



# TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

June

2017



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

## Welcome New Members

Carlos Lopez & Christa Bringas      El Paso, TX  
 Greg & Linda Gendall                      Las Cruces, NM

## Membership Meeting

There will be no MVFF general membership meeting in June. Many members will be fishing and the rest of them should be. The next meeting will be in September. See you then.

## Executive Board Meeting

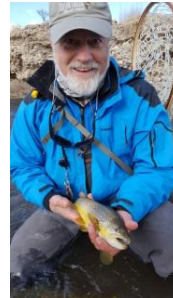
There will be no MVFF Board meeting in June. The next meeting will be in August. See you then.

## Liars and Tyers

Liars and Tyers will not meet in June. The next meeting will be in September. See you then.

## President's Corner

David Carmichael



It is only early June, but we seem to be well on our way to a warm summer; temperatures have already reached the upper 90s here in El Paso, and the mountains are beckoning us to come enjoy the cooler temperatures, cold water and hungry trout. My daughter and I made a quick trip to the club lease on the Rio Peñasco last week. Even though we didn't get on the water until noon, we still had a decent day, catching seven nice trout, including my daughter's 21 1/2 inch male brown and my 18" female rainbow. Club member Frances Curtis fished the Mulcock Ranch at about the same time, and her results were similar to ours. She was consistently catching trout; not large numbers, but some large fish, including a nice 18" rainbow she lured out of the grass. The aquatic vegetation is pretty thick in many places, and the trick is to find holes and runs that are deep enough to hold the fish given the clarity of the water, but which have gaps or channels in the vegetation that allow for the presentation of our flies. All of the fish we caught on both leases were on either a San Juan worm pattern or streamers, even though there was an afternoon mayfly hatch in progress during our visit. In other words, the larger food offerings were necessary to coax the fish out of the thick vegetation and/or deep water. Hopefully the trout will turn on to grasshoppers pretty soon; we saw lots of small ones along the banks, but didn't have any patterns that small to throw at the trout. There are lots of chubs on the club lease; we even saw a group of more than 60 chubs swimming together at the tail out of the slow, weedy section above the lower bridge. The club will hopefully be stocking about 250 trout later this month, so the

fishing action should pick up in June and July. Watch your email for the chance to help with the stocking.

I'd like to remind everyone about two opportunities we have to make land managers aware of our concerns and desires regarding the management of our fisheries and public lands. As noted in last month's newsletter, the 2016 Statewide Fisheries Management Plan is available for review on the MNDGF website. Send comments to Laurence D'Alessandro, and if you forward a copy to me, I'll include them in the official club response. Matt Schultz has also invited club members and other members of the public to participate in the upcoming Gila National Forest Plan meeting in Las Cruces on Friday, June 16 at the Farm and Ranch Museum. Further details are presented elsewhere in the newsletter.

*If you want one year of prosperity, plant grain. If you want ten years of prosperity, plant trees. If you want 100 years of prosperity, educate people. (Chinese proverb)*

We hear a lot of talk these days about prosperity, especially about making the United States great again.

Of course, there are many different ideas about what prosperity is, who deserves to share in it, and how to make that happen. As we head off around the country to enjoy a summer of fishing in various parts of our public lands, I offer the following brief summary of some of the recent actions taken by our new government in the name of prosperity. I invite you to compare these actions with the conditions you experience in your travels and recreational activities around the West, and to think about how we might respond to these actions in light of our club's stated mission of promoting education through fly fishing.

In February of this year, only a month into his term, President Trump signed an Executive Order that rescinds the Clean Water Rule which was developed by the EPA to implement the Clean Water Act. When it

was first passed in 1972, the Clean Water Act was intended to apply protections to our rivers, streams and water supplies by preventing the discharge of pollution into the "waters of the United States." For 30 years, the protected waters included wetlands and headwaters which are so vital to the health of our fisheries. In 2002, during the second Bush administration, the legislative intent of the law was circumvented in favor of mining interests, by changing the definition of "waters of the U.S." to mean only those rivers that are large and deep enough to permit commercial transportation. As a result, most of the nation's streams and wetlands were no longer protected, and wetland losses were on the increase for the first time since the 1980s. Between 2004 and 2009, the rate of wetland loss increased by 140 percent over the rate measured between 1998 and 2004. In response, the EPA spent more than a decade developing the Clean Water Rule that would restore protections to some of the streams, wetlands and ponds that had been excluded during the Bush administration. The proposed Clean Water Rule was completed



*Snake River, Grand Teton National Park.... A good place for oil and gas drilling?*

in 2015, incorporating a scientifically and legally justified definition of "waters of the United States." Recent polls indicate that 70% of our citizens support the rule, but the Trump administration has directed the EPA to rescind the rule and revise it in accordance with former Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia's minority opinion that wetlands and seasonal streams do not merit protection. Following this approach will re-

move about 60% of U.S. streams and 20 million acres of wetlands from protection. Additionally, it will once again allow mining companies to engage in mountain top mining, and discharging tailings into headwater streams. A group of sportsmen organizations, including the American Fly Fishing Trade Association, Trout Unlimited, and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership have prepared a statement supporting the Clean Water Rule. If you are interested in

reading the letter it may be found at [www.trcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/170228\\_Sportsmen-Statement-on-CWR-Rollback.pdf](http://www.trcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/170228_Sportsmen-Statement-on-CWR-Rollback.pdf)

In March, President Trump signed his 19<sup>th</sup> Executive Order which makes it easier for energy companies to drill in our country's national parks (Mother Jones.com, April 12, 2017). Protections against energy extraction in national parks date back to 1978, and they were updated in 2016. There has not been any move to change these protections until now because of strong bipartisan agreement on the wisdom of the protections.

*This issue has been dormant for 40 years because amongst Democrats and Republicans there's a consensus that we shouldn't drill in our national parks. (Athan Manuel, Director of Lands Protection Program, Sierra Club)*

Some of the national parks that are high on the list for drilling include Aztec Ruins, Chaco Canyon and Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico; Glen Canyon, AZ; and Grand Teton in Wyoming.

In May the Trump administration settled a lawsuit with Northern Dynasty Minerals, the company that would like to build the Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay watershed in Alaska. The Bristol Bay watershed supports the largest sockeye salmon run in the world, providing many jobs in commercial and sport fishing, as well as subsistence fishing for many Native Americans and other Alaskan citizens. After more than a decade of research, the EPA in 2014 determined that the Bristol Bay watershed should be off limits to mining. Northern Dynasty Minerals sued the EPA, and now that the government has settled the lawsuit, the company will be allowed to restart the permitting process. In fact, a company official has said that he is expecting an expedited permitting process from the Trump administration, allowing them to complete the process in record time (Alaska Dispatch News, May 12, 2017). As you can imagine, sportsmen's groups and Native Alaskans are very upset about the reversal of the EPA actions. If fishing in Bristol Bay for sockeye salmon and rainbow trout has been on your bucket list, as it has been on mine, it might be a good idea to make that trip in the next 2½ to 4 years.

Last but not least, the word is today that our President plans to carry out his threats to withdraw from the Paris Accord, in a monumental act of denial of climate change. Most of the people in our country, almost all the countries in the world, and nearly all climate scientists know that global climate change is real, but we will be abrogating our world leadership role in order to assist the oil and gas industry for a little longer? As fly anglers, we see the impact of warming on our fisheries up close and personal. Wildfire frequency has increased 400% since 1970, resulting in increased loss of forests, destabilized slopes, increased runoff, loss of aquatic insects and the fish populations that depend on them. At the same time we are experiencing more intense rain storms, reduced snow pack and more flooding, which also adversely affect our fisheries. So, as we are travelling around this summer looking for good fishing and enjoying our public lands, let's keep track of the problems we see and how they affect us, our fisheries, and the tourism dollars that our sport generates. Then we might think about contacting our elected officials to tell them about the bounty of the West that is under assault, and suggest ways that they could represent our interests so our lands will support prosperity for another 100 years rather than providing wealth for just another year or decade. ▲



Ron Bellerose  
PHW Coordinator

Big event for Project Healing Waters for June will be the free fishing day at Grindstone Lake. Along with working with the kids, I will hopefully have several Vets there for fly fishing. We are still doing the fly tying on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at Counseling Las Cruces, 10am till noon, and also the last Wednesday of the month at the Las Cruces VA Clinic, 1pm till 3pm.

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For more information about PHWFF see [www.projecthealingwaters.org](http://www.projecthealingwaters.org). Contact Ron Bellerose

(575-680-5516), [flyfishnh@hotmail.com](mailto:flyfishnh@hotmail.com)) if you wish to volunteer to help out. ▲

## Gila National Forest Plan Meeting

Matt Schultz, US Forest Service

The Gila National Forest invites you to a Forest Plan Meeting! The Gila National Forest recently started the next phase of the Forest Plan Revision process. This round of meetings is an opportunity to:

- Create shared understanding of desired conditions on the Forest and other plan components
- Learn about and provide input on the next steps in the Plan Revision process
- Keep stakeholders informed and involved in the forest plan revision effort

Community Meetings:

- Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> 5-7:30 pm  
Quemado High School New Gym, 3484 Hwy 60, Quemado, NM
- Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 5-7:30 pm  
Catron County Fairgrounds Building, Hwy 12, Reserve, NM
- Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 5-7:30 pm  
Grant County Conference Center, 3031 Highway 180 East, Silver City, NM
- Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> 5-7:30 pm  
Albert Lyon Event Center, 2953 South Broadway, Truth or Consequences, NM
- **Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> 2-4:30 pm**  
**NM Farm and Ranch Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Rd, Las Cruces, NM**

No need to RSVP for the community meetings.

Technical Meeting

- Scheduled for an extended period during the day to encourage participation by interested

local governments, state/federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and members of the public

- More time for discussion on topics and get into the details more
- Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 10am-3pm  
Grant County Conference Center, 3031 Highway 180 East, Silver City, NM
- **Please RSVP for Technical Meeting by email ([gilaplan@fs.fed.us](mailto:gilaplan@fs.fed.us)) or call (575-388-8280)**

Your input will help develop forest plan direction that will provide for a healthy, diverse, and productive Forest. Information can be found on our website at: <http://go.usa.gov/h88k>.

Let me know if there are any questions. Hope to see you at one of the meetings! ▲

## Conejos Fishing & Camping Trip

Don't forget the Club trip to the Conejos on June 30 to July 2, 2017 (Fri-Sun). Most people will be camping in Mogote campground along the river. Contact Bob Silver ([rsilver@nmsu.edu](mailto:rsilver@nmsu.edu)) for additional information or check last month's newsletter for his details on making reservations and many other items as well. ▲

## Club Outings Planned

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

- June 30 - July 2—Club trip to Conejos
- October 1-5—Lady Anglers trip to the Gunnison area of Colorado.
- Autumn—Club trip to the San Juan.
- Autumn—Club trip to Kodiak, AK. ▲

## MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 15, 2017

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn, Secretary

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order by David Carmichael at 7:00pm in the NMDG&F Conference room. Board members present were: Jeff Arterburn (Secretary), David Carmichael (President), Tom Johnson (Vice President), Gary Mann (Treasurer) and Bob Silver. Members absent were: Evan Claassen, Dennis Lanpher, Chuck Mueller and Will Lubenau. Non-Board members in attendance were: Ron Bellerose, Jim Hulsey and Tom Wobbe.

1. **Meeting Minutes.** The minutes from the April 17, 2017 Board meeting were approved as published in the May 2017 issue of the newsletter.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer's report and current account balance statement of \$13,662 was presented by Gary Mann, and accepted by the Board.
3. **Membership Report.** Tom Wobbe reported the membership of updated database through this year: 152 (total past due is 166).
4. **Project Healing Waters.** Ron Bellerose reported he will be at the VFW in Cloudcroft for Fly Tying on Wed 5/17 afternoon-evening, then Cloud Country Pond for fishing Thurs 5/18 afternoon-needs volunteers and will send out a call. Counseling Las Cruces is planning a camping trip inclusive of PHW. Ray will be leading the Fly Tying session next Wed 5/24 at NMDGF. Ron will be planning another San Juan trip.
5. **Gila/Rio Grande chapter of Trout Unlimited.**
  - Jeff Arterburn reported that a Community Open House will be held in Lincoln, NM to discuss developing plans for the Rio Bonito Restoration and Trout Fishery Project that is beginning the design process. The Meeting will be held Thursday May 18, 2017 from 6-8pm in the Lincoln Visitor Center.
  - Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> is a free fishing day and we've been asked again to help out hosting booths at these events:
    - a. **The Aldo Leopold Kid's Fishing Derby, Lake Roberts** Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Jeff will coordinate this group's booth.
    - b. **The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Fishing Day, Grindstone Reservoir** Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ron will coordinate this group's booth.
    - c. We could use members help with these events and welcome ideas for fun activities.
- GRG-TU is developing a proposal for the NMDGF Share with Wildlife program (SWW) for construction of beaver dam analogue structures for habitat restoration on willow Creek. The due date is Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- GRG-TU is developing a Proposal for the Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) Small Grants Program for design and installation of information signs at Willow Creek. The due date is Thursday June 15. Matching funds are required, and the MVFF board authorized commitment of \$250 if the grant is funded. Members are encouraged to visit the WNTI website and check out the "Know your Natives" program that now features Gila Trout: [www.westernnativetrout.org/qila-trout](http://www.westernnativetrout.org/qila-trout)
6. **Web Page Issues:** Bob and Tom brought new information for the ongoing discussion of modifying the process for payments and purchases of MVFF memberships, permits, etc. to make it possible to use PayPal. The goal would be to initiate this option for memberships, and then extend to permit sales as the next stage if working well. Gary expressed vigorous opposition to implementing an on line payment system, concerned that this would require additional reconciliation. His position is that the current system is simple and manageable, and is concerned that the time commitment would exceed that afforded by available volunteers. With some board members expressing frustration, the issue was tabled. David reported receiving a domain name registration email that apparently was a scam trying to extort payment. Jim Hulsey reported that our domain registration was recently renewed through 2018.
7. **American Fisheries Society: Friends of Willow Creek (Gila National Forest)** Buy a shirt to help restore Willow Creek, Gila National Forest, New

Mexico <https://www.booster.com/friends-of-willow-creek>. This fund-raiser is being sponsored by a student chapter of The Wildlife Society, which is the professional organization for wildlife biologists. The students have organized this project and fundraiser to purchase supplies necessary to do the hands-on restoration work on Willow Creek. This group, along with a student chapter of the American Fisheries Society, is planning 2 work events during the 2017 season. The goal for this fundraiser is \$500, which will cover most of the necessary supplies for the project. The t-shirt was designed by Cherry Matchus and features willow leaves. The MVFF board authorized a contribution of \$200.

8. **General Meeting Speakers/Presentations.** The September meeting featuring recent fly fishing trips to New Zealand by members Mary Hoffman, Jim Sorensen, George Sanders and Cheryl Chandler. Open suggestions are requested for the Fall meetings and Banquet in January 2018. David suggested a fishing photographer and guide, and will pursue discussion as a potential banquet speaker.

9. **Club Fishing Trips.**

- Bob Silver is organizing a camping trip to the Conejos, June 30–July 2nd, 2017. The group will be camping at Mogote Campground. For more information or questions contact: [rsilver@nmsu.edu](mailto:rsilver@nmsu.edu).
- Evan Claassen is organizing a trip to the Gila that will target fishing for smallmouth bass.
- Chuck Mueller has scheduled a trip to the San Juan Nov 5–8, 2017.

10. **Other Business:**

- Gary presented an idea for organizing monthly trips for club members to fish the Rio Peñasco, with MVFF-sponsored rental of a transport van and fuel, estimated cost: \$450 + ~\$70 gas cost. Gary will organize communication to club members and coordinate the first event for a date in September.
- The board recommended stocking the Rio Peñasco lease. Bob Silver will contact W. Parker and arrange for stocking with 250 fish.

- Jeff presented a draft proposal to the Western Native Trout Initiative Small Grants Program that will request funding for an informational sign installation focusing on Gila Trout and ongoing habitat restoration at Willow Creek, Catron County, NM. These proposals require matching funds, and several groups are contributing funds for the design and installation costs, and will have their club logo's displayed on the signs. The MVFF board authorized commitment of \$250 support (if the grant is funded).
- Jeff presented information about a fundraiser organized by the NMSU Student Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and Wildernes Society for the goal of purchasing supplies and tools for restoration work on Willow Creek. The MVFF board authorized a \$200 contribution.

11. **Other News & Events:**

- The proposed NM angling regulation changes comment portal on the NMDGF website is under development and expected to be open the first week of June. Members are encouraged to respond and comments don't have to be extensive, this is a good way to express interest in angling to NMDGF. David will try to collate comments received through June to write an MVFF response. Individuals can also sent comments or contact Laurence D'Alessandro (NMDGF) by email: [Laurence.Dalessandro@state.nm.us](mailto:Laurence.Dalessandro@state.nm.us)
- LIARS & TYERS FLY TYING is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and Tim Mack will lead the session tying the "Chicken Little" fly pattern.
- Ron participated in the Mesilla Elementary School "Hobby Day" on April 28<sup>th</sup> where he did casting, and fly tying.

The next Board meeting will be on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm. ▲

**Quick Look Contact Information**

2017 Officers of the Club	
<b>Officers</b>	
• <b>President:</b>	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• <b>V-Pres.:</b>	Tom Johnson (417) 684-7075
• <b>Secretary:</b>	Jeff Arterburn (612) 720-3456
• <b>Treasurer:</b>	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
<b>Board Members</b>	
• <b>Position 1:</b>	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• <b>Position 2:</b>	Tom Johnson (417) 684-7075
• <b>Position 3:</b>	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• <b>Position 4:</b>	Evan Claassen (402) 239-1289
• <b>Position 5:</b>	Will Lubenau (575) 442-1912
• <b>Position 6:</b>	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• <b>Position 7:</b>	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• <b>Position 8:</b>	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
• <b>Position 9:</b>	Dennis Lanpher (575) 649-2946
<b>Newsletter &amp; Web Page Editor</b>	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	<a href="mailto:newsletter@mvff.org">newsletter@mvff.org</a>
<b>Membership Committee Chairman</b>	
• Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437	<a href="mailto:membership@mvff.org">membership@mvff.org</a>

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

**Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund**

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

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

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

**Current Email Addresses Needed**

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

**Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Print**

Help support the MVFF Habitat Restoration Projects and purchase a limited edition "Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout" print. This beautiful printing of an original watercolor of our native state fish is a limited series of 150 high quality 12 x 18 prints that are numbered and signed by New Mexico artist Michelle Arterburn. The cost of each individual print is \$25.00, with the proceeds dedicated towards habitat restoration projects. If you live out of town and wish the print mailed to you please add \$5 for postage. See the MVFF website for purchase.



**\*\*\*\*\* REMEMBER \*\*\*\*\***  
**MVFF MEMBERSHIPS & NM FISHING LI-**  
**CENSES EXPIRE ON 31 MARCH**

### Membership Information

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

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

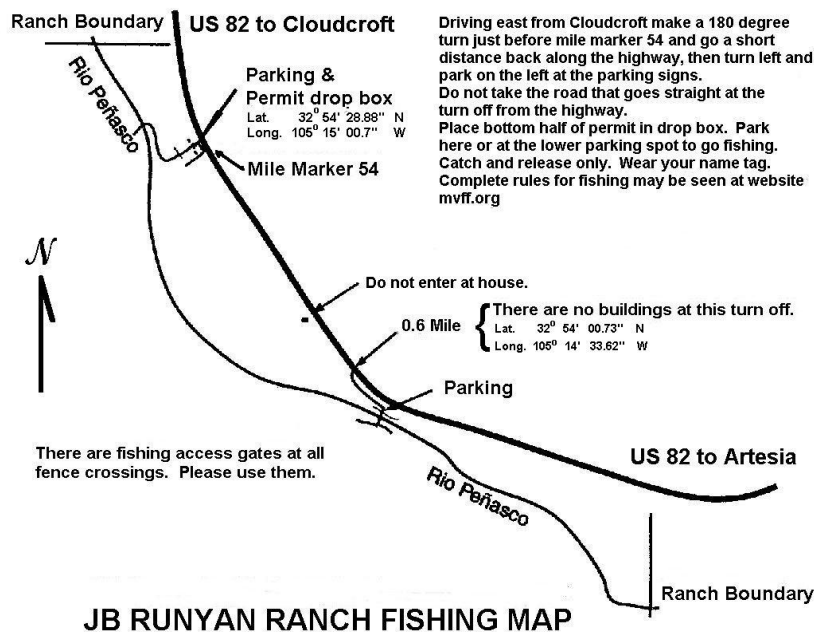
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

### Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-524-1880), Tom Wobbe (575-522-5437) and Donna Mabie (575-522-3810) in Las Cruces. Permits can be obtained from the land owner, but you should phone (575-687-3362) the night before to ensure someone will be there to sell them to you. Permits can be ordered through the club web page (mvff.org) by filling out the form and mailing as directed. Cost is \$25.00 per day. Kids under 18 fish free but must be accompanied by an adult club member with a permit. You must be a current member (current dues have been paid) of MVFF to fish the lease. Please wear your MVFF identification badge while on the property. New or replacement badges can be obtained by contacting Jim Hulsey. In addition, members can purchase a one-day, one-time permit for guests.

#### Directions to the Lease:

Follow NM 82 east from Cloudcroft, NM or west from Artesia, NM. The turn off to the lease is located on the right side of the road about 100 yards before mile marker 54 coming from Cloudcroft or 100 yards on the left past mile marker 54 coming from Artesia.





MESILLA VALLEY FLYFISHERS, INC.

PO Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

Membership and/or Permit Application

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current member? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Do you need a name badge? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ or renewal \_\_\_\_\_?

Membership Categories: Individual Family Circle the one desired.

1 Year \$20 \$25

3 Years \$50 \$60

Life \$400 \$500

For family membership: Name of spouse \_\_\_\_\_ No. of children \_\_\_\_\_

Note: All memberships expire on 31 March. New memberships received on or after 1 January will expire on 31 March of the following year.

Membership fee if applicable \$\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Permits @ \$25 per permit = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total =\$\_\_\_\_\_

Send remittance with this form to the address shown at top of page.