

Magic Wands

The Scott Radian

By Ian Cox



Every now and again you pick up a rod that is so good that when you pick one up your hand goes warm and sparks fly out the end. I had this experience a weekend or two ago at the NFFC fly fishing clinic. I was as sick as a dog and preoccupied with finishing representations on the latest changes to NEMBA so was not much use to anyone but all that changed on the Saturday afternoon when Pieter Taljaardt of Vagabond invited us to try his Scott Radian 4 weight.

Man oh man what a rod. It weighed nothing and on my second cast I had backing coming off the reel. It was all so effortless. You could keep 20 metres of line in the air, not that you often want to do this, easy peasy. I tried a lot of exceptionally good rods that day and it was streets ahead the best rod there. Up until then I thought the G Loomis 5wt GLX Stream Dancer was the best rod I had tried but the Scott Radian simply blew it away.

So how do they do it? The blurb rates the rod as fast but it isn't I would say that it is medium fast but perhaps it would be more appropriate to say that like Goldilocks porridge, it was just right. I must say that increasingly suspicious of this whole fast action thing. Peter spent some time taking us through the many rods that he had brought emphasising that the best of them were fast. But when I asked him what three freshwater rods he fishes with most none of them were that fast.

Fast is an affectation fly fishers adopt to look cool. Fast is total bullshit when you think about it. Truly fast rods are horrible monstrosities that blight the face of fly fishing. Great rods are not fast, they are powerful while also being sensitive. And that not unsurprisingly is what the blurb says of the Scott Radian. They claim fast and feel come together. The review in Field and Stream, published under the title, [Is the Scott Radian the Best Rod Ever](#) puts it better. This what Kirk Deeter says:

I have a Will Rogers attitude when it comes to fly rods: I haven't met one that I do not like.

Sure, I prefer some above others. I think some are overhyped, overpriced, and overrated. I think three quarters of the marketing-techno speak that promotes fly rods is sheer hogwash. But if you put any rod in my hand, it's hard for me to hate it, and on rare occasions, I will fall head-over-heels in love.

Such is the case with the [new "Radian" fly rod from Scott](#), which deservedly won "Best in Show" in the New Product Showcase of the recent International Fly Tackle Dealer trade expo.

I agree, save that I would replace Harry Potter for Will Rogers (Who the hell is Will Rogers?).

The tough part is that this rod does not even come close to cheap. [Mavungana](#) is Scott's representative in South Africa. They have the Radian in their shop in Dullstroom. It is priced at a cool R10 500.00 which makes it a bit of a stretch even as Dad's present to himself.
