



SANTIAM FLYCASTERS

SANTIAMFLYCASTERS.COM

February 2021

February Meeting (presented online, NOT in person)

Fishing with Chironomids with Ernie Gulley

Board Meeting

February 8

Via Zoom

General Meeting

February 11

"Zoom Meeting"

See instructions on page 4 on how to join.



This month our presenter is Ernie Gulley and he will be taking us for a trip around a lake to fish with chironomids. During the presentation he will share his philosophy and tactics acquired by putting in thousands of hours on one of the most demanding stillwaters in the west. He will show us rod, reel, and leader setups, fly patterns, the chironomid life cycle and how to ensure that your fly is at the proper depth for success.

In the following order, depth, color and bug size are the most important steps to learning how to fish with these little bugs. Chironomids or midges make up a hefty percentage of a trout's diet especially in lakes and reservoirs, so if you enjoy or are new to stillwater flyfishing, you won't want to miss this presentation.

Ernie began fishing at an early age as he moved about the country with his family but fell in love with fly fishing in 1997 while fishing the stillwaters of eastern California, Nevada, Utah and Idaho. He has been a professional fly fishing guide for 23 years and Lake Crowley on the eastern side of the Sierras is now his home water where he practices this simple philosophy, "You can always learn something new every time that you are on the water."



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Santiam Flycasters
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Board Members Wanted

The Santiam Flycasters want you! We are looking for a few good men and women. If you are interested in helping decide who our presenters are and where we go for our outings, please join us. Or, if you just want to find out what goes on during the board meetings or want to share your opinion; please join us. No experience needed, just your interest in fly fishing is all it takes to be a board member.

President's Corner
By Scott Vaslev

This article I will address more to new members who have an interest in getting started in this great sport or perhaps members who have fly fished before and are wanting to get back into it or people somewhere in between. One thing for sure our sport keeps evolving with new equipment and techniques.



Let's start with rods. If I had to pick one rod that can do almost everything for trout fishing it would be a 5 wt., 9ft., graphite rod. You can pay over \$900 for these babies but don't bother. For example, go to Cabelas and for around a hundred bucks you can get a decent rod or for around \$150 a rod/reel set up. A med/fast rod would be a good choice.

Reels for the most part are just a storage device for your line so don't drop a lot of coin here. Find something in the \$50 dollar range or better yet get a used one somewhere.

Fly lines are a little trickier. I'd hesitate to buy on the low end here. Try driving down to Albany and looking up Mitch at Two Rivers Fly Shop for suggestions. You can always go online and buy one but it is easy to get overwhelmed by all the different lines and prices. You should get a good dry line for \$50-75. Notice I said DRY line. Next, some sort of sinking line will be needed, especially if you are fishing lakes. When you buy your dry line make sure it has loops on both ends. This way you can buy 5ft. strips of sinking line to add to your dry line and make it essentially a sink tip. This will get you by until you purchase another reel or spool for a type 3 sinking line.

Your next step is to buy a couple of tapered leaders 7' or 9' in length. A spool of 4x and 5x tippet and you are basically set up for most of the trout fishing around here. All of the tapered leaders are looped (if not make sure they are) so attaching them to your fly line is a breeze.

Having an inventory of flies can be an expensive proposition. If you're attending a club sponsored event there's usually a small list of recommended flies to bring. Head down to Sportsman's Warehouse or Two Rivers Fly Shop and buy a couple of each to bring along. Also, I'm sure one or two of our members would be happy to give you a couple of their favorites.

So you are ready, what else? You are going to need waders, net, nail clippers, waterproof wading boots, vest, a fly box or two, and most importantly a life jacket. Some of this stuff you could have picked up at one of our auctions, cheap. Unfortunately, I don't see that happening any time soon so maybe casting about online or making a plea to our membership would get you started. A couple of caveats to be aware of:

1) Not sure I would buy a pair of waders used unless it is from one of our members. I have been buying mine from Cabela's for around a hundred bucks.

2) When buying boots, new or used, make sure you buy them one or one and a half size larger to fit over the wader stocking.

Ok, you are ready to fish, now what. We do have some river access close to home but eventually you are going to need some sort of flotation device. You can buy a float tube for lakes but they are worthless for rivers. So, my recommendation is get a pontoon boat. Not something you have to hurry out and buy but something for the future. Most of our outings require a boat. Having a pontoon requires some thought on how you are going to transport it. Frameless ones can be rolled up, then aired up on site. George has a boat he manages to break down and fit in his Toyota sedan, then puts it together streamside while the rest of us are fishing already. So, what I'm saying is if you have a PU or trailer you can come to a river or lake ready to go. You can buy a used pontoon boat on Craigslist or again from a member if something comes up. If you make the plunge and buy one, don't make a river your maiden voyage. Take it on a lake or pond a few times, then join us on one of our easier floats. As a final note, there are some of our local rivers that can be pretty hairy even for us old veterans, so caution is the word.

I probably missed an item or two but those are the basics. You might conclude that fly fishing is more complicated and expensive than spin and bait fishing and initially, that's true. But by belonging to our club, you have an unbelievable resource of men and women who are passionate about fly fishing and are willing to pass it on. Don't be shy, get going.

A Note on the Club Outings in 2021

The schedule sets a club record of 23 outings, several more than in 2020. Most of the increase is in weekday outings.

As usual, we tried to find some locations where a person can productively fish without using a floating device, although that is a difficult task mostly due to lack of access to the water. Most river floats do require a pontoon or other boat. But, some of the streams (like all of Crooked River, the Deschutes at the campground, and the North Santiam at the launch and take-out) have good bank fishing spots for those that don't have a pontoon.

We will have details in the newsletter for each upcoming month's outings. We're also thinking about doing a fishing competition and a small auction at the East Lake outing. More details will be forthcoming.

Selection of 2021 Club Outings

January 30	Winema Lake
February 20	Detroit Lake
March 13	Crooked River
April 17	McKenzie (Hayden-Armitage)
May 1	Deschutes (Warm Springs-Trout Creek)
May 12 (Wed.)	Silverton Reservoir
May 22	Olalla Reservoir
June 2 (Wed.)	Crane Prairie
June 12	North Santiam (Stayton-Shelburn)
June 26	East Lake
July 10	South Santiam
July 14/15 (Wed/Thur)	Gold Lake
July 28 (Wed.)	Three Creek Lake
August 4 (Wed.)	North Santiam (Shelburn-Greens Bridge)
August 14	Willamette (Keizer Rapids-Wheatland)
August 21 (Rocky Point)	Klamath Lake
September 11	Diamond Lake
September 15 (Wed.)	McKenzie (Bellinger-Hayden)
September 25	Hosmer Lake
October 9	Crooked River
October 13 (Wed.)	Willamette (Marshall Is.-Harrisburg)
October 23	Deschutes (Warm Springs-Trout Creek)
November 6	Detroit Lake

Using “Zoom” To View The SFC Meeting

Due to the pandemic for the foreseeable future club meetings will be held using the Zoom videoconferencing service. Santiam Flycasters members will receive a link to join the Zoom Meeting one week, one day and one hour before the start of scheduled meetings. To join a meeting, simply click on the “Join the Meeting” link in one of the emails you receive. You can join the meeting early, but you will be placed into a Zoom waiting room until you are admitted into the meeting at around 7:00 PM.

There are several options for joining the meeting. You can join with a computer, a smart device, or a regular telephone. If you join with your computer, you will need to have a speaker(s) connected to the computer so that you can hear the presentation. It helps to have downloaded the Zoom Client for Meetings onto your computer beforehand. We recommend doing that prior to joining the meeting. You will be given that option in the email you receive with the “Join Meeting” link. You do not need a camera or a microphone on your computer, but that is an option if you wish to be seen and heard during the meeting. You will have the option to turn off your camera and microphone anytime during the meeting.

If you are joining the meeting with a smart phone or tablet, it may be best to first download the Zoom Cloud Meeting app. With the “Zoom Cloud Meetings” app installed, after you click on the “Join Meeting” link in your email, you will be given the option to open the “Zoom Cloud Meeting” app.

You can also join the meeting on your landline phone. You simply call the phone number provided in the email you receive. When prompted, you will enter the meeting ID followed by the # key. You will be able to listen to the presentation but will not be able to see the presentation or be seen by others.

Note: You will be provided with a Meeting ID but there is no password for joining this Zoom Meeting. Make sure to select the “Call using Internet” option if prompted.

A YouTube tutorial on joining a Zoom Meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tr-JHfEas8k>

If you have questions, contact Tim Johnson at tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com, or call 503-507-8552. He is particularly interested in hearing from any member who wishes to take advantage of closed captioning option for the meetings.

February 20 Detroit Lake Outing

Weather permitting, we will fish Detroit Lake on February 20. The lake is now refilling for the summer and should be full in early May.

A floating device is needed for this lake. Fishing success has been spotty, due to cold water, but several of us had very good luck earlier and, hopefully, the fish are getting ready for Spring!

To get there, drive Highway 20 east and turn right at Mongold Boat Ramp a few miles above Detroit Dam. You will need to either have a State Parks pass or purchase a daily pass with your credit card for \$5. As you get to the bottom of the parking area at the summertime launch area, take the road to the right to the low water ramp or turn left for about 100 feet and turn toward the water on the road to the old ramp. Both should be usable now.

Suggested gear is 4-6 weight rods. Although generally either intermediate or sinking lines are better, sometimes the trout are on the surface and a floating line can be quite successful. Flies include the normal stillwater selection including leeches, woolly buggers, soft hackles, and other attractor patterns, including the colors white, chartreuse, and orange.

The club will not provide a meal, so remember your lunch as well as your PFD and proper clothing.

Dennis Burnett is the outing sponsor, so e-mail him at dennisb464@gmail.com if you have a question.



The Blob

By Beth Jappay

No it's not a horror movie. It's a unique pattern brought to us by those crazy Brits. I admit it--it's the name that caught my eye while I was perusing fly tying materials, leading me to investigate this fly further. I did research and learned that this fly has won fly fishing tournaments, and is so effective it has been banned in certain parts of Britain. OK, now I'm really interested. I love trying new things, and the material that is used to tie it has a pretty cool name: FNF (short for Frozen North Flyfishing) Jelly Fritz.



This material is the brainchild of Kevin Porteous, a well-known figure in the competition fly fishing world. In the water it is both translucent and has great movement. It comes in multiple bright colors, which seem to be an important part of its success. One theory I have read is that this pattern is imitating balls of Daphnia, a type of plankton. Others feel it is a straight out attractor pattern. It seems to work best on planted rainbow trout and brookies. It is the simplest of patterns to tie--just attach the chenille to the back of the hook and wrap forward. The variations involve the choice of colors, and whether a tail or flash or foam is added.



There are multiple different ways to fish a blob. Most common would be as a dropper on a multiple fly rig, fished under an indicator or on a midge tip line. For example, a balanced leech as the point fly, and the blob on a dropper 3' above it. Many times the blob attracts the attention of the fish, which then takes the duller bugger or nymph. Blobs can be trolled or stripped as well, and an intermediate line works well for that method. In my experience blob patterns work better on rainy and overcast days.

There are floating blobs as well. If it has foam eyes it would be a booby blob.



If the foam is on the backside, it is called a FAB, short for Foam Arsed Blob (or Fat Arsed Blob). The FAB is what I have used the most, and with the best success.



Interestingly, I have found this fly only works for me when the water is cold. Last January/February/March I caught a

ton of fish on FABs. When I fish with FABs I use the same set up as I do for booby fishing, of which I went into detail last month. With FABs, I use them as the point fly, and since booby fishing is upside down, this puts The FAB above my dropper in the water column. I most often pair a FAB with a booby leech pattern.

The fish seem to take FABs and blobs differently, often inhaling them subtly and deep. Sometimes the take feels like getting hung up on a weed. It is not uncommon for me to feel a take and hook and land fish to find it had taken both of my flies, inhaling the FAB first without me detecting it and then taking the booby more obviously.

Because the take is so subtle, it is important how you hold your line in your rod hand if you are trolling. Mike Garrett, who teaches fly fishing at OSU, teaches his beginning students to not fish with the line under the index finger. That is because the tendency when detecting a take is to squeeze the hand tight, and if the line is between the index finger and the rod, the fish will break off. He has them hold just the grip. I troll with the line between my index and middle fingers, well to the side of the grip. As I am trolling I am wiggling my index finger, feeling for a change in resistance. This method is so sensitive I can tell when I have picked up weed, and greatly increases my likelihood of detecting a subtle FAB, blob, or booby take. Since you can't grip a line held laterally between two fingers all that hard, I don't get the break offs that Mike is trying to get his students away from.

Just like fish like to nibble on boobies, they like to nibble on FABs too. I also use a slip strike to set the hook with this fly combination, as discussed in last month's article. If you want to tie up some FABs or blobs, I recommend using a Hanak 900 BL hook in a size # 8 - 12, and (for FABs) an 8 mm foam cylinder (white and yellow are the colors I use most). Just start out with 2-3 colors of [FNF Jelly Fritz 15mm](#). I recommend the colors "Zest", "Safety Orange", "Prawn", "Competition Pink", and "Blushing Sunburst" as a good place to start.

If you have liked my Booby and Blob articles, give your thanks to Scott. He didn't know what to do with the Booby/Blob/FAB box I tied for last February's auction, so he put it in the raffle. Then he unexpectedly won it, and still didn't know what to do with it. Scott, you inspired me to write these articles.



It is Time to Renew Your Santiam Flycasters Membership

If you have not done so already, it is time to renew your Santiam Flycasters membership for 2021. Dues for 2021 are as follows: \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families. Life membership can be achieved for only \$300. Take advantage of this opportunity and you never again have to renew your membership, ever!

By renewing your membership, you support the club's ability to continue to bring outstanding speakers to the club, such as Tim Flagler, Ed Engle, Skip Morris, and Ernie Gulley (coming in February), and to make these presentations available through Zoom and the club's new YouTube Channel.

Use the form on the back of the newsletter to renew your membership or download the form from the Santiam Flycasters website (www.santiamflycasters.com). Please mail your membership renewal to: Santiam Flycasters, P.O. Box 691, Salem, OR 97308.

Thanks!

Chironomid Flies from Ernie Gulley

For more on Ernie—www.erniegulley.com



February 2021 Fly of the Month
Higa's S.O.S. Nymph (Baetis)
By Kent Toomb

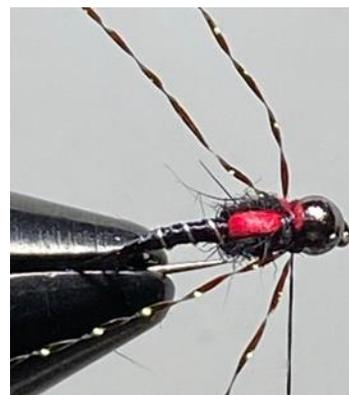


- Hook: #16-20 TMC 2487
- Thread: Black 8/0 or 70 Denier
- Bead: 2.5mm Nickel or Silver Tungsten
- Rib: Small Silver Wire
- Shellback: Red Floss
- Abdomen: Black Rabbit Dubbing
- Legs: Black Krystal Flash
- Tail: Black Pheasant Tail



Place your bead on the hook and then place the hook in the vise. Start your thread just behind the bead and wrap rearward to where the hook barb would be. I like to rotate the hook, so it is easier to tie the tail down into the bend. Take four black pheasant tail fibers and tie the tail in. The tail should

be a little shorter than the hook shank. Now tie in the wire for the rib and advance your thread forward building a slight taper. Wrap the wire forward making equal segments and tie off behind the bead.



Tie in the floss and wrap the thread rearward a little over a third of the hook shank. Make a dubbing noodle and dub the thorax. The thorax tends to be a little more pronounced on this pattern. Pull the floss over the dubbing making a wing case. Tie the wing case with several wraps over the floss and in front. A few extra wraps at this point will help keep the wing case in place and save you some frustration on the river. Now take a strand of krystal flash and tie legs on far side of the fly just behind the bead. Repeat this process on the near side. Dub a small dubbing noodle and do a couple of wraps in front of the legs. This will help keep the legs pointing backwards. Whip finish and then trim the legs just a little beyond the thorax.



This pattern was developed by Spencer Higa, Head Guide at Falcon's Lodge in Utah. This has been a go to Baetis pattern for me. I like to fish it when the fish are rising but are being very selective. I fish this as a dropper below a dry fly. Adjust the length of your dropper based on where the fish are in the water column. My favorite sizes are 18's and 20's. Tie some up and give them a try next time you are over selective trout.

Good Luck,

Kent Toomb



Santiam Flycasters

2021 Membership Form

The Santiam Flycasters, Inc. is a group of men, women, and youths in the Salem area who have a common interest in fly fishing and have joined together to share their experiences and knowledge of the sport since 1975. The club was incorporated as an Oregon non-profit organization in March of 1977. The Santiam Flycasters, Inc. is affiliated with the Fly Fishers International.

The mission of the Santiam Flycasters is to promote the sport of fly fishing for all interested individuals of every generation now and into the future. Through fellowship, education, conservation practices, promoting research, guardianship of proper regulations and support, the Santiam Flycasters can succeed in this mission.

We meet in Salem the second Thursday of each month (no meeting in July)
at the Pringle Park Community Building
606 Church Street at 7:00 pm.
www.santiamflycasters.com

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 FFF 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