

Tale Waters

July 2009



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

Website: www.MVFF.org

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Membership Meeting

There will be no general membership meeting in July as the club takes its customary summer break. Most members are busy doing other things and hopefully many of them have gone fishing. Our next general activity will be in September.

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 20 July

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 20 July at 7:00 PM at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Thursday, 30 July

Liars and Tyers will meet Thursday 30 July at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at 7:00 PM. The group will be tying a couple of flies, the *Foam Ant* and the *Wet (drowning) Ant*, both effective flies at the lease. The tying session will be led by Tim Mack. Tim manages the ATF flyshop in El Paso and is

an accomplished tyer. Photographs and recipes are presented later in this newsletter. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies available for beginning tiers.



President's Corner

The morning fishing action began slowly, with temperatures kept low by heavy clouds and the already heavy river flow still rising with continuing rain showers. My go-to flies weren't working yet, despite my efforts cycling through patterns, adjusting weight, and covering water until I started to feel the little worry that can only be resolved with a willing fish. I moved to a position below a small island that divided the flow and created a really nice seam where the currents reconnected. I was standing to keep my back against the driven rain and away from my face, and managed a back-hand cast that spanned the fast water in between and laid the soft hackle fly and line down just across the top of the seam with a built-in mend that let me drift right through the prime feeding lane. The line came tight to a nice fish that immediately hit the fast water and headed downstream using the current to pulse the drag of my reel and sending that next little worry of "how the heck am I going to land this fish"? Somehow the little hook held, and then backed out effortlessly with my forceps and let me admire a beautiful 20" brown that reaffirms one of the many reasons I love to fish the Conejos.

The rains continued and the engineers ramped up the release from Platoro reservoir dramatically so that the river flows nearly tripled during the club trip and made the fishing even more challenging upstream, and a muddy mess downstream. Most of us fanned out to some of the tributaries and Saturday turned out to be a beautiful day, incredibly green everywhere

and blankets of wildflowers covering the high country.

Robert Trompler and his son Ryan counted their highlights of that day catching pure-strain Rio Grande cutthroat trout on a tiny tributary, and it was a rewarding trip for us all. George Sanders timed their trip to the Gunnison right on top of the stonefly hatch, which made for some outstanding fishing.

If you haven't had a chance to get out on the water yet, I encourage you to join the club July 10-12 at the Gila Forks campground for an informal fishing trip and picnic. You can spend the days fishing the forks, explore the mainstream and check out the Heart Bar Ranch Preserve, hike up to the cliff dwellings, or enjoy any of the other many opportunities this beautiful area affords.

The club will be hosting a casting workshop conducted by FFF certified casting instructor and experience angler and rod builder, Bob Widgren, August 7-8 with special sessions for women anglers, and beginning and advanced casting.

Don't forget to start planning for the upcoming MVFF Lady Angler's trip to the Pecos, and the MVFF Fall trip to the San Juan. You can find up to date schedules and information on all MVFF events in the monthly newsletter, or contact the board members by phone or email.

I hope to see you streamside.

Jeff



Ron Bellerose, PHW Coordinator

Project Healing Waters (PHW) is moving along and plans are in process to work with our next group of VETS starting on September 10, 2009. At the present time we expect to be able to hold our fly tying and knots sessions at the NM Game & Fish conference room. Although I have not received conformation from Ft. Bliss or NM Game & Fish, initial contact was positive. We will also be looking at the fly casting session on September 17, 2009 at Ascarate Lake in El Paso. This will allow the VETS to test their skills at casting on water with an actual fly, hopefully, one

they have tied themselves. Also the tentative date to take the VETS to the lease is September 24, 2009.

New Mexico has passed a bill allowing NM resident Veterans that have any degree of service connected disability to purchase a \$10.00 fishing and small game license. 100% disabled Veterans will still be able to get their licenses free. All will still have to purchase the various stamps. We are pursuing efforts with the State of NM to change laws such that the Vets will not have to purchase fishing licenses when we take them fishing at the Lease for one day. Vacations have sort of put that on the back burner for now. Texas allows their soldiers a free fishing license.

PHW National has ordered 5 fly rods and 6 vises along with quite a bit of fly tying material for us. This should help us considerably in conducting the various sessions. We typically get more than 20 soldiers out for each session. The cooperation with PHW National has been great and I am in hopes to expand our efforts to the local VA Clinic level.

For more information about PHWFF see www.projecthealingwaters.org.

Club member Ron Bellerose recently answered the call for help and stepped forward to fill the role of Chief Coordinator for the PHW effort. Contact Ron (575-541-0807, roncor@hotmail.com) if you wish to volunteer to help out.

Lady Anglers

Helen Zagona

TACKLE SETUP CLASS: MVFF Lady Anglers are planning summer events to make our upcoming fishing trips more fun! On Monday evening, July 27, there will be a class on tackle setup. We will learn all about setting up our rods for both wet and dryfly fishing. We will talk about leaders, tippet, knots and basic fly selection. This will be a free class for MVFF members! Don't be left out.....please email Helen Zagona for details on time and place (hzagona@yahoo.com).

LADIES FLY CASTING CLINIC: On Friday evening August 7, we will be having a Ladies Fly Casting clinic. Bob Widgren, a well-known Federation of Flyfishers Certified Casting Instructor from Albuquerque will be showing us various casting techniques. Here is the

perfect chance to brush up on your casting so you can really have fun fishing this summer. Our class size will be small, so get your name on our list as soon as possible. The fee for the clinic is partially subsidized by MVFF and members will only pay \$15. This is a real bargain for a professional, certified instructor! Contact Helen Zagona (hzagona@yahoo.com) to reserve your spot.

Watch for more MVFF Lady Angler events during the summer and fall.

Professional Casting Instruction

August 7 and 8

Bob Widgren of Albuquerque is a FFF Certified Casing Instructor. We have invited him to present three casting classes. One class will be on Friday evening August 7th and two will be on Saturday, August 8th. The Friday class has been set aside for women Club members. The first class on Saturday will be a beginner's class and the other will teach intermediate skills. Each class will be about 2 hours in length. Bring your own equipment if you have it. Please note that reservations are limited to Club members. Each class is limited to eight students so that Bob can work with each student individually as much as possible. Classes will be held at Aggie Memorial Pond adjacent to the Pan Am Center on the NMSU campus. You may register for both the beginner and intermediate classes. The cost is \$15 per class due by July 20th. Contact Bob Silver 522-6325 to make a reservation.

Exact times will be posted later on the MVFF website and in the August Newsletter.

Gila Picnic and Outing

There will be a MVFF picnic and outing in the Gila area on July 10-12. The Club will camp in the Forks campground. The Forest Service has offered to give us a special tour of the cliff dwellings. For more information contact Jeff Arterburn, 575-524-0773, president@mvff.org.

Club Outings Planned

The board is now discussing possible outings for 2009 and would welcome suggestions from members. Where do you want to go? Let us know. If you have comments or suggestions for additional trips pass them to George Sanders, (575) 527-5536, chairman of the "Outings" committee.

- July 10 - 12 - see previous item
- Sept. 30 - Oct. 3 - MVFF Lady Anglers are planning a trip to the Pecos River near Santa Fe.
- October - the Club's annual trip to the San Juan.

Welcome New Members

Ken Abalos	Las Cruces, NM
Chris Baker	Indian Hills, CO
Neil Baker	El Paso, TX
David Gray	Evansville, IN
Jerry & Barbara Griffin	Cloudcroft, NM
Mark Peters	Nashville, TN
Steven Teter	El Paso, TX

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San Juan River Working Group Created

Paul Turner, MVFF Representative

I attended the initial meeting of this group on June 23rd in Albuquerque to find out about the goals of the group and provide feedback to MVFF members and to the Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen. The meeting was arranged by Mike Sloan of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to provide a forum for about 20 individuals interested in the future of the San Juan trout fishery, including representatives from Trout Unlimited, New Mexico Trout, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, etc., to present their opinions about what is needed to maintain and enhance the

fishery. The initial reason for forming this group was to provide input on how to spend \$250,000.00 allocated by the 2009 state legislature to enhance the San Juan fishery. The actual decision on how to spend these funds within the 4-year time limit will be made by the New Mexico Game Commission, but recommendations given by the Working Group may be used by the Commission.

A wide variety of issues were discussed, but the main outcome of the meeting was a priority ranking of the most likely uses for the available funds. The

following ranking of potential on-the-ground projects to enhance the fishery was made in order of decreasing priority: reduce sediment inputs from Rex Smith park, fund a comprehensive study of problems affecting the fishery (NMDGF will determine if some funds can be used for this study), mechanical efforts to concentrate river flows in the braided areas above Texas Hole which become too shallow during lower river flows to support trout, control sediment inputs from Simon Canyon, and improve trout habitat in the Lower Flats area. The NMDGF will give this ranking to the Game Commission at their July meeting and their recommendations will be discussed at the next meeting of the San Juan River Working Group currently set for August 3, 2009 in Albuquerque.

Other issues discussed at this meeting were the need to encourage New Mexico national representatives to sponsor legislation which would formally list maintaining the tailwater trout fishery as an approved purpose of the operation of Navajo Dam. The importance of the trout fishery was not realized prior to 1960 and is not given legal consideration by the

Bureau of Reclamation(BOR) in their decisions on how to manage releases from Navajo Dam. The Group also will contact BOR and other federal and state agencies about improving coordination on issues affecting the management of the San Juan River. Specific individuals were tasked with preparing official letters supporting the above goals to the appropriate groups. The desirability of developing a San Juan River Stamp to provide increased management funding, extending the downstream boundary of the Special Trout Water, and changing the regulations to all catch and release (one trout 20 inches or greater can now be legally kept) were mentioned, but no action was taken on these issues at the June meeting.

The potential value of forming the San Juan River Working Group is yet to be determined, but it does provide for formal input from groups most concerned with the trout fishery to decision makers. If you can attend the August 3rd meeting at the Game and Fish office, you should contact the MVFF president or board as I will be in Alaska at that time.



A Southern New Mexico Trout Unlimited Chapter?

Kevin Reilly (National Leadership Council Representative from New Mexico)

As many of you know, Trout Unlimited in New Mexico is trying to increase the number of chapters in the state. Currently, we have two active chapters, one based in Santa Fe and one based in Taos and Cimarron. We are trying to re-activate our chapter in Albuquerque, and we're interested in starting a southern chapter based in Las Cruces.

Our TU members in southern New Mexico are not currently being served by TU except by *Trout*, the national magazine, and the occasional newsletter sent out by our state council.

A southern New Mexico chapter would have several benefits for our members. A chapter would organize conservation projects for its members and give its members the opportunity to participate in those projects. A chapter would give its members access to TU national staff and resources. For example, the Truchas Chapter in Santa Fe has been able to work closely with TU national staff and other TU chapters

to get over \$200,000 in grants for Rio Grande cutthroat trout restoration work in the last four years. TU national staff also has a wealth of information available to chapters on how to start and operate youth programs and overnight youth conservation schools, how to raise funds, how to run chapters, how get press coverage for chapter events and positions, and many other things. Through its Conservation Success Index project, TU has an extensive, computer-based database and analyses of the condition of our native trout, and the CSI team is now in the process of completing its analysis of Gila trout. TU also provides its chapters with liability insurance for chapter activities at no cost to the chapter or its members, and—through its insurer—provides accident insurance at a reasonable price.

It is not hard for a group to become a TU chapter. The basic requirements for a new chapter are 12 TU members, a chapter name, officers, and a six-person board of directors. A group interested in forming a

chapter would work with the New Mexico Council to determine the geographic area of the chapter, and—once the chapter is formed—all TU members in that geographic would become members of the chapter, unless they opt to become or remain members of another chapter. The proposed chapter would need to prepare by-laws, and TU national has templates for that. Once the chapter is formed, it would be chartered by TU national's board of trustees.

A new chapter needs to hold a fundraising event within its first 18 months. Beyond that, the requirements to be an active chapter are minimal. A chapter must have at least one annual meeting of members at which chapter board members are elected, and it must elect chapter officers. It must hold four board meetings a year and must participate in at least one coldwater conservation project or coldwater-conservation-related education project each year. It must hold an annual banquet or conduct one other fundraising effort each year, must solicit new members and make efforts to retain current members, must comply with the annual reporting requirements of TU national, and must communicate with its members on a regular basis through a paper or electronic newsletter, regular e-mails, or some similar means.

Although a TU member in the geographic area of a chapter is automatically a member of the chapter, the chapter can charge additional fees to members who

want to participate in special chapter programs, such as fishing leases on private water. The Guadalupe River Chapter of Texas, for example, leases fishing rights to sections of the Guadalupe River. All TU members in Texas are members of the Guadalupe River Chapter, but those members who wish to fish on the leased water pay an extra fee for that opportunity. The Guadalupe River Chapter has used the interest in its leased water to recruit new members and to educate its members on coldwater conservation issues. The chapter has now set up a grant program that helps fund conservation projects of other chapters.

In addition to the above benefits of having a chapter, a southern New Mexico chapter would allow TU in New Mexico to become more active on efforts to preserve our Gila trout and their habitat. Currently, we have no regular presence in the Gila trout area, and an active chapter would not only increase our presence in the area but would also attract additional funding and other support from TU national for Gila trout recovery efforts.

Bill Schudlich, our council chair, Greg McReynolds of the TU national staff, and I are willing to come to Las Cruces to meet with the Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers or with any part of your group to discuss the formation of a southern New Mexico chapter. Please let us know if there is interest in our doing this.



Moments from the June Trips



George Sanders with a Gunnison River Stonefly



Gunnison Brown with Stonefly

More Moments



George Sanders with a Green River brown



Jeff Arterburn with a small brown



George Sander's Gunnison River brown



Conejos cutthroat



Conejos cutthroat



Conejos cutthroat

Foam Ant & Wet (drowning) Ant

The center of attention for the Liars and Tyers this month will be two flies, the *Foam Ant* and the *Wet (drowning) Ant*.

Tim has tested both of these patterns at the Lease and reports good success.

Foam Ant



Hook: TMC 100 #14 to #18
Thread: 0/8 Uni-thread black
Body: Foam Cylinder black and Orange
Legs: Black dry fly hackle

Wet (drowning) Ant

No Photograph

Hook: TMC 100 #14 to #18
Thread: 0/8 Uni-thread black
Legs: Black dry fly hackle
Abdomen: Red Bead
Thorax: Thread

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MVFF Monthly Events Calendar

Month	Events	Trips	General Club Meeting Topic/Speaker	Clinics or Lease Projects
July	Liars & Tyers 30 July	10 - 12 July - Club trip and picnic in Gila Area.	There will be no general membership meeting in July	July 27 - Lady Anglers will have a class on equipment setup.
August	Liars & Tyers 27 Aug.		There will be no general membership meeting in Aug.	Aug. 7 - 8 - Bob Widgren will conduct casting classes.

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Have Trouble Tying Knots?

Bob Silver came across this website that shows how to tie a series of knots in an animated way. The link is <http://www.animatedknots.com/uniknot/index.php?LogoImage=LogoGrog.jpg&Website=www.animatedknots.com>

MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 15, 2009

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn, President

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order at 7:00pm in the NMDG&F conference room with President Jeff Arterburn presiding.

In attendance were Jim Hulsey, and Board members Jeff Arterburn, Tom Wobbe and Gary Mann. A quorum not being present, official business could not be conducted.

1. Minutes of the April Board meeting as published in the May newsletter were discussed with no corrections noted.
2. The Treasurer's Report presented by Gary Mann shows a balance of \$13,284.
3. Tom Wobbe reported that of 259 members, 97 have still not paid their annual dues.
4. The topic of insurance liability coverage for club-sponsored activities was discussed, and will be considered further in future meetings. A copy of the hold harmless agreement in use by Project Healing Waters was distributed and will be further evaluated.
5. Topics and possible speakers for future meetings and the annual banquet were discussed. Gary Mann raised the issue that we should provide opportunities for members to improve their fly fishing skills, and that organizing professional on-stream demonstrations would be a good way to do this, and could be conducted on the Peñasco or possibly during the San Juan trip.
6. The arrangements for club fishing trips in June were confirmed, details and information were published in the June newsletter. The club will have an informal fishing trip and picnic July 10-12 at the Gila Forks campground. Members should contact Jeff Arterburn for details at 575-524-0773. The MVFF Lady Anglers trip to the Pecos is set for Sept 30-Oct. 3. The club will sponsor workshops to provide additional preparation and practical experience for the participants.
7. Gary Mann reported on the status of the Norm Mabie Scholarship fund and the available amount for distribution, and informed the Board that the list of applicants for the have not been received from the Foundation. The intention to present the award at a general club meeting was suggested and agreed that this would be a good practice to follow.
8. The Project Healing Waters activities and plans for submission of the pending quarterly report were discussed. Related topics such as the possibility of holding parallel club and PHW fundraising raffles, opportunities to engage individual disabled and active duty service personnel in club activities, and the possibility of inviting PHW representative Carol Katz as a speaker for the annual banquet were discussed and will be considered further.
9. The MVFF has invited FFF certified casting instructor Bob Widgren to conduct a casting clinic at the NMSU Alumni Pond on the NMSU campus, starting with a special session for women flyfishers the evening of Aug 7, and continuing with a beginning skills session open to the general membership during the morning Aug. 8th, and an advanced skills session later that afternoon. Each session will cost participants \$15.00, and availability is limited to first-come first served with payment to be received in advance. Tom Wobbe will distribute information to the membership.
10. Paul Turner will formally represent the MVFF at the San Juan River Working Group meetings and report on the activities of this group.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Quick Look Contact Information

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

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund	
Total	\$11,003

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund

The Norm Mabie Memorial Scholarship Fund is an endowed fund at New Mexico State University which is funded by MVFF member donations. Earnings from the fund are used to provide scholarships for students at NMSU majoring in fisheries or related fields.

The recipient of each scholarship is determined each April by the MVFF Board with the award being made for the fall semester.

Even though the fund is endowed additions can be made to it at any time. The larger the fund, the more earnings are available for award. If you are interested in contributing please make checks out to the **NMSU Foundation** and on the "for" line of the check, identify "Norm Mabie Memorial Scholarship Fund for deposit only." All contributions are tax deductible. For any questions please contact one of the Officers or Board members. If you have not made a donation to the fund please give consideration and help honor Norm.

Bamboo Rod Repair

Club member Karen Erickson is interested in working on old bamboo rods. If you have one that needs repairs give Karen a call at (575) 524-7729.

Current Email Addresses Needed

Many of the email addresses in our files are not current as members change to other internet providers. These addresses will not be distributed, but will only be used to relay club information or reminders for club meetings and other club events. Please send your address changes to membership@mvff.org.

Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Print

Help support the MVFF Habitat Restoration Projects and purchase a limited edition "Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout" print. This beautiful printing of an original watercolor of our native state fish is a limited series of 150 high quality 12 x 18 prints that are numbered and signed by New Mexico artist Michelle Arterburn. The cost of each individual print is \$25.00, with the proceeds dedicated towards habitat restoration projects. See the MVFF website for purchase.



***** REMEMBER *****

MVFF MEMBERSHIPS & NM FISHING LICENSES EXPIRED ON 31 MARCH

Membership Information

Membership is open to anyone who supports the activities of the club. Membership fees are shown below. Members are provided with the opportunity to attend informational monthly meetings, purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco, and participate in other Club activities such as a summer picnic, annual awards banquet, casting clinics, fly tying classes, and Club sponsored fishing trips.

There are several options for the payment of dues. A family is defined as a club member, their spouse and all children 17 years of age or under.

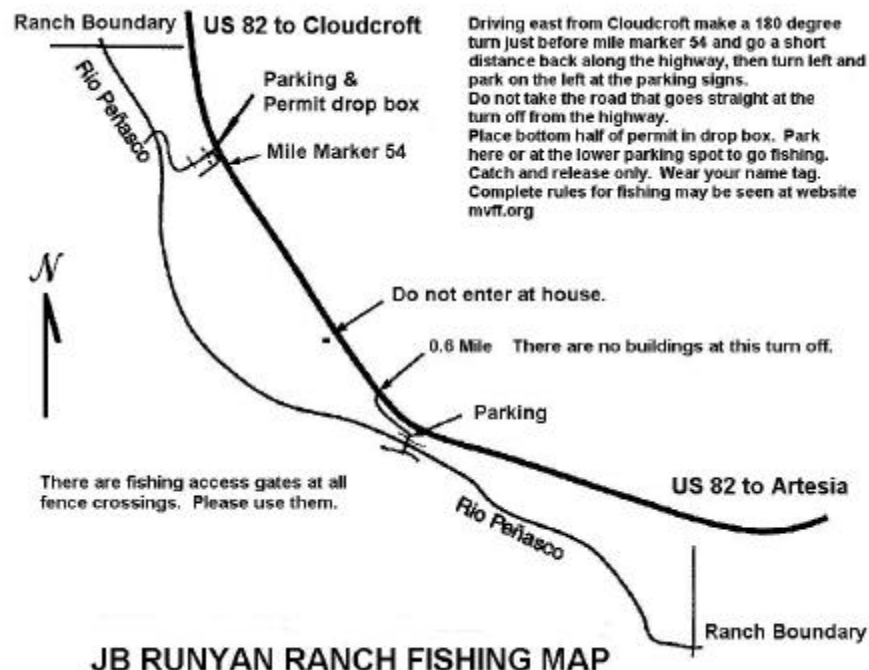
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from any of the Club Officers or Board Members and are also available at the *Angler's Nook* (575-522-3810) in Las Cruces and the ATF fly shop in El Paso (915-225-0570.) Permits can be obtained from the land owner, but you should phone (575-687-3362) the night before to ensure someone will be there to sell them to you. Permits can be ordered through the club web page (mvff.org) by filling out the form and mailing as directed. Cost is \$25.00 per day. Kids under 18 fish free but must be accompanied by an adult club member with a permit. You must be a current member of MVFF to fish the lease. Please wear your MVFF identification badge while on the property. New or replacement badges can be obtained by contacting Jim 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 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.