Subject: : Fly Fishing Events and Meet-ups
Topic: : Fly Casting Competition
Re: Fly Casting Competition
Author: : tomitrout
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URL:

Having always been curious about casting comps, and mildly inspired by this thread, I tried out the course they had set up at the Heritage Days a couple wknds ago at Allenberry. And met OldLefty, you sure do make it look effortless.

The setup there was a hula hoop with a plate inside for the 5pt bullseye, 2 or 3 for the hoop with them set at 25-40-55ft. Three consecutive shots at each, with a break in between each set. Rod was an 8'6" TFO Lefty Kreh plastic something or other, 5wf. Got used to the rod waving some line in the air, got a feel for the target distances and will say that 25ft is closer than you think, 40 was comfortable fishing distance and 55 looked just a smidge furthur out there than you'd think.

Also learned it's best to leave your 'presentation' techniques on the water. Just slap that fly down with a straight leader. Ingrained habits are ingrained I guess, and I missed a lot of hoops as the wind flipped the last bit of tippet w/ the yarn just off to the side. Hit the 25' plate to open my round and then I guess I only hit three other hoops @ 3each, I think I only had 14pts total for the accuracy.

Distance was also interesting, especially with OL over there casually moving 90+ ft of line thru the air. I'll just say that my arm was kinda shot by now and technique definitely fell apart and a stiff breeze rolled thru and a bug got in my eye just I stepped on a pebble and yet somehow I managed to lay out all of 71' for my best of three distance. Add that 71 to the accuracy points and you have your score.

Then for fun I grabbed a pair of cane 5wts I had along, one 7'6" and the other 8'. Found I was pretty much the same on accuracy whether it was graphite or bamboo, but at distance the cane rods topped out at a bit over 60' in my hands. Which for me is just a bit further than what I usually need on the water, for the fishing I do. Would be nice to develop the ability to reach out a bit more though, practice, practice, practice I guess...and maybe a tip here and there.

And I'll add that it's real easy to practice this stuff, I usually pace off distances based on rod length in hand and mark the spots with the reel case, rod bag and/or a pile of leaves/mulch, rod tube toes the line.. Doesn't take much to put numbers to concepts, if you're into that.