

February 2005



#### 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, guardianship of proper regulations, and support, affiliation, and cooperation with other like minded organizations.

*We fish, therefore, we lie*

## INSPIRATION

By. Richard Newell

Okay, so it doesn't take much to inspire me to go fishing, but this time it was a magazine article on the Owyhee River. That is pronounced the



same as Hawaii, our 50th state. It was named after a couple of Hawaiian explorers that were killed by the local Indians, but that is another story. This story is about browns Big ones and lots of them.

This article, which I am sure many of you read, caught my attention because one: I have never been to that part of our wonderful state and two: pictures and descriptions of browns big ones. It just so happens that not long after the article came out and I having read it several times, I had a week's vacation coming up at the end of September. To the phone I went and called my partner in new places to fish, Mike Ramm. Continues on Page 3.

## Pontoon Boat Raffle

The club is raffling a 9 foot Fish Cat pontoon boat donated by Sportsman's Warehouse of Salem.



Tickets are \$10 and only 75 tickets will be sold. With the purchase of each ticket you will receive a coupon for \$10 off a \$50 purchase at Sportsman's Warehouse. Tickets will be sold at the general meeting.

## Northwest Fly Tyer's Expo

We are looking for volunteers to help with the FFF auction at the expo in Eugene on March 26th. If you are interested please contact Craig Knolls.

## This Month's Activities:

### Board Meeting:

Monday, February 7th 7:00 p.m. At The Valley Flyfisher

### General Meeting:

Thursday, February 10, 2005 7:00 p.m. At Pringle Hall. 606 Church ST. in Salem.

### Outing:

Where: Red Hills Lake  
When: February 12th, 7:30 am  
Notes: For direction go to <http://www.redhillslake.com>

## Treasurer Report

By Stephen Mock

The Santiam Flycasters started the year with a balance of \$3,575.22 in our bank account. As of 12/30/04 we have \$4,688.66. Our fund raising strategies have helped raise additional revenues outside of the traditional dues and standard raffle. Those strategies have included special rod & reel raffles, spaghetti feeds, ice cream sundaes, etc. All of these have helped bring in additional revenues to be used towards the Santiam Flycasters mission. Keep an eye out for additional special raffles this year including a pontoon boat!

Though our "outings & Food" line item was a little higher this year (partially in offset of the various food fundraisers, and partially because we Santiam Flycasters just LOVE to eat), our overall expenses were down. I look forward to a great year of interesting programs and great raffle prizes. Don't forget to renew or you'll miss out on the fun!

## February 's Presenter

John Judy is a well known writer and guide; a leader in the fly fishing community. He comes from a second generation fly fishing family and has been in the fore front of the development of many new and innovative fly fishing techniques. His book Slack Line Strategies is considered by many to be the definitive primer on presentation skills.

John's guide company John Judy Fly fishing is one of the oldest and best established outfitters on the Deschutes River. The company specializes in fishing for both native trout and steelhead. In addition to their presentation skills they are some of the top Spey casting experts in the Northwest. A trip with John and his staff offers not only great fishing but a chance to be on very the cutting edge of current fly fishing technology.

Beyond his skills on the river John has also worked tirelessly to promoting better fisheries management. He and a few friends successfully launched a campaign that resulted in the formations Oregon trout, this states leading wild fish advocacy group. He also spent close to twenty years encouraging Fish and Wildlife to institute a very successful program on the Metolius River that end stocking and brought back the native fish population (including the threatened and endangered Bull Trout). Quality of fishing on the Metolius and throughout Oregon has been improved as a result of John's efforts.

## Red Hills Lake-February Outing

The outing will be a Red Hills Lake near Dundee. This is a small 4 acre private pay lake. Cost is \$25 for club members. The club will be providing lunch. We will be having chicken fajitas. For this lake don't forget your type 3 sinking line. As far as what flies to use, a good choice would be a red Chironomid, or woolly buggers that are black or green. Don't forget strike indicators.

We will be meeting at 7:30 a.m.

in the parking lot at Red Hills Lake. To get to Red Hills Lake from Salem, go through West Sa-

lem out Wallace Rd. toward Dayton. Turn right on Hwy 18, continue onto Hwy 99. Turn left on NE Archery Summit Rd, just before the highway divides. For more information please attend the February meeting. Maps will be available a the meeting.



## Annual Auction

The annual Auction is March 10th. This year things will look a little different. We are still look for donations and consigned items from you for the silent auction. There is a change to how consigned item will be sold, the club will receive 25% of the total sale.

The oral auction will be shorter and only be 5 to 10 items. Two items donated so far for the oral auction are a trip to Red Hills Lake with Craig Knoll, and a trip to Roaring Springs with Keith Burkhart. Trips include a float device upon request. Instruction on lake fly fishing if needed and assistance with fly section. Lunch is included on the Roaring Springs trip.

We will also be having a spaghetti dinner, cost is \$5.

I would like to welcome both Harry Olson and Bill Avanzolini to the Santiam Flycasters

## INSPIRATION

Some of you may remember the our previous adventure in the far eastern parts of Oregon, the Blitzen Death March? Ask our librarian if he has a copy of the newsletter with that story if you are interested. Well needless to say Mike was a bit hesitant about going into that part of the world with me again, but when I said Owyhee River, browns, big ones; his hesitation lasted about 5 seconds. In fact I think his next comment was "I'm there, when do we leave?"

We left Tuesday morning, and drive all day. So we made it to Ontario, hung a right and headed for Nyssa to find a hotel. Guess what? As far as we could tell at that time there wasn't a hotel in Nyssa. Back to Ontario, booked a couple of nights at a quiet little motel and headed back to Nyssa. You have to go through Nyssa to get to the river. Its a good thing they have signs to the river because it a maze of farm roads out there.

About an hour from our motel we finally see water. At first glance I'm thinking we made a wrong turn and ended up on the Crooked River. The same kind of flow, in a similar canyon, the same milky green water with an abundance of weeds floating down the river. Pretty much your typical high desert tail water. But with browns big ones.

Mike and I decide to drive as far as the dam to get a feel for the river and look for sites to fish the next day. We make it to the dam, which was hard since there was no lack of fishable water along the road to the dam. In late September the light goes of the river in that canyon early so we decide to try our luck just below the dam. I think we both saw the fish raise not 50 feet from us, then another and another. Yeeehah! The fish were rising all over that section of water.

So Mike and I scrambled into our waders, I was first to the water and waded in with high hopes to land my first Owyhee brown. Unfortunately our choice of river access was a poor one. Within 10 feet of the bank I was nearly to the top of my waders with at least another 30 feet of slime covered water between the closest rising fish and myself. Now 30 feet doesn't sound like much but with no back cast room and every time I tried to roll cast my line got covered with slime, 30 feet can seem pretty far. Mike managed a better position and managed a couple of fish to hand, but the real action was on the other side, some guy was knocking them dead over there. By the time Mike and I decided to call it quits for the night we were using head-lamps to see by.

The next morning we made our way back to the river and stopped at what we dubbed the "house hole" the day before. Just like the Crooked the Owyhee goes from pool to riffle to pool and when nymphing fish it the same as the Crooked. At first I went with a steamer pattern to see

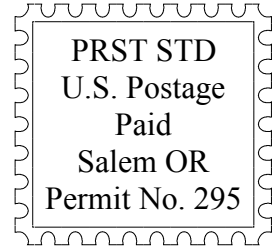
if I could attract one of the big browns. No luck, Mike in the meantime was nymphing the riffle and hooked and lost one. I don't think he ever saw it. So I switched to nymphs, a small size 20 clear scud dropped off a tungsten pheasant tail. Mike had joined me on the other side of the river and on the second cast my indicator went under and I landed my first Owyhee brown, a little over 18 inches. In a large slow moving section of the river were dozens of big browns cruising just below the surface, slurping bugs. Perfect right? Getting to the water was going to prove to be a challenge. It was almost straight down to the water through willows and poison oak and once to the water only about two steps to over the waders. We tried though. Roll cast, single hand spey cast, try as we might we could not get our flies into position. But the fish were moving up river, up river the bank opened up, but we had to cast from a ledge about 3 feet above the water, but we could cast to the fish. I put on a parasol and cast out in front of a fish and was saying "take it, I know you want it" fish opened mouth, fly disappeared, lifted rod tip "AAAAARGH!" I pulled the fly out of its mouth! After throwing a brief tantrum I watched Mike do the same thing with a hopper pattern. After his tantrum was over we went back up the Jeep and had lunch. Drove up river to check out more water. We decided to find a place and stake out some water for the evening hatch. 'Our water' turned out to be the same section we fished the night before, but on the other side where we saw all the action. And action we got. It was a bit slow to start, but by the time it was to dark to see Mike and I had both landed many nice browns, all on dries. I may be wrong and Mike can correct me but I don't think any of them were under 16 inches.

So we didn't land a big one, but we saw them, we know they are there. Mike and I both agree that its worth the drive, and worth taking more than a day to get to know the river. I am not sure if there is another fishery in Oregon that has browns that big or plentiful, maybe some sections of the Deschutes, but I have been to the Big Horn and I think the Owyhee is a better river, and it doesn't smell as bad.

### Membership Renewal

Don't Forget is it time to renew your membership. Forms are available at the general meetings or on the back of the newsletter.

**Santiam Flycasters**  
**PO Box 691**  
**Salem OR 97308**



Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5



A monthly publication of the  
Santiam Flycasters

**Club Officers & Board:**

President: Craig Knoll  
Vice President: Keith Burkhart  
Secretary: Hillary Votaw  
Treasurer: Steve Mock

**Board**

Bill Allen-Librarian  
Joe Hussion- Membership  
Dan Shimek-Conservation/Newsletter  
Richard Newell- Concessions/  
Auctioneer  
Keith Whisenhunt- Raffle  
Bob Gabler- FFF representative  
Lee Erickson

**Next Month Meeting and Events:**

**General Meeting:** Thursday, March 10, 2005  
7:00 p.m. At Pringle Hall. 606 Church ST. in Salem  
Annual Auction and Spaghetti Dinner  
**Outing:** March 12th Lower Deschutes River Pine Tree to  
Beaver Tail (Below Sherars Falls)  
**Events:** Northwest Fly Tyer's Exp in Eugene March 26th

**Membership Application**

Santiam Flycasters, Inc. \* PO Box 691, Salem Oregon 97308  
[www.santiamflycasters.com](http://www.santiamflycasters.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership (check box)

Regular.....\$20.00

Junior.....\$5.00

Family.....\$27.50