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# SANTIAM FLYCASTERS

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June 2025

## June 2025 SFC Meeting

### Stillwater Strategies with Garrett Lesko



Garrett fell in love with fly fishing during the summer after his freshman year of high school. He went camping with a few friends out at Odell Lake, Oregon. While he was there fishing for kokanee he had a friend that brought his fly rod long with him. He cast it a few times, never caught a fish. But later the same friend that brought the fly rod went out in his float tube and caught a monster rainbow trout. That sparked a fire in Garrett. That summer he found an old Thompson fly tying kit in the garage and set off to the local fly shop for a beginners kit. After that the rest is history.

Garrett self taught himself everything he knows about fly tying. Using books, the internet, videos, and the constant picking of fellow fly tyer's brains he has amassed a great deal of knowledge that rivals most tyers twice his age. With a passion to learn and to teach his skill he has attended multiple fly tying expos and shows in Washington and Oregon, the biggest being the NW Expo that is in March every year in Albany, Oregon. He has also done demos and shared his knowledge of deer hair work and warm water fishing with local fly fishing club and Project Healing Waters chapters.

He now has tied flies for people going all over the world from Argentina to Mongolia to Christmas Island to Alaska to Montana and would love to tie more and share his knowledge with anyone who wants to learn.

For more information check out his website [oregonflytying.com](http://oregonflytying.com) along with numerous postings on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube.

#### Board Meeting - By Zoom

June 9, 6:30 pm

SFC Meeting

June 12, 7:00 pm

Scottish Rite Center

4090 Commercial St. SE

Salem, Oregon

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Welcome Todd as a new contributor to the Fly of the Month feature

**Santiam Flycasters****BOARD AND OFFICERS****Beth Jappay - President/  
FFI Representative****Steve Morton - Vice  
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PHWFF****Dennis Burnett****Shandy H. Danford****Kevin Finkenbiner****Brian Hoag****Ricky Love****Scott Vaslev****President's Corner  
By Beth Jappay**

Thirty years ago when I was living in Sacramento and was new to fly fishing I heard a member of my fly club mention fishing "The Salmonfly Hatch on the Holy Water". I even heard the capitalization in the way he spoke about it. At the time I didn't know what a Salmonfly was, and had never heard of the Holy Water (it is the mile-long stretch of the Rogue River between the Lost Creek Dam and the hatchery). After making further inquiries I decided that this was something I just had to do, and the next week me and my fishing buddy rented a tent trailer and headed north. We camped at the Rogue Elk campground and drove to and beyond the hatchery the next day.



The sight of the huge Salmonflies was remarkable and very memorable. There were **so many**, and almost all of them seemed to be flying upstream. As we got closer to the dam they were even more concentrated, probably because they were unable to fly any further (due to the height of the dam). We quickly discovered that standing in one spot while fishing always resulted in the large but disconcerting-appearing insects crawling all over us. The worst was one suddenly crawling on the back of the neck.



The highlight of that trip was meeting Dave Roberts on the water. Only later did I learn that Dave is well-known in Southern Oregon for his fly tying and guiding. We ended up booking Dave to take us down the river the next day, drifting from the hatchery to Shady Cove.

What a hoot! Dave would maneuver the drift boat and have us cast under the trees and bushes as close to the river bank as possible. We quickly discovered that an accurate cast was frequently rewarded with a bite. We hooked dozens of fish that day. Even more enjoyable were our conversations and interactions, and

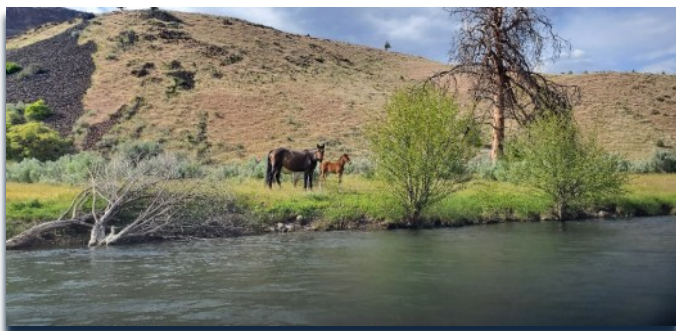
a decades-long friendship was born. The next 15+ years we traveled to Shady Cove the first week of June and fished with Dave for a couple of days. Sometimes we returned in the fall as well to fish for steelhead. When Dave stopped guiding for health reasons we switched to Pete Peterson as our guide, but would meet with Dave whenever we were in the area.

Stonefly nymphs are particularly sensitive to degradation in habitat, and a decline in their population is considered a harbinger. We are seeing significantly less Salmonflies on both the Rogue and the Deschutes these days, which is a big shame.



## ***Deschutes River Outing Report***

### ***By Brian Hoag***



Only Bill Steen and I floated and fished the Deschutes on the day of our scheduled outing. We also went the day before. The river was a bit high at 4,700 CFS but still in good shape to fish. It rained overnight and in the morning was windy, but not bad enough to make us decide not to go. A good thing because it died down and turned into a pleasant day.

The fishing was good, and we managed to land several fish including rainbows (redside) and whitefish. We landed all our fish either tight line (euro) or indicator nymphing. We were there early season so as expected there was not much surface activity yet. Next year I plan to propose we go the Saturday before Memorial Day weekend to get into the salmon fly hatch. Be ready to plan and make your reservations early, it gets busy then.

The Deschutes canyon is a beautiful place to fish and just be with the scenery and wildlife.

Kevin Finkenbiner was there camping at Trout Creek with his dog, so he decided to just fish that area. My understanding is he did quite well.



***Welcome This New Member in May***  
***Arlon Peterson, Turner***



## *More Images from the Deschutes River Outing*



## *Newport Jetty Fishing Report*

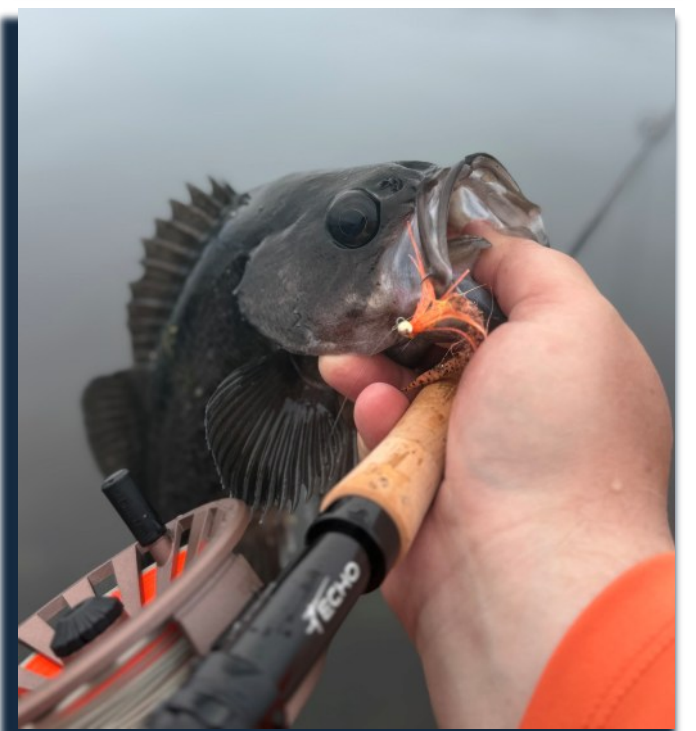
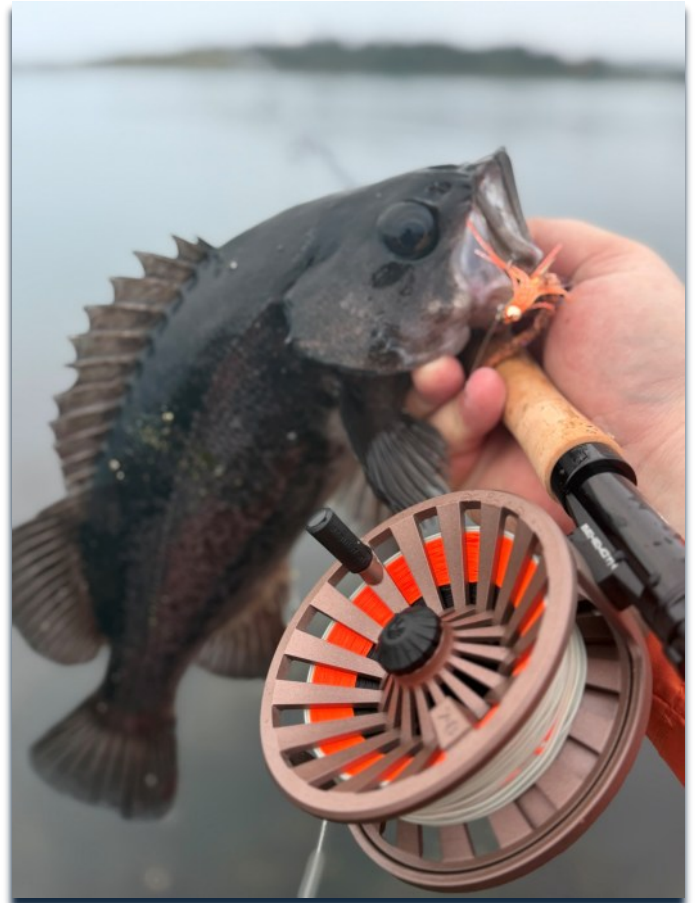


The jetty was on a poppin' last night. We had a 30-40 minute period last night where dozens of fish were busting anchovies on the surface. I have never seen so many fish moving bait at one time, before. It was quite the sight





*More Images from the Newport Jetty Fishing Outing*





## 2025 Outings-Santiam Flycasters

Here is the list of fly fishing outings our club has planned for 2025. The list includes opportunities to catch trout in streams and still waters, as well as opportunities for steelhead, chum salmon, small mouth bass, and Jetty fishing.

Most waters are best fished from a floating device (float tube, pontoon boat, or other boat). In the newsletter article for the outing, we will say if there are opportunities for bank access at that location. If you do not yet own a floating device but want to participate in the outing, let us know and we should be able to have someone lend you a device for the outing.

Obviously, when we are on or around the water, there is an element of risk. Please be aware of the disclaimer also in this newsletter. Also, please use a personal flotation device (PFD).

- ☐ June 7 - Crane Prairie Lake
- ★ ☐ June 21 - East Lake
- ☐ June 28 - North Santiam River
- ☐ July 16 - Miller Lake ☀
- ☐ July 23 - Three Creeks Lake ☀
- ☐ August 2 - South Santiam River
- ★ ☐ August 23 - Willamette River Keizer Rapids to Wheatland Ferry
- ☐ September 6 - Diamond Lake
- ☐ September 13 - Walton Lake
- ☐ September 20 - Hosmer Lake
- ☐ September 27 - Nehalem River (mouth)
- ★ ☐ October 4 - Crooked River
- ☐ October 11 - North Santiam River
- ☐ Open window for Chum on the Kilchis River
- ☐ October 18 - Deschutes River Warm Springs to Trout Creek
- ☐ October 25 - Marshall Island to Harrisburg
- ☐ November 8 - Mckenzie River
- ☐ November 15 - Detroit Reservoir

★ Joint outing with Linn Benton Fly Fishers

☀ Outing scheduled during the week

### SFC Outing Disclaimer

*Santiam Flycasters does not represent that any of these trips are suitable for any of its members. Each stream, river and lake present its own unique hazards and dangers. Each member must evaluate the suitability of his or her own physical condition, equipment and skills before participating in any of these trips. Each member that chooses to go on any of these trips personally assumes all risks of injury and damage while participating*



## Crane Prairie Reservoir Outing



On June 7 (Saturday), we will fish Crane Prairie Reservoir and hope to catch some of those huge Cranebows, or at least some of their siblings. We will camp at Quinn River Campground located on the western shore of Crane Prairie, just off the Cascade Lakes Highway.

To get there, the fastest way is to drive I-5 south, turn onto Highway 58 south of Eugene, drive Highway 58 over Willamette Pass, turn left onto the Crescent Cutoff (USFS Road 61) for about 3 miles, turn left onto USFS Road 46 (Cascades Lakes Highway) for about 22 miles, and turn right onto the road to Quinn River Campground.

Suggested gear is 5-6 weight rods with floating, intermediate, or sinking lines. Flies include chironomids, leeches and streamers, callibaetis, and dragonflies. A floating device is needed to fish this water.

The club will not provide a meal, so bring adequate food and beverage, as well as some firewood.

Beth Jappay is the outing sponsor and can be reached via email at [ejappay@comcast.net](mailto:ejappay@comcast.net) if you have any questions.

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## East Lake Outing

On June 21, we will fish East Lake for those awesome rainbows, browns, and kokanee that reside there. You could also catch some of the Tui Chub but luckily, they are becoming rarer. You can also fish Paulina Lake just a couple of miles down the road. This is a joint outing with the Linn Benton Family Flyfishers.

We will camp at Cinder Hill campground. The lake is at 6,500' elevation, so be prepared for potential chilly weather. To get there, drive Highway 22 east to Bend, drive Highway 97 south to the East/Paulina/Newberry Crater Road just north of LaPine, turn left (east) onto USFS Road 21 and follow it about 16 miles to Cinder Hill campground at East Lake.

Suggested gear is 4-6 weight rods with floating, midge tip, intermediate, or Type 3 sinking line. We hope to find another good Calibaetis hatch, so be prepared with dry/emergers patterns like comparaduns, sparkle duns, Parachute Adams, or elk hair caddis. In previous years the color gray was a hit. Before and after the hatch, use the sinking line with a leech or bugger and a pheasant tail or other Calibaetis pattern as a trailer. Chironomids can also be productive. One can wade and fish from shore, but it is most productive to use a boat, pontoon boat, or float tube.

The club will provide gourmet burgers and brats/hot dogs, potato salad, and coleslaw for the meal on Saturday, so bring a small side dish to share, if you wish, along with your chair and beverage. Ricky will also make his Dutch oven peach/blueberry cobbler with ice cream. The meal is tentatively scheduled at 3pm but we will post the actual time for the meal at Ricky's camp site 21. There will be a white board at his campsite with relevant info to include the time of the meal. It will be based on when the Calibaetis hatch occurs so we get to fish it prior to the meal.

Please use the Sign-Up Genius link below to identify the side dishes you plan to bring for the potluck and so we have accurate numbers of attendees. Linn Benton club members do not need to bring any sides as the club covered you already. Ricky Love is the outing sponsor and can be reached by email [rickylove20@aol.com](mailto:rickylove20@aol.com) if you have any questions.

## North Santiam River Outing



On June 28, we will float and fish the North Santiam River from Stayton to Buell Miller Landing. A drift boat or pontoon boat is needed for this drift, although one can access fishable water from the shore at each end of the run.

We will meet at the Stayton boat ramp on the south side of the river at 8:00 a.m., with boats ready to go. To get there, drive east on Highway 22, turn right at the Sublimity exit (2nd Stayton exit) onto First Street, follow it south through town and across the river, and turn right at the Knife River Company entrance to the boat ramp. We will shuttle our own vehicles.

Suggested gear is a 4-6 weight rod with floating line or a Euro nymphing setup. Flies include Euro-type nymphs or caddis, mayfly, and stonefly nymphs, soft hackles, or streamers for swinging and caddis or mayflies for possible dry fly action. Remember your PFD, lunch, beverage, etc.

Brian Hoag and Bill Steen are the outing sponsors and can be reached via e-mail at [brianhoag@comcast.net](mailto:brianhoag@comcast.net) and [willsteen@icloud.com](mailto:willsteen@icloud.com) if you have any questions.

**Note:** The Detroit Reservoir Outing scheduled for May 17 was cancelled due to adverse weather.

### 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](mailto:EJappay@comcast.net)



## ***Chef Mort's Corner: Part 2 of "The Saga of the Donated Jet Boat Fly Fishing Trip on the Deschutes River" by Jim Fisher.***

Thursday morning was a beautiful day! Everyone got up at 5:30 am coffee and hot water started. Cal heats up muffins and the crew is on the water a little after 6:00 am. Cal and Jim clean up camp and sit down to have coffee and tea. Jim had put his zip lock bag of tea bags in the wine box the night before so the wind would not blow them away. The mice had gotten into the box and had eaten holes in the plastic bag and had eaten all the tea. What they did not know this was the best the day had to bring. Cal fixed a big Mountain Man brunch for the group, and everyone was well fed and happy with lots of stories. Cal and Jim were going to go to Maupin in the afternoon for ice and water.

As Jim and Cal left the campground and started up the river, they saw smoke beginning to come up over the ridges in front of them. They could not tell which side of the river it was on but started talking about what if it was in the canyon. About twelve miles from camp, it became clear this fire was running fast and burning close to the road on the east side of the canyon. They could see the smoke and flames racing along one of the ridge tops. They rounded a corner, and a large group of sage brush just burst into flames and shooting flames across the road. Cal slams the brakes and they wait until the flames burn down and proceed. At Pine Tree boat ramp, three BLM supervisors had just arrived and were on their phones and radios talking to Central Command.

Cal and Jim were told they did not know what they would do about the campground at that point but would let them back in to get their people out if evacuation was required. Before the highway junction the Sheriff was stopping traffic from going into the canyon. He told them that they may close the road. In Maupin they quickly got their supplies and hurried back to the river road turn-off. The State Police had closed the highway to Grass Valley and were stopping traffic on the road along the Deschutes River. He asked if they were the ones from Mack's Canyon Campground. They told him they were. He let them continue. The Sheriff was driving the canyon road to make sure it was safe for people to get out. At the campground one of the BLM rangers, Judy, was informing people they could be asked to evacuate the area. She recognized Cal and Jim, and she told that they

would inform them later that evening if any changes.

Dwight and Herb were lounging in the shade when they got to the camp and Lee Ann was taking a nap under a tree. The group discussed the situation and prepared a snack before Dwight, Lee Ann, and Herb headed out for an evening of fishing. Cal started his gourmet ribs and a chocolate cherry cake for the evening meal. The BLM crew came by and informed them that they were OK and would not have to move for the night. Cal invited them to have a rib before they go. After eating a rib the crew was heard to say, they may break down before leaving the campground area.

Then the wind from hell starts – 35-50 mph gusts – items go flying everywhere. Cal was saving cooking items; Jim was grabbing and retrieving tents and re-driving stakes. This went on for almost two hours! Dwight, Lee Ann, and Herb came back from fishing. The wind downriver was blowing up stream and at camp it was blowing downstream. They were in the middle of the vortex. Lee Ann saw a fisherman across from her swamped in a wave of water blown up stream by the wind. Dwight said the wind moved the jet boat across the river as he turned the corner for camp. The wind died down and the evening becomes quiet. They had dinner and settled in to great conversation, break out a bottle of wine and start telling stories of fishing experiences.

At 10:15 pm the BLM supervisor showed up – move out and evacuate the campground – take sleeping bags, cots, and medicine leave everything else. Central Command was requesting everyone out. The high winds had driven the fire out of control everywhere. They started packing and a caravan of three autos started at approximately 10:45 pm. Dwight, Cal, and Herb were driving, heading for a parking area above Sherars Falls for the night.

At 11:15 pm the night sky was a glow of orange/red flames along the ridges. It looked like city streetlights. Individual trees were burning in blackened areas looking like individual house lights. Dwight stopped and the caravan came to a halt, and they just stared at the sight. The view was unbelievable with the ghostly sight of smoke moving over the landscape and bright stars overhead. The fire had moved considerably since Cal and

Jim had seen it in the afternoon. It was now approximately two to three miles further north and one to two miles south of the canyon. They got to the road junction with the highway where the same two BLM personnel who were at camp earlier in the evening were stopping people from going in and recording those who were leaving. Jim told them they should have had more ribs. They agreed because they had not been home for dinner but promised they would check the camp later in the night to make sure the Dutch Overs were secure. They all had a good laugh.

A little after midnight the caravan stopped at a rafting take-out above Sherars Falls. Lee Ann and Herb parked and set up cots. Cal slept in his van. Dwight slept in the back of the pickup and Jim on a cot in the parking area. Jim was just going to sleep when something big and black appeared by his cot. He yelled awaking Dwight who yelled. It turned out to be a black lab from another group in the area. The irony was that Dwight had told Jim not to let a skunk lick his face when they were getting into their sleeping bags. Sleep was slow returning for Jim, so he watched the meteorite showers and orange glow of the fire in the northern sky – finally sleeping and awaking about 6:00 am.

Dwight, Cal, and Jim headed to Maupin to get coffee for everyone; no coffee, nothing was open at 6:30 am. The three went back to the river road and waited in line until Central Command had their morning briefing. Finally, they were allowed to drive to Mack's Canyon Campground with instructions that there was no camping allowed. Everyone was to be out before nightfall.

They packed up all the items and started departing at about 10:00 am. Herb and Lee Ann left first then Cal, Dwight, and Jim finished packing the boat items and followed. When they got back to the fire there was a helicopter picking up water from the river and dumping on the ridges above them. In total there were four helicopters working on the fire using water from the Deschutes River. Dwight and Jim had to stop and wait while one dropped water on the fire next to the road about five hundred yards in front of them.

Everyone arrived home safely but the saga had not ended. The keys for the lock on the boat trailer were not to be found. They were lost somewhere between Mack's

Canyon Campground and the highway. A hacksaw was used to unlock the boat trailer – maybe this was the final episode of the saga.

In summary this trip has cost hundreds of dollars for equipment repair, fuel, food and beverages. The positive was no lives were lost, no fly rods broken, the boat still floats, and all fish were still swimming. If you remember at the beginning this trip was for two days – Lee Ann and Herb have fished one day in two years. Is there another chapter????

This article was written by Jim Fisher a volunteer (another word for slow learner) participant in this "perfect brainstorm."



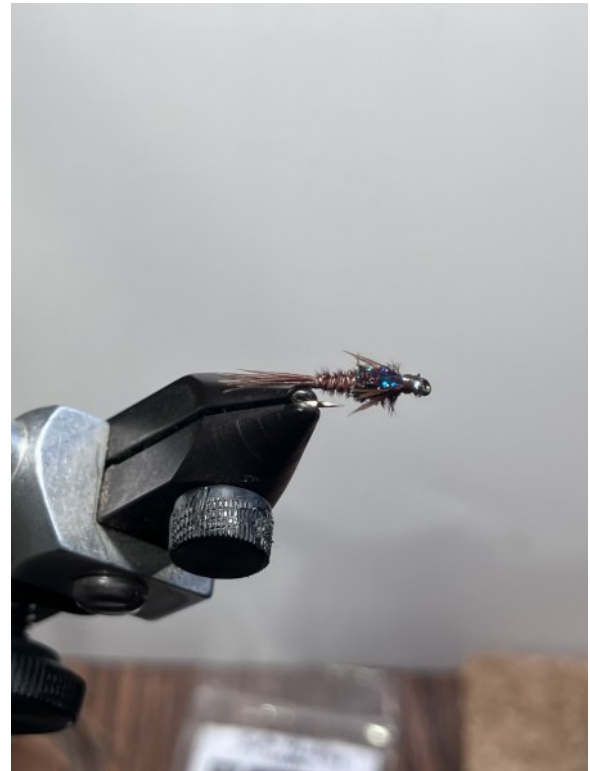
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**June 2025 Fly of the Month**  
**Flashback Pheasant Tail Nymph**  
 By  
 Todd Yorke



I've always had a special affection for flies that were fairly simple to tie, that used common inexpensive materials, and most important, consistently caught fish. This is one of those flies. The recipe follows:

- Hook: Standard to 2x long nymph hook (I use TMC 3761, 1x long, 2x long if I'm adding a bead)
- Thread: Brown 6/0 or 8/0
- Tail: Pheasant tail barbs
- Rib: Fine copper wire
- Abdomen: Pheasant tail barbs
- Wing Case: Mylar
- Thorax: Peacock Herl
- Legs: Pheasant tail barbs



## Step by Step Directions

- 1) Mount the thread on the hook and cover the hook shank with thread from head to bend of the hook. To make a more durable fly, I give the thread covered shank a thin coat of head cement. It creates a better base to secure materials to. Tie in a piece of fine copper wire about mid- shank and wrap thread to just above the barb keeping the wire on the far side of the shank. Align 3 to 6 pheasant tail fibers and secure with 3 firm wraps of thread, each wrap on top of the other. Do not trim the pheasant tail fibers! See Fig. 1.

Fig. 1



- 2) The trickiest part of this fly is that we are using two delicate materials that break easily: the pheasant tail fibers and peacock herl. When you wrap the abdomen, be gentle with the pheasant tail fibers. Wrap your thread forward to a point a little more than half way to the head. Gently gather the pheasant tail fibers together, if you have soft jawed hackle pliers use them! Wrap the pheasant fibers forward to where your thread is and tie off. To protect the pheasant fibers, reverse wrap the fine copper wire up to your tie off point. Cut off excess fibers and copper wire. See Fig. 2

Fig. 2





- 3) Tie in a short piece of mylar on top of the hook shank. Tie in 3-4 strands of peacock herl. I tie them in on the underside of the shank. Move your thread up against the eye of the hook. Once again, the herl breaks easily so handle it gently. Gather the herl together and even off the ends, then put in a hackle plier. Twist the hackle plier clockwise to create a single 'rope'. Wrapping it too tight will cause the herl to break!!! Gently wrap forward and tie off just a tiny distance back from the eye. To add durability to my pheasant tails nymphs, I weave my tying thread back over the herl to where I tied it in and then weave it back to the head. If the herl breaks while fishing, it won't unravel. See Fig. 3

Fig. 3



Fig. 4



- 4) Some people leave the legs off these nymphs, but let's face it, the fly looks much better with legs! Mount 3-4 fibers on each side of the fly. I tie them in a little long, securing them with two or three 'soft' wraps, and then pull the fibers to the length I want, and then cinch down (tighten) the thread. See Fig. 4
- 5) Trim off the ends. Pull your mylar shellback over the top. Tie down. Whip finish and apply head cement. See photos of finished fly



I make sure I always have a few Pheasant Tail Nymphs in my box. Favorites are #14s & #16s.



# Santiam Flycasters

## 2025 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](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 Fly Fishers International Member? Yes No

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

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*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