



Ian Colin James

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Messages from Ian

Great Bay Rod Company

David Gibson the owner of the Great Bay Rod Company from Rochester, NH, is one heck of a guy. Last fall he flipped me an email asking if he could help out the Canadian National Youth Team. In an economy going down the crapper, there was David offering to supply the team with fly rods. Not only that, he was willing to build a custom rod, if coach Bob Sheedy and myself told him what we needed. So we did. Over the winter David took our suggestions and put together exactly what we wanted. We needed an 11 foot rod which would very easily cast 15 yards with only one backcast. It had to be a 4-5 weight so that it could be used for nymphing and for lake fishing. It had to have oversized guides, just because Bob and I think that is nifty. No, honestly the oversized guides would help the kids cast a long line quickly.

Long story short ... David delivered. Not only did he deliver, but he delivered in spades. Actually it was rods, but you get the idea. Coach Sheedy and myself would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank David for his work. David, thank you. It's people like you who step up to the plate and who can see the value in supporting kids once they are in the sport.

Will the rod design give Team Canada an advantage at the World Championships in Prague this July? Yes it will and that's all you can ask for ... the opportunity to do well.

The kicker is this. When I was field testing the rod, there were so many anglers who fell in love with it, that the rod is now in production. No guff. Take a look at it on David's web site. The part # EMG1104-5.

If you want to build one of these, the blank retails for \$149.95 and the rod retails for \$349.95. Yes, David donated 8 rods worth about \$350 each to the team. Thank again David.

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