



FINALS OF INTERNATIONAL SPORTSMEN'S EXPOSITIONS

BEST IN THE WEST CASTING CONTEST.

Salt Lake City, March 16, 2003.

Jim Gunderson of Salt Lake City won his third consecutive finals with a cast of 116 feet. Second was Rick Hartman of Texas at 113.1 feet. and third was Ian Walker of the Long Beach California Casting Club at 107.4 feet. All of this was done with a nine foot, five weight trout rod and weight forward line. I would estimate they got about eight feet more than they would have gotten with a double taper. One reason is that double taper lines are shorter than weight forward so they would be in the backing faster. And a double taper is such a pleasure to cast long with a sweet back cast.

There was a women's division this year and the winner was Lori Ann Murphy at 95.9 feet, second went to Wendy Gunn, 89.5' and third to Natalie Jensen at 77.5 '. The first prize for men and women was a drift boat outfit.

The grapevine has it that casting from the platform is no joke when it comes to dealing with the line. Where to drape the line - at the side on the platform, in front of the platform and thus lower and farther to lift, draped around something to tangle - all these things are part of the breaks of the game. Back cast room can be a problem also. Eighty foot + backcasts are routine in this five weight game.

More complete results from the qualifying contests are:

POMONA, CALIFORNIA

MEN'S DIVISION

Championship Qualifier--Ian Walker

Runner-Up--Lance Egan

3rd Place--Gary Borger

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Championship Qualifier--Lori Anne Murphy

Runner-Up--Barb Pentoney

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

MEN'S DIVISION

Championship Qualifier--Rick Hartman

Runner-Up--Graham Anderson

3rd Place--Floyd Dean

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Championship Qualifier--Jeanne English

Runner-Up--Shelly Paulson

DENVER, COLORADO

MEN'S DIVISION

Championship Qualifier--Tim Rajeff

Runner-Up--Gareth Jones

3rd Place--Jeff Currier

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Championship Qualifier--Craig M. Stainton

Runner-Up--Dana Rikimaru

3rd Place--Susan Sagara