



# TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

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2018



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Tale Waters Edited by Jim Hulsey — [newsletter@mvff.org](mailto:newsletter@mvff.org)

## Membership Meeting

Monday, 10 September

The MVFF general membership meeting will meet on Monday 10 September at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. The program will feature a presentation by Dillon Martinez: "A Fishy Summer with Wolf Creek Anglers." Please join us for an interesting and informative presentation!

Doors will open at 6:30pm and cookies and coffee will be served.

## Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 17 September

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

## Liars and Tyers

Wednesday, 26 September

Liars and Tyers will meet on Wednesday 26 September at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at 7:00pm. The fly to be tied is the *Copper John Jig Fly*. The tying session will be led by professional tyer, Tim Mack. Don't miss out. Extra

vises and supplies will be available for beginning tyers.

## President's Corner

David Carmichael



Greetings everyone, and welcome back from summer. I hope you all had the opportunity to get out and enjoy fishing in the expansive public lands that make up such an important part of our lives here in the western U.S. In July and August, Miriam and I had the opportunity to visit four of our National Parks: Bryce Canyon, Olympic, Mount Rainier, and Yellowstone. I never cease to be amazed by the awesome spectacles of nature's beauty and grandeur that are preserved for our use and enjoyment in our parks, monuments, national forests and other open lands throughout the west. What a marvelous gift we have been given by our forebears. Now more than ever, we should experience and support these places or risk losing them to the forces of development. If you are interested in reading about our fishing experiences this summer, they are discussed briefly in the July and August newsletters.

For information on a beautiful and productive fishery in northern New Mexico, please check out the fishing report by club member Lisa Meyer on the conditions at the Rio Costilla Park elsewhere in this newsletter. The Rio Peñasco is the setting for a nice story about the Lady Anglers that was just published in the Fall 2018 issue of El Paso Inc. Magazine. See Mary Hoffman's column below for more information about that article. Also in regards to the Peñasco, Bob Silver recently reported that the gauging station downstream from the club lease showed some abrupt increases in streamflow. On September 3<sup>rd</sup> flows of 1,500 cfs were measured at Hope, and the following day a 600 cfs event was recorded. After checking with Charlie Mulcock, I heard today (9/5) that the river experienced some moderately high flows, but the water lev-

el is back to normal and the river is clearing up nicely. It should be fishable in another day or two.

### Upcoming Club Events

We have a variety of activities and events lined up for the next few months, and I hope you will be able to participate in many of them. Please join us for our first fall meeting of the general membership on September 10. Our speaker will be club board member Dillon Martinez whose presentation, "A Fishy Summer with Wolf Creek Anglers" will detail his experiences as a new fishing guide this past summer. We have confirmed January 26, 2019 as the date for our Annual Banquet. Fly fishing casting champion, fishing guide and author Molly Semenic will be our guest speaker for the event. Molly will be offering fly casting classes as part of her visit, and more details about how to sign up will be forthcoming as the arrangements are worked out in the coming month. I have also received a tentative commitment from fishing guide Emily Roley of the Taos Fly Shop to speak at the February 2019 club meeting. That means we still have openings for speakers/programs for the October, November and December club meetings. If you have suggestions about who or what you'd like to hear about in those months, please contact me or another board member and we'll see what we can do to make it happen.

Our second annual presentation of the Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) event is scheduled for November 11 at Ardovino's Desert Crossing in Sunland Park, NM. You'll be hearing more details as we get corporate sponsors on board, but the format and pricing will be the same as last year (a Sunday afternoon, lunch and films for \$35). The main difference will be that ticket sales will be handled either through the MVFF PayPal account or in person, rather than using a third party vendor. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information about this fun event!

### Conservation News

In the "use it or lose it" category, we have another opportunity to comment on the revised Gila National Forest Plan Revision. I received notification from Matt

Schultz that a community meeting will be hosted by the USFS in Las Cruces on Friday, September 28, from 2-4:30pm at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum. The meetings held by the Forest Plan Revision Team represent one of the primary ways we can become informed about and influence the management



*Breakers and sea mounts, Quateata Point, Olympic National Park*

of public lands in the Gila. Club members and other stakeholders can visit the Gila National Forest website explaining the Forest Plan revision process at <http://go.usa.gov/h88k>. The website also contains a link to the revised Preliminary Draft Plan, and it also provides instructions for how to submit digital comments on the draft plan. If you have any concerns

or suggestions about how the fisheries or other environmental assets of the forest are to be managed for the next decade, I invite and encourage you to make your feelings known through the website, or at the community meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

The weekly flood of headlines and distractions pouring out of Washington, D.C. can seem overwhelming at times. Nevertheless, it is often worthwhile to pay attention to machinations and changes that are going on behind the scenes that may have very real effects on the natural environment and the management of our fisheries. Here are just a few of the developments that happened over the summer:

- Only a few weeks remain before New Mexico water projects funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115-congress/house-bill/502>) will end if Congress doesn't renew the LWCF by the end of the month. The LWCF is not paid for by taxpayers, but by a small portion of federal offshore energy revenues. Originally enacted in 1964 with a mandate to "preserve, create, and ensure access to outdoor recreation facilities...", all 33 counties in New Mexico have benefited from projects paid for by this fund, including the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River program. Consider contacting your representatives in Washington and expressing your support for this fund.

- In June, after a stellar 42 year career with the National Park Service, Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk was forced out of his job only months from his retirement. The highly regarded public servant was forced out because of his outspoken support for conservation (*Mountain Journal*, June 7, 2018). That is, he was punished for doing his job. The National Park Service is one of only a few federal agencies whose primary mission is conservation: “The NPS preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations” ([www.nps.gov/aboutus/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/index.htm)).



Quileute fishing fleet, Quillayute River, Olympic Peninsula, Washington

- Documents obtained in July via Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests reveal that when Interior Secretary Zinke set out to reduce the size of several national monuments, senior Interior Department officials purposely dismissed and omitted from their analyses any evidence that shows how these public lands contribute to tourism, contribute to the economy and promote archaeological discoveries. The evaluation process was skewed to favor potential exploitation by the extractive industries (*The Washington Post*, 7/29/18). See also the MVFF July 2018 newsletter for my discussion of the large economic contribution of parks and monuments in southern Utah compared to the modest contribution of strip mining jobs.
- Also in July, Secretary Zinke ordered the National Park Service to rescind Director’s Order #100. Order #100 is an Obama-era directive requiring that established science and the precautionary principle be used in management decisions, in order to preserve NPS assets and prevent actions that could threaten park resources. Emails obtained by the Union of Concerned Scientists via an FOIA request show that Zinke intends to change National Park priorities to allow for more private commercial development in parks and non-conservation uses of public lands, such as hunt-

ing mother bears and cubs in their dens. The emails also specify that no press releases are to be made to announce the policy changes, so that the press cannot draw them to the attention of the public (Elizabeth Shogren, for *New Mexico Political Report*, July 27, 2018).

- In June, the Trump administration made the first public moves to gut the National Environmental Policy Act. The Act was passed by the Nixon administration and ever since it has been central to conservation efforts in the U.S. NEPA is the law that requires environmental assessments be made in advance of major federal undertakings that might damage the environment. It is also the primary vehicle through which the public can learn about and comment on proposed government actions, such as the Gila National Forest Plan Revision mentioned above.

Trump has directed his Council on Environmental Quality to change the NEPA regulations by ending meaningful environmental assessments and curtailing the public’s opportunities to evaluate and provide input to government decision making (Center for Biological Diversity, 6/20/18).

- Finally, the Pebble Mine proposal to dig a massive mining pit in the Bristol Bay fishery headwaters is alive again. Late last spring, the proposed mine lost the backing of First Quantum, its largest investor. As a result, Native American groups such as the Yupiak and the Curyung Tribe asked Alaska Governor Bill Walker to pull the plug on the project because without sufficient financing, the mine will not be able to meet the state’s stringent environmental protection standards. Walker has stated his opposition to the mine. However, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proceeding with another environmental review of the Pebble Mine permit proposal (the first one was rejected several years ago.) On August 31, the Army Corps released their 37 page final scoping report that continues to advance the permit process for a mine that the vast majority of Alaskans and other

stakeholders simply do not want (Trout Unlimited, <http://www.savebristolbay.org/in-the-news/2018/8/31/for-immediate-release>). The report is considered to be inadequate by those who know and care about fisheries, biology and the environment.

There seems to be a pattern emerging here, about which anglers and other outdoors enthusiasts should be concerned. "Don't it always seem to go, that we don't know what we've got 'til it's gone..."



Miriam netting a trout on the upper Gallatin River, Gallatin National Forest, MT



Ron Bellerose  
PHWFF Coordinator



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing will terminate at the end of September unless someone takes over as Program Lead.


We have local fly tying on Tuesday September 11<sup>th</sup> and again on Wednesday September 19<sup>th</sup>.

We will be working with the Wounded Warrior Transition Battalion, Ft Bliss with fly tying on September 27<sup>th</sup> and fishing at Grindstone Lake on September 28<sup>th</sup>. This will not be under the auspices of PHWFF but one that is solely a MVFF event performed to help the soldiers. I hope that we can get enough volunteers to work with the soldiers.

All of the PHW fly rods, vises and other donated materials will be returned in October. The MVFF club has

8 vises that will still be available for fly tying with the club events. We have had a great success with the Vets and a big thank you goes to the club volunteers that made it a success.

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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. 

## Lady Anglers Update

Mary Hoffman



The Lady Anglers is a group of women MVFF members who love to fly fish and have fun doing it. While individual members of the group fish together on an informal basis throughout the year, we also take planned, multi-day group trips to fishing destinations in New Mexico and Colorado several times a year.

Unfortunately, due to record drought and high temperatures, we've had to cancel our next group trip planned for the upper Rio Grande area in Colorado in September. There simply isn't enough water in the upper Rio Grande River and its drainage to fish in a meaningful way. Water flows are at the lowest levels ever recorded and guides there are only taking fly-fishers out for short wade trips in the mornings to avoid further stressing the fish struggling in the low and unusually warm water. We will monitor conditions on the upper Rio Grande throughout the winter and spring since we hope to plan another trip to the area in the future, perhaps as soon as next year.

If you have fished in the west this year, you will have seen, close up and personally, the dramatic changes that warming temperatures are having on the natural world. In New Mexico and Colorado - where most of us like to fish - drought, wildfire and extreme weather have decimated forests and watersheds and threatened or destroyed the habitat and lives of the fish we value. Whatever our politics, if we care about the natural world and appreciate what it has to offer, it behooves us to learn more about the science of climate change and what we, as individuals and in groups working together, can do to try to reverse the damage that is being done to the earth which is our home.



Information on Lady Angler events and fishing trips is made available to all women on our e-mail list and through announcements in the Club newsletter and at monthly Club meetings. Beginners are welcome and the only requirement for joining us is MVFF membership. To add your name to the e-mail list, or for more information, contact Mary Hoffman at 505-710-5229. [↑](#)

**LADY ANGLERS MAKE THE NEWS**

The September issue of *El Paso Inc.* includes an article and photos featuring MVFF's Lady Anglers. The reporting was done during this year's annual spring trip to fish the Rio Peñasco on the MVFF lease and the Mulcock Ranch. Copies of *El Paso Inc.* are available by subscription and at Sprouts and Whole Foods stores in the El Paso area. Many thanks to Frances Curtis for being the point person with the newspaper.

[↑](#)

**Reel and Rod/Reel Combo Raffle**

**Norm and Donna Mabie Memorial Scholarship**

The Mesilla Valley Flyfishers was founded in April of 1987 and incorporated in 1991. One of the primary founders was Norm Mabie, who with a group of others, put all the pieces together and served as the club's first president. Unfortunately, Norm passed away in 2004. The Club established an endowed scholarship at New Mexico State University in Norm's name. Norm's wife, Donna passed away in 2017 and the Club recently added her name to the scholarship. Please click on this link about Norm and the scholarship

[www.zianet.com/mvff/scholarship/scholarship.html](http://www.zianet.com/mvff/scholarship/scholarship.html).

The Mabie family recently put the family home up for sale. David Mabie, one of the Mabie sons, gave the Club four reels and several rods that belonged to the family. The Board decided to raffle three reels and a rod/reel combo in a raffle like the one that was held for the Mabie Legacy Rod. All of the proceeds will be added to the Scholarship Fund. The reels have been used by Norm, but they are in like new condition. The rod is like new also and one of the most beautiful rods that I have seen made by Norm. The reels are: a Ross San Miguel #1 reel, a Ross San Miguel #2 reel and a Ross Gunnison #1 reel. The rod/reel combo is a custom 9-ft 5-weight Fisher rod and a Ross Gunnison #2 reel. We will have pictures of these items on the MVFF website.

Like the last raffle, I am reaching out to our out-of-town members to have an equal opportunity to participate in these raffles. There is a separate raffle board for each reel and for the rod/reel combo like the one below. Each board has 100 squares and each square is \$10. You can buy as many squares as you want. You can pick your own squares, or we can pick squares for you. Your name will go in each square that you buy.

SAN MIGUEL #1 REEL \$10/SQUARE										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

The winner of each item will be picked when all of the squares of that board are sold. We hope that we can pick all of the winners at the Fly Fishing Film Tour at Ardivino's Desert Crossing in Sunland Park, NM on November 11<sup>th</sup>. You can donate online via the MVFF PayPal website or mail a check of \$10 for each square to Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc., P.O. Box 2222, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004-2222. [Tell us which](#)

squares you want and give us a telephone number to contact you. YOU DON'T NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN. [↑](#)

## Rio Costilla Park Fishing Trip

Lisa Meyer

Greetings fellow anglers! Rick Wessel and I wanted to share with you our amazing experience camping and fishing at Rio Costilla Park in northern New Mexico. The 10,000 acre park sits at 7,827 feet in elevation and rises to 11,893 feet at Latir Lakes. It is stunning with rocky hillsides, wide-open mountain meadows bordered by spruce, fir and pines, and about six miles of the Rio Costilla meanders through it. The stream is a medium sized tailwater that springs from the bottom of Costilla Reservoir at about 9,400 feet in elevation.



*Rio Costilla looking east from camp.*

We began each day marveling at the magical smoke-like effect of fog evaporating off the tree tops as the sun rose. After coffee and a snack we would head out fishing our way upstream in the quality waters from our camp. Each afternoon the thunderheads would build and with that we would fish our way back to camp just in time to take cover from the monsoon

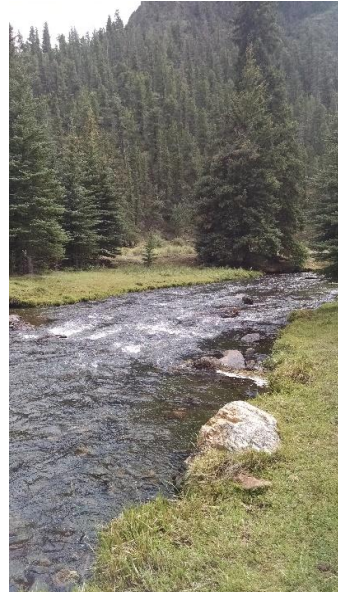
rains. When storms broke, we were back to fishing right from our campsite along the stream.

The stream is about 15 feet wide (more or less), and is shallow in places making crossing a breeze, but there are plenty of deep pockets and pools throughout. The clear water was teeming with small rainbows, browns, and cutthroats, and I'm thrilled to say that I caught all three species!

There's plenty of open space for easy snag-free casting, but timbered areas can claim a hopper if you're not careful. Hoppers and terrestrials (size 12-16)

were the fly patterns of choice. Hoppers of natural tones and bright colors all worked well. We alternated between using single hopper and hopper-dropper (small nymph) setups, and takes were hard; especially from the cutthroat!

The park is owned and operated by the Rio Costilla



*Rio Costilla looking southwest from camp.*

Cooperative Livestock Association (RCCLA) and is located about 19 miles east of the town of Costilla. The park abuts the Carson National Forest and the same road (Hwy 196) that runs through the park will take you to the Valle Vidal unit of the forest. The winding narrow road leading to the park is paved for the first 15 miles. At that point, it becomes dirt and is corrugated, but it is

well worth the trip. The RCCLA does not take reservations. Permits for camping and fishing in the park are available at a self-check in station at the park's visitor's center. Seasonal passes (May 1<sup>st</sup> through Labor Day weekend) can be obtained at the RCCLA office in the town of Costilla. If you are interested, check out the park's website at [www.riocostillapark.com](http://www.riocostillapark.com). We are definitely getting a season pass for next year!

[↑](#)

## Fall MVFF San Juan Trip

3 Nights, November 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>

This trip is fully subscribed. Those members going should have their money in by 4 October.

[↑](#)

## 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.

Current trips planned are:







**Quick Look Contact Information**

2018 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>	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
<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>	Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880
• <b>Position 5:</b>	Robert Ardovino (575) 589-0653
• <b>Position 6:</b>	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• <b>Position 7:</b>	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• <b>Position 8:</b>	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• <b>Position 9:</b>	Dillen Martinez (505) 401-3640
<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>	
• Bob Silver (575) 522-6325	<a href="mailto:membership@mvff.org">membership@mvff.org</a>
<b>NMSU AF Student Representative</b>	
• Dillen Martinez ()	

**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.

**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.



**\*\*\*\*\* 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, to purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco and to participate in other Club activities such as an 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.

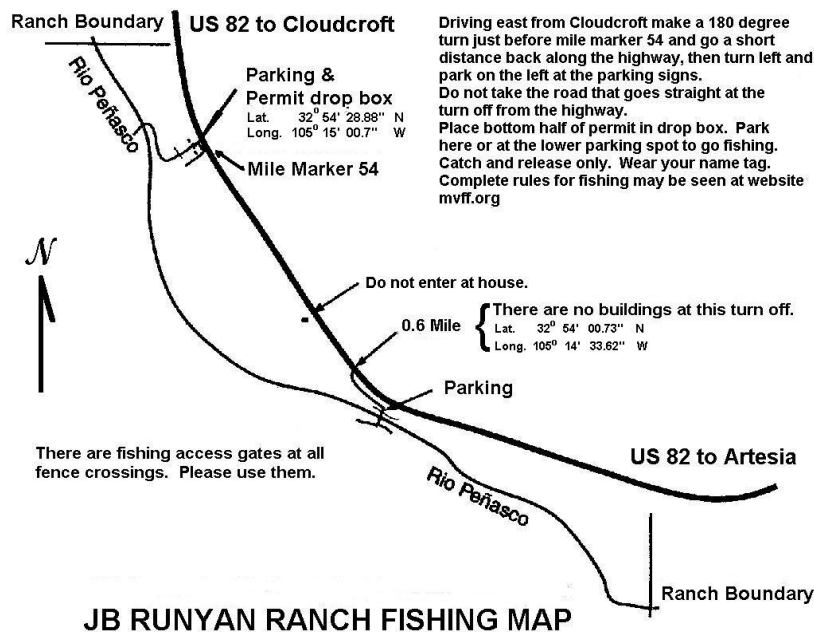
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

### Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-524-1880) or Bob Silver (575-522-6325) 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.