



# The 98<sup>th</sup> ACA National

**WHEN IS IT?** From July 31 through August 5. Check the program and schedule of events on Page 3 for details. Of course, if you don't cast all the events and your time is limited, you don't have to be there for the entire tournament.

**WHERE IS IT?** It's at the Long Beach Casting Club (California). This venerable casting club certainly has ample experience in sponsoring major tournaments. It hosted the ACA Nationals in 1947, 1954, 1961, 1971, 1978, 1984 and 2000! And, of course, it has hosted the famous Southwestern Casting Tournaments for years. Located in scenic Recreation Park at 7th Street and Federation Drive in Long Beach, LBCC has its own clubhouse and a 130' X 255' oval casting pool. Thus, no matter what wind direction, targets can be placed advantageously.

**ACCOMMODATIONS?** The *Guesthouse International Hotel Long Beach* is a charming garden setting hotel that features quality rooms, affordable rates, and a friendly atmosphere, making it a popular Long Beach destination along the Southern California Coast. See page 5 for details. **Ask for the special ACA rate!**

**SIGHTSEEING?** Long Beach, CA., is a superb place for non-casting family members. Long Beach Casting Club's special location is favored not only by casters, but also by non-casting family members and friends, because of the almost unlimited sight-seeing opportunities. One can visit Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Six Flags, Universal Studios, live theater or music concerts. There are excellent world-class restaurants and numerous museums, cruises and other nearby sight-seeing opportunities.

**CONCLUSION?** Sign up now! Plan on attending this *crème de la crème* of all casting tournaments.





# WELCOME to LBCC!

*By Mark Lipe, Tournament Captain*

The Long Beach Casting Club is honored to be hosting the 98th ACA National Tournament July 31 – August 5, 2006. Our club membership has grown to over 500 people and we pride ourselves on being a teaching club, which offers a wide array of activities including fly tying, rod building and fly-casting classes. In addition to monthly fishing trips and monthly meetings featuring nationally-known speakers, we have a rich history of tournament

casting. Every year we host the Southwestern Tournament, which attracts casters from Arizona, California, New York, Washington and other states. This will be the eighth time we have hosted the National Tournament since 1947.

We are fortunate to have a talented and resourceful group of people who represent our Tournament Committee. Individuals are busy working, planning and recruiting volunteers in preparation for the National Tournament. We anticipate some wonderful raffle prizes, merchandise apparel, and, of course, some hearty and delicious lunches. For those of you who have hosted this prestigious event, you know how much time and effort is involved. Although the task is a challenging one, we look forward to sharing our city, historic clubhouse, and providing you with a wonderful tournament experience. See you at the National! –Mark



Successful Nationals don't "just happen." They require many hours of strategic planning and every detail must be considered. The LBCC tournament staff has held numerous meetings to accomplish its goals.



## 98TH AMERICAN CASTING ASSOCIATION NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

TOURNAMENT HOST: LONG BEACH CASTING CLUB  
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

### 2006 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<b>MONDAY</b> <i>July 31st</i>	8 AM - 4 PM	Practice Day for Accuracy Events -- Long Beach Casting Pool
	8 AM - 4 PM	Practice Day for Distance Events -- El Dorado Park East
	8 AM - 5 PM	On-Site Registration & Tournament Packet Pick-up -- Long Beach Casting Clubhouse
	5 PM – 7 PM	Opening Ceremonies -- Long Beach Casting Clubhouse
<b>TUESDAY</b> <i>August 1st</i>	8:00 AM	5/8 oz. 2-Hand Revolving Distance -- El Dorado Park East
	followed by	1-Hand Fly Distance -- El Dorado Park East
	followed by	2-Hand Fly Distance -- El Dorado Park East
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <i>August 2nd</i>	8:00 AM	5/8 oz. 2-Hand Spinning Distance -- El Dorado Park East
	followed by	¼ oz. Spinning Distance -- El Dorado Park East
	followed by	Angler's Fly Distance -- El Dorado Park East
<b>THURSDAY</b> <i>August 3rd</i>	8:30 AM	Dry Fly Accuracy -- Long Beach Casting Pool
	followed by	¼ oz. Plug Accuracy -- Long Beach Casting Pool
	followed by	Arenberg Plug Accuracy (ICSF Event #3) -- Long Beach Casting Club
	5:00 PM	Annual Business Meeting -- the GUESTHOUSE HOTEL Coastline Conference Room
<b>FRIDAY</b> <i>August 4th</i>	8:30 AM	Trout Fly Accuracy -- Long Beach Casting Pool
	followed by	Bass Bug Accuracy -- Long Beach Casting Pool
	followed by	Skish Fly Accuracy (ICSF Event #1) -- Long Beach Casting Club
		3/8 oz. Plug Accuracy -- Long Beach Casting Pool
<b>SATURDAY</b> <i>August 5th</i>	8:30 AM	5/8 oz. Plug Accuracy -- Long Beach Casting Pool
	followed by	5/8 oz. Plug Team Event -- Long Beach Casting Pool
	followed by	5 wt. Line Fly Accuracy / Distance (Demonstration Event) -- Long Beach Casting Pool
	7:30 PM	<b>AWARDS BANQUET AND DINNER</b> , No Host Bar at 6:00 PM El Dorado Park Golf Course, Main Dining Room 2400 Studebaker Road, Long Beach, CA 90815

# REGISTRATION FORM

## 98th American Casting Association National Tournament

### Long Beach Casting Club - July 31 – August 5, 2006

Please complete & return registration form by July 1, 2006.

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

Competitive Division: *Please refer to page 12 of the ACA By-Laws to determine your Competitive Division status.*

Circle One: **Senior Men**   **Men**   **Senior Women**   **Women**   **Intermediate**   **Junior**   **Youth**

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee:**

Individual ..... \$30.00  
 Family ..... \$15.00 per person

**Event Fees:**

Seniors, Women, Men, Intermediates ..... \$10.00 per event  
 Juniors, Youth ..... \$ 2.00 per event

Official ACA Events	Date	Register Here
5/8 oz. Revolving Spool (2-Hand)	Tue. Aug. 1	
1-Hand Fly	Tue. Aug. 1	
2-Hand Fly	Tue. Aug. 1	
5/8 oz. Spinning (2-Hand)	Wed. Aug. 2	
1/4 oz. Spinning (1-Hand)	Wed. Aug. 2	
Angler's Fly	Wed. Aug. 2	
Dry Fly Accuracy	Thu. Aug. 3	
1/4 oz. Plug Accuracy	Thu. Aug. 3	
Trout Fly Accuracy	Fri. Aug. 4	
Bass Bug Accuracy	Fri. Aug. 4	
3/8 oz. Plug Accuracy	Fri. Aug. 4	
5/8 oz. Plug Accuracy	Sat. Aug. 5	

**NOTES:**

- The ICSF Arenberg 7.5 g. Plug Accuracy event (scheduled on August 3) and ICSF Skish Fly Accuracy event (scheduled on August 4) will not require a registration fee from ACA Casters.
- The 5 wt. Combination Accuracy and Distance demonstration event scheduled for August 5 will not require a registration fee.
- Registration for the 5/8 oz. Plug Accuracy Team event \$10.00 per team (two maximum per Club) will be on site prior to the scheduled event August 5.

Registration Fee ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Events \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Events \_\_\_\_\_ X \$2.00 (Junior and Youth) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Awards Banquet Buffet Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*The Creel* Subscription (optional \$7.00) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Grand Total** (in U.S. Dollars) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **The Long Beach Casting Club.**

Please send registration forms by July 1, 2006 to:

**Long Beach Casting Club, P.O. Box 90035, Long Beach, CA 90809 Attn. Marv Dworzak**

Payment for Official ACA Events is permissible on site, as registration closes 15 minutes before the scheduled event.



## The Guesthouse International Hotel —Long Beach

The hotel is located on Pacific Coast Highway just minutes from Long Beach Airport, California State University Long Beach, and the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center.

### SPECIAL ACA RATE

LBCC's Mark Lipe has made special arrangements with the Guesthouse Hotel. The rate is only \$73 per night, which includes a complimentary breakfast and area shuttle service. Reservations can be made via the hotel's toll-free number—(800) 990 9991. **You must ask for the ACA participants special rate.**

*Make your reservations early!*

The hotel's 142 spacious rooms are stylishly decorated and feature in-room coffee makers, refrigerators, a work-desk with data ports and all the conveniences of home to accommodate leisure and business travelers. It offer a complimentary continental breakfast served every morning in the lobby.

### DIRECTIONS

Two miles south of the 405 freeway (one mile from the Long Beach Airport) between 7th Street and Anaheim.

5325 E. Pacific Coast Hwy  
Long Beach, CA 90804  
(800) 990 9991

The Guesthouse provides courtesy shuttle transportation to all local attractions within a five-mile radius, including the Queen Mary, the Aquarium of the Pacific and the famed 5-1/2 miles of sandy coastline.



# Something Special... Something New...

By Mark Lipe, Tournament Captain

## INTERNATIONAL EVENTS – THE SKISH FLY ACCURACY AND ARENBERG SPINNING PLUG ACCURACY

This year's tournament offers something special, in that we have two International Casting Sport Federation (ICSF) events scheduled for August 3rd and 4th. The Skish Fly Accuracy (ICSF Event #1) and the Spinning Arenberg Plug Accuracy (ICSF Event #3) events will be cast on grass and will follow ICSF rules and equipment guidelines. The events were scheduled to entice some of the International Casters to come to our National Tournament and also to showcase the events to ACA members. Although ACA members will be able to cast the events unofficially, we may have to limit the number of participants to ensure that it does not interfere with the scheduled ACA events. We will give priority to those casters who will be competing in this year's ICSF World Casting Championships in Ireland. Registration for events will be done on site.

For more information on the ICSF events, contact [www.castingsport.com](http://www.castingsport.com) and click on "Rules". Then click on "Tournament Rules", and then select either "Event #1" for Fly Accuracy or "Event #3" for Spinning Accu-



racy Arenberg Target. You can also contact Bill Burke at [bnburke@bellsouth.net](mailto:bnburke@bellsouth.net) for further details.

## DEMONSTRATION EVENT – THE 5-WT ACCURACY & DISTANCE COMBINATION

A 5 wt. combination accuracy and distance demonstration event is scheduled for Saturday, August 5th. Although the game is currently in the final planning stages and will soon be submitted to the ACA for consideration as a special event, the five-minute game consists of false casting to eight targets ranging from 20 to 80 feet. One of your eight casts requires a curve type cast at the second target, which is located directly behind and touching the first "obstacle" target. The objective is to land the fly in the target without touching the inner or outer rings of the first "obstacle" target. After the accuracy portion of the game is completed, the event continues as you cast for distance but within a designated casting lane for score. Before the event, you are allowed a one-minute preparation time, in which the caster can strip line off the reel and place the line on the ground. The equipment required consists of a 5-wt weight forward floating line with the first forty feet of fly line plus leader not exceeding 12.50 grams (193 grains). The rod length cannot exceed 9' 1". The leader length must be between 6' – 9 ½' with a maximum tippet diameter of .009" and minimum tippet length of 18". The fly is similar to the ACA dry fly. The rules of this event will be finalized and announced later this spring.

## AND FINALLY . . .

When we hosted this event in the year 2000; many people praised our Club's hospitality and thoroughly enjoyed the tournament. We expect this year's tournament to be even BETTER! "Score perfect" and come to the beautiful city of Long Beach and enjoy the excitement and camaraderie associated with tournament casting.



# THE 2006 ACA Winter Tournament

took place at the magnificent Gold Gate Angling and Casting Club (San Francisco, CA) January 13 and 14. The most spectacular results were Steve Rajeff's incredible performance. He only missed three targets in the six accuracy events.

## DRY FLY

### *Women*

1 Peg VanNatter	91 (95)
2 Elaine Gong	91 (90)
3 Alice Gillibert	86
4 Sandi Roberts	69

### *Senior Men*

1 Bill Clements	96
2 Tom Gong	90

### *Men*

1 Steve Rajeff	99
2 Henry Mittel	97 (98)
3 Jay Clark	97 (97)
4 Kazu Koshimizu	95
5 Keith Pryor	89

### *Intermediates*

1 Francois Labat	91
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## 3/8 OZ. PLUG

### *Women*

1 Alice Gillibert	84
2 Elaine Gong	80
3 Peg VanNatter	75

### *Senior Men*

1 Bill Clements	92
2 Tom Gong	89
3 Bill VanNatter	77

### *Men*

1 Steve Rajeff	100
2 Keith Pryor	96
3 Henry Mittel	94
4 Jay Clark	89
5 Kazu Koshimizu	79

### *Intermediates*

1 Francois Labat	91
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## 5/8 OZ.. PLUG

### *Women*

1 Alice Gillibert	90 (84)
2 Peg VanNatter	90 (80)
3 Elaine Gong	88
4 Sandy Lee	78

### *Senior Men*

1 Bill Clements	92
2 Tom Gong	90
3 Bill VanNatter	77

### *Men*

1 Steve Rajeff	100
2 Henry Mittel	95
3 Keith Pryor	89 (96)
4 Jay Clark	89 (93)
5 Kazu Koshimizu	81

## ANGLER'S FLY

### *Women*

1 Sandi Roberts	116
2 Alice Gillibert	107
3 Peg VanNatter	100
4 Elaine Gong	99
5 Sandy Lee	95

### *Senior Men*

1 Bill Clements	128
2 Tom Gong	124
3 Bill VanNatter	100

### *Men*

1 Steve Rajeff	154
2 Henry Mittel	152
3 Keith Pryor	131
4 Jay Clark	129

## TROUT FLY

### *Women*

1 Elaine Gong	90
2 Alice Gillibert	85
3 Peg VanNatter	80
4 Donna O'Sullivan	75

### *Senior Men*

1 Bill VanNatter	91
2 Bill Clements	90
3 Tom Gong	82

### *Men*

1 Steve Rajeff	100
2 Henry Mittel	98
3 Jay Clark	97
4 Keith Pryor	91
5 Kazu Koshimizu	84

### *Intermediates*

1 Francois Labat	77
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## BASS BUG

### *Women*

1 Peg VanNatter	90
2 Alice Gillibert	87
3 Elaine Gong	83
4 Donna O'Sullivan	79

### *Senior Men*

1 Bill Clements	91
2 Bill VanNatter	87
3 Tom Gong	85

### *Men*

1 Henry Mittel	98
2 Chris Korich	97
3 Steve Rajeff	96
4 Kazu Koshimizu	93
5 Jay Clark	90
6 Keith Pryor	87

### *Intermediates*

1 Francois Labat	81
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## 1/4 OZ. PLUG

### *Women*

1 Alice Gillibert	85
2 Elaine Gong	70
3 Peg VanNatter	64

### *Senior Men*

1 Bill Clements	96
2 Tom Gong	87
3 Bill VanNatter	85

### *Men*

1 Steve Rajeff	99
2 Henry Mittel	96
3 Chris Korich	95
4 Keith Pryor	94
5 Jay Clark	88

### *Intermediates*

1 Francois Labat	80
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**Henry Mittel** landed this magnificent king after a vigorous battle. It was Henry's first salmon on a fly.

## On the Tournament Trail...

Here are some of the casting tournament dates for the 2006 season. Try to attend as many as you can. We need to support the hosting clubs as much as possible.

**May 20, 21, 2006** — Blue Grass Sportsmen's League, *Kentucky Open*, Lexington, Kentucky

**June 3,4, 2006** — Scarborough Casting Club, *Annual Tournament*, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada

**June 10,11, 2006**—Toronto Sportsmen's Assn. and Westhill Angling & Casting Club, *Canadian Casting Championships*, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**June 17,18, 2006** — Cincinnati Casting Club, *Annual Tournament*, Cincinnati, Ohio

**June 24, 25, 2006**— Chicago Angling and Casting Club, *Illinois State Casting Championship*, Chicago, Il.

**July 31– Aug. 5, 2006**— *98th ACA National* — Long Beach, California

**August 26, 27, 2006** — Chicago Angling and Casting Club, *The All American*, Chicago, Illinois

Note: The Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club and the Oakland Casting Club host tournaments during most weeks.

## Ulf Janson, ICSF president, cancer victim

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN—Ulf Janson, president of the International Casting Sport Federation (ICSF), passed away (cancer). He was 56 years.

Ulf Janson was an outstanding caster, and devoted much of his time to the goals and aspirations of the ICSF. Ulf first served on the board and then as Secretary General and 1995 to 1999. He became



ICSF president in 1999 and served as such until his death.

Peter Hässig, ICSF's past president, has agreed to fill in the vacancy.

"Ulf gave tremendous time and effort to the ICSF. We all mourn his loss and our deepest sympathy to his family," said John Seroczynski, past ACA president.

## Demonstration casting tournament at ISE Show

Three ACA events were cast at the International Sportsmen's Expo show at San Mateo, CA. mid-January 2006. The events— Trout Fly, Bass Bug and 1/4 oz., spinning— were selected because these games accurately reflect fishing applications. Particularly noteworthy was Elaine Gong's 96 in the Trout Fly Event.

### TROUT FLY

#### Women

1 Elaine Gong	96
2 Peg VanNatter	93
3 Alice Gillibert	90

#### Senior Men

1 Bill VanNatter	95
2 Tom Gong	86

#### Men

1 Steve Rajeff	100
2 Chris Korich	98
3 Henry Mittel	97
4 Jay Clark	92

#### Intermediates

1 Dusty Revel	92
2 Francois Labat	82

### BASS BUG

#### Men

1 Henry Mittel	98 (98)
2 Steve Rajeff	98 (97)
3 Chris Korich	97





# Q:

## How can we popularize casting?

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# A:

We went to ACA's Pat McFadden (PM), president, John Field (JF), vice president, and Harvey Beck (HB), director/officer, for their opinions and answers.

**Have some thoughts on this subject. Why not share them with us for a future issue?**

**Q: I think we all agree that we have come to a point where we need to become more proactive in order to popularize tournament casting. What are your suggestions?**

**JF:** Make it easier for casters of any level to start, and offer prizes as an incentive to participate.

**HB:** I would like to see us draw more kids into the sport. I don't know if we need targets that look like big fish for the kids . . . targets that do something. "Blow up?" Make noise? Light up? Whatever. We need to make it more rewarding and fun to hit targets. If we get these kids involved at sports shows and then get them to progress into the more traditional events, their parents may join in as well.

**PM:** We should try to promote our sport through various shows that our local clubs may be attending and work with the Boy and Girl Scouts to help promote casting with them.

**Q: Do you feel that the games or events should be slanted more toward anglers or should they remain as they are?**

**JF:** I think that adapting the games to more realistic angling situations would attract new casters.

**HB:** I would love to see the events move toward more fishing-related events. I think we are on our way with the 5-wt. fly event. But with the popularity of bass fishing, I would love to see a pitching or flipping event.

**PM:** The events appeal to me as a tournament caster but if I were primarily a fisherman they may not. There will probably have to be a mixture of both in the future: events that appeal primarily for anglers and events that the tournament casters prefer.

**Q. Do you think that the tackle**

**used in casting competition should be available from tackle stores, fly shops, catalogs, etc., or should contestants be allowed to use specialized or customized equipment or whatever they like within the rules?**

**JF:** I believe that all tournament tackle and replacement reel parts should be easily accessible. That includes retail, ACA, or the used market. In some instances we may have to rule that tackle for a particular game be a manufactured model of known specifications to level the playing field.

**HB:** I have mixed feelings on this. Accuracy equipment should be available in tackle stores. Or at least it should have been available at one time in stores. I know some of the accuracy reels used in tournaments are older than I am, but I think equipment for distance events should be open as long as the gear comply within the rules.

**PM:** I think either is fine. Today there is new equipment that is great. Right off the shelf! And the "old stuff" is still good, so it's kind of like drag racing, you run with what you bring.

**Q. Which games do you think appeal more to anglers?**

**JF:** Of our existing ones, 5/8 Plug Accuracy, Trout Fly Accuracy and Angler's Fly Distance seem more appealing to them.

**HB:** I guess it depends on where and what you fish for. Generally I would think that the spinning events would relate to a wide range of fishermen. For the fly anglers, the Dry or Trout Fly events. I like the sound of the new 5-weight event that combines accuracy and distance,

**PM:** The Trout Fly and ¼ oz spinning events.

**Q: Which events do you feel have the most audience appeal?**

**JF:** Since most spectators are also anglers, the events that relate to their own fishing would be most popular. These are the events I mentioned in the previous question.

**HB:** I don't think any of our events have any audience appeal. Casting, unless you're doing it yourself, is very boring to watch . . . as it is now, anyway.

**PM:** In my opinion, the fly games and the Team event.

**Q. How can we make the games more appealing to spectators (that, presumably, are at least slightly interested in fishing)?**

**JF:** Sometimes it's not the game, but the anticipation of someone winning big. Since we don't really offer prizes, that draw is absent. Today in America, there's little excitement in casting.

**HB:** Prize money is a great motivator to get people interested, or at least significant prizes. People will do just about anything if they think they have a chance to win something. I have also wondered about an electronic scoreboard that gives an instant feedback so people could see how one caster is doing against the others.

**PM:** Have a spectator trial area where they can try an event. This will give them a better appreciation for the required casting skill. They'll quickly realize that what we do is not that easy, and that it is a real challenge.

**Q. Some casters have complained that there are already too many games and that the ACA National Tournament runs much longer than most would like. Do you think there are too many events?**

**JF:** I don't think there are too many games, just too few casters.

I hear that In the "old days" when there were hundreds of casters, Nationals went pretty smooth.

**HB:** I think 12 events is a good number. Every now and then we

we could drop the 3/8 oz. without losing a beat. As it stands now, so many people are using the same rod for both events, it is kind of redundant. Something to look at.



**Here's a novel approach that was used in Polish high schools: Cheerleaders for indoor casting. Note that targets (yellow) are slanted for better visibility. When a plug hits the wooden targets, because of the sound, there is no doubt between a perfect and a miss. SIS-BOOM-BA!**

manage to cast our 12 and also a few special events so I think 12 is very manageable.

**PM:** I have mixed emotions, because the longer they last the more time I get to spend with friends I might only see once a year.

**Q: What games, if any, do you feel could or should be eliminated?**

**JF:** I think some should only be eliminated if more popular ones take their place. For example, if we adopt the 5-wt. game, then the Trout Fly could replace Dry Fly. The requests I get from interested non-ACA people are: less rules, more fun, more realistic games.

**HB:** If we stick with 12 events and we plan to add the 5-wt. fly event, we could get rid of either Anglers or the Single hand Fly Distance Events. If we added pitching/flip-ping plug casting events I think

**PM:** If we eliminate any games it should be one of each: distance plug, distance fly game, accuracy fly and plug game; thus leaving eight events.

**Q: Rather than cutting down the number of events or games, the 2006 National is adding or considering adding three special events. What are your thoughts on this?**

**JF:** It's good to test new games already in the pipeline for adoption, but I think we shouldn't mix International Games [ICSF] with ACA Games at National events.

**HB:** I'm not sure I should answer this question, as the prospects of my attending the National at Long Beach are slim. I look forward to see how the 5-wt. event will go and would like to see it as a replacement event in the future for one of our existing events. I'm negative on the other two events [Skish Fly

and Arenberg Spinning Accuracy]. The Skish Fly in particular is so far removed from fishing, that I think it will turn away fly-fishing purists rather than bring them into the sport.

**PM:** As long as they don't interfere with the normal events it will be interesting to see.

**Q:** *It seems that the games aren't attracting young people (teenagers or pre-teens). This, of course, is cause for concern. Some claim that "kids are only interested in video games and computers." However, on nearly every Sunday during the soccer season I see hundreds of pre-teens playing at a field near my house. In the fall and winter, I drive by a martial arts classroom and I see that it is loaded with young kids who pay a sum for lessons several times a week. A fishing friend of mine says that his pre-teen son has to pay close to \$3,000 a year to be on a park district hockey team (honest!), and there is a waiting list so they have trials. That being said, how do you think we can attract more young people to the casting games?*

**JF:** The pre-teen didn't drive himself to the field or pay the \$3000 fee. It's the parents. We don't offer as much benefit as the alternatives to compel the parents to involve their children in our sport. What I think many parents are missing is that hunting and fishing can help youngsters understand nature and conservation. Those things are underrated.

**HB:** I think the answer to this question lies in the question itself. Kids like video games, computers, playing soccer and hockey because they are FUN. Casting as it is now is boring to kids with little pay-back for them. Kids are into instant gratification. To be a good caster, you need to hit targets, to hit targets you need to practice. To be a very

successful caster you need a lot of practice. And a "lot of practice" = boring. Catching fish is fun. "Blowing stuff up" as in video games is fun. Maybe they cast to a target and a flag pops up, or a mechanical fish jumps. How do we do this? I'm not sure but it may be something we ought to consider.

**PM:** We need to start showcasing our events at scout camps, schools and possibly county fairs to get the word out that we exist and what it is we do and how inexpensive a start up fee is. Maybe we should target the kids who can't make the school athletic team and give them something to participate in.

**Q:** *The Bassmaster CastingKids program has attracted more than 1.5 million kids to its casting tournaments in age groups, 7-10 and 11-14. Is there a way we can get them involved in our plug games first and then add the fly events?*

**JF:** There is a connection between the CastingKids and BASS in the minds of young casters and their parents. The little events prepare the kids to graduate upward. They have their eye on money and fame. I can't see a reason now for these parents to prefer an ACA tournament for their kids over a CastingKids one. We'll have to work on that one.

**HB:** I have helped run the Casting Kids events for the Mississauga Bassmasters. A big draw for the casting kids is the chance to win scholarship money. It goes back to what I said earlier that people will do almost anything if they have a chance to win something. We even had some parents who were much more interested than their kids in the event when they heard about the scholarship money.

Basically, it is a three-part event. The first two casts are flipping, then pitch twice at a longer distance and

make a normal cast at the longest target. The targets have graduated scoring rings so even after six casts it spreads out the scores a lot.

**PM:** We need a program similar to that one at shows to bring the kids to our world.

**Q:** *Any other comments?*

**HB:** My answer come from the heart. I have been a proud tournament caster for 37 years. I have seen many countries and parts of the States I never would have seen otherwise. I realize that tournament casting, as it stands now, is on the decline as it has been for many years. Few new casters, or none, to replace the ones we are losing. I hope with changing some events we can encourage some fly casters to join. If we can add a pitching event we would probably get some bass fishermen.

I think we are moving in the right direction with the great job that John Field has done with the web site as well as the advertising the ACA is doing. Let's keep casting going so my son can make the warm, lasting friendships and enjoy casting for as long as I have.

**PM:** Every member should make it a goal to bring one new caster each year. Result? Our sport would double in size every year, and, in time, would be larger than we could handle.



# New ACA Web site draws tremendous praise

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

**E**ARLIER THIS YEAR, the ACA unveiled its brand new Web site. It's outstanding. It has just about everything a tournament caster (or an angler interested in casting), will need.

John Field, ACA's vice-president did the redesign, with considerable

Distance. By using the slider button on the clips you can examine "frame by frame" the casting techniques of these experts.

John Field, who has filmed many outdoors TV programs and presumably taped these clips, will add more soon.

Another very interesting section is **Our Games** which features Tournament Casting techniques, plus lots of good, solid advice and equipment suggestions.

Of course, you'll want to click on **Events & Scores** from time to time.

You'll find the latest information on the **ACA National Tournament** and current **Rule Changes**.

Still under construction is **New Games** which will include the new 5-wt. rules still in the formative stage.

Need to buy some equipment for tournament casting? Check out **Official ACA Tackle**.

While the site concentrates on the ACA news and games, it doesn't overlook the International Casting Sport Federation. Click on **ICSF World Casting Championships & Emerald World Masters**, which takes place in Ireland in early September.

New casting clubs will find ACA Manuals is vital interest. How to **Hold an ACA Tournament** is must reading, not only for new clubs but also for established clubs.

John Field has done an incredible job in not only redesigning the ACA Web site but in the strategic step-by-step planning. And, of course, Henry Mittel deserves everyone's thanks.

Field has invested a tremendous amount of time, I assure you, and this coupled with his very rich background from photography to marketing makes this Web site a real winner.

And what's great about the new Web site is that John keeps fresh with new material.



help and input from Henry Mittel.

The new site is "user friendly," in that all the important features are indicated in the yellow boxes (links) in the left- and right-hand margins of the Web site. By clicking on the box, you are taken immediately to the data. It's that simple.

One of the best features is the movie clips of various casters. Click on **Photo Gallery & Video Clips** and check out Chris Korich casting the Angler's Fly Distance while Henry Mittel demonstrates the Single Hand and Two Hand Fly

*Jim*



## The Creel

the official newsletter of the American Casting Assn. is published several times a year.

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