



**Kansas City  
Chapter**



**MARCH 2007**

**Club Meeting:  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of Each  
Month**

**Next Meeting**

March 27, 2007 7:00 pm  
Rod Making Presentation

**Executive Board  
Meeting:**

April 19, 2007 7:00 pm  
Fleming Meeting Hall

**Location:**

Fleming Hall  
21906 SW Woods Chapel Road  
Lee's Summit, Missouri

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**For More  
Information:**

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news and updates

[www.geocities.com/kcmtfa/](http://www.geocities.com/kcmtfa/)

email: [kcmtfa@yahoo.com](mailto:kcmtfa@yahoo.com)

**President's Message by David Cook**

What's the old saying about March weather? ... "In like a lion, out like a lamb". Or is it the other way around? The point is things change drastically this time of year on a daily basis. The weather can have wide swings in temperatures even in one day. Also in March, tailwater fishing can have wide swings in water levels with power generation to meet the demands of those changing temperatures. And that seems to be the way of my fishing trips in March, always changing. One day they seem to be biting everywhere and on anything and the next day it's like the fish all disappeared. This applies to my crappie fishing as well as my trout fishing.

First the crappie report. We had a string of several warm days in early March that led me to fish at James A Reed Wildlife Area. Fishing from the bank using small chartreuse jigs under a cork most days had some really good results. Sometimes it took just a couple of hours to get those results and sometimes it took all day. But the weather was nice enough to allow me to be persistent and by the end of the day there was a bucketful of crappie waiting to be fried. But the best part was meeting up with old friends. I met Bobby Britton and Larry Pifer on a couple occasions and also shared a day with Charles and Debbie Jacques.

The trout fishing includes the MTFA pre-derby meeting at Bennett Spring and a couple of trips to Taneycomo. Also, we made a visit to Mountain Home to attend the Sowbug Roundup and some fishing on the North Fork.

The pre-derby meeting was also a club outing weekend and we had a great gathering at Bennett Spring. Attending were the Jacques, the Cooks, Roger Theroux, Gary Davisson, Marvin Allison, Kent Inman, Bill Otis and Beth Armour. We had lunch together at the lodge after the meeting. For Saturday evening, Kent hosted dinner at his place at Peaceful Valley.

MTFA members at the Sowbug Roundup included our featured tiers Joe Fusco and Tom Criswell. Sharon and Lew Goodson were part of the NAFF staff running the event. Members attending the show included Roger Theroux, Marvin and Chery Allison, Darrell and Doris Durst, Carol and David Cook. The Goodsons and Roger had their campers at Quarry Park. Roger arrived at the North Fork a few days before the Sowbug started and it appears word got out that Roger was in camp, because they stopped running the power generation at the same time. By the time we got there on Friday, Roger had already put on a fishing clinic for all the spectators in the campground. Friday afternoon Carol and I visited Roger's favorite hole. We managed to fish about an hour and we were having a great time catching fish, when the horn at the dam sounded. So we waded back to the campground and watched from the bank as the river covered the gravel bars. After the Sowbug, several of us went to Taneycomo to fish on Saturday & Sunday. Marvin and I got in a good hour of fishing Saturday evening. Sunday

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## Upcoming Events 2007

### May 5

Kids Derby  
Lake Jacomo, Mo.

### May 5

Kids Derby  
Bennett Springs State Park

### May 19 - 20

MTFA Spring Fishing Derby

### May 26 - 28

Memorial Day

### September 29 - 30

Fall Derby  
Roaring River

## Tippets and Leaders.... A General Guide *By Dusty Sprague – FFF* *Casting Board of Governor - Member of the Pikes Peak Flyfishers*

Tippet	X code	Lb. Test	Hook size
.003"	8X	1-2	24,26,28
.004"	7X	2-3	20,22,24,26
.005"	6X	3-4	16,18,20,22
.006"	5X	4-5	14,16,18
.007"	4X	5-6	12,14,16
.008"	3X	6-8	10,12,14
.009"	2X	8-10	6, 8, 10
.010"	1X	9-12	4,6,8
.011"	0X	10-14	1/0, 2,4

A general guide to tippet size selection is to divide the size of the hook by the number 3. The result refers to the tippet size in the 'x' designation. For example, an appropriate tippet size for a #18 fly would be 6X; however, the larger 5X material might be more desirable under certain fishing conditions. In general, use the largest tippet diameter practical for fly size and fishing conditions. Variations occur between brands in pounds test and characteristics of the nylon or fluorocarbon material (stiffness, abrasion resistance, elongation, etc.). Hook size and weights, extra weighting, fly design and tying material characteristics, all affect leader and tippet performance.

In general, when fish can see very well (fish with good vision, clear water, bright sun, shallow water, etc.), leaders need to be longer, and tippets need to be longer and lighter. When fish can't see very well (fish with poor vision, murky water, night, deep water, etc.) leaders can be shorter, and tippets can be shorter/heavier. In very windy conditions, in heavy cover areas, or fishing where leader/tippet abrasion is likely, heavier and/or shorter leaders and tippets are more appropriate. A leader length of 9 ft. can be used as a baseline, extending, or shortening as needed. For best casting performance — efficient energy transfer — the diameter of the leader but should correspond to the diameter of the tip of the fly line. The following table can be used as a guide.

Fly Line Size	Leader butt Diameter
4 & 5 wt	.022" or .023"
6 & 7 wt	.024" or .025"
8 & 9 wt	.026" or .027"

## Lunker Dinner

The February meeting of the Missouri Trout Fisherman's Association was our annual Lunker dinner. The evening started off with a dinner that was catered by the Rib Crib, a special guest speaker and our raffle and door prizes. The guest speaker was Mike Kruse from the Missouri Conservation Department made for a very successful evening. His power point presentation on the progress of the Missouri Trout program and the status of the expansion of the hatcheries was very interesting. If you missed the dinner be sure to put it down and plan on next year.



## LOOP ARTICLE

*From the Journal for FFF Certified Casting Instructors*

Understanding Some Casting Fundamentals by Macauley Lord

Take the test and check your answers on page 4

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 a 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 yam fly, should you feel the line tug as it turns over at the end of your back cast?
7. To cast the line down on the forward cast, you must?
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. When making a very long cast, should you make a very long 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?



## Fly Rods That Fit

*by John Colburn*

Steve Rajeff, holder of World Flycasting Championship at least nine times, is six feet tall and, using nine foot fly rod, cast 243 feet. There's nothing remarkable about that except that Steve is one helluva a good fly caster. A lot of us use a nine foot fly rod even if we're not six feet tall or very good casters.

There's an old adage that the fly rod should be one and a half times the caster's height, and that works out about right for Steve Rajeff ( $6 \times 1.5 = 9$ ), but what about me? I'm 5'9" tall, so I should be using a fly rod 8.625' (8'7.5") long, according to the adage. It just happens that my favorite general purpose fly rod is an 8'6" 5-weight, but I can do almost as well with a 9' 4-weight, but only in my dreams do I cast even close to 243 feet.

My grandson currently is almost exactly four feet tall, and he has to struggle to cast at all with a 7'6" fly rod. What's his problem? Let's do some math:

Length of rod: 90"

Height of boy: 48"

$90 / 48 = 1.875$

Now let's see how that works with Steve Rajeff:

Height of man: 72"

$72 \times 1.875 = 135$

$135 / 12 = 11.25$  feet!

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morning was frosty and the power generation came on and lasted until noon. Marvin, Darrell, Carol and I fished from the bank with no luck until the water started to drop. Carol then demonstrated the proper way to catch fish using a bead-head midge. I quickly copied what she was doing and began to catch fish. Unfortunately it was time for Darrell to leave, so I did not get a chance to reverse the curse I seem to put on Darrell at Taneycomo. Soon it was time for Carol and I to leave and return to Kansas City. The frosty, cloudy morning had given way to sunny skies and 60 degrees. Marvin and Tom were staying for another day. I just hope their fishing reports turned out as good as the afternoon weather did.

Here's a reminder about our upcoming March meeting. We will have a representative from the Dorber Group from Flippin Arkansas. This company makes their own rod blanks and I think it will be a great opportunity to find out how that process works.

### **LOOP Article Answers:**

1. Unloaded
2. The more convex the path of the tip top, the wider the loop.
3. The first statement is the incorrect one. It would be correct if it said the rod tip should move in a straight line.
4. Begin the stroke slowly and apply power so as to accelerate the rod tip, causing it to travel much faster just before the end of the stroke than it did just after the beginning.
5. In the latter part of the stroke, he is either slowing the rod down or moving it at a constant speed, instead of accelerating to a stop.
6. No, unless perhaps you are using a level line or you casting without a leader
7. Cast the line up on the backcast.
8. Concave
9. They abruptly apply power, typically during the first half of the stroke or They creep the rod forward, immediately after the back cast stop (while the back cast is still unrolling), robbing the following forward stroke of sufficient length to handle the mass of the line.
10. Yes. (This is why forward creep results in so many bad casts.)
11. Yes.
12. Yes.
13. Yes--the longer the cast, the longer and faster the stroke, the longer and faster the haul.
14. Yes--the shorter the cast, the shorter and slower the stroke, the shorter and slower the haul.

Asking my grandson to cast that 7'6" fly rod is like asking Steve to cast an 11'3" fly rod singlehanded! I'll bet he won't set any new records with it. What length fly rod should my grandson use?  $48 \times 1.5 = 72$ , so he should be casting a six foot fly rod, but I doubt if he'd cast 243 feet with it.

Now I've got a problem. Six foot fly rods are pretty scarce. So I'm looking at either a fairly expensive custom graphite rod or a darned expensive bamboo rod, either of which the kid will outgrow before long. Or I could modify that old nine foot fiberglass stick that a neighbor gave me several years ago, and it will only involve a new grip and relocating the reel seat and stripping guide.

So I cut the butt section of the rod to 24 inches from the ferrule, installed a new inexpensive ready grip which I sanded down to fit the boy's smaller hand, installed the reel seat which I was able to save, and mounted the stripping guide just behind the ferrule. Now my grandson has a fly rod he can use to learn to cast and, perhaps, some day he'll be able to beat Steve Rajeff's record—or at least cast better than his granddad.

Here's a suggestion for fly fishing clubs that want to teach kids to cast: collect some of those old 'glass or low-modulus graphite rods many of your members have collecting dust in their attics, basements, or garages and shorten the butt sections so that you have rods of six, six-and-a-half, seven, and seven-and-a-half feet with grips that fit a kid's hand. You find it a lot easier to teach kids, and yes, women too, with fly rods that fit. One caveat, don't let the shorter men in the club try those shorter rods. They may like the rods so much they'll have to go modify their own rods or buy custom rods.

### **2007 Membership Dues are Past Due**

You may mail your dues and form to:

MTFA  
P.O. Box 3202  
Harry S. Truman Station  
Independence, Mo. 64055

Or bring them to the next meeting.