



# TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of  
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222  
Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

[www.MVFF.org](http://www.MVFF.org)

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2020

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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 will hold no meetings in the foreseeable future.

### Liars and Tyers

Chuck Mueller is preparing a 4-part series on tying midge patterns from the larva stage to the adult stage. Part one is tying a basic red larva or annelid pattern that works on the San Juan. All these patterns are easy for beginners and novices. Part one has been finished and is available now. To view the video just click on the links tab and select Like Us on Face Book. Next month, part two will cover the pupa stage of the midge fly.

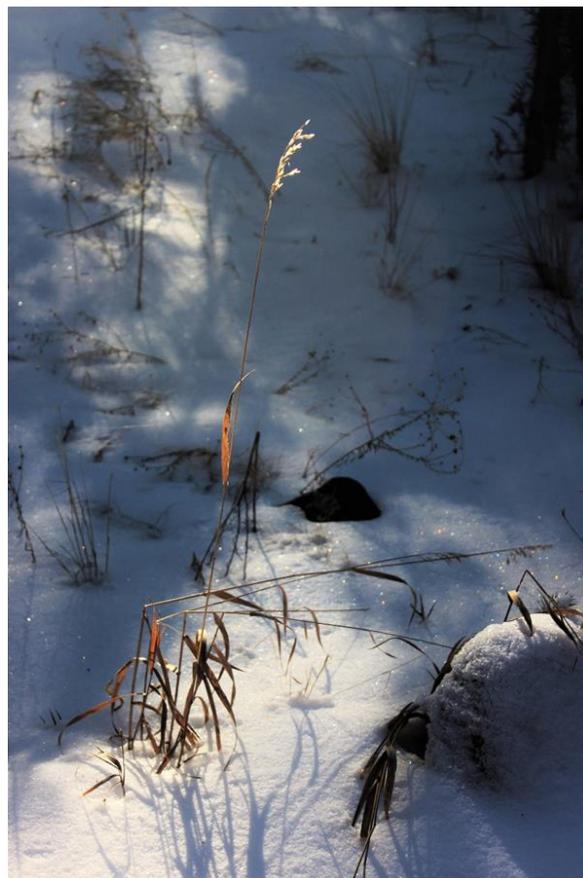
### President's Corner

David Carmichael



Standing under an overhang, for the moment I'm out of the falling snow, so it's easier to watch as the large, soft flakes drift down slowly and settle gently on the dead grass and other nearby vegetation. The sky is leaden, with low hanging clouds, calm air and accumulating snow combining to produce the muffled stillness that often

accompanies profuse *Baetis* hatches. I could be kneeling at the bank of a stream watching my Par-achute Adams drift past the grass bending and glistening under the weight of new snow. Or, I could be queued up with fellow citizens, standing quietly at 6-foot intervals, waiting to cast a vote for public lands. But I'm not doing either. Instead, I'm in line waiting for my fourth COVID-19 test of the semester. Fortunately, my results have been negative, but I know of five colleagues or family members who have battled the illness; two have already left us, and others are still in danger.



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### Ruidoso Area Lakes Closed

Now that I have your attention, let's talk turkey. I don't know how many club members pay much attention to anything I say about COVID, but I believe I need to provide updates. For months I've been asking members to stay home instead of fishing the club lease, or traveling to fish other popular rivers in the state. Yet, I continue to receive calls and emails from those who want to travel from El Paso, Lubbock, Midland, or even San Antonio, to fish the lease and get away from the rising cases in their own communities, apparently without understanding that we put our friends and neighbors in Otero and Eddy Counties at risk by doing so. If you haven't yet been heeding the state restrictions on non-essential travel, now would be a good time to start. If you've been in compliance, but know people who have not been, it might be good to try to influence them. Friends, the pandemic is real, and it's not going away. It's not going to disappear on its own; we are not rounding the corner; we are setting records for new infections. We won't have a viable, widely available vaccine in the next couple of months. And, a thousand deaths per day is not "almost nothing."

But don't take my word for it. Here is an excerpt from a recent open letter from New Mexico health care providers. You can view the letter in its entirety on the New Mexico Department of Health website at <https://www.togethernm.org/open-letter/>.

*Please stay home as much as you can. Limit your travel outside the home. If you must go out, please wear a face mask. Make sure it covers your nose and mouth. Please avoid gatherings with other people, especially those you don't live with. Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water.*

*Please make the commitment to protect yourselves, your families, and your communities. Please be cautious and smart. Please help health care professionals help you. Help us protect you. Help us ensure*

*that we have the resources to treat the sick and care for the dying.*

*Together, we can keep New Mexicans healthy and safe.*



**Now, about the lakes.** Last summer, the Village of Ruidoso chose to defy state restrictions requiring them to turn away out-of-state visitors attempting to access local parks. Now, the spike in COVID cases is so severe that Ruidoso is enforcing more stringent restrictions than the ones they defied last summer. Until further notice, Grindstone and Alto Lakes are closed to everyone except Lincoln County residents or property owners. Additionally, on October 30, the state of New Mexico issued a severe virus risk alert which included a new rule: no contacts with people outside your household.

As you may have already heard, El Paso is in the national news because of a dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases. The county judge has ordered a two-week shutdown of all non-essential businesses, and has imposed a 10 pm-5 am curfew. The area hospitals and ICUs are already at capacity; 44% of the patients in El Paso hospitals are being treated for COVID-19, and patients with other illnesses are being airlifted to other cities. The Civic Center is even being set up as a makeshift hospital to provide 50 additional beds, and three mobile morgues have been brought in. El Paso requested additional resources from the state government some weeks ago, but instead of helping, the state Attorney General is seeking legal mechanisms to prevent the implementation of the new restrictions. This affects us too, because about a quarter of our club members live in El Paso, and because hospitals in Dona Ana County regularly send their more severe cases or overflow

patients to El Paso hospitals which currently have no capacity to receive them.

Some club members and others in the local community have suggested that attaining herd immunity is a viable, or even the preferred approach to getting past the pandemic. I have already written about the failed efforts made by Sweden in this regard, so I won't rehash that here. But researchers have recently commented on the likely effects of attempting to reach herd immunity in the U.S., and the results are not encouraging.

The effort to reach herd immunity would necessarily involve a large, uncontrolled outbreak that would need to infect 60–85% of the population. The idea that we could protect the vulnerable among us while this happens is a dangerous fallacy. The vulnerable are not equally distributed across the country, and in some places, they make up about 30% of the population. Furthermore, there is no evidence that exposure to COVID-19 confers lasting immunity. Having a large percentage of the population infected would adversely impact the workforce, and would overwhelm hospitals all across the country ([https://www.thelancet.com/lancet/article/s0140-6736\(20\)32153-x](https://www.thelancet.com/lancet/article/s0140-6736(20)32153-x)). Reaching herd immunity in the midst of a pandemic doesn't actually stop the spread of the disease, and COVID would likely overshoot the herd immunity threshold, eventually infecting as much as 90% of the population

(<https://theconversation.com/herd-immunity-wont-solve-americas-covid-19-problem-139724>).

According to Johns Hopkins University, the estimated COVID-19 fatality rate for the United States is 2.6% (<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data/mortality>). If that figure is correct, reaching a herd immunity condition where 85% of the population is infected could result in 7.3 million additional deaths. I don't believe that would or should be considered acceptable by

anyone. So, please; let's stop debating things that aren't real solutions and do what we know works: stay home, wash or sanitize hands often, and wear the mask. The fish will still be there next year.

### Environmental News

While we're at home, it is still possible to stay engaged with issues that affect the preservation of, and access to, our public lands and fisheries. While many of us are focused on the pandemic or the election, the U.S. Forest Service is moving full-steam ahead to roll back environmental protections for the Tongass National Forest in the Alaskan panhandle. The federal government has exempted the Tongass from the Roadless Rule, removing the protections against logging and road construction that have been in place since 2001. The move is touted as a boon to the economy of southeast Alaska, despite the fact that fishing and tourism contribute 26% of the employment in the region, while the timber industry only accounts for 1%. As a result of the rule change, 16.7 million acres of USFS lands will be opened up to logging and road construction, endangering the largest temperate rain forest in the world, and reducing its significant contribution to carbon sequestration. The Tongass contains the largest salmon and steelhead runs on USFS lands, and large parts of the forest include old growth trees as much as 1,000 years old. The area is so pristine and remote that it is very expensive to conduct logging there, and it is likely that taxpayers will subsidize

much of the costs. As it is, the Tongass Timber Program has lost more than \$1.7 billion over the past 40 years, costs that have been borne by the taxpayers. Should we throw good money after bad?

Trout Unlimited reminds us that "The Tongass is yours." We are all supposed to have a say in how it is managed, and it is supposed to be managed

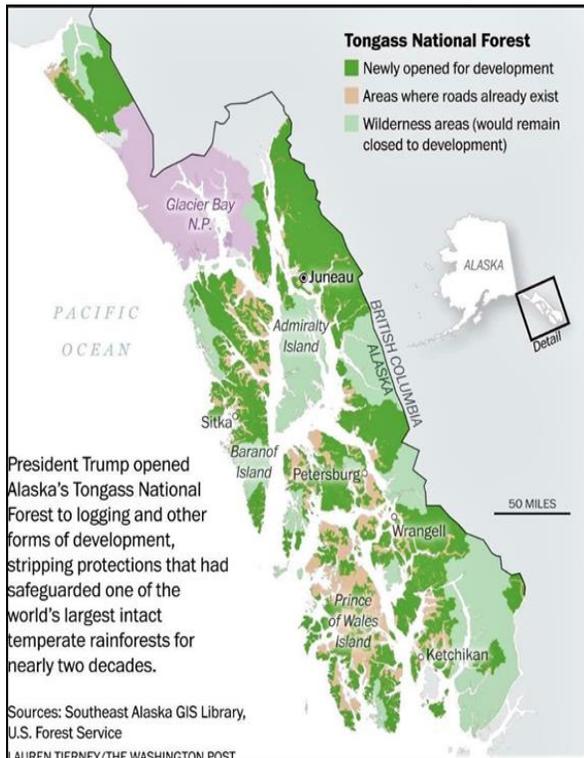


*The Herbert River issuing from Herbert Glacier, and surrounded by the Tongass National Forest near Juneau, Alaska (Earthjustice photo)*

for the benefit of all of us, not just the lumber companies. Check out this article for more details, and suggestions for what actions interested citizens might take

([https://www.tu.org/blog/wild-places-and-commonsense-policies/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Orgwide%2010.16.20&\\_zs=RW9Cb&\\_zl=2BxH2](https://www.tu.org/blog/wild-places-and-commonsense-policies/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Orgwide%2010.16.20&_zs=RW9Cb&_zl=2BxH2)).

In case we needed a reminder, public lands, resources and access issues always seem to be on the ballot out here in the West. That is certainly the case in Montana this election season, where public lands advocate Mark Cooney is running against Greg Gianforte for the office of Governor. You may remember Gianforte as the congressional candidate who body slammed a journalist



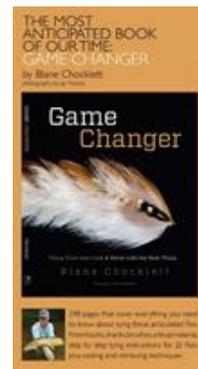
for asking him a question he didn't like. He has used his financial influence, and his position in Congress, to work to privatize public lands. He sued the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks department to challenge an angler-access easement on the East Gallatin River. That easement, and others like it all over Montana, were established by the 1985 Stream Access Act, which states that Montana rivers may be accessed by the public without

regard to the ownership status of the lands beneath the water. The principle of public access was confirmed by another law in 2009. But indications are that if Gianforte is elected, he will work to undo the angler-access laws that make Montana such a popular fly-fishing destination. Here is a link to the Outside magazine article containing more details ([https://www.outside-online.com/2417668/montana-stream-access-2020-election-greg-gianforte?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Dispatch-10202020&utm\\_content=Final&utm\\_term=dispatch](https://www.outside-online.com/2417668/montana-stream-access-2020-election-greg-gianforte?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Dispatch-10202020&utm_content=Final&utm_term=dispatch)). The outcome of that Montana election will affect all of us who like to fish in the Greater Yellowstone area, the Bitterroot Valley, the Clark Fork/Blackfoot drainage or anywhere else in Montana, and the long-term health of the region's fly-fishing industry.

### Diversions, the Good Kind

Fly Fishers International (FFI) just announced that the entire first season of their Zoom webinars are now available free to the public. The collection of 20 videos are recordings of Zoom presentations by FFI instructors on a variety of topics, including entomology, casting, fly tying and conservation. The fly tying sessions range from teaching the basics, to advanced techniques such as woven body nymphs, Wonder Wing flies, and 3 ways to tie parachute flies. The series may be accessed at this website:

([https://flyfishersinternational.org/Events/FFI-Online/Previous-Webcasts?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=EducationalAppeal](https://flyfishersinternational.org/Events/FFI-Online/Previous-Webcasts?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EducationalAppeal)).



And finally, if the FFI videos don't satisfy your thirst for fly tying tips, tricks and techniques, you might want to obtain a copy of "the most anticipated book of our time," Blane Chocklett's new book on tying articulated streamers. Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay connected.



## Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



**We need your help as volunteers and leaders** as we develop a new strategic plan, and work to support conservation projects and educational outreach activities.

Members wanting to get involved in Trout Unlimited and interested in helping out on projects are asked to contact Jeff Arterburn by email at: [jeffgilatu@aol.com](mailto:jeffgilatu@aol.com)

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

Our beautiful T-shirts with the GRG-TU logo in colors: green-on-ivory, and peanut-butter-on-black are sold as part of our fund-raising for trout restoration and conservation efforts. 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



## 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.



## Basics of Catch and Release Fishing

by Brett Prettyman

[tu.org/blog/skills-the-basics-of-catch-and-release-fishing/](https://tu.org/blog/skills-the-basics-of-catch-and-release-fishing/)



*Keeping a fish in the water is one of the simplest ways to better its chances of surviving.* Brett Prettyman photo.

Catch and release fishing does not always end with another angler experiencing the thrill of landing a fish you let go with good intentions. Some fish will perish after being caught even if they appear to be fine upon release. **There are things anglers can do to better the chances of fish survival. These general rules of catch and release fishing are pretty straight forward, but even experienced anglers can become casual in their routine. Here are some reminders.**

- Crimp the barb on hooks. This reduces possible damage to the mouth of the fish and almost always makes it easier, and quicker, to unhook your catch. A barbed hook is also not fun to remove if it happens to find human flesh.
- Try to keep the time a fish is hooked to the net as short as possible. Don't overplay a fish. The fish is running a marathon for its life; don't keep moving the finish line.
- Keep fish in the water as long as possible. Try to remove the hook with the fish still submerged. It takes a little practice, but is not

always as hard as it might seem. A net, and a friend holding the net, helps tremendously.

- If the fish appears stressed don't mess around with a picture. There will be other fish. River karma will recognize your effort.
- Faster water moves more oxygen through the gills. Hold stressed fish in faster pockets of water until you can tell they are ready to move on their own. Consider this like football players sitting on the bench with an oxygen mask trying to recover after a 90-yard touchdown run.
- In slow water or lake situations avoid pumping a stressed fish in the typical back and forth motion. Some researchers believe there is no benefit from water moving both ways through the gills. Consider moving it through the water in a figure eight or circle motion to keep it going forward with oxygen moving over the gills the way it was meant to happen. This may be easier if the fish is still hooked.
- If you plan to take a picture make sure the fish is unhooked and not overly stressed before lifting it out of the water. When you do lift it out practice the #keepemwet mantra keeping the fish out just long enough for a picture. Keep the fish in the water—not over land—when taking the picture. Studies show the survival of certain trout species diminishes rapidly after just 20 to 30 seconds in the air.



Practice the #keepemwet method of catch and release by only taking the fish out of the water when it is time for the picture. Besides, pictures with water dripping off of fish are cool. Brett Prettyman photo.

- Use rubber nets to with a smooth surface to prevent injuries to the fish and removal of the protective layer of "slime" on the body.
- Avoid fishing if waters reach excessive temperatures. Warm water stresses trout and makes it is more difficult for fish to recover. Most trout can be easily stressed in water temperatures that climb into the 60s. Temperatures 70 degrees and over are lethal to most trout.
- Keep fingers away from the gills. One slip under the gill plate can easily kill the fish.

For more details check out this paper from Dan Dauwalter of Trout Unlimited's Science Team. And, for more tips on how to be a better angler, check out TU's new book, Trout Tips, available now.

*Brett Prettyman is the communications director for Trout Unlimited's Intermountain Region. He is based out of Salt Lake City and can be reached at [bprettyman@tu.org](mailto:bprettyman@tu.org)*



## Board Meeting Minutes

There was no Board Meeting in October and, so, no minutes. The Board will not meet in the near future but may arrange a ZOOM meeting. Discussions are ongoing.



**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>

**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.

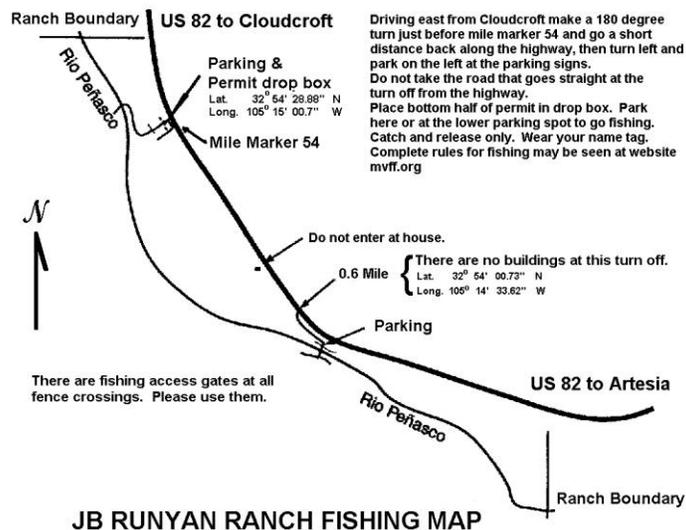
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

### 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.