



# SANTIAM FLYCASTERS

SANTIAMFLYCASTERS.COM

January 2022

## January SFC Meeting (In Person or by "Zoom")

### Infinite Seasons—The Road to Being Successful Year-Round

By Nick Wheeler (due to technical difficulties in December we are repeating this presentation)



It is every angler's dream to fish as much as possible throughout the year, so let's discuss the ways you might be able to do so successfully. We'll examine all the best opportunities we have locally to accomplish this feat. Some of the waterways might already be known to you, while others you may have only heard about through rumors. While some say the difference between a good and a great angler is skill or luck, I believe it is timing. Being in the right place at the right time is key to having that epic day, and that's why knowledge of each location and it's unique prime fishing season matters. So let's go into detail on how to make a plan to hit all the highlights in our local waters and increase your likelihood for success. This presentation will help you catch fish continuously throughout the year and will aid in your pursuit of an endless season. I'll also share my rotation of fishing spots and how I spend my year on the water.

I've has been working in the fishing industry for 20 years helping anglers become better educated. From on the water classes and guiding to helping pick out the right size wader, I've been a reliable friendly face you'll recognize from our local fly fishing shops. I started my fly fishing career in the hills of Northern California, but for over the last 10 years the Pacific Northwest has become my home. While some know me as the "shad master," my knowledge and interest also extend to chasing steelhead, salmon, trout, and bass, leaving no stone unturned in my fishing pursuits. In this presentation I will share the knowledge I've acquired over the years and help you stay on water year-around.



### Board Meeting

#### By Zoom

January 10

6:30 pm

### General Meeting

January 13

7:00 pm

In Person and by Zoom/Online  
Pringle Hall Community Center

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**President's Corner**  
**By Scott Vaslev**

I put up racks in my garage and basement to store my rods when not in use. Each place can store four rods at a time. Hardly ever break them down anymore and put them in their storage tubes. The only time I will is when I am traveling to a place overnight and space is limited.



I have through the years accumulated multiple fly fishing rods: 2-3 wt. 10ft. euro rods; 3-5wt. rods, 2-9ft. , one 10 ft.;2-6 wt., one 8 ½ ft., the other 10 ft.; one 7wt. 9 ft. and one 9 wt. 9 footer.

The racks in my garage store my river rods and in the basement are my lake rods. I have them made up and ready to go so all I have to do is grab them and head out. All rods are halved with a small section of painters tape at each end.

On my river trips I'll usually bring two or three rods with me. Two of the rods are my 10 ft. euros, one set to tight line the other to swing. You might ask yourself why I would choose to use a euro rod to swing with. Actually, you can cast a euro just fine using a good dry line. The rod is extremely pliable so you have to wait five minutes for everything to uncoil before your forward cast. Well it's not really that bad but it takes 2 or 3 beats longer than a traditional medium action rod. I really like the feel of the euro on takes and the softer tip is a real tippet saver. If I want to switch to a dry dropper set up all I have to do is put a 6 inch dropper tag to my tippet ring and viola I'm back in action. If I bring a 3<sup>rd</sup> rod it is usually a 5 wt. with a sink tip.

I've gotten addicted to 10 ft. rods. The 9 ft., 5 wt. has been my go to for years but the extra foot of rod makes casting easier (especially roll casting) and mending line is a snap. The downside is it also sticks up higher in my rod holders so a tangle or two in a tree is more probable.

None of my rods were super expensive, mostly middle of the road stuff. I buy rods like I buy wine. If I never taste the good stuff I'll never know what I'm missing.

One of my fishing buddies commented to me "if anything new comes along you gotta have it." Guilty as charged! The reason I love this sport so much is the myriad of techniques, equipment, and technologies that evolve over time. That and the fact our club has folks who are just as nuts as I am.

## ***It is Time to Renew Your Santiam Flycasters Membership***



If you haven't done so already, it is time to renew your Santiam Flycasters membership for 2022. Dues for 2022 are as follows: \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families. Life membership can be achieved for only \$300. Take advantage of this opportunity and you never again have to renew your membership, ever!

By renewing your membership, you support the club's ability to continue to bring outstanding speakers to the club, such as Skip Morris, Carol Ann Morris, Ernie Gulley, Josh Linn, Tim Flagler, to mention just a few, and Nick Wheeler (coming this month). The club makes these presentations available through Zoom and the club's new YouTube Channel. In 2022 we return to in-person meeting with the option to join meetings through Zoom. You also support our August casting clinic and other casting practice opportunities. We also anticipate resuming our fly tying get-togethers in 2022.

We have a record number of outings scheduled for 2022, including some new ones such as a shad fishing outing on the Umpqua.

So don't miss out on all the fun. 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](http://www.santiamflycasters.com)). Please mail your membership renewal to: Santiam Flycasters, P.O. Box 691, Salem, OR 97308.

Thanks!

### ***January 22 Wi-Ne-Ma Lake Outing***

Thanks to Leroy, our first outing for 2022 is on January 22 at Wi-Ne-Ma Christian Camp on the Oregon coast north of Neskowin. This lake has a good population of native cutthroat trout that are usually cooperative. It is a great way to start a new fishing year.

To get there, drive Highways 22 and 18 west and either:

Drive to the Highway 101 intersection and turn right (north), or  
Turn right from Highway 18 onto the Three Rivers Highway at Valley Junction, turn left in about 13 miles at Dolph Junction onto the Little Nestucca River Highway, travel west and then turn left (south) onto Highway 101.

The Camp Winema Road turns west off of Highway 101 between Mileposts 93 and 94 just north of the viewpoint.

A floating device provides the best access to the lake, but one can fish from shore in a couple of spots. Use a light rod with either floating or intermediate line, since the lake is fairly shallow. Woolly buggers or other subsurface flies work well, probably with a beadhead for floating line. Leroy has done well with his "redneck" woolly bugger, which is black with red thread for the throat.

Right now, we do not plan to provide lunch, so bring your food, beverage, and appropriate clothing. If plans change, we will let you know by e-mail.

If you have questions, contact Leroy at [lshepherd7999@gmail.com](mailto:lshepherd7999@gmail.com) or Ken at [kenkarnosh@gmail.com](mailto:kenkarnosh@gmail.com).

**How to join the January meeting.** We have rented Pringle Hall (606 Church St SE, Salem). The doors will open around 6:30 pm. To comply with Oregon Health Authority guidelines, face masks or face shields will be required inside the hall.

**As an alternative,** the program presentation can also be viewed 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](mailto:tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com), 503-507-8552

## 2022 SFC Outings

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



## ***Mousing in Alaska — Part One***

### ***By Beth Jappay***



Well the two technical articles I am working on are requiring time-consuming research, so my next articles will be relating a fly fishing experience I had in 2019. If you were in the club early that year you may remember that one of the presentations we had discussed mousing in Alaska. I went home that night and did research on the internet and found two YouTube videos about mousing, [Mighty Mouse I](#) and [Mighty Mouse II](#), showing explosive surface takes by huge rainbow, swinging a mouse dry fly. I was immediately ready to book a trip. These videos were created by the Aniak River Lodge, and I then spoke to Ludi, the lodge owner. He let me know that the Aniak River was one of the few Alaskan rivers in which the local rainbows can't retreat to a lake for the winter, and are therefore voracious when the ice melts in spring. Their main source of protein until the salmon show up in July are rodents swimming across the river.



The timing of my trip was therefore important, and I signed up for the first week of July.

I knew that rainbow trout that swim out to the ocean will come back 2 & 3 years later as steelhead, but I now learned that rainbow trout that live in rivers that drain into the Bering Sea do not head to the sea. They live in those rivers year round, waiting for the calories to come from the Bering Sea to them in the form of salmon eggs and salmon flesh. These fish have distinctive large dark spots and are called Leopard Trout. They are frequently over 20", and are found next to undercut banks and under and around piles of wood and other structure. It was strongly recommended that I bring a 7 weight rod so they could be dragged away and quickly landed.

The town of Aniak (population 500) is located on the bank of the Kuskokwim river at its confluence with the Aniak, due west of Anchorage and a little more than halfway to the Bering sea. The only access is to fly in, or to travel 100 miles up the Kuskokwim river. The usual Saturday flight into Aniak on Ravn Airlines was full, so I flew in a day early, staying at their "Bed and Breakfast."



Check out the door into my bathroom.



Main lodge:





Since I now had a free and extra half day, I was guided to fish for pike and sheefish. Sheefish are the largest of the freshwater Whitefish subfamily of the Salmonidae family, and are only found in the Bering Sea and the rivers of Alaska and Russia that drain into it. Adults can grow to 30-55 lbs. They have a prominent lower jaw, soft mouth, and are “broadcast spawners”--females will release eggs on the water’s surface and males will swim underneath to release sperm. We looked for them where clear tributaries joined the muddy/ stained Kuskokwim, and the guide motored down river and located the pods by checking for surface splashing. He anchored the boat a little upstream and we fished for them by swinging heavily-weighted clausers. The fishing was tricky as the take is very subtle (just a tightening of the line), the hook has to be set very quickly, and a too-vigorous hook set will pull the hook right through their soft mouths. I ended up landing 3, which the guide told me was pretty good.

The next morning the rest of the group arrived and we boarded flat-bottomed boats with 2 clients and a guide to each boat. The trip to the Mid Lodge was 23 miles, and we had the option of fishing for Sheefish or Northern Pike on the way. Peter, my assigned fishing partner, and I chose pike. Our guide made a handful of stops on our way up the Aniak, pulling into small side channels. We tossed poppers and clausers as close to shore as possible and the takes were obvious and vigorous. Often though, after a sometimes long fight the pike would get off the hook as it came close to the boat. The guide explained that those fish had likely not actually been hooked, but instead were gripping the fly in their teeth and only letting go when they saw the boat. This was confirmed in my mind when I landed a fish that had lassoed itself rolling on my fly, never having been hooked.



We arrived at the Mid Lodge at 5pm. It consisted of a main building containing the kitchen and dining/living room, several 2-person cabins, and a couple of larger cabins. The cluster of buildings are resting on top of tundra, and each building is set on vertical logs pounded into the soft silt and leveled a la “Alaskan Bush People.”



There are walkways between every building and they are elevated and also rest on the silt. They and the buildings bounce as you walk on them. The owner let us know that three times in the past 20 years the guides arrived in the spring to find that the river had moved, once over 800’, and that the buildings then had to be moved. Since heavy machinery would sink, this was accomplished by the guides dragging them one by one using ropes and felled trees as rollers—just like an episode of Alaskan Bush People I remember watching!



The lodge employs 2 gourmet chefs, and serves dinner at 7:30 every night. Dinners over the week included fresh dungeness crab, parmesan-encrusted client-caught Sheefish (it tasted like halibut), a suckling pig that had been turned on a spit for 6 hours, and home-made pizza made in a brand new pizza oven.

You have to bring your own alcohol, and one of the chefs related a story to me, about a group of heavy drinkers that paid for an entire pallet on the plane for themselves in order to plentifully supply their beverages of choice. They had a bunch of alcohol left at the end of

the week, and he woke up in the early morning hours, being bounced up and down a good foot in his bunk when the intoxicated clients decided to see what would happen if they all went out on the edge of the deck and jumped up and down at the same time.

There were six guides, and each had their own “beat” on the river. Every morning we had a different guide, and left at 9 am to travel on one of the flat bottomed boats to that guide’s section of the river. A river naturally erodes faster at the outer curve of a river, gradually widening its curves and changing its course, and as the boat was travelling I found myself constantly noticing the trees that were so very slowly falling in on the outside aspect of the river’s curves.



These trees eventually fall in, and the river collects them in piles, and the leopard trout are to be found hanging out mostly **under** these piles of trees and branches.



As you can imagine, fishing for giant trout that are hanging out under piles of floating logs is problematic. The guide would position the boat with the motor upstream of the pile and we would cast down and across, so as to quarter our flies to swing down to the pile of wood. When fishing with the skating mouse pattern the idea was to swing the fly to just

inches upstream of the log. We always had one person fishing a streamer pattern too, and that pattern was supposed to swing **under** the wood, from as little as a foot into the pile to sometimes as far back as 10-20 feet. Yes, as expected the streamer would frequently get hung up, but not as often as one would expect. The guides were fishing with 20 lb leader and if we hung up we would let them use their magic technique to pop the fly off of the wood, bring the hook up and straighten or sharpen it as needed and toss the fly back out again. On slow days we would catch as few as 4-5 rainbow from 18" to 24", and on a good day as many as 18 fish. The mouse patterns worked best before noon, and these takes were more exciting, but the streamer patterns ended up catching more fish.



Next month Part 2: Arctic Grayling, Dolly Varden, King Salmon, and Needing to be Rescued.



### ***Mid Willamette Valley Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing***

We will start the new year out with meetings in January at OSU and here in Salem. The OSU at Corvallis meetings will take place at Snell Hall on the **second Tuesday (January 11)** of the month at 6:00 p.m. For the Salem area meetings, we have a new location and day for the meetings. Center 50+ is co-sponsoring the Salem area meetings and is located at 2615 Portland RD NE, Salem. Meetings will now be on the **fourth Tuesday (January 25)**, at 6:00 p.m., on the second floor, in the craft room.

The first Salem meeting will be working on setting up the fly tying material kits.

Tightlines.

Robert LeClerc

Project Leader

Mid-Willamette Valley Project Healing Waters.

**January Fly of the Month  
Red Estaz Chenille Egg  
By Dell Swearingen**



**Materials List:**

- Bead:** 6/0 or 5/0 Red glass bead with silver center
- Hook:** Red scud hook #12 or #10
- Thread:** 8/0, 10/0 or 16/0 Red
- Body:** Standard or medium red Estaz chenille

**Background:**

About five years ago, an ebay fly tyer was selling a box of several different colored Estaz chenille eggs. He claimed he had used them successfully throughout the West. I tied a box of them in multiple colors and experimented with them in British Columbia. Red and orange Estaz eggs produced a 30 fish day and clearly outperformed the other colors. On our most recent trip to Quesnel Lake in British Columbia four of us fished various fly patterns. However, one of the guys, let's say Bill used only the red Estaz egg pattern. As you can see below, he out fished the rest of us catching and releasing 71 of the 316 large trout which were caught. He paired the fly with a five-weight nine foot Sage rod and a system seven full sink line. Using his fish finder on this pontoon boat, he allowed the egg to sink to the level of the fish and then slowly stripped it back to his boat. This was during the late October 2021 Kokanee spawn in British Columbia. For the beginning fly tier, this fly is a fairly easy tie.

**Trip Summary Statistics:**

	Total Yield Per Person	%
<b>Bill</b>	71	22.5
<b>Bob</b>	68	21.5
<b>Will</b>	66	20.9
<b>Dell</b>	58	18.4
<b>Sam</b>	53	16.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>316</b>	

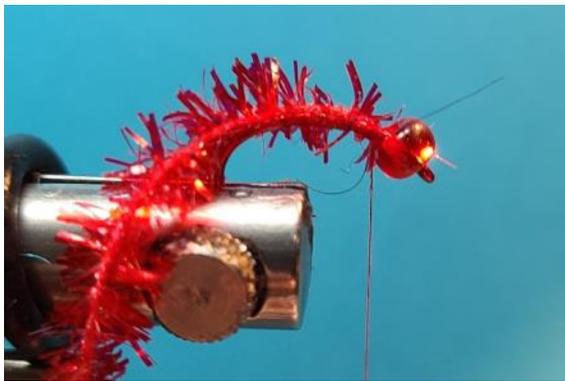
**Directions:**

1. Place the bead on the fly hook, insert the hook in the vise, and smash down the barb.



**Figure 1**

2. Starting the thread in back of the bead, using touching turns, wrap the thread to the hook bend and back to the bead. Place the red Estaz chenille on top of the hook shank and wrap the thread just past the hook bend to secure the chenille.



**Figure 2**

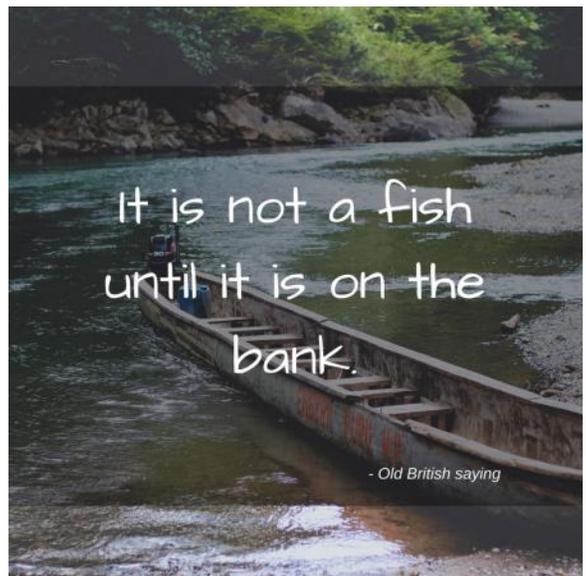
3. Return the thread to behind the bead and then palmer the chenille around the hook shank to the bead.

The Chenille size determines the number of wraps. I used six wraps to reach the bead. Then four wraps back toward hook bend followed by three wraps on the return to the bead. The goal was to make the fly sort of egg shaped. Whip finish, apply head cement and the fly is read to fish. Good luck!



**Figure 3**

**Note:** The first names of my four fishing partners were changed to protect their identity, but the number of fish caught by each person is accurate.





# 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](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 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