

The Loop

The Federation of Fly Fishers Journal for Certified Casting Instructors Spring 2000

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

by the Editor

The Board of Governors has been working on three fronts to improve the basic instructor certification program. First, it has standardized the certifiers' expectations on the teaching/performance test. Second, it is developing new written test questions. Third, it is working to make the required teaching workshop somewhat more consistent from one certifier to another. An update on the new test questions and the teaching workshop will appear in subsequent issues of *The Loop*.

The BOG has developed a standardized list of expectations to help Governors and Masters more accurately and consistently judge an applicant's casting and teaching ability. The list is expected to be adopted with few if any changes at the BOG's annual meeting in August. This list—minus the explanations in Tasks 17-24—will be made available to applicants when they register for the test. This will better enable them to judge their own skills and prepare accordingly. The expectations are published here to provide readers of *The Loop* with a point of reference to assess their own casting/teaching skills.

Certifiers' Expectations on the Basic Performance Test

Task #1 Demonstrate a minimum of six casts with controlled narrow loops on both the forward and backcast at 35 - 40'

1) The demonstration will be done with one hand only. 2) The cast will show good symmetry of front and back loops with loops approximately 2 feet wide. 3) There are to be no tailing loops, front or back, with perhaps the exception on the pick up. 4) The cast will be done slowly enough to allow the observer a good view of the cast.

Task #2 Demonstrate very wide loops on the forward cast on command

1) This task requires the caster to produce a very wide loop which easily exceeds four feet wide. 2) The demonstration will be done with one hand only.

Task #3 Demonstrate tailing loops on the forward cast on command

1) The caster is informed on which cast the tailing is to occur, saying for example, "... after two good loops I want you to follow with a tail on the third. 2) The cast should be made with one hand only. 3) The cast should be made slowly and the tail of the loop should drop down and cross the line far enough to be easily seen.

Task #4 Reach cast left at 35-40'

1) At the end of the cast the line from the rod tip to the fly should be straight and the rod itself should be almost parallel to the flow of the water. 2) The candidate should be able to slip line or not slip line during the cast if requested to do so.

Task #5 Reach cast right at 35 - 40'

Same as above.

Task #6 Side arm cast at 35-40' (at an angle of 45 degrees from the vertical or greater)

1) The rod is to be tilted approximately 45 degrees. 2) There should be no tailing loops after the initial pick up. 3) The loops, front and back, should be approximately three feet or less.

Task #7 Pile cast at 35-40' or greater (high trajectory forward cast, with slack line presentation)

1) The cast needs have high forward trajectory with slack line presentation. 2) "Make it higher" is the only prompt to be given.

Task #8 Demonstrate slow, medium and fast false casting at 35-40' on command

1) The difference between casts must be easily seen. 2) No tailing loops after the initial pick up. 3) The cast is to be performed using one hand only.

(continued on next page)

Roll cast: (Consideration may be given if casts are not performed on water. In all cases, the caster must demonstrate the correct form.)

Task #9 Demonstrate normal roll cast at 40' with leader straightening completely

1) The cast must produce a narrow delivery loop generally no higher than the caster's head. 2) Under normal casting conditions on the water, the cast should straighten the leader. 3) The cast is to be performed using one hand only and show proper form.

Task #10 The same as above over opposite shoulder
The same as above.

Task # 11 Demonstrate wide loop roll cast to 40'

1) Loops of the cast to be generally greater than 5 feet and have a circular shape. 2) The cast is to be made using one hand only.

Task #12 Demonstrate narrow loop roll cast to 40'

1) The loop is to be approximately 2 feet or less and have an oval or elliptical shape. 2) The cast is to be made using one hand only.

Task #13 False cast 5-6 times using rod hand only (no double hauling). Present the fly accurately to targets at 20, 30 and 45'

1) The caster must present the fly within approximately 15 inches of a target point, i.e. a coke can or stick marker, or within a 30-inch ring. 2) Six casts are allowed in each attempt to score all three targets in a sequence. 3) Only three attempts are allowed.

Task #14 The same as above over the opposite shoulder

Lenient with regards to casting style, but performance standards remain the same as above.

Task #15 Roll cast to a target at 45-50' (Must land close within 3 roll casts)

Fly to land within approximately 15 inches of a target point or within a 30-inch ring.

Task #16 Demonstrate continuous double haul casting. Make 6-8 false casts at 45-50'

1) No tailing loops allowed in a passing sequence of 6-8 casts. 2) No more than 3 attempts to produce a passing sequence.

Task #17 Demonstrate a distance cast to a minimum of 75'

1) Required distance to be achieved without a tailing loop. 2) No more than 3 attempts to make the cast are allowed.

Task #18 Explain and demonstrate how to cast narrow to wide loops

1) The demonstration must be consistent with the instruc-

tions given in the "How to" explanation and produce the wide and narrow loops called for. 2) The path of the rod tip during the power phase of the casting stroke should be included in the explanation as well as the action of the caster that causes the loop size to change. 3) The explanation needs to be simple and short but the candidate needs to be prepared to expand upon the explanation if requested to do so.

Task #19 Explain and demonstrate the cause and correction of tailing loops

1) The explanation must be consistent with the instructions given in the "How to" explanation and produce the tailing loop required. 2) The concave or dipping path of the rod tip should be included in any explanation as should the action of the caster that causes the line to dip. 3) The explanation should be short and simple but the candidate should be prepared to expand upon the explanation if requested to do so.

Task #20 Explain rod loading

The elements of rod loading to be considered in the explanation should include: 1) How line weight and air/water resistance act to bend the rod during acceleration and 2) How the energy thus stored is later used to help cast the line.

Task #21 Explain and demonstrate the casting stroke as it relates to changes in distance

1) The demonstration given must be consistent with the given explanation and clearly show the required changes. 2) The concept here is that, in general, the longer the cast the longer the casting stroke.

Task #22 Explain and demonstrate good "timing" when false casting

1) The explanation should include the idea that timing is good when the pause between casts is long enough to allow the line to straighten fully without losing its tension and falling dramatically in the process. 2) As with other "explain and demonstrate" test items, the demonstration must be consistent with the explanation and produce the desired results each time performed.

Task #23 Explain and demonstrate casting into a head wind

1) The explanation given must mention casting a tight loop aimed close to the water. 2) In addition, increasing line speed (adding extra power) and casting with a high angle (from high on backcast to low on the forward cast) can also be expected in the complete explanation.

Task #24 Explain and demonstrate casting with a cross wind blowing into the casting side

1) The notion that the wind can cause the line to drift into the caster must be included in the explanation. At least one of several possible solutions must also be included. Possible

solutions include the following:

- * Pick up on the windward side but change to the lee side for the forward cast.
- * Cast only on the lee side of the body using the alternate hand or casting backhand.

INVITATION TO ALL

What: Cast-Around with the Board of Governors
Who: All casting instructors (certified or not)
When: Tuesday, August 1
Time: 3-5pm
Where: International Fly Fishing Show in Livingston, Montana

Bring your rod and join us for an afternoon - cast a line and share ideas with some of the finest instructors anywhere. Become better acquainted with the casting styles of your fellow instructors.

INSTRUCTOR COURSES AT LIVINGSTON

Look for the registration form in the spring Flyfisher for the International Fly Fishing Show in Livingston, Montana.

INSTRUCTION FOR INSTRUCTORS with Joan Wulff assisted by Floyd Franke and John Gayewski: The basic mechanics - order, points on which to focus and hands-on applications. Must have teaching experience.

HOW TO TEACH FLY CASTING BETTER with Bruce Richards: This course will teach you how to analyze casting flaws and effectively correct them. Logical, step-by-step approach that makes accurate analysis and correction of all casting flaws simple. Proven technique provides instructor with instructional guideline to follow, and the student concise logical instruction. This class is for current instructors or those who intend to certify in the near future.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A FLY CASTING INSTRUCTOR with John Van Dalen: Here's a great opportunity to learn teaching techniques from a member of our Casting Board of Governors who has been instructing instructors for many years.

BASIC CERTIFICATION PREPARATION (two hours) with Tom White



NEW MASTER INSTRUCTOR

Alex Siemers - California
Dusty Sprague - Colorado

COMING EVENTS

Pre-registration is REQUIRED!
Contact Evelyn Taylor at (406) 585-7592

Gatlinburg, Tenn - June 2; SEC Conclave; Basic with Wanda & Gary Taylor, David Diaz/Tom Broderidge must preregister by May 25

Grayling, Mich - June 17; GLC Conclave; Basic with John Van Dalen, Bob Braendle/Dave Leonhard; must preregister by June 9

Livingston, Montana - June 17; Basic with Rod Walinchus; must preregister by June 9

Livingston, Montana - August 2 & 3; International Fly Fishing Show; Masters & Basic; must preregister by July 25

Mountain Home, Arkansas - October 7 (tentative date); SOC Conclave; Basic; must preregister by Sept 28

Cape Cod, Mass - October 28; Basic with Macauley Lord & Floyd Franke; must preregister by Oct 19



THE LOOP STAFF

Editor: Macauley Lord, macauley@ime.net; (207) 729-3737
Loop Layout & Program Coordinator: Evelyn Taylor, castingcert@fedflyfishers.org; (406) 585-7592
Chair, Board of Governors: Floyd Franke, ephemera@wpe.com; (607) 498-4508;
FFF Webmaster: Jim Abbs, webkeeper@fedflyfishers.org

YOU CAN HAVE A LINK from your FFF Website listing to your own Website or E-mail address. Contact Jim Abbs (see above).

We welcome your submissions via E-mail, fax, or disk. Please attach a short instructor bio (1-3 sentences), including your location and Certification level. Please indicate whether or not you are willing to allow for your submission's possible re-publication on the Program's Website. Any illustrations should be in TIFF format. The Loop reserves the right to accept or decline any submission for any reason, and to edit any submission as it sees fit. All submissions should be sent to the National Office:

FFF Casting Program
P.O. Box 1595
Bozeman, MT 59771
(406) 585-7596 Fax

E-mail: castingcert@fedflyfishers.org
Web: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/castingcert.shtml>

The Loop is the quarterly publication of the FFF Board of Governors for Casting Instructor Certification.

UNDERSTANDING SOME CASTING FUNDAMENTALS

By the Editor

These questions, some simple, some provocative, are intended to test your understanding of the cast. Answers will appear in the next Loop.

1. After you stop the rod and the loop is on its way, is the rod loaded or unloaded?
2. In one sentence, how does the path of the rod tip affect the size of the loop?
3. One of the following statements is incorrect. Which one?
 - “In a simple overhead cast, the rod should move in a straight line.”
 - “In a simple overhead cast, the rod should move in a single plane.”
4. In one sentence, how should the caster apply power to form a tight loop?
5. Your beginner appears to be doing almost everything right—he is moving the rod through a short arc with clear stops, he is not “wristing”—but he is casting wide loops. How is he doing it?
6. When practicing a 40-foot cast with a modern 6-weight graphite rod, a floating line, a tapered leader to match, and a yarn fly, should you feel the line tug as it turns over at the end of your backcast?
7. To cast the line down on the forward cast, you must cast the line ____ on the backcast.
8. A tailing loop always results from the rod tip traveling in a _____ path.
9. In one sentence, how do most casters of tailing loops make the tip travel in such a path?
10. Should the length of the stroke vary with the length of the cast?
11. To get the most from double hauling, must the length of the haul vary with the length of the cast?
12. True or False? It is easier to make a long cast with a long haul than with a short haul.
13. When double hauling, should the speed of the haul vary with the length of the cast?
14. When double hauling, should the speed of the rod vary with the length of the cast?



FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS
Fly Casting Instructor Certification Program
P.O. Box 1595
Bozeman, MT 59771

Address Service Requested