



# Windknots

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

October 2011

## Next Monthly Club Meeting:

**Tuesday, October 11, 2011**

Heather Farms Community Center  
301 North San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek  
Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Guests are welcome!!

2010 Member of the Year: Kirby Elvin

## Board Meeting: October 18th.

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



Normally we show **BIG** fish, but **Ron Buxton** shows us what fly fishing is all about. Ron fooling brookies and rainbows on a quiet stretch of Rock Creek. See the story on page 4.

## Jeff Putnam on Steelhead Fishing with a Spey Rod & Spey Casting Using a Trout Rod



Jeff Putnam's presentation will cover equipment for Spey casting and the latest trends, including an indoor Spey casting demonstration and

explanations, with a PowerPoint presentation titled "Steelhead Fishing the Pacific Northwest." He also will offer a short preview of his Single-Handed Spey Casting for Trout DVD.

At eleven years of age Jeff traded in his spinning rod for his first fly fishing outfit and started fishing many trout-filled streams in the Sierra Mountains. It was not long before fishing challenging gin-clear spring creeks, emerald green coastal steelhead rivers and fertile lakes all over the Western U.S. that Jeff realized fly fishing was more than just a sport. Jeff began fly tying commercially at 13 and started guiding fly fishermen on Northern California's waters as early as age 16. Since then Jeff has worked many positions in the industry including retail fly shop sales, manufactures rep, fly fishing guide in California, Montana and Colorado and fly fishing instructor. Jeff has also been fortunate to have traveled to some top fly fishing destinations like the famous Dean River in BC, the Tsiu River in Alaska, El Pescador Lodge in Belize and Christmas Island in the Central Pacific.

## DIABLO VALLEY FLY FISHERMEN OFFICERS:

President	David Lipscomb	925-283-8865
President Elect	Craig McMullen	925-376-1795
Secretary	Pat Konoske	707-748-0214
Treasurer	Wayne Hofer	925-937-0739

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010:

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Jim Shively	2011-2012	925-962-0562
Rob Simpson	2011-2012	925-736-3953
Tom Seidman	2010-2011	925-256-8818
Ted Shapas	2010-2011	925-330-1950
Bill Vierra	2011-2012	925-932-2096

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	John Hernikl	925-930-0635
	Bernard Ringer	925-457-9082
	Carlos Bocanegra	925-934-7652

## 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	Charles Wright	925-254-3001
Annual Auction	Bill King	925-837-8799
BBQ Dinner	Charles Wright	925-254-3001
Refreshments	Karen Kaiser	925-682-9085
Merchandise	Jay Carson	925-939-9594
	John Shaw	925-938-7231
Raffle	Bill Vierra	925-932-2096
	Satoshi Iwahashi	925-937-7240
Badges	John Edwards	925-944-1762
Golden Trout Award	Steve Hess	925-691-5617
Proj Healing Waters	Mike Johnson	925-692-0150

## 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
Circulation	Stan Graham	925-228-9517

## CONTACT US ON THE WEB AT:

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

Webmaster Pat Konoske 707-748-0214

*DVFF is defined as a 501(c)(7) per IRS rules*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I have had the very fortunate circumstance for the month of September to be able to go on all three of DVFF's club outings – Fall River, San Joaquin, and the Eastern Sierra. What one observes when partaking in these adventures are the following “priceless” traits:

- **Scenery** that any tour guide would die for – e.g. sunset on the Fall River, Minaret Falls at Devil's Postpile, Rock Creek Lake above Tom's Place.
- **Gourmet Food** – and when I say gourmet I mean gourmet – how about homemade curry, Moroccan stew, succulent steaks and dutch oven apple crisp. Most of these dishes were made with veggies from peoples' gardens.
- **Gourmet Drink** – wine selections that would top the SF Chronicles food review, and even our own homemade “brew” courtesy of **Ron Buxton**, himself a true connoisseur of all kinds of good froth.
- **Super camaraderie** – obviously the three factors above and one below work together to create the best kind of friendships.
- Did I mention – **great fishing!** Two out of three is not bad. Please see reports.



Outings like those in September represent the culmination of what DVFF is all about – giving people the opportunity to learn and improve their fly fishing while at the same time having a great time in some of the best outdoor vistas anywhere. The detailed planning of great fishmasters like **Kit Kohler** and **Pat Konoske** helps ensure that our members are able to enjoy the very best outing experience.



What a great overview by **Mike Caranci** on the Redding area fly-fishing region last month. Our program headline said “The Best of Northern California.” However, remember that NORCAL includes a tremendous amount of other great fishing opportunities, e.g. the eastern Sierra, Tahoe region, and many, many more. We are always looking to new places to go, and new people to lead us there. The planning of 2012 outings is already underway so talk to **Tom Seidman**, and let him know where you'd like to see the club take an outing next year.



There is one last chance to throw your name in the hat if you want to serve on the DVFF board. See one of the nominating committee

(Continued on next page, first column.)

members – **Jim Shively, John Edwards, or Bill Vierra** – and let them know.



From the small sampling that we had of fall fishing I venture to say that this will be the best season of the year so don't pass it up!

*“More than half the intense enjoyment of fly-fishing is derived from the beautiful surroundings, the satisfaction felt from being in the open air, the new lease on life secured thereby, and the many, many pleasant recollections of all one has seen, heard, and done.”*

*Charles F. Orvis*



*Keep Learning!  
David Lipscomb,  
DVFF President*



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## WELCOME NEW DVFF MEMBERS!

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>William Bishop</b></p> <p><b>Donna Brandstrom</b></p> <p><b>Bill Brennan</b></p> <p><b>Vincent D'alo</b></p> <p><b>Peter Dinkelspiel</b></p> <p><b>Mike Ergo</b></p> <p><b>Richard Ergo</b></p> <p><b>Jack Harkins</b></p> <p><b>Rich Hoffman</b></p> <p><b>Doug Hughes</b></p> <p><b>Jack Linder</b></p> <p><b>Michael Meneghetti</b></p> <p><b>Peter Moreno</b></p> | <p><b>Diane Morrell</b></p> <p><b>Lane Mortensen</b></p> <p><b>Darin O'kelley</b></p> <p><b>Shari Rezai</b></p> <p><b>Bob Sommer</b></p> <p><b>John Squires</b></p> <p><b>William Sutherlin</b></p> <p><b>Andy Tincu</b></p> <p><b>John Tincu</b></p> <p><b>Mark Traylor</b></p> <p><b>Ed Vargas</b></p> <p><b>John Woodworth</b></p> |
|---|---|

## 2011 OUTINGS-TRIPS-SEMINARS

**If you are interested in being a Fishmaster, please contact Tom Seidman at (925) 256-8818.**

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

Date	Trip (species)	Fishmaster
Feb 5	Yuba River TR/ST	Bob Meadowcoft (925) 631-0194
Mar 8-11	Pyramid Lake TR	Larry Griffis (925) 947-4914
Apr 30	Kistler Ranch BA	George Willis (925) 676-6690
May 7-8	Baum Lake TR	Dennis Gregg (510) 537-0311
May 14	Kelsey Bass Ranch	Bill King (925) 837-8799
June 4	Shasta Lake TR	Bill King (925) 837-8799
June 15-19	McCloud River TR	Marc Ericksen (415) 362-1214
July 7-10	Manzanita Lake TR	John Edwards (925) 944-1762
July 16-17	Upper Sac Seminar TR	John Barry (707) 246-6831 Alan Christian (925) 820-7288
Sept 1-4	Fall River TR	David Lipscomb
Sep 22-25	East Slope Sierra TR*	Pat Konoske (707) 334-6849
Nov 2-7	McCloud River TR	Marc Ericksen (415) 362-1214

\* Outing full; waiting list available.

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 attend each outing.

## Fishing (& Learning) on the East Slope of the Sierras ~ Pat Konoske

**Willy George** and I departed on Sept. 19th with boat in tow and headed east over Tioga Pass toward the Eastern Sierra. We were the advance team for the club's Eastern Sierra Trip. **Bill King** would join us later that day; the rest of the group would arrive later in the week. Along the way we stopped in Lee Vining at Bodie Mike's for barbecue, then at the Crowley Lake Marina for a quagga mussel inspection, which thanks to Willy's preparation was passed in record time.

We made it to Toms Place ahead of schedule. That left enough time to wet a line in a section of Rock Creek conveniently located behind the café. It's not the prettiest stretch of water, but provided some dry fly action and Willy's first post-retirement trout: a nice-sized brown. Bill arrived after a few after-dinner beers.

led to heavy weed growth. Willy did land two decent rainbows early in the day. I managed a nice brown, and Bill brought a robust brown to the net.

That learning was put to the test Thursday, when Willy and I spent the day in his boat, searching for open channels and properly positioning the boat. Eight hook ups, with one beefy brown to the net and three rainbows lost — big fish that jumped and cleared the water by a body length or more — suggested we'd done well.



*Rock Creek brook trout in spawning colors.*

Fantastic weather held through out the week and greeted the rest of the group — **Ron Buxton, Kirby Elvin, David Lipscomb, John Armstrong, Mike Johnson, Fred Glaser, Steve Morelli, Ted Shapas, Mike Rudd** and **Patrick Grove** — that Thursday afternoon. Folks were spread out on various water or, having already

wet a line, enjoyed beer in the great outdoors. The following days were filled with fishing, though the Upper Owens was a bit high and Hot Creek a bit weedy, as usual. But everyone landed a fish. David found a "honey hole" on McGee Creek. Ron and Ted spent time on upper and lower Rock Creek, as did many of our group. One evening I spent some time with Willy on upper Rock Creek, visiting the friendly brook trout, and as if out of textbook, found trout rising at Rock Creek Lake's outlet and, of course, cast dry flies for some fun action. (I'd say we had a remarkable amount of dry fly action this trip, more than usual.)

The days were closed with dinners

provided by David and Mike, Fred, and Ted, accompanied by beer brewed by Ron and awesome desserts.

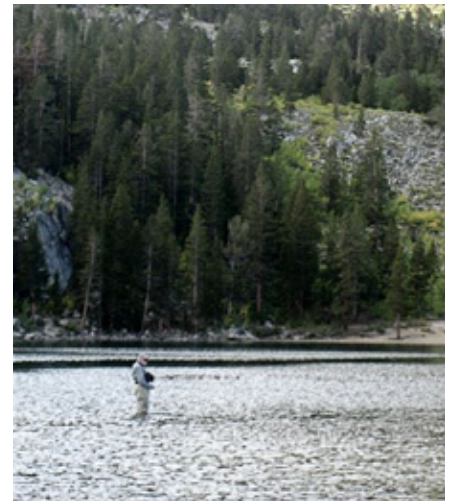
The water was definitely high this year and smaller flies were the rule, but there were fish to be had, everything from sizeable browns, hot rainbows and beautiful brookies in vibrant spawning colors. I'd dare say that the Eastern Sierra again impressed me by offering something for everyone, from classic creek pools where a rookie can practice tactics and casting (and hook up), to more technical waters with challenging trout.

**Pat Konoske**



*The Eastern Sierra Group — Back Row (left to right): Mike Rudd, John Armstrong, Bill King, Steve Morelli, Fred Glaser, Patrick Grove, Ron Buxton, Ted Shapas. Front Row (left to right): David Lipscomb, Pat Konoske, Kirby Elvin, Willy George, Mike Johnson.*

The plan was for Willy, Bill and I to spend that Wednesday with a guide, learning the specifics and generalities of stillwater fly fishing on Crowley Lake. Learning we did. Catching, not so much. The high water this year had the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power monkeying around with the lake level, which, combined with warmer-than-usual fall weather,



1st row (left to right): Ron Buxton on the Upper Owens River, just below Big Springs. Bill King with a nice Crowley brown. Willy George playing a nice rainbow on Crowley Lake (on his boat).

2nd row (left to right): Pat Konoske with a nice 17-inch Crowley Lake brown, a fish with some shoulders! Stripping a Matuka on scenic Rock Creek Lake. Ted Shapas glaring at intrusive kayakers on Rock Creek Lake.

3rd row (left to right): Willy George holding up a fish hooked on a "cast" made after Pat Konoske removed the fly from a log upstream. Caddis on Rock Creek. How many DVFF Club members does it take to change a fly line? ... it's a full-service club: Willy George (right) took on changing Fred Glaser's reel — in the field — from right-hand to left-hand retrieve, with assistance from Kirby Elvin (center) and Fred (left).

4th row (left): David Lipscomb on McGee Creek during the early morning. (Thank you to Steve and Ted for sharing their photos.)

## DVFF Fall River Outing

Fishing can sometimes be a very humbling experience, even for anglers who are normally pretty good fishermen. When the six members of the DVFF fishing group arrived on Thursday, September 1 – expectations for lots of 16”+ wild rainbows were uppermost in everyone’s mind. What a group is was – **Ric Rattray**, and his brother, **Gordon**, who drove all the way from Idaho; **Carl Searway**, and fairly recent arrival **Carol Stanton**; the writer and his son, **Brad Lipscomb**, who has successfully made this pilgrimage for the last three years. Armed with just about every “weapon” in our fly-fishing arsenal, including two guides on day two, the numbers of fish stories were slim, although Carl and Carol had high praise for their guide, **Chris Parsons** from the Fly Shop for his super instructional methods and patience. Brad did manage to catch one nice 17” right after his dad caught a 16” – typical when we fish together.

Perplexed would be a good way to describe our feelings about why the fish were not taking our flies – as I wrote in my journal, the possibilities are numerous:

- Weather – it had turned very warm for the weekend, and early Sept. “doldrums” could certainly have had an effect.
- The recent (last five years) invasive Eurasian watermilfoil (weed) is really having a bigger effect than anyone imagined. Probably not yet.
- Lack of hatches – we certainly witnessed small hatches of Baetis and some Callebaetis so throw that out.
- Fish just were not feeding. Well, when you anchor at one of your favorite spots in the river, and watch



the fish move frequently to grab some grub (but not your fly), you know they are feeding.

- Wrong flies used. Between the six of us, we probably threw almost every possible combination of flies and options – dries, nymphs, streamers, leeches, midges, etc. While our Fall Rive “twitch” may not have been perfect all the time, there were enough times when it would have worked normally.

As you can see, the fish (on some days at least) do outsmart the fisherman. Despite the slow catch rate, a good time was still had by all, mainly because we had the best restaurant in that part of northern California for three days – along with some of the best company – and just being at Fall River is one of life’s true privileges. When you look out at the front yard and stop counting the deer after a dozen, and you look out your back across the river at some of the most spectacular sunsets possible – well, you get the picture.

**David Lipscomb**

A logo for FishFirst! featuring a mountain and river scene. Below the logo is the text "FishFirst!" and "FLYFISHING &amp; OUTDOOR WEAR". The name "Leo Siren" is written below. Contact information includes phone 510 526 1937, fax 510 526 1938, 1404 Solano Avenue, Leo @ FishFirst.com, http://www.FishFirst.com, and Albany, CA 94706.

A logo for The Fly Shop featuring a fly and a fishing rod. Below the logo is the text "The Fly Shop" and "America's Flyfishing Outfitter". The background shows two people fishing on a river with a boat on a trailer. Contact information includes 4140 Churn Creek Rd., Redding, CA, 96002 and 800-669-3474.

## Conservation Corner

### Surfperch Volunteer

**Opportunity** - Thanks goes to **Kirston Koths** for this one. Dr. Steven Morgan from UC Davis/Bodega Marine Lab and Dr. Karina Nielsen from Sonoma State will survey surfperch at Salmon Creek, Drakes and Limantour beaches this fall, to help evaluate the recently established Marine Protected Areas along our coast. Both fly and bait fishing (all catch and release) will be conducted inside & outside the MPAs. If you're interested in participating in the study, please contact Steven Morgan ([sgmorgan@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sgmorgan@ucdavis.edu)).



**Protecting the Upper Truckee River** - Trout Unlimited and CalTrout are working together with various outdoor recreation groups to provide permanent protection for a large section of the Upper Truckee River watershed. While there are 63 tributaries to Lake

Tahoe, the Upper Truckee River is the largest, and the main source of clean water for the lake. Besides being drop-dead beautiful, the area is also home to some of the last native Lahontan cutthroat trout in the world. This project is yet another great reason to support TU and CalTrout. To learn more and see a cool video, click here: [http://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=254932744534439&id=109248571194/](http://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=254932744534439&id=109248571194/).

**Ted Shapas, 925-330-1950, shapas@comcast.net**

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## Windknots Online!

Starting in January 2012, Windknots will go to **full online distribution for ALL members**. So be sure you are signed up to receive the e-mail notice by going to the DVFF website ([www.diabloflyfish.org](http://www.diabloflyfish.org)), Newsletter Tab, and click the Sign Up for Email Notification.

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## DVFF Fly Rod Building Class

**Saturdays, 9AM – Noon**

**Nov. 19, 2011; Jan. 14, 21, 28; Feb. 4 2012**

This class will teach you to build your own fly rod. It is hands on. You can build a fly rod ranging from a lightweight rod for use with trout or panfish to a heavy-duty saltwater fly rod. You could even build a spey rod or a switch rod.

Depending on the rod blank and components you choose, the cost of your completed rod will range from less than \$100 to more than \$300. You can build a very good performing, high quality rod for less than \$150.



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

- Class instructor is Wayne Hofer – DVFF rod builder and instructor

- Class is for DVFF Club members only and limited to 10 students
- Class fee is \$20 and pays for class materials, use of the rod building shop, and refreshments
- To reserve your reservation, call or e-mail Wayne Hofer, 925-937-0739 or whofer@comcast.net

### Sessions include:

- Nov. 19 Specify rod blank and components, prepare your custom order
- Jan. 14 Mount reel seat and grip
- Jan. 21 Preparation, positioning and wrapping guides
- Jan. 28 Epoxy techniques for guide wraps and butt section trim
- Feb. 4 Class practice session and review, problem solving

Sign up and enjoy the fun. Got questions?

**Contact Wayne Hofer, 925-937-0739**  
**whofer@comcast.net**



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Sat 9 am - 4:00 pm  
Sun 11am - 3:00 pm

## Ouchie! Fly Fishing Headwear.

Converting my 9 ft., 6 wt. Powell to a "switch rod" for 2 hands allows me to throw a fly at increased velocity for a greater distance. All the better to teach the "Chuck & Duck" evasive maneuver. Alas, my ear forgot to duck. Ouch!

I was guilty of not wearing my broad brimmed fishing hat or eye glasses. Shucks, I was only stopping for five minutes there on the Blackfoot River.

With the long shank, size 2 Muddler Minnow, firmly embedded out-of-sight but not out-of-mind, I drove 30 miles to the nearest rural community. The monofilament extraction technique twice sent me through the ceiling. Yes, I had crimped the barb before casting.

So I drove Eastward to Lincoln, Mt., where a medical clinic was located, only the two doctors had chosen this Monday to go fishing.

I lamented to the waitress at the cafe/bar/casino, who promptly contacted a volunteer EMT. "Hey Molly", says the EMT, "you got a pair of pliers, I can pull that sucker."

"Whoa! Whoa! Whoa!" I said. "Wash your hands and then lets go outside to my camper for some hydrogen peroxide and forceps."

Much to my surprise & delight the EMT was able to gently pluck the fly out. Future body piercing will be strictly intentional. A true story.

**Rick Davis**



## Fishing Information Needed

Hello Fly Fishers, This is a follow up to an email we sent earlier this week. We are in need of your local river information, and fish species, as we move forward setting our itinerary for 2012 film production. Any of your members input, photos, and stories will give us an idea of what to expect in your area. Your input is greatly appreciated. Facebook seems the medium which we can share with other clubs and fans of the fly, so if you can forward this to your members perhaps we can get a greater response, more pictures, more stories and more opportunities for me to fish and photograph North America with my crew. Representing fly fishermen across North America is just one of the very important aspects of this project. Thank you to the many clubs that have responded thus far.

[info@overlandnorth.com](mailto:info@overlandnorth.com)  
[www.overlandnorth.com](http://www.overlandnorth.com)

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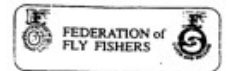
Items for the Windknots must be received by the Friday following the Board Meeting to be included in the next newsletter. Send to:

Ivan Lee, editor: 925-680-0139

ivan@leeadvertising.com

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Affiliations



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Address Correction Requested

## MEMBER'S ADS

### FOR RENT - Vacation Home in McCloud, Siskiyou Co.

TOAD HOLLOW is a 4 bedroom, 2 bath home in historic McCloud, minutes from the McCloud River and Upper Sac fishing grounds.

Visit [www.toadhollowrental.com](http://www.toadhollowrental.com)

**Lindy (925) 287-8009**

**reservations@toadhollowrental.com**

### 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**

### FOR SALE — Youth Gear

Simm's vest size XS: \$30

Cabela's size 4 uninsulated waders (inseam 20-23", chest 31-34"): \$30

Cabela's size 4 3.5mm neoprene waders (inseam 21-24", chest 29-33"): \$40

**Jim Clark, 925-945-7076**

**jim@theclarkranch.com**

### FOR RENT - Truckee Condo

3 bedroom 2 bath with a loft. Close to the Truckee, Little Truckee and other rivers makes this a great flyfishing location. On the Tahoe Donner Ski hill it is a great place for winter activities. Fireplace, BBQ and clubhouse with sauna, hot tub.

**Les Fogelman, 925-872-1234**

**lkfogelman@sbcglobal.net**

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**Bob Algeri 925-866-2161**

### FOR SALE — Boat

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**Steve Hess 925-691-5617**

**hessfamA@sbcglobal.net**

### DUCK FEATHERS, WILL TRADE

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

**Tom Morehouse 925-254-7213**

**TMorehouse@gmail.com**