is also investigating possibility of transferring some PHW materials to the Tucson Chapter, which has been rapidly growing.
5. **Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited.** Jeff Arterburn reported that he has started distributing the new Gila Trout posters that were developed by the AZ-TU partners with support from a grant from the Western Native Trout Initiative and the Arizona and New Mexico Trout Unlimited Councils. The Mesilla Valley Outdoor Expo will be held Jan-13-14-2018, and we have a booth reserved. We will be able to set up the booth on Friday, and volunteers interested in staffing the booth are encouraged (contact Jeff: jeffgilatu@aol.com, or (575) 649-9729). Jeff also reported that the Willow Creek Working Group will be meeting in early January, and planning for submission of a grant for USFS Citizen Science

Program is under development. Other upcoming events include:

- The Gila Natural History Symposium will be held February 22nd-24th, 2018 in Silver City.
 - The annual Native and Wild Trout Conference is scheduled for April 12th, 2018, in Phoenix, AZ.
 - The TU Western Regional Meeting will take place April 27th-28th-2018, in Keystone, Colorado.
6. **NMSU American Fisheries Students.** No report.
 7. **Presentations and Events.**

The MVFF Banquet will be held on Saturday January 27th, featuring invited presenter Carol Ann Morris for a special demonstration/workshop Saturday afternoon, and the keynote presentation at the banquet. Details will be provided in the newsletter. Carol Ann Morris is a photographer, videographer, illustrator, and will give a presentation titled "Fly Fishing Photography 101-How to capture what you see". The afternoon workshop will be held on the NMSU campus, and she will describe her journey as artist and photographer, and how she has successfully navigated the publishing field. Her husband Skip Morris, noted fly fishing author, expert fly tyer and speaker, will also attend and will be selling his books, and Carol will be selling her art work. One major difference this year is that the banquet will not be a "pot luck". This change is due to new state regulations requiring a licensed food handler. The great part of this is that catering will be provided by our favorite restaurant: Sparky's Burgers, Barbeque and Espresso in Hatch, NM. Due to the increased cost of the event there will be a cost for attendance of \$10 for adults. With each admission price paid the attendee will get 2 raffle tickets (\$10 value). Kid's under 18 will be admitted free. The board will discuss final arrangements for the banquet (purchase of tablecloths, etc) at the January 15, 2018 board meeting.

The prize committee completed ordering/purchase of prizes for the banquet raffle. A complete list will be included in the newsletter, and raffle tickets will be sent out by email to the

membership. The winner of the rod raffle will have a choice of a Winston Boron III rod (9' 6wt or 8' 4wt), and a custom Bob Widgren built Sage X 7 1/2' 3wt will be raffled. Bob has also graciously offered to donate one rod to help fundraising for the scholarship fund in remembrance of Donna Mabie. The "Mabie Legacy Rod" will be a Sage Mod 9' 5wt.

The February 12th meeting will feature Brad Shellanberger, Owner and guide of Wolf Creek Anglers Fly Shop based in Pagosa Springs and South Fork Colorado.

The March 12th meeting will host David Carmichael's presentation on the reasons why anglers should be keeping a fishing journal and how to do it.

Additional possible activities for Spring 2018 under discussion in response to interest from club members include: a fly rod building class taught by Chuck Mueller and Bob Silver; a hosted "Fly Fishing 101 class" (Dave will contact Molly Sevanik to check for her availability); and other possibilities for fly fishing events in El Paso, and Las Cruces that would involve the new Cabela's and Sportsman's Warehouse retailers, respectively.

- 8. **Board & Committee Activities, Needs, and Discussions.** A roster of candidates for the board member was elected: Robert Ardivino, Jeff Arterburn, David Carmichael, Jim Hulsey, Tom Johnson, Dillon Martinez, Chuck Mueller, Bob Silver and Jim Sorenson. The appointment of officers and committee chairs will be completed at the January 15, 2018 Board Meeting.
- 9. **Rio Peñasco Lease.** Volunteers needed to help with cleanup on the Rio Peñasco lease. Bob will contact Jim to discuss details and dates and will attempt to coordinate with availability of the NMSU American Fisheries Students. Multiple reports indicate the lease has been fishing really well since the last stocking. The stream structure of the river has changed significantly after the last flood, but several new deep pools and other holding water have formed and promise to provide productive angling over the next several months.
- 10. **Kid's Fishing Clinics.** No report; the next Kid's Clinic is scheduled for March 24, 2018.
- 11. The next Board meeting will be on Monday, January 15, 2018 (MLK holiday) at 7:00pm. Vote on Officers and Committee Assignments. Ron Belterose will pick up the key the preceding Friday. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm. ▲



Quick Look Contact Information

2017 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:	Evan Claassen (402) 239-1289
• Position 5:	Will Lubenau (575) 442-1912
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• Position 8:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
• Position 9:	Dennis Lanpher (575) 649-2946
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Bob Silver (575) 522-6325	membership@mvff.org

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, 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.

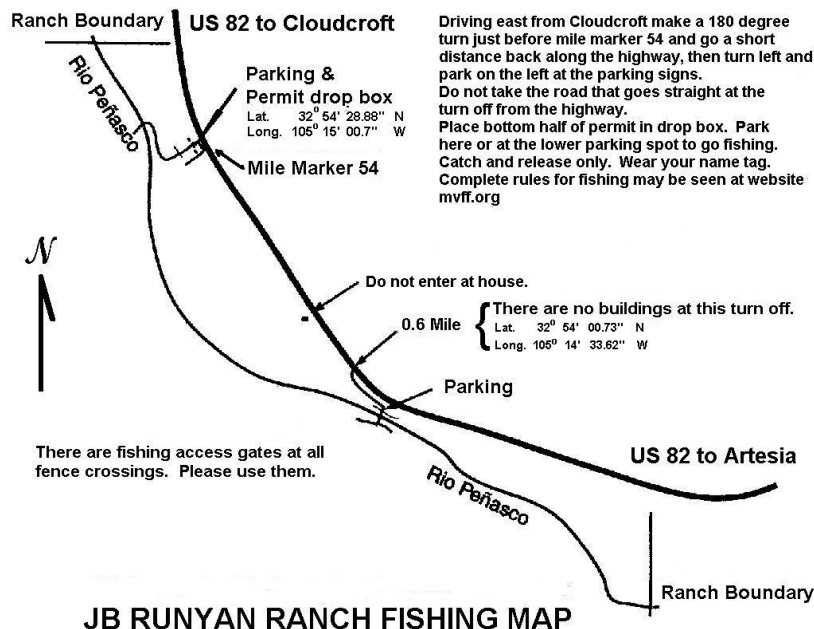
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.