



**We have a  
wonderful  
sport...**

**LET'S  
TELL THE  
WORLD  
ABOUT IT!**

**C**ASTING is a wonderful sport, but we must tell the world about it. I'm amazed at how many avid anglers are not aware of the existence of tournament casting and all the benefits it offers.

It's about time we tell them.

There can be no better opportunity to do so than the upcoming 97<sup>th</sup> ACA National Tournament held at Cabela's in Dundee Michigan, August 1 through August 6. As most of us know, Cabela's is a huge, extremely successful retail and mail order company that specializes in fishing, hunting and other outdoor products and services. Cabela's has 10 mega stores in the U.S. and will be opening another eight in the next couple of years.

In the past, our National tournaments took place at various casting clubs around the country. While these casting clubs are ideal venues for our games, they do not attract large numbers of spectators because of their remote locations.

Cabela's is different. Cabela's stores attract a huge number of people every day. Our accuracy games will take place at Cabela's Lake, which is only a couple of long casts away from the store. This means that we will have ample opportunity to showcase our sport to the many spectators that are attracted to Cabela's each day. The majority of these spectators will be anglers. So it's up to us to deliver our very best pitch to "sell" our games to interested people.

In addition to our classic events, we will offer two accuracy (fly and plug) and two distance events (fly and plug) to the general public. We're going to invite spectators to "step right up and cast" in these simplified versions of our games. They will win prizes and awards but mostly they will have fun and be introduced to tournament casting.

These fast-paced events will be open only to people who have never competed in a previous ACA casting tournaments. There will be divisions for men, women and nonadults. This should be an excellent way of getting others interested in our sport. But there are other ways we can help promote our games. Surely we will be asked various questions about

*Continued on page 3*

# ***We have a great opportunity... Let's seize it!***

**E**VERYONE INVOLVED in the preparation for the 97<sup>th</sup> ACA National Tournament extends a hearty welcome to all.

We know that all the participants, spectators and sponsors will greatly enjoy this National Tournament, which is unique because it will be held at Cabela's at Dundee, Michigan. Cabela's has enthusiastically given support and generously offered the use of the Dundee facility for this great event from August 1 through the 6.

Every day, Cabela's attracts huge crowds of sportsmen so this will give us an incredible opportunity to showcase our great sport to the public. It's important that we publicize our wonderful activity to as many people as possible and Cabela's offers a splendid opportunity for us to accomplish this.

Another important new feature of the 2005 National is the addition of special casting events that will be offered to men, women, and non-adults **who have never competed in a previous ACA casting tournament**. These events will be held on grass, near the front of Cabela's building thus attracting maximum attention. Tackle and allied manufacturers will supply equipment, products or prizes for the non-tournament casting competition.

Let us promote and publicize tournament casting to everyone possible, by demonstrating what an enjoyable activity casting is. At all times, we want to stress the most important benefit: By becoming a better caster, he or she greatly improves one's ability to catch more and larger fish, and at the same time have fun casting. *The Creel* editor Jim Chapralis has provided a list of benefits in this issue. Keep them in mind when discussing casting with interested spectators.

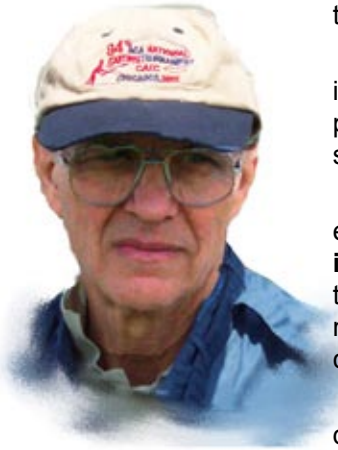
**W**E ALSO WANT TO DEMONSTRATE to the tackle industry how important tournament casting has been in the past and will continue to be in the future development of fishing tackle and fishing methods. The contributions of tournament casters to the industry are immense, but often overlooked. Among the contributions and innovations: The double-haul fly fishing technique. Using a shooting head and mono running line. The light aluminum plug-casting spools that reduce the number of backlashes. Rod tapers. The modern fly line designations by Myron Gregory. The fingering of a spinning reel during a cast for superb accuracy. Jimmy Green's marvelous tip over butt ferruling system that practically every rod manufacturer uses today. The list goes on and on. Tournament casters are always experimenting with tackle and constantly are improving products.

We need to tell the world about our wonderful sport and major contributions on a continuing basis.

The 97<sup>th</sup> ACA Casting Tournament at Cabela's gives us that a magnificent opportunity to do so. Let's seize it!

Please take the time to fill out the reservation form that's included in this issue of *The Creel* and mail it to us as soon as possible. I hope to see you at Cabela's in August. You'll want to be a part of this exciting event!

Frank Galak  
*President of the Toledo Casting Club*





**97<sup>th</sup> ACA National Tournament at Cabela's, Dundee, MI:** Here's an awesome opportunity for us to show "our stuff." Huge numbers of potential spectators could view our games and our events. Many will undoubtedly participate in special, simplified events. Let's convert them to casters.

*Continued from page 1*

tournament casting, and it's up to us, the ambassadors of casting, to explain the benefits and virtues of tournament casting.

It amazes me at the number of benefits that tournament casting offers. All things considered our sport should enjoy tremendous participation. For example, I have nothing against "curling" the sport that's played on ice with brooms, but it bothers me that curling is an Olympic event and casting is not. It bothers me that recently I saw an entire curling competition on television but not casting.

I've made a quick list of some of the advantages of casting. I know there are many more, but here are some of the benefits we ought to remember to discuss with potential casters:

### **FAMILY ACTIVITY**

In today's high-pressured life, it's important that families spend

more time together in wholesome activities. I analyzed the last four Nationals and it amazed me that slightly **more than half (50.2 percent) of the casting participants were composed of family members** (spouses, children, brothers, etc.). That's an amazing statistic! I doubt that there's any other competition that remotely approaches this percentage. Clearly casting is a family sport. Let's tell the world about it!

### **LOW COST, LOW MAINTENANCE**

Once you purchase the original tackle, practice casting is virtually free. Club memberships are very inexpensive and even National casting event fees are extremely reasonable. A comparable sport to casting is target shooting. Every time you pull a trigger it costs money. And of course there's the cost of clay targets, too. You can make a thousand casts and it won't cost you a penny.

### **DO IT ANYWHERE, ANYTIME**

Sure, it's great to belong to a casting club, especially like some of those gems located on the West Coast, but the fact is that you can cast anywhere. Really all you need are a few Hula Hoops and some open ground or a pond or pool. For distance, you don't even need the Hula Hoops, just an athletic field.

When winter comes in the northern climes, you can probably practice casting indoors at various park facilities or gyms. Years ago, we, the Lincoln Park Casting Club and other Chicago clubs, held indoor practice sessions and even tournaments at high school gyms.

### **GOOD CASTING, GOOD FISHING**

Except for still fishing, trolling and jigging, casting skill is one of the major contributing factors to

*Continued on page 11*

# The 97<sup>th</sup> ACA National Tournament Schedule of Events

<b>Monday, August 1, 2005</b>	<b>PRACTICE</b>
Location	High school field for Distance; Cabela's Lake for Accuracy
Registration:	On site: 1PM to 5PM
<b>Tuesday, August 2, 2005</b>	
Location	Distance casting field (high school) 18gr. 2-Hand Revolving Distance 1-Hand Fly Distance 2-Hand Fly Distance
<b>Wednesday, August 3, 2005</b>	
Location	Distance casting field 18gr. 2-Hand Distance Spinning 7.5gr. 1-Hand Distance Spinning Angler's Fly Distance
<b>Thursday, August 4, 2005</b>	
Location	Cabela's Lake Trout Fly Accuracy 1/4 oz. Spinning Accuracy
<b>Annual A.C.A. Business Meeting at Cabela's</b>	
<b>Friday, August 5, 2005</b>	
Location	Cabela's Lake Dry Fly Accuracy 5/8 oz. Accuracy 5/8 oz. Accuracy Team Event
Team Casting order	Cincinnati - Chicago - Toledo - Golden Gate - Toronto - Scarborough - Oakland-Lexington - Long Beach - others.
	Second club teams will be cast after (in the same casting order).
<b>Saturday August 6, 2005</b>	
Location	Cabela's Lake 3/8 oz. Accuracy Bass Bug
<b>AWARDS BANQUET</b> 7 PM	Cabela's Banquet awards and raffle

**Distance Events start at 8:00 AM;  
Accuracy Events will start at 8:30 AM**

## Holiday Inn at Dundee, MI is headquarters for ACA tournament



The Holiday Inn at Dundee, MI is the headquarters for the ACA Nationals. ACA participants have a special rate of \$72 per room plus tax but make your reservations as fast as possible. Let them know that you are an ACA participant. To make reservations at the Holiday Inn call 734-529-5100.

### IF YOU ARE FLYING:

For Transfer Service between nearby airports: Cabela's provides free airport shuttle service. Call Cabela's (Dundee, MI) 734-529-4700 well in advance and ask for the service desk and relay your flight plans.

### IF YOU ARE DRIVING:

Holiday Inn is adjacent to Cabela's at Dundee, MI. Use Exit #17 off US 23. The hotel and Cabela's is located just 20 miles north of Toledo and 20 miles South of Ann Arbor.

# The 97<sup>th</sup> American Casting Association National Tournament

## Registration Form

**Host: The Toledo Casting Club in conjunction with Cabela's, Inc.**

**August 1-6, 2005**

**Dundee, Michigan**

Please complete & return registration form by July 15, 2005.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Day-Time Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(Your e-mail address will be kept confidential)

Registration Fee: Individual .....\$25.00  
Family .....\$15.00 per person

Event Fees: Seniors, Women, Men, Intermediates ..... \$8.00 per event  
Juniors ..... \$2.00 per event  
Team Event (maximum of two teams per club) ..... \$10.00 per team (paid @ event)

Distance Events	Senior Men	Women	Men	Intermediates	Juniors	Youth
18G Revolving Spool (2-Hand) – Tuesday						
1-Hand Fly – Tuesday						
2-Hand Fly – Tuesday						
18G Spinning (2-Hand) – Wednesday						
7.5G Spinning (1-Hand) –Wednesday						
Angler's Fly – Wednesday						
Accuracy Events						
Trout Fly Accuracy – Thursday						
1/4 oz. Plug Accuracy – Thursday						
Dry Fly Accuracy – Friday						
5/8 oz. Plug Accuracy– Friday						
5/8 oz. Plug Team Event – Friday						
3/8 oz. Plug Accuracy– Saturday						
Bass Bug Accuracy - Saturday						

Registration Fee ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Events \_\_\_\_\_ X \$8.00 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Events \_\_\_\_\_ X \$2.00 (Junior) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Sub-Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*The Creel* newsletter subscription (optional, \$7.00) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grand Total (in U.S. Dollars) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: *Toledo Casting Club*. Please send registration forms by **July 15, 2005** to:

**Toledo Casting Club**  
**PO Box 6963**  
**Toledo, OH 43612** (Phone 419-475-5865)

**NOTE: Payment on-site prior to first event is permissible. Please send registration form early so that tournament officials can prepare score cards and rosters.**

# Casting: The next growth segment for the tackle industry?

**G**O AHEAD LAUGH! I did, too. I chuckled at first. But the more I thought about it the more it seems to make sense. I realize that (1) we don't have the "numbers" (in terms of casters), and (2) we tend to use specialized equipment that isn't available even in the best-equipped tackle stores. So how could the casting sport increase sales?

Let me address the specialized equipment subject first. True, we are not going to find tackle that's used for distance events (such as single-hand distance fly, two-hand distance fly, or even a competitive distance spinning or plug rod). But we can easily find tackle at Cabela's and other stores for the three fly accuracy (Dry Fly, Trout Fly and Bass Bug) and the three plug casting games (1/4 oz. spinning, 3/8 oz., and 5/8 oz. plug casting). The six accuracy events resemble, if not mirror, many angling applications.

For a number of reasons, including "learning difficulty" and a soft economy, I don't think there is a tremendous growth in fly-fishing sales. Judging from what I've heard from some of the smaller independent fly shops around the country, sales are flat. Some stores have even closed. One reason is that many people become interested in fly fishing, buy the equipment, take some lessons and then forget what they've learned. The outfit sits in a closet or attic.

On the other hand, if we, with the help of the fly tackle industry, could encourage newcomers to practice their casting, so that they could become more proficient, they would enjoy fly fishing, and after some initial success would probably buy more and more tackle.

**I**THINK THIS HAS ESCAPED the fly tackle industry and us, too: There is a wide open market, for casting and fly fishing, just waiting for the right nurturing. A few years ago, many people became interested in fly fishing because of the movie *A River Runs Through It*. They bought fly tackle. They took lessons, but they never practiced and the interest waned. I believe many of them, had they become interested in casting (at a club or with friends) as a separate activity, would enjoy it and become better anglers. The result would be more tackle sales but more interest in casting and casting clubs.

Let's turn to plug casting. At one time, it seemed that you needed a Meek or a Talbot reel to compete adequately in the plug-casting events, but this is not so today. There are a number of excellent casting reels available at most tackle shops suitable for the 5/8 oz. event, and there never was never a better selection of spinning reels for the 1/4 oz. and 3/8 oz. events.

There is a program for youngsters called CastingKids, which seems to be very successful. There are state, regional and national tournaments. Since its inception, CastingKids has reached over **one million children** and has awarded over \$1,500,000 in cash, prizes and scholarships. That's quite a bit of interest. A powerful program.

Okay, so then these kids grow a little older, then what? Sure, some go fishing with their dads and friends, but I suspect the majority soon loses interest in casting and in fishing.

Many of these same youngsters would enjoy competitive casting as they became older *if it were available to them*. I think that's reasonable to assume. Practice casting in the backyard alone is not going to do it. Competition or fun casting games, would hold their interest. It did for the Rajeff brothers. For Chris Korich. For Henry Mittel. For many of us.

We, the casters and the tackle industry, need to work on this. Surely it would be mutually helpful to the tackle industry and to casting.

Research indicates that the young people are shying away from fishing and other outdoor activities. I believe that if they were properly exposed to casting and fishing, many would put away their computer games and take that deep breath of fresh air.



# The BFCC: Where distance is a way of life!

Carl Hutchinson cast 198.33 ft. in the single-hand distance fly event. Scott Simmonds threw a fly 256.33 ft. in the two-hand distance fly, while 68-year-old Mike Marshall's cast measured an incredible 248 feet! In an event similar to the ACA's Angler's Fly, James Warbrick-Smith cast 171 feet! These great casts did not take place at a West Coast casting club known for some of the greatest distance casters in history, but instead in England at a club that's barely a few years old.

The club was formed by Dr. Sam Davis who was born in Japan, raised in South Carolina, educated in England (earning his doctorate in Evolutionary Biology from University College London), and now lives and works in Brittany, France as a professional fishing guide, lodge co-owner, and outfitter. Check his web site at [www.fishandfunbrittany.com](http://www.fishandfunbrittany.com)

In late 2002, Sam developed a strong interest in tournament casting. He was living in England at the time, and in mid-2003 he founded the British Fly Casting Club (BFCC). In a remarkably short period of time, members of this club achieved tremendous distance fly casting results.

What is incredible is how Sam Davis was able to accomplish so much in less than a year's time. I think his experience will be helpful in inspiring others to start similar casting clubs. We recently interviewed the 41-year old angler/caster/scientist for a forthcoming book on casting by Creel editor Jim Chapralis. Here are some excerpts from this book which could serve as a blueprint for forming other casting clubs:

**Q: When did you get interested in casting? How long ago?**

**SD:** As a sport in its own right, I got the tournament casting bug during the winter of 2002 after I accompanied a friend to a distance-casting lesson. He wanted to obtain his 55-Yard Club qualifica-

tion and was heading to see Iain Thomson (co-founder of the 55-Yard Club) to get some more pointers. *[Ed. Note: To become a member the caster must cast a fly 55-yards or more]* I listened to Iain and started playing around with the single-hand fly distance outfit. Iain said I displayed a natural casting ability and I should pursue the 55-Yard Club. I became more and more intrigued with the mechanics and art of tournament casting. I also realized that this sport offered plenty of physical and mental facets for me to pursue without being near a fish. I am also one of the fortunate few to enjoy both fishing and casting with equal zeal. I qualified in mid 2003, for the 55-Yard Club and I established the British Fly Casting Club (BFCC).

**Q: You've done a remarkable job in promoting casting in England. Did casting exist in Britain in recent years prior to your involvement or was it dormant?**

**SD:** Thanks. The answer is yes to both your questions. Tournament casting has enjoyed a long, rich history in England throughout the last century and had been governed, until the mid 1980s, by the British Casting Association (BCA). However, after the demise of the BCA, tournament casting in any organized fashion became non-existent, except for some informal accuracy events at a few U.K. game fairs, until the creation

of the BFCC in mid 2003. Conversely, tournament surf casting in the U.K. which is managed by the U.K. Surf-casting Federation has a large following.

**Q: What were the important steps in starting your casting club?**

**SD:** First, I was confident in my ability as a leader, motivator and organizer. Secondly, I made it a goal to set up a club which offered something constructive and fun for those who wanted to cast as an angler and/or tournament caster without being choked by someone else's established rules, history, or politics. Furthermore, since I was so excited about tournament casting, I just wanted to share my excitement with other fishermen, which would in turn provide me with friends to cast with. So that's the background. Based on my

time in the U.K. tackle industry, I realized immediately that the pool of potential casters for the BFCC would come directly from two groups, one large and one microscopic: The large group, of course, was the angling community and the small one was a left over clutch of experienced tournament casters from the BCA era. Although, I wanted to open up tournament casting to those who weren't fishermen, I knew it was vital to start with those who could relate to casting as part of their sport first.

So with these two groups in mind, I decided to form an organization which would give something positive to both. For example, this included free in-



**Left: The highly-coveted 55-Yard Club badge. Above: Sam Davis and his first shad caught in France on a fly.**

struction to all casters on tournament days which would translate into more productive fly fishing, plus a distance badge system which would provide a mental boost to those casters who were searching for a tangible goal-related casting system. For the more competitive types, we offered tournaments to test their nerves, level of physical conditioning and ability to translate practice into performance when it really counted. After experimenting with these and other things, I began a clear understanding of what to offer the casters, so the next step was to pursue those individuals who were not only interested in casting, but who were willing to devote their own particular professional talents to improving the club. For example, Paul Brown is a creative director for a large advertising firm in Manchester [England]. We worked together and created a unique visual identity for the club. We produced original and visually-pleasing logos and certificates for the club. Andy Miller and I collaborated on developing our web site. Andy specializes in IT with British Telecom. Carl Hutchinson, who is in the tackle trade, provided tackle for our tournaments, and Mike Marshall, an engineer, created all sorts of contraptions which have made our events much more enjoyable. The list goes on but you get the idea: It was important to find and blend talented people who also had a keen interest in casting.

**Q: What were the pitfalls?**

**SD:** Two come to mind. One was guilt by association (sorry for the pun). Some thought that we were a resurrected BCA which had a very poor reputation resulting in its dissolution in the mid 1980s. I had to argue my case with many of the old fishing/casting guard to prove that the BFCC was independent (in thought and deed) to the BCA. The other pitfall was simply a case of narrow mindedness displayed by those critics who have not given tournament casting a chance. In the end it becomes a case of mind over matter. I don't

mind and they don't matter!

**Q: How did you get members to join and/or become interested in casting?**

**SD:** Cold calling and e-mail harassment (just kidding) seemed to help the cause. I would call and invite potential members to casting sessions (sometimes long ones) near my home, for free so they could see for themselves how particular casting games or techniques could improve their own level of casting which again translates into better fishing.

Some casters would drop by because they were interested solely to achieve a level of skill to gain the coveted *55-Yard Distance Fly Club* badge which has been in existence since the old BCA days. I would also talk to potential members on the phone as long as it took for them to give casting a try. Once the club was up and running I would send our members e-mails to showcase their casting achievements and progress. I also publicized our results in national fishing magazines. Many of the early members saw that I was sincere about helping others improve their casting (sometimes at the expense of my own progress), so they would help spread the word and other began to join us.

**Q: Did you get help from the media? How about tackle shops?**

**SD:** Yes we did get limited support by old and new media and only one tackle shop, World's End Angling Centre, which has supported us throughout. Owner Graham Dadswell, a superb rod builder, gave me total rod-building support and offered discounts to club members who wanted their tournament rods built as well. National magazines and angling web sites played an important role in keeping the organization in front of the fishing public. Magazines such as *Trout Fisherman* and *Fly Fishing and Fly Tying* would run tournament results and some editorial for free, while web sites such as [www.sexyloops.com](http://www.sexyloops.com), [www.fishandfly.co.uk](http://www.fishandfly.co.uk), [www.ukswff.com](http://www.ukswff.com), and [home.att.net/](http://home.att.net/)

*slowsnap* have provided either post-tournament briefs, chat room support or both.

**Q: Your club's emphasis is on distance. I believe I read in your web site that there are future plans to add accuracy fly events. Any plans for this or do you feel most of the members want to do distance?**

**SD:** I know that the majority of U.K. casters are more interested in distance than accuracy. This thirst for distance over any other casting skill is something promoted to nauseam levels by U.K. tackle companies who want to promote their rods/fly lines with advertising slogans like "*Will put out a full [fly] line*" etc. Since most of our members come from the fly fishing fraternity who primarily fish purpose-built and heavily-stocked trout ponds, lakes, or reservoirs where accuracy skills aren't particularly necessary, the desire to improve accuracy skills is not high on their priority list. I would love to see ACA/ICSF accuracy games become part of the BFCC tournament menu, but at this point in our development, the BFCC needs to offer activities, which reflect the interests of its members or potential members, which at this time are primarily distance-based. I personally enjoy accuracy events, and am setting up a course at our inn which will have the full range of accuracy events to entice my clients to give accuracy a try.

**Q: I'm amazed with your group's progress. Some of the distances are incredible. Did these casters have previous fly-casting distance experience?**

**SD:** We have quite a mixed bag of casting experience within the club. Some have never competed in a casting tournament but enjoy casting shooting heads for their distance fishing. Some have done a bit of competitive casting at local and national game fairs and simply wanted to improve their casting performance. Others are primarily interested in the *55-Yard Club*. Then we



have a few who are professional casting instructors, either FFF or APGAI, who wanted to compete and share their skills with the club. And then there is Mike Marshall who was British Casting Champion in decades past but who still harbors the skills and love of tournament casting. And finally, a strong tail wind doesn't hurt either!

**Q: Mike Marshall's two-handed distance fly casts are incredible!**

**SD:** At 68 years old, Mike is an inspiration to those elder statesmen and young bucks. He can only handle short bouts of practice or competition, but with his extensive knowledge of loop control coupled with a deep understanding of process of rod loading/unloading, Mike is able to create the types of casts that sheer brute strength cannot match alone. Look at the BFCC web site and you'll see what I mean. [ [www.thebfcc.co.uk](http://www.thebfcc.co.uk) ]

**Q: Who teaches your group the basics? You obviously. Any others?**

**SD:** The BFCC teaches on a free basis only. Instructors on their own time are at liberty to charge their own professional rate. I was quite involved with teaching the basics to all of the beginning casters; however, Mike Marshall has taken over that responsibility since my move to France. Carl Hutchinson, one of our FFF instructors has also been generous with his time with any member who wanted to improve.

**Q: Do your members fish a fair amount or are they primarily interested in tournament casting?**

**SD:** Without a doubt, most of the BFCC and UKSF casters are fishermen who have been intrigued in various degrees by tournament casting.

**Q: You have many creative aspects to your casting club. Of particular interest are the distance club emblems. I imagine that has been very popular. Right?**

**SD:** Absolutely. From the outset I asked myself what could I offer the casters, which would give them the im-

petus to improve while celebrating their accomplishments visually to others, thus the badge (patch) and certificate system were born. In the past the *55-Yard Club* was thought of as elitist since it was viewed as not being related to fishing, but the BFCC have broken down that barrier by creating a system of steps to get to the 55-yard point, and now beyond, with the inclusion of the 65, 75, and 85 yard clubs. This way fishermen can gain proficiency in their casts (at various distances), and celebrate the moment with a handsome badge.

**Q: What are some of the BFCC's future goals?**

**SD:** This question would be better aimed at Mike Marshall, who has taken over the day-to-day running of the club. However, I would say that increasing club numbers with "participating casters" as opposed to "due-payers" who never show up is a priority. Also, offering the casters a lively and interesting array of casting events is paramount to the continuing success of the BFCC. I think too much energy goes into worrying about how to get the 'general public' excited about viewing a casting tournament. I am more interested in having lots of happy casters who in turn will make future events bigger by increased participation. Except for the ICSF type events, the world is our oyster in terms of what type of casting events we offer; so keeping things fresh is something Mike and I discussed constantly. Finally, finding games that are fun to play and offer some sort of skill growth will ensure that the BFCC remains an important part of U.K. casting.

**Q: You participated in the World Casting Tournament in Switzerland as a USA member. Was this your first world competition? Tell me about your emotions at the tournament?**

**SD:** Yes indeed, it was my first world competition indeed. Until then I had only competed in two BFCC tournaments (as I concentrated primarily on club management up to that point), so the learning curve was steep but fun. My feelings about being at Bern, Switzerland were strong and positive, but on two very distinct levels. As an American, I was immensely proud to

be part of wonderful and talented team of guys representing a great country. On another level, I was also proud to see the return of the U.K. team to international casting sport after a very long absence. I know that I helped make this happen and was grateful to witness a world record being broken by U.K. team member, Peter Thain, in the 18-gram [plug casting] distance event. The most frustrating time for me at



*Dr.. Sam launching a two-hand distance fly to another zip zone.*

Bern was during Event 2 [single hand distance fly], which is normally a very strong event for me. My lack of experience casting on a platform was realized when I found it difficult to cast with a strong right to left tailwind. Every time I executed my power stroke the leader would hit the platform, thus deflating the acceleration. The high point for me in the competition wasn't beating my personal best in Event 5 [1/4 oz. distance spinning] by over thirty feet with a new rod that I only had 30 minutes of practice with on that day, but seeing Henry Mittel take the bronze in Event 8 followed by Steve Rajeff winning the gold. Tournament casting is indeed a wonderful sport!

# Kentucky State Open Casting Championships—May 21, 22 2005

How about participating in the Kentucky State Open Casting Championships hosted by the Bluegrass Sportsmen's League-Casting Division. Here are the details:

## DISTANCE EVENTS

May 21, 2005

**Kentucky Horse Park Campground, Lexington, Ky.** - (1st gravel road on right after entering campground)

*Starting at 8:00 AM*

18 Gm. Distance Plug (Revolving Spool)

18 Gm. 2-hand Distance Spinning

7.5 Gm. 1-hand Distance Spinning

2-hand Distance Fly

1-hand Distance Fly

Angler's Fly Distance

## ACCURACY EVENTS

May 22, 2005

**Bluegrass Sportsmen's League, Handy's Bend Road, Wilmore, Ky.**

*Starting at 9:00 AM*

Dry Fly Accuracy, Men, Ladies

Trout Fly Accuracy, Men, Ladies

Bass Bug Accuracy, Men, Ladies

1/4 Oz. Accuracy Plug, Jr., Int., Men, Ladies

3/8 Oz. Accuracy Plug, Jr., Int., Men, Ladies

5/8 Oz. Accuracy Plug, Jr., Int., Men, Ladies

5/8 Oz. Plug Club Team Event

*Certificate of Awards will be presented in the following events and classes:*

Distance Events

- Open

Fly Events - Men, A & B; Ladies, Open

Plug Events - Jr., Open; Int., Open; Men, A & B; Ladies, A & B

*Plaques will be presented in these combination events:*

Distance Plugs, Distance Flies, and All Distance

Accuracy Flies, Accuracy Plugs, and All Accuracy

Grand All Around,

## **Entry Fees:**

Men & Ladies = \$3.00 per event

Juniors and Intermediates = \$2.00 per event

Club Team Event = \$5.00 per team (Maximum of 2 teams per club)

Lunch may be purchased on Sunday at the accuracy pools

## WHERE TO STAY:

### **Motels Close to Ky. Horse Park**

Motel 6 (Exit 110) (859-293-1431)

Hampton Inn (Exit 110) (859-299-2613)

Ramada Limited (Exit 110) (859-294-7375)

Sleep Inn (Exit 108) (859-543-8400)

### **Motels Closer to Accuracy Ponds (BGSL)**

Comfort Suites (859-296-4446)

Holiday Inn Express (Nicholasville) (800-465-4329)

Red Roof Inn (859-277-9400)

Turfmor Motel (859-858-4839)

**For tournament information** call Bill Burke 859-362-4644

## Two Canadian tournaments you ought to consider

### **Scarborough, Ontario Canada**

June 4 and 5, 2005 Contact Gordon Deval for details.  
[coachman@pathcom.com](mailto:coachman@pathcom.com)

### **Toronto, Ontario Canada**

June 11 and 12, 2005 Contact Peter Edwards for details.  
[petepat@sympatico.ca](mailto:petepat@sympatico.ca)

## The ACA Web Site

Have you visited the ACA web site lately? Henry Mittel has done an outstanding job in organizing, designing and updating the web site.

Go to:

<http://www.americancastingassoc.org/>

and spend some time clicking and looking around. It's a treasure chest of good, solid information that will surely help your casting game.

The fly leaders formula is one of the best features, but there are tips, and newsy info everywhere. I particularly liked the Q & A he did with Randy Olson.

## Used tackle for sale?

Many casters have casting gear that they don't use anymore. While the ACA sells new equipment including distance blanks, etc. some newcomers to the casting game might be reluctant to buy new gear (e.g., a 2-hand fly rod blank runs \$600 plus the cost of completing it). Maybe we could list used tackle for sale in this newsletter and elsewhere.

Obviously a "buyer beware" notice would be necessary.



# “Tell the world about it...”

Continued from page 3

successful fishing. Whether it's fly fishing for trout, or casting a plug next to a stump for largemouth, or stretching out a long cast for a steelhead, casting is hugely important if not totally essential. You can own the best tackle, fish the most expensive places in the world, hire the best guide, but if you can't make the cast, your results will suffer.

## FUN AT ANY LEVEL

I think the words “tournament casting” turns some people off, because they may not like competition. But that's what's great about our casting game. You can practice and never enter a tournament, if you don't want to. You can practice alone, with your family or friends. On the other hand, casting in tournaments offers a wholesome competitive challenge for those who seek it. *The best of both worlds.*

## CAST AT ANY AGE

That's one of the truly great things about casting. You can do it at any age. You can be a preteen or more than 80 years old and enjoy casting. Watch the nonadults cast Trout Fly or even Distance Fly! Check out the seniors on the Two-Hand Fly Distance or Single-Hand Distance fly! It's really amazing to see many of the seniors cast a fly over 200 feet with the two-hand fly rod.

## SOME OF US DON'T FISH. SO? SO WHAT?

It's very true. Some of our best casters seldom (or may never) have fished. We tend to be

apologetic to those who question us. That some people cast but don't fish just proves how great our casting sport is. It proves that it can be an end in itself. There are many archers who never shot an animal. I knew many clay target shooters who never hunted. People throw a javelin in track and field competition; I'm quite sure that they've never hurled one at an animal.

Of course, many of the casters do a considerable amount of fishing. Steve Rajeff, probably one of the best all-round light-tackle anglers, is a prime example. And remember, he and his brother Tim won the Fly-Fishing Masters competition in 2003 and \$30,000!

## CASTING: THE “IN-BETWEEN” ACTIVITY

Anglers, who “bleed” fishing, can't wait until the next trip, and the time in between is “barely tolerable” as one avid fishermen described it. So why not practice casting between trips?

Much of the fun of fly fishing for trout is the actual fly casting. I once computed that at our small fishing club we made an average of 187 casts per person per rise (most of our fishing is “blind”). Doesn't it make sense then that you should enjoy your fly casting while fishing to a point where it is almost a reward in itself? The more one becomes skilled at fly casting, the more he or she will enjoy fly fishing.

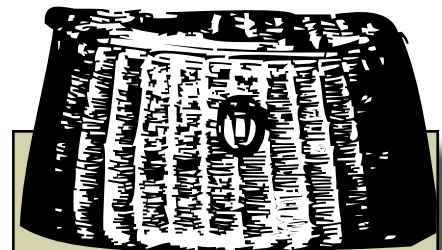
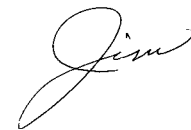
Plug casting? Anyone who pursues such species as muskies knows the great number of casts required just to get a follow-up. You can go for days at some prime waters before you even see a muskie follow. But if you can

cast without many backlashes, and put the plug where you want it, it makes muskie fishing less arduous. (I can tell you all about that. Years ago, I quit my job and spent four months on a Canadian lake in pursuit of one muskie. Well, at least my casting was fairly good.)

There are many other reasons advantages and benefits of casting. Keep them in mind, and when a spectator or an interested angler at Cabela's ask us about our sport, we can reply in a most positive way!

## LET'S TELL THE WORLD ABOUT CASTING!

Meantime, keep on casting!



## The Creel

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