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SANTIAM FLYCASTERS

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April 2026

April 16 SFC Meeting "Modern Nymphing" with Devin Olsen



Devin Olsen started fly fishing in Yellowstone at age 9. Within a couple of years, it became an addiction he could not shake and he begged for rides to local streams until he could drive. He started competing at age 19 and made Fly Fishing Team USA in 2006 when he was 21 years old. He has competed in 15 consecutive World Fly Fishing Championships with Fly Fishing Team USA. He has earned a bronze individual medal, a silver and three bronze team medals from these championships and numerous medals from competitions in the United States.

Away from competitive fishing he holds a bachelor's degree in ecology and a master's degree in fisheries science. He worked as a fisheries biologist for several years before starting his company [Tactical Fly Fisher](#).

He has produced three instructional films Modern Nymphing: European Inspired Techniques, Modern Nymphing Elevated: Beyond the Basics, and Adaptive Fly Fishing.

He is also the author of the books Tactical Fly Fishing: Lessons Learned from Competition for All Anglers and Stillwater Fly Fishing: Competition Inspired Strategies for Everyday Anglers.

Board Meeting - By Zoom

April 13 - 6:30 pm

SFC Meeting

Note: 3rd Thursday this Month

April 16 - 7:00 pm

Scottish Rite Center

4090 Commercial St. SE,

Salem

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President's Corner by Beth Jappay

Ahh, spring fishing! My favorite time of year. The fish are hungry and weather more consistently ideal (moderate temps and lightly raining or cloudy) as is typical for April/May/June in our area. On top of that, spring usually has the biggest bugs of the year.

Some of those big bugs are famous and involve some travel. For example:

- The Salmonfly "hatch" on the Rogue and Deschutes river
- The Sqwala "hatch" on the Yakima, Deschutes, and Owyhee
- The March Brown hatch on the McKenzie and Willamette
- The Green Drake hatch on the Metolius
- The Hexagenia hatch on Timothy lake and Lake Merrill.



Less obvious is that some species that hatch over several months (midges and mayflies in particular) reliably hatch the biggest bugs in the spring. As a primarily stillwater flyfisher trying to "match the hatch," I pay particular attention to chironomids, Blue Wing Olives, and Callibaetis. February and March are the months that I often see chironomid pupa in the #12 to #16 range, whereas the same hatch may size #16 to #18 just a couple of months later. Similarly, BWOs are typically size #14 to #16 in March/April, dropping to #18 to #20 in June and in the fall.

However, my favorite hatch is Callibaetis. In my experience, the dry fly takes are more consistent and exciting for these big Callibaetis than any other stillwater hatch and this time of the year they are usually in the #12 to #14 (and sometimes #10) range. Another benefit ... I prefer tying these bigger flies!



The best way to ensure that your flies are the right size is to sample the insect, and even better is view the insect and fly side by side. For more information on aquatic insect sampling, [here](#) is a link to the article I wrote on this topic.

Interested in Improving Your Casting?
Teaching by certified casting 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 same location
For more information, contact Beth at
EJappay@comcast.net

Metolius River Outing Report by Brian Hoag

Four of us fished the Metolius outing this year, and three of us fished more than one day. The weather was good and the location was outstanding. Not many fish were caught. And that is all right because one does not go to the Metolius to catch a lot of fish. It is just a beautiful place to be.



Haystack Reservoir April 18

On April 18 we will fish Haystack Reservoir in beautiful Central Oregon near Madras. The club fished it last year when the Crooked River was blown out and it was a success with members catching planted steelhead and big broodstock trout (biggest was 30 inches). It is once again on our annual club outing list indefinitely.

We will stay at the Haystack Reservoir Campground and Day Use Area on the east side of the reservoir. It is first come first served until April 25 when reservations are required. There are 24 spacious campsites that can accommodate large RVs/trailers and tents. There are 5 vault toilets throughout the campground. Sites do not have electricity or sewer but there is a RV water fill station just past the entrance and camp host. You can dump trailer tanks at the KOA for a fee or in Sisters at one of the RV parks.

There are campgrounds on the westside and southside (group sites) so ensure you go to the east side campground. You can also stay at lodging in Redmond or Madras. The KOA Campground on SW Jericho Lane also has small cabins for rent.

To get there take Highway 22 to Highway 20 and once you get through Sisters take a left onto Highway 126 towards Redmond. Once in Redmond take Highway 97 north toward Madras. Drive about 17 miles and take a right on SW Jericho Lane. Continue to SW Haystack Drive and take a right. You will pass West Shore and South Shore Campgrounds. SW Haystack Road becomes SW King Lane. Continue to SW South Side Rd and turn left. Haystack Campground will be on the left and the road will end at the day use area.

You can fish from the bank but the best opportunities are in a floating device. Suggested gear is 5-7 weight rods with floating and sinking lines. They planted steelhead last year so better to come prepared. Tippet in sizes 3x or 2x is recommended for your sinking lines. The reservoir is deep in locations, especially near the dam.

Successful flies last year were various leeches (black bunny leeches, rust colored, gold colored, and black with orange bead head), Rickard's Stillwater Nymph, and soft hackles.

The club will provide protein for a meal on Saturday afternoon and members are encouraged to bring side dishes.

Steve Reynolds is the outing host can be reached at stevedr83@hotmail.com if you have any questions .

Be Prepared - New This Year - Waterway Access Permit

New requirement this year for Oregon waterways . You can buy it when you buy the Oregon fishing license. \$20 per year or \$35 for two years.

<https://myodfw.com/articles/waterway-access-and-aquatic-invasive-species-permits>

Non-motorized boats regardless of length (kayaks, canoes, drift boats, stand-up paddleboards and rafts) need a Waterway Access Permit. Funds are used for waterway access improvements such as boat ramps and restrooms and for aquatic invasive species prevention efforts.

Another nice \$\$ surprise is a permit for fishing from the beaches or jetties in Oregon.

We expect since the access permit is new this year that they will be very aggressive in checking everyone at the boat ramps now.

Blue Den/Turner Lake Outing.



April 20th through 24th—We are once again offering the very popular opportunity for Santiam Flycasters members to fish on two of Oregon Fishing Club's private waters—Turner Lake in Dallas and Blue Den Ranch in Scio. In order to minimize the impact on OFC club members we only have a few slots a day; sign-ups are first-come-first-served via the Sign Up Genius link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CA9A82CA1F8C52-63059755-blue>

Mid April at Blue Den is the best dry fly fishing of the year as far as I am concerned, as this is when the Callibaetis hatch at Blue Den is usually in full swing. Best fished from a pontoon or float tube, a floating line on a 5 or 6 weight rod is all that is needed. Recommended flies for this hatch include Adams and parachute Adams dry flies, as well as emerger patterns such as a sparkle dun, fuzzy nymph or a soft hackle. Before and after the noonish hatch, a balanced leech or midge pupa under an indicator, or a damsel nymph pattern fished on a slow intermediate line is often successful.

Turner Lake doesn't offer much dry fly action, but it has bigger fish. Plan to strip streamers or woolly buggers on a medium fast intermediate line. Indicator fishing with balanced leeches and #14-18 midge pupa can also be very successful.

This is a great opportunity for non-OFC members to check out two of their best properties, and is a chance to fish alongside some of our club's most successful fly fishers. We want to especially encourage participation by newer and less-active club members.

Though there is some shoreline fishing available at Blue Den, both properties are best accessed by float tube or pontoon. Loaners can be arranged for SFC members that are lacking. There are two slots to fish from a boat, which is a great option for any members with physical limitations.



Support our local Fly Shop

located at 204 1st Ave. W.

in Albany, Oregon.

Check out the shop at

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



NW Expo Silent Auction Report and Thank You

By all accounts, the Silent Auction effort at the Northwest Expo in March was a success. The Santiam Fly Casters are a member club of the [Oregon Council of Fly Fishers International](#) (OCFI). The Expo is put on by the OCFI and each member club manages different aspects of the Expo (set up and tear down, raffle, organizing tyers and vendors, for example). We manage the Silent Auction.

This year the Silent Auction brought in \$5,559 for OCFI to continue its mission. Two special features this year resulted from incredible donations. 1700 flies were donated, each tied by the same individual. These flies were sorted, boxed, and delivered. This year we put out two dozen of these boxes. Look forward to more next year.

The second special donation was the gift of an individual's fly fishing library. Comprised of 40 boxes of books, our president Beth sorted the books, making note of special, unique, and collectors items, and priced them according to category. Her organization method helped these sell well and many people went home with an unexpected find.

MANY THANKS TO ALL THE SFC MEMBERS who helped organize and oversee the tables.

Duane and Deanne Heuberger (who have done this for the entire life of the Expo to date), Dave Looney, Greg Long, Dell Swearingen, Steve Morton, Brian VorderLandwehr, Bill Steen, Ken Karnosh, Robert Winters, David Howard, Tim Johnson, Kevin Finkenbiner, Rich Swartzentruber, and Bob LeClerc.

Leroy Shepherd and Loren Doty were our club's organizers and a special thanks to their wives, Jean Shepherd and Denise Doty for their work.

THANK YOU ALL!!!

Chef Mort's Corner: In The Weeds



I recently decided it might be a good idea to reintroduce myself to the agony and ecstasy of golf.

Golf, that all-encompassing indulgence that cuts right through your fishing time like a hot Ginsu knife through butter. My tee shots have not changed. They still have a lot in common with my back cast. My friends still have to duck for cover as we make our way to our shared fishing holes or the tee box.

I always heard that golf was inextricably joined at the hip with retirement. But, like my brother in law's rusty Winnebago, I can't seem to park my golf game any better than Bruce can park his leaky RV.

I gave away my last set of clubs in frustration to some young high schoolers who were obviously too young to understand the purgatory I was sending them to. They gleefully asked, "Free?" I nodded, of course it's free. That's how they get you, right? The first shot is always on the house.

Fishing was just as easy to fall into. Boredom and a can of worms, a pole, a local creek, and I was lost in the wonder of water! Another lifetime addiction with fancy togs and an early tee time! Do you want to know where this all goes? Would it make any difference? I don't think so, but here it goes anyway.

The WEEDS! That's right, the weeds. Both flyfishing and golf have led me straight into the proverbial and literal weeds. Here, I now find myself, at this advanced age, wallowing about down there in the muck and the mire with the belligerent bass and the dirty golf balls accompanied by skeptical tadpoles and morbidly curious spectators.

I am now doomed to be late for every appointment I ever made. One lame excuse after another. My boat sank! My cart was abducted by aliens! My RV leaks! I've sold out and become a tired retired middle class American middle class cliché, broken down with that stupid far away gaze of a dedicated addict! I could seek help but who would listen to me down here in the weeds.



Meanwhile, my day to day obligations seem to have taken up residence permanently on the back burner of the hot stove that has become my life.

"Darling, did you remember to call the boys back?", my wife kindly reminds me. What boys? The fishing boys? The golfing boys? The plumbing boys? The tax boys? Any chance that any of these boys can find me down here in the weeds?

And I wore my camo for the occasion. Blends in with the surroundings, although a bit problematic in the club house at happy hour!

"Excuse me sir, can I get a drink? I've been sitting here for 20 minutes," I curtly address the bartender.

"Sorry man, I didn't see you there next to the philodendron," the way too young and handsome to be a bartender sardonically smiles.

Then the *coup de grace*, "What can I get you, sir? A grasshopper"?

Great! Just great! Beware of the man with the quippy metaphor and now it seems my happy hour is over!. My best guess? That's right, time for me to disappear...into the weeds.

Mort's "I'm In The Weeds Here" Sourdough Buttermilk Pancakes

Makes about 10 large pancakes

Tools

Bowl for mixing
 *Sourdough starter
 Spoon
 Spatula
 Griddle, preferably very hot. Like water dancing on steel hot!
 Butter and syrup and/or, possibly, jam?

Ingredients

2 cups of buttermilk
 2 cups of All Purpose flour
 1 cup of sourdough starter
 2 tablespoons sugar
 Mix and cover to rest overnight on the counter

Next day mix in:

2 eggs
 ¼ cup melted butter or vegetable oil
 ¾ teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon of baking soda
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Combine mixture until smooth and incorporated and get ready to enjoy a stellar pancake!

Mort

*If you don't have a sourdough starter as a pet, you really are stuck in the weeds! The easy part is there are all sorts of beneficial yeasts and bacteria just floating around in our environments just needing adoption and all you have to do is catch them! Place a cup of flour in a vessel (one you don't mind leaving out on the counter) and mix in enough tap water to form a smooth medium. I drop a glug of IPA or dark beer in mine and just wait. Each day, add a couple of tablespoons of flour and a little water and mix roughly. It should start to bubble nicely in 5 to 7 days.



You will find that, with daily feeding, you will soon be obligated to make something like these pancakes just to whittle down your starter bucket. Once your new pet starter is established, you can pop him in the fridge when you're traveling or just bored with feeding him, or her, or it. The starter will peacefully hibernate until you wake it, him, or her up. To wake up your starter, take him out and add a couple tablespoons of flour and water and stir them in. It may take a day or even two at room temperature to reactivate the little guy. But, once the starter is bubbling along, it's ready to make your next bread, pancake, or biscuit recipe!

I have a cool book to recommend for those who need the map. Check out Ken Forkish's [Evolutions in Bread!](#)

Stuck in the weeds?

You could do worse!

2026 Schedule of Outings-Santiam Flycasters

Here is the list of fly fishing outings our club has planned for 2026. 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).

Hope to see you on many outings this year!

- January 17, Pizza Pie and Tie – Fly Tying Event
- February 13, Silverton Reservoir (Friday)
- March 21, Metolius River
- April 18, Haystack Reservoir
- April 20-24 Blue Den Lake (Oregon Fishing Club Opportunity)
- May 1, South Twin Lake
- May 15, Olalla Creek Reservoir (Friday)
- May 20, Deschutes River – Warm Springs to Trout Creek (Wednesday)
- May 30, Chickahominy Reservoir
- June 6, Crane Prairie Reservoir
- June 13, North Santiam River
- June 27, East Lake
- July 16, Three Creek Lake (Thursday)
- July 31, McKenzie River (Friday)
- August 8, Willamette River (Keizer to Wheatland)
- September 12, Walton Lake
- September 19, Hosmer Lake
- September 26, North Santiam River
- October 3, Crooked River
- October 10, Willamette River (Marshall Island to Harrisburg)
- October 17, Deschutes River
- October 24, McKenzie River
- November 14, Detroit Lake

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

April 2026 Fly of the Month
Chromie Chironomid
Modified
By Dell Swearingen



Background: Variations of the Chromie Chironomid are commonly tied by fly tiers in British Columbia, like Phil Rowley. Most patterns incorporate fine black wire and an 1/8-inch tungsten or white brass bead. The author has found using red beads to be highly effective.

Materials List:

Hook: Daiichi 1760 size 10-16 (pattern shown in size 12)

Thread: Semperfli 12/0 (white for gills, black for body)

Gills: UNI-Stretch White

Bead: 1/8-inch tungsten or brass (red, black or white)

Body: Black 12/0 Semperfli thread with Togens Fly Shop anti-static pre-cut tinsel 1 mm strips

Rib: Ultra wire, small (red or black)

Directions:

1. Pinch down the barb and place the bead on the hook with the larger opening facing the eye. Slide the bead back and secure the hook in the vice. Wrap five turns of white thread behind eye.



Figure 1: Bead and thread attached.

- Cut a 1-inch piece of UNI-Stretch and secure it at the midpoint on top of the hook. Rotate the material to turn the UNI thread perpendicular to the hook shank, secure it in place, and apply a small drop of super glue. Slide the bead forward, whip-finish white thread, and trim. Wrap black thread several turns behind the bead. Tie in the rib wire and anti-static tinsel.

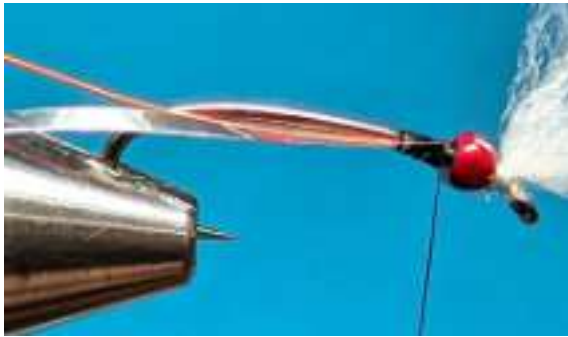


Figure 2: Rib and tinsel attached

- Wrap black thread several turns rearward until approximately one-third of hook bend is covered.



Figure 3: Black thread covering hook.

- Spiral the tinsel forward, slightly overlapping each wrap. Make two tight turns of red wire at the rear then continue with five to six evenly spaced wraps forward to the bead.



Figure 4: Tinsel and rib in place.

- Trim two short peacock herl fibers near the eye of the feather. Secure them behind the bead and wrap four or five turns. Apply two thin coats of Solarez over the body, curing each coat with UV light.



Figure 5: Peacock herl in place

- Trim the gills to match the width of the bead.



Figure 6: Completed Chromie

- Fishing the Chromie:** This pattern is effective when chironomids are ascending in the water column. Fish it either: 1) Under an indicator with a floating line, positioned approximately one foot above the lake bottom, or 2) On a full-sink line, allowing the fly to suspend about one foot off the bottom.

The anti-static tinsel imitates gas bubbles that help propel the natural insect upward. A slow hand-twist retrieve can enhance this effect.

In Summary: The Chromie is most productive during periods when chironomids are actively moving toward the surface.



Santiam Flycasters

2026 Membership Form

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.

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)

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 -- \$500 Regular -- \$50 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 waiving 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