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The Sunriver Anglers Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of responsible angling in the high desert region of Central Oregon. More information can be obtained by writing to P.O. Box 4273, Sunriver, OR 97707, or by looking at our website:  
<http://www.sunriveranglers.org>

# The Sunriver Anglers

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The Official Publication of the Sunriver Anglers Club  
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**May 1, 2024**



## **President's Message**

Aloha, Anglers. No fishing this month, but I can report a lot of chilling in the warm Hawaiian sun. Every day between 84 and 80, lows down to a frigid 69 or so. Oh well, somebody has to do it.

Thanks greatly to Dan and Bunny Arnold for organizing and leading our participation in Kokanee Karnival, and thanks to all of you who volunteered. That is a special day for all the students. For some of them, you all know, it is the best meal they will have that day, maybe that week.

We return home on May 1, and I plan to get some fishing in next month. I hope you had some tight lines yourselves this month. See you then.

Mal Murphy

Have a great month.

## Dennis Miller

Passing of a friend and fellow fly fisherman



Dennis Miller, long time member of the Sunriver Anglers Club, passed away on March 31, Easter Sunday. He was a member for many years, and he loved fly fishing above all other activities.

He was very active in club projects and programs including tui chub removal from our local lakes, cooking at the annual “Fish-Fry” at Fort Rock Park, and happily participating in club outings and travels to other fishing destinations (Montana, British Columbia, Bahamas, and Duck Valley).

Dennis was a “worker bee”, and he truly enjoyed the “hands-on” projects undertaken by the club. He was generous with his time and efforts, and as a fisherman, he often called out to his buddies to come fish the best riffle in the river or the spot where fish were rising on the lake even when he got there first. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and fished with him.

Ron Angell

## May Meeting - Garrett Lesko Improve Your Stillwater Fly-Fishing Game with tips from Garrett Lesko

Join the Sunriver Anglers on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> for a presentation on “Stillwater Flies and How to Fish Them” presented by Garrett Lesko.



Garret Lesko is an Oregon based fly tyer and fly fisherman. He has been featured as a “Master at the Bench” in American Fly-Fishing Magazine, has had articles published in Fly Fishing & Tying Journal, has had flies showcased in Favorite Flies of Oregon, and has been a guest on the Wet Fly Swing Podcast, The Fly-Fishing Insider Podcast, and The Fly Fishing 97 Podcast. He has also been a regular club speaker at fly fishing clubs in Oregon and beyond. He enjoys using his 15+ years of experience in the fly-fishing industry to teach fly tying through his local club where they live stream their monthly tying night.

You may also have seen him at one of the many fly-tying expos and shows he has tied at, including the NW Expo, Reedsport and Roseburg Fly Tying show, the Fly Tyers Rendezvous, and The Fly-Fishing Show. Garrett was also recognized as the “Fly Tyer of the Year” in 2024 from the Oregon FFI. He truly has a passion for teaching and showing others the joys of fly tying and fishing either through live demonstrations or articles through magazines or his blog. Fly fishing stillwaters can be daunting. Through this presentation Garrett will go over the flies he fishes, the lines he uses, and the



retrieves that work best when tackling stillwaters new and familiar. Garrett will have his boat box with flies, lines, and other bits of tackle he uses to fish stillwaters effectively.

Members and the public are invited to attend this free presentation in the Crescent Room located in the SHARC building, 57250 Overlook Rd, Sunriver, OR.

**\*\* NEW SUMMER MEETING TIME!!\*\* Doors open at 5:15pm and the presentation will begin at 5:30. Meetings typically last about an hour. For more info, visit [sunriveranglers.org](http://sunriveranglers.org).**

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, Jordan Romney of Fly and Field Outfitters will return with an update of current fishing conditions and techniques that have been successful for the spring so far.

### **Kokanee Karnival – HOT DOGS**

At this year's Kokanee Karnival field trip, Sunriver Anglers served over 500 hot dogs to Bend and Terribone fifth graders. The student field trips took place over six days at Aspen Hall in Shevlin Park. The field trips are co-sponsored by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bend-La Pine Schools, and Central Oregon Fishers. ODFW planted 1000 rainbow trout from the Fall River Hatchery. Many thanks to the volunteers who made this event possible.



## Upcoming Meeting Topics

Current Meeting Schedule - Meetings occur on the first Wednesday of the Month at the SHARC.

June- Fly and Field- subject TBD

July- TBD

August-TBD

Sept- Club picnic

Oct-TBD

Nov- ODF&W- update on river conditions, fish counts, tui chub, etc.

Dec- Holiday Party

## Fishing Reports:

Several of us fished Lake Billy Chinook this week. Catching was slow, but the quality of the fish we did catch was awesome. The lake has fantastic Scenery and wildlife viewing (Eagles, Wild Horses, Osprey, and many others)



*Phil Fischer with a piggy Bull Trout!*

If you have a fishing report you'd like to share with others in the Club, Please email it, with pictures, to Jerry Hubbard ([jerryhubbard1943@gmail.com](mailto:jerryhubbard1943@gmail.com)).

## Environment and Water News:

- [Deschutes River Conservancy](#)
- [Solutions to Oregon's drought could be found in the Deschutes Basin](#)
- [As Oregon Drought Eases, Uncertainty Remains for Some Farmers](#)
- [Subject: Winston Conservation Spotlight - California Trout](#)
- [COID Joint Town Hall Recap & Season Start Up](#)
- [Summary Article on Klamath River Salmon and Steelhead restoration](#)
- [Oregon Drought Maps and Report](#)

## Fishing Books – The Fine Art of Fishing by Samuel G. Camp, 1911.

Chapter V11 – Fine and Far-Off Fishing and Other Matters – “The rarity of really fine and far-off fishing—the words being applicable only to fly-fishing, and more especially to the act of casting the fly—is easily explained. Far casting demands the best skill and tackle, and fine fishing, in addition to the requirements of light leaders and small flies, calls for extreme accuracy and delicacy in laying down leader and flies far-off on the water.”

“Fishing the fly, when all said, is of far more importance than either the formation or coloration of the fly. The operation of casting may, to a certain extent or natural limit of proficiency, be learned by almost anyone. Fishing the fly is quite another matter and herein the angler shows his quality. To fish successfully with the fly the angler must have “fish sense”.

From the library of Jerry Hubbard

## *Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner By: Phil Fischer*

### **Sawyer Pheasant Tail Nymph**

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This month's Sunriver Anglers Fly Tying Corner features a Sawyer Pheasant Tail Nymph. This is a pattern originated by Frank Sawyer in the early 1900's; it has been around a long time. It is a very simple, yet effective fly pattern. It is unique in that the only materials used is a hook, copper wire and ring neck pheasant tail. The fly does not use thread to bind it together. The fly imitates any number of different mayfly nymphs that are common in our Central Oregon streams and rivers.



I have used this fly effectively in a broad spectrum of rivers from Central Oregon to Montana and as far away as Argentina. It is usually one of the first patterns I pull out of my fly box when approaching a new river, as it is an excellent imitation for small mayfly nymphs. The pattern featured in this month's column is tied to specifically imitate a Pale Morning Dun nymph.

But I can adapt the size and color to imitate many different mayfly nymphs. Use a greenish pheasant tail, bronze wire and tie on a size 18, and you have an excellent imitation for Baetis, or Blue Wing Olives. Tie a little larger using pheasant tail and copper wire, and you have a Mahogany Dun nymph. This is my go-to pattern in many situations and it is responsible for more fish to net than any other pattern I've fished. Give it a try. I think you'll like it!

I have tied the fly slightly differently than the original Sawyer nymph tied by Frank Sawyer. The main difference is in the tie-off point. The original pattern tied off the fly at



the back of the thorax, whereas on my version it is tied off at the head. But I think you'll see how quick and easy the pattern is to tie. I've added UV Resin to the wing case to make the fly more durable; something that wasn't available in Frank Sawyer's time.

### **Sawyer Pheasant Tail Materials List:**

**Hook:** Firehole Outdoors 627 Barbless Competition Hook (Short Shank, 2X Gape), Sizes 14-18, or similar

**Abdomen, Thorax and Rib:** Red Ultra Wire in Small

**Abdomen, Thorax and Wing Pads:** Natural Ring Neck Pheasant

Tying instructions and steps are being published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers web page at <http://www.sunriveranglers.org/fly-tying-corner>, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/ab5yoHFZ7Mw>

Learn to tie this fly pattern and fish it in rivers, Crooked, the Fall River, Upper Deschutes, and the Main Stem Deschutes. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Sawyer Pheasant Tail, please don't hesitate to email me. Or if you have suggestions on future patterns to feature in this column, I welcome your input. I can be reached at <mailto:philfischer@sbcglobal.net>.

### **Sunriver Anglers Links:**

[Sunriver Anglers - Home](#)

[Sunriver Anglers - YouTube](#)

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