

# Flatland Fly Fishers

Wichita, Kansas

[www.flatlandflyfishers.org](http://www.flatlandflyfishers.org)

Volume 28 Issue 7

*Presidents Line*

July, 2008

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Fly-fishing etiquette has been on my mind a lot lately. Every one of us has been in a situation where we have had our fishing spoiled by another angler who has interfered with our spot on the river or lake. Personally I have been crowded out of a spot, had other fisherman walk through the area where I was drifting a fly, cuss at me for being in their spot when I was there first etc. More and more I am finding that people just don't know what respect means. I find this sad and really bothersome. As Flatland Fly Fishers we have the responsibility to set good examples, teach proper stream etiquette, and try our best to be good stewards. In doing this we must be polite to other fisherman and respect their space. Pick up trash left behind by others and leave no trace behind. After all we are all on this earth together and each of us is responsible for our environment. Properly dispose of any used leader and tippet materials. Practice proper fish handling, hook removal, and catch and release. Pinch the barbs down on our hooks to minimize injury to the fish. Observe and adhere to all national, state and local fishing rules and regulations, and report any violations. It is up to us as a club to be the example.

I still need to talk to someone who is willing to do some video work for the club.

See you soon.

Stuart



*Stuart with a nice Striper*

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Anyone who would like to share pictures or articles for the Newsletter should contact the editors at:  
[07editor@flatlandflyfishers.org](mailto:07editor@flatlandflyfishers.org)

**Next Meeting July 3, 7:00 P.M.**

## <sup>2</sup> ***Fly Casting at the July Meeting***

Flatland Fly Fishers



## ***2008 Activities Calendar***

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Casting instruction will be the focus of our July Club meeting. There will be stations for beginners, accuracy and one that combines distance and line hauling. In the past, this has been a good exercise for all who have participated. I have found that practicing on my own casting has helped me learn how to deal with random scenarios on the water. I may be out fishing, and spot a bass cruising under an overhanging tree limb, and know that if I can't get my fly behind the edge of the tree, I will not have a shot at catching the fish. I've lost a few flies, using this kind of judgment.

However, I have learned that a slight flick of the wrist in a side arm cast will give my line the amount of speed and trajectory, to help either air ride my fly below the branches, or make it skip across the water's surface, landing back in the cover. This and many other tricks are valuable skills that you can only learn by practicing. Though some casting strokes may not look so pretty, and break the rules a bit, many unsightly maneuvers can help increase your cast to hook up ratio. I have hopes of helping and learning from others to improve the desired casting and presentation techniques.

We encourage you to bring your personal rod, as you may have a better feel of your own equipment. If you do not own a rod, we will make sure to have club rods available.

We hope you will be able to join us.  
*Tight lines 'til we meet again* Rory Wiske  
(We have a back-up plan for bad weather)

July 3, 2008

Flatland Fly Fishers meeting 7:00 pm  
Great Plains Nature Center  
Program--Fly Casting

July 10, 2008

Flatland Fly Fishers board meeting  
Ark River Anglers 7:00 pm

August 7, 2008

Flatland Fly Fishers meeting 7:00 pm  
Great Plains Nature Center  
Program pending

August 14, 2008

Flatland Fly Fishers Board meeting  
Ark River Anglers 7:00 pm

September 4, 2008

Flatland Fly Fishers meeting 7:00 pm  
Great Plains Nature Center  
Program pending

September 11, 2008

Flatland Fly Fishers Board meeting  
Ark River Anglers 7:00 pm

### ***Basic Fly Fishing with Ken McCloskey***

Ken McCloskey, Educational chair, is going to start a 3 session class covering basic fly fishing. The sessions will be during regular meetings starting in September and continuing through October and November. Ken will cover fish and their habitat, fly fishing equipment and knots, and introduction to casting. The sessions will be geared for the beginner/new fly fisherperson and be limited to the first 10 members. After the class is full all others will be put on a "next class list".

Ken will have a sign up sheet at the August meeting. If you are interested in attending this opportunity to enhance your new found love please talk with Ken at the August meeting.

Remember to participate in this activity 1—you must be a member 2— be able to attend all three sessions 3 —be in the beginner/new level.



## ***100 Mile Fly Public or Private***

Steve Webb

Earlier this year when the club board discussed ways to make the newsletter more informative several ideas were thrown around. Two at the top of the list were “where to go” articles and reviews covering topics such as equipment, videos, and books. I agreed to attempt to put together a series of reports, guides, or directions highlighting local public waters within 100 miles of Wichita. I also agreed to take a shot at tackle reviews although with a measure of reluctance. Writing a review can be little more than a rehash of one’s half baked opinions. I did think the “where to go stuff” would be fairly easy, as you just go fishing and then write a report. But over the last six weeks I’ve learned how difficult the creation of a fishing report/gear review can be.



Years of reading magazine and newspaper “destination” and “how to” fly fishing articles have taught me that writing one of these things is a two edged sword. If you highlight a certain creek, river, or lake someone will be mad because you’ve told the world about their favorite spot and/or if you glowingly describe the fantastic fishing but conveniently forget exactly where the place is somebody else will wonder why you just didn’t keep your mouth shut and not write anything at all. Fishing private water has a similar “I got to fish somewhere you didn’t” effect.



This is the spot I was in a few weeks ago, I had sampled good to really great Bass and Bluegill fishing on a pair of private lakes followed by distinctly poor results on a local urban fishery. One mid week May evening I launched my Outcast pontoon on Chisholm North Lake and spent three hours paddling and casting and caught just three six inch Bass.

Last winter I ordered one of the new Sage “Bass” fly rods and planned to fish it exclusively this spring. Fly fishing for Bass is being touted as the next big thing and this 7’11” rod is supposed to be the tool for it. It comes in two models; the Smallmouth and the Large-mouth. My rod, the Smallmouth version comes with a 290 grain bass taper fly line and retails for \$350.00. At a time when most premium fly rods are in the \$500.00





## 100 Mile Fly Public or Private

to \$700.00 range this retro looking rod is a decent value especially since it's made in the U.S.A. and comes with its own specific fly line. A bass rod differs from one designed for trout in a couple of ways. Most bass flies are wind resistant or heavy or both. This rod is able to hand the both part. Another difference and the one that sold me on the rod is the ability to make measured and repeatable casts to specific targets.



The angler is able to cast towards the bank or structure such as rocks, tree stumps, weeds, etc, and then pick up and return the fly without tiring and unnecessary false casting. Sage rod designers also built some versatility into this rod. Other warm water fish such as Blue Gill, Crappie, Green Sunfish, and Catfish are still fun to catch and are not overpowered by an overly stiff taper. My final concern about fishing and casting this rod was its length. Most Stillwater experts recommend a 9 to 9 1/2 foot rod for fishing from a float tube, pontoon, or kayak because the extra length allows the fisherman to keep his back cast higher above the water's surface but I did not notice a significant difference. If you let your tip drop during the back cast the slack fly line will probably slap the surface not matter how long your rod is. In some ways the shorter length works for the angler. Shorter rods are generally more accurate, give a leverage advantage to the fisherman, and let you bring the fish closer for release. One final thought on value. A goal of this series of articles was to keep travel costs down by fishing closer to home. Hand in hand with that is the cost of your gear. While \$350.00 for a

fly rod isn't exactly cheap it's not over the top for a well designed and crafted piece of equipment. I paired my bass rod with a reel that deserves mention, the Lamson Radius.

The Radius 3 was able to hold 100 yards of backing and the Sage Bass line easily plus the reel's weight and size balance the rod perfectly. One last value recommendation is for a bass sized fly box I have been using, the Cliff Outdoors Crab Shack. Although it's really designed for saltwater flies, oversize Bass bugs fit just as easily. Deep foam with long slits on each



side will store both top water and sub surface offerings. Like the Sage rod and the Radius fly reel, the Cliff Crab Shack is both well designed and fairly priced.





## ***100 Mile Fly Public or Private***

Steve Webb

The second half of my search for local fly water was pushed along by something everyone needs to pick up, the 2008 Kansas Fishing Atlas published by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. With a little detective work using the guide I was able to sniff out a beautiful pond containing some huge hybrid Green Sunfish. I also used the guide and the KDWP fishing forecast to zero in on the last stop of this installment. On the first Saturday of summer, Rory Wiske, Gary Tatro, and I headed down to southeast Kansas to fish old Sedan City Lake. This 55 acre lake is nestled in rolling green hillsides and is rated excellent for Largemouth Bass in the KDWP fishing forecast. It probably provided the most realistic fishing experience



too, somewhere between poor and unbelievable. Although the water was murky from all the recent rain we were able to catch half a dozen Bass, three keeper Channel Catfish, one Crappie, and a sprinkling of Sunfish before 2 p.m. when we headed back to Howard for a late lunch. Toots Drive In on Highway 99 has been serving ice cream, cheeseburgers, and fries since 1955 and is well worth the stop. Three small lakes in this area (Sedan City Lake, Howard City Lake, and Moline City Lake) are definitely worth the 70-80 mile drive and would be a good week end outing especially this fall. But for me, the next quest is to add a missing species to the list of fish I've caught with my Bass rod, the rod's namesake the Smallmouth Bass.





## ***Remove The Slack From The Back Cast***

Doug Meyer

Strip, strip, strip, pause, strip, pause, pause....strike! The hook set was good. The fight was good. The release was good. Success in setting the hook comes from a tight line connection from the anchored line down to the fly. Slack anywhere in between, causes first movement of the fly rod tip during hook set to be wasted. Rod tip moving to remove unwanted slack does no work till slack is removed and power made, goes straight to the fly.

The caster will not have complete control of a forward cast till the back cast can be made without slack. Best rod loading cannot occur till full line tension is on the rod tip. Move the rod tip an inch, move the fly an inch. To be a better caster produce a back cast with minimum slack. The difference between a causal caster and an intermediate caster is the same difference between an expert and an elite caster. The better caster's back cast has less slack to allow a better forward cast.

To illustrate a need to create a better back cast, refer to figure 1. Realize the vertical center line of the caster and learn to create as much loading of the rod as possible during time tip is behind center line.

So, how do you improve the back cast? The same principles of rod loading discussed last article apply to the back cast. Acceleration of the rod through the cast, straight line path of the rod's tip, stopping the rod at the right moment which will fling the line 180 degree straight back from the target. If you are a "wrist" caster, now is the time in your development to stop it. Get a wristlock of some type. Anything from a bought one down to a strip of cloth tied around your wrist or a larger rubber band. Slip the end of the rod's handle in it and perform your back cast. You will find you are using a whole lot more forearm then before. Next, stop the rod earlier in the back cast, this may feel "too early" but do it. Now apply more power before the stop. Watch your back cast and keep adjusting till the back cast looks like figure 3.

Start out with about 25 feet of flyline and your leader. Practice till slack is removed. Then add more line. You will find the longer the cast the more skill is needed to back cast without slack. The more experienced casters should set up a vertical hoop behind you and back cast your loop through it. It won't seem possible at first, but it will happen.....with practice.

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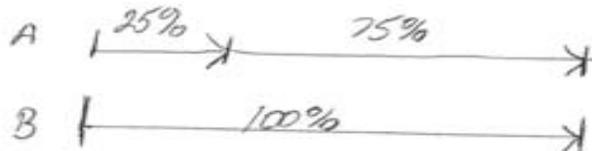
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# Remove The Slack From The Back Cast

Doug Meyer



- A. WITH SLACK IN THE BACK CAST A % OF ROD TIP MOVEMENT BEHIND CASTER'S CENTERLINE IS WASTED DURING FORWARD CAST.
- B. MAX ROD LOAD POTENTIAL WHEN NO SLACK IS PRESENT

Fig 1

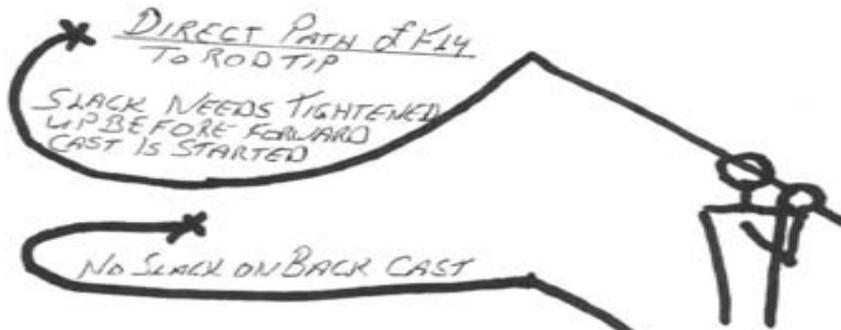


Fig 2

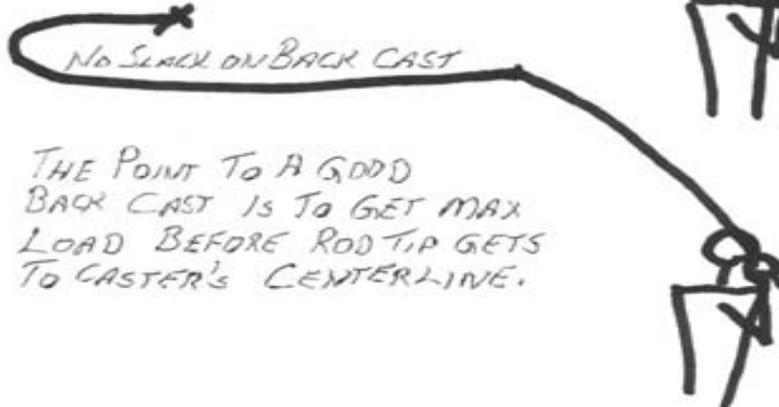


Fig 3

THE POINT TO A GOOD BACK CAST IS TO GET MAX LOAD BEFORE ROD TIP GETS TO CASTER'S CENTERLINE.

Mark your calendar to attend the Flatland Fly Fishers Fall Banquet.

Where: Camp Hiawatha  
When: October 25, 2008

Look in this space in future newsletters for news and updates concerning the banquet.

### 2008 Club Officers

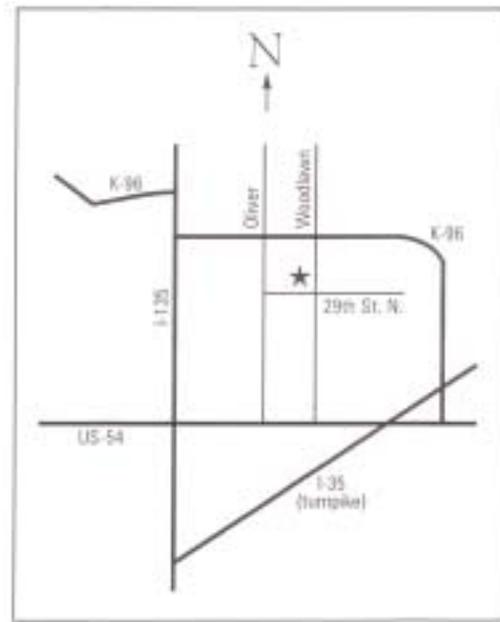
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## Flatland Fly Fishers



P.O. Box 49164  
Wichita, KS  
67201

Flatland Flyfishers meet monthly at the  
Great Plains Nature Center, located at  
6232 E. 29th St. N, Wichita, KS



### ITEMS FOR SALE:

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