



The 97th ACA National



HENRY FUJITA
*Portrait of poise,
patience,
perfection!*

SOMEONE SAID IT WAS 94 degrees in the shade, so it is conceivable that it was more than 100 degrees at the sun-drenched distance casting field at Dundee, Michigan. Most of the casters who competed in the 97th American Casting Association National Tournament, August 1 –6, 2006, grumbled occasionally about the heat, but their focus was definitely on making that long cast or hitting a target. After all, this was the Nationals: The *Super Bowl* of casting. Well, at least the most important casting event in North America.

Here are some of the highlights in the various events.

FLY DISTANCE EVENTS

ONE-HAND FLY DISTANCE EVENT: Most consider the One-Hand Fly Distance Event the most demanding and challenging of all the casting disciplines. You have five minutes to make your casts and the longest cast determines the winner. The second longest is also recorded in case of a tie.

HIGHLIGHTS: Rene Gillibert cast 200 feet. Henry Mittel topped that by one foot. Then Steve Rajeff stepped into the caster's box. His line folded back and forth in very narrow loops, gaining speed and elevation, and then coupled with perfect timing, Steve launched an amazing 223-foot cast to win the Gold.

But the real story involves two young casters who placed 5th and 8th. Bobby McGraw is a tall, lanky 19-year old who has been practicing distance and accuracy casting for a few weeks only. He threw a fly 173 feet to capture 5th place in the highly competitive Men's Division, while Rob Kolakowski's 167-foot cast earned him 8th place. He, too, has been practicing for only a short period of time. "If those two fellows continue to practice, they could represent USA in the world tournament

Highlights from the 97th Annual ACA Casting Championship

Dundee, Michigan. Aug.1-6, 2005

some day,” according to John Seroczynski. Bob Nasby and Vic Mason recently started the St. Paul Casting Club in Minnesota. Robby and Bob are members. In fact, right now, this quartet of anglers represents the club’s total membership. But they will grow and grow.

ANGLER’S FLY DISTANCE EVENT: This is similar to the One-Hand Event, except that much lighter tackle is used here. The shooting head is equivalent to a No. 10/11 line. Most casters use mono for the shooting line (it must be .015” or heavier).

HIGHLIGHTS: Jay Clark, who has been cast-



RENE GILLIBERT: *Blending split-second time, coordination, fast hands and line speed.*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEORGE McCABE.



NEW
TALENT ON
THE ACA
SCENE:

*Bobby Mc-
Graw (left)
and Rob
Kolakowski*

ing competitively for about four years made a phenomenal 189-ft. cast to win this event. Henry Mittel’s 193-ft. cast, would have been the new record (190 feet, held jointly by Steve Rajeff and Rene Mittel), but his leader was ¾-inch short which disqualified his cast. According to the rules, the leader must be 9- to 12-feet long. Actually, a longer leader than what Henry used would have been to his advantage because of the breeze. It probably won’t be long before someone casts 200 feet in the Angler’s Fly Distance.

“Cajun” Bill Clements, casting in the Senior Division, said that the Angler’s Fly Distance was his weakest event. *Yeah, right.* Result? Cajun Bill made a cast of 166 feet, which not only was long enough to win the event, but he also set a new record for the Seniors. The previous record, 164 feet, was held by Tom Gong, who loaned his rod to Clements for this event. This is just another example of the high degree of sportsmanship that exists in competitive casting. Simply stated, casters help each other. Tom Gong came in second and Tony Yap won the Bronze.

In the Ladies Division Alice Gillibert, Pam Peters and Nicole Kozicki won the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals.

But what was very impressive is the progress made by George Revel, his brother Dusty and Andy Tulgetske (they finished in that order) in this distance event. They all cast very well and

George threw a 154-ft. cast for a new National Record in the Intermediate Division. Remarkable! All three will undoubtedly be future champs.

TWO-HAND FLY DISTANCE EVENT: The Two-Handed Fly Distance is similar to Spey casting only the tackle is considerably heavier. And that's an understatement.

HIGHLIGHT: Steve Rajeff beat Henry Mittel by a single foot with his cast of 275 feet.

PLUG DISTANCE EVENTS

TWO-HAND REVOLVING SPOOL: This is not an easy event. It requires considerable coordination, a "jazzed-up reel," a long rod, and, hopefully a favorable wind.

HIGHLIGHTS: Henry Mittel established a Men's ACA record with his 352-ft. cast beating Steve Rajeff and Jay Clark (they both cast 349 feet).

Bill Clements cast 305 feet to set a Senior National record, followed by Dick Fujita's 296-ft cast and Zack Willson's 292-ft. throw.

Pam Peters cast 261 ft. for a Women's ACA record.

Amazingly, records were set in all three divisions. (*Aside to reel manufacturers who are interested in extreme distance:* You might want to attend these tournaments and visit with the casters to learn why and how they are achieving these distances).

TWO-HAND SPIN DISTANCE EVENT: An interesting event that relies heavily on coordination, equipment and skill.

HIGHLIGHTS: Jay Clark cast 379 feet to win the Gold. Steve Rajeff cast 376 feet and Henry Mittel long cast measured out at 375 feet.

Canadian Gord Deval won the Gold in the Seniors with 334 feet, which Gus Beushausen threw 326 feet and Bill Clements also cast 326.

Pam Peters, who had a very good tournament, cast 310 feet.

1/4-OZ. SPIN DISTANCE EVENT--ONE HAND:

It amazes me how casters are able to attain these tremendous distances. (To put this in perspective, a 1/4-oz. plug weighs about the same as 1-1/2 sheets of letterhead paper.)

HIGHLIGHTS: George Revel set a National ACA Intermediate Division record with his long cast of

213 feet. Pam Peters, cast 225 feet for a Women's ACA National Record. *And the beat goes on.*

FLY ACCURACY EVENTS:

BASS BUG EVENT: A favorite among spectators and casters because it's fast moving. Among the disciplines one must cast to a 50-ft. target, lift up, make a single false cast and then deliver the air-resistant bass bug into a 30-inch target that's 65 to 70 feet away. Not easy!

HIGHLIGHT: Steve Rajeff shot a perfect score (100) in the challenging Bass Bug event. To illustrate how difficult this event is, only three other casters had shot a perfect score in this event at a National. *Steve Rajeff now is the only man to have shot a perfect score in all six plug and fly accuracy games in National competition.*

There was also excitement in the Senior Division Bass Bug when the venerable Zack Willson shot a 98 for a new National ACA record. Previous holder? Zack Willson with a 97. Young Andy Tulgetske won the Intermediate with a 91.

THE TROUT FLY EVENT: This discipline encompasses three types of casting: Dry Fly, Wet Fly and Roll Casting.

HIGHLIGHTS: Nothing unusual. Henry Mittel,



Randy Olson performs the roll-cast in the Trout Fly. Randy is one of the smoothest roll casters we've seen.



THE ACA CASTING HALL OF FAME *Eight members of the prestigious ACA Hall of Fame attended the 97th National Tournament. They are (left to right): Zack Willson, Steve Rajeff, Ed Lanser, Bill Burke, Dick Fujita, Marion Garber, Pete Edwards and John Seroczynski. Photography by George McCabe.*

David Roberts and Chris Korich won the Men's Division in that order; Tony Yap, Ed Lanser and Bill VanNatter won the Senior's; Pam Peters, Elaine Gong and Nicole Kozicki earned the medals in the Women's Division.

THE DRY FLY EVENT: This is the classic fly event, although some claim it should be speeded up (time limit is 8 minutes to cast ten targets).

HIGHLIGHTS: In the Dry Fly Event, Rene Gillibert and Steve Rajeff tied with 98s, which required a shoot-off. Again they shot a 98. Another shoot-off. Rene cast a 99 to Steve's 98 to capture the Gold. Chris Korich earned the Bronze.

PLUG ACCURACY EVENTS

Visibility was very poor for most of the accuracy events especially in the plug disciplines. Nonetheless, some amazing scores were made.

1/4 OZ. SPIN ACCURACY EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS: Chris Korich shot a perfect score (100), which ties previous ACA National Records. Henry Mittel missed only one target for a 99.

In the Senior Division, Zack Willson set a record with a 98 beating his previous record of 97.



STEVE RAJEFF: *Grand All-Around Champion*

3/8 OZ. ACCURACY EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS: Steve Rajeff and Harvey Beck both shot a 98 (Steve won the shoot-off), but the “big story” took place in the Senior. Division. Bobby Spear cast a 99, a new ACA National Senior record. Previous record holders were Bobby and Zack Willson with 97s. Here’s what’s unique: *When Bobby was only 18, he shot a 99 in the National, and he repeated this score exactly 50 years later, now casting as a Senior!*

5/8 OZ. ACCURACY EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS: Chris Korich won this with a 98 but the interesting scenario was what took place for the Silver. Jim Seroczynski tied B. L. Farley with a 97. What’s unique is that Jim never practices (except at an occasional tournament) since he spends most of his spare time fishing. B.L. won the shoot-off and the Silver and Jim earned a Bronze Medal.

Other awards and honors:

ANGLER’S ALL AROUND CHAMPION: Steve Rajeff.

GRAND ALL AROUND CHAMPION: Steve Rajeff.

ALL AMERICAN TEAM: Steve Rajeff, Henry Mittel, Chris Korich, Rene Gillibert, Jay Clark, Tony Yap and Harvey Beck.

For other *combination* champions please log on to www.americancastingassoc.org/Scores/ (Also check page eight for all the events and the people who won medals.)

The Toledo (Ohio) Casting Club (in conjunction with Cabela’s Inc.), hosted the National Tournament and did a fantastic job. John Seroczynski deserves special praise for all that he did to make this National a success. If it weren’t for John, well... He didn’t cast in some events because of his work load.

Here’s one of the finest letters regarding casting I’ve ever seen. It was written to John Seroczynski by Rob Kolakowski, one of the participants of the new St. Paul (MN) casting club:

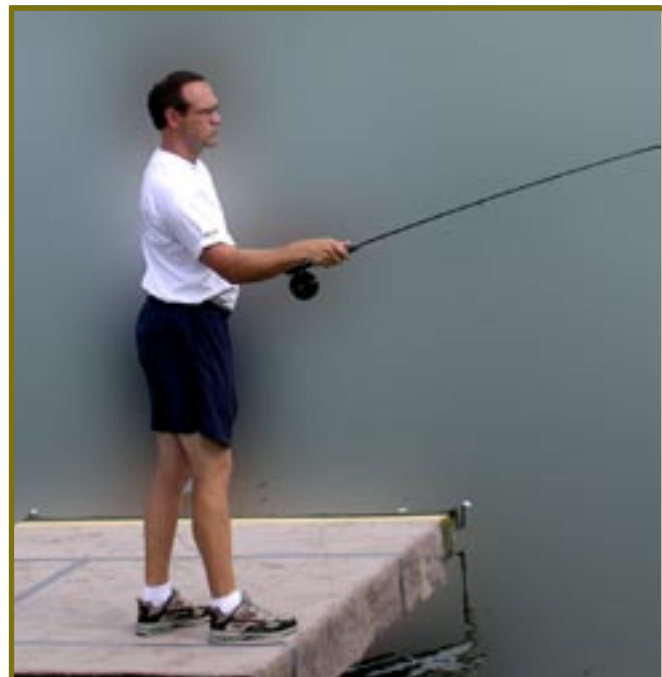
John,

Thank you for taking the time to come to St. Paul to help us. Thanks for letting us use your equipment. Going to the National in Michigan was the best thing that ever happened to me. I have never met a friendlier group of people. It seems like most people are old friends that treat each other like family. CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



MOTHER AND DAUGHTER CASTING DUO

Alice Gillibert (left) won the Angler’s Fly Distance with a cast of 136 feet. To her right is daughter Nicole Kozicki who won five Gold medals at the tournament!



HENRY MITTEL *Zeroing in on the Trout Fly Event*

**FOR MORE ACA NATIONAL
TOURNAMENT RESULTS
TURN TO PAGE EIGHT**

Get ready for LONG BEACH!



After two years
east of the
Mississippi, the
National returns
to the
West Coast!

THE 2006 ACA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT will be hosted by the Long Beach Casting Club (California). The dates are July 31 - August 5.

This venerable casting club certainly has ample experience in sponsoring major tournaments. It hosted the ACA Nationals in 1947, 1954, 1961, 1971, 1978, 1984 and 2000!

Located in scenic Recreation Park at 7th Street and Federation Drive in Long Beach, LBCC has its own clubhouse and a 130' X 255' oval casting pool. Thus, no matter what wind direction, targets can be placed to give the casters the best possible advantage.

The clubhouse features a rustic knotty pine interior, which provides the perfect backdrop for the mounted fish, trophies, flies and interesting memorabilia.

LBCC has a rich angling and casting history that dates back to 1925 when it was founded by David R. Linder.

While casting, of course, is heavily featured, the club's activities include a mixture of fly-tying, rod building, organized fishing trips, advanced fly-fishing techniques and conservation. Nationally-known speakers are invited to share their knowledge at club meetings.

LBCC hosts the popular Southwestern Casting Tournament every year.



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

Mark Lipe, who is the tournament captain for this National, has made arrangements with the Guesthouse Hotel. The rate is a very reasonable

\$73 per night and this includes a complimentary breakfast and area shuttle.

Reservations can be made via the hotel's toll-free number (800.990.9991) but be sure to ask for the special rate for the ACA participants.

Mark explains that the distance field is convenient and just a few miles away. Transportation to and fro will not be a problem. Again, the Long Beach Casting Club has had many years of hosting accuracy and distance casting.

It will be a "winner."

Mark Lipe's email is mlipe@elcamino.edu

ACA elects new President, Vice President and Board Member.



Above: Pat McFadden
Right: John Field



Pat McFadden was elected president of the American Casting Association and John Field replaces Pat as the new vice president. Pat has many years of casting experience and has been involved with national and regional casting tournaments hosted by the Blue Grass Sportsmen's League (BGSL).

While John Field is new to tournament casting, he brings a tremendous amount of experience in communications, public relations and fresh ideas.

Harvey Beck, one of Canada's all-time best casters, was added as an ACA officer.

They all praised John Seroczynski for the tremendous job he did as past president.

NEXT ISSUE: We'll interview Pat, John and Harvey individually for their suggestions, recommendations and future plans for ACA.



5/8 oz. 2-Hand Revolving-Spool Distance

Men

1 Henry Mittel	352'
2 Steve Rajeff	349'
3 Jay Clark	349'

Senior Men

1 Bill Clements	305'
2 Dick Fujita	296'
3 Zack Willson	292'

Women

1. Pam Peters	261' *
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1/4 oz. 1-Hand Spinning Distance

Men

1 Henry Mittel	295'
2 Steve Rajeff	292'
3 Chris Korich	280'

Intermediate

1 George Revel	213'
2 Andy Tulgetske	163'
3 Dustin Revel	162'

Senior Men

1 Zack Willson	250'
2 Bill Burke	247'
3 Gus Beushausen	243'

Women

1 Pam Peters	225'
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2 Nicole Kozicki	191'
3 Alice Gillibert	189'

5/8 oz. 2-Hand Spin Distance

Men

1 Jay Clark	379'
2 Steve Rajeff	376'
3 Henry Mittel	375'

Senior Men

1 Gord Deval	334'
2 Gus Beushausen	326'
3 Bill Clements	326'

Women

1 Pam Peters	310'
2 Peg VanNatter	216'
3 Elaine Gong	188'

1-Hand Fly Distance

Men

1 Steve Rajeff	223'
2 Henry Mittel	201'
3 Rene Gillibert	200'

Senior Men

1 Zack Willson	159'
2 Ed Lanser	156'
3 Jim Chapralis	155'

2-Hand Fly Distance

Men

1 Steve Rajeff	275'
2 Henry Mittel	274'
3 Jay Clark	257'

Senior Men

1 Bill Clements	218'
2 Ed Lanser	211'
3 Zack Willson	206'

Angler's Fly Distance

Men

1 Jay Clark	189'
2 Rene Gillibert	183'
3 Steve Rajeff	180'

Senior Men

1 Bill Clements	166' *
2 Tom Gong	155'
3 Tony Yap	148'

Women

1 Alice Gillibert	136'
2 Pamela Peters	131'
3 Nicole Kozicki	127'

Intermediates

1 George Revel	154' *
2 Dusty Revel	139'
3 Andy Tulgetske	122'

Dry Fly Accuracy

Men

1 Rene Gillibert	98 (98)(99)
2 Steve Rajeff	98 (98)(98)
3 Chris Korich	97

Senior Men

1 Tony Yap	96
2 Dick Fujita	94
3 Bill Burke	92

Women

1 Nicole Kozicki	94
2 Pamela Peters	89
3 Elaine Gong	87

Intermediates

1 George Revel	95
2 Dusty Revel	91
3 Andy Tulgetske	81

Trout Fly Accuracy

Men

1 Henry Mittel	96 (96)
2 David Roberts	96 (93)
3 Chris Korich	95 (99)

Senior Men

1 Tony Yap	93
2 Ed Lanser	92 (91)
3 Bill VanNatter	92 (86)

Intermediates

1 George Revel	87
2 Andy Tulgetske	86
3 Dusty Revel	84

Women

1 Pamela Peters	91
2 Elaine Gong	89
3 Nicole Kozicki	84

Bass Bug Accuracy

Men

1 Steve Rajeff	100 #
2 Jay Clark	98
3 Chris Korich	97

Senior Men

1 Zack Willson	98 *
2 Tony Yap	96 (90)
3 Bill VanNatter	96 (87)



ZACK & CHRIS. Zack Willson and Chris Korich congratulate each other after the 1/4 oz. Plug Accuracy Event. Chris shot a perfect score (100) and Zack cast a 98 to establish a new ACA record for Seniors.

Intermediates

1 Andy Tulgetske	91
2. George Revel	88
3 Dusty Revel	87

Women

1 Nicole Kozicki	90
2 Pamela Peters	89
3 Alice Gillibert	87

1/4 oz. Plug Accuracy

Men

1 Chris Korich	100 #
2 Henry Mittel	99
3 Steve Rajeff	97

Senior Men

1 Zack Willson	98 *
2 Bill Clements	94
3 Ed Lanser	91

Women

1 Nicole Kozicki	89
2 Pamela Peters	83
3 Alice Gillibert	79

Intermediates

1 Dusty Revel	77
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2 George Revel	72
3. Andy Tulgetske	66

Youth

1 William Beck	57
2 Bridgett McClanahan	55

3/8 oz. Plug Accuracy

Men

1 Steve Rajeff	98 (97)
2 Harvey Beck	98 (95)
3 Chris Korich	97 (97)

Senior Men

1 Bobby Spear	99 *
2 Tony Yap	96
3 Zack Willson	92

Intermediates

1 George Revel	87
2 Andy Tulgetske	85
3 Dusty Revel	81

Juniors

1 Matthew Fujita	50
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Youth

1 William Beck	69
2 Bridgett McClanahan	56

<i>Women</i>		
1 Nicole Kozicki	94	
2 Alice Gillibert	92	
3 Elaine Gong	85	

5/8 oz. Plug Accuracy

<i>Men</i>		
1 Chris Korich	98	
2 B.L. Farley	97 (95)	
3 Jim Seroczynski	97 (88)	
<i>Senior Men</i>		
1 Zack Willson	97	

2 Ed Lanser	95	
3 Billy Peters	93	
<i>Intermediates</i>		
1 Dusty Revel	86	
2 George Revel	75	

<i>Juniors</i>		
1 Matthew Fujita	35	

<i>Youth</i>		
1 William Beck	68	
2 Bridgett McClanahan	51	

<i>Women</i>		
1 Pamela Peters	90 (91)	
2 Nicole Kozicki	90 (89)	
3 Diana Klenk	88	

Ties ACA National Records.
* *New ACA National Record.*

LETTER

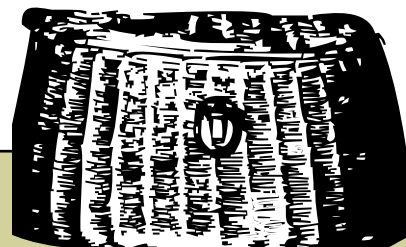
Continued from page 5

We did not have enough time to prepare in advance of the tournament, so every day, when we were not at the events, we were making and testing leaders, lines, rods. We did not know what equipment we were using until the night before an event and then we would practice until dark. Next time, things should be a lot easier. I was real nervous when I first got to the distance field. Henry Mittel gave me some words of encouragement. After I met some people and cast the first event my nervousness was completely gone. From then on I looked forward to the events. I found it amazing that the people I was competing against were helping me to do better. I did do my personal best in a number of the events and I have many people to thank for this. I look forward to next year's tournament. Do you know of anyone who is selling used equipment? This is really my only option other than driving to St. Paul and using Bob

McGraw's equipment. It was an honor to be in the presence of so many good people and good casters. Thank you for everything, Rob Kolakowski

67th Great Lakes Tournament

This is one of the Midwest's premier casting tournaments, hosted by the Cincinnati Casting Club, New Burlington, Ohio. Distance events are on Sept. 24th and Accuracy events on Sept. 25. For details, directions contact Jay & Diana Klenk at: (513) 591 0414.

The Creel

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PAM PETERS. She is about to launch a 310' cast in the 5/8 oz. Two-Hand Spinning Distance event. Pam earned five Gold Medals at the National.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE McCABE.