



## Gone Fishin'

by Steve Eginoire

Whether you're catching fish or just catching a buzz, the ice fishing at Lake Vallecito, as they say, is "going off." Cold clear nights and mild temps during the day have left large portions of the lake with a snow-free sheen of crystal clear, Zamboni-quality ice; conditions not seen in quite some time. While the constant creaking, groaning and cracking beneath your feet may seem a bit unsettling, and being suspended only 14 inches from a very large body of 34-degree water with no flotation is slightly disconcerting, the locals assure that, "it's fine." Here's a gander:



Rick Gallegos catches some rays and hopes to catch a lunker.



A group of ice fisherman stare into a six inch diameter hole drilled into the ice.



Hannah Gallegos demonstrates the proper use of an ice auger.