



# SANTIAM FLYCASTERS

SANTIAMFLYCASTERS.COM

June 2016

## June Meeting—Casting Games, Fly Tying Demonstration, Swap Meet

Come to our June 9 meeting to partake of and enjoy a variety of activities! We will not have a speaker, but the meeting will include a fun casting competition, fly tying demonstrations, and a swap meet.

The casting competition is a fun game called “Sporting Flies” to see how well we fly-flingers can cast to targets and negotiate other frequently encountered fishing situations. Should be a fun activity for all.

Several of our experienced fly tyers will demonstrate tying fly patterns of their choice. They will be happy to demonstrate techniques, answer questions, and maybe discuss a fun fishing destination!

Members may bring items to sell at the swap meet. We will have tables available in the side room. Mark the price and seller’s name on each item. Buyers will deal directly with the seller. We just ask that the seller donate about 10% of the price to the club.

This is a great opportunity to visit with old and new friends, maybe learn a different fly pattern, and maybe acquire a new (for you!) item to use and enjoy. See you there!



**Board Meeting**  
Monday June 6  
7:00 PM  
Garibaldi Family Restaurant

**Casting Clinic**  
Thursday June 9  
6:15 pm  
On the Lawn

**General Meeting**  
Thursday June 9  
7:00 pm  
Pringle Community Center

**June Outings**  
Saturday June 11  
Trail Bridge Reservoir

Saturday June 25  
Deschutes River

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## Sporting Flies—A Challenge

Challenge yourself at different fishing situations and see how you measure up to the challenge.

We will have five stations with a score card with three divisions to fit your comfort level of abilities. Each station represents a fishing challenge - maybe a fish is feeding around a bush - under a bush - across a nasty current. Sporting Flies is designed to challenge you, so when you are actually fishing, you have skill to present the fly to the fish.

Bring your own rod or use a club rod.

# May Outing Report—McKenzie River

By Tim Johnson



Saturday, May 7, around a dozen members convened at Hendricks Bridge County Park for a fishing trip on the legendary McKenzie River. We floated from Deerhorn County Park to Hendricks.

The river level was low, about 1.75'. Some of the riffles were challenging to get through. I dragged my boat through a couple.

The high temperature for the day was 85 degrees and the skies were blue.

There was a light upstream breeze. All in all a very pleasant day.

Given the bright sun, I tried to fish the shadows as much as possible. I found a few fish laying in the shadows. I hooked into something big but lost it after a short fight. Steelhead???

I ended up hooking 9 fish and landed most of them. They were all rainbows, a mix of native reddsides and planters measuring 10-12 inches. Most of the fish I caught were out of one very productive bend in the river. Ken and Matt also found fish in this same spot. It's a long shelf with a stream entering at the bottom. I would have liked to have spent more time exploring this section, but time was running out.

The technique used by some of us was a weighted caddis larva or pupae pattern followed by a soft hackle. I casted this combo slightly upstream, got a short dead drift, and finished with a swing and strip through a foam line or some other likely fish feeding lane. Sometimes I added weight and sometimes used an indicator, depending on the speed and depth of the water. Sometimes I got strikes during the dead drift and other times during the swing or strip.

The most productive water on the float was below the long frog pond stretch. In the future, we may wish to launch at Taylor's Landing to allow more time to fish this lower section of the river.



**Welcome****New Member in May****John Wingerter  
of Salem.**

**Santiam Flycasters  
membership for the  
year stands at 107,  
including 16 new  
members.**

**Congratulations**

**Matt and Kristi Nez-  
nanski on the birth of  
their son, Grant Alex-  
ander, who joins his  
sister Hazel.**

**Scheduled SFC Club  
Outings**

**June 11 Trail Bridge  
Reservoir**

**June 25 Deschutes River  
(Trout Creek)**

**July 9 East Lake**

**July 23 Willamette  
River (Keizer)**

**Aug. 13 Umpqua River**

**Aug. 27 Little Nestucca  
River**

**Sep. 10 Hosmer Lake**

**Sep.24 Willamette  
River (Harrisburg)**

**Oct. 8 Crooked River**

**Oct. 22 Deschutes River**

## **Club Outings in June**

### **June 11-Trail Bridge Reservoir**

On June 11, we will fish Trail Bridge Reservoir, located on the upper McKenzie River. To get there, drive east on Highway 22 to the Highway 20 junction, turn right and drive west on Highway 20 for 4 miles, turn left (south) onto Highway 126, drive about 10 miles and turn right (north) to the reservoir access.

The reservoir holds rainbows and some large bull trout. We caught many fish at last year's outing! Suggested gear is 4-6 weight rods with intermediate or sinking line to fish woolly buggers, leeches, and streamer patterns. A floating device allows the best access to fish and remember your life jacket! You could also fish the McKenzie, feeder creeks, or one or more of the nearby lakes.

We hope to be able to secure a large camp site. The club will provide an entrée for a Saturday meal, so bring a small side dish to share if you wish. You can also do this outing as a day trip if you wish.

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### **June 25-Deschutes River**

On June 25, we will float and fish the Deschutes River from Warm Springs to Trout Creek. With luck, the weather will be much more pleasant than last year's 100+ degree temps!

To get to Trout Creek campground, drive north on your route of choice to Sandy, drive east on Highway 26 over Mount Hood and through Warm Springs, turn left onto Gumwood Lane at the top of the hill, turn north and drive 3 miles to Juniper Lane, turn east onto Juniper Lane and follow it down the hill to Gateway, turn left (north) (just west of the railroad) onto the Trout Creek access road and drive about 4 miles to the campground.

A pontoon boat or drift boat is needed to float the river, although there are several fishing spots accessible from the campground. If you float, remember to acquire your Boater's Pass and, if you plan to fish the opposite side of the river, a Warm Springs permit. You can purchase both with links on our club website.

Suggested gear is 5 or 6 weight rods with floating line to fish both nymphs and dry flies. Nymphs include stoneflies, caddis, and midges, including green rockworms, sparkle pupa, pheasant tail, hare's ear, etc. Dries include elk hair caddis and PMDs.

If you can bring a drift boat or trailer to help shuttle some pontoon boats, it would be appreciated. Also, you will need to arrange a shuttle.

The club will not provide a meal, so bring your food and water, since the campsite has none.



**Santiam Flycasters  
BOARD AND OFFICERS**

**Loren Bergerson**

President

**Dwight Klemin**

Vice President/Programs

**Sam Thomas**

Secretary

**Tim Johnson**

Treasurer/Membership

**Board Members**

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Newsletter Layout/Design

**Howard Palmer**

Newsletter Editor

**Keith Burkhart**

IFFF Representative

**Bob Karau**

**Ken Karnosh**

**Jerrold Martisak**

**Don Meyer**

**Steve Reynolds**

**Josh Richmond**

**Board Members Wanted**

The Santiam Flycasters want you! We are looking for a few good men and women. If you are interested in helping decide who our presenters are and where we go for our outings, please join us. Or, if you just want to find out what goes on during the board meetings or want to share your opinion; please join us. No experience needed, just your interest in fly fishing is all it takes to be a board member.

**Fishing with the Frog—  
“Twas a Dark and /Stormy Night  
Or  
Whole Lot of Shaking Going On”  
By Howard Palmer**

Those of you who stayed home this past weekend, in lieu of braving the elements at Camp Adair for this year's annual "Youth Outdoor Day", missed a chance to perfect your Woolly-Bugger tying skills. And, although my phone kept telling me that the temperature hovered around 60 degrees most of the day, you also missed the chance to freeze your Tookie's off while teaching hundreds of boys and girls the fine art of tying flies.



Most of you are aware of the tremor that I am afflicted with and have been amazed, I am sure, as to how I can produce the simplest of flies, as bad as I shake at times. Well, you ain't seen nothing until you have watched me try to tie flies when my shakes have the shakes. This weekend would have provided you the perfect opportunity. You see, I really did get cold, and the shivers set in with a vengeance which gave my usual tremors even more tremors. Luckily, the kids didn't seem to notice, or, if they did, they didn't seem to mind; and if they did, they at least had the decency to just ignore it and they all just got on with what they had come for.

Thankfully, attendance was down this year from what can reach as many as 750 kids. There have been years when 4 or 5 of us have worked seven hours non-stop imparting our skills to a many as 50 or more kids each. At least this year with 10 of us on site to work with the kids, we each had time to stretch our legs and get the blood circulating periodically. It also gave us the chance to take a little more time when we needed to in order to work more closely with some of the individual kids that needed, or wanted, more detailed help. All in all, it was a great day despite the cold damp air, and I hope to see more of you out there with us next year.

I am first to admit that I am definitely a fair weather fisherman. I despise doing anything in the cold. Folks once told me that I would have been quite accomplished at skiing and ice skating; and although I tried and enjoyed both, it did not take me long to realize they were not for me. I've already explained my dilemma as far as winter steelhead fishing, so I won't bore you with that.

I am at a point in my life where I would rather tie flies than fling them. And, despite my tremors, I feel very confident in my ability to tie pretty much any kind of fly I want. I also enjoy sharing my skills with others. So, if you have an inkling to try your hand at fly tying, don't hesitate to call me. In the meantime, however, if you really want some entertainment, come spend the afternoon watching me tie a size 22 Adams onto a 7X tippet. Be forewarned though; it's a very time consuming operation.

See you on the water.

Howard

# **YAKIMA RIVER OUTING**

## **May 13-15**

By Dennis Dahlen

Four of us made the trek north to fish and float the Yakima, which many consider Washington's only "blue ribbon" trout stream. The trip was enjoyable, although it was clearly a case of the blind leading the blind, since our trip leader was unable to go. We all camped at the Ellensburg KOA, which is right on the river and just a stone's throw from I-90. The latter made tent camping, according to Bill, too noisy to sleep very well.

Since none of us had previously floated the Yakima, George spent most of Thursday checking out the famed Canyon section of the river and visiting local fly shops to learn about the various floating possibilities. That afternoon Larry and I floated a section of the Canyon that George had learned about. Water was high and fast, which made the fishing difficult. There were very few places to get out of our pontoon boats to fish from the bank and it was flowing fast enough that fishing from the boats was not very comfortable or productive.

Friday morning George, Larry and I explored by car the upper Yakima from Ellensburg to Cle Elum. There was some nice looking water for another time. Bill and his drift boat arrived mid-afternoon and the four of us launched at the KOA boat ramp and floated and fished a nice looking

three mile section to an Ellensburg city park. This section did have places to bank fish and had more character than the Canyon section Larry and I fished the previous day. However, we caught little. You can chalk that up to inadequate local knowledge, if you're feeling generous, or our general fishing incompetence, if you are not.

Saturday, Bill and George fished a lower Canyon section and did better than the four of us did on Friday. Bill caught and took pictures of a 20" Rainbow. Unfortunately, his pictures had the fish in the bottom of a salmon sized net which made it look quite pedestrian.

In light of our unproductive fishing on Friday, Larry and I decided to try Lenice Lake on Saturday. Unfortunately, I forgot to take my fishing access pass, which is required to park in most of Washington's fishing access areas. Consequently, we spent most of the day trying to find a place that sold the passes rather than actually fishing.

In summary, the Yakima River outing was enjoyable and the weather was excellent. The fishing, however, was only marginal, perhaps due at least in part to the high water. Furthermore, it is a long drive to get there, particularly if you only have a weekend.

## ***Fishing the Metolius River***

Because several of you were not able to hear Gene Stutzman's great discussion last meeting on fishing the Metolius River, we have included a short version of his tips below.

Gene likes to fish from October through April, but his tips probably work during the rest of the year as well. He fishes the areas from Allingham Bridge down to Bridge 99, but opts not to fish "the canyon".

His flies, unlike many heavily weighted rigs, consist of a size 14 tungsten-bead front fly, such as pheasant soft hackle, prince nymph, PT flashback, etc. with a size 16 or 18 trailer, such as caddis emerger, scud, BWO emerger, zebra or snow cone midge, etc. It's your choice to use an indicator or not.

Maybe now, even I may be able to catch one of those fish!

# ***SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL WINTER FLY FISHING ON THE METOLIUS RIVER***

Gene L. Stutzman

**Locate the Whitefish Schools.** Bull Trout lie throughout the Whitefish schools. They feed on the Whitefish and their eggs. Whitefish are constantly churning up the bottom, turning over rocks and other debris and releasing lots of food into the current. In my experience, I find that plenty of Rainbows position themselves in the downstream third of the Whitefish school taking advantage of this constant food source. So, if you are catching Whitefish, you are in luck. It's only a matter of time until you hook a Bull or Rainbow. Be sure to let your fly tail out through the end of the school. Bulls will follow like Steelhead and hit a fly at the tailout.

**Big fish are usually in the same spots year after year.** If you locate a big fish, remember that spot. There is a reason that fish is there and it's always cover and food. Unless something changes (a rock has been moved, a log is no longer there or the channel has shifted), there will always be a good fish in that spot.

**Metolius fish are used to humans.** This allows us to wade fairly close to them for accurate presentations. They are difficult to put down despite what you read or hear.

**Fish at first morning light.** I will do everything I can to be ready to fish at first legal light. The Metolius ***is not a bankers' hours*** river. Orvis, The Oregonian and countless fishing publications have been wrong for years.

**Fish when it's cold.** Don't be afraid of freezing temperatures. The river is most productive during the cold winter temperatures. My favorite air temperature range is in the 20's. When my guides are icing up, that is a happy inconvenience for me.

**Every strike and every fish is a big Bull Trout.** More than one bottom snag, little Whitefish, slow sinking indicator or suddenly sluggish drift has turned into a large Bull. Don't take anything for granted on this river.

**Use a long, fairly heavy rod.** Unless I'm fishing a dry fly, I like rod weights in the #5 to #7 range and lengths 10 and 11 feet. These are easier to mend and roll cast all day and have the backbone to land a large fish in a reasonably short period of time.

**Simplify your system.** In my small chest pack I carry a fly box with a few patterns, spool of 3X fluorocarbon tip-pet, extra 9' tapered leaders (2X – 3X), indicators (if you use them), floatant, sun glasses, nippers and forceps. This leaves room for eye glasses and gloves. I also carry a wading staff and small net. Don't be that guy in the catalogue with a bulging vest full of paraphernalia.

**During midday, change patterns regularly.** After 10:00 am, I change up my presentation about every 20 minutes or so. Also, anytime I find that what I'm using doesn't seem to be producing strikes, I make a change.

**Focus on presentation.** Getting a fly, any fly, in front of a fish's face is more effective than the perfect fly outside of the feeding zone. So, find the feeding zone and figure out how to get your fly there cast after cast. That's presentation.

**Finally, expect a strike on every cast.** Don't lose concentration. This is true for fly fishing and hunting. The best opportunities often come when you least expect them. I hate to admit it but, I've been guilty too many times. I haven't got a strike for 10 minutes. I'm gawking around watching the chipmunks or river otters across the river and I look to see my strike indicator traveling up stream. It's too late. I've missed a huge strike. Now I have to suffer the comments of my fishing partner ("What didn't you like about that one you idiot?"). **STAY FOCUSED !**

*Thank you, Gene, for your presentation at the May meeting.*

## ***FLY OF THE MONTH*** ***Miracle Midge***

*by Jim Ferguson*

***Congratulations to Jim Ferguson who is the featured fly tyer in the just published edition of Fly Tyer magazine. Thanks for sharing your "Fly of the Month" with us!***



Hook: Dai Riki 135 or TMC 2487, size 16 - 20

Bead: 2 mm silver tungsten, small silver-lined hi-lite glass bead, or size 11 glass pearl bead

Thread: 8/0 UNI or UTC 70 denier thread (suggested colors below)

Rib: Small copper or gold wire

Overbody: Single-strand white floss

Body: Thread - Colors suggested are peacock blue, gray, fluorescent pink, black, red, yellow, light ca hill, fluorescent hot orange.

This fly is discussed on John Kreft's web site, RiverKeeper Flies. If you enter Miracle Midge into the search space on your internet program you should come up with several sites to visit. Some show the video tying of the pattern. Look for John Kreft's Miracle Midge reference. He lives in Sisters, Oregon and his suggested

colors have been stream proven. His article will give some of the history of the fly's origin and also describes how to fish the fly.

Essentially, the Miracle Midge is tied on a curved scud hook. Thread, the color of the body is used for all the tying. A thin white floss is tied over the body color. When wet, the under-color will show thru. When dry, the fly will either look white or pastel in appearance.

**Tying Directions:**

1. Debarb the hook, place bead on the hook, mount the hook in the vise (Fig. 1) and attach thread near the eye. You want to build a small base of thread up near the hook eye so you can slide the bead over it. The idea is to get the bead centered so it does not wiggle and block the hook gape any more than necessary (see Fig.2.)



Fig. 1

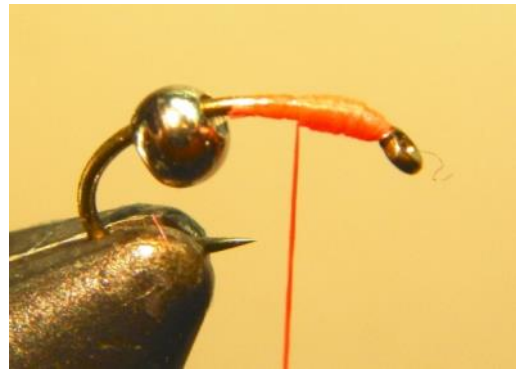


Fig 2

2. Half hitch the thread, slide the bead forward (Fig 3), reattach the thread and attach the copper wire on top of the hook shank. You might slide the wire into the space between the shank and the bead to help center the bead around the shank. Tie in the white floss and bind the materials down the shank well into the bend. Keep the floss and the wire on top of the shank to keep from filling the hook gape distance. Wrap the thread with side-by-side turns back to the front behind the bead and let the thread hang (Fig.4.)



Fig. 3

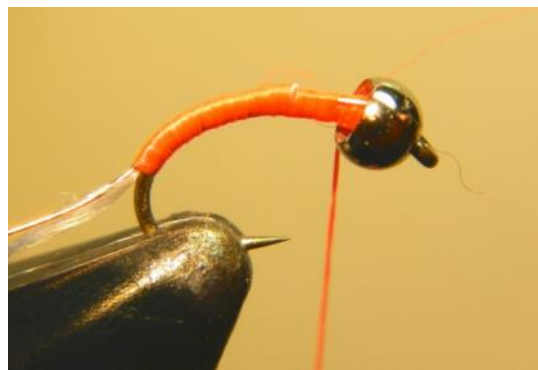


Fig. 4

Notice in Fig. 4 that the shank is centered in the bead.



3. Wrap the white floss forward (Fig.5.) Here I used UTC white 280 denier doubled. (Do a better job of keeping the first wrap tight.) Tie off at the front behind the bead. Wrap the rib material forward making 4 or 5 ribs (Fig. 6.) Make the first wrap around the base of the floss at the rear. Use a black felt tip with waterproof ink to darken a few inches of the thread and build a black thorax area behind the bead. Whip finish to complete the thorax and add head cement to the black section.



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

4. In Figure 7 I wet the surface of the floss along the hook shank and when wet, the underbody color does glow thru.



Fig. 7



# 2016 Membership Application

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

[www.santiamflycasters.com](http://www.santiamflycasters.com)

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us why you want to be member (please check all that apply):  hear presentations on various fly fishing topics,  improve my fly tying skills,  improve my fly casting skills,  participate in fishing stream and lake improvement projects,  go on fishing trips with other club members,  learn about fishing in the area,  other (please specify):

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

Are you interested in obtaining a Santiam Flycasters name tag? (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. for new members.

### 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



## Santiam Flycasters

P.O. Box 691

Salem, OR 97308

[santiamflycasters@yahoo.com](mailto:santiamflycasters@yahoo.com)

[www. Santiamflycasters.com](http://www.Santiamflycasters.com)