

Flycasters

Kelly Creek, Idaho

Kelly Creek is located north-east of Lewiston, Idaho, about fifty miles from Superior, Montana. It is primarily a West-slope Cutthroat fishery; however, there are a good number of rainbow trout present as well. Kelly Creek drains into the North Fork of the Clearwater, and when you combine these two systems you wind up with roughly sixty miles of fishable water that is readily accessible.

In my opinion, Kelly Creek has the best fishing, and I believe that is mainly because it is a fly-fishing only, single barbless hook, catch-and-release river. There is a gravel road along the lower fifteen miles of Kelly Creek, which makes for easy access. Above that, you need to hike about eight miles (a couple of miles above Cayuse Creek) to reach good water. I did trek about two and a half miles up the trail, but there just wasn't enough holding water to make it worth walking in the late July, hundred degree plus heat.

The majority of the cutthroats were relatively small (6" to 10"), but there were lots of them. That doesn't mean that there weren't larger fish to be had. Of the five days I fished, I had at least one or two fish a day that were 16" or 17", and a number that were 12" or better. Kelly Creek does get pressure, but the cutthroats are such consistent risers, that I would know within



Photo by Terry Lawrence

about ten minutes if someone else had fished a spot before me. Hands down, the best pattern in my fly-box was a #14 Adams (traditional or parachute).

There is a nice campground at the confluence of Kelly Creek and the North Fork of the Clearwater, with drinking water and the cleanest pit toilets I have ever come across (\$7.00 a night). This campground did fill up on the weekend, but there were plenty of available, undeveloped campsites along both rivers. Be aware that it is a long way in and out of there on a gravel road (Forest Road 250), so make sure you have lots of gas, propane, ice, etc.. The way in from Pierce, Idaho is five miles shorter (49 miles) than from Superior, Montana (54 miles). However, the road from Pierce was so badly wash-boarded that it took me a full hour longer than the road from Superior. Plus, Superior is right on I-90, which allows for freeway travel all the way from Salem (if you take I-84 East towards the Tri-Cities area of WA, and then Hwy 395 Northeast to Ritzville, WA). Regardless of how one gets there, this place is wild, beautiful, and remote, and I would go there again in a heart beat.



Photo by Jack Wood

Annual Santiam Flycasters Club Picnic

There was a pretty good turnout for the Santiam Flycasters Annual Picnic on Saturday, July 14th at John Neal Memorial Park in Lyons, Oregon along the North Santiam River. The new location provided a nice shady area for the potluck, and there were a number of campsites located conveniently close to the picnic area. A few folks floated the river down to the park earlier that same day, however the fishing proved to be on the slow side. The group was joined by the North Santiam Spey Casters for dinner, many of whom are members of both clubs. Sunday was the roadside cleanup along Hwy 22 in the Pamela Creek/North Santiam River area.

Special Note: September's Outing is to Upper Klamath Lake, Pelican Bay. We are camping at Rocky Point Resort. There are only six or eight sites that can accommodate RV's over 28', so if you are planning on attending make your reservation soon. For more information about the resort check out their web site <http://www.rockypointoregon.com/>; 28121 Rocky Point Rd; Klamath Falls, OR 97601; 541-356-2287. Pontoon boats or motorized boats will provide for the most fishing opportunities. There is some fishing around the resort that can be reached with a float tube. Boats are for rent at the resort. There are also, cabins and motel rooms available at the resort. There are other nearby campgrounds within an easy driving distance (Lake of the Woods which is west of Rocky Point). The Odessa Campground is: From Klamath Falls, go 22 miles northwest on OR 140, then 1 mile south on Forest Road 3639. It is about 8 to 10 miles southeast of Rocky Point. It is a National Forest campground. For questions about this outing please contact Dan Shimek at santiamflycasters@yahoo.com or call 503-302-3920.

Santiam Flycasters Newsletter

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Santiam Flycasters

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Santiam Flycasters to promote the sport of fly fishing for all interested individuals of all generations now and into the future by fellowship, education, conservation practices, promoting research, guardian-ship of proper regulations and support, affiliation and cooperation with other like minded organizations.

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Casting Corner

This is a continuation of last month's commentary geared toward newcomers and includes

some very basic information about fly-casting while fishing, with a focus on trout.

Dry Flies On a River:

1. Avoid "drag" (most of the time). Remember that a fly should appear to float as freely as possible in order to mimic the real bugs that are in the water. This can be accomplished by "mending" your line.
2. Be conscious of different current speeds between you and the target area you want to cast to. These varying currents can cause drag, resulting in an unnatural presentation of the fly. This situation can also make for too much slack in your line, which may cause an unwanted delay when you try to set the hook.
3. Often, fish are facing upstream, looking for food as it floats downstream towards them. Therefore, it can sometimes be a good idea to set the hook in a downstream direction. This pulls the hook into the fish's mouth instead of away from it.
4. Try letting your fly continue to drift down below you and leave it there for a couple of seconds. Many fish have been caught on "the hang down".
5. If there are mayflies or caddis on the water, and you either see fish feeding on them or suspect that fish are there, cast slightly up river from this area and make your trajectory such that the fly stops above the water and gently drops down to the surface. Target your cast in a way that will allow the current to carry your fly directly over, or close to, this "feeding lane".
6. Try not to "line" fish by casting so that your fly line lands directly over the top of them. This can spook fish, or at least alert them to your presence.
7. If you see a fish come up and "refuse" your fly, try dropping your tippet size, and/or, tie on a smaller fly.

Up Coming Events

August

Board Meeting

When: August 6th, 2007 @ 7:00 pm

Where: Rock-N-Roger Restaurant
3135 Commercial SE

General Meeting (Outdoors)

When: August 9th, 2007 @ 7:00pm

Where: Pringle Community Building Lawn

***Casting Clinic**

Outing: August 11th, 2007

East Lake (Cinder Hill Campground)

September

Board Meeting

When: September 9th, 2007 @ 7:00 pm

Where: Rock-N-Roger Restaurant
3135 Commercial SE

General Meeting

Presenter: TBA

When: September 13th, 2007 @ 7:00pm

Where: Pringle Community Building

Outing: September 15th, 2007

Upper Klamath Lake (Pelican Bay)
(See page two for more details)

8. Target the edges of current seams and foam-lines, as well as the fronts, sides or backs of rocks and boulders. Also, fish may feel protected by cut-banks and over-hanging trees and branches, so look for these areas as well.
9. Some people fish their dry flies "wet". That is, they allow the dry fly to sink either below the surface or into the surface film. However, if you want your fly to float on top of the water, you will need to apply some form of floatant, and repeat this application as soon as you notice that your fly has lost its buoyancy.
10. Every once in a while, check to make sure that your hook is still sharp, that your fly hasn't come unraveled, and that your knots look okay.
11. False casting can be a useful tool for establishing distance and trajectory when aiming for a specific target. It also helps to dry out your fly.

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2007 Membership Application

The Santiam Flycasters, P.O. Box 691, Salem, OR 97308
www.santiamflycasters.com

Type of Membership (circle one) Regular \$25 Family \$30

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____

Email _____

Family Members: _____

Are you an FFF Member? (circle one) Yes No

You must sign this release each year when you renew to participate in club activities.

**Note: Dues are from January 1st to December 31st. There is a 50% reduction after July 1st.*

Liability Release and Hold Harmless Agreement

As a condition of membership or of participation in any activity encouraged or publicized by the Santiam Flycasters, I voluntarily assume all risks of my participation. In acknowledgment that I am doing so entirely upon my own initiative, risk and responsibility I do hereby for myself, heirs, executors, and administrators agree to remise, fully release, hold harmless, and forever discharge the Santiam Flycasters, all its officers, board members and volunteers, acting officially or otherwise, from any and all claims, demands, actions or causes of actions, on account of my death or on account of any injury to me or my property that may occur from any cause whatsoever while participating in any such Santiam Flycasters activity.

I acknowledge that I have carefully read this hold harmless and release agreement, and fully understand that it is a release of liability. I further acknowledge that I am waving any rights that I may have to bring legal action to assert a claim against the Santiam Flycasters for its negligence.

I have read the above statement and agree to its terms as a condition of my membership in the Santiam Flycasters.

X _____
Signature Print Name Date

X _____ Signature
Print Name Date