



# Windknots

The monthly newsletter for the members and friends of the Diablo Valley Fly Fishermen Since 1969

October 2010

## Next Monthly Club Meeting:

**Tuesday, October 12th, 2010**

Heather Farms Community Center  
301 North San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek  
Doors open at 7:00 P.M.

Guests are welcome!! *(Members who wish to join the speaker for dinner, please contact Bill King.)*

## Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 19, 2010

Sizzler Restaurant, 1353 Willow Pass Rd., Concord  
Dinner: 6:30 PM — Meeting: 7:00 PM  
Members are invited to attend.

2009 Member of the Year: Pat Konoske



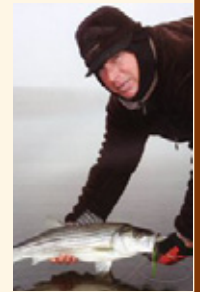
***You Want It, Its Yours!***

**Alan Christian** with nice Madison River Brown

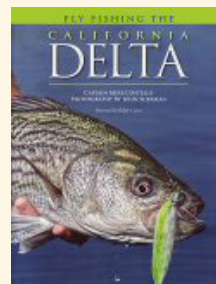
## Speaker: Mike Costello

### Delta Stripers

Like the tug? Mike Costello's program will focus on fly fishing the Delta's 1,200-plus miles of waterways for stripers. Most fish range from five to 10 pounds with stripers over twenty pounds considered trophies. Mike guided Paul Wilms to land a massive 42½ lb. fish in November of 2003. Most of the time Mike fishes out of a 21-foot Jet Craft River Boat equipped with a 140-horsepower outboard engine. Mike's PowerPoint presentation will cover the gear, flies, tactics and locations to best target Delta stripers.



August 12, 1990, changed Mike's life. Dressed in neoprene waders and a fishing vest loaded



with flies, he accompanied two anglers on the frigid waters of the Frying Pan River in Colorado and provided them the opportunity to catch trout on a fly rod, and got paid to do so! This began Mike's odyssey of fulfilling his dream to become a fly fishing guide. Over twenty

years later he's still passionate about fly fishing. "Set, set, set, set" is a big part of his vocabulary. He has guided anglers for more than 4,000 days.

Mike is the author of "Fly Fishing the California Delta" and guides anglers on the Lower Stanislaus, Lower Mokelumne, and Lower Sacramento rivers in addition to the Delta.

## DIABLO VALLEY FLY FISHERMEN OFFICERS:

President	David Lipscomb	925-283-8865
Secretary	Pat Konoske	707-748-0214
Treasurer	Wayne Hofer	925-937-0739

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Willy George	925-943-2211
Tom Seidman	925-256-8818
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	Tom Cundith	925-932-0905
	John Hernikl	925-930-0635

## CLASSES:

Casting	Willy George	925-943-2211
Fly Tying	Dave McCants	925-228-1329
Novice Seminar	Willy George	925-943-2211

## EVENTS:

Programs	Bill King	925-837-8799
Crab Feed	Terry/Steve Hess	925-691-5617
Annual Auction	Bill King	925-837-8799
BBQ Dinner	Charles Wright	925-254-3001
Refreshments	Karen Kaiser	925-682-9085
Merchandise	Greg Reimers	925-798-7716
Raffle	Bill Vierra	925-932-2096
	Mike Sample	925-314-9708
Badges	John Edwards	925-944-1762
Information	Steve Hess	925-691-5617

## REPRESENTATIVES:

NCC/FFF	Gerry Ng	925-829-4974
Conservation	Ted Shapas	925-820-7943
Trout in Class Room	Gerry Ng	925-829-4974

## WINDKNOTS:

Editor	Ivan Lee	925-680-0139
Co-Editor	Bob McEwan	925-376-8752
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## CONTACT US ON THE WEB AT:

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

Webmaster	Pat Konoske	707-748-0214
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*DVFF is defined as a 501(c)(7) per IRS rules*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I say "hats off" to ALL of the great fishmasters we have at DVFF, and their current leader, Tom Seidman. They are truly the unsung heroes of the most important thing we do at DVFF – fish! The list of the 2010 fishmasters is contained on page 5 of the current Windknots, so I won't repeat all of them – just take a look and say thanks the next time you see them, whether you went on their trip or not. A few interesting observations surface when one looks at the past five-year history of our "published" trip outings. There are on average about 30 trips per year (~2.5 per month); about 80% are repeat trips with the same fishmasters stepping up year after year; some trips come in for a few years, and fade away, other seem to just work, year after year. Having just been on a couple of those rock-solid outings, both which went like clockwork, it's easy to see how our outings (like everything else) set the standard for excellence. Of course we had two stalwart fishmasters – Pat Konoske and Jan Horn – leading these trips, but it seems that just about all outings result in great experiences (even when the fish don't always cooperate).



What's it take to be a good fishmaster? Part journalist/photographer, part researcher, part travel and meal planner, part road navigator, and chief morale officer – the fishmaster is an integral cog of our DVFF machinery. Fortunately, we have a couple of new members willing to take up the challenge this year – **John Shaw** and **Dan Maher**. We are always seeking new places to test our skills, and new people to lead the way so don't hide those good fishing haunts. Get on Tom's list for the 2011 outings with your favorite place.

**A quote from one of DVFF's best and most seasoned fishmasters, Russ Roloff**, helps put the proper perspective on our outings, "The fishing wasn't gangbusters but it was OK. As always, the company and the scenery was more than mere mortals could hope for."



Another DVFF Novice Seminar held on September 18 is now in the history books, and as always, it was a SUPER learning experience for the 12 people who attended. It was so good, that 7 out of the 12 signed up immediately to become members of DVFF. **Willy George** and **Gary Turi** were supported by **Pat Konoske** and **Kirston Koths** in providing the best value in fly fishing instruction this side of the Mississippi. Great job guys!



Fall season is now upon us, and the fishing just keeps getting better and better. I think the fish realize they got a late start on the year themselves. It's a great time to be out fishing.

*Keep Learning!*  
*David Lipscomb*

*“Take a course in good water and air; and in the eternal youth of Nature you may renew your own. Go quietly, alone; no harm will befall you.”*

*John Muir*



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## WELCOME THESE NEW DVFF MEMBERS!

**Anthony Bourdakis**

**William Henry**

**Dick Orear**

**Russ Nishhkawa**

**Rosemary**

**Nishhkawa**

**Adam Gochnauer**

**William Gochnauer**

## Lake Almanor Fly Fishing Company Auction Prize Trip a Winner



As noted by the picture of **Tom Cundith** and his huge brown trout, Lake Almanor can be a pretty good place to fish in the fall. Tom and **Dave Lipscomb** took advantage of the great auction prize, donated by **Tom Maumoynier** of The Lake Almanor Fly Fishing Company in Chester, to spend a day on the lake September 16. The big one of the day was caught striping a small Lake Almanor (Tom M. tied) clouser minnow. He measured a full 25", and probably weighed in at about 5 lbs.

There's still time to catch one of these monsters.

*Dave Lipscomb*

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CRITICAL CLUB POSITIONS:

🦺 **Merchandise** - Requirements - Super Salesman, Conversationalist. Gets to handle great DVFF Fly Fishing Gear and Recommend More.

🦺 **Raffle** - Requirements - Likes to Collect Money and Give Away Good Stuff

**CONTACT: DAVE LIPSCOMB - 925-283-8865**

## HIGH SIERRA HORSE BACK ADVENTURE

Exhilarating! Challenging! Rewarding! Our High Sierra Horse Pack Trip was an adventure of a lifetime for ten DVFF members! Buckaroos **Phil Erickson**, our **intrepid Fishmaster, Scot Bergren, Jay Carson, John Edwards, Jim Haden, Satoshi Iwahashi, Kit Kohler and Charlie Wright** rode the rugged, dusty trails to great fishing! Cowgirls **Jan Horn** and **Ginny Wright** rode circles around the buckaroos; Jan's history includes having been summertime, teenage wrangler for the same Rock Creek Pack Station!

We rode across 12,000 ft. Mono Pass and camped in John Muir Wilderness right on Mono Creek, a short walk to great fishing. Horseback day-rides got us into remote places like Pioneer Basin with pristine lakes and streams teeming with Brookies, Rainbows and prized Goldens. It was a nostalgia trip for Phil Erickson as he revisited where he had hiked, camped and fished decades ago.

Around campfires we enjoyed outdoors-tasty, hearty breakfasts with "Cowboy Coffee" some reported you could chew. Our wrangler Mariah's home-cooked, campfire dinner fare included outstanding sauces and surprise desserts keeping all of us happy campers! Phil's fireside jokes, everyone's hilarious stories, and reports of the day's fishing kept us all holding our sides with laughter. Ask Phil about his newly discovered super-casting technique!

Ask Jan what she thought of the bear sniffing around, rubbing his head on her tent! The same infa-



mous, teenage bear chased off five of our horses! New stock, horses and mules, delivered by wranglers saved us from walking out to Rock Creek Pack Station. A select few got to experience riding mules home!

Our High Sierra Horse Pack Trip was a wining combination of "Ride & Fly" fishing with spectacular scenery at every turn. Outings like this one offered by DVFF throughout the year are great opportunities for members, new and old. Ten fortunate DVFF'rs enjoyed refreshing wilderness, fabulous fishing, and the great camaraderie of our members!

**-Ginny Wright**



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**Hours:**  
M-F 11am - 6:30 pm  
Sat 9 am - 4:00 pm  
Sun closed

## 2010 OUTINGS-TRIPS-SEMINARS

To participate in an Outing, one must be a DVFF member with signed Liability Waiver on file

DATE	LOCATION (species)	FISHMASTER
Feb 6	Yuba River TR/ST	Bob Meadowcraft 631-0194
Mar 12-14	Pyramid Lake TR	Larry Griffis 947-4914
Apr 28-May 2	McCloud River TR	Marc Ericksen 415-362-1214
May 1	Kistler Ranch BA	George Willis 925-676-6690
May 1-2	Baum Lake TR	Bruce Kuhlemann 510-727-9668
May 15-16	Kelsey Bass Ranch	Bill King 837-8799
June 19	Conservation Outing	Ted Shapas 925-820-7943
June 24-27	Fall River TR	Jan Horn 510-207-5868
Jun 26-27	Upper Sac Seminar TR	John Barry 707-246-6831 & Alan Christian 820-7288
Jul 8-12	Manzanita Lake TR	John Edwards 925 944-1762
Jul TBD	San Joaquin River TR	Kit Kohler 820-0567
Aug 20-24	High Sierra horse pack TR	Phil Erickson 837-0278
Aug 27-29	Manzanita Lake TR	TBD
Sept 8-10	San Joaquin River TR	Kit Kohler 820-0567
Sep 24-26	East Slope Sierra TR	Pat Konoske 707-748-0214
Sept 30-Oct 3	Fall River TR	Jan Horn 510-207-5868
Oct 2	Putah Creek TR	Dave McCants 925-228-1329
Oct 8-10	Heenan Lake nr Markleeville	Dan Maher 925-920-0833
Oct 15-17	Fall Upper Sac Seminar TR	Tom Seidman 925-256-8818 & Alan Christian 820-7288

### POSSIBLE OUTINGS

TBD	Bamboo Outing - Yuba River TR
TBD	American River ST
TBD	Striper Outing- Delta Willie George 925-943-2211
TBD	McCloud River TR

\*Change from last schedule

TR = trout, ST = steelhead, BA = bass, TBD = to be determined

Space is limited on many Outings. Please sign up only if you are reasonably certain that you will attend. If you discover later that you are not going to attend, scratch your name off the list or contact the Outings Chairman or Fishmaster. This way, a maximum number of members can go on the Outing.



## Fall Upper Sac Seminar Outing Oct. 15 – 17

This outing is a camp out at Sims campground on the Upper Sacramento River. Tom Seidman (left) and Alan Christian (5 Rivers Champions) will cover the bugs and techniques that helped them win this challenging test. The morning is dedicated to a review of common nymphs and then a stream survey and specimen collection.



Everyone discovers which flies in their box imitate the naturals and then they receive Alan's 12 month guide to CA BIG BUG EVENTS.



In the afternoon, Tom will cover his rigging technique and then everyone will practice the knots while preparing their rod. There will be a station to modify standard indicators for quick conversion to a short-line (indicator less) setup. We will then meet on the river for a demonstration followed by coached fishing. This is a great outing for kids.

*Tom Seidman  
925-256-8818 &  
Alan Christian  
820-7288*



# East Slope Sierra Trip Report

(or My Best Eastern Sierra Trip Ever)

September 24<sup>th</sup> started this year's Eastern Sierra trip, the reports hinted that the timing couldn't have been better. We've all thought that before, only to be joined on the stream by Mr. Skunk. Not so this time. Throw in great weather and hillsides dotted by aspen leaving changing to a brilliant yellow, and you've got the makings of a fantastic weekend of fly fishing.

## Crowley Rainbows



My plan was to meet up with nine other DVFFers — **Greg Reimers, David Lipscomb, Fred Glaser, Ron Buxton, Kirby Elvin, John Armstrong, Marty Shellhammer, Mike Rudd, Patrick Grove and Jay Carson** — early in the afternoon at Tom's Place Resort. For me the trip got off to an early start with an 8:00 a.m. arrival at Hot Creek. I hoped to beat the crowds that would force me onto less than prime water. As I crested the final turn and neared my destination I glimpsed a beautiful sight: an empty parking lot. I'd end up having the upper half of Hot Creek to myself for three hours. I highly recommend it.

Thanks to recent reports from **Sev Marsted** and **Kirston Koths**, I knew that small would be the name of the game. However, with the creek still in the shade of the canyon, it took a size 22 nymph to bring up my first fish, which promptly reminded me that one cannot trifle with Hot Creek trout. I lost it after only one jump. The next fish, a Loch Leven brown, was coaxed to the net. Then the hatches began. The sun hit the water about 9:30 a.m., and the first bugs appeared. By ten o'clock the caddis would be in full force, but they were thin little things. Not being

the best dry fly fisherman, I trailed a size 22 BWO dry (I later used a PMD dry) behind a size 20 caddis, and used the caddis as a reference point as the smaller fly got lost in bubbles on the surface. (If you want details behind my fly choice, grab me at the meeting.) Four hours later and after nine trout hooked and five to the net, I grudgingly headed back to the car.

After stowing gear in the cabins and getting reports about good fishing on waters such as Rock Creek and the West Walker and Carson rivers, our guys headed out to various waters, some with the gifts of size 22 dries for Hot Creek. Others headed up Rock Creek, while a few folks simply enjoyed the great weather with adult beverages back at the cabins. (One consistent lure for this trip is Ron's home-brewed beer.) While Ron and I played with the brook trout in Rock Creek, John lost a gift fly to a hot Hot Creek fish. As the sun set, we sat



*Pat Konoske with a 20 inch Cutthroat*

down for barbecue beef sandwiches and Fred's excellent potato salad, washed it all down with Ron's first-rate beer, with tales of the day's fishing told in between.

Saturday dawned cold and sunny, with Jay and I arriving at Crowley Lake marina to find the guide boat coated with ice. David headed to Hot Creek for redemption after a scoreless visit the day before, to be joined by Kirby and Ron. Marty, Greg, Mike, Patrick, and, I believe, John, were off to the Upper Owens River. David earned his redemption with a couple of nice Hot Creek fish of about 16 inches. Kirby landed a 16-inch Hot Creek brown and a 14-inch



*Jay Carson hangs onto an 18 inch Rainbow*

*Below a little Hot Creek rainbow show off wonderful color*



rainbow, with the aid of David's net work. The Upper Owens crew would later estimate walking 10 or more miles, but found fish along the way. John left the river to spend the afternoon on Hot Creek, where he also found at least one fish to be cooperative.

As for Jay and I, the powerful trout in Crowley Lake provided steady action throughout the day. (Just ask Jay how strong even the small Crowley trout can be.) Highlights for the day were an 18-inch rainbow landed by Jay, a 20-inch cutthroat and 20-inch rainbow for me, and my first experience of being taken into my backing by a fish that could only be estimated to be "huge" by the guide, as I lost it during my effort to convince this fish from tangling with the anchor lines. What a day!

Proving that he's more than just the club president, David whipped up an awesome meat sauce for spaghetti that evening. Tales were swapped, more beer consumed and plans were laid for fishing during our return home the next day. I can only speak for myself, but the four hours I spent fishing before heading over Sonora Pass included brook trout in Saddlebag Creek and browns and my first rainbow out of the East Walker River.

In my three years acting as fishmaster for this outing (and yes, it's only an act), this was the best. We had the "perfect storm" of great weather and great fishing (and catching). My thanks to everyone who joined me for their contributions and, more importantly, sharing their companionship. I'm not the only one already looking forward to next year!

**Pat Konoske, Fishmaster**

## Lake Manzanita Outing Wrapup

Just a quick note that the Lake Manzanita DVFF Outing Aug 26-29, was attended by seven of us - **Dennis & Mona Gregg, Rich Wheeler, Don Meehan, Bill and Dan Beaton and myself Rob Simpson.**

The first two days were beautiful for camping but most of us were lucky to land one or two fish apiece each day. Even ant patterns were not working!

On Saturday morning, with weather forecasts deteriorating the last of that week, rain began about 4AM. By 7AM, our tents and camps were soaked. Most of us decided to make our mass exodus and were on the road back home by 10AM.



I enjoyed hosing off my camping gear here in Danville with sunny warm skies that same Saturday afternoon. Mona and Dennis, in their "waterproof," spiffy fifth wheeler, endured the weekend through Monday...rain and snow through Sunday evening. Glad we split early!!

We all came to the conclusion that the weather sucked and the fishing was similar! Whoever was supposed to be the "fishmaster" never showed up!

How could he be so smart!!


*Rob Simpson*

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# DVFF Fly Rod Building Class

Saturdays — 9am - Noon

Nov. 20, 2010; Jan. 15, 22, 29, 2011

This hands-on class will teach you how to build your own fly rod – ranging from a lightweight trout or panfish rod to a heavy-duty saltwater fly rod. You can also choose to build a spey rod or a switch rod.

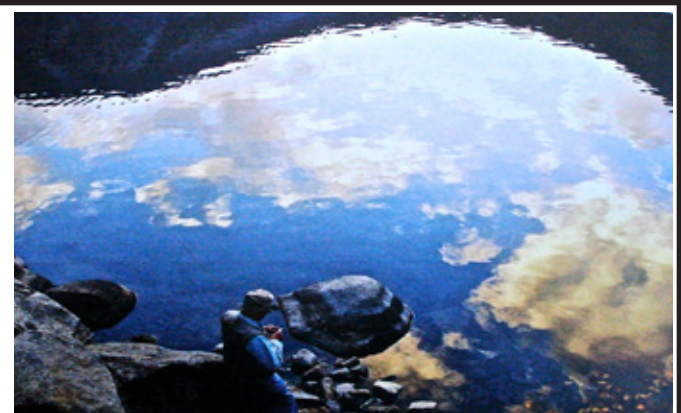


In addition to pride of ownership, building your own rod allows you to choose a high quality rod blank suited to your application and casting style and ability, a wide range of guide styles and quality, and a grip and reel seat that you can customize to fit your hand and be very esthetically pleasing. Depending on the rod blank and components you choose, costs for your completed rod will range from less than \$100 to over \$300. You can build a very good performing rod in the \$100 to \$150 price range.

We will help you choose the best rod blank for your application and casting style, and offer a range of options for the rod guides, grip and reel seat. The class is for beginning rod builders and for those that want to hone or expand their rod building skills.

- Class is for DVFF Club members only and class size is limited to 20 students
- Class fee is \$15 and pays for class materials and use of rod building shop
- To reserve your spot, call or e-mail Wayne Hofer, 925-937-0739 or whofer@comcast.net
- Sessions include:
  - Nov. 20 Specify rod blank and components, prepare your custom order
  - Jan. 15 Mount reel seat and grip
  - Jan 22 Preparation, positioning and mounting guides
  - Jan 29 Epoxy techniques for guide wraps and butt section

**Got questions? Call or e-mail Wayne Hofer**  
**Come and join the fun!!**



## 2011 DVFF Calendars!

**If You've Paid for the 2011 DVFF Fly Fishing Calendar. Don't forget to pick up your copies (from Kirston Koths) at the November or December club meeting!**



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**Dan Madison** with a 21" rainbow on Diamond Lake, Oregon. He, **Larry Griffis**, **George Willis**, **Jack Marks**, and **Dean Rhodes** spent 5 days fishing various locations near Bend Oregon this past week. Wonderful time by all.

## Conservation Corner

### Spokin' for Fish - CalTrout Bike Tour Postponed

This very cool event has been postponed. Cal Trout will try again - see their website for details.

### Fish as Food

Lots of stories in the news lately about the FDA's considering whether genetically-modified, farm-raised Atlantic salmon are OK to eat and OK for the environment. These salmon have two additions to their DNA — a gene from Chinook salmon produces natural Chinook growth hormone, and a gene from the ocean pout allows the hormone to work year-round. Net, the GM salmon will grow to market size in 18 months instead of three years. While indications are that nothing dangerous is contained in such fish, the FDA is proceeding with understandable caution. One sticky issue is whether and how the fish should be labeled as genetically-modified.

This is just one of set of issues with any fish that we eat. Was it caught or raised sustainably? Does it contain dangerous levels of PCBs? Are its populations being depleted? What's a consumer to do? To the rescue are wallet cards from the Monterey Bay Aquarium or the Blue Ocean Institute that rate various food fish on environmental criteria. Wild caught salmon – great! Farm raised salmon – not so good. Tilapia from the US – great! Tilapia from China, maybe not. As a bonus, the Blue Ocean Institute has their rating system (along with recipes) as an app for your smart-phone – see the Conservation section of our website for details.

**Ted Shapas, 925-330-1950, [shapas@comcast.net](mailto:shapas@comcast.net)**

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## WINDKNOTS DEADLINE

Items for the Windknots must be received by the Friday following the Board Meeting to be included in the next newsletter. Send to:

Ivan Lee, editor: 925-680-0139

ivan@leeadvertising.com

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## Send Us Your Fishing Stories and Photos!

Tell the club about your adventures! We will include stories and photos as space allows.

— *The editor*

### MEMBER'S ADS

#### FOR SALE — Fly Tying

I have lots of fly tying material for sale. I'm selling these items for 50 - 70% off what I paid. See me at DVFF meetings or call me.

**Steve Hess 925-691-5617**

**hessfam@sbcglobal.net**

#### FOR SALE — Vest

Simms G-3 Guide vest  
New \$200 Used once \$100

**Kirby Elvin**

**925-229-1079**

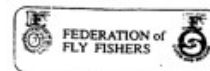
#### FOR SALE — Boat

Valco 12' Aluminum Flat Bottom boat. 15 hp Motor, Fish finder. 33 lb. thrust, foot-operated trolling motor. Pedestal seats, indoor/outdoor carpeting. Built in cooler, extra storage. Asking \$1500.

**Steve Hess 925-691-5617**

**hessfam@sbcglobal.net**

Affiliations



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Address Correction Requested

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**rrraar@comcast.net**

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**Bob Algieri 925-866-2161**

#### HAVE DUCK FEATHERS, WILL TRADE

Mallard, sprig, teal gadwall, Widgeon, Spoonbill, Snow and Speckle goose feathers (a few wood duck). I will deliver. Only payment is to let me have some flies for my fishing habit.

**Tom Morehouse 925-254-7213**

**925-788-3025 cell**

**TMorehouse@gmail.com**

#### FOR SALE — Rods

- G-Loomis IMX (Custom) 9 ft, 8 wt, 2-piece \$100

**Dean Rhodes 925-680-4516**

#### FOR RENT - Northstar Home

4 bedrooms, 2 bath, plus loft - sleeps 8 - deck on three sides, gas BBQ - furnished -Access to skiing, pool, sauna, Truckee River, golf, hiking, tennis, biking, etc., yr round access - Avail. during holidays.

**Jan 510-207-5868**