



SANTIAM FLYCASTERS

SANTIAMFLYCASTERS.COM

February 2022

February SFC Meeting (“Zoom” Meeting) Introducing TreadLightly! With Anna Backlund



Hi! I’m Anna Baklund -- outdoor lover, off-road enthusiast, and Program Manager for Washington and Oregon for Tread Lightly!.

My love affair with the outdoors started nearly a decade ago when I hopped on the back of a motorcycle and set out for the mountains. After what felt like an eternity on a washboard gravel road, we rounded a corner and there was Mount Rainier in all her glory. It was in that moment that I had my epiphany: this is what I'm supposed to be doing with my life! Flash forward, and nowadays you'll find me riding my dirt bike along ridgelines throughout the Cascades and Rockies, chasing trout in the backcountry, floating down ice-cold rivers, carving through fresh powder on my snow bike, pedaling on any of the many trails open to e-bikes... or basically any other outdoor activity/opportunity thrown my way! In all of these experiences, I've grown a profound respect for our access to public lands and foster a special interest in stewardship and conservation. I firmly believe in minimizing our impact, conserving the access we have, and giving back and doing our part.



Which is why I'm stoked to be part of the Tread Lightly! team -- I have the chance to build on my personal passion for the outdoors, and the outdoor community, by educating folks on how to take care when recreating in the outdoors! For the last 30 years, the team at Tread Lightly! has been working collaboratively with land managers, industry partners, and volunteers to promote responsible outdoor recreation via stewardship projects and ethics education that leads to sustainable use of our public lands and waterways so that we have access to public lands for generations to come.



I will be talking about

- Who TreadLightly! is. What we do. Our Mission.
- Current Issues facing the outdoor community.
- TreadLightly!'s solution and efforts.
- TREAD principles and recreation tips.



For more www.treadlightly.org.

Board Meeting
By Zoom
February 7
6:30 pm

General Meeting
February 10
7:00 pm

Zoom/Online Only
7:00 pm

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Santiam Flycasters
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President's Corner
By Scott Vaslev

Fortunate to be writing this newsletter on a lanai overlooking Napili Bay on Maui. I always bring a fly rod along just in case I get the itch but haven't had a lot of luck. I did manage to break my rod tip off in a screen door once. Klutzy!



Last month I talked about my rod(s) situation, this month lines and reels. I have three old Pfluegers with spare reels but they are all right hand reel and I prefer left hand nowadays. My new reels are the Lamson Liquid 5+ with spare spools. Decent reels with an enclosed bearing, super light and you can purchase one with 2 extra spools for under \$200.

My fly line situation remains fluid as I add and subtract as time marches on. My newest purchase is the in-touch midge tip from RIO. I've been using this line to fish weighted and unweighted nymphs in still waters. The line itself has a 6ft. clear camo tip with a sink rate is 1.5 i.p.s.

I recently watched a video where some dudes were fishing the in-touch midge tip vs. some other guys fishing the traditional indicator set up. All were using chironmids and buzzers. The midge tip group waxed the indicator group like 12 zip. Here's why:

1. The midge tip has an ultra- low stretch core so you can feel the least little bite or nibble.
2. The indicators were missing bites because eventually they got bored and looked away or had too much slack in their lines. Plus, they weren't getting the hits the other group were getting.
3. I don't know the exact mix of flies but most were using a weighted chironmid for their bottom fly, a heavy hook buzzer for the mid fly and a nymph for their top fly or a combination there of.

The difference of course is you are fishing by feel instead of sight fishing. By slowly retrieving your in-touch line you have constant contact with your flies .

I bought a Euro line a few years back but haven't been using it. I have been using a standard dry line but after watching a vid from Tactical Flyfishing I'm putting my Euro line back in rotation. I'm still learning the nuances of tight-lining but here's what I recently learned. On a micro leader set up you want as little drag as you can get. A larger diameter fly line will sag, especially the farther out you are fishing. So now my micro leader set up: 8 lb. max from my fly line to sighter (4x) to tippet ring, and 6x tippet to my flies along with my smaller diameter Euro line.

The rest of my lines are a mixed bag of full sinkers, dries, and sink tips. I need a new dry line but will wait to buy one until I see what Beth or somebody else is using.

Aloha Scott

It is Time to Renew Your Santiam Flycasters Membership

If you haven't done so already, it's time to renew your Santiam Flycasters membership for 2022. Dues for 2022 remain the same as last year: \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families. Life membership can be purchased for a fee of only \$300. Take advantage of this opportunity and you never have to renew your membership again, ever!

Use the form on the back of the newsletter to renew your membership or download the form from the Santiam Flycasters website (www.santiamflycasters.com). You can mail it to: Santiam Flycasters, P.O. Box 691, Salem, OR 97308.



If you wish to pay your 2022 dues through PayPal, please use the following link: <http://www.santiamflycasters.com/join.php>

Tim Johnson, Treasurer/Membership

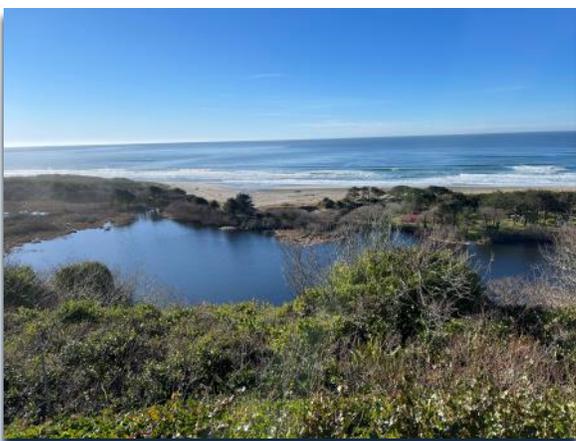
Wi-Ne-Ma Lake Outing Report ***By Leroy Shepherd***

About 10-12 motivated Santiam Flycasters braved the cool, clear, and actually pleasant weather conditions to refresh their stillwater fishing techniques on Wi-Ne-Ma Lake on January 22. The native cutthroats, in large part, were not amused or cooperative. Very few fish were brought to hand and most of those responded early in the morning.

While we shouldn't ask for a much nicer January day to fish on the Oregon Coast, there wasn't much happening to bend the rod and get the adrenaline pumping.

While the nice weather was one redeeming factor, for me at least, the outing motivated me to find my fishing stuff that was strewn across four storage locations as we are in the midst of moving. Further, bankside conversations helped us catch up with one another as we look forward to the outings planned for this spring.

Thanks to all who came out. Be sure to check the calendar for upcoming outings.



Pictures courtesy of Tim Johnson

February 26 Detroit Lake Outing

Weather permitting, we will fish Detroit Lake on February 26. The lake is now refilling for the summer and should be full in early May.

To get there, drive Highway 20 east and turn right at Mongold Boat Ramp a few miles above Detroit Dam. You will need to either have a State Parks pass or purchase a daily pass with your credit card for \$5. As you get to the bottom of the parking area at the summertime launch area, take the road to the right to the low water ramp or turn left for about 100 feet and turn toward the water on the road to the old ramp. Both should be usable now.

A floating device is needed for this lake. Suggested gear is 4-6 weight rods, preferably with intermediate or sinking lines. Flies include the normal stillwater selection including leeches, woolly buggers, soft hackles, and other attractor patterns, including the colors white, chartreuse, and orange.

The club will not provide a meal, so remember your lunch as well as your PFD and adequate clothing.

Ken Karnosh is the outing sponsor. Contact him by e-mail at kenkarnosh@gmail.com if you have a question.



Saturday Casting Sessions

CHANGE OF SCHEDULE

Two-handed is now at 9:00 AM on the gravel bar at Wallace Marine Park.

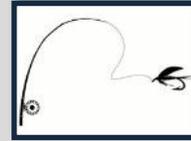
Single-handed classes are 10:30 AM at the first (left) soccer field.



Welcome New Members in January

Chris Styler, Salem

Hubert Phillips, Salem



2022 SFC Outing Schedule

February 26	Detroit Lake
March 12	Crooked River
April 13 (Wed)	Cheadle Pond (bluegill/bass)
April 23	McKenzie River (Hayden-Armitage)
May 11 (Wed)	Silverton Reservoir
May 14	Deschutes River (Warm Springs-Trout Creek)
May 21	Olalla Reservoir
June 1 (Wed)	Crane Prairie Reservoir (Rock Creek)
June 15 (Wed)	Umpqua River (shad)
June 25	East Lake (Cinder Hill)
July 2	North Santiam River
July 6 (Wed)	Gold Lake
July 20 (Wed)	Three Creek Lake
July 30	South Santiam River (Pleasant Valley-Bates Br.)
August 13	Willamette River (Keizer Rapids-Wheatland for smallmouth bass)
August 20	Diamond Lake
August 31 (Wed)	North Santiam River (Shelburn-Greens Bridge)
September 10	Hosmer Lake
September 21 (Wed)	Walton Lake
October 8	Crooked River
October 12 (Wed)	McKenzie River
October 22	Deschutes River (Warm Springs-Trout Creek)
November 2 (Wed)	Mid. Fk. Willamette River (Below Dexter)
November 12	Detroit Lake

Mousing in Alaska — Part Two

By Beth Jappay

This is the second of three articles about a trip I took to Alaska in 2019. If you missed Part 1 last month, here is the [link](#). As I mentioned in my first article, the large Leopard Rainbow in the Aniak River are usually located around structure, such as under and next to fallen logs and piles of wood. Though an intermediate caster can do very well here, I particularly love catching big trout after a challenging cast, and I had plenty of opportunities during this week. Chances of success were much improved if the cast was inches from the logs or branches, and being off just a little resulted in getting snagged. Fortunately the guides were usually able to pop the fly loose. My most memorable fish was caught after a 70 foot cast dropped the mouse pattern 2' behind a log, resulting in a 23" rainbow immediately smashing it. My next most memorable were after I had to resort to single hand spey to drop the mouse behind a rock, picking up 2 nice rainbow in that spot.



I feel obliged at this point to mention the mosquitos. That week there were record temperatures, with rapid melting of the tundra and a lot of standing water. The Upper Camp was never opened that week due to the heavy mosquito burden. While mosquito repellent was adequate at Mid Camp and while we were on the boats out in the water, we needed netting for any hikes for fishing in the tundra. I bought a special hat that unsnapped to pull out the netting, but made the mistake of not reading the directions for use prior to the trip. Letting the netting rest against my forehead while fishing, later that night I noticed my forehead had a rash. I initially assumed I was allergic to the fabric, but when the next day it began to itch terribly I realized I had so many mosquito bites there that they had become confluent. I then also realized that I had failed to bring any cortisone cream with me. I ended up resorting to spraying my Flonase steroid nasal spray on my forehead. It worked great.

I wanted in this article to go into a little more detail on the flies that we used. I had researched mouse flies ahead of the trip. At the time I was not good enough at spinning deer hair to tie the Morrish Mouse (the pattern I saw used in the [Mighty Mouse I](#) video I watched), but found a simpler pattern on YouTube that looked both easy and effective. It was created for a night fishing trip for browns by Joe Cermele. After designing this new pattern he decided it looked like a character from the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle cartoon, and named it the Master Splinter (here is a link to the [video](#) I watched).



I tied up a half dozen of these flies for the trip, and a few more while there at the vice in the lodge. It did catch fish, but didn't skate the water quite as well as the Morrish Mouse, which I found out none of the guides tie but rather buy for \$10 apiece.



I asked Bruce, one of our guides, about the red spot expecting to hear "hot spot". Instead I was told this story and you can judge for yourself if he was pulling my leg:

"Well, a few years ago we had a particularly prolific spring, with lots of grain for the rodents to eat. They were eating so much that they ended up with huge protuberant hemorrhoids. We started tying our flies to match and found we caught more fish".

I took pictures of his fly boxes.



The streamer patterns we used were mostly dark egg-sucking leeches and Dalai Lamas, the latter most often in black/white and olive/white. I also had great success on a black dragontail sculpin pattern I had brought along, until I lost them. When I go back next time I will tie some on a hook that has some give, and can be pulled off when hung up on a log.



We caught rainbow, Arctic Grayling, and Dolly Varden on both the mouse pattern and the streamers. I found Dolly Varden to be a fascinating fish. They are a char and they can get pretty big. What I found most interesting about this fish is how the lower fins change color based on their stress level—they start out light and turn deeper and deeper orange-red the more they are stressed.

I was surprised to learn that the rainbows don't really go for the insects. There were some hatches while we were there (a few caddis and PMDs, but mostly mosquitos), but only the grayling will take a dry fly. I had brought along my 5 weight rod and had the opportunity to

catch grayling on dries while I was there.



Grayling are a pretty interesting fish too. They have a tall dorsal fin that can lie flat or stand up, and their pupil is a distinctive teardrop shape. They are also long-lived and grow very slowly—a 20 inch Arctic Grayling is approximately 30 years old.

They could be pretty annoying though, as often when you were swinging a streamer through a pool a pod of grayling would keep intercepting the fly you were intending for a big rainbow.

More than once the guides would tell us how much fun it is to catch a chum salmon on a fly. We kept watch for the chum but we were a week early.

When the main group arrived on Saturday Ludi gave us an hour-long presentation, and one of the things that he covered at length were the restrictions that year for fishing king salmon. Due to low numbers (mostly elsewhere) the king season was not open in our area while we were there. Alaska's special rules included that if you had a picture of yourself holding up a fish out of water, you were presumed to have kept that fish. He warned us that the game warden could ask to look at our phones if we were stopped. The penalty for poaching is a \$5,000 fine for the individual, and \$30,000 for the lodge. We were not supposed to target them, but there was no penalty for catching and releasing a king salmon if caught incidentally and kept in the water.

We came across a pod of kings resting in a long narrow pool on one of our day trips. I had tied some pink and white Dalai Lamas for this possible scenario, and they took that fly when presented on the swing. Hooking and landing them was even more exciting as my rod was only a 7 weight, a little light for this fish.



The guides recommended that I plan a trip for late July or August, after the salmon migration was further along. At those times of the season they target the rainbow trout with egg, and eventually flesh fly patterns. I had to look up what a flesh fly looked like:



Oops, looks like I ran out of time to tell you all about the rescue we required. Some of you may have heard that story, since it is now in my collection of funny stories. I guess the rest of you are going to have to wait until next month.

February Fly of the Month
The Sealy Booby
By Beth Jappay



Winter and early spring are the perfect time of the year to fish with boobies and FABs (Foam Arsed Blobs). When the water is this cold the fish hang out on the bottom of the lake since the water is warmer there. With booby fishing on fast full sink lines it is easy to adjust how far off the bottom you are by just changing the length of the leader. Here are links to the articles I wrote last year: [The Booby](#) and [The Blob](#).

One of the challenging aspects of tying booby flies is how the fly will spin while retrieved if the foam eyes are not nearly exactly symmetrical. Also problematic is how the foam and materials tend to slip on the hook shank, so over the past year I have come up with some refinements to how I tie them.

The Seal Bugger is a pattern I learned from Denny Rickards about 25 years ago. This is my booby adaptation.

I always use the Hanak 900BL hook to tie this fly as the booby eyes seem to get in the way of hooking the fish. The 900BLs extra gap width increases the chance of hook ups. This hook is also light and very sharp. Foam tubes can be purchased, but to save money I cut my own foam tubes out of foam blocks using a [Gunville Booby Cutter](#). I use the 8mm for sizes #6 and #8 hooks, 6 mm for size #10 hooks. I find the larger eyes tend to spin less. The foam cylinders are cut in half to make 2 booby flies apiece.

Hook: Hanak 900 BL, size #6 - #10
Thread: 140 Denier, black
Tail: black marabou
Rib: UTC copper wire, small or brassie
Hackle: Whiting Bugger Hackle, purple (or schlappen)
Dubbing: Arizona Simi Seal, wine/black
Booby eyes: black foam cylinder
Wing: black marabou (optional)

After laying down a thread base tie on the marabou tail, and then a folded-over piece of flash on either side. Then attach the copper wire on the far side, tying it in a few mm from the end of the wire and folding the end over to ensure it won't slip.



On the near side of the hook tie in the hackle by the tip (I also fold the tip over into a "v" to increase durability). Tie a dubbing loop, then bring the thread forward.



Wrap the thread three times around the exact center of the foam cylinder.



Roll the cylinder up the thread until it comes close to the hook, checking that the thread is centered all the way around the cylinder. If it is not, unwrap it at this point and rewrap (an asymmetrical booby will spin when retrieved). Now wrap the thread around the hook, just behind the eye, drawing the cylinder up until it is now resting on the hook, making sure the thread is exiting forward on the top of the cylinder. Check again, looking down from the top, to make sure the foam looks equal on both sides. Now tighten up the bobbin until the tip is touching the center of the foam.



Now, pushing with the tip of the bobbin, rotate the foam around and around, until the cylinder is tight against the top of the shank of the hook. Secure it with figure 8 wraps. (I find this method of securing the cylinder is much more likely to result in a symmetrical and perpendicular cylinder than trying to figure 8 wrap it). Now put a half hitch behind the eye of the hook and get the bobbin out of the way.

Put the dubbing in the loop, spin it up, then brush it out.



Bring the thread back behind the foam again by going over the **top** of the foam and wrap once around the shank. Wrap the dubbing forward until it is just behind the cylinder eyes, and secure it on the **bottom** of the shank with the thread, but do not cut it yet. Bring the thread back in front of the hook, again going over the **top** of the foam and wrap once behind the eye of the hook. Turn the fly upside down and pull the end of the dubbing loop to behind the eye of the hook and secure it with the thread. Now cut. I find this fly has much better durability with this extra step.



Bring the thread back behind the foam, again going over the **top** and wrapping once behind the foam. Bring the hackle forward as a counter wrap, securing on the **bottom** of the hook, this time behind the foam cylinder. Go ahead and cut the hackle. Leaving the thread behind the foam, wrap the wire forward, weaving it back and forth to avoid binding down the hackle. Secure the wire behind the foam on the **bottom** of the hook, again don't cut the wire quite yet.



Bring the thread in front of the foam, again going over the **top** and wrapping once behind the eye. Just like with the dubbing loop, turn the fly upside down and bring the wire forward again to just behind the eye, and secure again with the thread. Cut the wire or helicopter off. Now carefully brush out the dubbing by brushing perpendicular to the hook shank.



About 25% of the time when I tie this fly I will add a wing, and sometimes it seems to really help catch fish, so if you are tying a wing, bring the thread again behind the foam by going over the **top** of the foam and wrapping once behind. Attach a small amount of marabou so the tips are a little shorter than the tail.



Wrap the thread at least 3 times, then fold the butts of the feathers back and wrap at least three times to secure the fold. I will then wrap once or twice on the inside of the fold, back over the top of everything, then bring the thread back over the top of the foam, and whip finish behind the eye. Now trim the butts of the marabou.



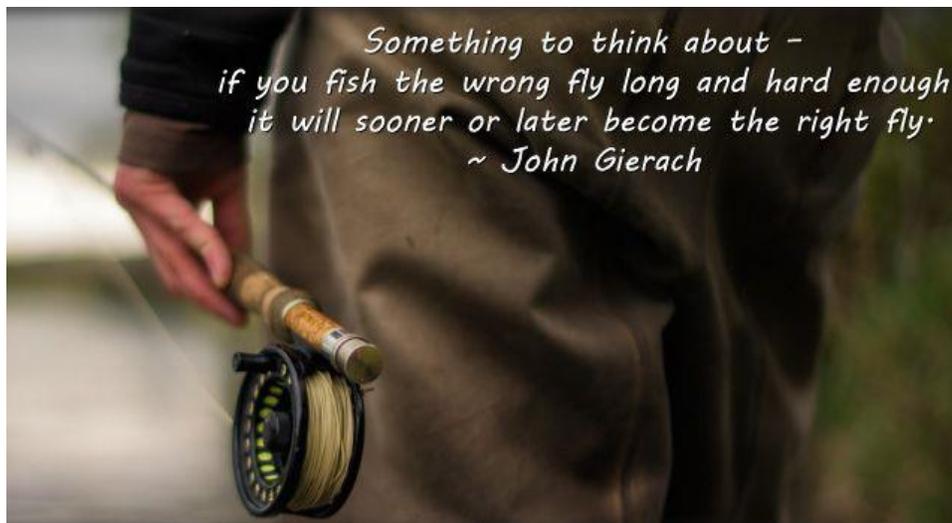
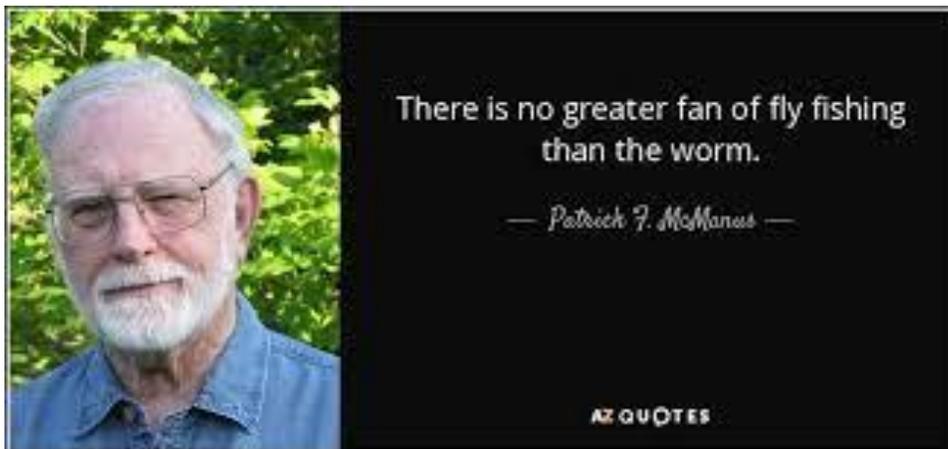
Now again turn the fly upside down, and put a big drop of superglue on the bottom of the foam, securing the foam to the shank of the hook. Run a feather stem through the eye of the hook to make sure it is clear, then let the fly dry upside down.

Due to the big eyes this fly is very buoyant. I fish it as my point fly, with a foam pullover leech as my dropper. I also tie this fly in brown, olive, black/copper, and orange. The retrieve for this fly can be a slow or fast troll or an irregular strip with frequent pauses.

How to join the February meeting. February's presentation will be conducted online via Zoom.

Watch your email for the Zoom Link The link will activate around 6:45 pm on the night of the program. Preregistration is not required. Please let me know if you have any related questions.

Tim Johnson, tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com, 503-507-8552





Santiam Flycasters

2022 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

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 1st through December 31st. For new members, there is a 50% reduction after July 1st. 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 FFI 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