



# NMVFO NEWS

July 2008

The Voice of the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors

Volume 26, No 5

*New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors (505) 884-1991 or 1 (888) 836-5553  
Visit our website at [www.nmvfo.org](http://www.nmvfo.org). Email us at [Inmvfo@gmail.com](mailto:Inmvfo@gmail.com).*

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Rio Chama Raft Trip (↖↗), Friday, July 11 through Sunday, July 13, 2008

Leader: Deborah Radcliffe, (505) 255-4960, [dradcliffe@salud.unm.edu](mailto:dradcliffe@salud.unm.edu)

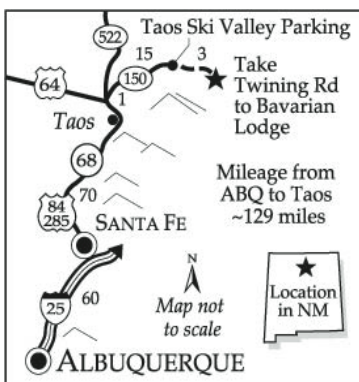


This project is a wonderful opportunity to experience a raft trip down a beautiful river. Working with the BLM (who supply the rafts, kayaks, and river expertise) we will paddle and float down the wild and scenic Chama River from just below El Vado Dam to our work sites. This trip takes us to an area that most people have to win a lottery to see! We will get to see and hear wonderful birds and interesting mammals and reptiles. We will be constructing steps to campsites, camping both Friday and Saturday nights. We meet at Big Eddy on Forest Road 151 (FR 151 heads west from 84 between Ghost Ranch and Echo Amphitheater) on Friday July 11th at 8 AM. We will finish on Sunday afternoon July 12th taking out below the monastery or perhaps going further down river to Big Eddy to experience the rapids. Group meals begin with Friday supper. This year's project is full (it's limited to just 8 volunteers) but experienced VFO members are encouraged to sign up early in 2009 for next year's trip.

Sorry, but this project is full.

### Williams Lake Trail (↖↗), Saturday, July 26 through Sunday, July 27, 2008

Leader: Jean Shaw-Hioki, (505) 474-0913, [JeanShaw28@msn.com](mailto:JeanShaw28@msn.com)



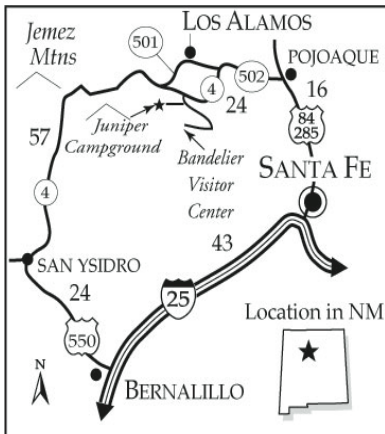
Come join us in the splendor of the Taos Ski Valley! We'll be working in the high country on Williams Lake Trail, and there are tasks of every level to be performed. The worksite is about a mile from the campsite, and the work includes routine trail maintenance, including taking care of a short, swampy section. Our camp will be at around 10,300 feet and we'll be working up to 11,200 feet.

The campsite will be in the proximity of the Bavarian Lodge on Twining Road, about 3 miles from the Taos Ski Valley Parking Lot. This regularly maintained, graded dirt road starts near the east end of the lot, and winds its way up to the Lodge in a southeasterly direction. Driving from the lot, you pass a pond around the halfway point, then pass the Hiker Parking Lot before reaching the Lodge. The campsite will be east of the Lodge... just follow the NMVFO road signs.

Meals include a light breakfast Saturday morning, Saturday dinner, and Sunday breakfast. Our sponsoring agency, the Questa Ranger District, will provide potable water, a Porta Potty, and a fire ring (if we can obtain permission and fire restrictions aren't in effect)... bring everything else you need, including all other meals and snacks. It may be cold, so bring warm clothing and an extra blanket or two. Please sign up by Monday, July 21, 2008, and let Jean know if you are interested in sharing a ride.

# Falls Trail (↖↗), Saturday, August 9 through Sunday, August 10, 2008

Leader: Lowell Hioki, (505) 474-0913, Lhioki@msn.com



Bandelier National Monument wants us back! They were so pleased with the work we did on the Frey Trail in April that they want an encore, this time to perform maintenance on the Falls Trail. This is a 2-½ mile trail that descends 700 feet from the Backpacker’s Parking Lot near the Visitor’s Center, past the Upper and Lower Falls, to the Rio Grande. The trail follows Frijoles Creek and there is a wealth of geologic and biologic sights along its entire length.

Our maintenance work will be primarily on the lower half of the trail, starting around the Upper Falls. There are several rock retaining walls that need repair. The trail also needs grooming along the switchbacks, with berms to be removed and rocks to be raked off the trail. There are waterbars to be cleaned or rebuilt, and a modest bit of lopping to be done.

Camping will be in the Juniper Campground, the entrance to which is just past the check-in station to the Park. There are potable water and restrooms. A light breakfast will be provided on Saturday morning, dinner Saturday night, and breakfast Sunday morning. Please bring all other meals and snacks. The nights may be cold, so you may want to bring an extra blanket. We’ll try to arrange an evening fireside talk by an interpretative ranger on local history.

Please contact Lowell to sign up by no later than Monday, August 4. He will also coordinate ridesharing by interested volunteers.



## Meet Your Fellow Volunteers

**Carol and Glen Kepler** are originally from California but have lived in New Mexico for 44 years, the last 24 of which has included very active membership in the VFO. In addition to participating in countless projects, Carol and Glen have been Board members, project leaders (including several backpacks), and Glen has been the backbone of the VFO newsletter, database, and email list for the past several years as well as performing all other computer-related tasks required to make the organization function.

Their interests and hobbies naturally go beyond VFO activities, and include staying fit: participating in regular Defined Fitness classes, walking in Bear Canyon Open Space, and more recently, taking up tennis. They like to travel in their RV, including visiting their children who are located throughout the U.S. (Many of you may not know it, but Linda Kepler, one of their daughters, and who lives in Oklahoma, is our new webmaster and is responsible for designing and maintaining our new website.) They both like to read, and Carol is an avid gardener and likes to do craft work.

Carol and Glen both consider backpacks their favorite VFO projects, Carol for the Pecos Wilderness and Glen for the Gila Wilderness. Carol loves the Pecos for its spectacular scenery, cool temperature, and especially the camaraderie that makes the trip so enjoyable. Glen likes the White Creek Cabin projects in particular, because of its historical content and because of our special relationship with Mike Carr of the Wilderness Ranger District. Regardless of projects, however, they take great satisfaction in maintaining our state’s hiking trails and meeting the needs of the various agencies and urge everyone to join the fun in helping to improve the New Mexico outdoors.

## Change to Meadows Trail Project

The NEPA (environmental assessment) for the original worksite on the Meadows Trail will not be completed in time. Therefore, the new project location will be McKnight's Canyon Trail, the site of our July 22 – 27, 2007 project. The campsite will be at McKnight's Cabin near the crest of the Black Range and the work will be a continuation of last year's efforts. Details of the project will be given in the August newsletter, but you can email the project leader, Wayne Brown, at [Waynebrown@zianet.com](mailto:Waynebrown@zianet.com) for more information.

## July Membership Meeting

Don't forget! All are welcome to our general monthly membership meeting the first Wednesday of every month through our season. This month's meeting is July 2nd at 7pm. Prepare yourself for the excitement; Ray Peale will deliver a Treasurer's report! Photos of the June projects will be shown and July projects will be discussed. Refreshments will be provided. The meeting will be open to questions, comments, and concerns. One lucky attendee will win a door prize! And, as always, nonmembers are welcome to all of our meetings. Meetings are held at The Courtyards @ Cutler. For directions, visit the new webpage: [www.nmvfo.org](http://www.nmvfo.org) and click on the Join the NMVFO link.

## New Newsletter Format and Help Wanted!

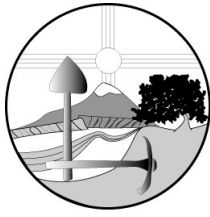
By now, you've either grown to hate this new format, or (surprisingly) grown to like it, or, (not surprisingly) don't care one way or the other about it. After many years of preparing the newsletter, Glen Kepler has finally retired from this, one of his many VFO behind-the-scenes tasks. A neophyte has taken his place in preparing this edition of the newsletter, but the call for a more talented volunteer to be our newsletter guru is out. If your creative genius is begging to be released...if you desire to express your artistry...if you achieve sublimity through meeting deadlines...we have a job for you. Give it a try for one or two editions and see if preparing our newsletter fulfills some hidden craving. Let us know...inquire of any Board member or write to us at [1nmvfo@gmail.com](mailto:1nmvfo@gmail.com).

## Need Camping Equipment?

If you've been hesitating about going on one of our overnight or longer projects because of a lack of camping equipment, we have some for loan to you. Jan Underwood and Cindy Hess donated a dome tent, and the VFO purchased a 0° sleeping bag and foam mattress pad. These are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so check with the project leader if you want to borrow them. If these have already been borrowed, another source is the REI store near I-40 and Montano; they have a wealth of camping (and other) equipment for rent.



We want to again thank Wilson & Company, Engineers and Architects, for printing our flyers during this and many past seasons. In Albuquerque, Wilson & Company's services include architectural, environmental planning, railroad and surveying and mapping services.



New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors  
P.O. Box 36246  
Albuquerque, NM 87176

Website: [www.nmvfo.org](http://www.nmvfo.org)  
Email: [1nmvfo@gmail.com](mailto:1nmvfo@gmail.com)

### Join the NMVFO Today!

Your membership dues help fund all our activities to make improvements to trails and outdoor recreation areas throughout New Mexico. Mail in the form below, along with your check, to NMVFO, P.O. Box 36246, Albuquerque, NM 87176.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

May we send you our newsletter by email? \_\_\_\_\_

The New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors is a 501(c)(3) corporation in the state of New Mexico. We are an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff.

### NMVFO Membership Categories

- Individual (\$20)
- Family (\$30)
- Contributor (\$30)
- Sponsor (\$50)
- Benefactor (\$100)
- Life (\$250 and above)
- Corporate (\$250 and above)
- You Name It (above \$250)