

FORWARD CASTS

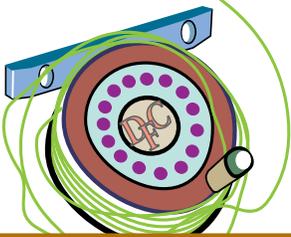
OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



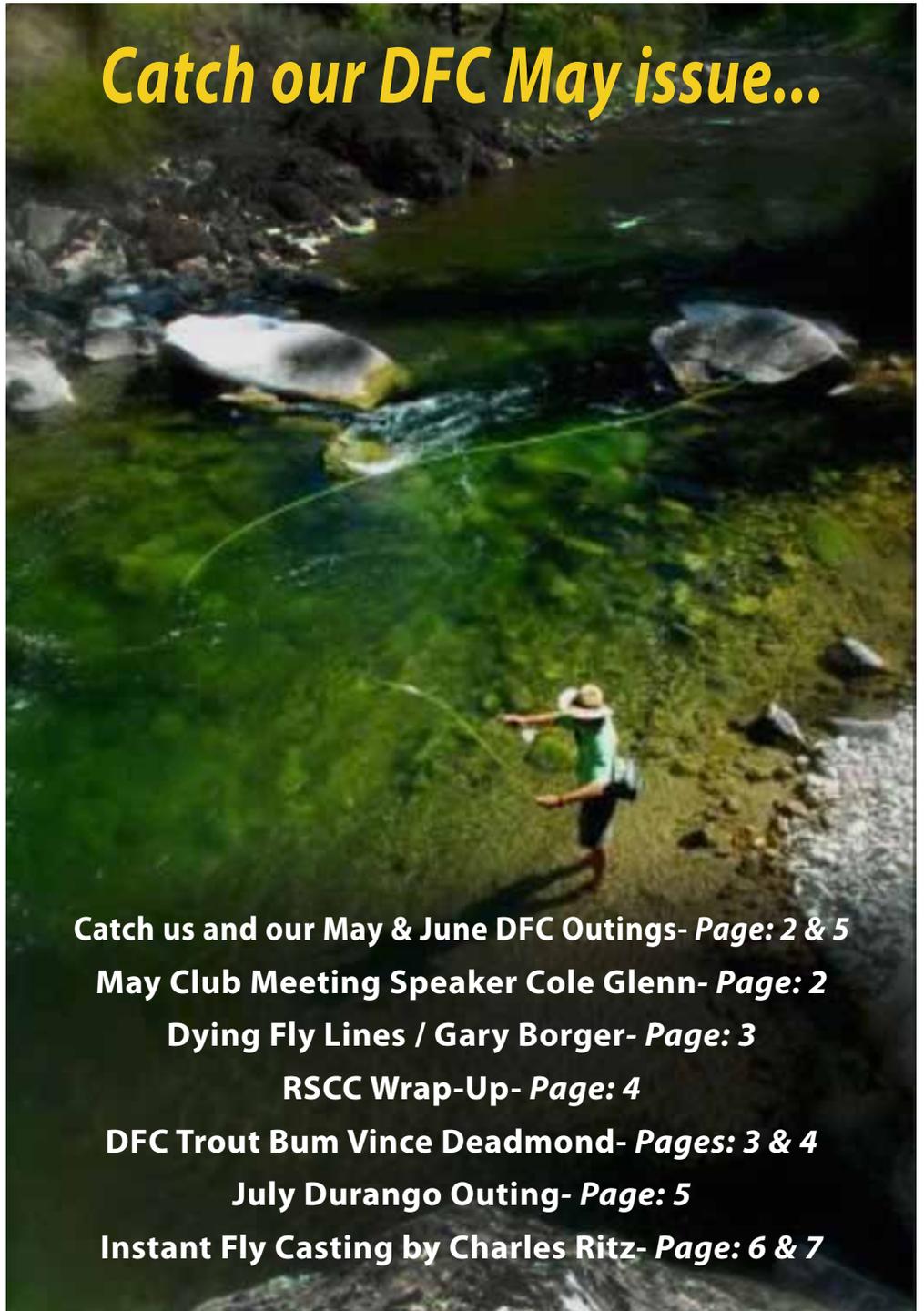
MAY
Wednesday,
May 10, 2017

Chit-Chat & Dinner: 6:00
Meeting/Guest Speaker: 7:00

Elks Lodge
1775 West Chandler Blvd.
Chandler, Arizona 85224



Catch our DFC May issue...



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DFC MISSION STATEMENT

To advance the sport of fly fishing in Arizona through education, conservation, and community outreach efforts by:

- *Providing Education classes and clinics on fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying, rod building and other associated skills*
- *Committing to conserve, restore, and enhance local and regional fisheries*
- *Making fishing approachable, enjoyable and safe in family friendly environment*
- *Promoting responsible angling practices*

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Becker Lake Semi-Hosted Outing

Friday-Sunday • May 12-14, 2017



Semi-Hosted Outing: Becker Lake

Date: Friday-Sunday, May 12-14, 2017

Fees: None

Hosted Outing Leader: Gentry Smith

Phone: 480-213-0372

Email: design@gentrysmith.com

Meeting Time: 6:00 AM or when you get there

Meeting Location: Becker Lake

Max. # Attendees: Unlimited!

White Mountain Extravaganza

Big Lake

Thursday-Sunday • June 15-18, 2017



DFC Trout Bum Host: Linda McAteer
460-658-6154 • lmcateer60@gmail.com

Lodging: Group Camping

Cost: \$45.00- weekend

Notes: Group Saturday night; please bring a side dish to share.

Fishing/Tackle: 4-6 wt. rods - Floating, intermediate, sinking...Waders- Personal Flotation device....Patterns: Semi seal leeches • midges • hoppers Prince & Damsel nymphs • Hare's ears • Pheasant tails

DFC CLUB MEETING: MAY 10, 2017



COLE GLENN

**San Juan Wade Guide
& Colorado Guide**

COLE GLENN will take you on important parts of the San Juan & Local Durango waters to fly fish. Come along with the rest of the DFC gang and check out his secrets and knowledge of such rivers that beckon all of us to trip west from our home waters.

Take the opportunity... arrive early, treat yourself with a one-on-one chat with Cole before our meeting.

Come meet-up with us Trout Bums...6:00 Dinner... 7:00 Club Meeting, followed by your monthly program along with fun and raffle prizes!



PIKE PARADE



by Vince Deadmond

If you have been wondering if you should go Pike fishing, the answer is yes. Joe Staller, Grant Berkowitz, and I fished Upper Lake Mary near Flagstaff, Arizona in late April. We had Pike eating our flies, and managed to land some of them. They do have a hard and bony mouth, and if you land half of what you hook you are having a good day. While Pike are not picky eaters our most popular flies eaten were red/white, black, red/yellow. My flies were tied on a 5/0 hook and ended up being about 8 inches long with a good amount of flash tied in with the buck tail. I like to use my 8 weight for casting these large flies.

We didn't land any monster Pike this trip, (my best was a 24 inch Pike) but the fishing is just getting started. The south end of Upper Lake Mary is a good place to start your search for Pike. I would recommend fishing out of your pontoon boat, and making casts into the shore, weed beds, and rocky shore structure. I have caught some of my best Pike in June, so the season is just getting started. You can make this a long day trip, or spending a night or two in Flagstaff can be quite pleasant when the temperatures start to climb in the valley.

I like to drive the back way up to Payson and then up the Lake Mary Road to the lake. Takes about the same amount of time but this is a more scenic drive. Vince Deadmond The Fly Fishing Hardware Guy can be reached at Best True Value Hardware 237 N. Apache Trail Apache Junction, AZ vince@ajbest.com or 480 982 7461.

Dying Fly Lines

by Gary Borger



Joshua asked about dull colored lines. During the fluorescent wave a few years back, I couldn't find lines that weren't so hot they melted the packaging they came in. So I started dying them dull colors. it's easy to do. In fact, all one needs is Rit dye. Use 2 tsp. in 2 quarts of water. Bring to a boil and turn off the heat. Toss the line in for about 15 seconds, the rinse thoroughly in cold water. Don't fasten the coils of the line with a pipe cleaner, or string or twist-em, etc. If you do you will get a tie-dyed line (I have a couple). Just leave the line in loose coils. Yes you will have to untangle it a bit after dying and rinsing in cold water, but it's easily done.

Now, about that 15 seconds. The plastics used to make the line will absorb the dye at different rates. Softer plastics take the dye up significantly faster than hard plastics (stiffer—as in salt water lines). So, test the line first—no not that end, dip the back end of the running line in first to get the correct timing. Or, use an old line of the same color and plastic. For most lines the timing is about 15 seconds. Too much and the line will be black—hard to see at any time.

My favorite is to dye a bright yellow line with olive Rit and get an olive yellow line. It disappears against the leaves, but is easy to see on the water. Almost no flash. Dye an orange line with olive and get brown. A white line can be dyed any color you like. Want to dye a “camo” line? OK, coil the line in 18-inch long lengths (the diameter of the coil will be about 6-inches). Hold the coiled line and dip a portion in one color dye. Then dip an undyed section in another color, then a third undyed section in a third color, etc. yellow, olive, and brown make a great “camo” combo—dye a yellow line with olive and then brown, leaving the third section undyed.

(photo-top left) The brown line on the left was orange like the one on the right. The olive yellow line—second from left was a bright yellow line—second from the right. Both were dyed with olive Rit. The white line can be dyed a variety of colors.

“If you have never picked up a fly rod before, you will soon find it factually and theologically true that man by nature is a damn mess.”

Norman Maclean

MEDIOCRE FISHING & WEAVER DOES IT AGAIN...



by
**Vince
Deadmond**

It was dark and the stars were twinkling brightly above the slumbering Playa de Oro Trailer Park, the eastern sky had just started to show some pink and blue color. The older guys in the fly club were washing down their meds with a cup of coffee and a bagel. Yep, we were getting ready for another attempt at La Pinta (the Second Estuary) twenty miles out of town. Even after fishing this water numerous times everyone was anticipating another grand adventure.

We had checked the tide chart and we were in a hurry to catch the outgoing tide with our pontoon boats. We had tied flies, prepared leaders, and packed lunches for a day on the water. It was about 6:30 when we passed kilometer marker 32 right before the turn off to the right on the poorly marked road to the second estuary. Fly fishers need an amazing amount of gear to catch fish, and assembling it in semi darkness is usually a challenge, especially on the first day, some of the gear is always in the wrong pocket. All of the fly fishers must have gotten the memo on having a LED hat light. Those lights are bright, light weight and a real help for setting up gear in the dark.

The tide change was not until 10:20 so we had plenty of time to survey the water on our side before crossing over to the other side of the estuary. We made a few casts from shore before we got into the pontoon boats, sometimes the shore fishing is good, but not today. It is always easier fishing to go with the tide. After we crossed the estuary we got into some Sierra Mackerel. If you are getting bit off it's

probably Mackerel and I would suggest stepping up to 30 pound fluorocarbon bite tippet, before you lose too many flies. The Mackerel quit biting after about 40 minutes of catching, but then we started catching Bone Fish. We let the tide take us almost to the Mayan Palace before it changed and started taking us back to the truck. We had five fly fishers that morning and we caught a variety of fish. Orange Mouth Corvina, Sierra Mackerel, Grouper, Cabrilla, Pompano, and Bone Fish. I think everyone caught a few fish.

It should not be a surprise when Dave Weaver one ups us on being frugal. Dave is a magician, virtuoso of retaining funds for a few more days. I managed to slip down to RP after the March outing and get into some fish in April. Gary from the Playa de Oro RV Park ask me, "Do you live close to Senior Dave Weaver?" I said "Sorta." Apparently Dave had made a correction on the check, and the bank refused payment. Gary asked, "Could you have your friend call the office." "I'll be sure to call this to his attention." I assured them.

During our spring break fly fishing outing we caught fish every day, but not in great numbers, I expect the fishing to improve as the temperatures rise. Eventually we had ten fly fishers, some good meals, and plenty of bad jokes. **Hope to see you on the water soon. Vince Deadmond the Fly Fishing Hardware Guy can be reached at Best True Value Hardware 237 N Apache Trail Apache Junction, AZ vince@ajbest.com and at 480 982 7461.**



RIO SALADO CASTING CLUB



The RSCC Meet-Up on Saturday, April 15th was sparsely attended.... BUT!!! Larry parted much knowledge on the fine art of the "Roll Cast." As it was after demonstrating that request with Trout Bum buddy, Carl Rutherford, the rest of hung with Larry... Told some stories and took turns *roll casting* my 5 wt bamboo rod. Great time! I'm sure we'll have one more RSCC Meet-Up before the hot whether sets in.

R.McKeon, Editor

ALONG THE OUTER BANKS

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DFC DURANGO TRIP



I am hosting a trip to Durango, Colorado for **the 27th through the 29th of July.**
The last trip to Durango was two years ago.

The Downton Durango Hotel has quoted a great price of \$142.00 + 10% tax on their \$200.00 a night rooms.

This is for single or double occupancy.
Guided trips are available through The San Juan Anglers, a local fly shop, in Durango.
Everything needs to be booked in advance, let me know if there is interest in this trip.

This is their peak season and these quotes are only good for 10 more days.
My phone 480-229-6393

Best regards, Bob Loughrige

INSTANT FLY CASTING

by Charles Ritz
Field & Stream • May 1976

There are many schools of thought on what makes the "perfect" combination of grip, stance, pivot and swing in fly casting. For half a century, Charles Ritz has been trying to distill the mechanics to an irreducible minimum in developing a fool-proof method of self-teaching. His method, described in the following text, is the ultimate shortcut in learning fundamentals. What makes it important is not simply its "instant" value but the fact that basic movements are mechanically sound; you won't find yourself trying to correct errors that may become habitual later on. Ritz sees a distinction between wet fly casting and dry fly casting, which is the key to his system. By eliminating the false casts that "dry the fly" or extend line in the air, the beginner can immediately feel the timing that makes for easy casting. Even if you've never held a fly rod before, the IFC method is a quick way to begin mastering a difficult art-

A.J. McClane (Editor, Field & Stream, ca 1976)

The first time you hold a fly rod, you will use it like a whip. If you learn to fly cast in that manner it will be difficult for you to overcome such motions later on. Become a fly caster now, not a fly swatter later!

The correct mechanical casting movement is to use the rod to pull the line backward and upward, and then to push forward and upward without flicking it. If you follow my advice, you can learn correct fly casting in a few hours, and you will almost be able to fish a wet fly and take your share of feeding fish.

I believe that good fly casters are those who have mastered wet fly casting before trying dry fly casting; the time required to learn Instant Fly Casting (IFC) need only be a couple of hours, whereas hundreds of hours may be necessary before learning dry fly casting correctly from the beginning. Another reason to learn wet fly casting first is that it allows you to drop the fly on the water on every cast, automatically establishing your timing by sheer repetition. In this manner the line will never drop behind you and your casting will be above average. Also, a line cast wet-fly style will always give you a high back cast, which is important.

How to start casting:

The position of your feet is very important in casting. Place your feet as shown in Illustration 1. The position of your left foot will enable you to twist your body easily to the right and allow you to watch your line and backward extension. Of course, these instructions should be reversed if you are left-handed.

The best way to hold your rod is shown in Illustration 2. Notice that the thumb is on top of the rod butt. This arm-action grip reduces wrist twist to a minimum and gives you the most efficient hand hold. Keep your thumb on top of the butt so that the flat of the reel always moves in the same plane as the rod, which is proof that the entire casting machine is working correctly.

Another thing you should realize about casting with such a grip is that it will enable you to obtain maximum power from the rod when you stop your back-cast motion at the 11 o'clock position. When you stop your arm there, the rod butt will be at 12 o'clock and the rod tip will continue back to 1 o'clock, which is the stopping point for controlling a high back cast.

Now practice this movement. Lay out 30 feet of line and keep your non-casting hand in your pants pocket. Bring the rod up smoothly but forcefully, stopping the arm movement at 11 o'clock. Watch over your shoulder and when the line is straight make your forward casting motion. Remember that if your back cast is correctly done, your forward cast will be, too. You are now using the IFC method.

The Sky Cast:

The most important part of the mechanics of Instant Fly Casting is the sky cast. Referring to the main illustration at right, you should follow this casting sequence: From the very first cast, with your arm fully stretched and holding the rod horizontally, you must raise the rod to the sky, accelerating progressively. When you reach the 11 o'clock position, block your arm movement with a jerk, which will cause the butt of the rod to stop at 12 and the tip at 1 (A). At this point let the line travel back until fully extended (B). Then pull the line forward and slightly up, applying thumb pressure and aiming at the treetops (C, D, E). Stop the rod's forward motion at 10 o'clock (F); just before the end of the forward line extension, let the rod come down slowly, holding it parallel to the ground. Never let it go lower to avoid splashing the fly and the line on the water.

For further instruction on the elbow and wrist movement involved, refer to Illustration 3, which indicated the slight raising direction of the elbow pivot that pushes the rod point up. The elbow should be raised at the final stage of the up-cast to achieve a perfect high line at the end of it. Do not twist wrist or elbow sideways. In the first stage, slowly lift the line, gradually increase its speed. Start blocking your arm muscles in the second stage and your shoulder muscles in the third stage. The fourth stage is the block stop, and the final stages (5A and 5B) indicate the stop zone of the bend.

With the sky cast you should keep looking behind you on the back cast to check if your line is going high. Generally, you cannot always see the total backward line extension, and it worthwhile to have a friend check and tell you every time your line drops too low. By watching others cast you can get an idea of the type of mistakes that you may be making, and you will improve your casting faster. A glance at Illustration 4 will give you more of a perspective on this sky casting procedure.

Progressing:

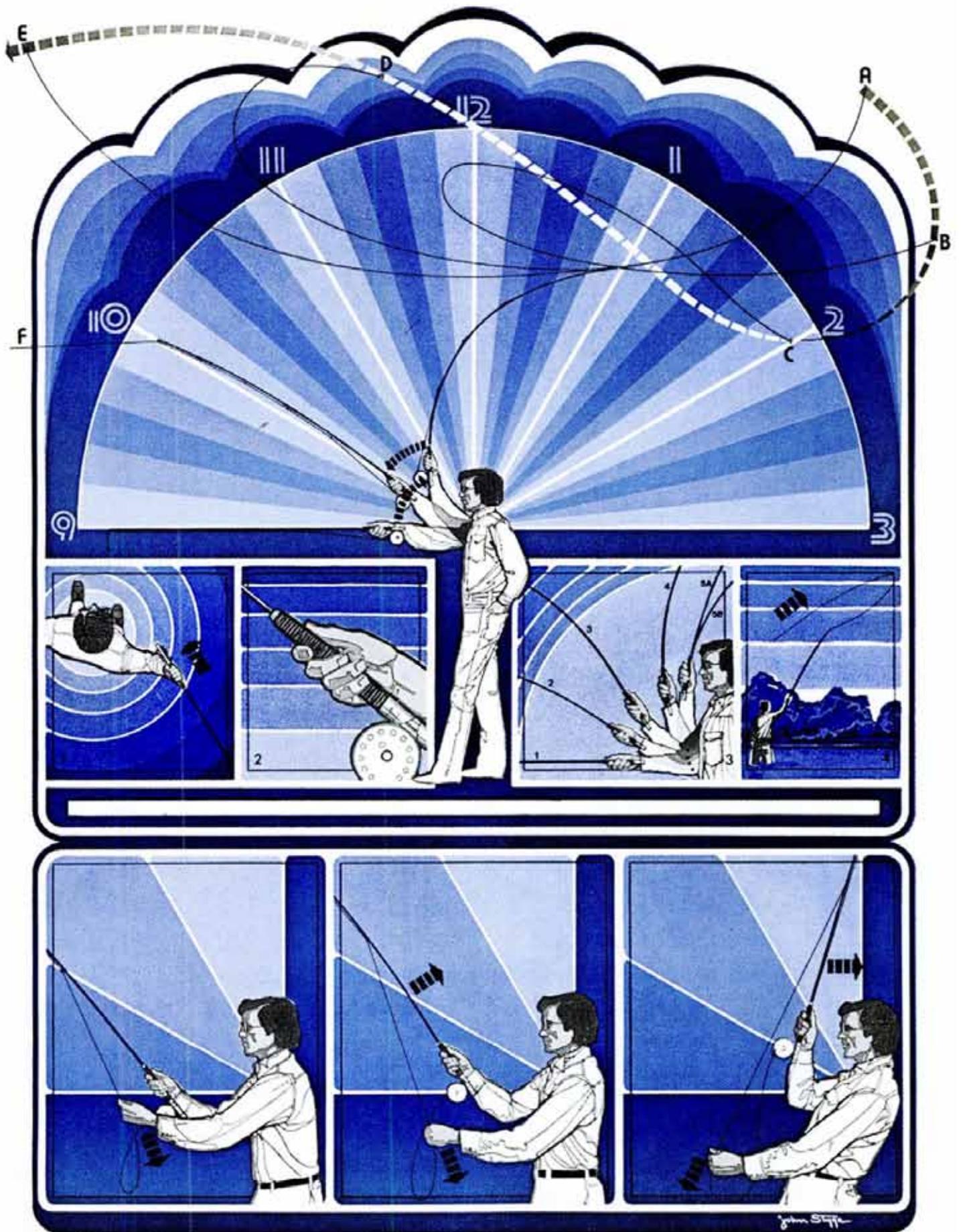
Once you feel that you can cast a longer line, take your non-casting hand out of your pocket to increase line length by 1 or 2 feet on every cast, but do not use that hand yet to assist in casting motion. Also, let the line rest on the water between casts to avoid any tendencies toward fly-swatting motions. Practicing in this manner is essential to developing correct timing and rhythm.

After you are confident that you've mastered these movements, repeat the previous exercise with the non-casting hand holding the line taut, (as in the three bottom illustrations), and pulling at each lift to increase the speed and obtain an instantaneous line start, especially for long casts and windy conditions.

I suggest concentrating on a somewhat low line hold to get used to keeping the non-casting hand low and preventing it from going up instinctively. Both hands should be kept well apart. The distance between them should not decrease; if your hands move together up and down, the line will always remain taut.

When you have mastered all of these movements properly; have obtained a high-up cast of 45 feet of line with ease, confidence, and regularity; and have already fished successfully, then you can start in various stages to shorten your arm movement while continuing to lay out the fly on the water. At this point you will be able to begin dry fly casting, which consists of false casting in the air until you have enough line out to present the fly on the water to a rising fish. When false casting, do not use the same trajectory to pull the line backward and forward. The hook of the fly will often catch the line. For the back cast, pull slightly sideways. (If viewed from overhead position the rod movement would look elliptical.) This does not mean that you must stop using the Instant Fly Casting method, which you will continue to use in your first year of fly fishing.

The Instant Fly Casting method will enable you to gradually master the perfect rod movement almost subconsciously, without having to force your mind to concentrate on too many different things at the same time. You will then be a relaxed caster and have the rod do most of the work. The main object of this method is only to mention the indispensable, most effective, and most productive facts that hopefully will help the beginner from falling into the possible traps of the gentle art of fly fishing and its literature.



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**See ya Wednesday...
May 10, 2017**



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