



CINCINNATI CASTING CLUB INVITES ALL ACA CASTERS TO THE 99TH ANNUAL CASTING CHAMPIONSHIPS. IT ESPECIALLY WANTS A GOOD TURN-OUT FROM THE LEFT COAST.

*Remember, we all have a stake in the future of casting.*

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# 2007 ACA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

by John Field

This year there was some uncertainty where our National Championships were going to be held. While we were waiting for tournament bids, we were working hard negotiating with a non-ACA club host; the Campfire Club in New York State. This might have brought many new people into our sport, but the extra costs made it impossible.

Eventually word got to us that while Golden Gate and Oakland Clubs were going to host our 100th Annual Tournament, Cincinnati Casting Club came forward and took responsibility for hosting the 99th Annual Tournament this year. Cincinnati is one of the three ACA Charter Clubs. The other two are Chicago Angling & Casting Club (formerly Chicago Fly Casting Club) and Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club (formerly San Francisco Fly Casting Club).

Since the Cincinnati Casting Club dates back to the early 20th century, most of its history is tucked away in Creel archives. Some of its early casters were the Daniels brothers; Paul and John. Pauls' wife Jane Daniels was a top Women's caster. "Crash"

Klenk, father of current caster and club Board member Jay Klenk was also a top caster. At one time there was a clubhouse, today they use a picnic pavillion as a shelter.

Andy Statt is the current club President and other officers and active members include: Beth Statt, Jay and Diana Klenk, Larry and Peg Moffett and several others.

The distance events will be held at the Lebanon Sports Complex, home of the Thunder United Futbol Club and many high school competitions.

in Cincinnati and the oldest Turner Society in America. In 1998, the Cincinnati Central Turners celebrated their 150th anniversary.



The American Turners is a federation of Turner Societies in the United States and Canada. The American Turners strive to



**Distance Events will be at Lebanon Sports Complex**

This year's accuracy events will be held on the lake at Cincinnati Central Turners, on Pinny Lane, Greenhills, OH.

Central Turners is the oldest German-American society

adhere to its motto "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body."

The ACA Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday August 4th at the Houston Inn, in Lebanon, Ohio.

## Event Schedule

### **Monday, July 30**

Distance practice:  
Lebanon Sports Complex  
Accuracy practice:  
Cincinnati Central Turners Lake  
Registration:  
Kirkwood Inn 2pm to 6pm  
Opening Ceremony: Kirkwood  
Inn 6pm

### **Tuesday, July 31,**

Distance Events:  
Lebanon Sports Complex  
5/8 oz 2 Hand Spin Distance  
5/8 oz 2 Hand Rev. Distance  
2-Hand Fly Distance

### **Wednesday, August 1,**

Distance Events:  
Lebanon Sports Complex  
¼ oz 1 Hand Spin Distance  
1-Hand Fly Distance  
Anglers Fly Distance

### **Thursday, August 2,**

Accuracy Events:  
Central Turners Lake  
Dry Fly Accuracy  
¼ oz Plug Accuracy

### **Friday, August 3,**

Accuracy Events:  
Central Turners Lake  
Trout Fly Accuracy  
Bass Bug Accuracy  
3/8 oz Plug Accuracy

### **Saturday, August 4,**

Accuracy Events:  
Central Turners Lake  
5/8 oz Plug Accuracy  
5/8 oz Team Event

***Events start at 8 am each day. Each event follows sequentially. Awards Banquet at the Houston Inn Saturday Evening.***

## **LEBANON, OH AREA ATTRACTIONS:**



**PARAMOUNT'S KINGS ISLAND** - the largest theme and water park in the Midwest, offering more than 40 state-of-the-art rides, a 15-acre water park, to areas specifically created for kids, fun-filled musical productions, movie-themed attractions, games of skill, and an assortment of dining facilities, snack outlets, and shops.

**THE BEACH** - Explore the largest water park in Ohio, and one of the top five water parks in the nation! Many rides, attractions, and excitement are to be found on this 35 acres of water fun!

**FT. ANCIENT STATE MEMORIAL**- The site offers beautiful vistas along hiking trails as well as the remains of the prehistoric mounds for visitors to see. Come for a picnic.

**MORGAN'S CANOE AND OUTDOOR CENTERS** - The definitive canoeing and camping experience! Visit Morgan's website to set up your outdoor experience today!

**THE WORKSHOPS OF DAVID T. SMITH** – Has crafted museum-quality reproductions for over 20 years. His collection of furniture, chairs, lighting and redware pottery reflects the look and feel of America's past. 3600 Shawhan Rd, Morrow, Ohio.

**FOR THE ANTIQUE ENTHUSIAST** - There are literally dozens of quaint antique shops in nearby towns such as Lebanon, Springboro, and Waynesville, "The Antiques Capital of the Midwest".



Kirkwood Inn is located on the backroads on route to historic Lebanon, Ohio.



# ACA- New Status

by John Field. Vice President- ACA

It was only four years ago that I flew from New York to Oregon and Steve Rajeff gave me my first lesson in Angler's Fly Distance for free. Then I watched him brush-up on his Two-hand Fly Distance for the upcoming National in San Francisco. We both laughed wondering what would happen next when he accidentally hung his line in electrical high-tension wires crossing the park a couple hundred feet away. I became indebted to Steve that day for his generosity on behalf of the ACA and it also inspired me. I secretly felt that the only way I could return this favor and share that spirit was to help ACA and its casters. I wanted to help preserve this sport and its history for Steve and the next generation to learn and compete in. A lot has happened since that day with Steve and maybe more than I bargained for. Within three years I've become ACA's Vice-President, Webmaster and editor of this newsletter. I've been quite busy stemming the tide.

Look at what we're up against. First of all, we are an aging group without much youth participation. At this rate, the future doesn't look good. Today there are only 11 current Member Clubs out of the 21 of a few years ago. Dues revenue slid from \$750 in 2004, to \$635 in 2005, and to \$450 in 2006. Casting participation has declined so much that it's not certain holding a National will make a profit. It also requires a lot of work for so little return. The net to ACA for the 2004 National was a \$36 loss, the 2005 National netted \$815 and I think the 2006 National made money. I fear that Member Clubs might stop bidding on Nationals in a year or two if things stay the same, or worsen. I've heard estimates that half of the California casters have decided not to come to Cincinnati. The Association has been in the red in at least three of the last four years. In 2004 it posted a \$1027 loss, in 2005 a \$2117 loss, in 2006 a \$423 loss and in 2007 it will probably also lose money. These figures are handed out at our Annual Business meeting for all to see. So one goal should be more casters and more clubs. There are ways of generating public

interest and recruitment, but it takes people power



**The ACA needs more casters**

and money.

The problems I see are a lack of effective planning for membership fulfillment, advertising, promotion and education and not enough income to fund such plans. Jim Manry, one of the top advertising people of ESPN/BASS told me that casting should be much more popular if it was promoted properly. I won't stand by and watch ACA become extinct. I think I have a solution that the ACA Executive Committee has already voted in favor of it. I would like to share the idea and all its steps with the entire Association and see if you will support it too. First, I'd like to offer some background.

The National Association of Angling and Casting Clubs was instated as a tax-exempt 501(C)(7) social club in 1952. In 1961 the name was changed to American Casting Association. Under IRS law, a social club must use its' resources to benefit only it's members, not the public. ACA was deemed a social club despite our original Charter and current Bylaws' stated purpose to educate the public about angling and casting and to conserve game fish. Social clubs are not entitled to receive donations

that are tax deductible, or to receive government grants. The public and private sector view social clubs much differently than charitable groups and do not like to support them. I believe this has prevented the fishing tackle industry and government from helping ACA and has prevented many of the public from joining our ranks. For the majority, ACA isn't teaching kids how to fish or cast; ACA is viewed as just a club having a good old time. Some think this is fine.

Sure, the remaining clubs will have a devout group of the same casters for a while and at the present rate it will take years to deplete our savings. The savings ACA has in the bank is mainly profit from the sale of ACA Tournament rod blanks, made by G.Loomis. We take for granted that Steve Rajeff asked his boss and friend Gary Loomis for permission to design the blanks and sell them to ACA at cost. What would happen to our cash flow if they stopped doing this? Many nonprofits don't rely on more than 60% of their funds from one source to safeguard their financial security. I think we should look for more sources of funding too.

I, along with the endorsement of the Executive Committee, propose we make a change in our current tax-exempt status. We are now a 501(C)(7) social club, and we believe we should become a 501(C)(3) Charitable organization. IGFA, Trout Unlimited and Federation of Fly Fishers are examples of some and they are highly effective organizations. Like them, we would then be qualified to seek private, corporate and governmental support. Since contributions to us would be tax deductible, it would be a big incentive to give to us. The IRS doesn't just give this status to anyone; you have to qualify by showing the intent to act with an exempt purpose under their definitions.

I personally hired the law firm Hurwit & Associates who specialize in nonprofit law to make recommendations on how we could qualify and convert exempt status. Their lawyers think we can meet IRS requirements in two ways: first, to foster amateur national and international sport, and secondly to educate the public to cast and fish. As a Member of the Executive Committee, I've been reluctant to fund international casting expenses due to our financial condition, but if we can get financial support, I think it would be different. Then, I think we

could fully develop an effective US Casting Team program and the public and government would support it.

The official process for the change would require editing parts of our Bylaws to make them comply with the IRS regulations and amending our Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of the State of Ohio where we are incorporated. Henry Mittel, our current Bylaws Chairman, has already reviewed the suggested changes provided by Hurwit & Associates. He thinks they do not significantly depart from the substance of our current by-laws and would definitely be worthwhile if they result in receiving our new status. A charitable organization has to uphold a higher level of accountability than a social club, since it's using public money.

A 501(C)(3) organization can't discriminate or practice conflicts of interest. Its officers aren't allowed to profit from the organization except through salaries commensurate with the job they are performing. The change of status process lastly includes applying to the IRS with all the accompanying documents in order. Right now it takes about nine months for the IRS to issue a determination letter accepting or declining the application.

The additional funds will enable ACA members to continue casting the games and tournaments they've always enjoyed. It will also enable us to promote new tournaments and bring in new casters. The prospect of being internationally competitive some day is a very worthy goal I hope we strive to reach. Being able to nurture a new generation of casters is a reward in itself.

After this issue of the Creel has been published, I will post the required Bylaws changes on the website and ask for comments to be emailed to [webmaster@americancastingassoc.org](mailto:webmaster@americancastingassoc.org). These comments will also be posted. In addition, there will be a discussion of these proposed changes at this year's Annual Business Meeting. If the feedback is more positive than negative, I will proceed with either an Emergency Vote, or a 2008 Proposal to be voted on at the meeting in San Francisco the following year. The ACA Executive Committee would appreciate if everyone involved would study this issue and act in the interest of casting.

# *The Emerald World Masters & I.C.S.F. World Championships*

*by Elynn Papenfuse*



**O**n my first trip to Ireland as a teenager, I fell in love with this country. Upon returning in September for my second visit, I remembered why. The people are extremely friendly, their accent is lively, the roads are narrow, wild life is abundant, and domestic sheep roam the roads. After 2 days of sightseeing on the west coast of Ireland, I drove east on M4 towards Dublin. My destination was Maynooth, approximately 14 miles west of Dublin. I was about to meet up with my partner Steve Rajeff who had arrived a day earlier with Russell and Karin Whiteman, both members of the Irish casting team from western Ireland.

The 2006 ICSF World Casting Championships and Emerald World Masters (EWM) were about to be held at the Carton House, Maynooth, County Kildare, Ireland, September 2nd – 8th, 2006. A purse was attached worth 200,000 Euros (\$250,000), thanks to the vision and efforts of co-coordinator, Brenden Begley. Maynooth has cobblestone streets, a beautiful old cathedral, a

small university and the Rye River runs through it. Somehow I managed without incident and continue to wear the fact proudly! The countryside was magnificent however, and the rock walls fascinated me. I can't help but envision the manpower it took to create the neatly stacked walls... mile after mile after mile. The Irish must be a very determined people.

As I maneuvered my way through the town of Maynooth towards the Carton House, I found myself anticipating what I'd seen advertised on the EWM website; the medieval stone castle and expansive bright green lawns. At the first glimpse of the House I stopped the car, got out and absorbed the view. What a sight! To say the least, the 1739 structure is impressive inside and out. The estate is surrounded by a manicured golf course designed by Mark O'Meara. My excitement heightened as I wound my way through the course to get to the House. I'm still in awe of this charming place!



I located the newly constructed wing where I was to stay with Steve. I met him in the lobby as he had already checked us in. After settling in, I anxiously headed across the impeccably kept gardens to the manmade Spey pond to see what was happening. I quickly realized that the pond they'd be using the next day hadn't been completed. The event personnel worked furiously to fill it with water and keep the liner from buckling. Unfortunately, the weather was not on their side. A storm was quickly moving in and actually soaked us the opening day of the tournament. As tournament "participants", we had come prepared, but it discouraged the spectators the event planners so desperately hoped for. I hardly noticed the weather because anticipation consumed my attention like a mind befuddling drug.

A competitors' tent was located near the Spey pond beside the River Rye. The casters met there daily for lunch and dinner. I tried to stay out of the way as they were coming and going. All were anxious to try out their rods on the pond before the games began. They would leave their gear to set up for events, visit, and ultimately listen to music and dance the night away.

The fantastic evening music, dance and drinking brought out the best in the Scots. You know that old question...what do they wear under their kilts. I can answer that first hand; nothing. We enjoyed drinking Guinness stout and eating potatoes, potatoes, potatoes...every way imaginable for both lunch and dinner. I could tell from the interactions between the 20 competing teams that they're old friends. It was wonderful to see the camaraderie between them.

The organizers had erected bleachers for the spectators above the casting pond for a perfect view of the events. I tended to keep moving rather than sitting. I was just excited to be a part of the whole environment. Even though I only knew the eight American casters, some I met for the first time, I watched every caster with the same interest. It was funny how I felt excited for someone I didn't know and who I'll probably never see again. I knew they all worked hard to be here and I admired their commitment. I noticed numerous similarities and, at the same time, extreme differences in how they cast. With the storm upon us, timing was

everything! Nature worked for some and against others. I was anxious to see who would get off a great cast. Casters from all countries encouraged one another. It's delightful to be a part of a sport where people of all ethnicities seem to share a common sportsmanship attitude. Event



co-coordinator, David Wilkerson, intelligently attached a "Country Life and Heritage Weekend" to the casting competitions. During Saturday and Sunday they included a youth trout fly-fishing competition, archery, a medieval village, a vintage car exhibition, falconry, casting demonstrations with Peter Anderson and Steve. In addition there were willow weaving, basket making, fly tying exhibits, a blacksmith, pet dog show, terrier racing, pony rides, catapult and target practice, and a wood turner. It appeared there was something for everyone. I alternated between watching the casting competition and experiencing the other activities. The casting drew crowds to the bleacher to watch. No one seemed to be a stranger.

From the very beginning of the first casting events on September 2nd the announcer did an exceptional job teaching what the objective was to those who've never seen a casting competition. The 5 Emerald World Masters events took place on the Spey pond. The events were new to the sport and included Trout Fly Distance, Salmon Fly Distance, Spey Distance, Trout Fly Accuracy, and Surf Casting/Multiplier Distance 100 g. The casters moved in and out of casting order in a timely manner which kept spectators interested. The announcer also kept the competition moving and his humor was noticed and appreciated.

At one point, the USA team realized that their brand new G.Loomis rods (all 4 of them) were approximately 2" too long. The decision was made and they immediately sawed off the butt ends. I wondered how this turn of events would affect them mentally. I couldn't help but think this was funny and am now the owner of 3 of those "butts" which I proudly exhibit on my table at home. A moment I'll remember forever.

The casting events moved quickly and the international judges were phenomenal! They were on their feet all day scrutinizing each cast as if it might be the winning cast. There appeared to be a limited number of judges, so getting a break seemed unlikely, however, this changed as the week progressed. Lunch didn't come soon enough during the inclement weather, yet they never complained!

The EWM ended after 3 days, money awards were bestowed, photos taken, and interviews were given. Steve competed extremely well, winning 2 firsts and 1 second with the USA team taking 5th place in the multiplier event. I was beaming with a mixture of excitement and pride for a man who I've always known to be extremely humble about his talent as a caster. This was my first opportunity to observe a world level competition and I was acutely aware of keeping my enthusiasm under wraps so as to not appear too proud. Meanwhile the bleachers were removed as they were no longer needed and the weekend vendors packed up and departed for their next weekend "game fair". The grounds became vacant and I felt a sort of sadness at the empty spaces. The EMW brought the most spectators of the two casting events since it was held on the weekend with the other family events (Country life and heritage weekend), had stadium bleachers, and was cast all on water.

The next morning brought the ICSF World Championship competition. The ICSF didn't have the bleachers any longer, so we moved chairs from place to place. That wasn't spectator friendly. However, the weather was definitely better. The weekend fair had left, so nothing much to offer the whole families. It was just casting going on; performed by the world's greatest casters.

All 9 events were held on the grass in the awards

arena where targets were strategically placed for the current event, with subsequent targets in the background for practice. The backdrop to the ICSF competition was the Carton House. Most of the Irish casting team helped with setting up



and taking down the targets. They also became part of the judging staff in between casting themselves. It seemed they were just pleased to have the honor of sponsoring this level of competition. They did a marvelous job coordinating and tending to the countless challenges these kinds of events generate. I also felt of use as I was Steve's support person, running errands, retrieving rods and lines, giving and getting hugs when needed and whatever else necessary. At the end of each day, awards were given to the top 8 places in both the men's and women's divisions. The national anthems of the winner's countries were played through a loud speaker and medals were bestowed on the top 3 placers' necks.

The days during this part of the competition seemed to move quickly. Perhaps due to having numerous areas to practice for the upcoming event yet still compete in the current one. I began to feel like I was participating in some sort of extreme sports camp where each day the participants become closer friends without speaking the same language. Smiles, a shake of a hand with accolades in every dialect, along with a nod of a head seemed to be universal. This was truly exhibited when a Japanese caster won a gold medal; the first in many, many years for Japan. He was overcome with emotion during his country's anthem and as it ended the 2nd and 3rd place competitors lifted him



high in the air. The crowd was overcome as well, yelling cheers and applauding! It was apparent to all of us we were sharing a memorable moment. It still brings tears to my eyes.



Somewhere during this portion of the tournament, I became aware that Steve had a very good chance of winning the men's all-around award. Now his scores became important even to me. They always had been important to him but I hadn't wanted

them to become my focus. I wanted to keep the complete experience in perspective. It had been 8 years since he'd won that title and the competition continues to get more challenging, not to mention younger competitors. Could this be the year for him to become the men's all-around world casting champion again? Now I was even more excited, not to mention terribly nervous!

As we were waiting for Steve to compete in one of the events, we were informed that the amount of prize money would be less than expected, due to the lack of spectator participation. Steve and I both knew what that meant for us as well as for many other great casters. However, we needed to stay focused on the upcoming event and we'd discuss it later. The tournament continued and as luck and talent would have it, Steve won the Men's All-Around World Casting Championship title and I got to be a part of this grand occasion!

Ultimately, some of the casters met with David Wilkinson to discuss options for future Emerald World Master competitions and a possibility of a deferred payout. David couldn't offer that but did offer to pay for casters to return to the next EWM. Hopefully, we'll have that opportunity! I personally, look forward very much to returning to the country I fell in love with years ago. What a great way to spend a vacation!

*\*Ellyn Papenfuse and Steve Rajeff live in Wash. State and travel extensively fishing & casting.*





# International Casting Update

*The burdon on casters representing the United States in International events has been amost 100% on the individual. Henry Mittel shares his unique perspective.*



national Sports Federations (AG-FIS). To muddy the water, there is another international casting organization - the Federation of Casting Sports. The FCS is a member of the International Confederation of Sports Fishing (CIPS), which in turn is also an AGFIS member. However, I suspect the main reasons for the continued separate existence of the FCS are money (however little) and personal egos. The interesting part is that, despite the rift between these two organizations, their casting events and rules are largely identical. They certainly differ much less from each other than they differ from our ACA events.

The editor of the Creel, asked me to write an article about the international casting scene. My first reaction was: I don't really know what's going on in the world. Although I have been to four international competitions within the last few years. So I must have learned something - and perhaps more so than other team mates because I can listen in when the Germans talk shop. Hence, much of what I have to say is about casting in Germany. I suppose that is a good thing considering that Germany has been the top nation for many years now and one of the top

nations for decades. But let's start from the top.

Founded in 1954 as the International Casting Federation (ICF), the International Casting Sport Federation (ICSF) is the official governing body of world casting. I don't remember exactly who or what gave the ICSF that form of recognition. The most important has to be a certain level of recognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). I believe at this point this recognition is only indirect and due to the ICSF membership in the General Association of Inter-

In the distant past, the ICF events were largely identical to the events cast by the ACA (then NAACC). That means events were cast on water. I suspect the pressures of reality caused the ICSF to modify the rules over time. The biggest difficulty with casting on water is finding suitable venues. Many countries cannot afford casting ponds. Finding suitable bodies of water with appropriate docks etc. is not easy. As many of you may have seen at the ACA Nationals in Dundee, MI, giving all competitors equal conditions is difficult on (more or less) natural bodies



of water. There, we had sun angles that favored certain casting stations. The same is true for the conditions for judging. Another factor was the advancement of technology.

Over the years, casters were able to cast longer and longer distances - requiring ever larger venues. Eventually, the switch to competitions on grass was made. For fly accuracy, dishes filled with water serve as targets. For all fly events, a 50 cm (20") tall platform emulates a having a dock and automatically doubles as casting box. The platform certainly makes it easy to see if someone oversteps the boundaries of the casting box. It also makes it easier for the caster to know where the casting box is without having to pay really close attention to it. Hence, there are hardly any casts that have to be declared invalid for overstepping the box boundaries. Later on, further changes were made with the goal to make casting more attractive to spectators. All fly lines are now orange or of an even more visible color. All plugs are white plastic; no metal such as lead.

Do those changes made by the ICSF mean that they have gone totally separate ways from the ACA? Not at all. There continue to be many similarities and they actually grew with our fairly recent adoption of the two-handed revolving-spool distance event. The similarities are most visible in the distance events. The ICSF has five distance events. All of them have a very close equivalent in our set of events. In fact, after retying a new plug



or fly, the exact same equipment that is legal for those five ICSF distance events can be used at an ACA National Tournament. Plug accuracy equipment tends to differ between the American and non-American casters. But it doesn't need to be different. As far as I know, all recent US casters used the same rods, reels, and lines for our 1/4 oz and 5/8 oz events and for the international plug accuracy events. The rest of the casting world doesn't feel that distant from ACA either.

It is interesting to see other countries using the ACA as a model or guide. I know of attempts in Japan and Australia to attract more fishermen to casting tournaments by offering ACA or ACA-like casting events. A caster from Germany even visited our National Tournament in Long Beach to learn about our ways in detail. Unfortunately, I don't have any information about the success (or the lack thereof) of those attempts. But what about their way of doing business? How do they make sure their casters are

the best they can be?

There are some fundamental cultural differences between the American and European fisherman and club funding. Just for reference (I am sure things have changed), let me tell you about the East Germany where I grew up. Casting was an integral part of the only national fishing organization. As far as I know, there were no casting-only clubs. For some fishing clubs, casting was a somewhat regular activity like the occasional fish outing. For most, it was an activity required for beginners to attain certain levels of fishing permits. For instance, some level of demonstrated plug casting skill was required to obtain a license for fish like bass, pike, and walleye. Fly casting skills were required to get a license to fish for salmonides. Without these mandatory casting activities, most clubs would have never been exposed to casting. Those clubs more interested in casting generally organized club or city casting championships. The various regional levels of

the fishing organization organized the annual or bi-annual regional casting tournaments. The higher the level, the more serious was the competition, and the organization. For the highest two levels, nationals and one below, one had to qualify with a certain minimum score in the overall combination. The money needed for running the upper level tournaments came largely out of the budgets the organizational level had allocated for casting, which, of course, was small compared to fishing related aspects. Judges were paid (though probably less than minimum wage) and dedicated to judging (i.e. not casting). There also was money for a few casting centers. These casting centers were given access to modern equipment, facilities for regular use, and even funding to support coaches.

I was the beneficiary of some support once when I got my first rod for casting fly distance. Although it was an old hand-me-down probably fifth-hand from one of those centers, I was still glad. I am convinced that none of that money and support would have existed without the ties of casting to the national fishing organization. The organization was funded by collecting fishing licenses fees and probably by some moderate government funds. The funding of the casting branch of the organization likely existed mostly due to the requirement of casting skills for advanced fishing licenses.

That was in East Germany and

many years ago. However, I believe that the casters in most European countries are still associated with national fishing organizations. This may or may not result in the availability of some funding. It is my impression that most European casters need to rely largely on



their personal funds to prepare for and participate in international tournaments. Perhaps the only exception is Germany. It seems their entire team including coaches has a free ride to World Championships. It's no wonder that all spots on the team are always filled and intensely fought for in qualifying tournaments. Casters who win a medal at the World Games one year don't make the team the next year (Klaus-Jürgen Bruder). To what degree Germany's relative domination of the casting world is explained by the funding and the resulting competition is anyone's guess. However, it is clear to me that the larger base of highly motivated and regularly

competing casters in Germany has led to an accumulation of knowledge, skill, and technology that's second to none. It is rare not to find at least one German caster on the podium in a world level event.

So, does this mean all ACA cast-

ers would be on par with German ones if we could offer free participation at World Championships to all of our casters? The obvious answer is: certainly not right away. Sure, with Steve Rajeff, Chris Korich, and others, we too have a lot of casting experience including top level international. Steve and G. Loomis are providing us with top-notch rods. Other equipment can be purchased from many places, including internationally. However, I am not sure we currently have enough casters who would be motivated by a free ride to a World Championship in Europe to practice at the intensity needed to be on par with the world's top casters. It would take a lot of time,

advertising and word of mouth to get the word out, even if we started a competitive program tomorrow. Even with a large number of casters, talent and personal experience doesn't grow overnight. The motivation and support must last for years to really take effect.

way up to here, maybe I can try to produce at least a hint of one. European casters seem to derive more or less support and influence from an association with a fishing organization. Even here in the US, we have the successful Casting Kids program organized by B.A.S.S. Of course, no organization (unless totally chari-



Visiting casting training camps with your peers would be motivational. It would help if they could be subsidized. Does that mean I am of the opinion that only large-scale support will help us be more competitive? Not exactly. In recent months, I have seen Bill Clements light up (probably as I did when I prepared for my first World Championships) after having gotten some support from the ACA and other sources enabling him to go to this year's Senior World Championships. This kind of energy can be contagious. I certainly would like to see it more often.

So, is there a moral to the story? Well, since you've read all the

table) would support us without a return. Hence, we would need to find ways to help B.A.S.S. and alike, run fun events and tournaments for them. Our casting could entertain spectators at fishing tournaments or shows as an added feature. Initially, those activities would benefit us by getting the word out. More tangible benefits would hopefully follow. However, our best chance for significant, regular support currently appears to be our drive, spearheaded by John Field, to become eligible for tax-deductible contributions.

*\*Henry Mittel is an ACA caster and has represented the US in International competitions.*

## Q & A

### Spin Distance Set-up with Gord Deval

**Q: What type of line guides should I put on my ACA 7.5g single hand spin distance blank?**

**A:** The lightest and very best guides you can use for this game are Pucci. I believe they are Italian and carried by quite a few distributors. If you have trouble locating them, try Lorne Greene at L&G Tackle, Ancaster, Ontario, Canada. Of course, to minimize line resistance, use the largest allowed by the rules, 50mm, butt guide and 10mm tip guide. The number of guides and spacing are dependent on whether you are using very light line (.0004 - 5) or heavier (.0005 - .0007).

**Q: Should I cut the rod tip?**

**A:** If you consider yourself to have a powerful wrist and arm you probably should cut back the tip of your blank 4 to 6 inches to allow for more rod speed. In this case the number of guides, including tip, should not exceed five with the butt guide placed well up the shaft. If you are using a reel with a large spool such as the tournament Shimanos, the butt guide should be placed about a foot below the ferule. The same rule applies if you are using the larger line diameters. The remaining three guides should be placed in diminishing distances from each other with



the final ring guide eight inches from the tip.

If however, you feel you are getting long in the tooth (like moi) then perhaps the more aesthetically pleasing and occasionally superior (I presently hold the record with it) long, smoothly accelerating cast with the maximum length blank and the lightest line you can handle without constant breakage would give you the better results. If you choose this route, you should use six guides (longer rod) with the butt guide placed slightly closer to the reel, even more so if you are using a reel with a smaller overall spool diameter. The spacing rules mentioned above also apply, with the final ring guide, six inches from the tip.

**Q: Which reel do you recommend?**

**A:** The old Mitchell 300 is still an excellent reel and works well with heavy or light line. Any of the new elongated spool reels will also perform adequately with the lighter lines. There is a Czechoslovakian reel made specifically for the tournament game that has set world records as well. It is important to polish and minimize the spool edge on any of these to reduce friction, especially the Mitchell. Many tournament casters are using the specially made Shimanos. They work well with a minimum of fuss with either light or heavy line. Of course, the spool must be full, even slightly over-full. I use Stren monofilament. Fasten your plugs with a quadruple-tied, improved clinch knot. i.e. make an 18" loop, then double it. Tie the knot with the four strands of the loop acting as one normally would.

**Q: Which casting stroke is best?**



guide placement should be done to minimize line slap on the blank,

**A:** There are as many styles of casting as there are casters. The objective is to develop as much rod-tip-speed at the moment of line release as the strength of the line will bear without breakage. Here's a special little tip for you, if you decide on the more powerful line and set-up, then experiment with a rubber librarian's finger cap on your line finger!!!!

(Much of the above would apply to the 18g Two-hand spinning distance game, as well. However, with different rules, there is more room for experimentation.)

**Q: What size guides should I use for 18g ACA spin blank?**

**A:** I suggest using guides as large as you can obtain, with the butt guide larger than the spool diameter of your reel. The butt

but far enough up the blank to allow for the initial bellowing-out of the line on the the release of the cast. This depends partially on your style of delivery, but generally should be about 30 inches from the reel. The tip guide should be one of the new Ceramic ring guides and about the i.d. of an 18 g plug. The number and remainder of the guide rules are the same as for 7.5 gm. To be competitive in this event the elongated spool designs are a must and the larger, the better.

Contrary to the release of the cast in 7.5 gm., where the rod should be dampened somewhat to prevent excessive vibration, the release in 18g is quite violent. Because you are allowed a trace in this game and do not have to worry about line breakage, the rod motion must be stopped dead upon delivery, to glean as much

energy out of the blank as possible.

**Q: Which way should I orient the rod-spine?**

**A:** As far as spines go, in both split-cane and graphite, I seldom concern myself with them, unless there is a quite noticeable difference in flex from one side to another. If that should be the case, then the guides should be placed on the blank on the spine side as the front cast, whether in plug, or fly, is the most important

**ACCURACY PLUGS** - ARM OUT IN FRONT OF BODY - **SQUEEZE GRIP** - FOLLOW PLUG INTO CENTRE OF TARGET - CAST LOW AND DIRECTLY AT IT. PALM DOWN AND KEEP IT DOWN THROUGHOUT CAST, ELBOW SLIGHTLY OUT FROM BODY, FOREARM MUST MOVE, BOTH DOWN AND UP THROUGHOUT STROKE, THE ROD IS SIMPLY AN EXTENSION OF THE ARM, STROKE THE CAST - DON'T FLICK IT. FOR CLOSE TARGETS BEGIN STROKE LOW - FOR FAR

ONE-HAND FLY AND ANGLER'S FLY DISTANCE - HOLD ROD FIRMLY - HAUL LATE ON BOTH FRONT AND BACK STROKES - TRY TO SYNCHRONIZE HAUL WITH ROD TURNOVER IN FRONT - HAUL AS LONG, HARD AND FAST AS POSSIBLE - KEEP STROKE SMOOTH, SHORT AND FAST - STOP ROD DEAD AND HIGH.

**ANGLER'S FLY DISTANCE** - **Squeeze grip** - Turn thumb into cast late while long-hauling viciously simultaneously at front

## CASTING TIPS

From the Old Guy Gord Deval

(Power) part of the delivery)

### ACCURACY

DRY AND TROUT FLY - **STIFFEN WRIST** - WAIT OUT BACKCAST AND FOLLOW LAYDOWN AFTER PAUSE IN FRONT - DRESS TROUT FLY LINE

**BASS BUG** - Rod straight up and down for first five targets and delivery cast to far target. Wait out backcast. Long, smooth and firm double haul. FIRM grip on all fly accuracies. Pause on backcast before final delivery with rod following line down after distinctive pause on forward cast. If windy, use little pull-up on rod-butt (turning tip over sharply) before fly strikes water. HOLD ROD FIRMLY FOR 6TH TARGET AND WAIT OUT BACKCAST BEFORE FIRM HAUL IN FRONT



TARGETS BEGIN STROKE HIGHER. WATCH PLUG FROM THE TIP OF THE ROD TO THE MIDDLE OF TARGET. DON'T WASTE PRACTICE CASTS - MAKE THEM ALL COUNT. AIM FOR THE VERY MIDDLE OF THE TARGET. BEGIN STROKE WITH ROD DEAD STILL.

### DISTANCE

end of stroke - Push shoulder into cast at same time. Deliver cast with **WRIST STIFF** and rod off to side while aiming to right of centre. Low backcast with rod drifting way back and deliver high, stopping rod hard on release. Relax grip after release to prevent rod quiver. Squeeze grip hard, haul late on back cast and late on front cast - turning rod over at same time. Delivery

cast high and stop rod hard and dead. Back haul smooth - front haul long and extremely fast. Put shoulder into cast and use arm from way back. Push cast with rod parallel to ground. Push rod slightly out to right on delivery, but keep it straight up and down. Stiffen wrist on front haul when delivering final cast.

### ONE-HAND FLY DISTANCE

Same as Anglers except load rod on backcast. Hit front cast even harder with long savage haul.

### SALMON FLY DISTANCE

Back cast smooth (lean slightly backward) and wait -wait - wait before coming forward. Both hands come forward parallel to ground but left hand hauls with everything you've got, while right hand anchors rod high and hard.

**Squeeze hard with both grips,** full overhang. TUCK LEFT HAND TO RIGHT SO THAT IT BRINGS ROD BUTT TO ARMPIT AND NOT TO CHEST! Release high, stopping rod dead on delivery cast. LEFT ARM MUST BE STRAIGHT OUT IN FRONT BEFORE BEGINNING BACK HAUL WITH LEFT HAND! Squeeze rod with both hands

- Hard & fast left haul - Stop rod hard, sudden & high - Wait until casts straighten completely, front & back. Bend backwards before delivery cast and wait-wait-wait while allowing rod to drift back before delivering flat cast above horizontal high and stop rod hard. Keep hands and arms down and parallel to ground throughout stroke. Rod slightly to side on backcast, then straight overhead on forward cast. Left arm must be straight out front before final haul with left hand doing all the

work while right hand (wrist stiff) acts as fulcrum. SMOOTH BACK CAST - **WAIT WAIT WAIT** - ACCELERATE SMOOTH AND FAST INTO FRONT CAST WITH FULL POWER IN BOTH HANDS - STOP ROD DEAD AND HIGH - FRONT AND BACK CAST SHOULD BE CLOSE AND PARALLEL TO THE GROUND - HOLD ROD FIRMLY

### 1/4 OUNCE SPIN DISTANCE

- Shimano reel if no wind - Whole rod reverse angle spin - CENTRIFUGAL CAST - Step into cast with a 2 1/2 step - Full overhang - Use light rubber glove finger. **SQUEEZE GRIP,** WITH WRIST STIFF. If good wind go to lightest line Czech reel with Fujita cast - start forward cast from way back and plug steady. Bare finger trapping line on spool edge. Push butt outwards. Centrifugal full rod swing arms fully extended. Overhang full rod length. Deliver cast straight forward using shoulder and body lean forward. Yellow rubber finger, not trapping line on spool edge. Fujita swing OVERHANG TO REEL - STROKE LIKE 2 HAND.

### TWO HAND 5/8 Oz SPINNING DISTANCE

- Centrifugal swing (European) accelerating until delivery, then stopping dead and hard using both hands to double haul rod. 3/4 swing delivery stroke using body turn and shoulder into cast. Overhang to below reel. Squeeze grips. Arms fully extended. Fujita swing - BIG PIMPLE FINGER THING - OVERHANG TO REEL - STROKE LIKE SPIDER WITH LEFT HAND EXTENDED FOR THE HAUL AT END OF

STROKE. Overhang to reel - High release - Fujita cast - Start forward cast from way back with plug steady. Hit it hard with both hands (SQUEEZING) and shoulder while stepping into cast. Push butt forward horizontally



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