

INSIDE: COVERAGE OF THE 99TH. ACA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Jim C. Chapralis' contribution to exotic fly-fishing and travel will live-on in his exuberant writing and his professional reputation.

JIM C. CHAPRALIS- 1932-2007 (P.2)

Jim's casting and fishing friends say good-bye. Jim had a two-staged casting career and lived his last years casting, chasing elusive fish in the night and writing about his wonderment of it all.

FIRE DAMAGED LBCC (P.3)

The fire damage which ruined much of the clubhouse interior and memorabilia has set back activities for the next six months, or more. Read about efforts and plans to repair and rebuild.

2007 ACA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (P. 4)

This was a challenging contest with just the right combination of settings, people, history and hard work. Read about the people who rejoined us and some youthful newcomers too.

ACA/IGFA CASTING TOURNAMENT (P.9)

We've put another winter hotspot on the map for you. Read about a new event in Florida set amongst angling's most historic shrine. Can this event inspire casting again in Florida?

CASTING IN CANADA BY GORD DEVAL (P.10)

Gord Deval reminisces about the people, times and events that make Canadian casters proud! Does Canada have another National in it's future?

WHAT HAPPENED TO CASTING-? (P.13)

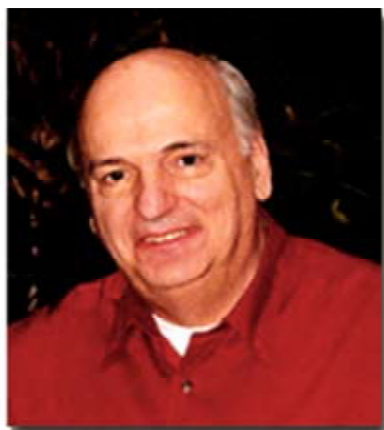
What happened to the Golden Years of casting? Here are the first-hand accounts of famous casters of the day. Are there lessons to be learned for the future of casting?

CLEANING A LANGLEY BY J. SEROCZYNSKI (P.15)

John who is a reel tuning pro, shares a beginners lesson on basic reel maintenance of the classic Langley. If someone drops one in your lap, you'll know how to care for it.

ONE OF OUTDOORS' FINEST HAS LEFT HIS LEGACY

Jim C. Chapralis 1932- 2007



Jim lost his fight against cancer on November, 10th, 2007. We will remember Jim's love of casting and angling and his gift for sharing it with others. He has been a mentor to several outdoor writers, including this one. Jim had just recently finished writing his last book entitled "Le Shack"; stories from his favorite trout camp.

CASTING CAREER- At age 23, Jim won the International Distance Fly Casting Championship (Paris, France, 1955) and the All-Round Casting Championship (Stuttgart, Germany, 1956). Although he had not participated in a national tournament for 45 years, Jim competed in the ACA National Casting Championships held in Lexington, Kentucky, August, 2001 and won the Gold Medal (first place) for the Senior

Distance Single-Handed Fly Casting Championship with a long cast of 163 feet and another Gold Medal in the same event in 2006 with a distance of 172 ft.!

TRAVEL & WRITING- Jim pioneered the international fishing travel business. In 1961- '62, he set up the Fishing Division for Safari Outfitters, Inc. In 1975, he and others founded PanAngling Travel Service. Jim edited and published The PanAngler, (a monthly newsletter devoted to international fishing) for 25 years.

Jim was the first outdoor travel agent to set up fishing trips in Belize, Costa Rica, Colombia, Argentina and other countries. Since the early 1960s, he and his staff had booked more than 40,000 international fishing trips for anglers and have assisted in the exploration, development and marketing of numerous fishing areas around the globe. Jim fished in about 40 countries. In 1998 he sold PanAngling Ltd..

Jim wrote dozens of articles for major fishing and outdoor magazines and the 450-pg. hardcover; "World Guide to Fly Fishing" in 1987, and co-authored, "Fishing Escapes" in 1998. In 2002

he wrote "Fishing Passion: a lifelong love affair with angling". His latest book Master Your Fly Casting! : and have fun doing it (2006), has inspired many to practice for this great sport.

HONORS- Jim was elected to the original Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward, WI and is a recipient of the Dolphin Award for his contributions to international fishing. In 2007 he was inducted into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame for his contribution to international angling travel; especially for fly-fishing.

In Jim's last years, besides winning casting medals, he was Chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the American Casting Association. During that time, he was Editor of the Creel and seeded casting articles and created good-will through his many contacts in the angling media. ACA recognizes the many hours he spent on it's behalf.

(Source: AnglingMatters.com)



The Clubhouse Fire at Long Beach Casting Club

A fire broke out at the Long Beach Casting Club's Clubhouse around 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 2, 2007. The interior of the clubhouse was significantly damaged in the blaze. No one was injured. The structure is still standing; the office, wet room, kitchen, and badge room are relatively unharmed, with most of the damage in the front room

Fire inspection has been completed and the "cause undetermined". It started at floor level between the fireplace and the front corner of the building. There are no indications of wrong doing. The Fire Department approved the club house for access. It has minimal structural damage. The insurance company approved taking any reasonable and prudent action to prevent further damage.

There is extensive damage in the meeting room and especially by the fireplace. The photographs of LBCC Past Presidents all perished. There is smoke damage in the kitchen, office, bathrooms, storage and casting rooms.

Long Beach has cancelled the Southwestern casting tournament in February to concentrate on the restoration. It is determined to continue normal club operations to the greatest extent



possible.

The club has requested the use of a Community Center (across street from Club House) for events for next six months.

LBCC received a call from the Director of Parks and Recreation expressing support for LBCC's restoration plan and heard offers of support from Long Beach Park staffs as well.

Some of the items worked on or completed were boarding-up hole in exterior wall, electric power has been restored to the pond lights and circuit breaker box. In addition, the clubhouse clean-up (by a contractor) and

the salvage of the target room is completed. Regular cleaning of the smoke damaged rooms is needed to regain some functionality of the office, storage room, bathrooms and kitchen.

Paul Burgner has formed a reconstruction team and is in preliminary discussion and evaluation of general contractors, and is coordinating with insurance adjusters and establishing links with the city. The club is developing a list of building contents and estimates of replacement costs. Inspections are ongoing.

(Source:
LongBeachCastingClub.org)

2007 ACA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

By John Field

This year's National was almost an orphan. GGACC hosted in 2004, BGSL in '05, Toledo in '06 and Chicago had issues with locations. The major clubs had already hosted one recently and if any club would do again so soon, it would be for the prestigious 100th Annual National Championships in 2008. Normally, bids for the next Nationals are announced at the Annual Business Meeting at the beginning of August, but there weren't any.



Cincinnati Casting Club Accuracy Games

Realizing the loss if we didn't have a National in 2007, the Cincinnati Casting Club decided around New Year's to bravely submit the only bid, even though they knew they would be pressed for time and stretched for manpower. The two most important things they had going for them were experience and dedication. Over the winter I saw a few planning emails, but no Action Plans and fanfare. We were all curious how things would go and were ready to pitch-in and help. The families and individuals involved in planning and running the event did a great job! The Statfs and Klenks and others hosted a fun, well-planned event at a historic casting pond and on a huge new municipal sport field for distance. This National, only my fifth, had

a more nostalgic, grassroots feel to it for me than the others.

As I drove up to the Kirkwood Inn, I saw the VanNatters practicing Angler's Fly in a grass lot. I was also reassured seeing Dick Fujita parking his car. Bill Burke had also set-up a Skish course next to the hotel to drill for the upcoming contest in Prague.

The distance field at City of Lebanon Sports Complex where we competed, was recently built on 20 acres of farmland and it's lawn was dense and green. Steve Rajeff said it is one of the only sites in America he has cast upon that could accommodate the size demands of the all-lawn courts of an ICSF

Championship.

The Central Turners, a chapter of an old German organization, has provided this accuracy pond to the Cincinnati club in Mt. Healthy for many years. It had three docks perpendicular to shore. The targets were set-up to cast parallel to the bank and left as you looked down the docks. This is a conventional set-up that is familiar to casters. What was unusual was we cast plug accuracy to 10 targets distributed among the three stations; station #1 and 2 had 4 targets each and #3 had 2. It was fun. It was like playing miniature golf! The sun was on the casters left most of the day, but a light breeze puffed variably from the right.

The Cincinnati weather was in the 90s for the most part. I was dehydrated the whole time because I was concentrating more on judging and rarely left my post. I was grateful for those who delivered water to me; without whom I'd have passed out. The wind for the distance games was sporadic. One minute it would blow nicely, the next it would be completely still. Despite this, some 5/8 Plug Distance records were set and exceeded. I think our updated blanks may have helped!

The most notable and unprecedented scoring incident and dilemma was when Dave Roberts was casting Dry Fly on Station 3. Pam Peters and I were judging and while Dave was false casting I saw something other than a dry fly fall next to the far target. When Dave did his lay-down, his intact bare hook-shank fell short of the target. What I had seen was about half of Dave's yellow hackle fall into the water. I scored a deduction but Dave asked for a re-cast. The ACA Executive Committee had a meeting and decided to let him cast the last target again, and he made a perfect in 29 seconds.

This invoked the following question; is ACA responsible for the integrity of it's tackle instead of the caster; as it says in the By-laws? Also, if a caster notices a fly is disintegrating while false casting, at what point should he replace it like a lost fly? I also noticed that the "best seat in the house" for examining distance casting is when judging it. You look right down the fly-line, see the stroke and how well the loop and leader turn over.

Every ACA National has some newcomers or the reappearance of accomplished casters. This year's had some of both. Sandi and Clay Roberts who are

Phillips also of the Toronto club who don't regularly attend, surprised us with their presence and cast exceptionally well. Jay Clark, who recently moved



Steve Rajeff Grand All-Around Champion

western pros of any 5 weight game, decided to come to their first ACA National and cast a few of the fly events. Clay took a Bronze in Angler's Fly Distance and his wife took the Silver in the Women Division. Lane Stocker who has been casting this season as a Cincinnati Member took third in All Fly Accuracy. Then there were some surprise reappearances.

Brenda Banks of the Toronto Club is a champion accuracy caster who took eight years off from competition. I had never heard of her until Cincinnati. She came to this tournament and dominated by winning every Women Accuracy event! She did not compete in Distance however. Brenda is a quiet, composed caster, not unlike Steve Rajeff on tournament day. Kevin Carriero and Chuck

from the Bay area to Louisiana, drove to Ohio to compete and made the All American Team. We were glad he continued competing after the move. There was another moment of nostalgia when Richard Fujita, Richard Y. Fujita and his son Matt Fujita posed for a family photo. All of the mid-west Fujitas competed at this event. Matt Fujita is from the Toledo club and there were also some other new young casters. LaDonna Jarrell of Chicago, Jessi and Lu Ann Johnson of the Blue Grass Sportsmen's League of Kentucky.

We would like to thank George McCabe for enduring the heat to photograph this event. Dr. Todd Larson a young collegiate fishing professor came to the distance field to gather information for for his new blog <<http://fishinghistory.blogspot.com>>. His article mainly

covered the use of old vs. new tournament tackle, but placed it next to an historical piece on the 1938 Nationals that has some great photos.

Jay Klenk did a most generous thing this tournament week. I asked him to help me locate casting memorabilia for a possible historic casting exhibit. He was very helpful with information and even decided to entrust me with two historical items of his own: first, a felt appliqué sign from the Cincinnati Club from the NAACC and a Lew Perkins Salmon Rod with homemade aluminum ferrule.

The Annual Business Meeting was held at the Central Turners Clubhouse overlooking the accuracy pond. The banquet and awards presentation was held at Houston's Restaurant conveniently across the street from the host hotel. Since one of the dominant ethnic groups in the Cincinnati community is German, two of our casters who were born in Germany, led expeditions to the Black Forest German restaurant for Spatzle, Rouladen, Sauerbraten and of course, dark beer. It was a highlight of the week.

Every Accuracy event necessitated cast-offs because of ties among closely matched competitors. One exciting achievement was when Jay Klenk tied Henry Mittel in Trout Fly Accuracy with a score of 98. Jay beat Henry in the cast-off by one point with 97 to 96. Jay took home the 2nd place Silver Medal.

In 5/8 Oz Revolving Spool

Distance, Henry Mittel exceeded the National Record, but Steve Rajeff set the new record by casting only one foot farther! In

Clark, Bill Clements and Bobby Spear! The Toronto Sportsmen's League in second place was not far behind with 455 points. Blue



Brenda Banks Women All Fly Accuracy Winner

the same event but in Seniors, Bill Burke exceeded the record, but Bill Clements set the new one with a long margin. Pam Peters set a new record in Two Hand Fly at 178ft.. She is the only woman who has ever cast that event at a National. Ed Lanser became the third Senior Men's record holder in Trout Fly Accuracy to tie the record with a score of 97.

Five Clubs fielded 5/8 oz Team Accuracy squads this year. It was the first time since I have records that the Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club didn't enter a team! There weren't enough good casters in attendance from GGACC to make it worthwhile. Since Steve cast on Oakland's team for the first time, I guess you could call it the "Dream Team", winning with 469 points. Oakland 5/8's Team consisted of Henry Mittel, Steve Rajeff, Jay

Grass Sportsmen's League was third with a score of 452. All in all, a very close spread!

This year's All American Team was comprised of Steve Rajeff, Henry Mittel, Harvey Beck, Kevin Carriero, Jay Clark, Zack Willson, Bill Burke and Dave Roberts.

Steve Rajeff took the Grand All Around, Henry Mittel was second, Dave Roberts was third and Harvey Beck came-in fourth. I thought Dave and Harvey did very well at this National.

As you may have heard, the 100th Annual National Championships will held at the Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club with the help of the Oakland Club. The next Creel will give you all the details!

2007 ACA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

This 99th Annual event, was hosted by the Cincinnati Casting Club in August. Here are some of the results (top three scores, ties and new ACA National Records in orange).

5/8 OZ. FIXED SPOOL DIST.

Men

1 Henry Mittel	379'
2 Harvey Beck	374' 370'
3 Steve Rajeff	374' 362'

Senior Men

1 Bill Clements	349'
2 John Seroczynski	335'
3 Gus Beushausen	329'

Women

1 Pamela Peters	312'
2 Peg Van Natter	217'

Intermediates

1 William Beck	127'
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5/8 OZ. REV. SPOOL DIST.

Men

1 Steve Rajeff	367'
2 Henry Mittel	366'
3 Harvey Beck	347'

Senior Men

1 Bill Clements	344'
2 Bill Burke	330'
3 John Seroczynski	314'

Women

1 Pamela Peters	223'
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Intermediates

1 William Beck	138'
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2-HAND FLY DIST.

Men

1 Steve Rajeff	284'
2 Henry Mittel	270'
3 Harvey Beck	243'

Senior Men

1 Bill Clements	225'
2 John Seroczynski	213'
3 Zack Willson	212'

Women

1 Pamela Peters	178'
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1/4 OZ. SPIN. DIST.

Men

1 Henry Mittel	282'
2 Steve Rajeff	266'
3 Patrick McFadden	230'

Senior Men

1 Dick Fujita	289'
2 Chuck Phillips	255'
3 Elmer Bergandahl	248'

Women

1 Pamela Peters	192'
2 Alice Gillibert	167'
3 Peg Van Natter	140'

Intermediates

1 William Beck	118'
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1-HAND FLY DIST.

Men

1 Steve Rajeff	199'
2 Henry Mittel	198'
3 Dave Roberts	153'

Senior Men

1 Chuck Phillips	158'
2 Bill Clements	147'
3 John Seroczynski	146'

Women

1 Pamela Peters	120'
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ANGLER'S FLY DIST.

Men

1 Steve Rajeff	171'
2 Henry Mittel	164'
3 Clay Roberts	150'

Senior Men

1 Richard Siciliano	141'
2 John Seroczynski	140' 132'
3 Bill Clements	140' 126'

Women

1 Pamela Peters	126'
2 Sandi Roberts	112'
3 Alice Gillibert	134'

DRY FLY ACC.

Men

1 Steve Rajeff	100
2 Dave Roberts	99
3 Kevin Carriero	99

Special Thanks to the Statt Family



2007 ACA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

DRY FLY ACC.(CON'T)

Senior Men

1 Chuck Phillips	98 (98)
2 John Seroczynski	98 (96)
3 Zack Willson	97 (99)

Women

1 Brenda Banks	98
2 Pamela Peters	96
3 Lane Stocker	92

1/4 OZ. PLUG ACC.

Men

1 Steve Rajeff	100
2 Dave Roberts	99 (96)
3 Andy Statt	99 (85)

Senior Men

1 Bill Clements	95
2 Zack Willson	94
3 Frank Gralak	93

Women

1 Brenda Banks	94
2 Pamela Peters	92
3 Alice Gillibert	87

Intermediates

1 LaDonna Jarrell	62
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Juniors

1 William Beck	82
2 Jessi Johnson	78

TROUT FLY ACC.

Men

1 Steve Rajeff	100
2 Jay Klenk	98 (97)
3 Henry Mittel	98 (96)

Senior Men

1 Ed Lanser	97*
2 Bill Burke	96
3 John Seroczynski	95 (94)

*Tied National Record

Women

1 Brenda Banks	94
2 Pamela Peters	92
3 Lane Stocker	90

BASS BUG ACC.

Men

1 Steve Rajeff	97 (98)
2 Kevin Carriero	99 (92)
3 Jay Clark	96

Senior Men

1 Tony Yap	95 (94)
2 Zack Willson	95 (87)
3 Chuck Phillips	91 (93)

Women

1 Brenda Banks	92
2 Pamela Peters	89
3 Alice Gillibert	86

3/8 OZ. PLUG ACC.

Men

1 Harvey Beck	99
2 Steve Rajeff	98
3 Henry Mittel	95

Senior Men

1 Zack Willson	93
2 Bill Clements	85
3 John Seroczynski	90

Women

1 Brenda Banks	96
2 Pamela Peters	93
3 Diana Klenk	88

Intermediates

1 Matthew Fujita	90
2 LaDonna Jarrell	77

Juniors

1 William Beck	74
2 Jessi Johnson	72

5/8 OZ. PLUG ACC.

Men

1 Harvey Beck	98
2 Steve Rajeff	97(100)
3 Henry Mittel	97 (95)

Senior Men

1 Chuck Phillips	98
2 Zack Willson	97
3 Bill Clements	95 (97)

Women

1 Brenda Banks	96
2 Diana Klenk	93
3 Pamela Peters	90

Intermediates

1 Matthew Fujita	75
2 LaDonna Jarrell	70

Juniors

1 William Beck	77
2 Jessi Johnson	59

Youth

1 Bridget McClanahan	57
2 Christopher Rosland	53
3 Aldan McClanahan	52

Winning Oakland 5/8s Team!



The ACA/IGFA Casting Tournament

By John Field

ACA invites you to participate in a new event named the ACA/IGFA Casting Tournament, in Dania Beach, Florida. The tournament has been created to reintroduce casting to a new generation of anglers in Florida. The sport was once popular in the area and there was even a Miami Casting Club! Today there are many active BASS clubs and saltwater fly-fishing clubs in Florida whose members we're inviting to this event. Another reason to hold this event is that IGFA wants to have new activities to draw visitors and involve IGFA with more freshwater and light tackle saltwater interests.

Two ACA Member Clubs, Blue Grass and Cincinnati, have volunteered to help run this event and give it Registered Tournament status: that will enable us to present ACA awards. Additionally, Florida FFF Masters: Dusty Sprague, Gordy Hill and Bruce Chard have offered their help. At this inaugural event, we will only offer seven events to keep things simple and help insure success. If successful, we can have a bigger event the following year. Here's what to expect.

The tournament starts on **Saturday February 2**, with exhibition casting competition between top casters like Steve Rajeff and Henry Mittel!. IGFA has agreed to let us use their Mako 2101 Bay Boat as the casting dock for the exhibition. The reason Steve Rajeff suggested using a boat was to make it more visual and more inviting for the fishing public.

Sunday the 3rd, is "Distance day" with three



International Game Fish Association

events; Angler's Fly, Two-Hand Fly and 7.5g Fixed Spool Plug. Distance events will be held at Broward County's Markham Park Special Event Field, a twenty-three minutes drive from the IGFA.

Monday the 4th, is "Accuracy day" and we'll cast Bass Bug Fly, 1/4oz. Plug Fixed Spool and 5/8 Plug Rev. Spool Acc. at Tiger Tail Lake Center located a long cast away from IGFA. Afterward, we'll go back to IGFA Headquarters and cast the 5wt. Combination Accuracy and Distance Event on the lawn. When the competition is concluded, we'll present awards at IGFA and walk over to IFC (Islamorada Fish Company) restaurant overlooking the IGFA pond..

The IGFA provides the world's most comprehensive assemblage of sportfishing information, exhibits, educational classes, fishing dem-

onstrations, interactive displays and virtual reality fishing.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOURNAMENT CASTING IN CANADA

By Gord Deval

Although after discussing this with John Field, I decided to write an article on the history of casting in Canada, for reasons that you will all learn about rather soon, it will have to be done without the requisite research that such a story really deserves. Unfortunately, now I do not have the time to do that properly. However as I began my own casting career in 1942, I believe that I can put together enough of a short story without the research, simply basing it on my own sixty-five year casting history and recollections.

My introduction into the sport was via one of the pioneers of casting in Canada, Mr. David Redick, a renowned angler and fine tournament caster; who at the time was also the president of the Toronto Anglers and Hunters Association. It was, of course, during the war and meeting him while fishing on the lagoons on the Toronto islands, he invited me to come out to one of their weekly meetings and try my casting 'skills' on their targets.

It wasn't long before I met most of the pioneers of the sport here in Canada. Their names are etched on most of the old trophies and plaques now in my possession. Back in those days it was commonly accepted that if you won an annual challenge trophy five

time in a row, they were yours to keep, although you could put them up for grabs again if you wished.

A few of the pioneers of the competitive side of casting in Canada that I'm able to remember were, of course, the afore-mentioned Dave Reddick, Jack Sutton (also a renowned fly tyer and originator of the Despair Nymph), Norm

Later, in the fifties, the Toronto club had an influx of new casters, including Bill and Audrey Beck whose daughter Nancy, and son Harvey, also became fine casters as they matured. Somewhere during that period, Peter Edwards began his target blasting career with the T.A.H.A. which was eventually changed to the Toronto Sportsman's Association.



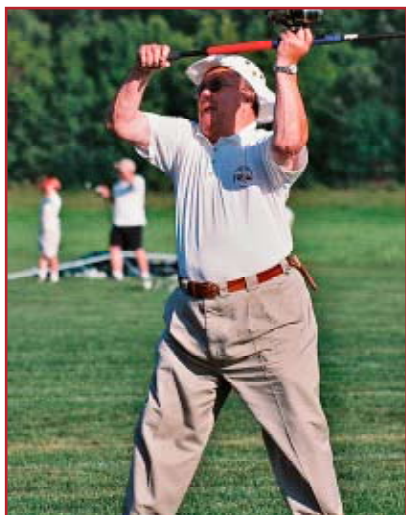
Gord Deval

Telfer, Herb Telfer, John McGee, Ted Horocks, Ernie Banks, Ross Jarvis and the Macleans, Don and Dave. Norm Ward was one of the club's best anglers, fly fishermen and tournament casters for many years from the thirties through to the fifties. Of course Joe Phillips who began a year after I did and whom most of you will remember as a fine caster and a beautiful guy.

There were also active casting clubs in Hamilton, The Good Times Club with Kenny Botterill, the Hamilton Anglers & Hunters with superb accuracy plug caster, Bobby Hawthorne and spiderweb record-holder Stan Young, as well as in one or two smaller towns in S.W. Ontario, such as Preston, Fergus and Galt. There was a tall fellow from Fergus, Dave O'Neill, who if he

were casting today would be a force to reckon with.

Organized tournament casting elsewhere in Canada was unknown, with the sport here being presided over by the Ontario Fly and Bait Casting Association, a truly representational body with regular meetings and elected officers every two years whose



Gus Beushausen

responsibilities were to the sport and all the participating clubs. Of course they also held an annual championship that was always well attended by the majority of the province's clubs. I became the president during the fifties until I retired in '58.

Long before that, in the mid-forties, I began fooling around with the distance games and along with buddies, Art Walker, Ron Duncan and Bill Van Kempen soon became very involved in that side of the sport. North Jory, Bill Taylor, Jimmy Etheridge also experimented with the distance games. We learned that the Hamilton clubs had some of the best distance casters around

and quickly realised that in head to head competition with them.

However, I had begun corresponding with Myron Gregory in California's Golden Gate Club and through the mail learned how to build forward taper fly lines and double-haul fly cast. Earl Osten's great book, *Tournament Fly and Bait Casting* became our instructional bible during that time, along with tips from some of the casters in the St. Louis area, namely Bill Lovely and Jim Venable.

The record in the late forties in Trout Fly Distance was only 78 feet, salmon fly, about 130 feet and 5/8 ounce plug – 290'. I remember the first time we went into the Ontario Championship tourney when all these lovely older chaps, some dressed in Scottish tweedy outfits, had to contend with Art, Ron and my distances. They were astounded, some actually accused us of cheating and most of them unfortunately disappeared from the game, not willing to participate any longer against such superior distances. We added between fifty and a hundred feet to all the established records. Although Art and I offered to show them what we had learned, we couldn't persuade them to return.

Although the governing body was the Ontario Fly & Bait Casting Association, we organized the Canadian Casting Association with Bobby Hawthorne, North Jory and me, as president. This was with the I.C.F.'s encouragement and the first truly world championships coming up in Kiel, Germany.

We soon conducted the first truly Canadian casting championships in order to qualify for the 'world games.' Bobby and I worked extensively with Myron Gregory, France's Pierre Creusevault, Switzerland's Peter Hassig and others to get the I.C.F. underway. We were subsequently awarded Certificates of Recognition by the I.C.F. for our efforts.



Peter Edwards

However, with four kids to attend to, 1958 became my last year in the game for quite awhile and my tournament equipment was all mothballed for 16 years when Joe Phillips proselytized me back to the sport by in 1974. Canada was going to host the North American 'National' for the first time. Joe asked if I still had my old distance tackle and would I be interested in joining the T.A.H.A. to cast for the team; as they had no one else in the distance disciplines. My old buddies had quit when I did, although North and Bobby had continued in the accuracies.

I dusted off a few things, went



William & Harvey Beck

to the park, threw a half a dozen spider-web casts – and was promptly hooked. After winning a few medals in the National I began teaching eight or ten of the target-bangers the rudiments of the distance games and was also able to get government funding to provide them all with equipment. I will never forget the excitement raised when we went to a National a year or two later and if I remember correctly, placed first, second, third, fifth and sixth in Anglers Fly and medaled in a number of other distance games as well.

I was subsequently invited to represent Canada, all expenses paid, in the first World Games held in South Africa. They inquired if I had a casting buddy who could also throw distance and I talked Art Walker into coming back into the sport along with me. Somewhere during that time Peter Edwards began his version of the Canadian Casting Association and assumed control of that and the Ontario Fly & Bait Casting Association in order to

get government funding.

After training their casters in the distance games, we subsequently took teams to Europe for both Invitational and I.C.F. competitions, then when World Games was formed, we went to those venues as well. Along the way, Harvey Beck continued to develop into a world-class caster, while Peter Edwards, Charley Phillips and Bill Wattie also became forces to reckon with on the home front and in the National.

Because of a major disagreement with the T.A.H.A. (now the Toronto Sportsman's Association) and Edwards and company, the Scarborough Fly and Bait Casting Association was organized in 1984. It has since taught hundreds of folks to fully enjoy the hours they spend fishing by learning how to use their casting equipment to the best of their ability. Many of these men and women have gone on to win medals in National and International competition.

This year, 2007, represents the 25th year of the club's operations and the 25th Scarborough Casting Championships on its own facility, Milliken Park and Pond.



Gord Deval is a tournament caster from Scarborough, Ontario Canada. Gord is also the

President of the Scarborough Fly & Bait Casting Association. He is the author of several fishing books. He and his wife Sheila travel the wilderness of Canada and hit the ACA tournament trail together.



Chuck Phillips

What Happened To Casting?

There was a time, when hundreds of casters and spectators came to casting tournaments.

With John Field

Many of us baby boomers feel cheated to have been born at the wrong time and missed the “Golden Years”. 21 clubs competed and State Associations were active. At that time, 10 to 15 individuals competed for cash and prizes in a group affiliated with NAACC called the Professional Casting Association. For non-professionals, the association even presented wards and medals to 24th Place, plus prizes.

Newcomers to casting, like myself, ask the old timers: what happened to the crowds who used to cast in these tournaments. There are a variety of causes given for the drop in popularity that seems to have occurred around 1958. Maybe one or two were most influential, or maybe all of them contributed to casting's decline in varying degrees. Are the causes permanent, or was the crash due to something we can change or

adapt to today?

Below, some great casters recollect about the hayday of casting



and what might have brought it down.

Gord Deval: “With the abundance of available rivers and lakes, along with the proliferation of artificially stocked waters for North American anglers to test their skills on, it is no wonder that fish, rather than targets, command the bulk of their (anglers’) attention.”

Bill Peters: “NAACC told tackle

manufacturers, don’t try to interfere in our competitions, and the makers replied by ceasing to provide further casting prizes.

Because of that, nobody wanted to cast any more.”

Joan Wulff: “The popularity of automobile travel enabled sportsmen to go fishing in the wild in the same amount of time they used to spend at a casting club.”

Richard Fujita: “After the Second World War, people were craving for outdoor

activity, and casting became popular, but then declined. This decline was caused by competing activities like team sports and fishing. Youth were more attracted to ball sports or ice hockey, especially since many were trying to get sport scholarships to college. Other things compounded it like the popularity of the auto which made good fishing more accessible.

Edward Lanser: (who competed

in his first National in Peoria in '52 said), TV, other outside activities and mostly social change caused a drop in the popularity of casting. In the '60s, people found more exciting things to do with their dispensable income than casting.

There was a time, when there were industrial casting leagues. I was involved with the Caterpillar (heavy machinery) team. Tackle manufacturers used to sponsor ACA directly, but no significant feedback from the organization was given. Advertisers found less "bang for the buck" from casting than from fishing tournaments and so sponsorships stopped.

Zack Willson: Major reason of decline was when casters became disenchanted with ACA Exec Comm. for supporting a few ICF casters in 1957 when they spent around \$5,000 (in '57 dollars) when they didn't have much in the account. This started the dissolution of the State Associations and their clubs.

Bob Spear: After WW2, most of the people were getting on their feet financially and tournament casting was a relatively inexpensive sport. Our club in Ft. Worth had over 200 casters. We had families, young kids-everything. We had over a dozen casting clubs in Texas at one time.

I attended my first National in '55; we had over 300 casters; my next was in '57; we had about 100. I was in the marines from '57-60. When I got out, I started back to casting, but every National I attended the attendance was down. What happened in

that short period of time, I have no idea. I guess I got in on the end of the peak. I would have to venture a guess that other sports became more popular, such as golf, bowling and probably fishing.

We seem to be going through that period again. I think we have done an awful good job in California trying to get young kids involved, but it has not worked out for the long term. ?? Why, is a big question mark.

What can we learn and deduce from these answers? Let's assume that each of these casters answered from their own personal experiences

qualified in business or creative fields.

The tailspin casting has been for forty years really needed experienced professionals. It's core members are getting older and it's reputation has been diminishing. If an organization is trying to keep members or recruit new ones, it needs to create a compelling message and get it out to the public with enough frequency. This can't be done on an ad budget of \$300 a year. The messages of bass tournaments and team sports drown out any wimper casting makes.

To have a successful club, capable people have to create



and all causes given contributed in varying degrees to the slump in the public's interest in casting that occurred over forty years ago. Did NAACC or ACA do anything in response to any new changes in our culture or economy? I can't find evidence that they did,

I have however found evidence that association members either did nothing or put personal interest and personal relationships ahead of the future of casting. Unfortunately, casting association officers are elected volunteers who may or may not be

value in becoming a club or association member and make members feel valued for belonging. You have to know who your members are, communicate with them on a regular basis and give them an opportunity to voice their interests and concerns.

There are programs you can create at your club, in your community or on a national basis to share and teach casting and angling. ACA or your local club has to set goals and individuals have to take responsibility to achieve them.

Complete Langley Baitcaster Cleaning

So you've found a mint Langley reel. Here's what to do next.

By John Seroczynski, ACA Past President, Chicago Casting Club

Disassemble the reel. Both spool end caps probably still have the small factory felt washers (used to retain oil). If so, take them out and trash them but be careful not to lose the small brass spacers that will be inside both end caps. Clean them and put them back in.

Make sure the old original factory grease has been removed by cleaning the gears with lighter fluid.

After I do that I even clean **EVERY PART** with warm water and dishwashing detergent and an old toothbrush.

After that has been done it needs to be oiled (**NO GREASE**) with some very light weight oil. Something like 5 wt. or less or watch oil. (Some use TG's Rocket Fuel or 3 in 1.) When oiling it, I'm talking about a **VERY SMALL** drop of oil on the following parts.

1. Each end of the spool shaft.

2. The level wind worm gear. (**THE WORM SECTION & BOTH ENDS**)

3. The small brass internal level wind gear.



4. The internal pivot post that the main gear tower rides on.

5. The main gear is generally made up of two gears. (On some Lure casts they are attached together) One is large and the other is small and when assembled together on the brass gear tower they then ride on the pivot post I mentioned in item 4. Both of these gears each need a small drop of oil as well.

6. Also with your fingers, wipe a **SMALL** amount of oil on the outside of the brass gear tower because it does sometime touch the chrome external tube where the reel handle is attached to the main gear.

That should about do it for cleaning & oiling. It should cast quite well at this point. Don't put too much excess line on the reel. That will only slow it down.

If you feel it is still not fast enough or smooth enough for you, then it may need a little super tuning such as polishing the gears, lightening the gear on a lathe, maybe a built up spool arbor. These reels are very easy to work on and have been, and are still being used by some top casters.



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