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SANTIAM FLYCASTERS

SANTIAMFLYCASTERS.COM

July 2026

No Meeting in July **Check Out These Club Outings in July**

July 16 - Three Creek Lake (Thursday)

Three Creek Lake in Central Oregon lies about 16 miles south from the town of Sisters. A 4, 5, or 6 weight rod with a floating or sinking line is needed and your standard lake flies should net you fish.

Three Creek Lake Campground is located on the south side of the lake. There are only 11 campground sites, so call and get reservations quickly, and similarly for Driftwood Campground on the north end of the lake. Reservations can be made online through Recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777. You could also make a day trip out of this outing.

To get there, take Highway 22 east to Santiam Junction then merge onto Highway 20 east to the town of Sisters. In Sisters take a right on S Elm Street and continue south. This road will become Three Creek Road and take you to the lake. The lake is 16 miles once you turn on S Elm Street. The road to the lake is a gravel road and although it's been improved, driving a trailer or motorhome would be a very bumpy ordeal.

Ken Karnosh is the outing sponsor and can be contacted at kenkarnosh@gmail.com if you have questions.

July 31 - McKenzie River (Friday)

On July 31, we will float and fish the McKenzie River. We will determine what section we will fish as we get closer to the outing. River levels and fishing reports will help us decide the best section to fish. Once we decide the section, the outing sponsor will send an email with additional information to include link up location, time, and shuttle plan. A pontoon or drift boat is needed for this trip.

Here are directions to Armitage Park, however this may change depending on what section we fish. To get there, drive I-5 south to Exit 99 (Coburg), turn right for about a mile to Coburg, turn left at the signal onto Coburg Road, and drive south across the river to Armitage Park on the right. You will need to buy a parking pass through the Lane County Parks website. Suggested gear is 4-6 weight rods with floating line or a Euro nymph setup.

For nymphing in cold water, a heavy fly, trailed with a nymph, midge pupa, or soft hackle, fished close to the bottom can be productive. For swinging, use a bead head possie bugger, prince nymph, or similar fly trailed by a soft hackle or other wet fly. After mid-day, swinging just a soft hackle can be productive or there may be a hatch. Other caddis and stonefly pupa, nymphs, and possibly dries can be successful, as are midge pupa and BWO patterns. Euro nymph patterns should also be productive. The outing sponsor is TBD. Watch your email for updates.

Remember your PFD as well as lunch, wading staff, etc.

Board Meeting - By Zoom
July 6 - 6:30 pm

No SFC Meeting in July
Save the date for the
August Casting Clinic on
August 13

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Santiam Flycasters

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President's Corner by Beth Jappay

What fly fishing experiences do you remember or are you likely to remember 10 or 20 years later?

For me there was the [Hosmer 60-fish weekend-in-an-evacuation zone](#) I wrote about 3 years ago, and there was the 15 lb Lahontan I hooked in the dorsal fin which took me about 400' into my backing.

Most of the rest of my memorable experiences involve catching or hooking a fish after a particularly difficult cast. I love technical casting, which is one reason why I annually hire a guide to fish the Salmonfly hatch on the Rogue river (as I wrote about last month). Absent structure in the river, most fish are found near the river bank waiting for the flies to fall out of the trees and bushes. During those trips the casts are typically 50-70', often side-arm to get under a tree or bush, with an attempt to land within feet of the bank. As you can imagine, a lot of flies end up tangled in the bushes and tree branches. Returning to the focus of this article, one of my most memorable fishing experiences involved developing a unique fly retrieval technique for this situation.

Have you ever completed your casting stroke and immediately knew that the fly would end up in a tree? What I noticed is that sometimes the fly will wrap itself around a branch multiple times and then bounce. If a brisk tug is well-timed the fly can unwrap itself and pop off. This technique is only successful because a salmonfly pattern is larger and is fished with heavier tippet.

About 15 years ago I hired Dave Roberts to take me down the Rogue in his drift boat for the hatch. At one point I misjudged a cast and put my fly into a tree, and what happened next went something like this:

Me: miscast..."well crap"...wrap, wrap, wrap—bounce with simultaneous tug—unwrap, unwrap, unwrap—the fly pops off and I successfully backcast.

Dave: "Well, that was lucky."

Me: "Dave, that wasn't luck, that was skill."

Dave: "Bulls—t!"

Me: "No, I swear that was on purpose!"

Dave: "Beth, you are so full of it."

A short time later I put another fly into a tree, and successfully retrieved it with a repeat of this technique.

Me: "See Dave!. That was on purpose!"

Dave: "No way!"

By the end of the day I had repeated this another handful of times and Dave was forced to admit that it was the result of skill and not just luck. And, of course, I have to remind him of that day every so often over a beer.



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

Crane Prairie Outing Report by Greg Long

While the official club outing was Saturday, June 6th, I and several other members of the club checked into our Quinn River campsites a few days earlier to get in more fishing on the reservoir.

The weather was fine for camping although the mornings could be rather chilly as expected this time of the year. The water temp was amenable for trout (around 59-60 F or so) and plenty of fish were marked in the normal channels via fish finders at depths of 3-12 feet. However, except for Thursday the 4th, which was sunny, warm and graveyard calm, a persistent 13-15 mph offshore wind on the lake made for tough fishing conditions on most days.

Steve Reynolds proved that nagging winds were no obstacle to catching fish – his gale-induced tour of the far side of the reservoir with a wind-drifted black bunny leech fished naked on a floating line with a sink tip proved very successful! He brought 3 brooder size fish to the net while enjoying an entire day of strikes and Cranebow drive-by taste tests.



Brian Hoag landed a nice fish on Thursday, on a dark olive leech pattern.



I landed one small fish on Wed using a black size 12 mohair leech with some red flashabu in the tail fished on an intermediate line. Saturday proved more productive for me – 3 decent fish to the net, including this 18” bow that jumped on me several times before deciding he’d give it up.



All my Saturday fish took a size 14 dark Carey Special fly wind drifted on a naked floating line with a midge tip leader (it pays to listen to the more experienced fishers!). Herb Harry also netted a few fish on Saturday – likely on his go-to six-pack fly. Dave Looney, Bill Steen and Scotty Vaslev all had multiple strikes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, but no takers.

Hats off to Dave Looney, who spent much of his time off the water gathering downed wood for our nightly campfires! Dave not only gathered wood and hosted the fires at his campsite, but he also upped the club campfire game a few notches by offering chips and salsa to the crowd. A new trend has been set – campfire snacks! Thanks Dave!



Welcome New Members in June

Christopher Ely, Salem, OR

Mark Kemp, Salem, OR

Bill Luoma, Keizer, OR

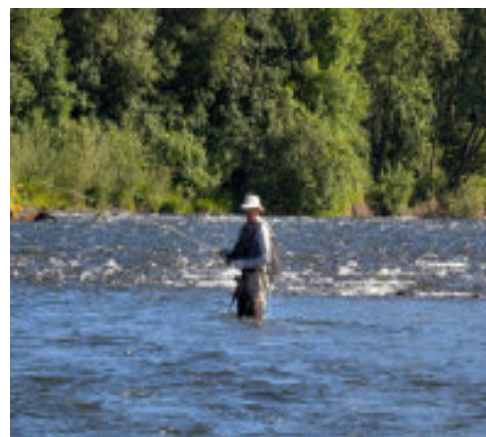
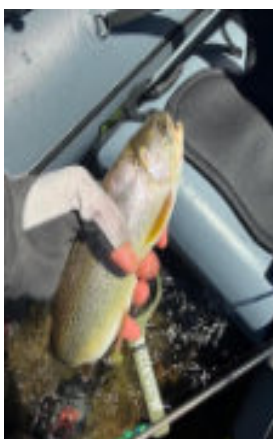
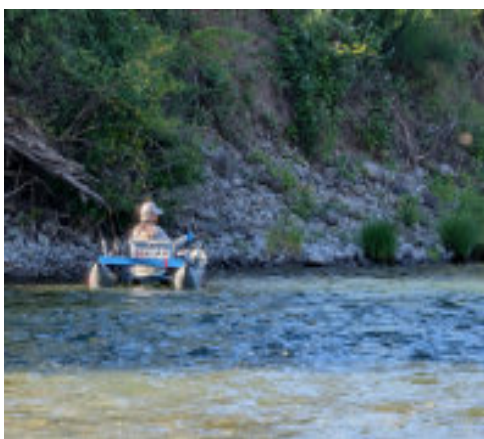
Mary Jova, Dallas, OR

North Santiam Outing Report

The North Santiam outing had six participants: Kevin Finkenbiner, Patrick Leonard, Greg Long, Scott Vaslev, Brian Hoag, and Bill Steen.

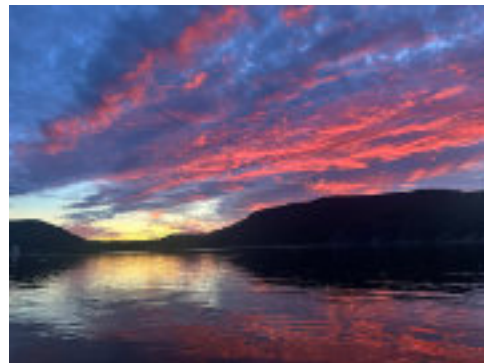
The North Santiam River is looking beautiful. Surprisingly at some point over the winter of 2025-26 there was a large enough storm to raise the water level high enough to change a few critical channels used for passage as well as great fishing spots, all participants negotiated these areas without incident.

The scenery and weather were perfect, unfortunately fishing was subpar. However, plenty of smaller fish probably salmon smolt in the 6-10" range with only a few Rainbow Trout were caught by Kevin, Patrick, and Scotty as well as a few White Fish. Euronymphing, indicator with nymph, and dry dropper were the preferred techniques. The vehicle shuttle went perfectly thanks to David Looney and Ken Karnosh.



June 27 East Lake Outing Report by Ricky Love

The official outing at East Lake on June 27 was cancelled due to adverse weather. Five members (Ricky Love, Brian Hoag, Steve Reynolds, Kent Toomb, Greg Long) went a week early due to conflicts the following week and were able to get some fishing in. Fishing all week in the morning was very slow and fish weren't cruising the shallows like previous years. There were midge hatches (black and green), black caddis, and callibaetis hatches daily that were not significant and fish did not feed on the adults during the day. Lots of spinners flying around too. Fishing seemed to pick up about 10 a.m. daily.



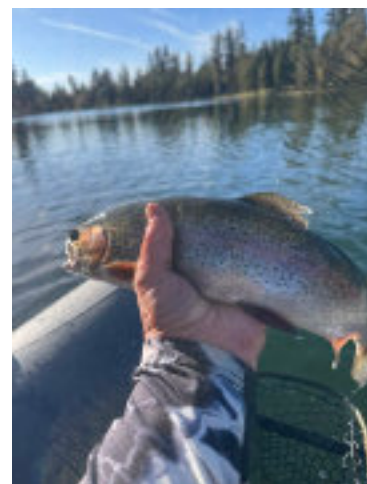
Several nice fish were netted with the biggest caught by Brian Hoag fishing from the bank in the evening. He netted a beautiful 20-inch rainbow on a size 16 callibaetis dry. The kokanee were much bigger, stronger, and faster this year and if you could keep one on your hook it was a great fight with an acrobatic fish. All of us lost several kokanee over the week due to their soft mouths. The group managed to net a few 16-inch kokanee and several in the 15-inch range.



The full-fledged callibaetis hatch that normally occurs in early afternoon never happened although there were small hatches each day. Fish were definitely feeding on callibaetis emergers and nymphs though. On Thursday night (June 18) about 8:15pm we were all surprised by a late evening full-on Callibaetis hatch that included Nighthawks swooping in and gorging on the adults.



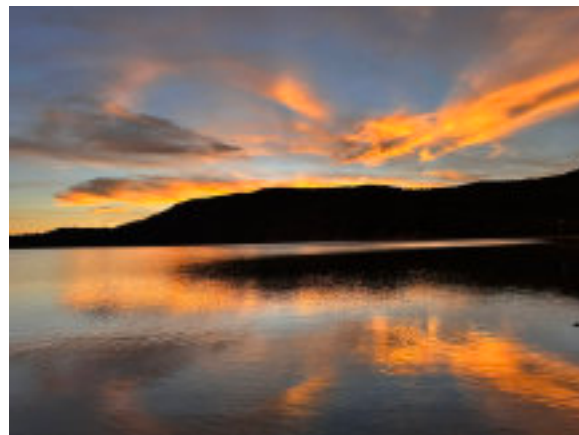
Steve Reynolds, Kent Toomb, and I were on the water when this happened and we caught fish on Callibaetis dry patterns and emergers. Kent caught 23 fish that evening and Steve and I also had double digit catches. The fly that netted the most fish by far for all of us was the Rickards Callibaetis nymph.



Other callibaetis nymphs and emerger patterns also attracted fish. PT Soft Hackles, green scuds with orange egg sack, occasional chironomids, AP emergers were successful patterns. On Friday I put a yellow bodied crackle back fly pattern on and netted 7 nice kokanee

during a tough day. This pattern can be fished on the surface or subsurface and I chose subsurface and it worked.

The majority of us used intermediate, midge tip, and hover lines during the week. We enjoyed a campfire each evening and some of the wives enjoyed some of the hikes with beautiful scenery. It was a good week overall. `



August 8 Willamette River Outing for Smallmouth Bass

We will float the Willamette River on August 8 from Keizer Rapids Park to the boat ramp below Wheatland Ferry to fish for smallmouth bass. A pontoon or drift boat is needed for this trip. A typical smallmouth is 10- 12", but we have caught some up to 19". To get a head start on the warm weather, plan to meet at Keizer Rapids Park at 7:00 a.m. (located at the westerly end of Chemawa Road in Keizer). We will shuttle our vehicles to the takeout before we start our float. Plan to pay to park at the Wheatland Ferry boat ramp (\$10 day use for Oregon residents and \$12 for non-residents, or an Oregon State Parks pass).

Suggested gear is 5-6 weight rods with intermediate line (sink tip should also work) or even Type 3 line, although a floating line will work. Flies include woolly buggers, clousers, or similar flies. To get the fly to the bottom where smallies are, use a small beadhead with sinking line or a larger beadhead with floating line. Black, brown, purple, or green are good colors. Good fishing locations often are where the current is a bit slower, especially if there is a drop-off and the current slows, the depth is 3-7', gravel bottom, and often within 30-100' from shore.

You will encounter algae and weeds in some areas, so either bypass those areas or plan to fish with the fly above the weeds. Since you will do nearly all your fishing as you float down, bring and use your fins to maneuver and stay properly positioned to fish. Remember your lunch, drink, etc. and plan to be on the water until late afternoon.

Tim Johnson is the outing sponsor and can be contacted at tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com if you have questions.



Support our local Fly Shop
located at 204 1st Ave. W.
in Albany, Oregon.

Check out the shop at

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

We are building a new website!



We are looking for volunteers who are interested in contributing to the design and content of a more interesting and up-to-date website. The subcommittee meets about once month via Zoom and the amount of time you would contribute would be according to your interests and availability.

Contact Beth at EJappay@comcast.net or Tim at tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com

Save the Date

August Fly Casting & Picnic

Thursday August 13

River Road Park

3045 River Road N., Salem

Dinner: 5:30 pm

Casting Instruction: 6:30 pm



Our club has a very valuable resource of Certified Casting Instructors which few Oregon clubs can match. We have once again asked the Rivers West Casting Club to supply us with instructors, and after eating we will spread out on the soccer field in order to receive individualized casting tips.

Chef Mort's Corner: The Newbie Knot



He was a Newb. No getting around that for a fact. A brilliant handsome well-read and well-equipped Adonis Newb extraordinaire at that.

The Newb sashayed by the camp with a lot of shiny new gear, sparkling optimistically, jingling in the noon sun. Just like a Sergio Leone film! We took an immediate collective dislike to him. Not to say we were in any way envious of this flyfishing beach model, but rather suspicious would more accurately sum up our position.

Every hair tucked in place under his new Filson felt hat. I hated him, I thought. But I sure like that new Hardy reel he's packing. Suppose he takes a misstep and drowns today? Do you think his widow would miss that reel? It was very hot in the noon sun on the Deschutes but this sure didn't slow down this beach model. He was strolling down our runway like we were in Paris or something.

"I can hold him if you can hit him," I whispered vehemently to my buddy, the Toad. I personally feared for this newb's safety. We are ordinarily not a rough bunch. Quite the contrary. We are gentlemen cupcake fisherman of the first order. We too enjoy our gear and stylish duds. But this beach model was taking our whole shtick a little bit too far.

WAIT! STOP WRITING NOW!

This is not me. This is a fictional Mort. This is who I sometimes call BAD Mort. None of the above BS has any use if we want to pass on our love for flyfishing to the newbs. I should have my keyboard cleaned out with a bar of soap. Bad Mort! What follows is my better angels taking Bad Mort by the short hairs and pointing him back down the road of good intentions. Dear readers, thank you for your patience.

TAKE 2, WITH EMPATHY.

We all need the Newbs. What organizational team doesn't need the Newbs? The Newbies, the rookies,

the neophytes, we all do. The sport of flyfishing and its affiliated clubs are no different. If you and I and our fishing clubs have no interest in becoming a living anachronism we better get off our butts and get out there and pound the pavement to woo the Newbs.

It is not easy. With so many commitments and possibilities tugging at our time it's a wonder anyone has the resources or time to take up any new hobbies at all. Particularly one steeped in antiquity like flyfishing.

I still remember the smell of Grandpa's fishing vest, moth balls and fish scales twinkling to the floor in the family's shed. The summer's filtered light like some abhorrent fairy dust from hell floating down between the floor slats amongst the cobwebs and pet hair.

Sounds appetizing doesn't it? NOT! I remember when flyfishing was sexy. Do you? I'll give you a hint. Brad Pitt bobbing down the Madison river towed by a monster rainbow trout. That's right, *A River Runs Through It!*

The stodgy flyfishing establishment was tossed on its proverbial ear by a shot of adrenalized youth with a five weight. Fly shops blew up overnight with demand for all things flyfishing. I think you know the stuff. I'll bet we all still have a closet full of gear we bought in the halcyon days of the 90's.

I stumbled upon a Columbia fishing vest junking the other day and my wife had to pry it out of my hands at the counter. "Darling, you have two of these in the closet already. Do you really need a third?" Muscle memory, it's innate. I am evidently still in the acquisitional phase of my hobby...at 70. It may be time to pass the baton or in this case the old five weight. Easier said than done.

I am wandering here I know, but I have a nagging feeling that the future of our sport of flyfishing lies in the dusty past of Grandpa's shed. Let's all go out there and start giving that cool stuff away. The kid down the block needs a mentor and a fishing rod as



anyone. The local schools always need volunteers so why not be an ambassador for flyfishing? Let's declare this year as the year of 'Take a Newbie Fishing'. Why not? Can't hurt, might help. Do I really need fourteen fly rods when the kid next door has none?

I believe in something that a mentor and good friend Bill Meier once told me. "It's not what you

gather but what you scatter." I took this to heart as some of the best advice a guy could get from an older friend who knew what it was to scatter. Let's scatter the love of our amazing sport of angling by giving that next fishing buddy a leg up and into this amazing hobby we all call flyfishing. We all need the Newbs.

Schedule of Remaining Outings - Santiam Flycasters

Three Creek Lake - July 16

McKenzie River - July 31

Willamette River (Keizer to Wheatland) - August 8

Walton Lake - September 12

Hosmer Lake - September 19

North Santiam River - September 26

Crooked River - October 3

Willamette River (Marshall Island to Harrisburg) - October 10

Deschutes River - October 17

McKenzie River - October 24

Detroit Lake - November 14

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

July Fly of the Month

Charley Special

By Todd Yorke



When I first started fly fishing, this pattern was my first 'go to' fly. An attractor, it can catch fish when no fish are rising! It is clearly a caddis pattern, so you can vary the colors to match the hatch, but I tie it here using the original color scheme. My favorite color scheme is tan body with brown hackle using brown thread on a size 14 hook. I have made a couple of changes to the original materials. The original body called for floss and an overwing of calf tail. I substitute antron yarn for the body and snow shoe for the overwing for their superior floating qualities. It is a dry fly after all!!

Recipe

Hook: Standard dry fly (I use TMC 900BL)

Thread: 8/0 black

Tail: Golden pheasant tippet strands

Body: Antron yarn or floss

Hackle: Grizzly (palmered)

Underwing: Deer hair

Overwing: Snowshoe hare or calf tail



Step one: Start thread about 1/3 down from the eye and put down a thread base to the hook point. Tie in your golden pheasant tippet tail (about 8-12 strands). Next, attach your antron up near where you started your thread and tie it down back to the tail. The antron should be on the far side of the hook back at the tail (see picture).



Step two: Tie in your grizzly hackle just forward of the tail. This is because you want to make a turn of the antron behind the first turn of hackle to protect it from trout attacks! Your hackle barbles should be no longer than the gape of the hook. Remember this is a palmered hackle. See picture.



Step three: Wrap your antron forward, first turn behind hackle, and tie off near the eye. Be sure to leave adequate room for the wings. Then wrap your hackle forward to the same spot. Trim it off. See picture.



Step four: Stack 10-15 deer hairs for the underwing. I tend to put too much deer hair which will cause all kinds of problems later. You want the deer hair to extend to the back of the bend of the hook. Leave a little 'stubble' when you trim off at the front. Helps make the fly skate when it's fished, often to great effect. See picture.



Step five: Cut off a small amount of snowshoe hare or calf tail. Tie in directly on top of the underwing. The length should go to the tip of the tail, slightly longer than the underwing. Be sure to exert firm thread pressure on both wings. You really want them locked down. Don't make too many wraps, just very firm wraps! Trim off front in line with the deer hair 'stubble'. See picture. Wax your thread and whip finish. I do not use head cement on dry flies (adds weight, bad!). See picture of finished fly.





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 -- \$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 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