

# Tale Waters

June 2009



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

**Website: [www.MVFF.org](http://www.MVFF.org)**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Membership Meeting .....	1
Executive Board Meeting .....	1
Liars & Tyers .....	1
President's Corner .....	1
Kids' Fishing Clinic .....	2
Project Healing Waters .....	2
Club Outings .....	3
New Members .....	3
Detailed Information for Club Trips .....	3
Tying Instructions for the <i>Grey Dun Parachute</i> .....	6
Calendar of Events .....	6
Board Meeting Minutes for May .....	7

## Membership Meeting

There will be no general membership meeting in June 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, 15 June

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

## Liars and Tyers

Thursday, 25 June

Liars and Tyers will meet Thursday 25 June at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at 7:00 PM. The group will be tying a couple of flies, the *Grey Dun Parachute* and the *Grey Dun RS2*, 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

Welcome to the June 2009 Edition of *Tale Waters*. The waters are flowing all around us and the recent rains have eased some concerns for fire restrictions in the region, which all bodes well for fishing plans this summer. My enthusiasm was sparked with George Sander's and Bob Silver's presentations on the Green Gunnison and Conejos rivers at the May meeting in preparation for the upcoming June trips. Specific details and supporting information, including access and lodging possibilities for each of these locations, are provided in this edition of the newsletter, and both of these experienced individuals are willing to share a wealth of information and answer questions that will help you get started if you are unfamiliar with these rivers. The option of hiring a guide can provide the best introduction to beginning or experienced anglers alike, and there are many experienced guides who specialize in each of these rivers. While I like to fish alone, and find that is often the best way for me to rejuvenate and recover some sanity that's compromised by workplace stress, it is really enjoyable to get together with friends in the evening to compare notes on the days hits and misses, and discuss fly's and strategies for the next day or next trip. Fly fishing is one of those rare human activities that can fill your lifetime with new challenges to meet each accomplishment, and each day's experience affects how you face the next.

Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> is "Free Fishing Day" in New Mexico, and there are several fishing clinics taking place in our region, including Lake Roberts in the Gila, NMSU Alumni Pond in Las Cruces, and Grindstone Reservoir

near Ruidoso. Several club members have already signed up for the first two events, but there is always room for more volunteers to help out at all of these events, so please check the contact information that is provided in the newsletter and join in!

There are no monthly general club meetings scheduled during the summer months, although the Liars & Tyers fly tying sessions and MVFF Board meetings will continue. We are planning to have a picnic in the Gila at the Forks Campground July 10-12. We are also planning to host a casting workshop in early August with special sessions for women anglers, and beginning and advanced casting. 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

### Kids' Fishing Clinic

Saturday, 6 June

Saturday, 6 June is free fishing day in New Mexico. A number of organizations around the state are supporting this by having a series of Kids' Fishing Clinics. MVFF has volunteered to help at two of them. Several Club members have already signed up for these events.

NM Dept. of Game & Fish is supporting one to be held at Alumni Pond at NMSU from 8:00am to 12:00pm. MVFF volunteers will assist just as they did last year. If you wish to volunteer for this event notify Paul Turner (575-523-6880.)

MVFF is also supporting a second clinic conducted by the Wilderness District, Gila National Forest, at Lake Roberts from 8:00am to 2:00pm. If you wish to help at this one contact Jeff Arterburn (575-524-0773.)

MVFF was also asked to help at Grindstone Reservoir in Ruidoso, sponsored by the Smokey Bear Ranger District, Lincoln National Forest. It will be held from 9:00am to 12:00pm. The board decided that there were probably not enough Club resources to formally commit to this one, especially since the request came in late. However, it would be great if Club members residing in the area supported it. If you wish to help, contact Brian Davis (575-434-7375.)



Tom Wobbe, MVFF Volunter

On 13 May MVFF hosted 21 soldiers from Ft. Bliss, Texas to the club's leased and stocked section of the Rio Penasco River east of Mayhill, NM. MVFF members have been conducting fly tying and fly casting classes for the wounded personnel for the last few months at Ft. Bliss.

A group of 20 MVFF members met the group from Ft. Bliss in Alamogordo and escorted them to the stream and assisted them with practicing these new found abilities with actual stream side fishing. The weather was great and most of the soldiers caught several fish or had opportunities to catch many fish. After fishing in the morning the MVFF members and the ranch manager (Jim Ellett) hosted a hamburger/ hot dog cookout for the soldiers. After lunch several soldiers went back to the stream to fish in the afternoon prior to their return to Ft. Bliss.

It became difficult to get several of the soldiers to leave the stream due to their enjoyment in fly fishing and the outdoor activity.

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers and Project Healing Waters had purchased New Mexico fishing license for the soldiers for the one day activity. These activities have proven to be tremendously helpful for the active duty personnel who have chosen to stay in active duty, yet are in rehabilitation to overcome the obstacles associated with their military service related disabilities.

MVFF members have donated their time to teach, but have found that the activities are rewarding to them also to see the wounded warriors enjoy learning a new sport and seeing the smiles on their faces. This is the second group that the club has taken fishing with plans to continue with additional groups in 2009.

For more information about PHWFF see [www.projecthealingwaters.org](http://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 if you wish to volunteer to help out. There will be a PHW

planning meeting on 1 June at 7:00 PM in the NMDG&F conference room.

**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.

- June 8-13 - club trip to the Green River below Flaming Gorge, UT.
- June 15-21 - club trip to the Gunnison River, CO.
- June 26-28 - club trip to the Conejos River in southern Colorado.

- July 10 - 12 - club fishing trip and picnic in the Gila.
- 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**

Julie Ballard	Weatherford, TX
Margo Ballard	Weatherford, TX
Don & Joanne Dunkel	Las Cruces, NM
David Gray	Evansville, IN
Timm Rosenbach	Las Cruces, NM
Jay Tarwater	Austin, TX
Patrick Tarwater	El Paso, TX
Paul Tarwater	Dallas, TX

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**Detailed Information for Club Trips**

**Green River, UT**

George Sanders  
Trips Committee Chairman

I will be fishing the Green River at Flaming Gorge at the beginning of June. Eric Pratt and I will be there from 6/7/09 through 6/14/09. My hope is to catch the cicada hatch and the first of the normal low water flows. The flows should ramp down from 2500 cfs and reach 1200 to 1000 by mid June, perfect for wading. The river is floatable all the time but wading is somewhat restricted in the narrow Red Canyon section during the high water. Flaming Gorge is 1 hour north of Vernal, Utah, 1½ hours south of Rock Springs, Wyoming and 3 hours east of Salt Lake City. The area has 5 or 6 good public campgrounds, some with showers, some with hookups and 2 lodges within 25 miles of the lake and dam. The campgrounds can be booked through NRRS Reservation, 1-877-444-6777. We will be staying at the Firefighters Memorial, ¼ mile down the hill from the Flaming Gorge Lodge. This large campground has 80+ sites and huge ponderosa trees for shade. It has a great view of the lake, 500 feet below. The Flaming Gorge Lodge has rooms, condos, café, grocery/fly shop, gas station and raft/guide shop. FlamingGorgeResort.com, Phone (435)-889-3773 ). Stock your supplies (food,

beer, sodas, gas etc.) in the big towns because the prices are high and choice is limited on the Gorge.

The river is a gorgeous, clear tailwater with emerald green water cutting through dark red Navajo sandstone for 8 miles. The tailwater has a great trail right through from the Dam to Little Hole, at 7.2 mile mark, the only car access on the 20 mile cold water stretch. Eric and I plan to drift the river two days and wade the remainder of the week. Float trips, guided and independent, can be booked through the aforementioned Flaming Gorge Lodge and the Trout Creek Flies at Dutch John, located at the turn off from Hwy 191 to Little Hole. They also have fly shop, store, gas, and restaurant. Trout Creek Flies (435)-885-3355. The rent-a rafts from both sources run about \$150/day for a two-man flyfishing raft (rowing frame and trailer). They will shuttle your rig to the take out for approx. \$42. The upper river and lower 2-3 miles can be fished on foot from Little Hole parking area. Bring a 4-5 and 6 weight rod depending on wind and water flows. If you have one, bring a wading staff. Otherwise, bring your water wings!

Flies to bring—Big dries: (Stimmies, PMX, Hoppers, Club Sandwiches, Cicadas, Chernobyls, Para Crickets)

Small dries: (BWO, PMD, Baetis, Griffith's Gnats, Para Adams, Cripples and Various Emergers).

I fish a dry dropper until a definite hatch is noted then go small. In the morning and if water is high I fish a 2-nymph rig.

I use a big, bright, heavy attractor nymph—Neon Nightmare, SJ worm, giant orange scuds and Tungsten mini-streamer. Dropper nymphs include Zebras, Chironocones, Trigger Nymphs, and tiny grey and olive scud patterns and any small standards—Flashbacks, Hare's Ears and PT's.

Weather: Expect anything thing from snow to 85 degree scorchers.

## Gunnison River, CO

George Sanders

Trips Committee Chairman

The Gunnison River Gorge and Black Canyon are part of a 30 mile stretch of the Gunnison River near Montrose and Delta, Co. We plan on fishing the salmon fly hatch that usually starts the last week in May and runs through most of June. We will be on the river from 6/15 till 6/21. The Gunnison is fishable and accessible for about 1 mile at the upstream entrance of the Black Canyon at East Portal. This area is reached through the National Park on the Montrose side. The road down to the Portal is a hair raising descent off the edge of the world that eats brakes and drops about a mile in 4 miles. It has parabolic mirrors on the blind curves, 16% grade, get the picture? The tail end of gorge gives way to open country 28 miles downriver at the confluence of the North Fork. The river is reached from Delta> Austin on the Hwy to Hotchkiss. There is camping available at Pleasure Park (11 miles east of Delta turn right at the signs) as well as raft rentals, shuttles, fly shop and restaurant. The campsites are basic but have a nice showers toilets etc. \$15 /person. Pleasure Park can be reached at 1-888-782-7542. There are cheap motels and private campgrounds in Delta and Hotchkiss, minutes from the river, also good inexpensive eateries.

For two days, I will be renting a raft (\$150), and getting a ride up the river on the Jet Boat (\$50) to the 5 mile mark. Eric and I will float/wade our way back to the campground. It is possible to wade-fish and

hike the 5 miles to the Smith fork, or one could get a jet boat ride up with your gear only and walk back down.

The river is currently running at 2400 cfs with the North fork at 4200 cfs. By the second week in June, the river is predicted to be down to its summer flow of 1000. In 2007 the river was fishing at 450 cfs, and last year was a blow -out flow of 5500 cfs! This is another tailwater fishery but subject to the vagaries of hydro and irrigation demands downstream. The snow pack is below normal but one never knows for sure what the water people are planning.

Bring the same type of gear and flies as for the Green with the addition of Big Stones—all styles and sizes, hair wing, foam bodies, parachutes; better yet buy the featured stones at the local shops. If the stones are not coming off, the regular dry/droppers and 2-nymph rigs will work.

The water clarity in the gorge is murkier than the Green, especially at higher flows. Last year we had adobe colored water. In flows like that the fish are hugging the banks.

The Gunnison weather is typical to summer on the San Juan - could be hot, buggy at night, bring mosquito stuff.

NOTE: The Gunnison Gorge is only a 90 minute drive from the upper Gunnison Valley. The fishing there is varied from big water on the Gunnison above Blue Mesa Reservoir to the Taylor and East Fork above town. There are many small alpine streams and lakes up there as well.

## Conejos River Trip

June 26-28, 2009 (Friday - Sunday)

Bob Silver

**Places to Camp:** Lake Fork campground (near Platoro Reservoir about 30 miles north of Highway 17 on Forest Service Rd 250, Mogote and Aspen Glade campgrounds (along Route 17 about 8 and 10 miles west of Antonito). See this website for campsite information and reservations. These sites are part of the Rio Grande National Forest <http://www.recreation.gov/campgroundSearchResult.do?topTabIndex=CampingSpot>

Colorado Fishing Licenses: Online at <http://wildlife.state.co.us/ShopDOW/AppsAndLicenses/availablelicenses.htm> 5-day out of State \$21.00 BUY the HABITAT STAMP IT IS REQUIRED, Can also buy license at Conejos River Anglers.

**MVFF HQ** Bob Silver and some MVFFers will be staying at the Mogote Campground starting Thursday afternoon. Look for MVFF signs.

**Fly Shop:** Conejos River Anglers at Mogote, CO

**Cabins and RV Sites:**

1. *Conejos River Anglers* at Mogote, CO  
(Recommended) 5 miles west of Antonito. 34591  
Highway 17, Antonito Colorado.  
Also see their Eat-Sleep-Fish Packages below.  
Telephone: 719-376-5660  
Website: <http://conejosriveranglers.com>  
E-Mail: [info@conejosriveranglers.com](mailto:info@conejosriveranglers.com)  
Snail Mail: Conejos River Anglers, 34591 Hwy 17, Antonito, CO 81120
2. *Conejos River Ranch* near Fox Creek, CO  
(Recommended), about 8 miles west of Antonito, CO, 25390 Hwy. 17, Antonito, CO 81120.  
Telephone: (719) 376-2464 website: [www.conejosranch.com](http://www.conejosranch.com)
3. *Mogote Meadow Cottages & RV Park*  
5 miles west of Antonito 34127 Highway 17, Antonito, CO 81120, Telephone: 719-376-5774 or 800-877-2133  
website: [www.mogotemeadow.com](http://www.mogotemeadow.com)
4. *Twin Rivers Cabins and RV Park*  
5 miles west of Antonito, CO  
Telephone 719-376-5710  
website:  
<http://www.coloradodirectory.com/twinriverscabinsrvpark/>

5. *Ponderosa Campground & Cabins*, 8234 West Highway 17, Antonito Colorado 81120, Telephone 719-376-5857 website: <http://www.coloradodirectory.com/ponderosacampcabins/>

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*Conejos River Anglers*  
Eat-Sleep-Fish Packages

**Conejos River anglers Fish-Eat-Sleep Package #1**

3 nights lodging  
2 Full day guided fly fishing trips  
\$495/per person based on double occupancy

**Fish-Eat-Sleep Package #2**

4 Nights lodging  
3 Full day guided fly fishing trips  
\$695/ per person based on double occupancy

**Fish-Eat-Sleep Package #3**

5 Nights lodging  
4 Full day guided fly fishing trips  
\$925/ per person based on double occupancy

**Fish-Eat-Sleep Package #4**

6 Nights Lodging  
5 Full day guided fly fishing trips  
\$1195/ per person based on double occupancy



MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 18, 2009

Submitted by Donna Mabie, Secretary

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 Richard Keding, Ron Bellerose, Jim Hulsey, and Board members Jeff Arterburn, Tom Wobbe, Robert Silver, George Sanders, Gary Mann and Donna Mabie.

1. Minutes of the April Board meeting were approved as published in the May newsletter.
2. The Treasurer's report presented by Gary Mann was approved. The report shows the Club has a balance of \$11,804.00.
3. Tom Wobbe reported that of 250 members, 100 have still not paid their annual dues.
4. The question was raised as to whether or not there would be another rod wrapping class this year and the answer was "maybe", depending on where they could hold it and how many would be interested.
5. The club is still working on the feasibility and cost of liability insurance for the board members.
6. There will be no general meetings until September. Liars and Tyers will continue to meet during the summer. Tim Mack suggested to one of the board members about Mr. Yokum of Albuquerque being available to do one of our general meetings. He is a strong participant in NM Trout.
7. George Sanders discussed fishing at the Conejos

8. and the various camping spots there. The July Gila trip was discussed and also the picnic to be held there. This is not the official annual club picnic which will still be held in Sept. on a Saturday. Bob Silver will make arrangements to reserve the park at NMSU for this picnic.
9. Ron Bellerose reported on Project Healing Waters and what a wonderful turnout of volunteers for the 20 or so participants. It was very enjoyable and satisfying for all. The Project's participants are interested in learning more about flytying and this is being pursued further.
10. There have been a goodly number of volunteers signed for the Free Fishing day coming up and if others are interested in volunteering to help please let us know. Also more will be mentioned in this newsletters about volunteers needed for the Grindstone event.
11. Plans are being formulated for fly casting classes to be given by Bob Widgren of Los Pinos Anglers in Albuquerque. He is an FFF certified casting instructor. Plans are for him to come on a weekend and have two different classes. If the class size is very large, Bob would bring an assistant. Coordination will be made with Helen Zagona regarding classes for the women's fishing group. August 7-8 might be a good time to hold this event. Plans are to have it at Alumni Pond at NMSU.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

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Project Healing Waters



**Quick Look Contact Information**

2009 Officers of the Club	
<b>Officers</b>	
• <b>President</b>	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• <b>V-Pres.</b>	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• <b>Secretary</b>	Donna Mabie (575) 522-3810
• <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>	Randall Vallee (575) 373-9470
• <b>Position 3</b>	Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437
• <b>Position 4</b>	George Thomas (575) 532-5614
• <b>Position 5</b>	George Sanders (575) 527-5536
<b>Newsletter &amp; Web Page Editor</b>	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org

**Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund**

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,003</b>
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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.

**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](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. 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.

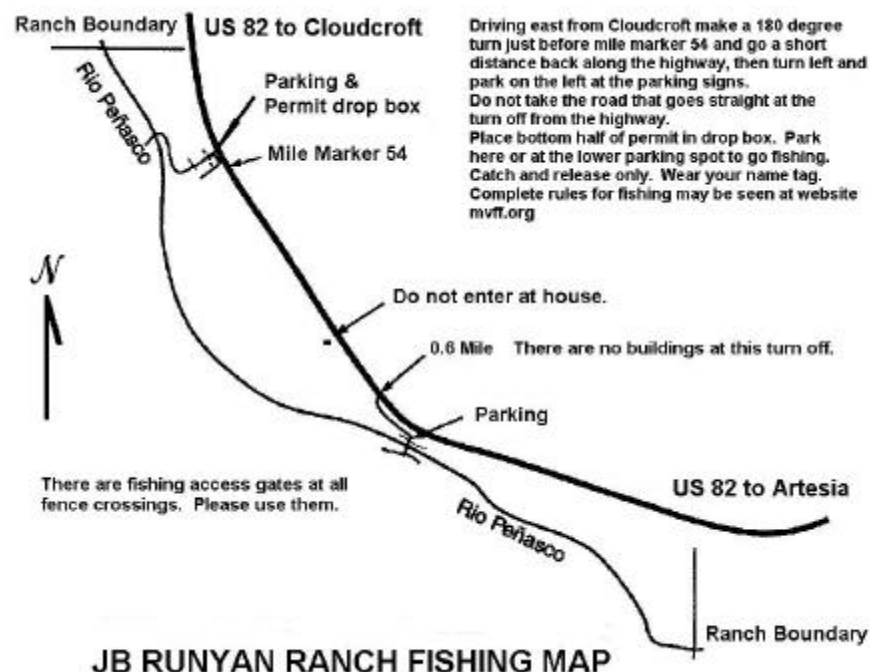
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

### 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.