

Muddling Along March 29

A Review of "Introduction to Spey Casting" with John & Amy Hazel

This is a good video for a beginner to look at but it also would be a valuable review for a more experienced spey caster.

The photography is crystal clear (like the beautiful DesChutes River they are fishing in!) and the explanations are clear as well. The casts are broken down into manageable pieces and repeated often enough that you get the idea of the cast implanted in your mind. I would suggest absorbing one or two casts, going out and trying them on the river, then coming back and comparing notes with the instructions in the video. An ideal method would be to have a partner video your casts and then play them on the screen of your TV at the same time you play the video on the lap top.

The video starts with a bit of history of spey casting leading up to the spey casting equipment of today. A look at equipment gives some valuable ideas on choosing the right rod and reel for the waters you may wish to fish, with reasons for choosing large or small arbour reels and shorter or longer two handed rods.

The main body of the video concentrates on 8 beginning casts (starting with the Double Spey and its variations, through Circle Casts and finally variations of the Snap T. The instructors then move on to some intermediate casts including the Snake Roll, Power Roll and Overhand cast. For each of the casts, they are broken down into their constituent parts and repeated with labelling on screen to identify the parts of the casts.

The video finishes with a summary of all the casting styles with labels and demonstrated high quality casting from the instructors.

I found this video to be a pleasure to watch and a useful review of casts I already use (I like to think I can use them anyway!) and an introduction to some casts that I haven't tried before. I think I'll have to get out on the river soon to put some of my newly acquired knowledge to the test! (as long as my arm holds out anyway!)