

The Loop

The Federation of Fly Fishers Journal for Certified Casting Instructors Late Summer 2001

THREE NEW CASTING GAMES FROM JIM GREEN

Jim writes:

- Casting games and competitions should be fun and they should teach fly casting techniques.
- The tackle used should be restricted to true modern equipment that is popular for actual fishing.
- **In any fly casting distance game, everyone should use the same line.** [It is easiest if there is just one line and reel for all to use.] This would cause no one to be disadvantaged for lack of a heavier line, a longer shooting head or a thinner shooting line.

Today's games are good, but in most cases the equipment used does not represent the modern fishing tackle used today. In order to make fly casting games popular, we should restrict the rules so we use truly modern and popular fly fishing tackle.

Each year in Asotin, Washington, we hold spey casting games as well as single-handed distance and trout fly accuracy games. We have tremendous fun and exchange casting techniques and equipment ideas. In my eyes, it would be wonderful if the FFF would adopt new actual fishing tackle games. All the various fly casting clubs could host these games and have really fun competition. I wish us success in this great endeavor.

Good casting,
Jim Green

Trout Fly Angling Accuracy

Targets – five targets [Hula Hoops or 30" ACA] , spread from 20 feet to 50 feet.

Rod – no longer than 9 ½ feet.

Line – no heavier than 5-weight.

Leader – at least 9 feet long.

Fly – official yellow dry fly.

Method of casting:

1. False cast and present fly to the 20-foot target.
2. False cast and mend the line in the air to the left so the tip top moves at least 4 feet. Present the fly to the 2nd target for the score.
3. False cast and mend the line in the air to the right so the tip top moves at least 4 feet. Present the fly to the 3rd target for the score.
4. False cast and place the fly at the approximate distance of the 50-foot target. Pick up the line, and without stripping in line, make one false cast and bounce the fly back toward you, presenting the fly to the 4th target for the score.
5. False cast and wiggle the rod to make a snake cast, presenting the fly to the 5th target for the score.

Retrieve in the line and repeat the procedure, making a total of 10 casts.

Scoring

Start with 100 points. If all 10 casts hit their target, you get 100, a perfect score. If the target is missed by 1 foot or less, you get one demerit. If you miss by more than 1 foot and up to 2 feet, you get 2 demerits. Miss by more than 2 feet and you get 3 demerits. Miss by 11 feet and you still get 3 demerits.

Single-Handed Fly Angling Distance

Rod - no longer than 9½ feet.

Line – WF-8-F or shooting head; the weight-forward head or shooting head may be no longer than 40 feet.

The shooting line may be no smaller than .020 inches and may be made of monofilament.

Special Rule - Contestants may use their own rod but everyone must use the **same line**.

Leader – at least 9 feet long.

Fly - #4 yellow or orange wet fly streamer.

Scoring - 5 casts with no practice cast. Longest cast for score.

Two-Handed Overhead Angling Distance

Rod - no longer than 15 feet.

Line - floating weight forward or shooting head. 12-weight to 15-weight recommended. WF or shooting head no longer than 50 feet.

Shooting line - no smaller than .020 inches. Monofilament may be used.

Special Rule - Contestants may use their own rod but everyone must use the **same line**.

Leader - at least 12 feet.

Fly - #4 yellow or orange wet fly streamer.

Scoring - 5 casts, no practice cast. Longest cast for score.

Jim Green, the dean of West Coast casting instructors, is an emeritus member of the Board of Governors and was one of its founding members. He designed the casting games--trout fly accuracy, bass bug accuracy and anglers distance fly--that are used by the American Casting Association as well as by the FFF at the national show. The games in Asotin, Washington, are named the Jim Green Casting Games.

THE LOOP LIBRARY

"The Seven Stances." Excerpted from "Jason Borger's Nature of Fly Casting--a modular approach" (2001, Shadow Caster Press, <http://www.jasonborger.com>, 800-247-6553).

I have assembled a set of seven stances that cover a huge range of possible real-world requirements. Not surprisingly, I refer to them as the Seven Stances....Stance One has already been touched on previously: When solely practicing your FCS [Foundation Casting Stroke], it is wise to always stand the same way (left or right forward, or however you prefer). The idea is that you do not want any differences creeping in when you are trying to work on the core skill for all other casts. Stance Two involves standing with your opposite foot forward (trains you for other upright possibilities). Stance Three will find you sitting in a chair and casting (good training for boat seats and float tubes). Then comes Stance Four--kneeling down and casting (sets you up for being able to present a fly from behind cover or just low to the water). For some added spice stand up and get into Stance Five--casting with one foot, and then the other, up on that chair left over from Stance Three (trains you for awkward positions, like stepping onto logs and boulders). Stance Six: Cast 180 degrees from left to right without moving your legs--the Casting Circle from Chapter Two (more awkwardness-training, especially good for drift boats and skiffs). Then for Stance Seven, try walking (forward and backward and side-to-side) and casting at the same time (if the fish are moving, you cannot always be standing still). There you have the Seven Stances--effective training for a wide variety of situations.

Jason Borger is a member of the Board of Governors.

CASTING FOR GOLDEN MANTLED GROUND

SQUIRRELS

By Howard Sloan

When I was first learning to use a fly rod, I spent a few days alone at a campground along a small Colorado stream. Having spent the morning on the water and catching every piece of vegetation in sight and seldom finding the water, I resigned myself to going back to camp to practice in the middle of the road.

After cutting off my fly and leader, I was false casting in the middle of the road when I noticed five ground squirrels trying every trick to get into my food bag. I moved closer and started landing the fly line close to or on top of the squirrels. They would jump straight up in the air, hit the ground running, stop a short distance away, chatter for 45 seconds and head right back to the food bag. They never caught on and continued all afternoon. I made myself move around among the trees and learned quite a bit about how to watch my back cast. Sometimes, I'd face a small opening with my forward cast then lay the fly line down with the back cast. I even started to experiment with a steeple cast.

My casting was much better at the end of the day, and my stomach sore from laughing at the squirrel antics. I have since done this many times and it can sometimes be more fun than fishing.

Howard Sloan is Virtual Flyshop's Marketing Director. He lives in Pine, Colorado, surrounded by hungry, emotionally scarred squirrels.



AN IDEA FOR A FLYCASTING CHALLENGE

By Jim Fawcett

A team or group should get permission from a local school board to use the town football or soccer field--preferably a course with 10-yard marking stripes. The course consists of 10 targets along the 100 yard field, each being a different type of casting challenge. Equipment needed would be large and small hoops, some stakes, a chair, a bucket, and something to serve as a backboard. There would be no time limit and unlimited false casts, with the last cast being the field goal. Score one point for each target hit. Go through once with dominant hand and a second time through with the other hand. A perfect score is 20 points. A shoot-out in case of a tie could be a double haul through the uprights from 80' away. (Please see the opposite page).

To vary the casting challenge, I would use the 6 different presentations interspersed with traditional accuracy casts to hoops. I'm sure other challenging casts could be devised but this is a beginning. Perhaps teams and leagues could be formed or maybe you and some friends could just get together on a Tuesday evening for some fun and practice. Most of all, let's keep it fun.

Jim Fawcett is a Certified Casting Instructor from Poland Spring, Maine. He teaches for the L. L. Bean Fly Fishing Schools.

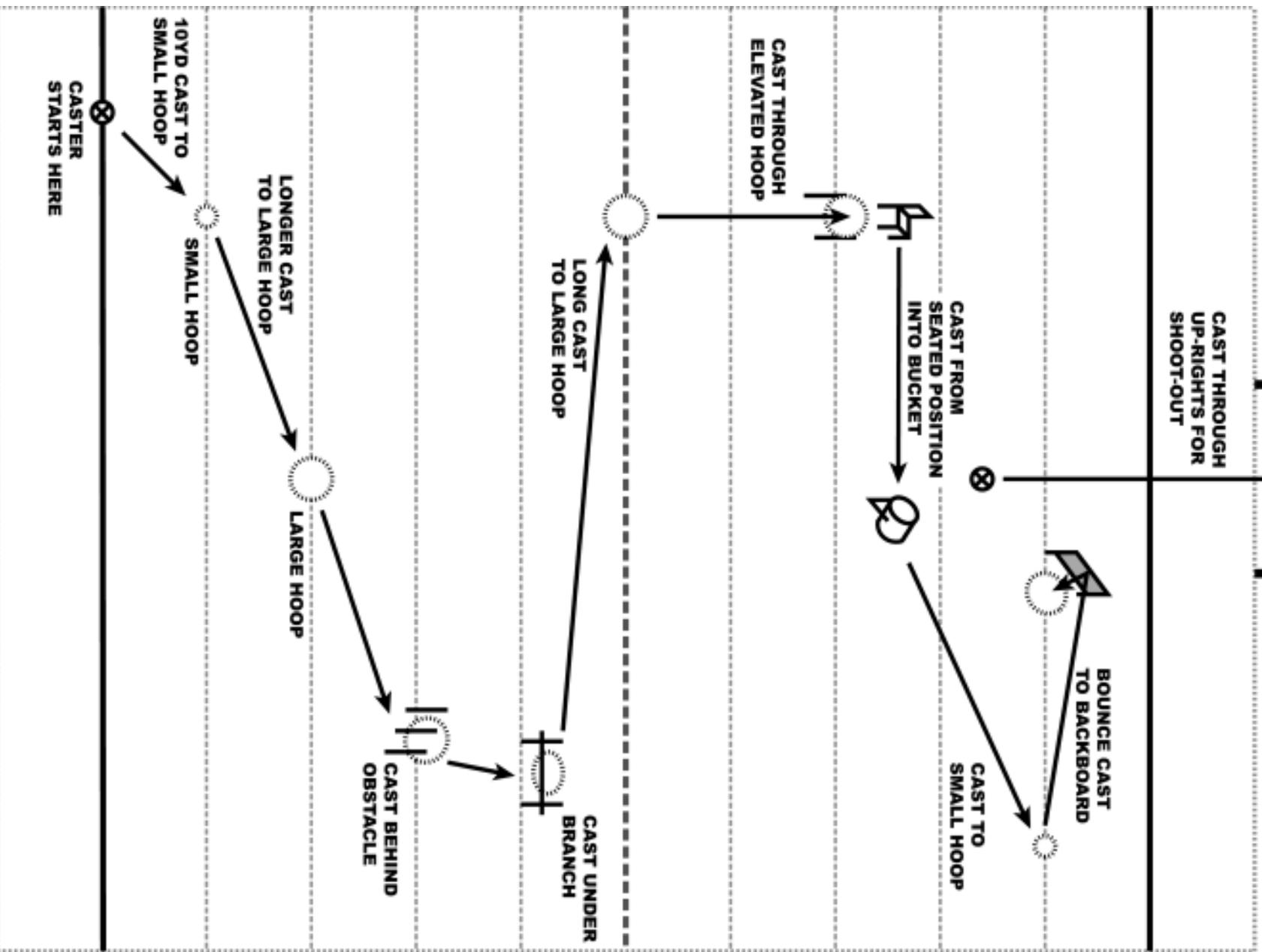


Illustration by Jason Berger

DANISH FLY CASTING: A NEW CASTING GAME

by Floyd Franke

Welcome to the new and exciting world of Danish Fly Casting. The name serves to honor Poul Jorgensen who has lobbied long and hard for an obstacle course for fly casters. The course described here was designed by Poul in collaboration with Floyd Franke, and was constructed by the Beamoc Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

The course consists of nine casting stations, each presenting a casting challenge. The object of the game is to get the fly in the ring (36" ring) in the least number of casts.

Although in general, there are no restrictions on equipment, specific restrictions may be imposed at the discretion of the sponsors. As a safety precaution, the **use of the hook is prohibited** unless both point and barb have been removed. A small yarn fly will do quite nicely.

Begin your casting at Station #1, proceed to Station #2 then #3, and so on until you've cast at all nine stations. To score, add 1 demerit for each unsuccessful cast. Maximum for any one station is 10 demerits.

Remember, the real object of the game is to **have fun!**

Station #1 - Moon Shot

The casting ring is anchored to the ground 100 feet from the station. Cast to the ring. If unsuccessful, walk to where the fly landed and continue casting from that spot to the target. Repeat until the fly lands in the ring.

Scoring: Add 1 demerit for each unsuccessful cast.

Station #2 - Tight Loop

The casting ring is suspended 5 feet above the ground and 35 feet from the station. To score, the fly must pass through the ring and remain on the side away from the station (not pulled out of the ring) when all the cast line comes to rest on the ground.

Scoring: Add 1 demerit for each unsuccessful cast.

Station #3 - Limbo

The casting ring is anchored to the ground 35 feet from the station. 3 feet in front of the ring is a horizontal hazard suspended 3 feet off the ground. To score, the fly must pass under the hazard and land in the ring.

Scoring: Add 1 demerit for each unsuccessful cast.

Station #4 - Ambidextrous

The casting ring is anchored to the ground 35 feet from the station. To score, the caster must place the fly in the ring twice: once casting with the right hand, once casting with the left hand.

Scoring: Add 1 demerit for each unsuccessful cast.

Station #5 - Vespers

The casting ring is anchored to the ground 30 feet from the station. With both knees in contact with the ground, the caster must place the fly inside the ring.

Scoring: Add 1 demerit for each unsuccessful cast.

Station #6 - Up Tight

The casting ring is anchored to the ground 35 feet from the station. 5 feet behind the station is a hazard to limit the caster's backcast. To score, the fly must fall inside the ring.

Scoring: Add 1 demerit for each unsuccessful cast. Add 1 additional demerit if the fly is broken off or becomes lodged in the hazard.

Station #7 - Straight & Narrow

The casting ring is anchored to the ground 40 feet from the station with barriers on each side of the approach. To score, the fly must land inside the ring without any line falling outside the barriers that border the approach.

Scoring: Add 1 demerit for each unsuccessful cast.

Station #8 - Double Trouble

The casting ring is anchored to the ground 35 feet from the station. To prevent a straightforward cast, a hazard is placed 4 feet in front of the ring. To score, the caster must place the fly in the ring twice; casting around the hazard first to one side then the other. Both right and left curve casts must be made without changing the casting hand.

Scoring: Add 1 demerit for each unsuccessful cast.

Station #9 - Waterhole

A floating casting ring is anchored in the water 50 feet from the shoreline station. To score, the caster snakes out line on the water and roll casts to place the fly in the ring.

Scoring: Add 1 demerit for each unsuccessful cast.

Floyd Franke amiably chairs the Board of Governors, which is no small feat. He has won countless fly tying competitions and has taught at the Wulff Schools for 13 years.



Attention all BOGs and Master Instructors

Statement Regarding Casting Instructor Certifications in Europe or of Europeans

The Federation of Fly Fishers has a signed contract (Affiliation Agreement dated 5 August 1998) with our affiliate, the "FFF-Europe Casting Instructor Certification Program," Gunter Feuerstein of Switzerland, Coordinator. This program was initiated during the period when the FFF sponsored a broad-based European Coalition of fly fishing clubs

from a number of European Countries. The specific entity FFF-Europe has been abolished but the casting program it started still continues.

Our contractual obligation specifically states that the FFF-US Certification Program will not certify anyone in Europe, their exclusive area. Persons who were previously certified in Europe by our USA standards will not be recognized in Europe unless they take the European performance tests. Our FFF legal advisor states that individuals must register with the national office to take the US Certification. The problem is solved by the national office either not accepting registrations from Europeans or making it clear to them that the certification is only valid for use outside Europe and that they must obtain the additional European certification for recognition in Europe.

It is important that the FFF Casting Instructor Certification Program Board of Governors and all Masters be reminded of this policy.



NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

By The Editor

Floyd Franke presided over a spirited annual meeting of the Board of Governors at the National Show in Livingston. Here are some of the highlights:

There will be a stand-alone Spey Casting Instructor certification by 2003, with the goal of incorporating a significant Spey component into the two existing tests by 2005. All Governors are expected to expedite the honing of their personal Spey casting skills. Only Governors certified in Spey casting by the Board will be able to test Spey Instructors. Members of the Spey Casting Committee were, Mel Krieger-Chairman, Denise Maxwell and Dennis Grant.

The current written test has been improved. John Van Dalen and Bruce Richards methodically reviewed old test questions and field tested new ones in an effort to improve the written test at the Instructor's level. Test improvements also include **alternate forms of the written test.** Some changes on the performance test are also to be expected. **Certified Casting Instructor performance tests will have comment lines incorporated into them.** The comment lines are to be used by the candidate to record any comments the certifier wishes to make. This idea comes from Joe Libeu, who wants applicants to have the written feedback for improvement when they take the performance test. You can expect another change on the performance test. **The last portion of the performance test has been re-worded from "Demonstrate and explain" to "Teach your examiner to,"** the idea being to give examiners a better understanding of the teaching skills of the applicants.

A shoulder patch, based on the preexisting instructors patch, is in the works for master instructors. The Board of Governors will get their own patch as well. Those of you who already have your master certification should see your first patch in the mail soon at no cost, as will governors.

Additional patches - whether for instructor, master instructor or governor - will be available for a small fee from program coordinator Evelyn Taylor in the FFF Bozeman office.

A decal and poster have been developed for display by shops that have Certified Casting Instructors on staff.

It was designed to promote awareness of the FFF instructor certification program. Allan Rohrer, John VanDerHoof and the Southwest Council led this effort.

All Masters are invited to observe the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors. In an effort to better acquaint Masters with the operations of the Board, all Masters will be invited to observe, but not participate in, the annual meeting each year. In an effort to enlist the expertise and enthusiasm of the Masters in administering and improving the Casting Instructor Certification program, Masters will be invited to serve on special committees as the needs of the committee and individual's interests dictate.



THE LOOP STAFF

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Fly illustrations by Jason Borger

YOU CAN HAVE A LINK from your FFF Website listing to your own E-mail address. Contact Evelyn (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

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Web: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/castingcert.shtml>

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

COMING EVENTS

Pre-registration is REQUIRED!

Contact Evelyn Taylor at (406) 585-7592

Schedule subject to change

Denver, Colorado - Jan 4; The Fly Fishing Show; Master Certification prep workshop with Dusty Sprague; contact (800) 420-7582 or www.flyfishingshow.com

College Park, Maryland - Jan 12-13; The Fly Fishing Show; Certified Inst. & Masters; must preregister by Jan 4

Puyallup, Wash - Jan 24-25; O'Loughlin Trade Show; Certified Instructor & Masters; must preregister by Jan 16

Denver, Colorado - Jan 25-26; International Sportsmen's Expo; Certified Inst. & Masters; must preregister by Jan 16

Somerset, New Jersey - Jan 25-26; The Fly Fishing Show; Certified Instructor & Masters; must preregister by Jan 16

San Mateo, Calif - Jan 31-Feb 1; International Sportsmen's Expo; Certified Inst. & Masters; must preregister by Jan 23

Portland, Ore - Feb 7-8; O'Loughlin Trade Show; Certified Instructor & Masters; must preregister by Jan 31

Charlotte, N Carolina - Feb 15-16; The Fly Fishing Show; Certified Instructor & Masters; must preregister by Feb 7

Phoenix, Ariz - Mar 1-2; International Sportsmen's Expo; Certified Instructor & Masters; must preregister by Feb 22

San Rafael, Calif - Mar 2-3; The Fly Fishing Show; Certified Instructor & Masters; must preregister by Feb 22

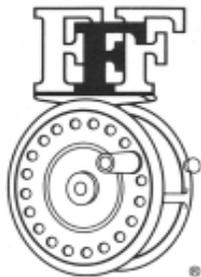
Salt Lake City, Utah - Mar 15-16; International Sportsmen's Expo; Certified Instructor & Masters; must preregister by Mar 7

New Master Instructors

John Breslin - *Illinois*

Brian Ellis - *Missouri*

Jim Rogers - *Missouri*



FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

Fly Casting Instructor Certification Program

P.O. Box 1595

Bozeman, MT 59771

Address Service Requested

