



# TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

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

## Meetings

Editor:—Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Club held no meetings in July and since we don't meet in August I'll see you in September (hopefully).

## President's Corner

David Carmichael



I hope you've been staying healthy, staying safe, and enjoying our early monsoon thunderstorms. The wildflowers and spadefoot toads have been responsive, making our walks and bike rides even more scenic and enjoyable. In between

exercising and making preparations for a return to hybrid on-campus classes later this month, I've been passing the time reading the *Sagas of the Icelanders*, watching fishing videos and building a new fly rod. The rod is a Burkheimer 9 ft. 6 wt that I intend to use for my FFI casting instructor certification exams, per-



haps next year. The accompanying photo shows the handle construction, juniper burl reel seat insert, and

the butt section wraps, before the application of the first coat of epoxy.

Building your own rod is a fun way to stay engaged with fly angling when one can't get out on the water, and it is a good way to acquire a higher quality, high performance rod without incurring the expense of buying one at retail prices. It's pretty easy to get started with rod building, and Bob Widgren can set you up with a kit from his online shop, Custom Fly Rod Crafters ([www.flyrodcrafters.com](http://www.flyrodcrafters.com)). If you want more options, retailers like Mudhole rod building supplies ([www.mudhole.com](http://www.mudhole.com)) and the Angler's Workshop ([www.anglersworkshop.com](http://www.anglersworkshop.com)) sell the full range of supplies, components and instructional videos necessary to help you build exactly what you want. However, if your efforts at home craft projects look more like this Seppo cartoon, you can contact me about building a custom rod for you, after I'm finished with the Burkheimer of course.



## Environmental News

As I mentioned last month, New Mexico senators Udall and Heinrich have introduced legislation that if passed will designate parts of the Gila River drainage as Wild and Scenic. The latest (Summer 2020) issue of New Mexico Wild has several articles about the Gila and the efforts to get it listed. Other articles include a discussion of New Mexico stream access issues, and an update on the threats posed to the Pecos River by the proposed Tererro Mine. You can download the

newsletter from this link: <https://www.nmwild.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/NMWILD-newsletter-Summer-2020-WEB.pdf> .

There is also an interesting piece on the proposal to conduct USAF combat training flights over the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness areas, as well as parts of the Organ Peaks–Desert Peaks National Monument. The proposal actually makes no sense to me, given that training activities involve low altitude, noisy flights, and dropping flares on dry forests. Moreover, the Air Force admits they don't even need those training areas. One of the courses I'll be teaching this fall is an upper division seminar on cultural and environmental preservation law and policy, and one of the units in that course involves a consideration of monuments. So, I've been thinking about monuments lately, especially in the context of the controversies some of them have stirred this summer. As an angler and outdoor enthusiast, I appreciate wilderness and national monuments for the protection they provide to sensitive and beautiful parts of the landscape. Some even provide excellent fishing opportunities. But as an academic working in the field of cultural and heritage resources management, I know monuments involve more than preserving a spot on a map.

Monuments say a lot about how we see ourselves as peoples, cultures, and stewards of knowledge. They often reveal unexamined cultural priorities. So, what does it say when we memorialize Juan de Onate, who slaughtered 800 Native Americans from the village of Acoma, enslaved the survivors, and cut off one foot of 24 young men as a warning to other pueblos? His superiors in New Spain tried him for his crimes, stripped him of his titles, and exiled him. Now, admittedly, I'm from the Midwest; I'm a newcomer who's only lived in the region for 30 years. But it's fair to ask, what are we as a society intending to memorialize? Similarly, what is the reason for designating large parts of the landscape as National Monuments, National Parks, or Wilderness Areas? National forests were often designated to manage timber resources, but Wilderness Areas and National Monuments are explicitly intended to preserve extraordinary natural values. Those values include solitude, dark skies, clean water, wild fauna and flora, and ecosystems that are little impacted by humans. What is the point of designating a wilderness area or national monument if military training (or oil and gas

development, or mining, etc.) activities are allowed to occur there? Doesn't that undermine the whole purpose of the designation? Or are we really memorializing something else, such as exploitation of our public lands for short-term economic gain?

While most of us have been focused on the COVID-19 pandemic, and how to safely go about daily tasks such as shopping for groceries, walking the dog, etc., the current administration in Washington, D.C., has been working relentlessly to roll back, revise, replace, or otherwise eradicate many of the regulations that have been promulgated over the past 50 years to protect our environment and public lands. From the perspective of anglers and outdoor enthusiasts, perhaps the most damaging revisions are the Waters of the United State rule, the Endangered Species Act rules, EPA regulations, NEPA rules, air quality regulations, and the removal of the requirement for Scientific Transparency in decision-making. A complete list of the roll backs is here <https://eelp.law.harvard.edu/regulatory-rollback-tracker/>.

The Army Corps of Engineers recently completed the final EIS for the proposed Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay headwaters. As a result, it seems likelier than not that the mine proponents may receive a permit in the next month or so, despite the majority view that the mine will have disastrous results for the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fishery. There are several sorts of legal actions that will be in play to try to prevent development at the mining site. One involves the FY2021 Energy and Water Development Funding Bill, which was just passed with amendment #50 added by Rep. Jared Huffman from northern California. The amendment would prohibit the Army Corps from using funds to issue a Record of Decision which is the term for the official end of the NEPA review process.

It has also been reported that Morgan Stanley has rescinded its financial support for the struggling Northern Dynasty company which is now the sole owner of the proposed Pebble Mine. The National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has granted the MVFF permission to republish a recent article about this important development, and I invite you to read the details elsewhere in this newsletter. Both the halt on the Record of Decision, and Morgan Stanley's decision are good news, if you're rooting for the salm-

on. But, the fight to save the Bristol Bay fishery is not over. The TRCP has posted an article about the next likely steps in case you'd like to become or stay involved. <https://www.trcp.org/2020/07/31/pebble-mine-risky-then-risky-now/?emci=62ce764b-3cd3-aa11-9b05-00155d03bda0&emdi=914c06c0-6ed3-aa11-9b05-00155d03bda0&ceid=1722130>.

### Diversions, the Good Kind

Here are links to a couple of presentations you might find interesting. The first is a short video about Native American guides on the Salmon River, and their efforts to teach young community members about the spiritual nature of being on the water. <https://www.outsideonline.com/2415218/middle-fork-salmon-river-guides-video>.

The second, situated closer to home, is a National Geographic Society article and photo gallery illustrating some of the beauty and challenges in the Rio Grande watershed past which many of us travel with some regularity. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/weather/road-trip-along-the-rio-grande-a-wild-and-troubled-landscape/ar-BB16POP4>

Now, here's one I didn't see coming. Ben Miller is a retired teacher and trained artist in Bozeman, MT, who creates paintings using a fly rod. One could say he is a *plein-air* painter who combines contemporary impressionism with fly fishing, while recording a memory of a river instead of catching fish from it. He uses home-made fly "brushes" of various sizes and shapes, some of which look like a large mopfly. He coats the fly brushes in acrylic paint, then casts them against large pieces of plexiglass to invoke the appearance of the water and rocks. A single painting



Ben Miller with one of his creations, painted with a fly rod and fly "brushes" ([www.flycastpainting.com](http://www.flycastpainting.com))

contains the results of thousands of individual casts; you can watch a video of the process, and purchase one of the paintings, at Ben's website ([www.flycastpainting.com](http://www.flycastpainting.com)). I don't know how many pieces he sells, but a Bozeman gallery just opened a one man show for him, and at the prices that are listed, he looks to have a pretty comfortable retirement from teaching, as well as avoiding a building full of kids bringing COVID to school.

### COVID-19 Notes

Speaking of COVID-19, despite the fact that the U. S. leads the world in cases, many of our citizens still don't seem to be taking the threat very seriously. Here is a telling photo of a party on a sand bar in Torch Lake, MI where boaters are celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July by having close, unprotected contact with many others. I'm sure we'd all like to be out on the water, but in this case, the result was a spike in infections. Similar results have occurred throughout the country in the past month, as the ripple effects of July 4<sup>th</sup> gatherings and states' efforts to reopen businesses, especially in the South and Southwest.

In case anyone still has doubts about how serious the COVID-19 pandemic really is, here are the links to a couple of illustrations that compare the lethality of the virus to other challenges in our world. In the first, we can see how in the 5 months since May 1, COVID-19 has gone from last to first in the list of 20 well known causes of death, and on a global level, it is now more lethal than war, drugs, terrorism, homicide, suicide, and HIV, among others <https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/2562261/>

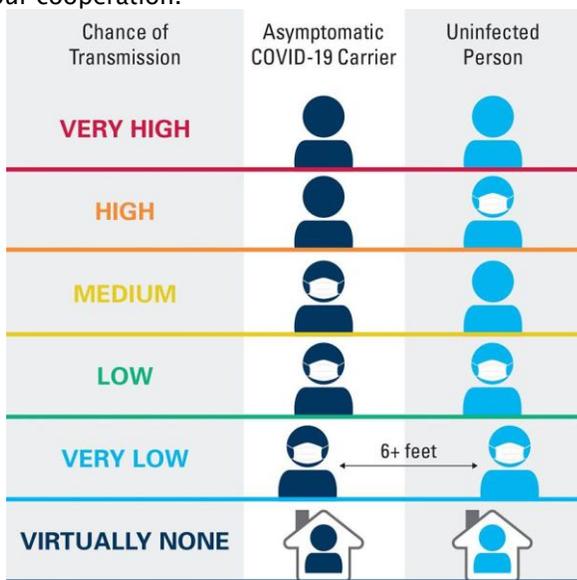
The second link is for a short video that compares the rate of COVID-19 deaths in the United States to those resulting from flu, lung cancer, traffic accidents and wars. Spoiler alert: COVID has already resulted in more deaths than most of these other causes (<https://youtu.be/4S7k62oK-38>). There is some optimism that we may see a viable vaccine by the end of the year, or perhaps in early 2021, but until then our behavioral responses will be the most effective tools for reducing the spread of infections. Stay calm, stay home, and focus on the big picture: how many lives we can save, not how many fish we can catch. Travel restrictions are still in place in New Mexico, so no change there. On July 31, Governor Abbott said "every Texan has a responsibility to themselves and their loved ones to wear a mask, wash their hands, stay six

feet apart and **stay home if they can**" (emphasis added).



July 4<sup>th</sup> party at Torch Lake, Michigan: how NOT to do social distancing

The rest of the Board members and I monitor the latest public health guidance all the time, and we'll let club members know when it is okay to travel to the lease once again. It is not yet that time. Thanks for your cooperation.



How to help control COVID-19: wear the mask, or just stay home.



## Morgan Stanley Dumps the Pebble Mine, Northern Dynasty

June 22, 2020

Joel Reynolds

Multinational investment banking and financial services firm reports over 99 percent reduction in shares of Northern Dynasty Minerals, sole owner of widely-condemned Bristol Bay mining scheme; Bristol Bay leaders applaud the sell-off.

Adding to the financial woes of embattled Pebble Mine owner Northern Dynasty Minerals, **global investment banking firm Morgan Stanley** filed a form 13F with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 31, 2020 **reporting** a reduction of 99.14 percent in its shareholdings in the proposed Bristol Bay copper and gold mine's underfunded Canadian owner. Once the fourth largest institutional shareholder in Northern Dynasty, Morgan Stanley moved in this report to 57 on the list of all shareholders, **reducing its position from 3,479,137 shares to just 29,749 shares.**

According to CNN Money, Morgan Stanley's holdings in fact had reached a high point of 4,579,900 before the major sell-off reported at the end of March, resulting in a **cumulative percentage reduction of 99.36 percent in the number of shares attributed to the company on behalf of itself and its clients.**

**Morgan Stanley's sell-off is just the latest indication on a global scale of the financial toxicity of this uniquely reckless mining scheme:**

In 2011, **Mitsubishi Corporation** sold out.

In 2013, **Anglo American** abandoned its **partnership**, walking away from an investment of almost \$600,000,000.

In 2014, **Rio Tinto** donated its shares to two Alaskan non-profits.

In 2018, **First Quantum Minerals** walked away from an investment five months earlier of \$37.5 million and terminated negotiations for a 50 percent partnership.

In 2018, **BlackRock** zeroed out its shareholdings in Northern Dynasty.

For over a decade, **Tiffany & Co.**, leading a group of some 60 major jewelers, condemned the project because there are some places that simply should not be mined, and Bristol Bay is one such place.

Since February 2011, **Northern Dynasty's share value has dropped over 94 percent in value.** In 2017, based on a thorough financial analysis of the company, New York investment firm **Kerrisdale Capital Management** called **Northern Dynasty "worthless,"** observing that even President Trump "can't make a success out of a value-destroying boondoggle." The Pebble Mine, it said, is "doomed," "politically-impaired" and "commercially futile."

While the reasons for Morgan Stanley's recent sell-off are unknown, the global investment company is known as a strong proponent of the principle that environmental and social responsibility are essential to long-term investment success. Sustainable investment, the global investment leader has prominently argued, requires attention to a company's impact on the planet and on the communities affected.

Based on that commitment, leaders from Bristol Bay have urged Morgan Stanley to dissociate itself and its clients from Northern Dynasty and the Pebble Mine, and last month representatives from the region—including the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, United Tribes of Bristol Bay, Bristol Bay Native Association, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association, United Fishermen of Bristol Bay, and Salmon State—met by video conference with Morgan Stanley representatives to confirm their longstanding opposition to the project and applaud Morgan Stanley's response. For many years, **opposition in Alaska has been intense and overwhelming—80 percent in the Bristol Bay region and over 60 percent state-wide—and that opposition shows no signs of relenting.**

Deep concern about environmental and social impacts of the project have not been answered through the accelerated, deeply flawed Army Corps of Engineers permitting process, as **comments from stakeholders across the ideological spectrum (including several federal agencies) on the quality of the environmental review have been consistently negative.**

Similarly, questions about the financial viability of the project have gone unanswered despite repeated inquiries from Congress, Alaskans, the media, and others. **Former Rio Tinto environment and permitting chief Richard Borden estimated, for example, based on his independent economic analysis, that the project as proposed would lose \$3 billion and is almost certainly financially infeasible.**

Northern Dynasty has adamantly refused to disclose any analysis of the scheme's projected costs and revenue, presumably because a negative financial assessment would deter—not attract—new investors. And the cash-strapped 100 percent owner's desperate hope—its "business plan—is that the issuance of a permit by the Army Corps will attract new investment, a new partner, or a buy-out, leaving the Pebble

Mine's future to some yet-to-be-determined company allegedly "waiting in the wings."

If such a company indeed exists, **it will necessarily bring with it a very high tolerance for risk of all kinds—financial, technical, legal, regulatory, environmental, social, and, of course, reputational risk,** since any company that chooses to associate with Northern Dynasty will inevitably be tarred by the widespread condemnation that the Pebble Mine so richly deserves.

Road access to the project site, too, is uncertain, as **landowners along the infrastructure corridor have reaffirmed that they will not consent.**

Finally, with a major national election just months away, **there is also political risk, since a change in federal leadership will enable EPA to renew major restrictions on the project**—restrictions previously proposed based on the significant, unacceptable, and potentially "catastrophic" risks to the region that the agency's scientists have predicted from mining even at a scale far smaller than is currently proposed by the Pebble project for permitting. Under the federal Clean Water Act, **even after a permit has been issued by the Army Corps, EPA retains its authority to prohibit or restrict an activity or project "at any time"** in a sensitive region like the Bristol Bay watershed—the incubator for trillions of wild salmon, including 50 percent of the world's sockeye.

**Morgan Stanley's recent sell-off of Northern Dynasty shares is one more ominous signal to investors and the mining industry that the Pebble Mine is indeed, as so many have said, the "wrong mine in absolutely the wrong place."** Investors ignore this at their peril, as so many Northern Dynasty shareholders and former partners have already learned the hard way.

**Northern Dynasty is a global pariah and a bad investment, and its sole asset—the Pebble Mine—is a disaster in the making.**

**ABOUT THE SOURCE:** this article is republished with permission from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), New York, NY.



### Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



#### GRG-TU Logo T-shirts to support local trout restoration and conservation efforts.

You can help support our native trout conservation/restoration and outreach/education efforts by purchasing one of our beautiful T-shirts with the GRG-TU logo. We have two colors available: green-on-ivory, and peanut-butter-on black. These are great looking, well-made shirts for a great cause at only \$20 each. Please include \$5 for shipping if you want the shirt(s) mailed. Contact Jeff Arterburn to get yours, and to sign up for the next volunteer event: [jeffgilatu@aol.com](mailto:jeffgilatu@aol.com).



Green logo on ivory



Peanut butter logo on black



### 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.

After many years of organizing trips, Chuck Mueller is stepping aside, and we really need other volunteers to step up and take on these projects. Maybe you have a trip you would like to head up. Please think about it and let David or Chuck know if you can help out.

No trips are currently being planned.



### MVFF Library

MVFF has a considerable library which is now in the custody of Club member Mark Dankel. Mark would like to make these books available to members. If you wish to borrow any of these books let Mark know and he will bring them to the next membership meeting. Mark can be contacted at [mpdankel@msn.com](mailto:mpdankel@msn.com).

A list of the books can be found in the November 2019 issue of Tale Waters.



### Board Meeting Minutes

There was no Board Meeting in July and, so, no minutes. The Board will not meet until September at the earliest.



**Quick Look Contact Information**

2020 Officers of the Club	
<b>Officers</b>	
• <b>President:</b>	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• <b>V-Pres.:</b>	Jim Sorenson (505) 710-4264
• <b>Secretary:</b>	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• <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>	Ron Bellerose (575) 680-5516
• <b>Position 3:</b>	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• <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) 642-5865
• <b>Position 8:</b>	Jim Sorenson (505) 710-4264
• <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) 642-5865	<a href="mailto:membership@mvff.org">membership@mvff.org</a>
<b>Lady Anglers</b>	
• Mary Hoffman (505) 710-5229	

**Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund**

The Mabie Legacy 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 scholarship recipient is selected each April by the faculty members of the NMSU Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology.

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 "Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund, for deposit only." All contributions are tax deductible. For any questions please contact one of the MVFF Officers or Board members. If you have not made a donation to the fund please give it consideration and help honor Norm and Donna Mabie.

**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**  
**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, 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.

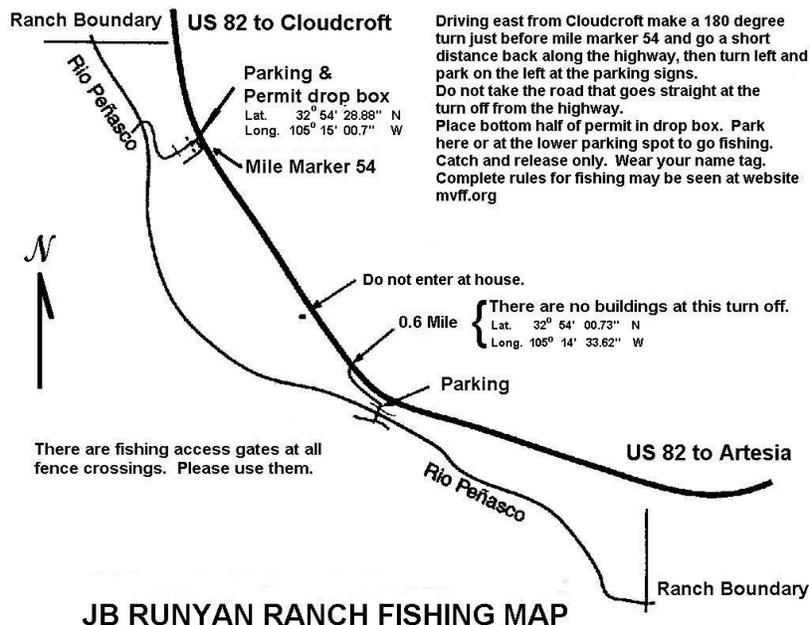
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

### 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 or, if you had rather, you may pay through PayPal. 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 Bob Silver. In addition, members may purchase 1-day, 1-time permits for up to 2 guests per trip. Each guest must have a permit. One-time means a person can go as a guest one time only and must be a member to ever go again.

#### 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.