

THE LOOP

The Federation of Fly Fishers Journal for Certified Casting Instructors
Fall 2008

Conclave Awards 2008



From left to right: Rick Williams, Bruce Richards, Bob Jacklin & Gordie Hill

Photo by Verne Lehmberg

(Continued on page2)

Lifetime Achievement in Flycasting Award

Awarded to Bruce Richards



John Vandalen and Bruce Richards

Photo by Pat Oglesby

Introduction by John Vandalen

I am honored to present the Lifetime Achievement Award. This award was started in 1992 by the Casting Board of Governors to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to flycasting and instruction. Past awardees include Jim Green, Joan Wulff, Lefty Kreh, Mel Krieger, Leon Chandler and Allen and Barbara Rohrer. It is my distinct pleasure to present this award tonight to a personal friend and one of the best friends flycasting and fly fishing will ever have - Bruce Richards.

Bruce is a true friend to both. If there is casting going on, Bruce will be there in the group. We've cast until dawn under lights (It should be noted that alcohol was sometimes involved). There was one casting contest in Idaho Falls (a previous Conclave) to see who could cast the farthest into the hotel's open windows on the second and third floor. At another Conclave in Bozeman, the distance contest was done in pitch blackness at midnight at the Holiday Inn. I think Bruce is the best technical caster in the world, and he is known and respected by everyone in the casting community.

This is such an appropriate award for Bruce. He was an original member of the Casting Board of Governors. He currently chairs this board. Bruce has taken on the difficult situations and issues of the CBOG and has been instrumental in maintaining its quality and credibility.

Industry recognizes Bruce's contributions as well. He has been with Scientific Anglers for thirty-three years in product development making many improvements to fly lines and acquiring several patents. Bruce is the author of the book *Modern Fly Lines*. He developed the Casting Analyzer with Noel Perkins, a wonderful casting instructional tool. He was named Angler of the Year by *Fly Rod and Reel Magazine*.

Bruce is also a teacher. He has taught fly fishing and flycasting for over thirty-five years. He has started many schools. Bruce never refuses to share his expertise or services when asked by others - from kids to adults, from beginners to masters candidates.

Bruce Richards exemplifies all that the Lifetime Achievement Award is meant to be. Bruce, from the thousands of people you have taught - from beginners to masters, "We wish you congratulations and thank you for all you have done for flycasting instruction and the fly fishing world."

Mel Krieger Fly Casting Instructor's Award

Awarded to Tom White

Introduction by Gordie Hill

A few notes about Tom:

- * Tom was the first to be tested for his Master Instructor Certification. It was at a time when the CBOG (of which he was a member) first came up with the exam. He wouldn't accept the MCCI label unless he'd been formally tested.
- * Over the years, he performed more certification exams than anyone else.
- * When thoughts of requiring MCCI's to perform well with the, 'opposite hand' were first discussed, he insisted that he be examined while performing ***the entire MCCI casting portion of the exam with his left hand ! He passed each task without a single flaw !***
- * Tom demonstrated, repeatedly, a true 100' roll cast both on water and grass !
- * A few years ago, one of our students said to Tom, "Well, you can cast so well because you are so tall". Tom responded by sitting on the grass while making a beautiful distance cast with perfect loops.



He then (to emphasize his point) lay supine on the grass and did it again.

The student, still unconvinced, said to Tom, "Now, I can see that you cast so well because of your long arms." Tom remained supine on the grass. He placed his casting arm beneath his shirt and out his open collar and made an equally beautiful cast !!!!

* Tom did have large hands. During one of his trick casting demonstrations at a National Trade show, he 'wowed the troops' by casting in synch and then alternately with ***four fly rod outfits in each hand !***

* He had an unmatched gentleness of teaching form which included almost infinite patience.

* His bag of teaching tricks was endless. If he got to the bottom of his bag, he was uncanny at inventing a new one!

* Tom was tuned to pick up even the tiniest of casting faults. I remember coaching a MCCI candidate a year or so ago couldn't figure why he lacked perfection with his distance cast. Loops were, 'almost' tailing, but not quite. Tom came up to us and whispered in my ear, 'he has a tiny bit of creep.' I still couldn't see it, but corrected what Tom had seen, resulting in a perfect cast !

* While practice distance casting a few years ago, Tom noted my making a tiny, 'tick' on my backcast. We finally figured out what was causing it by purposely trying to duplicate the fault on a forward cast where both of us could see it. This resulted in an article in *The Loop*, which described this fault for (as far as we could find) the first time in the flycasting literature.

* His pet peeve was the cast made by starting with the rod tip too high above the water surface, yielding slack which had to be taken up before the backcast stroke could be effective. It irked him to see graphic depictions of that in magazine articles on casting where the author had failed to see the problem.

I could go on and on.....

We all miss Tom We'll never forget his teachings !

TOM WHITE

(1941-2007)

The teachers's teacher, the Master's master
He taught it well and he taught it faster.
The most difficult casts, he always landed.

He made it look easy, not even trying, made the line
unroll, as if it were flying.

*"Good strokes come easy," he would plead,
"The smoother you cast, the less power you need."*

His sayings we quote so much today.
"When you teach, use a big crayon," he'd say.
or, *"Tip cast for targets close by"* or,
"Tell me advantages; disadvantages, and WHY."

*"The harder you cast, the more you fail,
the smoother you cast, the more it will sail."
"If you can hear the cast, it's too much power"
"Cast slower and smoother; enjoy the hour."*

*"Don't make a roll cast – just a forward cast
with the line lying differently than in the past"*
He was your helper, he made you feel,
at your side with his rod and reel.

His casting advice was always sage
to be remembered by us as we age.
*"Look behind you when you cast,
be your own best teacher, at last."*

Bob Andreae, CCI

Leopold Award

Awarded to Rick Williams



Leah Elwell and Rick Williams

Photo by Pat Oglesby

Introduction by Leah Elwell

The Leopold Award is an award presented to an individual for outstanding contributions to fisheries and land ecology. Their work recognizes the value of all ecosystem parts, not only fish and wildlife but all living and non-living components that are an integral part of it.

Our Leopold recipient is an individual that has been dedicated for the last 20 years to the Columbia and Snake River ecosystems. He is a geneticist and ecologist and Affiliate Faculty member at the University of Idaho's Center for Salmonids and Freshwater Species at Risk.

Throughout his career he has given scientific and technical advice and peer review to the government agencies that influence and control the efforts to recover steelhead and Pacific salmon in the heavily dammed Columbia Basin and has been members and chairs of several advisory groups.

He has recently been highly involved in the recent publication *Return to the River* - the definitive work on recovering salmon and steelhead in the Columbia system. He was the book's editor and co-wrote eight of its 13 chapters.

In addition to his work on the Columbia Basin, he has dedicated his creativity, time and knowledge to the FFF Casting program and Education as well as many of our conservation programs and policies.

Don Harger Memorial Life Award

Awarded to Gordie Hill



For many year, Gordy Hill has brought to the Federation an intelligence and dedication that has served the highest standards of flycasting excellence. Through many years of hard work he has touched virtually every casting professional in the Federation in one way or another. His work on various committees including the definitions committee exemplifies his willingness to take on the most difficult and challenging tasks.

Imagine attempting to bring all the greats of the past and all their theories together with the technology of the day. This takes a special negotiator and a deep intelligence to comprehend all that has been learned into a definition of something so seemingly simple as a forward cast. Simple enough until you have to make it work with all the other definitions and opinions.

The numbers of committees Gordy has - and still serves on - are too many to mention. His true value to the Federation is as a Master Instructor, not just in the actual lessons or workshops he continuously and tirelessly gives but more in his study group, or 'electronic casting school.'

This Electronic Casting School (currently more than 100 members) has elevated the level of Master Casting Instructors the Federation is producing and has thus been responsible for the respect and admiration the Federation has begun to enjoy on an International level. And, it's not just the subject matter but the level of detail that is discussed which yields the 'understanding' that will become the foundation for the Federation's true growth in the future. Our new Masters will elevate the level of our Casting instructors and become better Masters themselves all as a result of Gordy's persistence and demands for nothing less than *Excellence*.

Order of the Lapis Lazuli

Awarded to Bob Jacklin



Introduction by Jim Rainey

Forty years! Bob Jacklin joined the FFF in July 1967 as a Charter Member, and is the youngest Charter Member still active in FFF with continuous membership ever since. Moving west from his home in New Jersey after service in the U.S. Army, Bob settled in West Yellowstone, Montana, because it was the best place where he could develop his passion to become a fly fisherman. He loved the sport and wanted to devote his life to improving his skills and sharing his talents. In 'West,' as the town is affectionately called, Bob discovered both the perfect location and the perfect organization that would permit him to achieve his goals.

Bob arrived in West Yellowstone as FFF was putting down roots in that town. Both Bob and the FFF grew up there together, and Bob would help the Federation overcome one of its most severe growing pains. By the early 1980's, both the organization and the town were struggling financially. FFF had hired a consultant to raise funds to build its new headquarters, but that effort consumed most of the money that was contributed by donors. Bob quietly worked out a solution. Serving on the West Yellowstone city council, he suggested to fellow councilman (and FFF Charter Member) Cal Dunbar that the city should rent the old Union Pacific railroad station to the Federation for \$1 per year if FFF would agree to maintain the historic building. FFF was financially strapped and couldn't afford to go anywhere else, and the city couldn't afford the up-keep on the Union Pacific station. Jacklin and Dunbar quietly sold the idea to the people of West Yellowstone, the FFF got its home at an affordable price, and the city benefited from a major tourist attraction in the FFF International

(Continued on Page 8)

Fly Fishing Center. FFF volunteers, led by Ralph Moon and Buck Goodrich, took up the challenge of refurbishing the station, carving out office space, and setting up the museum. The IFFC, in a building with great ambiance and character, became the site of numerous Conclaves. Bob's 'win-win' solution worked well for about 10 years until FFF headquarters moved to Bozeman and the IFFC relocated to Livingston.

The FFF was the perfect outlet for Bob Jacklin's energy and enthusiasm. The purpose for which FFF was founded in 1965 was to advance the sport of fly fishing, and through it, to educate a corps of anglers who would be dedicated to the conservation of our sport fisheries. Bob shared with his good friend and FFF 'founding father' Lee Wulff an abiding belief that fly fishers were the most conservation minded anglers, and that the best way to preserve our angling resources was to educate, train, and inspire future generations of fly fishers by building a strong, vibrant, and influential FFF. As multiple means towards achieving those ends, the Federation evolved three core education programs: the Conclave as a capstone fly fishing education experience; a focus on teaching fly tying; and a casting instructor certification program. Bob has been a leader in these three legs of the FFF educational triad.

He has attended most Conclaves since 1968, except for those held in distant venues such as Canada, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. Although a dedicated volunteer for FFF in those early years, he did need to earn a living in his chosen profession and there were some summers when he had to stay home to manage his business. But even when he could not attend those few Conclaves he still contributed to the goals of FFF, since his 'business' was evolving into one of the nation's destination fly shops where Bob would teach and guide anglers, all the while advancing our sport and unabashedly promoting the FFF to his growing customer base.

But Bob has been a prodigious contributor at all of the many Conclaves he has attended, except for the very early ones when he was still learning the sport and developing his reputation. Once he became recognized for his expertise, he has been a tireless presenter of workshops and programs in all aspects of the sport.

He was among the first FFF members to establish the tradition of presenting fly tying workshops. It was at the 1968 Conclave in Jackson, Wyoming, when Ed Mueller and Virginia Buszek asked Bob if he would demonstrate how to tie the patterns that were successful on western streams and rivers. Bob was photographed tying flies alongside Buszek and Helen Shaw, and every Conclave since then would include at least one Bob Jacklin fly tying program.

He was also the first person to offer an on-stream workshop during Conclave. At one of the West Yellowstone Conclaves in the early 1980s, Bob took several attendees to the Madison River for a nymphing workshop. He enlisted the late fly rod builder Paul Brown to help him with this workshop, and Brown remained active in FFF for many years thereafter. This was Bob's way of recruiting volunteers for the Federation, a very successful technique he repeated many times over.

If he wasn't teaching fly tying or on-stream angling techniques, Bob would be leading a casting workshop. His casting students received superb, hands-on attention from Bob and always improved their techniques regardless of skill level.

Bob is a superb teacher of flycasting, so it was only natural that he aspired to be a Certified Casting Instructor when FFF established that most successful program. Bob became one of the first to achieve certification, and was also among the first cohort of six certified instructors who took and passed the test for Master Casting Instructor. The year was 1991 or 1992 at the Livingston Conclave. Subsequently elected to the Casting Certification Program Board of Governors, Bob remains among the most active testers. He does about six certification tests per year both at Conclave and at fly shows around the country, and has administered several of the more demanding Masters certification exams as well. (Continued page 9)

During my tenure as FFF Executive Director, I learned that it was a challenge to meet the testing demands of Certified and Master Casting Instructor candidates. There were simply too few Masters and Governors to service all of the candidates who wanted to be examined. Governors and Masters who earned their livings on the fly fishing show circuit were particularly hard pressed to work certification testing into their very busy show schedules. Whenever I asked him to do so, Bob Jacklin would make time to perform this service for FFF. He did so because he loves to teach flycasting, but more importantly because he knows that casting certification is FFF's signature program and that the Federation must make every effort to satisfy its customer base of candidates who register to be tested.

While casting, fly tying, and on-stream education are three of Bob's greatest gifts to FFF, he recognized that he needed to contribute organizationally as well. So when the Western Rocky Mountain Council was founded in about 1984, he was on the first council board of directors. He served for several terms as WRMC director, and in 2000 was elected to the first of two terms as council president. Bob's tenure was marked by several notable achievements.

Recognizing the need for visible FFF activities in one of the major fly fishing destination cities in the WRMC region, he conceived and helped organize the first WRMC fly tying expo in Bozeman, Montana. The expo grew over several years as a successful and popular event, and the responsibility for organizing and operating it has been assumed by the local FFF club, the Headwaters Fly Fishers. Bob will continue to support this event by conducting seminars and donating his flies for the raffle and auction at the post-Expo evening banquet.

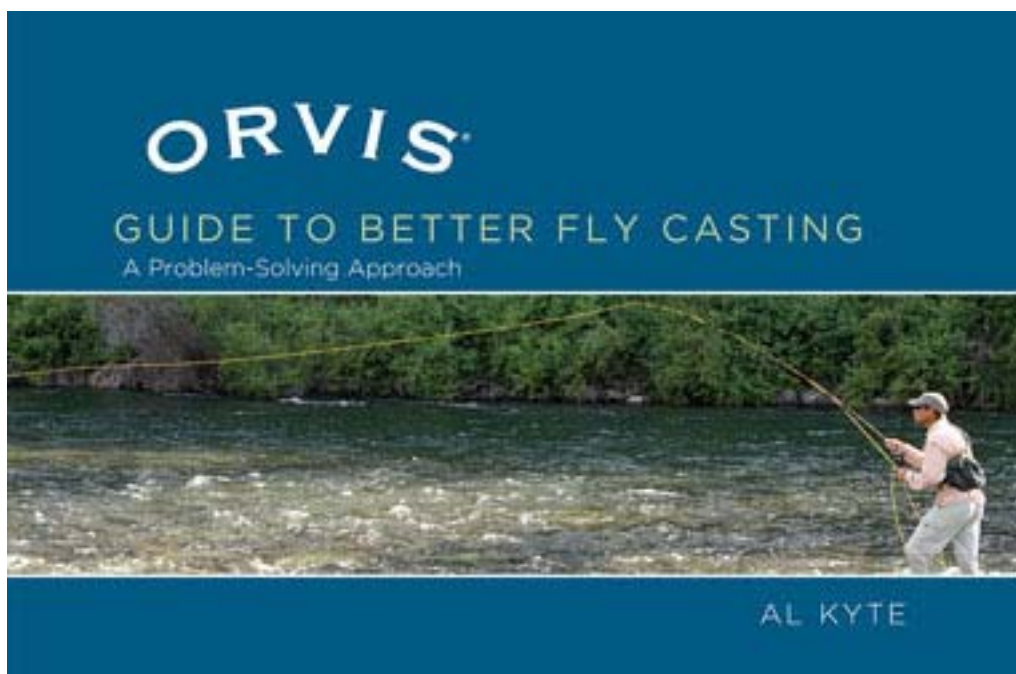
Membership growth was decidedly his greatest contribution as council president. While I don't have the statistics at hand, I do remember that during my tenure as FFF executive director membership, gains within the WRMC were higher than within any other council. I watched Bob speak at several WRMC club meetings, and I am convinced that it was his personal enthusiasm for FFF and the genuine love of fly fishing that he exuded which resulted in this surge of new members. At FFF club meetings, during his Conclave and national fly fishing show seminars, at his summertime weekly flycasting clinics in West Yellowstone, and in greeting customers in his store, he was the FFF's best salesman during my time as executive director. Bob was always careful to convey to his audiences that he was urging fly fishers to join the FFF, not the Western Rocky Mountain Council or any local club. Bob was unique among council presidents in recognizing and believing that the councils are regional extensions of a single national organization. In recruiting new members, he was not promoting club or council growth; he wanted the Federation, and through it our sport, to expand in numbers and influence.

Bob's achievements as a fly tier were recognized by the FFF in 2000 when he was presented with the Buz Buszek fly tying award. Buszek winners are simply the best fly tiers in the world, and Bob Jacklin deserves to be in their exalted company. His contributions to membership growth were recognized when FFF designated him as its Man of the Year in 2004. But these awards recognize only two aspects of Bob's lifetime of service to FFF and the sport of fly fishing. By presenting Bob with the Lapis ring, FFF would be signifying that this kind and gentle man and affable on-stream companion has promoted our sport and our organization with the passion and zeal that rank him among the best of the best.

The Lapis Lazuli Award is the FFF's highest award, it is awarded infrequently to those members who have performed extraordinary service for the Federation. To highlight that point, please note that of the tens of thousands of FFF members in the 43 years since the FFF was founded in 1965, the Lapis ring/pendant has been awarded to only 23 of those members before we honored the 24th recipient that evening.

The Orvis Guide to Better Fly Casting

by Al Kyte



The Orvis Guide to Better Fly Casting takes a unique problem-solving approach to help readers solve their own casting problems. However, the book could easily be entitled - A Guide to Better Fly Casting Instruction. In this book, Casting Board of Governor Emeritus Al Kyte provides a great service to instructors who may not be familiar with many of the differences in his approach to teaching. He presents an integrated view of his most promising teaching approaches from his exploratory research and experience gained from teaching and coaching a variety of sports for over 50 years. Al's book ties together the ideas of many great teachers into a single perspective.

Al shares unique insights about casting and teaching that go well beyond his previously published works on distance casting and style. A sampling of topics important to instructors include: the importance of starting 'simply' and adding movements; limiting initial practice to a single joint in the body; the significance of shoulder movement in casting; consistency benefitting from simplicity; the concept of two levers; moving the rod slowly to get the line out quickly; casting with hands apart - fishing with hands together; angular rotation versus rod arc; elbow extension for more strength; changing casting purpose changes body movements; subtleties of hauling and drift; angular rotation and its effect on loop shape; rod speed and its effect on loop size; a case for 'pushing' instead of 'pulling'; and much more.

In my view this book is a *must read* for casting instructors, particularly those seeking master status.

Dusty Sprague, CBOG, MCI

There are so many ideas about teaching in Al's new book that it is, in my humble opinion, a must read for instructors.

Chuck Easterling, CBOG

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A WELCOME ADDITION TO THE FLYCASTING LITERATURE

Orvis Guide to Better Fly Casting – A Problem Solving Approach

Copyright 2008 by **Al Kyte**
The Lyons Press

ISBN 978-1-59228-870-0
Price: \$24.95

Al Kyte is one of the founders of our casting certification program. He has dedicated most of his adult life to the study and teaching of flycasting at a high level.

This book represents his approach to a vast unnamed audience The fly fisher who can cast and catch fish but who wants to be a better caster to reach more fish and more waters effectively. To this end, this writing is well targeted.

Al begins by going back to basics. He expands into a self-teaching system based on having the caster become aware of the relationship between each rod movement and its effect on the fly line. He includes Jim Green's technique of making each new maneuver with very short casts. One new movement or variable at a time is introduced. Once the individual movements of the fly rod and their effects on the fly line have become familiar, the caster learns to combine them.

This results in control which allows the caster to adapt to challenging fishing circumstances as well as different rods and lines.

His text respects the use of individual styles for different casters as well as different fishing situations.

Al invites the caster to try his/her own maneuvers in addition to the ones he describes.

In Chapter 12, Al expands these concepts by presenting eleven - on the water casting problems he has experienced. These are described separately from his solutions to each. He suggests reading these, then taking the fly rod outside to, ***“work out your own solution before reading mine “***.

I think this is a master stroke of instructional technique !

Al's guide requires the use of self-teaching principles which can set the stage for a lifetime of continued learning by any motivated fly fisher.

The photographs and drawings are simplified and easily understood. They match the descriptions well. His text is clearly written using common language. Despite this, Al does not deviate from the scientific principles behind flycasting movements which he knows so well by virtue of a lifetime of study, teaching and dedication.

Al's well practiced teaching methods should be placed in each of our teaching 'bag of tricks'.

This book should be added to every instructor's library.

I recommend it highly to all fly fishers who seek to improve their casting and the quality of their on the water experiences.

Gordy Hill, CBOG, MCI

* At present, this book can be obtained at Orvis designated fly shops. Barnes & Noble also carries it. Bulk orders for schools, etc. can be made by calling the publisher at: (800) 962-0973,

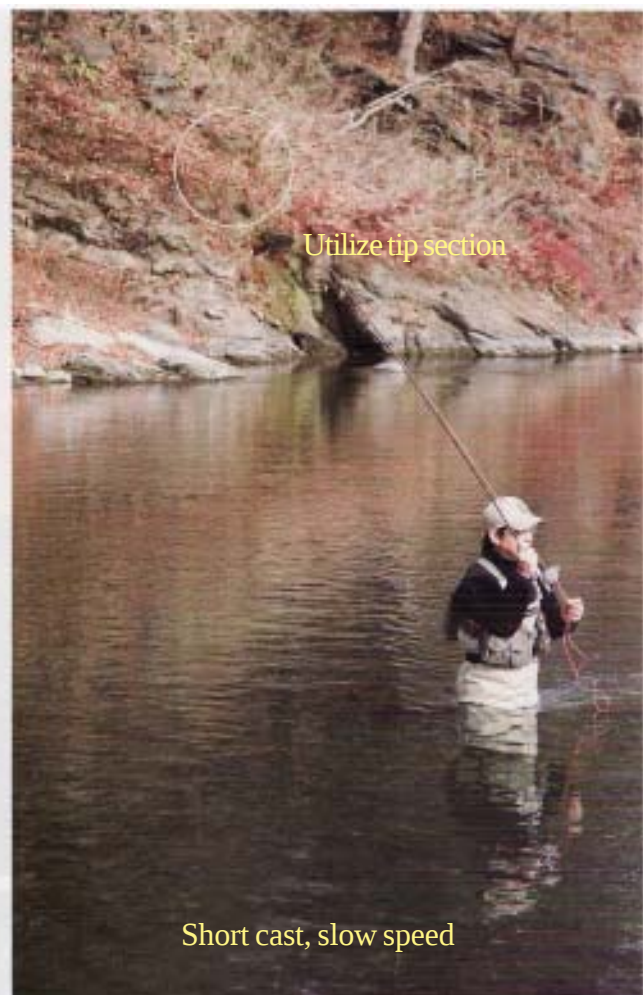
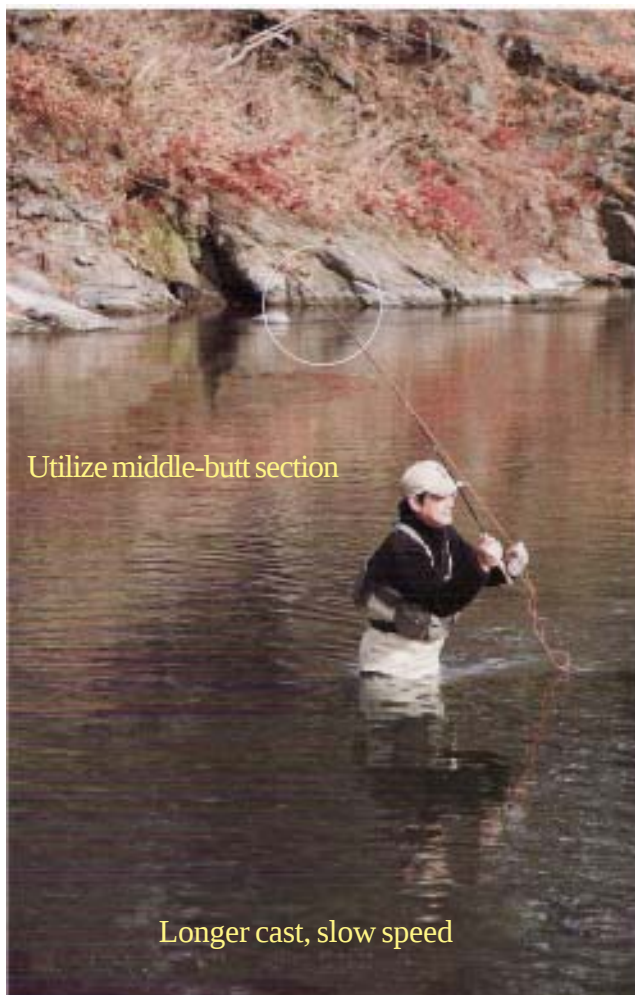
Casting Pleasures - Part Five - POWER

Rod Bend

Rods bend differently depending on load

From tip, then middle and butt

by Tomonori (Bill) Hiigashi

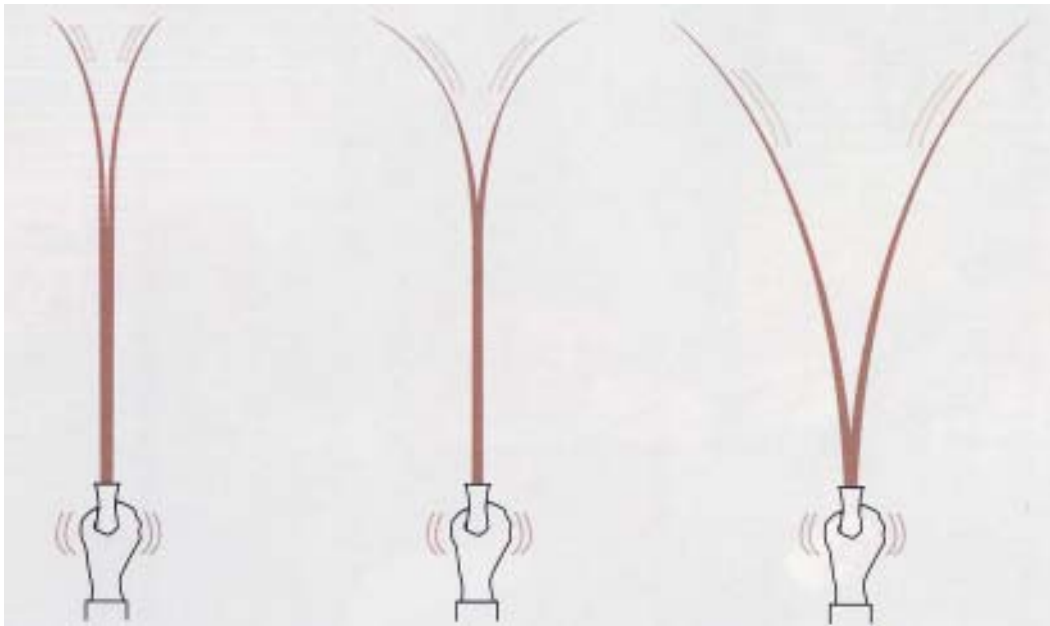


You must obtain appropriate power from various parts of the rod. If little power is needed, use tip section. Go down the rod as necessary

(continued on page 12)

Rod-bending practice

Hold the grip solidly and shake the rod parallel to the ground



10 yards
Ping the tip

15 yards
Bend the middle

20 yards and more
Force the butt to bend

If we let the students practice casting on their own, they tend to ‘fix’ the comfortable length of line and keep on swinging the rod back and forth all day. As instructors, we should let them know that flycasting is very unique in that the load varies a lot, depending on the length of line in the air.

In order to cope with the changing load, we must instruct students to change the way they use the rod. My mentor, Mel Krieger, used this type of rod wiggle practice to teach students how much power application bends which part of the rod. After teaching this concept of various loads, tell them to change the length of line in practice. We shouldn’t let them fall into fixation, because they do not learn the lesson of varying the power for different amounts of line.

Casting Pleasures - Part Six- ACCELERATION

Demonstrate the analogy in an actual situation!

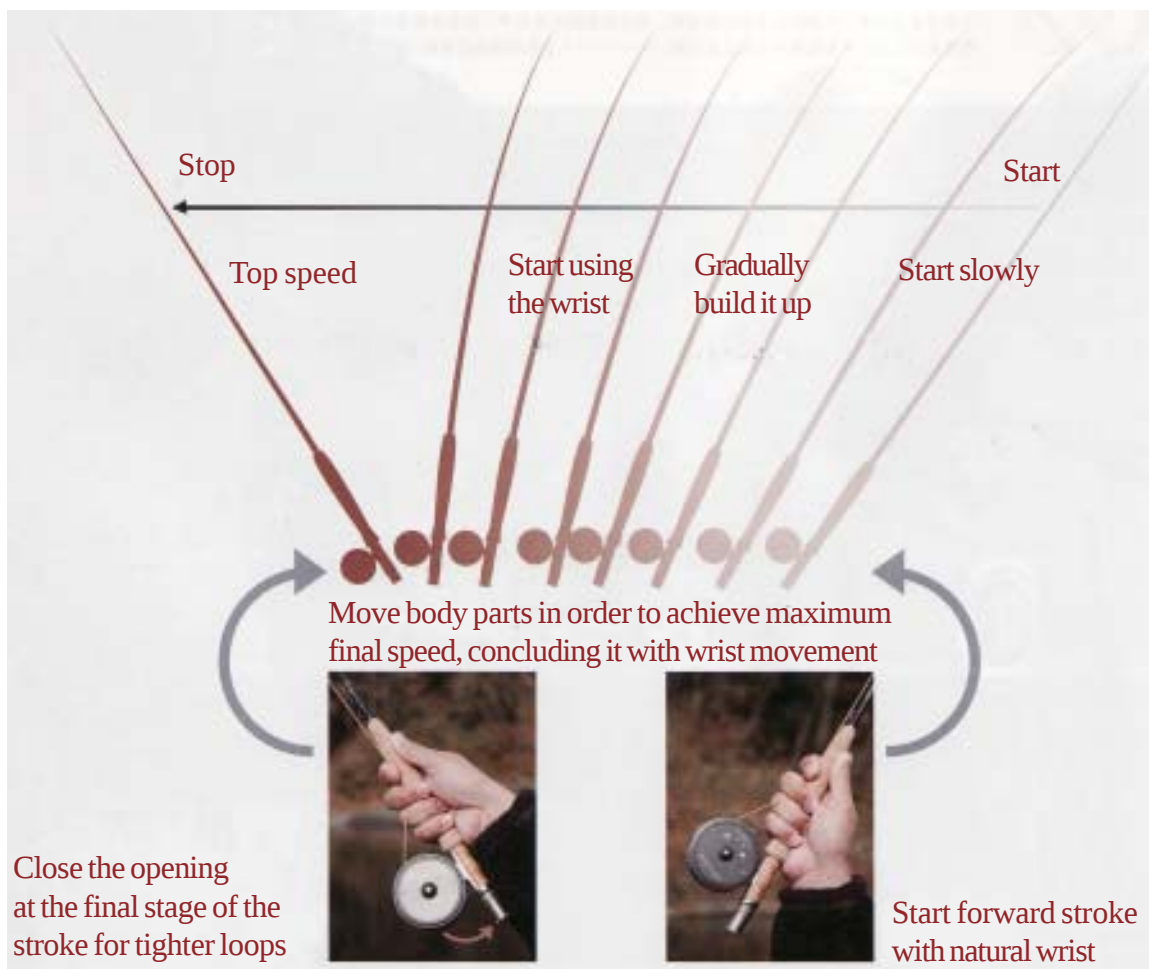
Cast a Strawberry in Class

Start slow, keep bending the rod and release at highest speed; if you demonstrate it in front of the students, they can easily imagine the movements

Using the inertia of the strawberry - start bending the tip smoothly...

Then throw it as far as possible.

Change of rod speed during forward stroke



If you have a calligrapher's brush, use it. Bring in objects that are fun and inspirational

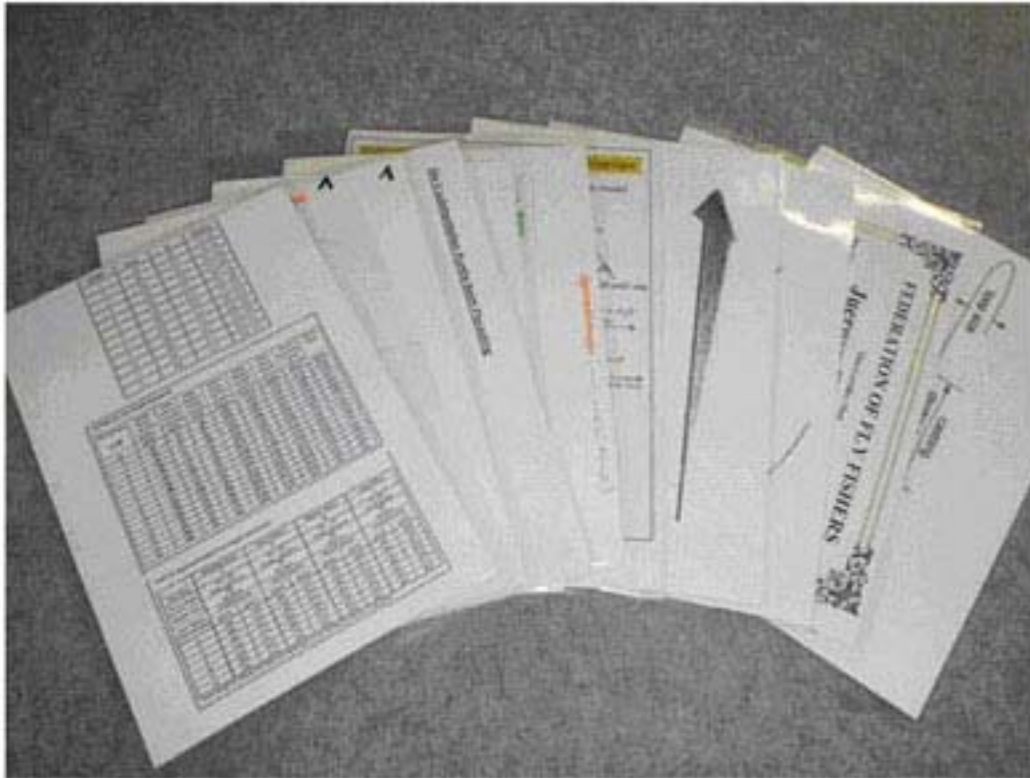


People use many analogies to describe the acceleration of the stroke. I thought about them, and wanted to try one in actual situations. Apples are too big and risk rod breakage, and we cannot use a hammer to drive a fly line. So I chose a strawberry and tried casting it. It seems rather stupid but it will create a good change of pace, with you playing a clown and communicating an important truth about flycasting. The students are usually overwhelmed with information you give them; you might as well have a handful of gadgets in your bag to keep them motivated and going. Today's progressive action rods require progressive acceleration for best loops. That means, you have to use the wrist, the fastest part of your body, at the last stage. Among the students who cannot throw tight loops, I chronically observe the blending of arm work and wrist work. Especially with a stiffer rod, which requires a lot of energy to flatten it out, if students close the wrist all through the forward stroke (blending) instead of at the conclusion of it, rod tip doesn't travel straight and the resulting loop is wide. I ask students to pantomime this movement using a pen or index finger as the rod and build a muscle memory. They can do so at their desk or while commuting on the train.

(continued on page 19)

The Charthit

Juergen Friesenhahn CI, Dortmund/Germany



Already for some time I've been using written information for teaching in order to give students a different 'view' on the variety of content. Since my documents got constantly soaked because of the wet grass, I started to have them laminated. Successfully.

Now I realize that I have accumulated quite a lot of these kind of charts and that they've become a basic element of my teaching style. My experience shows that I can enhance and intensify teaching content, if I use my 'selfdrawn' charts.

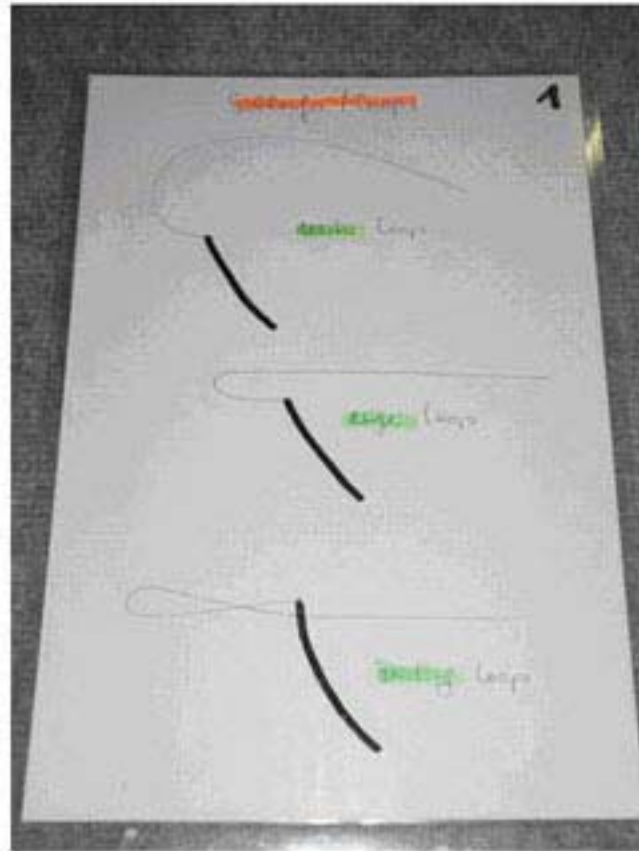
One of these charts, however, is something special!

It is the one I call the 'top-chart', the students' favourite, and I hope it will inspire you and encourage imitation. Actually, it's a 'two-piece', but more on that later.

First: from the first lesson on, I explain to my students the 3 main loop forms we have to deal with in flycasting:

the 'Wide/Open Loop' (I also call it the 'weak loop')
the 'Tight Loop' (I also call it the 'good loop')
the 'Tailing Loop' (I also call it the 'bad loop')

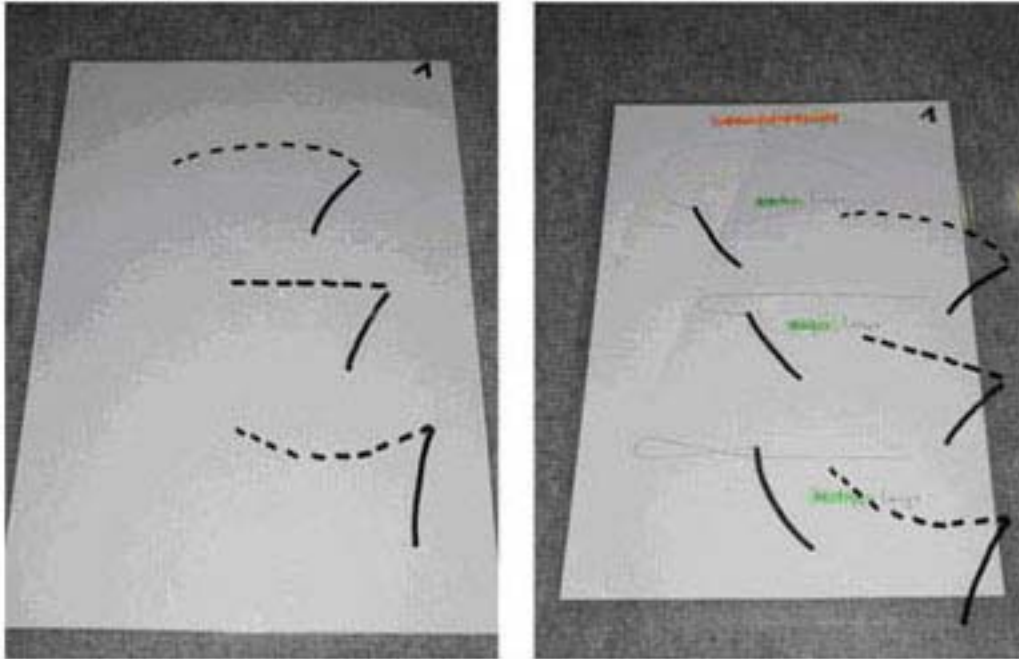
For me, it's essential that the student is able to recognize the various loopforms: the loops I am casting, the loops of other students and, ideally, his own. To 'anchor' this information deeper in the student's perception, I use the first part of my chart, which looks like this:



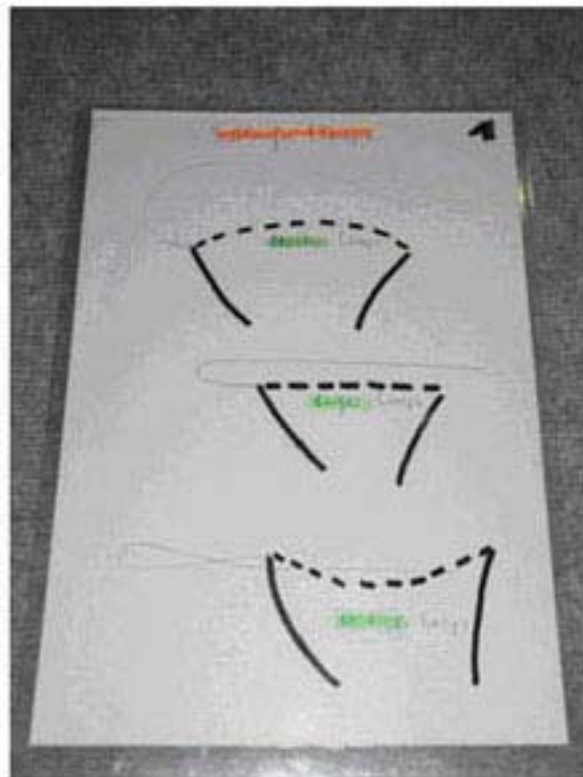
We put this chart in front of us on the lawn, I demonstrate briefly the 3 loop forms with the fly rod, we closely watch the other participants in action and try to spot different loop forms, - hopefully 'good' loops - and finally we observe the loops the student casts himself. We also speak briefly about the advantages and disadvantages of the different loopforms:

the 'Wide/Open Loop', which has little energy to transport the fly
the 'Tailing Loop', that causes knots in the leader
and the 'Tight Loop', where the sun rises ...

Please note: I did not mention anything about the **cause** of these different loops!
After the student has practiced by himself for a while, I show up with the following chart.
It is a transparent film on which I have drawn with a black marker: (continued on page 18)



This transparent film I lay on the chart with the loop forms and this adds, in a visually attractive form, the so-called **Cause: The Path Of The Rodtip!** Tadaaaaaa...



(Continued on page 19)

And you clearly see the connections:

the 'Wide/Open Loop' and the convex / circular path
the 'Tight Loop' and the 'Straight Line Path' (SLP)
the 'Tailing Loop' and the convex / saucer shaped / dipping path

And that really is the 'bang effect' for the students!

They go: 'Aaaaah!'

This visual experience will be so entrenched in their memory, that I always can refer to it.

"You remember, the two charts with the loops?"

"Yessss!"

They learned the 3 loop shapes and their cause.

No more, no less.

On the charts and my 'ineptness' to draw :

During my CI-Examination, I used these same charts to demonstrate my teaching methods.

The test went very well but at the end, as we were on the way back to the exhibition halls, my examiner, Chuck Easterling (CBOG) said to me, very friendly :

"...concerning your drawings with the loopforms...

...to be veeeeery picky...

...the rod wouldn't be bent that way after the stop when the loop has been formed and also a true tailing loop passes the bottomleg always twice!"

Thank you Chuck, you are so right. Very precise observation. Cheers.

But exactly for this reason I use from now on this supposedly 'wrong' chart!

The beginner / intermediate does not pay attention to this detail, and for advanced students I have an ace up my sleeve and can ask:

"Well, what's wrong with this drawing?"

Juergen Friesenhahn is a CI from Dortmund/Germany who is currently preparing for his MCI.

Casting Pleasures - Part Five and Six - (continued from page14)

Once again, we would like to thank Bill Higashi and the Japanese magazine, The Fly Fisher for permission to use this article.

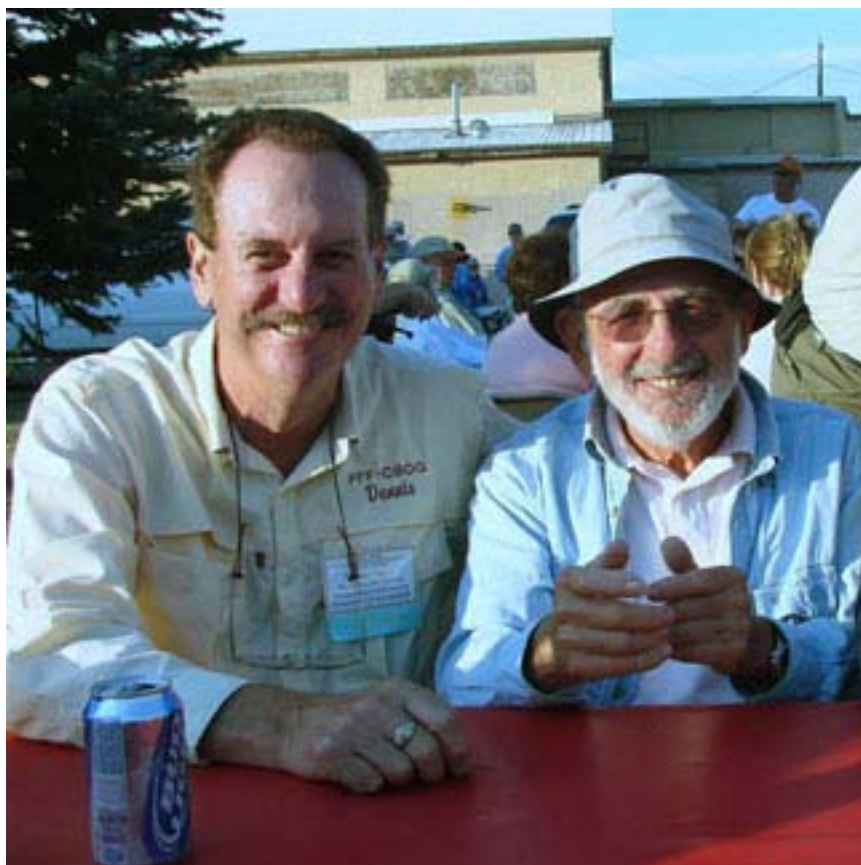
There are nine parts in total, so look forward to more in the coming issues.

If you get a chance to look at this magazine, please do so. It is an extremely beautiful magazine full of color photos and timely articles.

While I don't speak or read Japanese (although I wish I did), a special thanks to Bill Higashi for providing the translation as well.

TODAY I LOST A FRIEND

A Tribute to Mel Krieger
by Dennis Grant



Dennis Grant and Mel Krieger, July 2007

Today I lost a friend. Time moves too quickly and before we know it our journey through life takes a quick turn. My friend, mentor, and casting 'brother' Mel Krieger lost his battle for life. I only knew Mel for 13 years and mostly as a fly caster, teacher and fisher. But I also knew Mel as a man who respected others, listened, analyzed and delivered. I also knew Mel as a dear friend. He was a casting teacher extraordinaire, beyond the definition of just an instructor. Mel loved teaching fly casting and he loved people. Mel was truly a fly casting instructor's, instructor !

I first met Mel on a DVD, he didn't know me but I idolized him. His clear instruction, his personal touch, his wit and his enthusiasm. If there was one thing that really drew me to Mel it was his enthusiasm, his Joe Smotkapoff, his Whuuump, his bag of good luck Talisman stones, his ability to humanize fly casting, so I, and many others, could understand it. On my first Federation of Fly Fishers conclave Mel, wearing his boots, shorts and his bucket style golf hat greeted me like a long lost friend and every since that day we have been 'brothers'.

Not long after our first meeting he invited me to teach with him and for me it was like winning the Academy Award. In subsequent classes Mel would do the instructor intro, he, of course, needed no introduction, everyone knew Mel and he would outline the course and the ART of the cast. When introducing me he would say “and this ____ Canuck’ (Canadian) needs to know WHY !” I loved to teach with Mel, he was the Master and

I always the apprentice. After our class we would drink a beer, talk about life. We would argue a bit, he always won, then sometimes we would go for a walk, eat an ice cream cone or hit some golf balls at a the range. In the past few years Mel would talk a bit about himself, but it was a rare experience indeed. He would lean in and look me straight in the eye and speak in a soft but distinct tone, I listened and knew not to repeat.

Mel often talked on the phone regarding different aspects of the FFF Instructor programs and after one such discussion he and I made the original proposal to add Spey to the FFF certification program. Mel was always thinking ahead of the pack.

I, along with many others, lost a friend, the fly fishing community lost a great mind and communicator, the world lost a true fly fishing icon. In retrospect we all gained because Mel lived, having shared himself and his knowledge, which will live on.

I truly wanted Mel and his wonderful wife Fanny to visit Nova Scotia and invited them often, he promised to come, but it never happened. In a way he’s here now and I will take him fishing with me every day. Tight lines Mel !

Dennis Grant, CBOG, October 2008

Gordy Hill.....

I found out about Mel Krieger’s passing upon my return (from a fishing trip) from Al Crise and Barbara Wuebbler. To say that he’ll be sorely missed is an understatement. As most of you know, it was he who really started our FFF Instructor Certification program years ago.

Al Crise....

I met Mel in 1999 at Gatlinburg TN Conclave. What a gentle man. Nola got to meet him in Mountain Home AR a few years latter. They struck it off well and became friends. I would kid Nola that her Boyfriend would be at this conclave. That would ensure I got to go.

I will miss Mel, his Tilly hat and mink fly. I too lost a friend, instructor and mentor. I too have a bag of Talismans.

A quote from Mel as he walked off from teaching the youth camp at SOC conclave.

“Remember it is Stop Stop not Flop Flop”

Bruce Richards...

Mel was the brains and brawn of the CICP program in the early years, and remained our conscience and “godfather” in more recent years. We all learned a lot from Mel over the years, and not just about casting, but about how to live and love and view life as a thing

to be treasured. Mel was an important mentor of mine, and there was no one I enjoyed arguing with more, and we had plenty of opportunities. What I will never forget about Mel is that, after each heated debate, he would find me in private, apologize for being so hard on me, and reconfirm his respect for me. Mel was a master at being able to have deep disagreements with friends, and not allowing it to affect the friendship.

I will deeply miss Mel, as I know you will. He was a one of a kind guy, there is no replacing him. I am very proud to know that I was a close personal friend of Mel’s, I always felt very privileged to be his friend.

Gerry Puckett.....

Thank you Gordy, especially for the forwarded information on Mel. Just sitting here thinking of all I read from his gifted pen and thankful for the time I learned from him at the Conclaves. Class, inspiration, and love for all of life oozed from every pore of this beautiful person who shall forever dance in my casting soul.

I suspect he and Tom White, with the way they blessed life, have a special place on the other side of the Golden Gates. Probably be a pretty solid casting program when I get there, guess I need to work on my angels loops!

From The Editors

This issue of the Loop was a joy to put together! Our lead article highlights the Conclave Awards that were presented in Whitefish this past summer.

For the first time in many years, I attended the Awards banquet and I was extremely glad that I did. Although many awards are presented, members of our Casting Instructor program garnered five awards that evening.

It certainly made me proud - I 'puffed' up my chest and patted myself on the back. To be part of this Casting Program and to have five of our members receive recognition of the calibre and talent and dedication that our members show - is a great high! Remember - no one expects to get an award for doing what we do. What a great night!

So please read the article. I have tried to present it as we viewed it that evening, complete with the remarks of the presenters and photos of the recipients. Plus - you can now put faces to the names you read in our literature or on our committees. (*Denise*)

A past member of our CICIP, Al Kyte, has a new book in the stores that is a must for all of our members. We have not one - but two reviews of the book. The first is by Dusty Sprague and the second by Gordie Hill. Here is a great item to put on your Christmas list!

Dennis Grant pays tribute to Mel Krieger, who died recently. Mel was the man with the idea for our Casting Program and it has been a tremendous success. Mel continued to participate in the program until he became ill. Hats off to Mel! Raise a toast to him and celebrate a job well done.

In this issue of the Loop, we begin a new column based on a Master Study group, hosted by Gordie Hill. If you read the Awards article, you will see that Gordie, a retired doctor, received an award for his contributions to the FFF and certainly his Master Study group is a big part of that. This column will be an ongoing part of *The Loop* and hope you enjoy it. We also will be receiving input from another study group, a CCI group hosted by Al Crise.

For those of you studying for the Masters test, and those of you who do MCI testing, a new version comes into effect on January 1, 2009. There are some new tasks to master and a new format with expectations for the tasks. Check it out!

The world seems to be spinning in a different orbit these days. Change seems to be happening at an ever increasing rate. We hope that you and yours stay focused on the important things - family, friends and loved ones. Until we talk again, have a wonderful Thanksgiving and make great memories.

We won't be back until the New Year. Lets make it a great new beginning.

***Talk to you soon.
Denise & Liz***

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We welcome your submissions via e-mail. When you submit an article(s), please attach a short (1-3 sentences) author/instructor biographical statement, including your location and Certification level on every article.

Also be aware that the back issues of the Loop are posted on the FFF web site. Any illustrations should be in JPEG format and submitted separately, if possible.

The Loop reserves the right to decline any submission for any reason, and to edit any submission.

Submissions may be sent to the editors or the National Office:

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Conclave Pics



Spey-Kendo class at the Beach



More workshops at the Beach



Chatting at the Rendezvous



Casting at the Rendezvous



Upcoming Events for 2008,2009

MEXICO		
Dusty Sprague, Joe Libeu	Instructor, Master	Nov 17-19, 2008
Belgium Fly Happening	Instructor, Master	Nov 27-30, 2008
Elie Beerten		
William van der Vorst	International signup req'd	
Flyfishing Show - Bellevue, WA	Instructor, Master	Jan 6- Jan 8, 2009
Don Simonson		
Marlboro, MA	Instructor, Master	Jan 16- 18, 2009
Rod McGarry		
Denver, CO		
ISE Show	Instructor, Master	Jan22-25, 2009
Jeff Wagner		
Colorado Convention Centre		
Somerset, NJ		
Fly Fishing Show	Instructor, Master	Jan 23 - 24, 2009
Jim Valle		
Mtn Home, AR		
Sowbug Roundup	Instructor	Mar 19 - 21, 2009
Chuck Easterling		
Tasmania, Australia	Instructor	Apr 12-15, 2009
Peter Hayes	Master	
	International signup req'd	

Please see the FFF web site for registration deadlines, testing class limits and contact information.

CONGRATULATIONS

New Casting Instructors

Lester Rosenthal – Gig Harbor, WA

Gary Hammer – Yelm, WA

Robert Johnston – Conifer, CO

Allan Everington – United Kingdom

John Suyes – Kent, WA

Pietro Brunelli – Italy

David Pustejovsky – Rapid City, SD

Laramie Wiginton – Kinnear, WY

Michael J Smith – Pacoima, CA

Matias Milet – ON, Canada

Kevin Erickson – Beaverton, OR

Ian Troup – ON, Canada

Sam Andrews – North Ireland, UK

Greg Herring – ON, Canada

Arnell Hodges – Lebanon, OH

Matt Suzuki – BC, Canada

Terry Duffield – Kailua, HI

Eric Campbell – Albuquerque, NM

Maryann Townsend – Wentzville, MO

Matthew Stout – Flower Mound, TX

Bob Clay – Ijamsville, MD

Robert Peet – Madison, MS

R Thomas Scheer – Cincinnati, OH

Mark Milkovich – Ketchum, ID

Steve Crosetti – Palo Cedro, CA

Diane Blair – Dallas, TX

Willy George – Alamo, CA

John MacDiarmid – Central Point, OR

Donna Smith – Naperville, IL

Gregg Rodriguez – Queen Creek, AZ

Adam Lavigne – Gainesville, GA

Linda Kahn – Sun Valley, ID

Danny Spelic – Australia

Jed Hamberger – W Alexander, PA

Richard Ross – Gladwyne, PA

Jim Gilchrist – Australia

Matt Paluch – Moses Lake, WA

Bintoro Tedjosiswoyo – Australia

Andrew Connell – Australia

Brian Aherne – Australia

Carlos Araya – Hailey, ID

Tobias Hinzmann - Germany

New Master Casting Instructors

Simon Zarifeh – Australia

Peter Humphreys – Grand Rapids, MI

Joseph Stitt – United Kingdom

Steve Hollensed – Tom Bean, TX

PEARLS....

From a Master Study Group

Hosted by Gordie Hill

In this issue of *The Loop*, we introduce the first installment of a regular column based on ideas from a Master Study Group. Many of you may already know of Gordie Hill's electronic study group, but for those of you who don't, it is a regular e-mail group that discusses any and all aspects of flycasting and flycasting instruction. The membership numbers over 100 members. The original idea was and still is, to help those preparing for the FFF MCI test.

Gordie has always been a regular contributor to the Loop but from an editor's viewpoint, this is like winning the lotto - a never-ending supply of material to be shared with all of you. We will also be using some contributions from Al Crise's CCI Study group and thank him and his group for their input.

I would like to thank the members of the MCI group for endorsing the idea and for permission to use their names as well.

We had to come up with a name..... what to call it? Treasures? Nuggets? Pearls of Wisdom? We settled on just Pearls... hope you like it and learn. *Denise*

Pearl #1

Let's see how you would answer this little teaching quiz:

Questions in **black**, answers in **blue** and Gordie's comments in **red**.

You have a class of 10 students for your Conclave Workshop and are about to demonstrate the PRINCIPLES OF LOOP FORMATION.

These are some demonstration factors which come to mind :

1.) How do you position yourself with respect to a bright sun ?

Sun behind the students but at a sufficient angle that it will not be directly in my eyes, particularly when demonstrating. *Agree. Great if the venue will allow this. G*

2.) How do you stand with respect to your class ?

Facing the class while speaking. At the angle which will provide them with the best view of the loop when demonstrating. *Yes. Casting arm so the class can see it. If demo is for the function of the line hand as with hauling instruction, then turn so that can best see that. G*

3.) At what distance to you position yourself with respect to the class ?

Far enough away that all students can look reasonably directly at me and see the loops clearly, but not so far as to cause hearing difficulties. *Yes. G*

4.) Do you consider your background ?

Yes. Preferably a uniform dark background for best contrast with the line. *Yes. G*

5.) What weight line do you chose for this ?

A 7 or 8 weight floater for its large diameter thus optimal visibility. *That is my choice, too. G*

6.) What color do you chose for your line ?

Blaze orange for maximum visibility. *Good choice. G*

7.) What rod would you choose ?

A medium action yellow rod to best demonstrate loading and unloading. *Agree. G*

8.) Are there any circumstances where you would cast toward your students ?

I wouldn't, for safety's sake. *I don't, either .. except when I want to demo tracking or things such as a, "curve around behind" backcast as when the student casts with the casting arm too far extended, etc. When I do that, however, I'm careful to make my casts very short so it's not likely that the yarn fly will reach the students.*

Jason Borger and some other instructors sometimes will place the students around in a very wide circle. He, then, does the demo to each semi-circle so all can see. After that, he has his students cast toward him. He turns about to critique their casts. Works well from a teaching standpoint, especially when we have the problem of 12 or 15 students and only one instructor as sometimes happens at a conclave workshop. He's careful to protect his own eyes, you may be sure and he sometimes does get hit ! G

9.) What about the speed of your loops as you demonstrate ?

As slow as I can make them while maintaining control. *Yes. G*

10.) You have another Master joining you to hold this class. How would you use one another to greatest advantage ?

One to explain while the other demonstrates. *I like that technique. G*

11.) Two of your students have no protective eyewear. What do you do ?

If no spare eyewear can be found I would position those students in the most central positions closest to me i.e. the furthest away from an unrolling loop.

Tony This is why I (and many other seasoned instructors) purchase cheap plastic clear protective glasses such as those sold in some hardware stores (in the U.S.) and take them as part of our, "teaching materials kit".

12.) It is a blistering hot day in August with no wind. Does this make you consider some things to provide or to do differently ? *Yes.*

13.) Elaborate on # 12.

Conduct the class in a shaded area. Ensure that there is plenty of drinking water and sunscreen available. *Agree. G*

14.) One of your students is completely deaf. She reads lips very well. How do you handle this situation ?

Apprise all students of the situation then position her closest, speak slowly, speak directly to her and form my words very distinctly.

I agree with one caveat: Occasionally that student will be sensitive about calling attention to the situation. For that reason, I'd simply advise her what to do as far as position in the group, then continue exactly as you outline. Most folks who don't hear become very good at positioning themselves with regard to a speaker, light, etc.

I had one situation where I had a deaf student who could NOT read lips. He was a “signer”. Fortunately he brought a friend who was a hearing person who could also sign. We agreed to have his friend interpret and sign for him. The class had no problem; and neither did these two students. G.

15.) How do you position yourself with respect to a 10 MPH wind ?

So that the wind is blowing onto my line hand side. *That’s what I’d do. G*

MCCI candidates: Take note of Tony’s answers to these questions. They are BRIEF and TO THE POINT. G

Pearl #2

For you MCCI Candidates (and all of us, for that matter).

One of the 5 major categories on the oral portion of the MCCI exam is **ETIQUETTE**. It joins the topics of **CASTING, TACKLE/EQUIPMENT, TEACHING** and **FISHING**.

What follows is excerpted from Al Crise’s CCI Study group. It consists of some questions by Al on **FISHING** and **STREAM ETIQUETTE**. The answers, from Gary Davison are very good..... worth sharing with all of you. Questions are in **blue type**. Gary’s answers are in **black**. Al’s comments follow in **brown type** :-

From Gary Davison....

You are going to fish a good trout stream in Yellowstone park. The stream is 30-40 ft wide.

Clear banks back to 25 ft where the trees start. Most of the creek is 4-7 feet deep, with a few logs protruding into the easy flow.

1) What should you have done before you got to the stream? Put my waders on, prepare my rod and figure out if I am going upstream or downstream for the day. (General rule of thumb, Up= Dry fly on top, Down= wet fly down deeper, However do not limit yourself to the rules, experiment and explore all the possibilities). Picked out what patterns to use for the day based in the time of year and conditions.

Buy and carry a license. Was there any bear activity in the area you are headed? Know your local and state regulations. Do not trespass.

In high country you will need one more bottle of water than you normally use. Take extra. Did you “File a Float Plan”? Telling someone where you are heading is just a good idea. Some anglers will place a note on the windshield telling how many, which way and about when they expect to return.

Was this a Barbless waters, Lead is not allowed.

Some areas of the park are closed at times for spawning; other rivers close for water that gets too warm. They close them at noon to fishing.

Be sure you know the local Ethics as well as the Law.

2) What tackle would you use?

Rod: 4 to 7 wt mid flex rod. Probably rated at 7 on a scale of 1 to 10 of which 10 is the stiffer tip flex rod.

Line: upstream 5 to 7wt. WF-F; downstream WF-F with sink tip or weighted line.

Leader: Depends on conditions. Clear gin water is the norm with light to delicate presentation upstream with dry fly would have a tendency to use a longer leader if dictated -12' max. 7 1/2' least. Downstream leader would be 9' to 7 1/2' length. Range of 3 X to 6 X leader depending on fly.

Rule of 3 or 4

Fly: 10 to 18 hook on average could go up or down depending.

3) How would you make your first cast? First I would make sure no one is fishing or reading the water I plan to fish. Once I determined that no other anglers were there, I would then spend some time reading the water. I would be looking for pockets, riffles, seams, or edges of the stream I would like to fish before casting. This would all be done at some distance away from the waters edge so as not to spook any of the fish in the stream.

From: My first cast would probably be from the bank. Reason being, I would not want to spook any of the fish closest to the bank by just rushing into the stream.

To: I would cast to the closest area to me from the bank that would appear to harbor a safe haven for the fish.

What else: Then work progressively back from the bank until the entire area from near bank to far bank was explored by me and my fly. I would then enter the water and begin my track either up or downstream.

This is one of my pet peeves. Traveling miles to fish the best of waters. The angler jumps in his waders stomps to mid-stream and starts casting. Most likely putting most of the fish down or to the next pool. Take the time to Stop, Look, Study and Then fish the waters you are thinking of standing in from 2 rod lengths away.

Note: if I saw another angler viewing the same area of the stream and he or she was there first, I would yield the stream to him or her based on being there first and having rights to the waters. I would then move to a safe distance as not to disturb his or her fishing either up or downstream.

4) Describe the cast(s) you might use. All of them! (This is my only short answer Al!)

Make each cast with as little disturbance and keep 'the fly first'

Also be thinking of or planning how you are going to be fighting the fish. Where are you standing? (Often the banks along the rivers in Yellowstone have tunneling under the banks. Stepping in one of these or breaking through can sure end a fight.)

Fast water and wet rock can make for poor footing. Plan the fight and landing.

Be a little bit of a 'story teller' if you want. Have fun with this one

Depends on the condition, area surrounding you. Is it windy or do you have restrictions around you to limit your backcast? Weigh your options, analyze the possibilities and implement.

Terrain will change as you move along the river. Some high banks would dictate roll casting or single hand speycasts to meet the challenge. Overheads with very high trajectory would be a must in many cases, to cast over a high banks of brush behind you. Casting up and down the river due to steep bank of trees or bluff behind you, at which point you would then pull around and make a single speycast to the target. Thank God these options are open to us, if we explore them. Stringing a couple of casts together like the example above will be a necessity to meet the challenge of the river. That is why Al has you casting in extremes to meet the challenges that confront you. What we call your bag of tricks will keep you in the game. That is why it is imperative to practice, practice, and then practice some more until these casts become second nature to you.

Right on

5) You have hooked up a strong running fish.

Tell about the Fight: Savour the moment but not too long. Especially if catch and release is your plan. Do not over work the fish if release is the plan. Maintain the 90 degree rod angle to fight the fish. Maintain adequate drag on the reel for the fight. Give and take and let your rod do most of the work. They were designed for that purpose.

The 90 degree rule is from the rod butt to the fish. This keeps the rod from damage and put the rod where the tip is able to take the shock of a sudden run or change of direction.

Landing: If terrain permits you can beach the fish if you plan on keeping the game, if not then the net will be needed. If netting the fish, I usually take the rod in one hand once I have control of the fish, and push the rod back away from me while I dip down and net the fish in front of me with the other hand. This allows you to maintain that 90 degree rule or angle with the fish without putting undue stress on the rod.

Releasing: It may take some time to revive the fish after capture. Maybe longer than the time it took you to catch the fish. Try to keep the fish in the water as much as possible. Do not over do the picture session if so inclined. Work the fish back and forth in the water until the fish is revived and has enough strength to swim away from you on it's own power.

6) You encounter another fisher what do you do?

They are:

A) Standing watching a run: Move down or upstream giving him or her plenty of water to fish without disturbing their waters being fished. They were there first so they have water rights. You need to respect their space and the fact that they were there first.

B) Walking down stream. If I am fishing upstream I have right of way. Those fishing downstream should leave the water a good distance upstream from me and walk downstream a good distance away from the bank to a good distance downstream from where they can then enter the water. If I am downstream fishing and not moving fast enough for them, they need to leave the water and move downstream to a decent amount of distance and re-enter the water. However they should let me know out of courtesy that they are moving downstream from my position.

C) Making repeated cast on a Riff. As above, exit the water and move down river or up river accordingly and enter at a good distance so as not to disturb the anglers waters.

Note: Steelhead fishing as an example: Usually downstream deep water fishing, Normally in a river setting if wide enough you can fish a stretch of water that many anglers want to fish. Under these condition it is traditional for a lot of anglers to line up in the river and make a cast and fish out the cast, and then take a step or two down river to make your next cast. They do this until they fish out the stretch of water. This is the process for all the anglers in that stretch of the water. Once you have fished through the section you can move back upstream to the starting point and fish the section again and again during a day of fishing. It is considered poor etiquette to stay in one spot for more than one cast. You should make your cast and move on down the river so other anglers to have a chance. Just thought this may be of interest.

D) Fighting a fish. If you are in an area where another angler above or below you is fighting a fish. You should reel in your line and exit the water until the fish has been landed. Once landed you can return to the water where you were locate and continue your trip down or up river or stream.

Note: with the example above for Steelhead fishing the person that catches a fish has to exit the water and take care of his game. Once he has left the water with a fish he or she can not enter the river again to fish. Etiquette dictates that they should return to the starting place in the river stretch and wait their turn to fish the waters again. However if they lose the fish in the fight they do not lose their place in the river. They may return and fish out the waters at their original position in the river.

All the best - Gary Davison

Editor's Note: I just finished my steelhead guiding season on the Bulkley River. We experienced severe crowding and crowding usually brings out bad manners and bad etiquette on the river - I couldn't resist including this one. *Denise*

Pearl #3 - On the new MCI exam....

From Gordy - One of our MCCI candidates has asked whether the fact that he'd never done any salt water skiff fishing would be held against him even though he had learned to perform the required salt water "quick cast".

This question speaks to the philosophy behind the exam as well as an understanding of what we expect in a Master. My answer, below:

It should NOT be held against you. Many Masters have never even been on the deck of a flats skiff. The idea is to have you be familiar with the casting mechanics and the fishing principles and tackle involved.

WHY? So that you could teach it to one of your students who requests advice before going on a trip where it would be used. That's what a Master is..... someone with intimate knowledge of the fly fishing which he does most as well as a *basic* knowledge of all fly fishing ... an instructor to whom other instructors can turn for advice. One who will not know all the answers, but who knows where and how to find them.

By the same token, I would not expect an MCCI candidate to know the intricacies of speycasting if I knew he'd never been in a fishing situation where this was used. only the very basics and principles. The exam requires explanation and demonstrations of single Spey and Double Speycasts and the knowledge as to when to use them with respect to river bank and wind. I wouldn't ask things like the details of Spey lines, the Perry Poke, the Snap-T or even variations of the Snake Roll.

If I examine a candidate who does almost all of his fishing in salt water, I'll still expect him to know the basics of stream fishing and the casts which this venue demands.... but not the fine details which would probably be known only to one who has spent many hours and years on the trout stream. I wouldn't, for example, expect this candidate to know the details of the life cycles of stream insect life or the details of "high-sticking" techniques for nymph fishing in pocket water.

WE TRY TO KEEP IT AS FAIR AS POSSIBLE.

Gordy's answer led to this further questioning .by another person. Read on.....

From Ralph Tomaccio.....I'm glad this question came up.

Your philosophy in what you feel a MCI candidate should know/do regarding areas of fly fishing the candidate has not participated in is very fair. Since there is no set list of questions in the MCI testing process, and examiners can ask whatever they want of the candidate, how likely is it that other examiners will share your philosophy to the same degree ?

Lead examiners will differ in many ways. I know them all and feel that basically they feel the same way. Of course, the examiners may go beyond your knowledge of any one kind of fly fishing. At that point, a good candidate will usually indicate that and qualify his answer or let the examiners know where he/she would go to find out the information.

The **BASICS** of each kind of fly fishing should be expected knowledge.
Here is what **NOT** to do:

A candidate who did trout as well as salt water fishing was asked to describe a basic trout leader. His answer: "I don't know. I buy all my leaders ready made." He was then asked how he would answer that if his student asked him. His answer: "I'd send him to the fly shop to learn that." G.

Is the candidate asked his/her experience prior to testing to help determine the types of questions to be asked? i.e. if one of the examiners is a specialist in speycasting, and my experience is very limited in spey, wouldn't that examiner have higher expectations of the candidate regarding spey and, therefore, ask more spey-type questions and/or expect a higher degree of speycasting ability than an examiner that has spent most of their time in small streams?

This is up to the lead examiner. I would expect, however, that it would not be omitted. In the rare instance where that might occur, a well versed candidate can certainly make that clear. G.

Please do not misunderstand my concern of the above. I want to know as much as I possibly can about all types of fly fishing to be as well rounded as possible. But, I also don't like surprises and would like to possess a good understanding of the process. To me, fully knowing what is expected is part of being prepared.

No one likes surprises when being examined. Having said that, however, a true master should be able to handle questions which are way off the beaten track like, "TELL ME HOW TO FILET A SALMON". The examiner might throw in a question like that to see how you would handle it in real life if one of your students or a CCI asked you that. G.

Regarding the non-marking of lines that would aid in the distance requirements, I agree this should not be done. But, is marking the line to indicate head length, which is something that is generally recommended, also forbidden?

No. We agreed that placing a mark at the base of the head would not be disallowed. (We felt that wouldn't assist the caster with accuracy). G.

Thanks - Ralph.