

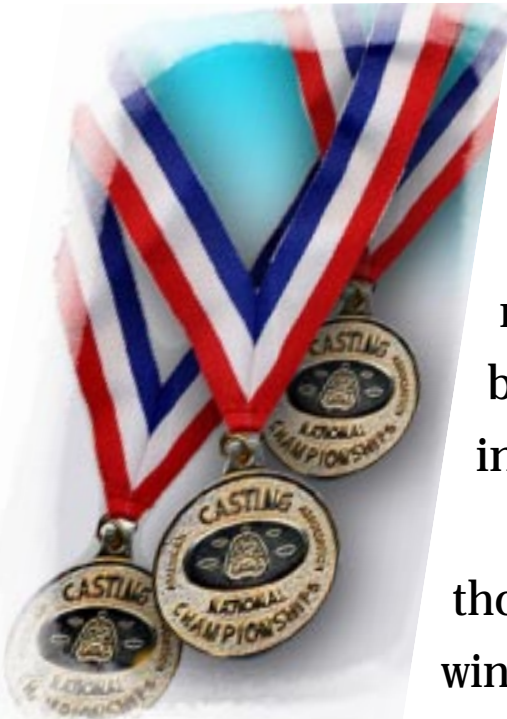


The Tournament Trail

The thrill of victory (well, for some casters, anyway)!
The agony of defeat (for most of us, but wait until next year!!!!).

Scores and highlights from here, there and abroad as a wonderful casting season draws to a close. Here's a review of the National, several regional tournaments (not reported previously) and the big World Championship that took place in Bern, Switzerland.

BY THE WAY, have you won one (or more) of those National medals on the left? You can't win if you don't attend next year's super National at Dundee, Michigan (details inside).



Highlights from the 96th Annual ACA Casting Championship

Lexington, KY. Aug. 2 to 7, 2004

The highly coveted Grand All-Around Casting Championship wasn't determined until the final event, when Steve Rajeff beat Henry Mittel in the 5/8 oz. accuracy plug-casting event.

Finally, when the scores for all 12 events were tallied and sorted out it turned out that Rajeff and Mittel tied for the honors and are co-champions. The skill-demanding events that lead to the All-Round took place August 3-7, 2004, in Lexington, Kentucky and consisted of six distance and six accuracy disciplines. They are equally divided between fly and plug casting.

Rajeff won the Two-Hand Distance Fly event with a cast of 262 feet, but Mittel won the Single-Hand Distance Fly with a 212-foot cast and also the Angler's Distance Fly with a cast 180 feet.

We move to the accuracy ponds. Despite strong gusts, some crosswinds, Steve only missed one of the ten targets in the classic Dry Fly Accuracy Event by less than a foot to score a 99 to Henry's 96.

In the Trout Fly Event both casters shot a remarkable 99. In the shootoff, they tied again with 98s. In the second shootoff, Steve cast a 98 to Henry's 95 to win this event.

Steve also won the Bass Bug Accuracy Event, which, among other things, requires tossing a cork bass bug to a 30-inch target, 50-feet away, lifting it up, making one false cast, and then delivering the popper to the 70-foot target. It isn't easy under the best of circumstances, but when you have unpredictable wind gusts, well, making this cast is nothing short of incredible.

Before you conclude that this was a Henry/Steve

tournament (okay, which in many ways it was!) let me say that casters came from many parts of the U.S. and Canada to compete. As a matter of fact, it was Canadian Harvey Beck who came in third in the Grand All-Around Championship.

To my mind there were numerous other outstanding accomplishments. Allow me to cite just three:

- Alice Gillibert holds the women's record for the Angler's Distance Fly Event with a remarkable cast of a 137 feet in a past National! At this tournament she made an incredible, magnificent cast of 150 feet for a new National record! That's half of a football field, folks.

- I observed the Revel boys cast in last year's National in San Francisco and was very impressed. Dustin (now age 14) and his brother, George (age 15) have become superb fly casters in one year's time.

Competing in the Intermediate Division (13 to 17 years old), George beat Dustin in the Dry Fly Event by only one point (95 to 94). In the Trout Fly Event, George shot a 94 to Dustin's 90. But in the Bass Bug Event, Dustin won it with 91 to George's 90.

How good are their scores? Let's put it this way. George's 94 in the Trout Fly Event would have

(continued next page)



TOP PHOTO: Dustin and George Revel are going to be the champion casters of the future. They are now, in their division! They are also excellent anglers and even tie flies to earn some money to compete in tournaments and fishing trips.

BOTTOM: 14-year old Dustin Revel (left, bottom) is not only a fine caster, but an excellent angler, too. He took this big rainbow from a river near his home. Friend Chris was with him at the time.

earned him 4th place in the highly competitive Men's Division, and he would have tied for 1st in the Senior Men's Division. And Dustin's 91 in the Bass Bug Event would have tied him for 4th place in the Men's Division and for 2nd place in the Senior Men's Division. Good thing, these kids cast in the Intermediate Division.

Just as important as their casting abilities is that these youngsters conduct themselves with perfect

manners, and in communicating with them, we felt that we were talking to adults rather than early teenagers. And can they cast! And fish!

- Another impressive performance was delivered by John Field in the Angler's Distance Fly when he cast 161 feet to earn him 3rd place (Bronze Medal) in the Men's Division. Field is a newcomer to tournament casting. Last year, he traveled to San Francisco for

(continued on page five)

The Distance Plug Events

They twist and turn, whirl and swirl and heave those plugs a mighty long distance. In the Mens Division, Henry Mittel set a new national record when he tossed a 5/8 oz. plug in the revolving spool event an amazing 348 feet. Zack Willson's 292-ft. cast is a Seniors record! Henry also won the 5/8 oz. two-hand spinning distance and the 1/4 oz. one-hand spinning distance.

5/8 oz. 2-Hand Revolving Spool Distance

Men

1 Henry Mittel 348'
2 Steve Rajeff 344'
3 David Roberts 333'

Senior Men

1 Zack Willson 292'
2 Gus Beushausen 281'
3 Bill Burke 277'

5/8 oz. 2-Hand Spin Distance

Men

1 Henry Mittel 384'
2 Steve Rajeff 381'
3 Harvey Beck 373'

Senior Men

1 Dick Fujita 336'
2 Bill Clements 335'
3 Gus Beushausen 328'

Women

1 Alice Gillibert 224'
2 Nancy Burke 162'
3 Peg VanNatter 137'

1/4 oz. 1-Hand Spinning Distance

Men

1 Henry Mittel 283'
2 Harvey Beck 271'
3 Steve Rajeff 270'

Senior Men

1 Dick Fujita 249'
2 Zack Willson 243'
3 Bill Clements 226'

Women

1 Alice Gillibert 182'
2 Nancy Burke 154'
3 Peg VanNatter 140'

The Fly Distance Events

How far can you throw a feather? Incredible distances as indicated in the distance fly games. Henry Mittel cast 212 ft. to win the 1-Hand Fly Distance Event. Then Steve Rajeff uncorks a 262-ft. cast to take the 2-Hand Fly Distance. Henry comes back with a 180-ft. cast to capture the gold medal in the Angler's Fly. And don't forget Alice Gillibert's amazing 150-ft. cast (Angler's).

1-Hand Fly Distance

Men

1 Henry Mittel 212'
2 Steve Rajeff 200'
3 Harvey Beck 174'

Senior Men

1 Jim Chapralis 172'
2 Zack Willson 162'
3 Gord Deval 147'

2-Hand Fly Distance

Men

1 Steve Rajeff 262'
2 Henry Mittel 241'
3 Harvey Beck 240'

Senior Men

1 Ed Lanser 223'
2 Zack Willson 218'
3 Bill Clements 203'

Angler's Fly Distance

Men

1 Henry Mittel 180'
2 Steve Rajeff 175'
3 John Field 161'

Senior Men

1 Jim Chapralis 153'
2 Zack Willson 150'
3 Dick Fujita 141'

Women

1 Alice Gillibert 150'
2 Peg VanNatter 100'



The Accuracy Fly Events

Is there any sporting activity more poetic than the dry-fly game? Or more challenging than the trout-fly? Or more demanding than the rhythmic bass bug event? The highlight of the fly games undoubtedly was in the men's division of the trout-fly accuracy. Steve Rajeff and Henry Mittel cast 99s to tie. In the shootoff they again tied with 98s! Another shootoff. Steve shoots another 98 to win the gold. And, this took place under windy, gusty conditions. This, my friends, is casting at its best!

Dry Fly Accuracy

Men

- 1 Steve Rajeff 99
- 2 David Roberts 96(94)(97)
- 3 Jay Klenk 96 (94) (96)

Senior Men

- 1 Bob Spear 97
- 2 Ed Lanser 96
- 3 Bill Burke 93

Women

- 1 Alice Gillibert 91
- 2 Beth Statt 87
- 3 Peg VanNatter 83

Intermediates

- 1 George Revel 95
- 2 Dustin Revel 94

Trout Fly Accuracy

Men

- 1 Steve Rajeff 99 (98)(98)
- 2 Henry Mittel 99 (98)(95)
- 3 Andy Statt 95

Senior Men

- 1 Bob Spear 94
- 2 Bill Clements 92
- 3 Gord Deval 91 (88)

Women

- 1 Alice Gillibert 89
- 2 Peg VanNatter 84
- 3 Beth Statt 75

Intermediates

- 1 George Revel 94
- 2 Dustin Revel 90

Bass Bug Accuracy

Men

- 1 Steve Rajeff 97
- 2 Henry Mittel 95
- 3 John Seroczynski 93

Senior Men

- 1 Charles Judy 92
- 2 Bob Spear 91 (91)
- 3 Bill VanNatter 91 (88)

Women

- 1 Alice Gillibert 92
- 2 Peg VanNatter 80
- 3 Beth Statt 78

Intermediates

- 1 Dustin Revel 91
- 2 George Revel 90

The Accuracy Plug Events

Hey, wasn't it in Kentucky where bait casting started? You know, the Meek and Talbot and all the other reels that brought on plug casting? Easily, the 5/8 oz. is the most popular casting event.

1/4 oz. Plug Accuracy

Men

- 1 Harvey Beck 98
- 2 Steve Rajeff 97
- 3 Henry Mittel 94

Senior Men

- 1 Pete Edwards 91
- 2 Bill Burke 89
- 3 Bill Clements 88

Women

- 1 Beth Statt 83
- 2 Diana Klenk 79
- 3 Sharon Galak 77

Intermediates

- 1 George Revel 86
- 2 Becky Statt 78
- 3 Dustin Revel 72

Youth

- 1 Bridgett McClanahan 65
- 2 William Beck 60

3/8 oz. Plug Accuracy

Men

- 1 Steve Rajeff 99
- 2 Henry Mittel 98
- 3 Harvey Beck 97

Senior Men

- 1 Bob Spear 91 (92)
- 2 Dan Bucha 91 (86)
- 3 Jim Chapralis 90

Women

- 1 Diana Klenk 88
- 2 Beth Statt 85
- 3 Alice Gillibert 78

Intermediates

- 1 George Revel 86
- 2 Dustin Revel 83
- 3 Becky Statt 68

Youth

- 1 William Beck 56
- 2 Bridgett McClanahan 51

5/8 oz. Plug Accuracy

Men

- 1 Steve Rajeff 99
- 2 John Seroczynski 96 (97)
- 3 Henry Mittel 96 (95)

Senior Men

- 1 Pete Edwards 94
- 2 Bill Clements 92 (94)
- 3 Bob Spear 92 (93)

Women

- 1 Alice Gillibert 89
- 2 Diana Klenk 85
- 3 Beth Statt 83

Intermediates

- 1 George Revel 86
- 2 Dustin Revel 73

Youth

- 1 William Beck 66
- 2 Bridgett McClanahan 54





Alice Gillibert cast a fly 150 feet for a new women's record in Angler's Distance Fly. Here she is checking her back cast at last year's National.

(continued from page three)

the National mostly as an observer but did cast in the Angler's Distance Fly Event. Believe me it's not easy to win a medal against some of the top, very experienced casters and to accomplish this in his first season is remarkable. Field did very well in the other events, too (e.g., he cast 180 feet in the two-



The top three casters in the Bass Bug Event were (left to right): Henry Mittel (2nd Place), John Seroczynski (3rd Place), and Steve Rajeff (1st Place).

hand distance fly).

The hospitality of the Blue Grass Sportsmen's League and Lexington, KY was overwhelming. Everything went without a hitch. Tournament maestro Bill Burke even ordered very pleasant weather for the championship.

Michigan St. Tournament 5/30/04

Men's Division

Dry Fly	
John Seroczynski	87
Trout Fly	
John Seroczynski	94
Bass Bug	
John Seroczynski	92
All Fly	
John Seroczynski	273
1/4 oz. Spinning	
Andy Statt	93
3/8 oz. Plug Casting	
John Seroczynski	90
5/8 oz. Plug Casting	
John Seroczynski	92
All Plug Casting	
Andy Statt	271
All Accuracy	
Andy Statt	540

Senior Division

Dry Fly	
Dick Fujita	87
Trout Fly	
Frank Gralak	91
Bass Bug	
Frank Gralak	90
All Fly	
Dick Fujita	260
1/4 oz. Spinning	
Dick Fujita	84
3/8 oz. Plug Casting	
Frank Gralak	88
5/8 oz. Plug Casting	
Dick Fujita	89
All Plug Casting	
Dick Fujita	255
All Accuracy	
Dick Fujita	515

Ohio St. Tournament 6/20/04

Men's Division

Dry Fly	
John Seroczynski	96
Trout Fly	
Andy Statt	95
Bass Bug	
John Seroczynski	89
All Fly	
John Seroczynski	280
1/4 oz. Spinning	
Andy Statt	93
3/8 oz. Plug Casting	
Andy Statt	93
5/8 oz. Plug Casting	
John Seroczynski	95
All Plug Casting	
Andy Statt	278
All Accuracy	
John Seroczynski	549
Senior Division	
Dry Fly	
Dick Fujita	94

Trout Fly	
Zack Willson	91
Bass Bug	
Zack Willson	87
All Fly	
Zack Willson	268
1/4 oz. Spinning	
Zack Willson	94
3/8 oz. Plug Casting	
Zack Willson	97
5/8 oz. Plug Casting	
Dick Fujita	95
All Plug Casting	
Zack Willson	282
All Accuracy	
Zack Willson	550
Intermediate	
1/4 oz. Spinning	
Becky Statt	59
3/8 oz. Plug Casting	
Becky Statt	75



The All-American Casting Championship was one of the most prestigious tournaments during the “golden years” of casting (1940s & ‘50s). It was hosted by the Jackson Park Casting Club (JPCC) in Chicago. This legendary casting competition was terminated when the JPCC, became inactive due to changing times.

This classic tournament was revived last year by the Chicago Angling and Casting Club (formerly Lincoln Park Casting Club) and repeated this year.

The accuracy events were held in Chicago (at the Lincoln Park casting platform) on Saturday, September 25, whereas the distance events were held on Sunday, September 26 at the Valparaiso University athletic practice field, Valparaiso, Indiana.

We were blessed with perfect weather and many felt that it was great to extend the tournament season into the fall in the Midwest. (yeah, yeah, we know, in California they cast year round). Here are the winners:

TWO-HAND REVOLVING SPOOL

- | | |
|------------------|---------|
| 1. David Roberts | 334 ft. |
| 2. Dick Fujita | 301 ft. |
| 3. Zack Willson | 291 ft. |

TWO-HAND SPIN. DISTANCE

- | | |
|------------------|---------|
| 1. David Roberts | 354 ft. |
| 2. Zack Willson | 328 ft. |
| 3. Andy Statt | 323 ft. |

1/4 OZ. SPINNING DISTANCE

- | | |
|------------------|---------|
| 1. David Roberts | 254 ft. |
| 2. Zack Willson | 251 ft. |
| 3. Dick Fujita | 246 ft. |

SINGLE-HAND FLY DISTANCE

- | | |
|---------------------|---------|
| 1. John Seroczynski | 157 ft. |
| 2. Andy Statt | 156 ft. |
| 3. Zack Willson | 155 ft. |

TWO-HAND FLY DISTANCE

- | | |
|-----------------|---------|
| 1. Andy Statt | 215 ft. |
| 2. Zack Willson | 206 ft. |
| 3. Dick Fujita | 198 ft. |

ANGLER'S FLY DISTANCE

- | | |
|---------------------|---------|
| 1. John Seroczynski | 168 ft. |
| 2. Jim Chapralis | 156 ft. |
| 3. David Roberts | 155 ft. |

ALL FLY DISTANCE

- | | |
|------------|-----|
| Andy Statt | 514 |
|------------|-----|

ALL PLUG DISTANCE

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| David Roberts | 942 |
|---------------|-----|

ALL DISTANCE

- | | |
|---------------|------|
| David Roberts | 1448 |
|---------------|------|

TROUT FLY ACCURACY

Men's Division

- | | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1. John Seroczynski | 97 |
| 2. David Roberts | 95 |
| 3. Andy Statt | 94 |

Senior Division

- | | |
|------------------|----|
| 1. Zack Willson | 95 |
| 2. Dick Fujita | 91 |
| 3. Jim Chapralis | 90 |

Ladies Division

- | | |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Pam Peters | 87 |
|---------------|----|

BASS BUG

Men's Division

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. John Seroczynski | 93 |
| 2. Andy Statt and David Roberts (<i>tie</i>) | 89 |

BASS BUG (continued)

- Senior Division
- 1. Zack Willson 87
 - 2. Jim Chapralis 86
 - 3. Dick Fujita 85

- Ladies Division
- 1. Pam Peters 90

1/4 OZ. ACCURACY

- Men's Division
- 1. David Roberts 94
 - 2. Andy Statt 92
 - 3. John Seroczynski 87

- Senior Division
- 1. Zack Willson 93
 - 2. Dick Fujita 91
 - 3. Frank Galak and Phil Seroczynski (tie) 89

- Ladies Division
- 1. Pam Peters 89
 - Sharon Galak 71

5/8 OZ. ACCURACY

- Men's Division
- 1. David Roberts 97 (98)
 - 2. John Seroczynski 97 (95)
 - 3. Andy Statt 94

- Senior Division
- 1. Bill Burke 95
 - 2. Dan Bucha 94
 - 3. Dick Fujita 91

- Ladies Division
- 1. Pam Peters 92
 - 2. Sharon Galak 76

ALL FLY ACCURACY

- Men's Division
- John Seroczynski 190

- Senior Division
- Zack Willson 182

ALL PLUG ACCURACY

- Men's Division
- David Roberts 191

- Senior Division
- Zack Willson and Bill Burke 183



- Ladies Division
- 1. Pam Peters 181

- ALL ACCURACY**
Men's Division
- David Roberts 375

- Senior Division
- Zack Willson 365

- GRAND ALL-AMERICAN CHAMPION** (all events combined)
- David Roberts

- ALL-AMERICAN SPECIAL 5/8 OZ. EVENT**
- John Seroczynski 95

Above: "Art in Motion." Dick Fujita executes a perfect roll cast in the Trout Fly Event.

Below: Florence Manasin presents winner John Seroczynski with the All-American Trophy. Florence belonged to the Chicago casting club since the late 1930s.





The Great Lakes Tournament is another historic casting championship that has roots in the 'forties and early fifties." This year it was hosted by the Cincinnati Casting Club on July 11, 2004. That's Dick Fujita casting in the Dry Fly Event. Photo by Phil Seroczynski.

Dry Fly	<u>Class B</u>	<u>Class B</u>	5/8 oz. Plug Casting
<u>Class A</u>	Dennis Cook 88	Beth Statt 81	<u>Class A</u>
David Roberts 97	<u>Seniors</u>		Larry Moffett 96
<u>Class B</u>	Zack Willson 90	3/8 oz. Plug Casting	<u>Class B</u>
Doug Statt 98		<u>Class A</u>	Doug Statt 93
<u>Seniors</u>	All Fly	John Seroczynski 97	<u>Seniors</u>
Ed Lanser 99	John Seroczynski & Dave Roberts 284	<u>Class B</u>	Bill Burke & Frank Galak 93
		Doug Statt 89	<u>Ladies</u>
Trout Fly	1/4 oz. Spinning	<u>Seniors</u>	Diana Klenk
<u>Class A</u>	<u>Class A</u>	Bill Burke 92	<u>Class A</u>
John Seroczynski 97	David Roberts 95	<u>Ladies</u>	Diana Klenk
<u>Class B</u>	<u>Class B</u>	<u>Class A</u>	<u>Class B</u>
Doug Statt 88	Doug Statt 91	Diana Klenk 82	Sharon Galak
<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Class B</u>	
Zack Willson 92	Zack Willson 93	Beth Statt 91	All Plug Casting
	<u>Ladies</u>		David Roberts 281
Bass Bug	<u>Class A</u>		
<u>Class A</u>	Diana Klenk 78		All Accuracy
David Roberts 93			David Roberts 565

Dundee, MI selected for 2005 National!

The 97th ACA Casting National Tournament will be hosted by the Toledo (OH) Casting Club, August 1 to 6, 2005 at Lake Cabela, Dundee, Michigan. Cabela's—the world famous outdoor retail giant—will help to promote and publicize the tournament at its incredible 225,000-sq-foot store in Dundee.

During the golden years of tournament casting (1950-60s), the Toledo Casting Club (OH) was one of the more famous clubs in the U.S. and was home to Marion Garber, Frank Gralak Bill Peters, Jim Kangas and other great casters. After several years of inactivity, the Toledo Casting Club has been reactivated and has already hosted two Michigan State Casting Championships and two Ohio State Tournaments. Give Frank Gralak a lot of credit for reviving interest in casting in this area.

But how can a relatively new casting club host a National? According to John Seroczynski, ACA president, "The Toledo Casting Club will receive tremendous assistance from the Chicago, Cincinnati, Bluegrass Sportsmen's League (Lexington, KY) and other casting clubs. No problem."

The Long Beach Casting Club (CA) will host the 2006 Nationals. It offered to host either 2005 or the 2006 Nationals. "We greatly appreciate the Long Beach Casting Club flexibility," Seroczynski said.

Dundee is only 28 miles from Toledo, OH and 48 miles from Detroit, MI. Cabela's will provide shuttle service between Detroit or Toledo and Dundee for casters.



The Cabela's Advantage

Cabela's, which went public (NYSE) recently, has offered to publicize the ACA national on its website and in several key print ads well in advance of the National. This publicity will be extended to all of the Cabela's markets throughout the country. Obviously this publicity is invaluable to the future growth of tournament casting.

Lake Cabela covers about 10 acres and is nicely groomed on three sides, but because it's a new man-made facility there is little shelter from the wind. Despite its natural shelter limitations there will be numerous canopies set up around the lake for protection from the sun or rain. Furthermore, there will be multiple casting platforms to take advantage of any severe wind shifts. Distance casting will take place on land at a nearby field. Distance casters, of course, pray for a favorable wind.

Cabela's, which provides all the amenities, is only about two hundred yards from the lake, but Cabela's will also have several comfort stations at lakeside.

The registration, opening ceremony, and daily award presentations will be held in Cabela's where more than 10,000 people visit the store each day.

The Toledo Casting Club will hold its awards dinner in Cabela's large banquet room which accommodates more than 150 people.

Cabela's has a full service restaurant, and there are also a half-dozen restaurants within sight of the lake. Excellent motels are located within five minutes of the store.

More than 2000 parking spaces for cars and campers are available. It should be a winner! Plan to attend and participate!



Cabela's spectacular dining room and aquarium.



The World Championships

Some of the world's best casters of all time descended on Bern, Switzerland, armed with rod, reels and lots of confidence and enthusiasm as they participated in the World Championships of casting Sept. 7 -11, 2004.



While there are many similarities between the rules established by the American Casting Association (ACA) and the rules set by the International Casting Sport Federation (ICSF), there are also substantial differences. The major one is that all ACA accuracy games are cast on water, whereas the ICSF accuracy games are cast on ground. (The distance events for both organizations are cast on ground). Here are some of the highlights:

In the fly accuracy event 12 casters

in the men's division cast perfect scores. In the shootoff, eight of the 12 shot perfect scores again. The winner in the shootoff is determined by how fast one completes all twenty casts. Otmar Balles of Germany won this by casting another perfect score in the shootoff in 1 min. 29 seconds.

In the women's division there were four perfect scores and in the shootoff Jana Maisel shot another perfect in 2:02. (Jana is a consistent winner, and undoubtedly the best women caster ever).

There is a spinning accuracy event (Arenberg) that encompasses a variety of casts (overhead, underhand pendulum, right side, left side, etc.). Three men shot perfect scores, and Jens Nagel, Germany, won this event by casting another perfect game in 3:41. In the women's division, Zuzana Kocirova, Czech Republic, won it with a 94.

In the single-hand distance fly Jan Luxa, Czech Republic, won it with a long cast of 218 ft. Steve Rajeff (U.S.) cast 196 ft. but that only earned him fifth place. Winners in this event are determined by a rather complicated method: The top eight casters (decided by their longest cast), cast again simultaneously and it is this round that determines the winners. Reason? So they have basically the same wind conditions.

In the women's distance fly event, Kathrin Ernest cast an amazing 180.87 feet on her shootoff cast to win that event.

In the two-handed distance fly, Poland's Mateusz Targosz cast 244.81 ft. in the shootoff round to win it. Rajeff's 238.9 ft. cast earned him third place. So the tournament progressed, event by event, as the casters competed for the vaunted Grand All Round Championship which encompasses all disciplines.

Finally, when all the scores were tallied, Heinz Maire-Hensge, Germany, was declared the winner. Jens Nagel came in second, and our own Steve Rajeff took third place. Steve also won the Gold Medal in the 5/8 oz. revolving spool accuracy event. Henry Mittel won the Bronze Medal in that same event, so two Americans won two medals in the 5/8 oz. accuracy!

Steve has won the World All-Round Championship 13 times, out of 17 times. **Talk about dominating a sport!**

The American team included Ed Lanser, Jay Clark, Sam Davis and, of course, Steve Rajeff and Henry Mittel. This was Jay's and Sam's first World Championship. They all did very well despite the fact that the U.S. team is at a disadvantage since they cast the "American" rules in U.S. tournaments.

Competition in the world championships is tremendous as more and more countries are becoming involved in tournament casting.

It would be a step in the right direction if some compromise was reached in a unified set of rules and events between the ACA and ICSF—especially if casting is ever to become an Olympic event.

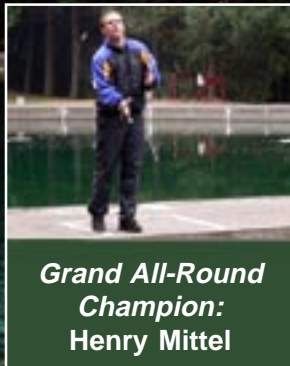


Top Right: The proud U.S. Casting Team (left to right), Sam Davis, Henry Mittel, Jay Clark, Steve Rajeff and Ed Lanser. They all cast well.

Center Right: Zuzana Kocirova (Czech. Rep.) won the Arenberg Spinning Event; Iwona Bialik (Poland) came in 2nd; Jana Bronckova (Czech Rep.) 3rd.

Bottom Right: You don't think they had fun after the events? Ha!

OCTOBER 2,3 2004
The Northwestern
TOURNAMENT



**Grand All-Round
Champion:
Henry Mittel**

It's called the Northwestern Tournament of the Western Casting Association and, after the ACA Nationals, it's the most prestigious casting tournament in the United States. It's sponsored by the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club, the Oakland Casting Club and the San Jose Fly Fishers. This year it took place Oct. 2 and 3 at the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club.

There were 41 casters in the various divisions of which 19 of them competed in the All-Round!

The top scores in accuracy games included seven 100s, six 99s, thirteen 98s, ten 97s, twelve 96s and fourteen 95s.

Weather was very comfortable and the hot lunches and dinners were "terrific."

Here are some of the highlights:

The Grand All-Round Championship:

Men's: (1) Henry Mittel; (2) Ian Walker; (3) John Seroczynski.

Women's: Peg VanNatter

The All Accuracy:

Men's: (1) Henry Mittel; (2) Keith Pryor; (3) John Seroczynski.

Women's: (1) Peg VanNatter; (2) Elaine Gong; (3) Sandra Lee.

Seniors: (1) Tony Yap; (2) Bill Clements; (3) Tom Gong.

The All Plug:

Men's: (1) Chris Korich; (2) Henry Mittel; (3) Keith Pryor.

Women's: (1) Peg VanNatter; (2) Elaine Gong; (3) Alice Gillibert.

Seniors: (1) Bob Spear; (2) Bill Clements; (3) Tom Gong.

All Fly:

Men's: (1) Jamie Murphy; (2) Henry Mittel; (3) John Seroczynski.

Women's: (1) Peg VanNatter; (2) Elaine Gong; (3) Sandra Lee.

Seniors: (1) Tony Yap; (2) Austin Emmerling.

All-Distance (1/4 oz. and Angler's Fly Events):

Men's: (1) Henry Mittel; (2) Chris Korich; (3) Ian Walker.

Women's: (1) Peg Van Natter; (2) Elaine Gong.

Seniors: (1) Dennis Amato; (2) Tom Gong; (3) Bill Clements.

B Class Awards

All Accuracy: (1) Tom Gong; (2) Luke Sing; (3) John Luis.

All Fly: (1) Luke Sing; (2) George Revel; (3) Bill Clements.

All Plug: (1) Tom Gong; (2) Jamie Murphy; (3) John Luis.

C Class Awards

All Accuracy: Mike McClay.

All Fly: Mike McClay.

All Plug: (1) George Revel; (2) Kazu Koshinizu; (3) Dustin Revel.

All Distance: (1) Mike McClay (2) Andre Revel.

A Newbie's View of the Northwest Tournament

By Dan Zimmerlin

The Northwestern Tournament of the Western Casting Association was held October 2-3, 2004 at the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club in San Francisco. I am a beginning fly fisher who has been getting more interested in tournament casting, no doubt because of the corrupting influences derived from hanging around the Oakland pools. I decided I would enter the Northwestern tournament in the only two events I'm equipped for and know how to cast: Trout Fly and Dry Fly.

Since casting in only two events would give me a lot of free time, I decided I could help out. Hopefully I could take some of the load off Henry Mittel who I understand is overwhelmed at events held at Golden Gate or at home in Oakland. This would also afford me a better understanding of the necessary elements of hosting a tournament.

I arrived at Angler's Lodge at 7 AM to find things already hopping. Casters were stringing up tackle or practicing and Henry was fighting with computer equipment trying to either hook a printer to his laptop or to transfer his software to another one. Henry took a few minutes to explain my duties: register competitors, verify casting divisions and collect money. I guess I got lucky because people seemed to enter in ones or twos giving me a chance to deal with each without much rush.

Since I was doing registration, I had a chance to meet and talk to the casters. There was the usual crowd from Oakland minus a few people I would have enjoyed seeing (Billy Jones and Ed Jose, among others.) And there were some familiar faces from San Jose such as Tony Yap and Glen Nagumo. There were casters from Long Beach and Seattle. And a few casters traveled from such distant areas as Chicago and New York. Altogether there were around 40 casters participating. By 9:00 AM when the tournament started almost everyone was signed up, entry fees collected, and I was free to do some practice and to cast Trout Fly.

To the uninitiated, the scene would appear chaotic. Casters were wandering messing with tackle, practicing their casts, or exchanging greetings. They all knew their roles. As soon as the casting orders were posted, judges appeared where they were supposed to be, casters stepped into the right boxes, "tick" chairs were filled by sharp-eyed observers and the events unrolled with only minimal amount of confusion.

After casting the two events I went back to the Angler's Lodge to see if I could help out. I started sorting scorecards into casting order for the judges, and then worked on entering scores into the computer to produce results. By the end of the first day I had settled into a routine that took me out to the pools to deliver or to collect score cards, at which time I would watch some casting, then back to the Lodge to help with the computer work. It gave me a chance to observe the tournament and be useful.

There was no "disasters" during



the tournament, which I guess is a good thing in a sport as peaceful as casting. There were strong showings in every Division, but naturally "A Class" was often filled with competitive tensions. Henry Mittel and Chris Korich were casting true to form, usually placing at the top. Occasionally they were displaced with excellent performances by others such as those by Ian Walker, John Seroczynski and Jamie Murphy. I thought the drama peaked in the Dry Fly castoff between Rene Gillibert and Jamie Murphy. In the first tie breaking round, they each cast perfect 100s. How are you going to break a tie when no one is missing?

The second round started just like the first. Jamie was casting a perfect round, while Rene on the second station seemed to be doing the same. But Rene missed a target and cast "only a 99." It boggles my mind: Rene only missed one point in two rounds and that wasn't good enough, and that Jamie had to cast two perfect rounds to win. Tough competition. In my view, the tournament was a total success. I cast in my two events, Trout and Dry, turning in personal best in both. And I got to see the tournament from a different perspective in which all the scores flow in, swirl around in a computer and become results. I was impressed with how well organized Henry is, right down to custom casting tournament software.

Henry Fujita, the venerable casting icon, told me he remembers when it was all done by hand. Occasional frustrations aside, it sure is easy to chunk out results with Henry Mittel there orchestrating. And I think Henry enjoyed not having sole responsibility for everything. At the end he was talking about me handling the next tournament on my own. I don't think I'm ready for that. But I plan to learn a couple more events to cast and come help out again.

Left: Dan Zimmerlin belongs to the Oakland Casting Club and loves the challenges ...like bass in' the weeds.



Fly Fishing Masters Competition 2004

By Bruce Bowles

Three West Coast casting club teams competed in the Rocky Mountain regional *Fly Fishing Masters* television program on *the Outdoor Life Network*. The teams included: Glen Nagumo \Kazu Koshinizu; Rene Gillibert\Matt Ricards; and Bruce Bowles\Chris



Korich. In the two-day casting event, Chris and I won the first seed,

Rene and Matt took second place, while Glen and Kazu secured the fifth seed. The three teams joined five Colorado teams for the fishing competition at the Three Forks Ranch in northern Colorado.

The area had been experiencing rain for five days so the river was cold, high and discolored. We were given a selection of flies (we were not allowed to use our own). Most teams invariably used large streamers.

In the first round Chris and I were very disappointed to get eliminated by a returning team from last year. We lost several trout by failing to set the big hooks into fish. Glen and Kazu also got eliminated in the first round because they risked taking a landed fish "off the board" in the hopes of catching a bigger fish. Had they entered the first fish they would of won their first heat.

Rene and Matt advanced with the biggest total in the first round but sadly lost in the second heat to another returning team.

There is an obvious advantage for the returning anglers in the finals.

Afterwards I told Chris, "I am disappointed but not discouraged and

I want to go back next year."

Chris and I made the best of the situation by fishing several rivers including Henry's Fork, the Yampa with Kazu and Glen, Roaring Fork, Eagle, Gore Creek and Bear River.

One of the highlights of our trip was receiving some excellent personal instruction from Bill Browning on Henry's Fork. Bill is a superb angler and teacher with 30 years' experience fishing the famous Henry's Fork.

I felt this was a great opportunity to learn as well as compete in the *Fly Fishing Masters* on the *Outdoor Life Network*. The lessons learned immediately had a huge positive impact on my fishing. It was a delightful experience and I returned home a better angler.

(Last year, Steve and Tim Rajeff won the Masters grand prize of \$30,000.)

From the All-American Tournament

- It was great seeing Billy Peters at the All-American casting tournament in Chicago. After a very serious health problem (neurological damage) resulting from a fall, Billy began casting again, hopefully to regain his eye/hand coordination.

Billy, a great casting competitor through the decades, scored very well in the three events he cast at the All-American tournament.

- Elmer Bergendahl, who only a few months ago cast in his first tournament at the 2004 Indoor National, also attended the distance games at Valparaiso, IN.

Encouraged by John Seroczynski, who also loaned his tackle, Elmer competed in two distant events.

In the 1/4 oz. spinning distance his long cast was a remarkable 209 ft. In the two-handed distance spinning, he

cast 284 feet.

Elmer found these games so fascinating that he will get involved in tournament casting in a serious way.

- Spotting a very interested observer, John Seroczynski took the time to give him a quick casting lesson before the lunch break. By the time we finished our lunch, this man was casting a beautiful loop. I'm sure he will join our Chicago casting club.
- Similarly, Dick Fujita spotted a novice fly caster during the tournament who was casting fairly well. Dick went over and gave him some pointers and within a half hour, this fly fisherman was casting a beautiful, advancing loop.

The point is, that we must encourage others with casting lessons and perhaps they will develop a love of games just as we did.

Online vs. mailed edition

Probably 90 percent of our subscribers are online and receive the full color edition of *The Creel*.

Unfortunately, those who are not online receive a black-and-white copy which, admittedly, does not display the graphics properly. We're sorry about this. Hopefully, we'll figure out a cost-effective way to provide the mailed copies in color, too.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jim'.

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