

WHAT ANOTHER CREEL? WE JUST GOT ONE!

Yes, because there's a lot to report...this is an April/May 2006 "bonus" issue.

THIS COULD BE THE START OF SOMETHING BIG!

Well, we're not quite talking NASCAR popularity or equivalent purses, and I don't think that it will attract many "groupies." We hear that Emerald World Masters (EWM) tournament is offering cash prizes and the rumor is that it may amount to six figures!!!

Remember folks, B.A. S. S. started out with very small cash prizes and look at them now. The ICSF World Casting Championships immediately follow the EWM at the same place. (And what a place!)

INTRIGUING TEAM COMPETITION UNVEILED BY THE OAKLAND CASTING CLUB

The Oakland Casting Club is putting up \$1200 for cash prizes at the 2006 ACA tournament at Long Beach, CA. We're sure that others will also contribute . . . just another incentive to attend the National (see last issue of the CREEL for tournament details, and plan now).

THE SOUTHWESTERN: ONE OF HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOURNAMENT CASTING TRAIL

Lots of good scores were delivered at the Southwestern—easily one of the best tournaments in North America. The Long Beach Casting Club did an outstanding job . . . as usual. (Did we mention that the National takes place at this club and you ought to plan now to attend?).

Q & A WITH CLAY ROBERTS AND HIS CASTING FAMILY!

Here is an interview with an angler attracted to competitive casting, mostly because of the 5-weight event. His wife and his stepson are not only superb casters, but they excel in their divisions. (Clay is so enthusiastic that he built a standard casting pool near his house. He even installed lights for night practice!)

✓ **AND A PEEK AT THE NEW PROPOSED 5-WEIGHT EVENTS!!!**

This could be the start of something

BIG!

THE world's largest competitive casting event will take place in Ireland in early September. Actually, it's the world's *two* largest casting events.

Whoever put this together—at least on paper—deserves much applause and a tip of our casting caps. This could be the one huge newsworthy coup that casting needs for growth.

Are you listening ESPN!

It's a dream that's no longer anymore, because it is reality.

Here's the deal.

There are two world class tournaments back to back to be run in early September 2006.

The Emerald World Masters Championships (EWM), the \$\$\$\$\$\$ tournament, will be held from September 1 through the 4, conveniently followed by the International Casting Sport Federation (ICSF) 2006 World Championships from September 5 through 8. Two incredible casting tournaments, at the

same venue, both for the price of one air fare.

Another great thing about all of this is that the two tournaments take place at the same location...at the fab Carton Estate, Maynooth County, Kildare, Ireland. I've not visited the Carton, but years ago I did an Irish Castle Fishing Trip and if it's anything like the places I visited...YIKES!

The ICSF World Championship, is, of course, like the Super Bowl (okay, minus the big crowds, big payoffs, big hoopla and the Hollywood stars in the stands).

Teams from all over the world come to this one. The casters are decked in colorful uniforms (less the commercial logo decorations) and let me tell you something. . . they can cast!

The ICSF rules and regulations for the most part will prevail at both tournaments. One major exception is that EWM distance fly games will be cast on water.

The ICSF tackle, rules and



procedures are different from those used by the American Casting Association. All ICSF events are cast on grass and some from a raised platform. The ACA's accuracy games are cast on water and no raised platform is used for the distance fly games. (*Wouldn't it be good if one day the ACA and ICSF had one set of rules.*)

The ICSF World Championships are held every two years at various venues. (see the September 2004 issue of the CREEL for a report on the previous one held in Switzerland).

The Emerald World Master Championships is unique in that there will be substantial cash prizes awarded to the top casters. While a definite amount has not been established, it is *rumored* that the figure may be around \$100,000. To the casting fraternity, that appears like NASCAR money, eh?? Yes,

this could be the start of something big.

John Seroczynski, past ACA president, reports: “Many \$\$\$\$\$\$ will be awarded. Yes, I’m telling you that the Emerald Masters will be awarding MANY THOUSANDS of dollars [or Euros] in prize money for the Individual and Team events plus a Grand All Around.

“The exact amount and breakdowns have not been determined, but I’ve been promised that information will be forthcoming soon, and I’ve been told that the proposed total amount may reach six figures.

“Cash awards will be given down to 6th place in each of the individual events with divisions for Men, Women, Boys & Girls. I also understand that the first six places in the All-Around and perhaps up to 15th place in the Team event could be in the money.” Seroczynski attended a 2005 ICSF meeting. “The ACA, as one of the founding members of the ICSF, has never failed to send either a complete team or a select group of top casters to compete at the ICSF World Championships, and, I might add, our teams have achieved great success.

“It is an ICSF rule that each member country is limited to the number of competitors in each event and in each division. In the case of the ACA, Canada and the U.S. are each allowed to have a team.

“In the recent ICSF world tournaments, U.S. & Canada did not have a problem of having too many casters wanting to participate. . . but 2006 may turn

out to be a different story. With the large amount of prize money being awarded at the Masters we feel we may have an abundance of people wanting to put their skills and entry fees on the line. And, of course, a visit to Ireland, and staying at the Carton House Hotel are strong magnets not only for casters, but also their non-casting family members.

“If you are interested in representing the United States and the ACA at the above tournaments let me know as soon as possible. You can contact me by e-mail j.seroczynski@worldnet.att.net or via my cell phone (219-405-4288).

“We have until early summer to give the ICSF the final U.S.

team selection, but we do need to inform them in April with our intention to compete. What happens if we have more applicants than we are allowed to have on the U.S. team? We’ll plan to hold at least two qualifying tournaments during spring or early summer.

“I look forward to your replies and hope that some of you will take the leap to the award stand. If you choose to compete and if you qualify you can rest assure that there will be coaching help available to all.

We’re proud of the success we’ve had over the years and we are eager to not only continue that success but also to build even stronger relations with the ICSF in the future.”



There will be divisions for men, women, boys and girls at the Masters

EWM AND ICSF SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

There will be five events cast in the 2006 Emerald World Masters and nine events in the ICSF World Championships. Competitors (teams and individuals) from 37 nations are invited. All events will be generally conducted in compliance with the ICSF rules. All nations and participants must comply with the doping rules set by the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

EMERALD WORLD MASTERS

Friday 1st September 2006

09.00-16.00—Registration followed by Opening Ceremony and Dinner.
21.00—Meeting of team captains, tournament director and judges.
22.00—Entertainment

Saturday September 2, 2006

07.00-09.00—Breakfast.
08.00-18.30—Practice & Qualifying for Events 10, 11, 12
Event 10 – Trout Fly Distance on water
Event 11 – Salmon Fly Distance on water
Event 12 – Spey Distance on water
08.00-11.30—Practice in marked areas.
08.30-11.30—Meeting of international judges
12.00-13.00—Lunch
13.30-16.00—Event No. 13 Fly Accuracy on water
16.00-18.30—Event No. 14, Multiplier Distance 100 gms.
18.30—Award Ceremony for Events 13 & 14
19.00—Dinner
21.00—Meeting- team captains.

Sunday September 3, 2006

07.00-08.30—Breakfast
08.30—18.30—Practice & Qualifying for Events 10, 11 and 12,
Event 10 – Trout Fly Distance on water
Event 11 – Salmon Fly Distance on water
Event 12 – Spey Distance on water
09.00-12.00—Event No. 10, Trout Fly Distance on water
12.00-13.00—Lunch
13.00-18.00—Event No. 12 Spey Distance on water

18.30—Award Ceremony for events 10 & 12
19.00—Dinner
21.00—Meeting—team captains

Monday September 4, 2006

07.00-08.30—Breakfast.
9.00-13.00—Event No. 11 Salmon Fly Distance on water.
13.00—Award ceremony.
13.30—Lunch

ICSF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Monday September 4, 2006

9.00-16.00—Accreditation and registration of participants ICSF.
18.00—Opening ceremony with dinner to follow.
Meeting team captains, tournament director and judges.
Entertainment.

Tuesday September 5, 2006

07.00-08.30—Breakfast
09.30—Meeting of the International Judges
12.00-13.00—Lunch
13.30-16.00—Event No. 1
16.00-18.30—Event No. 3, Spinning Accuracy
18.30—Award Ceremonies Events 1 & 3
19.00—Dinner.
21.00—Meeting—team captains

Wednesday September 6, 2006

07.00-8.30—Breakfast
9.00-12.00—Event No. 4, Spinning accuracy
12.00-13.00—Lunch
13.00-16.00—Event No. 2, Fly Distance single-handed
16.00-18.30—Event No. 5, Spinning distance Single handed 7.5 gms
18.30—Award ceremony for Events 2, 4 & 5
19.00—Dinner
21.00—Meeting—team captains

Thursday September 7, 2006

07.00-08.30—Breakfast
09.00-12.00—Event No. 6 Fly Distance two handed
12.00-13.00—Lunch
13.00-16.00—Event No. 7, Spinning Distance double handed 18 gms.
16.00-18.30—Event No. 9, Multiplier Distance double handed 18 gms.
18.30—Award ceremony for Events 6,7, & 9.

Friday September 8. 2006

07.00-8.30—Breakfast
9.30-12.30—Event No. 8, Multiplier Accuracy

13.00-14.00—Lunch
14.00-16.30—Presentation of 2006 World Champions
19.00—Official Banquet and Award Ceremony

PARTICIPATION COSTS

Emerald World Masters 2006

Hotel Cost €475.00
(per person, based on double occupation per room)

Four nights' accommodations at Carton House Hotel, including breakfast and meals from Friday evening, September 1 to Tuesday, September 5 until noon.

ICSF World Championships 2006

Hotel Cost €575.00
(per person, based on double occupation per room)

Five nights' accommodations at the Carton House Hotel, including breakfast and meals from Monday evening, September 4 to Saturday, September 9 noon. Official Banquet on Friday September 8. Welcome gifts for athletes and officials.

Combined ICSF & EWM

Hotel Cost €880.00
(per person based on double occupation per room)

Eight nights' accommodation at Carton House Hotel, including breakfast and meals from Friday evening, September 1 through Saturday, September 9.

Entry Fees:

EMERALD WORLD MASTERS

Per athlete, per event €10.00
Per Team €40.00

ICSF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Per athlete, per event. €10.00
Per Team €20.00
Protest fee deposit €100.00

Note: Rates are given in Euro currency (€).
At press time one Euro = U.S. \$1.21

The above schedules and information are subject to change.



IF YOU DECIDE TO GO, YOU WILL BE . . .

“Roughing it” at the Carton House Hotel

Located about 12 miles west of Dublin and 30 minutes from Dublin’s International airport, Carton House this summer will have 165 bedrooms including nine deluxe suites. During its colorful history Carton House observed the cosmopolitan and glamorous lifestyles of both royalty and celebrity. The estate has welcomed such diverse company as Queen Victoria, Prince Rainier, Grace Kelly and Peter Sellers, and has provided the backdrop for many TV and film productions. The old and the new is preserved and the blend retains a unique charm. The hotel is distinctive by its stylish decor, spectacular settings, impeccable service and the latest in modern conveniences and amenities. In addition, the renovated Carton House will offer three bars, two restaurants, fourteen meeting and event venues, spa, sporting activities along with 36 holes of championship golf.

And just think. Later this year the Carton House Hotel can boost of another great achievement: hosting two great world-class casting championships.



We suspect with accommodations such as offered by the Carton, casters will not have much trouble convincing their noncasting family or friends to attend.

Oakland Casting Club donates \$1200 cash award for unique team event at National

THE OAKLAND CASTING CLUB would like to introduce a new special award to be given out at the 2006 National tournament in Long Beach. The prize for winning this award will be the sum of at least \$1200. The yet-to-be-named special award is a special team event. Scores achieved by team members during their regular competition rounds are used to determine the best team. Casters' scores are compared to scores of casters in the same division. Hence, casters in all eligible divisions can make valuable contributions toward a team's total score.

The Oakland Casting Club invites other sponsors to add to the prize money for this award (possibly in exchange for the naming rights?) or for other existing or new special awards.

Here are the rules for this special award:

1. Exactly four (4) team members must be named *before* the start of the first event that is part of this team award. No caster may be on more than one team. All casters of a team shall belong to the same club. Teams must be registered with a person dedicated to the team award management.
2. The team award manager may charge a nominal fee to recover any costs for the award management. No contribution towards the prize money is required.
3. Team members can be any combination of women, senior women, men, senior men, and intermediates. There are no minimum requirements for any of the divisions.
4. The scores from the following six events will be considered for this special team award: Trout Fly, Bass Bug, 1/4 oz. Accuracy, 5/8 oz. Accuracy, Angler's Fly Distance, and 1/4 oz. Distance.
5. Each caster's score in each event is divided by a reference score. These ratios are expressed as a percentages. The percentages of all casters in a team and for all six events are added. The team with the largest sum wins the special team award. The reference scores are the winner's scores in each of the divisions and events at the previous national tournament. Women's scores are compared to scores of women, senior men's scores are compared to scores of senior men, etc. If certain events in certain divisions have not been cast at the previous national tournaments, the most recent prior tournament will be used or the results of the most similar division will be used—at the discretion of the team award manager and as announced before the tournament. For example, since George Revel won Trout Fly Accuracy with a score of 87 in 2005, an intermediate caster casting a 90 in Trout Fly in 2006 would earn $(90/87) \times 100\% = 103.4\%$ toward his/her team's total.
6. The entire amount of the prize money goes to the winning team.—*Henry Mittel*.

Here's an excellent opportunity for other casting clubs to contribute anywhere from \$100 and up. It would be great if we could raise the amount to \$2500 or more. Maybe we could attract tackle manufacturers to contribute also? Just a thought.—JCC

2006 SOUTHWESTERN TOURNAMENT

The Southwestern, one of the classic tourneys, was hosted by the Long Beach Casting Club in February. Here are some of the results (first top three scores and ties).

TROUT FLY

A Casters

1	Chris Korich	100
2	Rene Gillibert	98 (99)
3	Jamie Murphy	98 (97)
4	Joe Libeu	98 (93)

B Casters

1	Bill Clements	94
2	Larry Allen	93
3	Kazu Koshimizu	92

C Casters

1	John Field	91
2	Kate Blubaugh	90
3	Ted Bounds	86

3	Larry Allen	92 (95)
4	Tom Gong	92 (88)

C Casters

1	John Field	90
2	Elaine Gong	89
3	Ted Bounds	86 (87)
4	Kate Blubaugh	86 (85)

2	Henry Mittel	97
3	Keith Pryor	95

B Casters

1	Alice Gillibert	92
2	Elaine Gong	91
3	Tom Gong	90

C Casters

1	Bruce Williams	86
2	John Field	84
3	Mitch Rickerd	83

1/4 OZ ACCURACY

A Casters

1	Henry Mittel	98
2	Bill Clements	96
3	Rene Gillibert	95

B Casters

1	Alice Gillibert	92
2	Peg VanNatter	88 (1)
3	Bill VanNatter	88 (0)

C Casters

1	Francois Labat	88
2	Charles Judy	87 (86)
3	Mitch Rickerd	87 (83)

ANGLER'S FLY

A Casters

1	Henry Mittel	166
2	Rene Gillibert	149
3	Bruce Bowles	142

B Casters

1	Larry Allen	136
2	Kazu Koshimizu	125
3	Peg VanNatter	115

C Casters

1	Bruce Williams	128
2	Ted Bounds	119
3	Francois Labat	111

BASS BUG

A Casters

1	Matt Rickerd	98
2	Chris Korich	97
3	Henry Mittel	96 (99)
4	Tony Yap	96 (95)
4	Jamie Murphy	96 (95)

B Casters

1	Bill Clements	94
2	Peg VanNatter	93

OPEN PLUG

A Casters

1	Chris Korich	98
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1/4 OZ DISTANCE

A Casters

1	Chris Korich	195
2	Henry Mittel	189
3	Keith Pryor	186

B Casters

1	Tom Gong	158
2	Alice Gillibert	133
3	Bill VanNatter	132



John Napoli does the roll casting segment for the Trout Fly Event.

C Casters

1	Mitch Rickerd	136
2	Elaine Gong	127
3	Mark Lipe	118

2	Chris Korich	98 (100)
3	Henry Mittel	98 (99)
4	Mark Lipe	98 (96)
5	Jamie Murphy	98 (95)

2	Alice Gillibert	87
3	Kazu Koshimizu	86

DRY FLY

A Casters

1	Jamie Murphy	100 (97)
2	Matt Rickerd	100 (96)
3	Chris Korich	99 (100)
4	Rene Gillibert	99 (99)
5	Henry Mittel	99 (97)

B Casters

1	Kazu Koshimizu	96
2	Elaine Gong	95
3	Bill Clements	94 (93)
4	Alice Gillibert	94 (91)

C Casters

1	Elaine Gong	90
2	Mitch Rickerd	84
3	Dominic Gillibert	83
4	Francois Labat	82
4	Tom Gong	82
6	John Field	81

B Casters

1	Larry Allen	94 (95)
2	Tom Gong	94 (93)
3	Elaine Gong	94 (91)

C Casters

1	Charles Judy	93
2	Jeff Katz	91
3	Matt Pencer	9
(88)(92)		0
4	Carole Katz	9
(88)(87)		0

5/8 OZ ACCURACY

A Casters

1	Henry Mittel	99
2	Bobby Spear	97
3	Chris Korich	96 (96)(2)
4	Rene Gillibert	96 (96)(1)
5	Bill Clements	96 (91)

C Casters

1	Francois Labat	91 (92)
2	John Field	91 (90)
3	Ted Bounds	89

3/8 OZ ACCURACY

A Casters

1	Chris Korich	99
2	Tony Yap	98
3	Henry Mittel	97

B Casters

1	Tom Gong	94
2	Charles Judy	91
3	Elaine Gong	90

WET FLY

A Casters

1	Rene Gillibert	99
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B Casters

1	Mark Lipe	93
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C Casters

1	Bruce Williams	86
2	Larry Allen	85
3	Francois Labat	83 (91)
4	Mitch Rickerd	83 (87)
5	John Field	83 (0)



Francois Labat is a newcomer to tournament casting. He is only 13 years old and is already a shining light.

*Frenchie" is a member of the San Jose Casting Club. He won the Youth Division at one of the **Best of the West** 5-wt. distance competitions.*

A PEEK AT THE PROPOSED (YET TO BE OFFICIALLY APPROVED) **5 wt. Combination, Accuracy, and Distance Events**

After many months of discussion, dissecting and developing, a committee composed of ACA and non ACA casters has come up with the following rules and procedures. Some changes could occur.

1. GENERAL

The 5-wt Combination event consists of accuracy and distance casting with a 5-weight line. The accuracy and distance parts may be cast as separate event(s) according to the following rules and regulations.

2. EQUIPMENT

- A) **Rod** – Rod length shall not exceed nine feet (9') overall. A measurement tolerance of one inch (1") shall be permitted. Only one rod may be used during the course of the event unless the judge declares a damaged rod as unusable.
- B) **Reel** – Unrestricted, must be attached to the rod for all scoring casts.
- C) **Line** – The line shall consist of unrestricted backing and a floating weight-forward fly line that meets the following specifications:
 - i) **Length** – The first eighty-eight feet (88') of the base fly line must be one piece – without any splices. The line length requirement shall be met without stretching.
 - ii) **Running line** – The level part after the head of the fly line is considered running line. The running line must have a diameter of a least 0.031" and at most 0.037".
 - iii) **Head** – The entire part of the fly line in front of the running line – including all tapers and tip section – is considered the head of the fly line. The head of the fly line must be 35' to 40' long, i.e. the diameter of the level running line must be reached no less than 35' and no more than 40' from the tip of the fly line. The head length requirement shall be met without stretching.
 - iv) **Weight** – The mass of the head of fly line plus the leader shall not exceed 12.50

grams (193 grains).

v) **Specific gravity** – All parts of the fly line must be of floating material.

D) **Leader** - Shall consist of a single leader a minimum of 7' and a maximum of 9 1/2' in length with a maximum tippet diameter of .009" and minimum tippet length of 18". The length of the leader is measured from the tip of the fly line to the eye of the fly.

E) **Fly** – A single tournament dry fly with hackle not less than three-fourth inch (3/4") and not more than seven-eighth inch (7/8") in diameter may be attached to the leader at the tip end. An attached or lost fly may be replaced at any time with a fly approved by the judge.

3. COURSE

A) **Accuracy** – A square casting box four feet (4') on each side and five (5) targets shall constitute the course. The course may be laid out on any suitable casting surface such as water, grass, or carpet. The casting box may be at the same level as the targets or elevated up to 18". Each target consists of two concentric rings with outer diameters of thirty inches (30") and fifty-four inches (54"). The ring cross section shall be no more than 1.5". The outer ring must not have a cross section larger than the inner ring. Rings shall protrude above the casting surface up to a maximum of three-fourth inches (0.75"). Each target shall be secured in place so that the total movement for any reason will not exceed one (1) foot in any direction. The first target shall be centered in front of the casting box at a distance of 20'-25'. The second target – called the obstacle target - shall be located directly behind and touching the first target. The third and fourth targets shall be at a distance of 35'-40' and 45'-50', respectively. The fifth target – called the bonus target - shall be at a distance of 60'-80',

depending on the level of the competition.

- B) Distance** – The casting box used for distance has the same dimensions as the box for accuracy. If accuracy and distance are cast as a combination, one and the same box is used for both. The distance will be measured along a real or imagined centerline extending perpendicularly from the front edge of the casting box. The space available for landing the fly – the casting lane – must extend at least five feet (5') to each side of that centerline. Lines perpendicular to the centerline or other means that do not obstruct the casting or the retrieval of line may be used to mark certain distances and to determine the position of the fly to the nearest foot.

4. TIME

- A) General** – Each caster shall be allotted time for preparing for the event and time for casting the event.
- B) Preparation time** – Preparation time starts when the judge has called up the caster and declared the casting box as “open”. The caster may use prep time to strip line off the reel and arrange it on the ground in any practical way – with or without assistance. Preparation time ends when one (1) minute expires or when the caster declares readiness for start, whichever occurs first.
- C) Casting time** – The time allotted for casting the 5-wt combination shall be five (5) minutes. If accuracy is cast as a separate event, the allotted time shall be three (3) minutes. If distance is cast as a separate event, the allotted time shall be two (2) minutes. The following procedure shall be used to start the casting time. When the caster appears to be ready for the event, but not later than fifty seconds after the beginning of prep time, the judge shall ask: “Caster ready?” Upon a positive reply from the caster or when one minute of prep time has expired, the judge begins the casting time by calling “Start.” No score can be obtained from casts completed after the casting time has expired. A cast counts as completed during casting time when the forward motion of the rod has stopped before time expires.
- D) Time Out** - There shall be no time out for any reason except for outside interference as determined by the Judge. The judge shall only consider unusual interfering circumstances such as third persons, pets, or trees in the course or in the back-cast area as outside interference.

5. METHOD OF CASTING

- A) Combination** – The 5 wt-combination casting program consists of the accuracy and distance casting as described in sections 6 and 7. A caster must complete all accuracy casts before any distance casts may be scored. There is no time-out or break between the accuracy and distance parts.
- B) Casting Style** – Unrestricted.
- C) Definitions**
- i) A caster is considered in the casting box when at least one foot is on or above the casting box and no part of the caster or any attached clothing touches the surface in front of the casting box.
 - ii) When the intact line, leader, and fly settle on the surface or targets in front of the casting box, it shall be considered a final forward cast.

6. ACCURACY

- A) Initial** – The caster must begin while meeting the following four conditions simultaneously:
- a) The caster is in the box.
 - b) Caster does not hold loose line in any way that could indicate distance to any target.
 - c) No more than two feet of fly line are extended beyond the rod tip.
 - d) The caster holds the fly in hand.
- No final forward cast will count as a scoring cast until the caster has met all four conditions simultaneously during casting time as determined by the judge.
- B) Target order** – After meeting the initial conditions, the caster shall make a total of eight (8) final forward casts at the targets in the following order: first target, third target, fourth target, first target, obstacle target, third target, fourth target, and bonus target.
- C) Scoring** – Each final forward cast shall be scored where the fly first strikes the casting surface, any portion of a target, or the platform in front of the casting box, regardless of where the fly may ultimately settle. The casting surface inside of the center ring and any part of the center ring above the casting surface scores 500 points. The casting surface between the center ring and the outer ring and any part of the outer ring above the casting surface scores 300 points. Anything outside the outside ring scores 100 points.
- D) Total Score** – The total score for accuracy is the sum of the scores achieved on all targets, at which the caster has cast during casting time, minus the sum of all assessed penalties. In a 5-wt combination event, this accuracy score will be added to the distance score.

E) Penalties – Penalties are assessed towards the score on the next target at which the caster is supposed to cast. Multiple penalties may be assessed as appropriate. The sum of all such penalties shall be limited to the score achieved at that target. The penalties are:

- a) **Tick** – Should the line extended beyond the rod tip, the leader, or the fly strike the casting surface in front of the casting box or any target when no final forward cast was performed, it shall be scored a tick. The penalty for a tick shall count during the entire casting time, whether caster is in or out of casting box and whether or not the fly is on. The penalty for each tick shall be 10% of the score achieved on the next target.
- b) **Obstacle target** – The objective when casting at the obstacle target is to have the line and leader settle without crossing any part of the first target – the obstacle. In case the caster fails to meet that objective, a penalty equal to the achieved score shall be assessed.
- c) **Out-of-the-box** – A penalty equal to the entire score achieved on the target shall be assessed if the caster performs a final forward cast without being in the box.
- d) **Illegal strip** – A penalty equal to the entire score achieved on the next target shall be assessed if the caster measures line along the rod.
- e) **Early retrieve** – A penalty equal to the entire score achieved on the target shall be assessed if the caster lifts the fly off the casting surface after making a final forward cast before the judge calls “score.”
- f) **Lost fly** – No penalty shall be assessed for the loss of a fly or for a lost fly falling onto the casting surface. A lost or attached fly may be replaced at any time with a fly approved by the judge.

7. DISTANCE

- A) General** – When the casters transition from the accuracy part to the distance part in a combination event or when the caster begins a distance-only event, no special conditions (such as those required for the accuracy part) need to be met.
- B) SCORING** – The point where the fly first strikes the casting surface in front of the casting box during a final forward cast is used to determine the distance of that cast. All distances are measured along the real or imagined centerline extending perpendicularly from the front edge of the casting box. A real or imaginary

square is placed such that one edge is on the centerline and the other edge crosses the spot where the fly first struck the casting surface. The distance of the cast is the distance between corner of the square and the front edge of the casting box. The distance shall be determined accurate to the nearest foot. The score is the number of feet times ten (10).

- C) Number of casts** – The caster is permitted to make any number of casts during the allotted time. In a 5-wt combination event, the scores of the best two (2) casts will be kept and the sum of their scores will be added to the accuracy score. In a distance-only event, the best cast will be kept.
- D) Penalties** –
 - i) **Ticks** – There are no penalties for ticks.
 - ii) **Out of the box** – If a caster performs a final forward cast without being in the box, the cast is invalid and has a zero score.
 - iii) **Out of bounds** – If a cast was directed such that the fly cannot land on the casting surface, the cast is invalid and has a zero score.
 - iv) **Early retrieve** – If a caster retrieves line before the judge calls “score”, the cast is invalid and has a zero score.
 - v) **Lost fly** – No penalty shall be assessed for the loss of a fly or for a lost fly falling onto the casting surface.

8. CAST-OFFS

In case of a tie for any place earning an award such as prizes or medals, cast-offs shall be performed to determine the final order. The rules for the cast-offs differ slightly from the regular event rules as outlined in the following.

- A) Combination Event** – The casters are given two (2) minutes of casting time to perform the following casts: accuracy casts at the first target, the obstacle target, the third target, the fourth target, and the fifth target, then any number of distance casts of which only the best cast is added to the cast-off score. The general procedure including prep time and initial conditions remains unchanged.
- B) Accuracy Event** – No changes to the event rules apply. Tied casters cast again until the tie is broken.
- C) Distance Event** – The casters are given one (1) minute of casting time to perform one (1) cast. The longer cast wins. The general procedure including prep time remains unchanged.

Q & A

with Clay Roberts...

One of the masters of the 5-weight event, Clay won \$22,500 in a casting tournament and donated it to a conservation project (but, hey, he kept the certificate—see photo below). . . about his casting family, his thoughts on competitive casting and a few of his secrets.

Q. Clay, what are your favorite species and favorite fishing places?

CR: My favorite species are the ones with fins! Actually I really do love all manner of fishes. I have a very cool “walk around” 120-gallon reef aquarium in the living room, and an African cichlid tank in the office. Living in the high country of central Colorado we, of course, do love our trout. Last year I completed a Wyoming Game and Fish Department’s native cutthroat trout promotional program called the CUTTSLAM. Four species of pure strain native cutthroat must be caught and sufficiently documented. Then all information submitted to the State, upon approval a very nice certificate is sent, recognizing the accomplishment. Takes a fair amount on study and planning to get this done, especially on a limited time frame. This program very much puts you in touch with the worrisome plight that faces these, our native American fishes. Large pike inhabit nearby water, and I spend quite a bit of time stalking those guys.

Q. How many years have you been fishing? How did

you get interested in fishing—and at what age?

CR: I really have been fishing all my life. It is just something I’ve always loved to do, since as long as I can remember. My dad tells me stories of when I was little and we would go fishing, or go on a picnic to a state park. He would set me up with a bobber and a worm, and I would sit for hours, waiting for that bite. Come time for roasted marshmallows or the like, I could not be found, cause I’m still down near the river, sitting on the bank waiting for a fish, like a barnyard cat at mouse hole. I do owe my father a lot. I believe he sacrificed much of his own success, so that his kids would be raised in the country, on the water, with a fishing pole in their hands. I’m very grateful indeed.

Q: When did you get interested in the 5-wt.. distance (tournament) fly casting?

CR: I remember watching Tim Rajeff cast at an

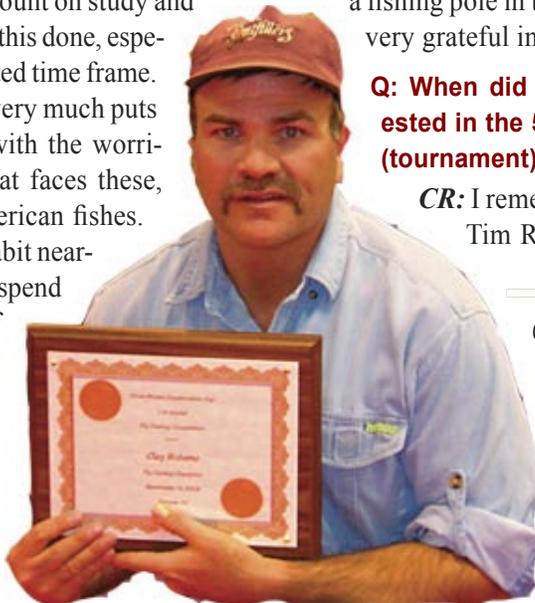
International Sportsman Expo here in Denver probably five years ago. At the time I didn’t know who Tim was, but I knew he was somebody as he started to cast distance. A crowd gathered at the pond to watch him cast. With each 5-wt. cast that sailed out over the end of the pond and over the curtain barrier, the crowd would *ohhh* and *ahhh* in appreciation. That was very cool, and I wanted to be able to do that.

Q: Why did you get interested in the 5-wt. competitive casting?

CR: It’s the challenge. To cast a five weight a good respectful distance takes a certain amount of skill and sound technique. It is something that not everybody can do, or wants to do, so that made it special. When you are able to watch Tim Rajeff, like I did that day in Denver, cast a long line it is really something to behold. It is graceful and powerful at the same time, yet the casting motion seems effortless, and the line somehow defies the laws of physics. It’s almost magical.

Q: I know you are a superb 5-weight distance fly caster. Have you tried the ACA events, such as the Angler’s Fly, Single Hand Distance Fly, or any of the ACA accuracy events?

CR: Sandi and I have toyed with the Angler’s Fly a little. Sandi had good success with that event in San Fran-



Clay won \$22,500 in a casting tournament. He donated it to a conservation project and kept the certificate.

cisco, at the GGACC Winter Tournament in January. She actually won the ladies event and got to rub elbows with Steve Rajeff, a big thrill for her. Steve was very gracious and offered her much advice, and help in casting the event. It is really something for a sport to have a champion like Steve, down to earth, and always willing to help the little guy.

Colorado is really a virtual wasteland when it comes to ACA casting. We have no club anywhere near, and most of what we learn we get through the Internet, or by visiting with an ACA member at a sports show. Unselfishly, Joe Libeu has helped me with my casting accuracy. There is a grassroots movement to get an ACA club started here in the Rockies; we'll see how it goes.

Q: There is almost a cult-like following of the ISE 5-wt. distance event. Do you think that adding accuracy to the distance event would attract more participants?

CR: I do think that adding an accuracy component to the 5-wt. distance event

will attract more participants. Right now, I don't think an accuracy component fits into ISE's venue, as far as its contest goes. A lot of casters have difficulty with distance and don't compete. From a scoring aspect, the competition will undoubtedly be weighted more towards accuracy so those casters will be encouraged to compete.

On the other side of the coin, it seems that most casters who have developed a decent distance stroke, also seem to have a fairly high level of accuracy skill. Good reason to practice distance, huh? I was fortunate to be included on the committee that is developing the potential ACA 5-wt. event. With the likes of Steve Rajeff, Henry Mittel, and Jeff Wagner working on this exciting event it cannot help but to be fun to cast, and exciting to watch!

Q: What do you feel is needed to promote the 5-weight distance fly event, so that it becomes more popular?

CR: Jim, that is a tough question. I guess that all the standard answers

would apply. More money always brings out interest. Commercialization. Being embraced or romanticized in some manner, within a prominent media, such as television or movies, can of course peg the popularity meter of an event. Just the attention of one influential, high profile, celebrity can lift an activity to "fad" status and then from that point, hopefully, the activity has enough residual, redeeming qualities that it would continue to grow in popularity in the future. I really have no idea how to make this happen, I just wish I did.

Q: What are the secrets to casting the 5-wt. successfully? How much line must one aerialize and do you do any special exercises for casting?

CR: Secrets? I think casting well with a 5-wt. revolves around one thing. We have all heard it before at one time or the other—strict adherence to casting fundamentals, and then adapting those skills to the peculiarities specific to what it takes to cast a 5-wt. long. No doubt the length of fly line that you can control well prior to your distance shot is directly proportional to the potential distance achieved. To be competitive in these contests, length of carry [aerialize] and length of shoot are crucial. I do not carry as much as some of the guys do. I work toward about 85' probably less, measured from the hauling hand to the end of the fly line. I try to shoot 30% of that and hopefully get a good portion of the leader to turn-over. Strength and flexibility training is part of my casting regimen. I also practice visualization and pantomime, when I can't get outside to practice. Living up here at well over 9,000' elevation in Colorado, the weather seldom seems to cooperate, and the winters are long. That has probably been the biggest obstacle that we have to deal with in trying to



Sandi Roberts enjoys trout fishing . . . and competitive casting.

stay competitive. Practice cannot be underestimated.

More subtle ideas to try for distance might be: Check guide position during the cast for position of least friction. Drape line over fingertip of hauling hand to increase line moved during the haul. Check haul direction so energy of haul doesn't pull rod out of the SLP. Butt of rod can be blocked into forearm for increase leverage during the back cast. Explore grip changes to increase stroke length, and enhance tracking. That's my 2¢ worth.

Q: Where do you practice? I believe you have an 80 ft. casting pool at your home. . .right?

CR: You are right. My pride and joy is our ISE style-casting pond. We live on a few acres in the country, I leveled off a spot and set a pond liner, 82' X 16'. It is complete with ACA targets, vertical hoops, casting platform, and a big old Labrador who thinks it is his own. It is also has lights for night time practice—that is the only time the wind doesn't blow 90 mph in these parts. It is,

of course, frozen for seven months of the year. Weather permitting we try to practice daily. In the dead of winter, the company I work for allows me to practice indoors, inside one of their big warehouses. This is a big deal, as the high security image of a gold mine, doesn't really fit well with some dude waving around a stick and line in the middle of the night. The warehouse sits at 10,500' elevation. Casting at this elevation is very good for the ego! I do think it has impacted my

timing in a negative manner though, when it comes time to cast at a lower elevation. Prior to a big competition I'll practice twice a day. I have to, in order keep up with these young kids with great eye/hand coordination and ability, and even then, I think I'm falling behind.

Q: If I remember correctly you won a big cash prize in a casting competition and then donated it to a conservation project. True?



Eric Merizon does his stuff in front of an admiring audience

sponsored the event. Morris publishes many of our favorite fly-fishing magazines such as the *AMERICAN ANGLER*. Hutch Hutchison of Orvis put this competition together. The tournament is patterned after the OLN Fly Fishing Masters competition of a couple of years ago; in fact, they used the same targets. The competition was keen, with folks entering from all over, including Europe. When the smoke finally cleared I was the lucky winner. Through the generosity of Orvis and

the availability of matching funds I was able to donate \$22,500 to the *Golden Trout Project*, a worthy conservation charity in California. A very big moment for me personally.

Q: How did Sandi get interested in the 5-wt. distance? How many years has she been practicing it?

CR: Sandi and I were married in 2003 in St Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. She has enjoyed fishing all her life. She really didn't get into fly casting and fly fishing until she met me a few years ago, and decided it was the right thing to do.

Sandi has a great work ethic when it comes to acquiring a skill; she puts a lot of time and practice into it. There is a slight rift between us when it comes to casting instruction. Being her husband it seems that my casting observations hold little value. But let Lefty Kreh or Steve Rajeff direct a casting tip in her direction and it becomes instant gospel, and is practiced immediately, and reverently. Go figure!

Q: What type of fishing does she like?

CR: Sandi really likes all types of fishing. Fly fishing being her current most favorite. She really gets a kick out of fishing from a float tube. At the right time of the year, we put the bass boat in at a little reservoir south of here. Big ol' carp will be taking cottonseed from the surface, and if the cast is good, they will readily take dry flies. Oh, man, talk about a commotion!

Q: How often does she practice and what is her best cast in competition?

CR: Sandi does practice often; she recognizes the need to practice so that she can remain competitive. Winter up here in the Colorado high country is brutal, and practice is tough during that time of the year. All through the

summer practice will be a daily affair even if only for 15 minutes or so. Her best 5 wt. cast in a competition is right at 92 feet. I have watched her throw in the low 100's inside, one after the other, so I know she is capable.

Q: Eric Merizon, I believe, is 12 year old? How long has he been casting? I assume he is very strong for his age or does he rely more on coordination?

CR: Eric is my stepson, hence the different name. Eric has been fly casting for a couple of years now. He is tall at 12 years of age, at 5'6". I guess he is pretty tall for his age. He weighs 110 pounds so probably a bit light on that end. Earlier at the Salt Lake ISE, he cast several in the low 90s, so he is doing well. His best cast in competition is 89 feet in the 5 wt.. He is putting pressure on me!

Eric just picked up the rod one day and started double hauling, and just seemed to acquire the timing of it all instantly. I asked him how he had learned to do that: "I just watched you guys," is all he said. It took me years to get that double haul just right. And he doesn't practice! Ahh, to be young again.

Eric spends the summers out in California with his father. They live real close to the Sacramento Delta. He spends a lot of time chasing big stripers—his favorite fish, from the docks where his grandparents live. Of course, living up here in the Colorado high country, we do a lot of trout.

Q: What are the suggestions for someone who wants to teach an early teen or preteen youngster to fly cast? And also for distance?

CR: I think it critical that the casting experience be a very positive one. There seems to be a very fine line that a casting instructor must walk when working with early teenagers. You want them to do well, but you must be very aware of the possibility of over

pressuring them. When they become aggravated, and anxious because they are not able to do something, their efforts should be redirected to a task that will ensure success, and then later return back to what was giving them problems with a different angle or take.

You and I get the satisfaction, and feed back that we need and enjoy, from just making good loops and layouts that we are after. That is our goal. That's our gratification. Kids always like the challenge of a game, or something that adds to the visual aspect of casting. I like to bring out rings, and a big stuffed fish for targets, once they are able to get the line out there a few feet.

Casting through a fairly large vertical hoop seems to be fun; it reminds them of a carnival game. It isn't very long before they figure out how to get those loops through the hoop, just happens naturally a lot of times. Oodles of praise, of course.

Q: Sandi's daughter did very well in the CastingKids tournament. Has she shown any inclination for fly casting at this stage?

CR: Michelle Merizon, Sandi's daughter, actually won the 2003 Colorado State CastingKids Championship. So it's been a few years since that event. The CastingKids program is a B.A.S.S. sponsored program. A lot of fun, and really gets kids into casting competition, and fishing tournaments. B.A.S.S. actually flew all of us down to Birmingham, Alabama for the finals, which was held in association with a big fishing competition on the Citgo B.A.S.S. tournament trail. Now, at 17, casting or anything that has to do with fishing is totally "uncool" and is shunned with great vigor. It saddens me because she has shown a very real talent when it comes to eye-hand coordination. She is tall, pretty, and athletic, and could have quite an impact on the sport of casting, I think. Maybe later. *Oh well.*

Registered Tournaments

Two additional registered tournaments will be held at Dundee, Michigan.

1) Michigan State Tournament. July 15 and 16, 2006. Distance on the 15th and accuracy on the 16th.

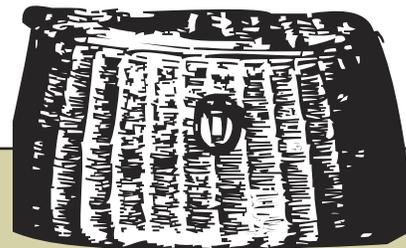
2) Ohio State Tournament. August 12, 13, 2006. Distance on the 12th and accuracy on the 13th.

The accuracy events will be held at Cabela's—Dundee, Michigan, and the distance events will be held at the Dundee, Michigan High School (the same places as for the 2005 ACA National).

✓ For information: Contact Frank Gralak at fjskish@sbcglobal.net and cc j.seroczynski@worldnet.att.

That's it for now...Keep on Casting!

Jim



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