



# SANTIAM FLYCASTERS

SANTIAMFLYCASTERS.COM

December 2020

**December Meeting** (presented online, NOT in person)

## **Fly Fishing Western Tailwaters with Ed Engle**



We will be closing out the year with another wonderful show, "Flyfishing Western Tailwaters" presented by Ed Engle, owner of Ed Engle Flyfishing ([edengleflyfishing.com](http://edengleflyfishing.com)). Based in southern Colorado, Ed will take us through the strategies and tactics to successfully fish these types of rivers which are so common across the West.

Having been an avid fly fisher for over 40 years Ed has fished the Americas from top to bottom as well as bits of Asia and Europe, mostly using small flies for trout. After spending 20 years as a guide on the South Platte River in Colorado, from which he retired in 2010, he was able to pursue his interest in small fly techniques which then led him to small streams, famous tailwaters, and high country lakes across many of our western states in search of wild trout.

In this popular program, Ed will offer an in-depth explanation of how tailwaters differ from unregulated freestone rivers and the best ways to successfully fish them. Within the show, Ed will discuss tailwater biology and commonly found aquatic insects and non-insect trout foods as well as a variety of tactics and fly recommendations for these types of rivers. Since the North and South Santiam, the McKenzie and the Middle Fork of the Willamette all fall into this category I'm hoping that this will be a great way to close out a most challenging year.

**Happy Holidays and Stay Safe**

## **Using "Zoom" To View The Meeting**

Due to the pandemic for the foreseeable future club meetings will be held using the Zoom videoconferencing service. Santiam Flycasters members will receive a link to join the Zoom Meeting one week, one day and one hour before the start of scheduled meetings. To join a meeting, simply click on the "Join the Meeting" link in one of the emails you receive. You can join the meeting early, but you will be placed into a Zoom waiting room until you are admitted into the meeting at around 7:00 PM.

There are several options for joining the meeting. You can join with a computer, a smart device, or a regular telephone. If you join with your computer, you will need to have a speaker (s) connected to the computer so that you can hear the presentation. It helps to have downloaded the Zoom Client for Meetings onto your computer beforehand. We recommend doing that prior to joining the meeting. You will be given that option in the email you receive with the "Join Meeting" link. You do not need a camera or a microphone on your computer, but that is an option if you wish to be seen and heard during the meeting. You will have the

**Board Meeting**

December 7

Via Zoom

**General Meeting**

December 10, 2020 7:00  
pm

"Zoom Meeting"

See instructions for how to  
join.

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**Santiam Flycasters**  
**BOARD AND OFFICERS**

**Scott Vaslev** - President

**VACANT** - Vice President/  
Programs

**Dennis Burnett** - Secretary

**Tim Johnson** - Treasurer/  
Membership

**Board Members**

**Will and Reenie Satak** -  
Concessions

**Matt Neznanski** - Webmaster

**Leroy Shepherd** - Newsletter  
Editor

**Bob LeClerc** - IFFF  
Representative

**Ricky Love**

**Ken Karnosh**

**Don Meyer**

**Kent Toomb**

**Donnie Weninger**

**Beth Jappay**

**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.

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option to turn off your camera and microphone anytime during the meeting.

If you are joining the meeting with a smart phone or tablet, it may be best to first download the Zoom Cloud Meeting app. With the "Zoom Cloud Meetings" app installed, after you click on the "Join Meeting" link in your email, you will be given the option to open the "Zoom Cloud Meeting" app.

You can also join the meeting on your landline phone. You simply call the phone number provided in the email you receive. When prompted, you will enter the meeting ID followed by the # key. You will be able to listen to the presentation but will not be able to see the presentation or be seen by others.

Note: You will be provided with a Meeting ID but there is no password for joining this Zoom Meeting. Make sure to select the "Call using Internet" option if prompted.

A YouTube tutorial on joining a Zoom Meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tr-JHfEas8k>

If you have questions, contact Tim Johnson at [tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com](mailto:tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com), or call 503-507-8552. I'm particularly interested in hearing from any member who wishes to take advantage of closed captioning option for the meetings.

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## **President's Corner**

### **By Scott Vaslev**

Hope you were able to watch our club's zoom presentation of Tim Flager's euro nymphing. Interesting to get his take on it "east coast" style. One of the biggest differences we have vs. the east coasters is the size of our rivers. That is not to say we don't have plenty of rivers here where we can walk or float with plenty of pocket water but I'm going to focus on fishing our local water here in the Willamette Valley.



As I mentioned above the rivers here on the most part are larger than on the east coast which brings me to some observations. I ALWAYS take my ten foot, 3 weight Syndicate rod (I finally got it back) when fishing the Willamette or Santiam Rivers. It is always set up to Czech nymph/indicator fish. I currently have it set up with RIO's Technical Euro Nymph tapered leader; 14 ft. 2X/4x and runs about 13 bucks. It works fine even when I throw an indicator on. If I have one complaint, the white portion of the leader is too long but it is easy to put on with a loop for your fly line and a tippet ring for attaching your fluorocarbon. If you want to make your own, buy a spool of two tone indicator tippet from Rio for about the same price. I did purchase a Airflo Euro fly line but have yet to use it. It's ultra thin but would not be the best for switching over to indicator fishing. So a regular dry line is fine as you'll never be Czech nymphing with your fly line in the water.

I will admit I indicator fish much more the Czech nymph. Part of the reason is I'm lazy and prefer to fish with my pontoon pulled off to the side of the river in a likely spot and I

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just flick my flies and indicator up river and look for a take. Another reason is I can toss my indicator half-way across the river with zero back cast. I also float down the river fishing my indicator rig which is real nice because my outfit is drifting as fast as my pontoon's going. I personally think that pulling off the river in my pontoon is stealthier than wading out in the river.

There are a few problems with this style of fishing. It's called TANGLES! I have two flies on with my upper tied on with a tag. It doesn't take much to have a 10 minute line mess to deal with. One of the biggest culprits is when you set your hook a little too briskly. Imagine having an indicator and two weighted flies flying at your face at two hundred mph. If you are lucky they will miss you and tangle around your rod or a tree. If you happen to get hung up on the bottom while drifting, say, "Good-bye" to your stuff, or, if you manage to yank it free, see above.

If I happen to see some pocket water I might actually pull my indicator off and tight line. Of course I actually have to haul my butt out of boat which means I probably pass up many golden opportunities. A distinct drawback to wading in the river is my propensity to take a header now and then. Two splashes on the Crooked River. Don't forget your wading staff!

For my next article I will focus on my set up, flies, and water I especially like to fish. Scott

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## Selection of 2021 Club Outings

During its December 7 meeting, our Board will select our club outings for 2021 to fish a variety of waters.

Although we had to cancel a couple of our outings this year due to high water, weather, and smoke, we still had many fun outings. Maybe you even were able to learn to fish a new water.

If you want to sit in on that Board meeting to help select the outings, contact Tim to hook you up on Zoom. Or, if you just want to give us your recommendations, contact any Board member or just send an e-mail to [SantiamFlycasters@Yahoo.com](mailto:SantiamFlycasters@Yahoo.com).

We welcome your input and feedback.



## Santiam Fly Casters Officers and Board

The club officers for 2021 are:

President-Scott Vaslev

Vice President-Vacant

Secretary-Dennis Burnett

Treasurer-Tim Johnson

Board members, including new member Beth Jappay, are listed here in the newsletter.

As you see, we need a Vice President, whose main duty is to secure the presenters and programs for our meetings. If you can help with that, we would love to have you!

Thanks to all of the Officers and Board for their service! Also, thanks to outgoing Board member Kent Toomb for serving on our Board as well as for his outstanding work and dedication with our Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) group. With his guidance and efforts, they not only have greatly expanded the number of PHWFF participants, but have acquired needed materials and supplies for veterans to use for fly tying and fishing.

Also, we always welcome other members to join the Board to help plan our club activities. If you just want to sit in on a Board meeting, which lasts about an hour each month, contact Tim Johnson and he will hook you up to our Zoom meeting. The Board meets at 6:30 p.m. on the Monday prior to our club meeting.

Hope to see you there!

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## Willamette River Outing Report



Mother Nature really put the kibosh on this outing, dumping plenty of rain to raise the river level and then adding strong wind to it. Since the water was forecast to rise up to a couple of feet in a couple of days, we cancelled the November 14 outing.

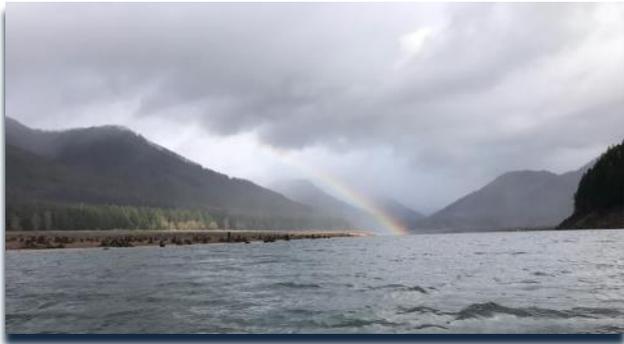
If the river level drops to 3.5' or below, this could be a spot to fish this winter.

## ***Detroit Lake Outing Report*** ***By Ken Karnosh***



Although Mother Nature forgot to turn her fan off and the fish didn't cooperate very well with all of us on November 7, we still had a pretty good outing.

And, Mother Nature showed us a couple of spectacular bits of rainbows around mid-day.



Eleven of us fished that day before the wind got stronger in mid-day. Catch rates ranged from "Broke off 2 flies but I think it was stumps" to "There's a lot of fish out there." Dennis opined that Tim appeared to have brought his own fish stock because he was catching quite a few and Dennis wasn't doing so well!

Fishing at Detroit will remain good until the reservoir starts re-filling in February. Just remember to check the weather forecast to be sure that the wind is cooperating and dress accordingly for the weather. You probably will want to use your Type 3 line.



## ***My Williamson River Experience***

***By Beth Jappay***

In early August I had an unexpected 4 day weekend. Usually for me that would mean heading to Hosmer to one of their first come first served campgrounds, but those are gone this year. So I decided to try the Williamson, knowing that the huge Klamath Lake rainbows migrate up it in July when the lake gets too warm.



I like to hire guides the first time I go to a new place, and for this trip I hired Dylan from [Woody's Guide Service](#) for a half day. I drove my RV to Chiloquin, and spent the night at the Kla-Mo-Ya casino parking lot, where they are welcome.

Dylan picked me up there at 6am. We launched from the public launch, just downstream from Carmen's cabin. A short row upstream and we were fishing the famous Blue Hole, just below the confluence of the Williamson river and Sprague river. It is a volcanic formation, looking to be up to 20 feet deep in places.

The fish don't tend to migrate further upstream and congregate there, since the Sprague is the colder of the two rivers.

These fish, fresh out of the lake, respond better to lake flies, and Dylan initially had me stripping damselfly nymph patterns on an intermediate line across the deepest stretch. We didn't have any initial bites, so we sent midges under an indicator downstream through an obstacle course of boulders and downed trees, and there I picked up 3 rainbows, one of 20 inch, 22 inch, and a 25 inch.

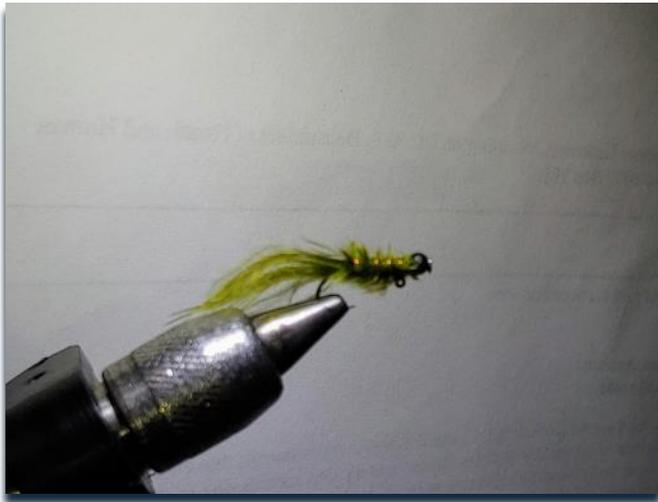
We then slipped downstream, fishing the White Hole (named for the house next to it, once white and now gray), and further downstream the Brown Hole, named for Carmen's brown house. We didn't pick up any further fish, and called it a (half) day. Dylan gave me recommendations for the next couple of days, which I will write about next month.

I went back on my own the following weekend, launching my pontoon at the same public launch. I had a vigorous upstream

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row, managing to get to the White Hole by the power of my oars, but the next riffle was too fast for me. I ended up walking over the rocks and logs to the side of the riffle to the Blue Hole, dragging my pontoon behind me.

I spent most of the day in the Blue Hole, trying various techniques. I found the fish easily spooked, and had multiple bites and a few hookups with a **Balanced Damsel** under an indicator in the obstacle course,



and swinging **Big Ugly Boobies** under a type 5 sink in the deep stretch.



When it started getting late, I gradually slipped back down to the launch, swinging a wet fly and a prince nymph as I went. I hooked an enormous rainbow, probably 30 inches, a couple of dozen feet above Carmen's dock. He jumped a few times, and headed downstream. Despite having a 6 weight rod, I was un-

able to stop him and he broke me off well into my backing.

So I arrived back at the launch having not landed a fish, but well satisfied. Amusingly, a guy at the take-out recognized me from the June Santiam Flycasters' East Lake trip.

Anyone interested in the Williamson should consider renting Carmen's house on the famous Brown Hole. She donated a weekend to the club auction last year, and her house can be seen on AirBNB under the name [Rustic River Lodge](#). The best months are July, August, and September.

Next month: **Enormous Rainbows at Rocky Point.**

## ***Cold Weather Fishing*** ***By Beth Jappay***



Hi, My name is Beth, and I'm an addict.

I'm addicted to fly fishing.

I confess, after 30+ years of fly fishing I am now at the point that I can't go longer than 3 weeks without fishing or I have withdrawal symptoms. So I've had to learn to fish through in the winter months. I figure this is a good time to pass on what I have learned about cold weather fishing.

I have learned to love fishing in the rain. For one thing, I often have the lake to myself, and I have also found that the fish are much more likely to bite. I think they feel safer from predators when it is raining, and I have sometimes caught 2-3 times as many fish as sunny days.

This weekend I was fishing at Blue Den Lake, which is near Scio. It was cold and rainy and the water temp was 49 degrees. There were two guys who fished for about 2 hours, caught a few fish and left. I stayed for about 5 hours and caught almost a dozen.

Am I hardier? I doubt it. I think I was just better equipped.



I have learned that the key to comfort is warm feet. You can have 5 layers on, but if your feet are cold, you will be uncomfortable. The first consideration should be the waders you are using, and it is clear that the warmest waders are neoprene boot-footed waders.

About 25 years ago I joined an April lake fishing trip in Montana with Denny Rickards and Jay Fair. The trip involved standing in thigh-deep water while there was still snow on the ground, casting for hours to cruising fish. I bought a pair of neoprene boot-footed waders on their strong recommendation. My assigned roommate did not, using her usual neoprene stocking-footed waders instead. She ended up spending half of our fishing time warming up in her rental car, whereas I was able to fish for hours comfortably.

Keep in mind that most neoprene boot-footed waders in the stores are rubber-soled duck hunting waders. They are fine if you are going to strap on flippers, but for wading, felt-soled waders are better.

However I stillwater fish from my pontoon with scuba fins and scuba boots and have had to come up with a different solution,

which I can summarize in two words: electric socks.

25 years ago I bought (for the same trip) my first pair of electric socks. They ran on 2 D batteries, and had wires that ran down the legs. These days electric socks have small rechargeable lithium batteries, and multiple warmth settings.

I bought my first modern pair 3 years ago. They even had a remote control, but I found the battery only lasted 3 hours on the medium setting.

The next year I bought a pair with a stronger battery (Action Heat 5V), but only got about an extra hour of warmth, and discovered that the button controller on the outside of the calf could be pushed when my leg bumped against my pontoon either shutting it off or changing the power setting. Then they accidentally went through the wash, and the left sock stopped working. I decided to make the best of the situation, though--extra batteries! I fished the rest of the year with the first year's sock on my left, and the second year's sock on the right. Half way through my day I would get off the water, pull down my waders and change my batteries. Yes, that felt almost as weird as it sounds, but it worked.

This year I discovered those lithium batteries aren't working anymore, and have upgraded to a [Volt 3.7V](#) sock liner with their supplemental battery, which is supposed to give 8 hours of warmth on their low-medium setting. I also have a pair of woolen sock liners under my electric socks, and I absolutely love my thick [Alpaca socks](#) I put on top of them. If you are looking to buy battery socks, I recommend you check out [TheWarmingStore.com](#).

Next in importance to warm feet, is a warm hat, and a neck warmer. I love, love, love the sheepskin hat my mother gave me two years ago. It is probably 3 times warmer than a wool cap. In addition it is important to have multiple layers and multiple options for changes of clothes. Under my waders I am wearing expedition-weight merino top and bottom long johns, and I am also usually wearing my Orvis jacket, and have my Simms raincoat on the pontoon with me.

I keep a dry bag on my pontoon in which I keep:

#### Year-Round:

- K-100 hand pump
- Wool sweater
- Fleece neck warmer
- Leatherman tool
- Lighter
- Temporary patch made from Flex Tape
- Tube of Aqua Seal

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- Life Straw
- Kleenex pack
- Sunscreen

**Winter:**

- Sheepskin hat
- 3 pairs of gloves, including a wool mitten-glove and a neoprene kayaking glove
- Packable down vest
- Chemical hand warmers.

**Summer:**

- Packable raincoat
- Fingerless gloves

I also find it very helpful to be able to sip on something warm while fishing on a cold day. I keep two thermoses on my pontoon. One with mint hot chocolate and one with Tuaca-spiked hot cider.

So, don't give up on winter fishing, just get better equipped .

## **Special Request from Beth Jappay**

### **“Where to Fish and When?”**

She writes,

*“I am soliciting opinions. I am planning on retiring in 2021, and traveling around in my RV fly fishing full time. I am creating a calendar of places I have been recommended to visit each month of the calendar year.*

*For example, for June, East Lake is on my list.*

*I am hoping for recommendations of fly fishing destinations in the Western US that club members would recommend spending a couple of weeks at. In particular I would like to know the month(s) that destination would be recommended, perhaps a suggested campground or guide.”*

To contact Beth with your recommendations  
[ejappay@comcast.net](mailto:ejappay@comcast.net)

## **It's Time to Renew Your Membership**

**If you haven't done so already, this is an excellent time to renew your membership for 2021. Dues are \$30 for individuals or \$35 for families.**

**Lifetime memberships are available for \$300. Use the form at the back of the newsletter to renew your membership or download the form from the Santiam Flycasters website [www.santiamflycasters.com](http://www.santiamflycasters.com)**

**Or Mail to: Santiam Flycasters, PO Box 691, Salem, OR 97308.**

**Thanks for your support of the club**

***December 2020 Fly of the Month***  
***Denny Rickard's Callibaetis Nymph***  
***Modified By Dell Swearingen***



**Materials List:**

**Hook:** DAI-Riki #730 Size 14-10  
**Thread:** Veevus 16/0, 10/0 or 8/0 orange  
**Body:** Four strands peacock twisted around the thread to form a noodle  
**Wire:** Ultra wire SM copper or gold  
**Hackle:** Jay Fair's grizzly roster hackle dyed burnt orange sized to hook gap  
**Tail:** Mallard flank dyed burnt orange

**Background:**

Following are some random thoughts which led to the December Fly of the Month:

1. Denny Rickard's fly patterns are well known along with his books on Stillwater fishing. On his web site: <https://www.flyfishingstillwaters.com> he listed five Callibaetis nymph patterns, grey, olive, black, peacock and black peacock. He indicates that he prefers the grey and olive colors.
2. Ken Karnosh demonstrated tying Denny's Callibaetis Nymph at one of the Club's fly-tying sessions.
3. Ricky Love's email highlighted success fishing Detroit Lake using a Partridge and Orange soft hackle and Leroy Hyatt's Guaranteed fly (which has an orange hot spot.)
4. Tim Johnson reported that the Partridge and Orange soft hackle worked well on the Willamette River.
5. In the Fall, an orange bodied Tied-down Caddis, orange bodied Elk Hair Caddis or Muddler Minnow with orange on its sides can be very effective.
6. When the Sockeye (September) and Kokanee (October) are spawning in Canadian waters, orange and black are excellent woolly bugger colors. The summation of this fixation on orange led to the December Fly of the Month,.

## Directions

1. Insert the hook in the vise, flatten the barb and use touching turns to place a thread wrap from 1/8" behind the eye of the hook back to parallel to the barb. Choose eight to ten mallard flank feathers. Measure the feathers the length as the hook shank and secure the feathers to the hook for the tail.



Figure 1

2. Secure wire to the hook shank and let it trail behind the fly. Choose eight to ten additional mallard flank feathers, secure them to the hook by their tips and pull them back out of the way.



Figure 2

3. Select four strands of peacock herl, trim their tips off even, and secure them in front of the tail. Form a peacock noodle by spinning the peacock fibers around the thread. Wrap the noodle in touching turns to within and 1/8" of the hook eye.



Figure 3

4. Choose a grizzly hackle dyed burnt orange and tie in back of the hook eye. Then palmer the feather back toward the tail using four or five evenly spaced turns. Use the wire to secure the feather in front of the tail and then spiral the wire toward the hook eye in four or five evenly spaced turns to segment the fly's body.



Figure 4

5. Fold the longer mallard flank feathers over the top of the fly and secure them behind the hook eye. Whip finish and complete the fly with a thin coat of UV clear fly finish. The fly is ready to fish.



Figure 5



# Santiam Flycasters

## 2021 Membership Form

The Santiam Flycasters, Inc. is a group of men, women, and youths in the Salem area who have a common interest in fly fishing and have joined together to share their experiences and knowledge of the sport since 1975. The club was incorporated as an Oregon non-profit organization in March of 1977. The Santiam Flycasters, Inc. is affiliated with the Fly Fishers International.

The mission of the Santiam Flycasters is to promote the sport of fly fishing for all interested individuals of every generation now and into the future. Through fellowship, education, conservation practices, promoting research, guardianship of proper regulations and support, the Santiam Flycasters can succeed in this mission.

We meet in Salem the second Thursday of each month (no meeting in July)  
at the Pringle Park Community Building  
606 Church Street at 7:00 pm.  
[www.santiamflycasters.com](http://www.santiamflycasters.com)

Mail the completed signed form to: *The Santiam Flycasters, P.O. Box 691, Salem, OR 97308*, or drop it off in person at our next meeting. \*Memberships are from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. For new members, there is a 50% reduction after July 1<sup>st</sup>. There is no midyear discount for Life Membership.

Life membership -- \$300    Regular -- \$30    Family -- \$35

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE : \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an FFF Member? Yes    No

Are you interested in obtaining an SFC Name Tag? Yes    No

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

### 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