



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.
P.O. Box 2222
Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222
www.MVFF.org

October

2016



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Membership Meeting

Monday, 10 October

The MVFF general membership meeting will meet on Monday 10 October at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. The program will be a showing of the video entitled "Landing the Trout of Your Life", featuring Landon Mayer and John Barr. Cookies and coffee will be served.

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 17 October

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 17 October at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Wednesday, 23 October

Liars and Tyers will meet on Wednesday 26 October at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at 7:00pm. The fly to be tied is the *Halo Midge Emerger*. The tying session will be led by pro-

fessional tyer, Tim Mack. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies will be available for beginning tyers.

President's Corner

David Carmichael



Well, Labor Day weekend is behind us, and the recently torrid temperatures are beginning to abate, so it must be fall. My favorite time of year, when the leaves start changing color, the scent of ripening apples is carried on the breeze, and the summer crowds found along our rivers and lakes have dissipated. Like many of you, I like to get out on the water whenever my work schedule allows it, and Labor Day weekend provided a good opportunity. Nevertheless, it seems every other year or so I need to be reminded about how crowded our forests and campgrounds will be over Labor Day weekend.

This year Miriam and I took the canoe to Lake Roberts to search for one of those large, retired brood stock Gila trout that were released in the lake last spring. Not only didn't we catch one of those, we didn't catch anything at the lake. Perhaps it was the heat, or being in direct competition with the bait anglers, but we didn't get a bite, and we didn't see any of them catching fish either. We actually got some good exercise paddling the length and breadth of the lake, picking up discarded bottles and cans, clumps of tangled monofilament, and abandoned trotlines that were left anchored to trees and bushes. We are tent campers and backpackers, so I didn't anticipate the crowds we encountered in the RV campgrounds, or the ATVs cruising among the campsites, or the generators and radios cranking well into the night. But aside from those distractions, it was a good visit to the mountains. We grilled elk steaks, saw lots of

wildlife, gorgeous fields of wildflowers, and met some nice, friendly people along the way.

In a last ditch effort to find some solitude and trout, I spent a couple of hours making a quick exploration of Sapillo Creek while Miriam rested her broken toe. Fortunately, we had visited with the owners of the Lake Roberts Cabins and General Store, and received very specific instructions about how to access the creek. If you go, be sure to park near the historic marker and ghost bike memorial at the junction of NM Highways 15 and 35. Do not park along the highway near the “big barn” or at the rustic sign advertising the General Store. There is an unfriendly landowner on that side of the highway who seems to believe that the roadside is private property. I noticed a “warning” note stuck in the door of another vehicle whose owner chose to park at the logical place:



the turnout at the General Store sign. Instead, walk from the historic marker, across the bridge over the creek, and past the barn, and then locate the trail beyond the arroyo on the west side of Hwy 15, opposite the General Store sign.

It took about half an hour of easy hiking to reach the creek, along what was for the first 20 minutes a well-worn and easily followed trail. After that, some bushwhacking and wading was involved, but the hike was worth it. Complete solitude; quietly gurgling waters, and enthusiastic trout. In the short hour that I had available, I fished perhaps 200 yards of the creek and caught nine trout, ranging in size from 5 or 6 inch fingerling browns, to a couple of 14 inch Gila trout. I was using a size 12 Stimulator tied in Royal Wulff colors with a size 20 red Copper John on a short dropper, and I caught fish on both flies. I hooked at least 4 or 5 Gila trout, my first ever, though I didn't land all of them because my 9 ft. rod was too long for such close quarters. When I go back it will be with a 6 foot rod and much more time to explore.

*Of recreation there is none
So free as Fishing is alone;
All other pastimes do no less
Than mind and body both possess:
My hand alone my work can do,
So I can fish and study too.*

(Walton, *The Compleat Angler* [1653], *Angler's Song*)

Finding all the cabins and area campgrounds completely full, and seeing all the people at the lake reminded me once again of how popular our public

lands are. In fact, according to the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA), outdoor recreation contributes \$646 billion per year in consumer spending to the United States economy, and accounts for 6.1 million direct jobs. The New Mexico portion of that economic activity is pretty im-

pressive too: \$6.1 billion in direct spending, 68,400 direct jobs, \$1.7 billion in wages and salaries, and \$458 million in state and local tax revenue. The Gila National Forest receives an average of more than 500,000 visitors per year, and the Cibola National Forest averages 1.4 million visitors per year. Both of these landholdings are known to many of us as containing some of the best fishing in New Mexico. Most policy makers and politicians understand the reality noted by Alexander Boian (OIA Senior Director for Government Affairs) that outdoor recreation is an important sustainable economic driver for the country, especially in the west.

Given all these facts, along with the widespread citizen support for public lands I've noted in previous newsletters, I find it amazing that there are still politicians who are working hard to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory by attacking the very concept of public lands. The Center for American Progress lists 20 members of Congress who have supported policies to transfer public lands to state or private con-

trol. Elected officials from New Mexico and Texas are on the list, and they have sponsored legislation that would transfer public lands, weaken the Antiquities Act of 1906 (which protects archeological sites as well as National Monuments), and prioritize clear-cut logging over recreation in our national forests. Anglers and hunters who care about the health of, and access to public lands would be well advised to do a little research, learn which candidates for elected office are most likely to represent the interests of anglers in maintaining access to our public lands, and vote for them next month.



Finally, as many of you already know, the vitality of our outdoor recreation economy in southern New Mexico has led to Sportsman's Warehouse reopening a store in Las Cruces. At the last meeting of the general membership, we welcomed store manager Bill Batt who gave a brief summary of their operations. Sportsman's Warehouse received more than 400 job applications and the company has hired 45 people to staff the new store. The MVFF board presented Bill and his fishing department manager, Brooke Campbell with complimentary club memberships as a way of welcoming them to Las Cruces. The store has already hosted a successful fundraiser for Project Heal-

ing Waters, and another such event is planned for later in the fall. We're glad to have Sportsman's Warehouse back, and I encourage you all to drop by and check out the store at 2230 N. Telshor.



Ron Bellerose
PHW Coordinator

Project Healing Waters is getting stronger, both locally and at the National level. Locally, we will be fly tying 3 times a month, 4 if we count the club fly tying. Weather is cooling

down and the stocking of our local ponds should start in the next couple of weeks. I expect to do a lot of Vet casting and fishing in the next 5 months. We have 2 Vets fishing the Silver Creek in AZ the first of October thanks to the Tucson Project Healing Waters. They will also support us with several slots to different fishing areas throughout the next year. We have our raffle going on until November 12th and I hope to make enough to support another trip to the San Juan next spring.

Raffle Prizes:

- 10wt 9' 4 pc TFO rod with PHW tube
- 8' 5/6 wt 2pc TFO rod
- Simms Pursuit GTV, shoe size 10

Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

We also have a lot of fly tying material, fly boxes and tools available for donations of 30 to 40 % retail value. All donations go directly to the local Project Healing Waters Vets.

We have the large group from Ft. Bliss in on Wednesday October 26 at the NMG&F with casting at the University in the afternoon. They will be fishing at the lease on November 2. Expect over 20 participants from Ft Bliss for this event and lots of volunteers will be needed. Hope you can help. More info to come.

Please support our wounded warriors and Vets with disabilities.

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.

Rio Peñasco to be Stocked

Saturday, 15 October

The Club will be stocking 500 rainbows in the Rio Peñasco on 15 October. All members are invited to come out and help launch them. It should only take a couple of hours and after stocking is complete you are welcome to fish the rest of the day for free, so be sure to bring your fishing gear.

Volunteers should plan on being at the ranch by 9:30am. If you wish to carpool from Las Cruces be at the K-Mart parking lot (east side) on N. Main at 7:00am.

Trout Unlimited – Gila/Rio Grande Chapter Update Projects and Activities for 2016

Gila National Forest – Forest Plan Revision – Las Cruces Community Meeting

Thursday, November 3rd. An open forum meeting will be held from 4–6:30pm at the NM Farm and Ranch Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Rd, Las Cruces, NM. Please plan to attend this to discuss the draft revision plan assessment report, and to give your input to help determine needs-for-change to the current plan. The Draft Gila Forest Plan Revision Assessment Report is now available at: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd518769.pdf.

This document identifies ecological, social and economic conditions, trends, and risks to sustainability of the Gila National Forest resources. It is a large document (22MB, 923 pages) so it may take some time to download from the website. There is a summary at the end of each chapter. The Gila NF staff are encouraging your feedback on the Draft Assessment Report, particularly if you think that they have overlooked anything. You can provide feedback or suggestions on the draft assessment report preferably in digital form to gilaplan@fs.fed.us, or mail to Gila National Forest, Attn.: Matt Schultz, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, NM 88061, or drop it off at one of the [District Offices](#). This feedback is most useful if submitted before November 15, 2016.

NMDGF proposed changes to the Fisheries Rule

The New Mexico Council of Trout Unlimited is supporting the NMDGF proposed changes to the Fisheries Rule (19.31.4 NMAC), which are currently being considered by the Commission. We support the proposed changes to the rule, especially those impacting Gila trout waters and the Chama River. These proposals are consistent with our recent comments to the draft 2015 Statewide Fisheries Management Plan and should benefit both the fisheries and the angler experience. Specifically we are in favor of the following changes:

- Designating new Gila trout streams as Special Trout Waters, Regulations 19.31.4.11 A(4)(a) and 19.31.10.14 R
- Adding several new Gila trout fishing permit waters, Regulation 19.31.4.11 A(5)
- Opening the West Fork Gila River mainstem to fishing with tributaries remaining closed, Regulation 19.31.4.16 A(12)
- Adding a new “catch and release” Special Trout Water on the Chama River below El Vado Reservoir downstream of Cooper’s to the historic Ward Ranch, Regulation 19.31.4.11 A(4)(b).

You can read the proposed changes at: <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration/>

Make sure to mark your calendars for the November 14th Meeting which will be featuring a presentation by Jill Wick from the NMDGF who will be talking about the current status, planned activities, and fishing opportunities for Gila Trout.

TU/MVFF Partnership with BLM on Rio Bonito Creek to develop a recreational fishery.

We are planning a site visit this month to the Rio Bonito near Lincoln with Randy Howard, Wildlife Biologist, Bureau of Land Management. We are looking ahead to future projects to help improve this stretch of river for trout and will report on the status as a plan develops.

If you have any interest in getting more involved in this or other projects, or if you would like to participate in a committee or as a board member or officer in the Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited please let us know, we can do so much more with your help!

Check out our facebook page for current postings and other information:
<https://www.facebook.com/wildnativetrout>

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:

- Oct. 1-9—trip to Kodiak. Contact Tom Lightfoot (575-521-4546) for info.
- Nov. 3-6—Club trip to San Juan

Chuck says there are still 9 unfilled positions for the San Juan trip. See details.

→

Welcome New Members

Robert & Jennifer Hutchison	El Paso, TX
Andrew Hutchison	El Paso, TX
Leland & Amy Taylor	El Paso, TX
Oscar & Christine Moreno	El Paso, TX
Bill Batt	Las Cruces, NM
Brooke Campbell	Las Cruces, NM

MVFF San Juan Trip

November 3rd thru 6th

Enchanted Hide Away can accommodate up to 21 Anglers.

Cost for 3 nights lodging is \$130.

Dinner each evening at the Stone House is included in the above prices. There will be cold cereal, milk, and juice for breakfast. You will have to provide Lunch and your own beverages.

Sandstone Anglers

- Full day guided float with lunch (2 anglers) \$175/angler plus tip
- Full day guided wade with lunch (3 anglers) \$120/angler plus tip
- Full day guided wade with lunch (2 anglers) \$155/angler plus tip

All pricing includes taxes.

Contact Chuck Mueller to book this trip at 575-647-4045 or email at mueller@mvff.org

For those members who would prefer to arrange their own accommodation can join the group for dinner each night at a cost of \$25 for all three nights.

Full payment for this trip is due no later than October 10th.



Halo Midge™ Emerger



- Hook:** TMC 100 or equivalent, #16 to #20
- Thread:** Ultra 8/0 black
- Rib:** small Ultra Halographic Tinsel, silver
- Thorax:** cream or white ostrich herl with peacock herl
- Wing case:** razor foam or craft foam, black

Designed by Mark Boname, a fisheries biologist and owner of Platte River Fly Shop in Casper, WY.



WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY

LADY ANGLERS RETURN TO GUNNISON VALLEY FOR FALL TRIP

By Mary Hoffman

Seven years ago, a small group of women in the club decided it would be fun to recruit more women members and create opportunities for women to improve their fly-fishing skills and fish with one another. Many classes, clinics and fishing trips later, the Lady Anglers, with support from the club, is a "going concern" with a core group of members who love to fish and new women joining the group every year. If you are, or know, a woman who is interested in learning to fly-fish, who wants to improve her skills, or who simply wants to find other women to fish with, contact Mary Hoffman (maryfranc@gmail.com) or Helen Zagona (hzagona@q.com) and we'll get you started.

In late September, for their annual fall trip, the Lady Anglers returned to Almont, Colorado, to fish the Gunnison, Taylor and East Rivers. The group included women from El Paso, Las Cruces, Hatch, Albuquerque and California. Our lodging was the "George Bailey" house at Three Rivers Resort in Almont and our guides were booked through Willowfly Anglers, the resort's fly shop. Many of the guides were "repeats," i.e., guides we had fished with on our previous trip to Almont. Willowfly is an Orvis-endorsed shop and the staff was courteous and helpful. The overall quality of the guides was very good.

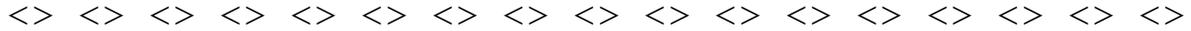
One of the great things about fishing in the Gunnison Valley is how much water there is to fish. There are spring creeks, freestone rivers, tail-waters, and reservoirs all within several hours drive of Almont and most of the water is public and easily accessible. On this trip, we fished the East, Taylor and Gunnison Riv-

ers. The East River is a freestone river that flows from Emerald Lake to Almont. The Taylor River flows from Colorado's Elk Mountains, through Taylor Park Reservoir to Almont where it joins with the East River to form the Gunnison River.

Most of us fished with guides for two days and fished the third day on our own. Some of us fished from drift boats or rafts on the Gunnison River and others walk-waded the rivers. On the East River, some of us fished on the private ERA Club waters above Almont and also the public "catch and release" salmon waters below the Roaring Judy Fish Hatchery. We caught rainbows and browns in all three rivers using a variety of nymphs and dry-dropper combinations - sometimes fishing with double dry fly rigs and sometimes with triple nymph rigs. Hoppers, Parachute Adams, Pheasant Tails, Red Prince Nymphs, Two Bit Hookers and Sparkle-Wing RS2s all drew fish. Our trip coincided with the fall Kokanee Salmon run from Blue Mesa Reservoir, up the Gunnison and East Rivers to the Roaring Judy Fish Hatchery. All salmon fishing on the rivers is "catch and release" and it was a blast to catch these large, fighting fish on small Two Bit Hookers and Sparkle-Wing RS2s.

This fall the Lady Anglers will firm up plans for next year's trips which will be announced at club meetings and in the newsletter. These will probably include our annual spring trip to fish the Rio Peñasco in New Mexico and, possibly, another trip to Almont to fish there in the fall.





MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 19, 2016

Submitted by John Kennedy, Secretary

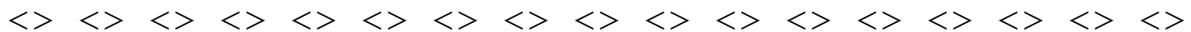
The MVFF Board meeting was called to order by President David Carmichael at 7:02pm in the NMDG&F Conference Room. Board members present were David Carmichael, Jim Sorenson, Gary Mann, John Kennedy, Dennis Lanpher and Chuck Mueller. Non-Board members in attendance were Ron Bellerose, Tom Wobbe and Jim Hulsey.

- 1. The minutes of the August 15, 2016 meeting were approved as published in the September 2016 issue of the newsletter.
2. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$13,078. The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved.
3. Tom Wobbe reported on the membership. The Club has 360 members, 6 new members joining this month. Tom will check the membership roster to delete those members who are not current on their dues. There are 4 lifetime members.
4. The Kids' Fishing Clinic date for 2017 has not been finalized. It will probably be in March. The Club will assist special ed. kids fishing in Las Cruces Nov. 10, 11 and 12th, 9am until noon.
5. Ron Bellerose reported on Project Healing Waters. There was a successful fund raiser at Sportsman's Warehouse, Las Cruces during the weekend of Sept. 17-18, raising almost \$400. On the last Wed. of Sept. there will be fly tying at the VA Clinic. There will be fly tying on the 1st & 3rd Wed. of Oct. at 133 Wyatt, Ste. 3, Las Cruces. Contact Ron for more info. Nov. 2 is the trip to the lease with the Wounded Warriors. Many vol-

- unteers will be needed. There will be another fundraiser Nov. 12th at Sportsman's Warehouse. Ron is looking for an administrative volunteer to report on PHW functions, involving about 2 hours per month. Please contact Ron if you can help.
6. On Oct. 13th there will be a planning meeting concerning Bonito Creek/Trout Unlimited. If interested meet at Rio Bonito south of Lincoln. For more information contact Jeff Arterburn.
7. There was a discussion about future speakers for upcoming general meetings, including showing selected DVD's of interest on various topics.
8. There was a brief discussion concerning the Annual Banquet & Raffle. David Carmichael is going to build an 8 1/2 foot 4 wt. Winston LS rod for the raffle. We are waiting for a specific date for the banquet from St. Paul's Methodist Church.
9. It was agreed that the Club will stock 500 fish at the lease. We will check Bill Parker's availability, but hopefully the stocking will be mid-Oct. There also needs to be more stream improvement work after the 1st of the year.
10. A new members' workshop was discussed. It will probably be in November or December.
11. The Club agreed not to have a booth at the Sportsman Show, most likely to be held in January.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, October 17, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.



Quick Look Contact Information

2016 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• Secretary:	John Kennedy (612) 720-3456
• Treasurer:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
Board Members	
• Position 1:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• Position 2:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• Position 3:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• Position 4:	Ray Rodriquez (575) 520-5768
• Position 5:	John Kennedy (612) 720-3456
• 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) 642-2946
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437	membership@mvff.org

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.

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 LICENSES 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.

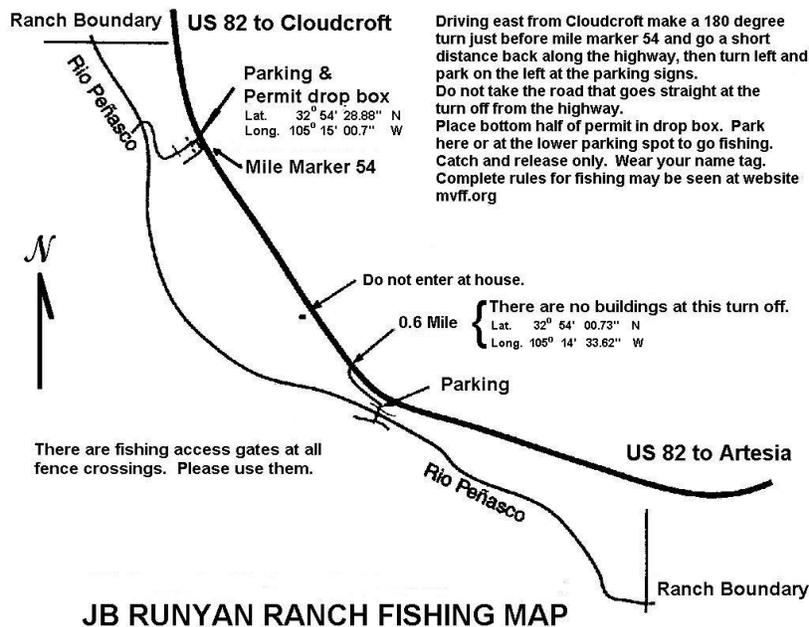
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.