

Tale Waters

September 2008



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

Website: www.MVFF.org

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newsletter. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies available for beginning tiers.



President's Corner

After missing last month's column because I was on vacation to the Northwest and Alaska, I had envisioned being able to write about all the fish I had caught. As it turned out the fishing was great and getting to see many old friends was even better, but the fish didn't always cooperate. Kay and I saw many new and exciting places on our first vacation together in decades that wasn't mainly to visit relatives or attend a meeting.

We visited family in Santa Fe and Colorado Springs to start our trip north. Our first fishing stop was on the Green River below Flaming Gorge Reservoir. We then drove to Sam and Greta Moore's cabin near Jackson Hole, Wyoming. After a tour of the Grand Teton National Park and a great dinner within yards of Fish Creek, Sam loaned me one of his rods that was rigged for the evening rises. Most of the fish I landed were mountain whitefish, but they fought well and were a new species for me to catch.

We next camped out on the Henry's Fork in Idaho where the evening trout fishing and mosquito swatting was memorable. We then met two friends, that were ushers at our wedding 39 years ago, at a cabin on the banks of Henry's Lake just west of West Yellowstone. The next day we canoed the Henry's Fork downstream from its source spring and got to see moose and ospreys in action. Before a great dinner I got to wet my line in Henry's Lake and watch how quickly the wind and waves can come up. After vowing to meet again on a river somewhere next summer, we drove on to Seattle for our trip to Juneau, Alaska the next morning.

Membership Meeting

Monday, 8 September

The monthly membership meeting will be held on 8 September at 7:00 PM at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. Plans will be discussed for the coming Club trips to Kodiak Island and the San Juan river.

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 15 September

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

Liars and Tyers

Thursday, 25 September

Liars and Tyers will meet Thursday 25 September at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at 7:00 PM. The group will be tying the *Rusty Rat*. Tying will be demonstrated by Joseph Lopez. A photograph and recipe is presented later in this

We got to see beautiful snow-covered mountains above the clouds on our flight, but rarely saw any blue sky or mountaintops while in the Juneau area. The unusually cool and wet July continued until the morning we flew to Anchorage a week later.

I hiked and fished two days on a river north of Juneau, but never landed a salmon as the runs were two weeks late because of the cool water temperatures. We cancel our 3-day kayak trip because bad weather and 50 degree water temperatures made it dangerous to take wives and children. Instead Kay and I took the marine ferry to Skagway and a day boat trip to the Tracy Arms fjord and its tidewater glaciers and icebergs. It was truly inspiring to get within 20 yards of calving glaciers, numerous waterfalls, and watch wildlife up close. One humpback whale breached within 100 yards of the tour boat and then waved its huge flipper at us before sounding. We met many interesting boatmates, including a lady that was a baby 40 years ago when we knew her parents in Oklahoma.

Bob DuBey, a former MVFF member who now works on the Yukon River, met us at the Anchorage airport and we spent two days at his home in Palmer. I did get to catch some silver salmon on a nearby river before driving up to Denali National Park for some sightseeing and a raft trip on the Nenana River. We got a brief glimpse of Mount McKinley's south slope on our drive back to Talkeetna. We spent a day in Anchorage and arranged to ship our salmon and halibut that Bob gave us home before flying to Seattle.

We then spent two days with Ron Smorynski, a founding member of MVFF, and his wife in Lacey, Washington and toured Mount Ranier National Park and other sights. We vowed to return to the Evergreen state before heading east up the Columbia River gorge.

At Bonneville Dam we watched king salmon and steelhead migrating up a fish ladder and saw a 10-foot white sturgeon at the hatchery. We got an introductory lesson in sturgeon fishing from a couple below the dam; I may put in for an out-of-state permit for sturgeon fishing the next time as the chance to land 6 to 10 foot sturgeon would be quite a thrill.

After spending a month on our extended vacation and covering many thousand miles by air and highway, we were happy to be back home. At least here the clouds are visible at a distance and the sky is not mostly gray. We decided that friends you make while fishing, and especially those in the MVFF, are among the best we know. I vow to concentrate on flyfishing on Kodiak Island later this month.

Remember if you're too busy to go fishing, you're TOO BUSY!

Project Healing Waters

Tom Wobbe

Project Healing Waters is fly fishing therapy for wounded vets. The success of this program has been receiving national recognition in newspapers, and magazines. The May 2008 edition of Fly Fisherman Magazine and the August, 2008 issues of Readers Digest both have articles about PHW. According to the Readers Digest article PHW is now helping vets in 19 hospitals nationwide.

MVFF is conducting our program in compliance with the national PHW guidelines and as a result may receive some additional support from the national headquarters of PHW. Sportsman's Warehouse has donated the fly tying materials and will give the soldier participants a discount on a fly fishing combo or personal fly tying vise.

Nine members of MVFF made the trip to Ft. Bliss on Thursday, August 14 to instruct fly tying and fly casting to a group of about 20 Army wounded warriors. Our group of MVFF Volunteers included Randall Vallee, Paul Turner, Jim Hulsey, Richard Keding, George Thomas, Blaine Goss, Dick Newton, Ray Rodriguez and Tom Wobbe.

All of the group felt that the session was both enjoyable, self satisfying to themselves and beneficial to the group of 20 soldiers, so much so, that all would be ready for the next month's session.

Our next session will involve meeting the soldiers at Ascarate Lake in El Paso for actual fly casting into the water. The September session is scheduled for Thursday, September 11th. The reason for Thursdays is that this is the group's outside activity day, while the other days are spent in physical therapy sessions,

group therapy sessions and other activities involved with their rehabilitation program.

Once again we can use additional volunteers to assist with this worthwhile program. I can assure you that you will receive a personal reward for helping this group of wounded warriors. See www.projecthealingwaters.org for additional information.

If you have any unused fly rods, fly reels, fly lines, etc that you would like to donate to be used with this program or to volunteer to help out, please contact **Randall Vallee** at 575-642-0212 or 575-373-9470 or **Tom Wobbe** at 575-649-0388 or 575-522-5437.

Annual Club Picnic

Sunday 14 September

The Club will have their annual picnic on 14 September 2008 at Preciado Park on the NMSU campus. This is the same place as last year. If you are not sure how to get there, directions are at the end of this article and there is a map posted on the web page and also on page 5.

The Club will supply hamburgers and hotdogs along with plates, flatware, condiments, etc. You should bring a covered dish or dessert along with any other snacks you might like. You should also bring a lawn chair.

The picnic will start at 1pm and go to 4pm, but preparations will begin about 11:30am. If you want to come out early and help set things up it will be appreciated. We have reserved the covered area so will be protected in case of rain. Cooking preps must be completed so cooking can begin at 1pm or shortly after.

Come on out. We always have a great time.

Directions:

From I-25: Exit at University Ave. and turn west at the end of the freeway ramp. At Espina St. (the fifth traffic light) turn left. At Stewart Ave. (the third stop sign) turn left. At Sweet St. turn right. At Gregg Ave. turn left. Preciado Park will be on your left.

From I-10: Exit at University Ave. and turn east onto University Ave. At Espina St. (the first traffic light) turn right. At Stewart Ave. (the third stop sign) turn left. At Sweet St. turn right. At Gregg Ave. turn left. Preciado Park will be on your left.

There is a map showing the location of Preciado Park at NMSU on page 5 of this newsletter.

Club Outings Planned

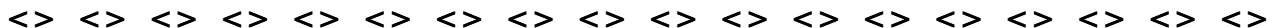
The annual trip to the San Juan is planned for 17-19 October. Details such as guides are yet to be determined.

A group of Club members will be leaving for Kodiak Island later this month.

The board is now discussing possible outings for 2008 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, who has volunteered to chair the "Outings" committee.

Welcome New Members

Sandra Aguilar	Santa Fe, NM
A.F. Ayoub	El Paso, TX
Ameen Ayoub	El Paso, TX
John Bielawski	El Paso, TX
Gary & Hermione Elam	Odessa, TX
Ray & Cecilia Neal	El Paso, TX
David & Donna Wright	El Paso, TX



Kodiak Quarterly

3rd Edition

Wow how time flies. This is the third article in a series about the trip to Kodiak, Alaska that I should have had ready last month. But, in between the events of life, hotel and car and airline reservations have been made. Ten MVFF fly fishers are going this

year and we leave in about a month. We have met a couple of times to discuss the logistics of the trip and go over what to take. Now that the reservations are made, now comes the planning of what to take and what leave at home. With airline policies of charging

for excess weight, it a good idea not to take more than you need.



Al Trompler and a big buck coho from the Olds River in 2004

Periodically through the summer I have been checking the Alaska Game and Fish website to see what's happening on Kodiak. Mother nature seems to be fickle this year. There has been ample rainfall since July. They are 12 inches ahead of the average for the year. But, it seems the runs of king, sockeye and pink

salmon have been late this year. Some rivers on Kodiak have had very good runs and others have been poor. None of this is a predictor of how the silver salmon run will be. I know from previous trips that the silvers like the additional rainfall that usually comes in September to make their run into the rivers.

Pink salmon are entering road system streams right now and the return is expected to peak in mid-August. Pink salmon fishing in the lower Buskin River has been reported as good and the weir count as of August 13 was 23,000 pink salmon. Last year was a huge year for Pinks with over 200,000 fish entering the Buskin River. Since they peak every other year, we might not see as many spawned out fish. On Kodiak, you witness the cycle of life. We see salmon that were born in the river come back from the ocean after a couple of years to spawn. They will spawn and die recycling their remains into the river as nutrients for the next generation and so it goes. They seem to run in large numbers every other year. This year the silver salmon are just starting to show up in road system streams. The weir count in the Buskin River on August 13 was 85 coho. The coho return peaks in mid-September and weir counts in the Buskin have been averaging more than 10,000 fish.

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Rusty Rat

The center of attention for the Liars and Tyers this month will be the *Rusty Rat*.

The Rusty Rat is a pattern that has been around for close to a hundred years and was developed as a fly for Atlantic salmon but is also effective for steelhead. The pattern as shown here is a traditional pattern, but it has been tied in many variations.



The Rusty Rat Hairwing originated in 1911 and was tied by Roy Angus Thompson, thus the name RAT

This version of the fly is presented with detailed tying instructions at

<http://www.flytyingforum.com/index.php?showtopic=4702>.

Hook: Mustad 36890 #2

Thread: Red 6/0

Tag: Flat gold tinsel

Tail: Peacock swords

Abdomen: Gold floss with oval gold tinsel ribbing

Thorax: Peacock herl

Underwing: Gold floss

Overwing: Gray fox, also badger or squirrel

Hackle: Grizzly

Head: Red tying thread

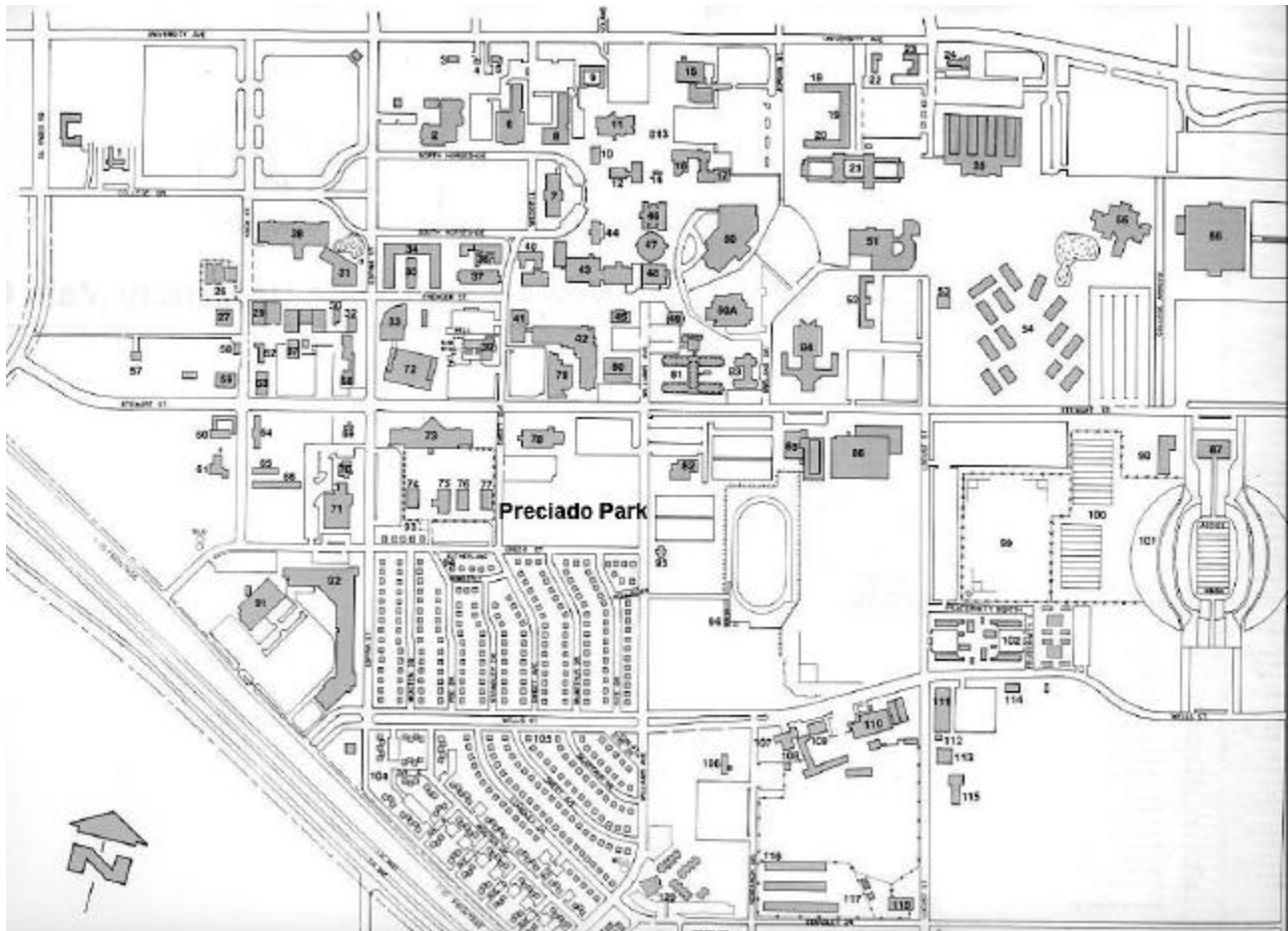
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MVFF Monthly Events Calendar

Month	Events	Trips	General Club Meeting Topic/Speaker	Clinics or Lease Projects
Sept.	Liars & Tyers 25 Sept. <i>Rusty Rat</i>		8 Sept. - Planning for coming club trips.	11 Sep. - Proj. Healing Waters Casting at Ascarate Lake, EP 14 Sept. - Annual Club picnic 27 Sept. - Hunting & Fishing Day
Oct.	Liars & Tyers 30 Oct. <i>Deceiver</i>	San Juan - 17-19 Oct.	20 Oct.	
Nov.	Liars & Tyers 24 Nov. <i>Bass Popper</i>		10 Nov. - Helen Zagona to speak on Flyfishing Retreat for Women in Creede, CO	

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Map of NMSU Showing Preciado Park



MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 25, 2008

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order at 7:00pm in the NMDG&F conference room by Jeff Arterburn presiding in the absence of Paul Turner.

In attendance: Jeff Arterburn, Tom Wobbe, Bob Silver, Richard Keding, Gary Mann, Blaine Goss, Jim Hulsey, Randall and Vicki Vallee, George Sanders and Donna Mabie. Absent: Paul Turner.

- 1. Minutes of the July Board Meeting were approved as published in the August newsletter.
- 2. The Treasurer's report presented by Gary Mann was approved. The Board approved \$73 from Club funds to be added to the \$427 interest accrued in the Norman Mabie Scholarship fund for the next scholarship award. However, Gary will verify if the \$427 interest is current.
- 3. Tom Wobbe reported that in 2007 there were 67 new members; 43 were from Las Cruces, 12 from El Paso, TX and the rest were from out of the area. So far this year, there are 40 new members; 10 of which are from Las Cruces, 17 from El Paso, and 13 from out of the area. He is in the process of deleting unpaid memberships.
- 4. Nine volunteers helped in the Healing Waters Project on 14 August. It went very well. There were some new Healing Waters participants and some former ones withdrew. Again they tied very simple flies like wooly worms. The fly casting class for the participants also went well. On September 11th the Club will conduct more fly casting lessons for them at Ascarate Park. The Healing Waters participants will come by van and meet them there. While half the class is learning fly casting, the other half will be learning knot tying. Randall Vallee said that he was told the volunteers could order Orvis clothing at 50% off

and equipment at 40% off. There is a small charge for any embroidery on the clothing. Randall is expecting more information about the availability of additional funds for equipment. Ten more rods are needed plus the reels, backing, fly lines, leaders, etc. Perhaps some Club members could donate or lend unwanted items. At some unknown date on a Thursday in October, Club volunteers will meet the students at the Rio Peñasco for fishing. Randall Vallee will ask the NM Game and Fish Dept. for clarification on the licensing requirements for the Healing Water students.

- 5. The picnic is still scheduled for Sept. 13. Bob Silver will reserve the park. A map and directions to the park will be included in the September newsletter. More details will be given at the Sept. 8th general membership meeting with Paul Turner presiding. He will also coordinate demonstrations in preparation for the Kodiak fishing trip and the October San Juan fishing trip.
- 6. Paul Turner will confirm with Bill Mayes that the MVFF Club will not be participating in the *Women in the Outdoors* sports project.
- 7. Anglers fishing the Rio Peñasco Club waters are reminded to report on their fishing experience, and if possible describe the size , catch ratio, etc.
- 8. Clarification regarding a potential Saturday flyfishing clinic will be made with Sportsman's Warehouse.
- 9. Tom Wobbe will send letters soliciting donations for the January banquet raffle.
- 10. The new signs have been printed and will soon be posted on the lease.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Fishing Reports

Fishing on the Rio Peñasco has been reported as fantastic. Everyone that has gone has done very well with many catching 20 or more fish. Most have done very well using terrestrials such as grasshopper

patterns. Yellow patterns have been especially effective. Yellow Stimulators and elk-hair caddis should also do very well.

Quick Look Contact Information

2008 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President	Paul Turner (575) 523-6880
• V-Pres.	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• Secretary	Donna Mabie (575) 522-3810
• Treasurer	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
Board Members	
• Position 1	Blaine Goss (575) 522-1981
• Position 2	Randall Vallee (575) 373-9470
• Position 3	Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437
• Position 4	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• Position 5	George Sanders (575) 527-5536
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund	
Principle Account	\$10,930
Operating Account	427
Total	\$11,357

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.

Angler's Nook

Donna's Shop is open as usual. Please contact her at (575) 522-3810 for your fishing and tying supplies. She also has membership information and fishing permits.

Club members receive a 33% discount on most items at the Angler's Nook.

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.



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.

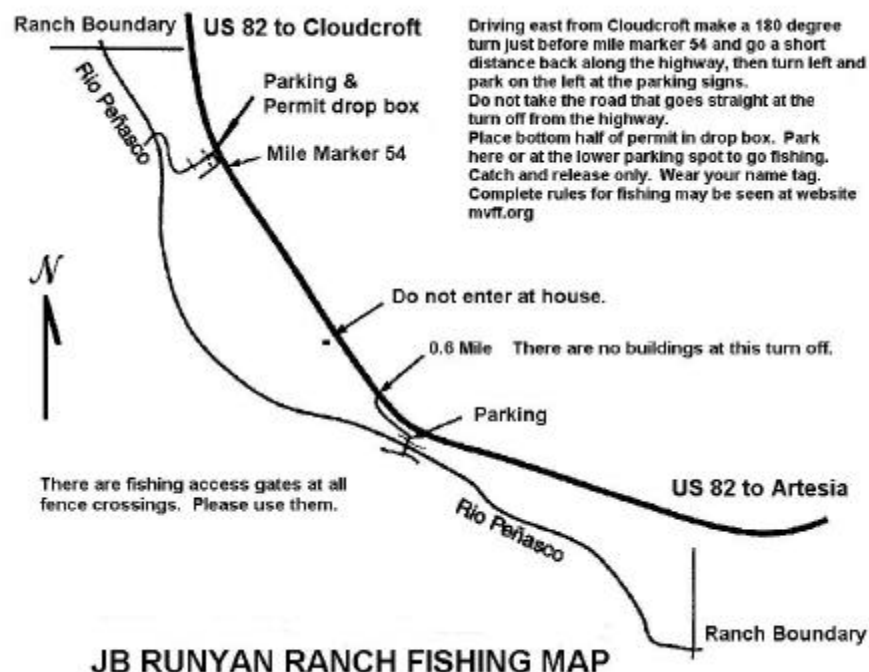
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.