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December 2025

December 2025 SFC Meeting

Christmas Potluck Banquet with Brian O'Keefe

Wow, that year flew by fast! Time to brace for the holiday banquet. The Santiam Fly Casters will once again be hosting their fabulous Christmas potluck dinner and Christmas speaker presentation.

This all takes place on December 11th at the Scottish rite temple 4090 Commercial Street SE, Salem, Oregon. Doors open about 5pm with dinner to follow shortly.

Our speaker this year is the one and only Brian O'Keefe! Brian will regale us with tales and adventures galore at about 7pm. Meanwhile, we will battle mightily the effects of tryptophan!

Please feel free to bring your favorite dish to this annual Christmas potluck dinner. The club will provide baked ham, smoked turkey, gravy and Morton's famous mashed potatoes. Meanwhile I will do my best culinary traffic cop impersonation in order to avoid duplication hence I will include my cell number here for texting and questions or concerns. Feel free to text me your dish and I will find you a parking place!

Last year's SFC spread was epic! Hope to see you all there!
Chef Mort 503-559-4319



Brian O'Keefe is the most interesting person in fly fishing. Spend an hour with Brian and you'll be transported around the globe, across the country, and back in time. Brian learned to fly fish from his grandfather at eight years old on the rivers around Missoula, Montana. He graduated from high school in 1973 and immediately lit out for a year of fishing, skiing, and working in New Zealand. After that, he took a job with the Forest Service in Cooper Landing, Alaska. To save money for fly fishing, he fed himself and his entire crew on lake trout caught on Vienna sausages. He guided in Alaska in the late 70s and 80's, and eventually parlayed his talent

and experience into a career as one of the most successful and influential photographers in flyfishing. If you've picked up a fly fishing magazine in the past 40 years, you've seen Brian O'Keefe's photos. Despite the fact that he fishes all over the world, often getting invited to shoot photos at the finest lodges, Brian remains a DIY dirtbag at heart. He loves unpretentious, accessible fish and fishing, and freely shares his knowledge and experience. For more on Brian [FOLLOW THIS LINK](#).

Board Meeting - By Zoom

December 8 - 6:30 pm

SFC Meeting

December 11 - 7:00 pm

Scottish Rite Center

**4090 Commercial St. SE,
Salem**

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**Santiam
Flycasters**

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Scott Vaslev

2025 Outings in Pictures



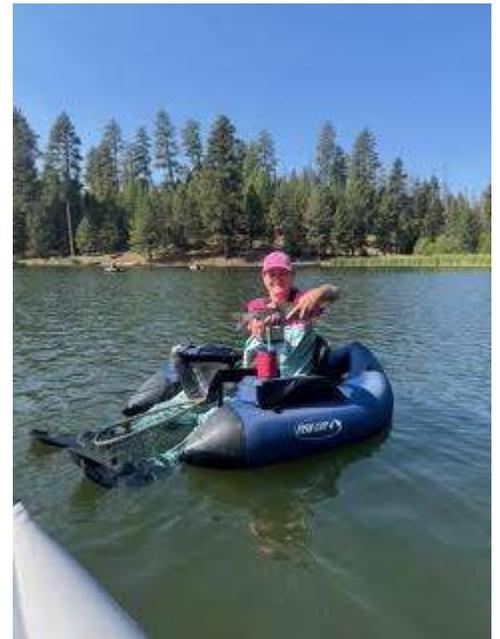
Haystack Reservoir - April



South Santiam River - August



Deschutes River - May



Walton Lake - September



East Lake - June



Hosmer Lake - September



Deschutes River - October

Detroit Lake Outing Report by Ricky Love



On November 15, eleven members made the one-hour trip to Detroit Lake in hopes of catching some rainbow and kokanee. The weather was great with a high near 60 and little to no wind so optimism was high for a successful day. Unfortunately, the fishing was slow to ok at times. Some members had a few bites but did not net a fish, others caught between one to three fish, and a few caught four each.



Steve Reynolds and I fished out of my drift boat as I wanted to put some hours on my new Tohatsu 9.8 hp motor. We started out stationary fishing, then wind drifting but neither was successful in enticing any bites. We decided to start trolling and I thought even the lowest speed of my motor would be a little too fast for fish to be interested but I was wrong. Steve immediately caught a beautiful 16-17-inch rainbow using a type 6 line sinking line with a size 16 bunny leech on point and size 18 bunny leech on the tag. He ended up catching a total of four fish but lost several others. I was using a parabolic line 3/5/3 sinking line and netted four fish all on a size 10 chartreuse wooly bugger with a burnt orange tail. We both adjusted the depth by either letting more line out to get deeper or shortening the line to fish higher in the column.



Scott Vaslev had a relatively good day and netted 3 fish including a 15-inch rainbow all on a squirrel leech. He missed several fish while using an indicator rig. Bob Elliot and Michael Swanson fished out of Mike's drift boat with a trolling motor. They also had poor success while static but then started getting several bites while trolling. Mike was trolling with a floating line and getting hits higher in the column. I am not sure how many fish they netted. The majority of those that caught fish were using leech patterns trolling with motors and stripping the fly while back trolling with their fins. Quicky moving flies seemed to be the key to success. The only insect activity was a small BWO hatch (size 22). Although fishing was not great, we all enjoyed a great day on the water with beautiful weather and scenery.



Take advantage of fishing Detroit while you can and while the weather is relatively good. It will eventually be drained for two years. I'm hearing this will start next September 2026 but those dates are not confirmed.

Annual Club Auction February 2026

The Annual Club Auction is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026 at the Scottish Rite Center - we hope to see all of you there. The auction is open to the public so come out and support the club and take home some great items.

Purpose of the Auction. The money we generate from the Annual Auction provides the funding for many of our activities throughout the year. When bidding on items you should not consider success getting an item at a cheap price but rather bidding on items for a good price and that sometimes means paying more than the item may be worth – remember what we make helps fund our club’s activities. In the past we have had some low bids on items that cost much more than the winning bid. To prevent that from occurring, we will establish the lowest starting bids on select items. Thanks for your support.

Auction Planning Committee. We established committee leads during our board meeting in November and are in the initial planning phase. The committee leads are listed below. Each committee lead will need assistance in planning and executing their portion of the auction. If you are interested in being a part of a particular committee, please contact me at rickylove20@aol.com or cell (253) 320-5699 or one of the leads below.

Lead Planner: Ricky Love

Setup/Cleanup Committee: Brian Hoag

Cashier: Tim Johnson

Silent Auction: Scott Vaslev

Bucket/Live Auction: Ricky Love/Kevin Finkenbiner (Auctioneer)

FFI Donations: Bob LeClerc

Food and Drinks: Steve Morton

Auction Item Donations. If you have any fly-fishing gear that you no longer need or use, you can donate it to the club for the auction. We also accept various outdoor gear, supplies, etc. Another popular item during this auction are flies. If you are a good tier and want to tie flies that we can use in the auction we would appreciate it. The club (Tim Johnson) can provide fly boxes to put your flies in for the auction. A box typically has 12 flies in it with a particular theme (still water, moving water, steelhead/salmon flies/euro nymphs, dry flies, etc.)

If you have items to donate, you can bring them to the club meetings in December and January or coordinate to get it to the respective committee lead. The live and bucket auctions will also have several great items up for bid. We are currently working on getting some great items for the live and bucket auctions. More to follow as we continue planning this very important event.

Food and Drinks. The club will provide pizza and soft drinks during the auction. This will allow attendees to have a bite to eat and allow ample time to view the auction items.

Timeline.

5:00pm – 6:00pm	Doors open for setup
6:00pm – 7:15pm	Silent Auction and Bucket Raffle/Food & Drinks
7:15pm	Silent Auction Closes
7:30pm – 8:30pm	Live/Bucket Auction
8:30pm – 9:00pm	Clean up (We appreciate any extra help cleaning up after the auction)

Interested in Improving Your Casting?

Teaching by certified instructors is available on Saturdays

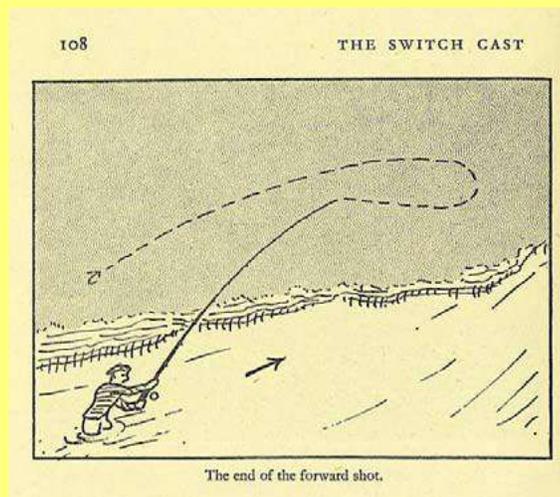
Wallace Marine Park in West Salem

Spey Casting—9 am at the gravel bar near the walking bridge.

Single Hand—10:30 am also at the gravel bar near the walking bridge.

For more information, contact Beth at

EJappay@comcast.net



Support our local Fly Shop

located at 204 1st Ave. W.

in Albany, Oregon.

Check out the shop at

<https://www.tworiversflyshop.biz/>

Chef Mort's Corner: Harvest Trout



Big John

First of all. I had not heard sea run cutthroats referred to as 'harvest trout' in many a moon. Second, I couldn't remember ever seeing a fisherman carrying an old wicker creel to a chum fishery. Kind of like taking a pea shooter to a gun fight.

But there he was, Big John in all his 82 years of glory tossing night crawlers into the hog line of salmon fishermen lining the banks of a small Tillamook stream. The old guy had materialized like a ghost out of the fog. For all intents and purposes this apparitional angler before me could have been the ghost of any fisherman who ever plied these waters. My thoughts swirled like currents watching this old-timer fish.

My grandfather Ray Woods, or as he was known to his friends, Woody, had walked these very same streams in the 1940's while working for the Army Corp of Engineers. A couple of giant blimp hangars and a park on the Kispiox River gave Grandpa something to do besides hunt and fish. Meanwhile Grandpa Ray and Grandma Vi were raising two daughters, my mom and her sister Donna, on the bounty of the Tillamook basin. In season? Out of season?

"I'm feeding a family here goddammit," Woody would claim to anyone that mattered.



They eventually opened a gas station, and as a local mechanic and gunsmith the Woods made ends meet during the war. Back in the day, when salmon on the Tillamook were so plentiful they were often referred to as poor people's food. Woody's neighbors and friends become so tired of grandpa's gift fish they inevitably resorted to burying the poor autumn salmon in their gardens for fertilizer. The times have changed but

evidently not for this bamboo creel toting old guy standing here on the banks of the Kilchis.

Plink! First toss. A beautiful sea run harvest trout flashed at the end of Big John's light weight spin outfit, like chrome lighting. Every angler armed with at least a ten-weight rod found themselves a little envious of this sea run trout. **Big John with practiced skill** bonked the trout senseless on his rod handle and tossed it into the old wicker creel. In the same tossing motion out came the sour cream tub of night crawlers squirming for another swim lesson.

I thought for a moment to engage our new fishing friend with my copious knowledge of fish dispatching skills up to and including the ancient Japanese technique of Ikejime. Thinking this could possibly leave me vulnerable to social shunning on an epic level I shut my big mouth. I abstained from sharing my vast reservoir of knowledge for another day...yes, it hurt, it hurt a lot.

The old fisherman continued to ply his craft to the tune of about a half a dozen cutthroats all destined for the dark recess of his ancient bamboo creel. I ask him his name and requested to take a picture of him. He answered, "Sure!" John shared that he had taught 6th grade for thirty years and if the dang fishing hadn't been so good in Montana on the summer breaks he would have probably got his damn master's degree.

But then there was fishing to be had, always fishing. He was eighty-two years old and had fished here for as long as he could remember and no, this wasn't the best harvest trout fishing he had ever enjoyed. He lamented that there weren't many BIG ONES left in the pool. An occasional summer steelhead would battle the cutthroats for the worms he offered and he said this was always a thrill on his lightweight gear. As for salmon, well, he was done with fishing for those monsters. He estimated they were just too much trouble these days.

About then, I had to bid Big John the harvest trout fisherman an abrupt adieu as I literally found myself being dragged bodily down the muddy riverbank by a very angry Chum salmon who had convinced himself it was now time to go back to the ocean...with me in tow. Next time I'm bringing the worms and the Bamboo creel!

Tight lines, Big John!

This Week's Recipe



Toby Beard was my Boy Scout leader and father of my best friend Dennis. This is Toby's recipe. We grew up across the street from each other in the sixties. Toby loved fishing! He and Dennis were the first to show me the way of the rod and fin.

I can still hear Toby bellow on the riverbank. Watch your goddamn back cast you little fiends! This is the earliest recipe I ever paid attention to and still I marvel at its simplicity. It is a brine and like all brines you can customized it to your liking, herbs, garlic, peppers, wine, you name it! Just don't forget the magic ingredient...salt!

I still remember at ten years old around the campfire this trout fry seemed like rocket science and almost as good as Swiss Miss hot chocolate! Until we meet again, tight lines Toby. Love you, Mort

Beard's Brine

Juice of one lemon and a couple teaspoons of good salt dissolved in enough warm water to submerge your victim.

The salt water should taste saltier than sea water.

Refrigerate the fish overnight submerged in the brine.

In the high lakes back in the day with no refrigeration a little lake water in a bag, and the bag with our trout sealed and laid in the shallows would suffice until breakfast. The brine was not just for flavor but served as a preservative, too.

Remove the fish prior to cooking and pat dry. At this point two camps emerge. Flour or no flour.

I prefer to roast my trout in a cast iron pan sans flour, but then to each his own! A dash of butter or bacon fat in a cast iron skillet and it can't get much better.

Fry up crisp serve and enjoy!

Happy cooking,

December 2025 Fly of the Month

DW's Skating Caddis

By Jim Ferguson



Hook: Dry Fly, #10 – 14
Thread: Tan 8/0 or smaller – or color of body you choose
Body: SLF, Seal, Hare's Ear, or Squirrel (your choice of color or material)
Rib: Thread or fine wire
Wing: Roe Deer or Elk (or soft deer- coastal or summer kill)
Wing Case: Poly yarn or Swiss Straw
Hackle: Brown Partridge or hen
Antenna: Bronze Mallard fiber

This Skating Caddis pattern was developed by Davy Wotton. He demonstrated the tying of this pattern on Al & Gretchen Beatty's program recently. A recording was made so you can go to Al's web site and reference Davy's tying of this pattern. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6GQDeHVCyA>

Step-By-Step Directions

1, Secure the hook in the vise with shank horizontally oriented as in Fig 1. Attach your thread to the shank about an eye length behind the eye as in Fig 2. Wrap your thread to the rear and about the mid-point of the shank, tie in the wire rib material. Form a "U" shape in the end of the wire and tie it down as you take the thread and wire to the end of the shank as in Fig 2.



Fig 1

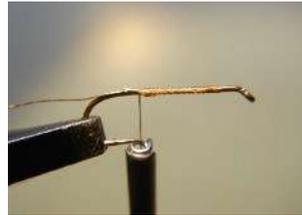


Fig 2

2. Apply the dubbing to the tying thread as in Fig 3. Remember the rear of a caddis is large so you want to form a reverse taper where the body is larger at the rear and smaller at the front. Wrap the dubbing forward and then reverse wrap the rib forward and tie off as in Fig 4.



Fig 3



Fig 4

3. Tie in a length of poly yarn on top of the hook shank at the front of the body as in Fig 5. Be sure to use tight wraps. You will be pulling on this poly yarn later and you don't want it to pull out. Take a cleaned and stacked sample of the deer wing material and tie it in on top of the shank as in Fig 6. Be sure to tie the wing in securely. The butt fibers will flare and you can wrap your tying thread through the flared fibers. Trim the waste fibers and wrap the thread back to the tie in position to create a sloping shape as in Fig 6.



Fig 5



Fig 6

4. Use your thumb to apply pressure to the top of the wing material bundle as in Fig 7 to make the fibers spread out in a fan shape. Work the poly yarn through the wing material to split the fan wing into two equal sections. Tie the poly yarn down to the top of the shank as in Fig 8 and use thumb pressure to keep the wing fairly flat. Trim the poly yarn waste. Some head cement on top of the poly yarn or some UV setting clear goo (or equivalent) would help in keeping the wing fibers flat.



Fig 7



Fig 8

5. Prepare the partridge hackle by pulling the fibers towards the rear of the stem. Create a tie in shape at the tip by cutting fibers off the tip as in Fig 9. In the video of Wotton the lower section of the feather is kept on to help in controlling the stem direction as you wrap the hackle. I have taken all the waste off the stem. Tie in the tip on top of the hook shank in front of the wing. Partridge stems will easily break with tension so be prepared to have several hackles ready. Fig 10 shows the hackle tied in by the tip. Try to use 3 firm wraps. Sometimes several more wraps can be used and then before tie off, remove some wraps. Trim the tip waste before wrapping the hackle.



Fig 9



Fig 10

6. Wrap two turns (maybe 3) of hackle while pulling fibers back so the fibers angle back as in Fig 11. Trim off the stem and form the head. This could be a stopping point for this pattern. **OR**, you can add antenna to make the patten a slightly more realistic in appearance. To make the antenna, take a small section of fibers from a Bronze Mallard feather as in Fig 12.



Fig 11



Fig 12

7. A slip of several fibers of Bronze Mallard is shown in Fig 13. Hold the slip's butts between the thumb and first finger as in Fig 14. The thumb should be putting pressure against the underside of the slip as you push the tip of the thumb against the pad of the first finger. Using the other hand, pull the slip out of the other fingers. This will create a curve in the feather fibers.

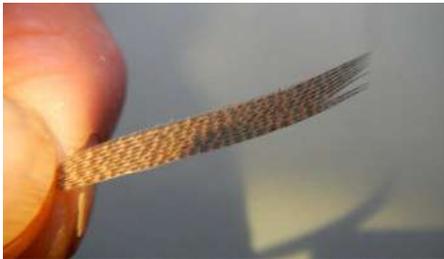


Fig 13



Fig 14

8. The more pressure, the more curvature you will get. Fig 15 shows an edge view of the curved slip. Use the dubbing needle to isolate two fibers from the slip. Fig 16 shows two fibers of the curved Bronze Mallard.



Fig 15



Fig 16

9. Tie in the antenna fibers on top of the head with the points over the eye and the butt ends over the hackle. Trim the butt ends. Carefully separate the two fibers with a bodkin as in Fig 17. Manipulate them so they angle off to the side a little. Pull the far side antenna up and over the head and tie it down so it arches over the fly. Do the same with the near side fiber. Fig 18 shows how the antenna should arch over the fly. They will add some movement action when the fly is skated over the water. Fig 19 shows what the fly looks like from the fish's view.



Fig 17



Fig 18



Fig 19

This pattern should be skated over the water surface to represent the egg depositing behavior of the caddis.



A Big



**to all those who provided
articles, pictures, reports,
and encouragement this
year!**



Santiam Flycasters

2026 Membership Form

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.

The Santiam Flycasters, Inc. is a group of men, women, and youths in the Salem area who have a common interest in flyfishing 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 an affiliated club of the Fly Fishers International.

We meet in Salem the second Thursday of each month (no meeting in July)

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 Fly Fishers International 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