

OSPREY FLY BOX

FRANK'S FLY

contributed by
Ken Baker

After I retired in late 2007 I was now free to go on longer trips that I was unable to make because of time constraints when I was working. One of these excursions I wanted to make was the Bulkley River.

Elaine and I stayed in Smithers the first year and spent most of the time looking around doing the tourist thing. I had heard of Bymac so we stopped there. The truck had barely stopped moving and from the shotgun seat came "You're not leaving me here!" In my defense from the way I had heard it the campground was in Houston. We were on our way home so I fished there for a bit and hooked the only fish of the trip a 3 to 4 lb. Bull (Dolly) trout.

When we went back the second year, I now had a 20HP jet to go on my 1436 jon boat to get around. I was still not sure where to camp but on the outskirts of Telkwa we came across the Fort Telkwa Campground. We pulled in there and it became my Fall home away from home for the next 11 years. It's a great spot, on the river and private with the cleanest washrooms I have ever encountered. I stayed there in our Trailer until last year. Last year, which most likely will be my final trip, I went with Tony, Steve and Rudy and we stayed in one of their cabins. If you have not fished the streams of the Skeena region you are missing some of the better summer run Steelhead streams in BC. Unfortunately, they are well past their prime and I doubt they will ever recover to anywhere near their former glory. The first few years I went I used mostly tips with intruder style flies interspersed with a little bit of dry line time. Slowly over the years I went almost exclusively to either dry

flies or subsurface flies off a dry line. Lindgren's Indispensable, Black Butt Black, The Stan Ogden, Lemire's Grease liner, the Undertaker and Frank's Fly became the flies of choice. I still can see the first time a Steelhead rose to a Grease Liner on the Field and Stream run. It rose twice but I wasn't sure it was on my fly as I didn't think I was out that far. The next cast proved me wrong and a beautiful hen of 7 or 8 lbs. was to hand.

There is no doubt in my mind that you can catch more fish going deep with tips and large wet flies but the thrill of seeing a Steelhead rise to your fly is worth the time and effort. As one of the miscreants who I camped with would often say "You can fish tips all winter, why not use a dry line when you can."

I was introduced to this fly at the Fort Telkwa Campground a few years ago. I'm told it was developed by Frank Cernaway an angler that is part of the Barret Station crowd. To me the fly appears to be a variation of the venerable Spade and Wintle's Western Special as it shares some characteristics of both. This fly is simple and effective.

I tend to tie it a little on the short side especially on larger hooks (2 & 4) almost in a low water style. I will also tie some of the smaller ones (6 & 8) with a fuller hackle so that (hopefully) it rides right up in the surface film. I have been using this fly with a Scandi head, a 10-foot clear floating head and a 12-to-15-foot leader. You can also rifle hitch it if you like that presentation.

MATERIALS



Hook: Mustad M-36890 Salmon Up-Eye Hook
Sizes #2 to #8

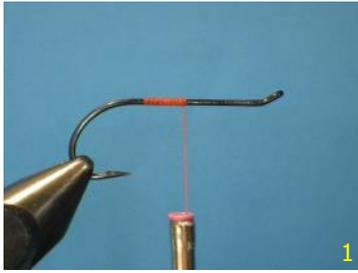
Thread: Uni 6/0 Orange & Black

Tail: Natural Deer or Elk Hair

Body: Seal or Arizona Simi Seal,
Rear half Orange, Front half Black

Hackle: Grizzly

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1



3



5



7

1. Start the Orange Thread about mid shank and run a base layer down to just in front of the Hook Point.
2. Cut a small clump of Deer Hair, remove the under fur and stack the Hair. Return the thread to the middle of the shank and tie in the Deer Hair for a tail. I try to keep it just a little past the Hook bend and not to full.
3. Starting right above the Hook point using your favorite Dubbing method, I use a Dubbing Loop, dub a slender rear half Orange. Whip Finish and cut the Orange Thread. If using a larger hook start a little bit forward of the Hook point.
4. Start the Black Thread behind the Hook Eye and run the Thread down to close the Hook Eye return, ending up with the Thread at the Orange Dubbing.
5. Using another Dubbing Loop, Dub the front half with Black Dubbing. A little bit of a tight ball at the front will help keep the Hackle fibers from collapsing. I have seen one variation where the angler used an appropriate sized Plastic Bead just behind the Hackle.
6. Tie in an large fibre Grizzly Hackle by the stem.
7. Wrap the Grizzly Hackle 3 or 4 turns towards the Hook Eye. Tie off and cut the excess. You can use a few more wraps if you want a fuller Hackle.
8. Form a small Black Head, whip finish and place some Head Cement on the Head.
9. One of Ken's Flies on a larger sized Hook.



2



4



6



8



9

Tight Lines & Good Luck!