

# OSPREY FLY BOX

## THE PUMPKIN HEAD

*contributed by*  
**Henri Jover**

"Wow this is the nicest fish yet! I gotta get a picture of that!!!"

And that's pretty much how the day went in the early part of this past August on my neighbor's (*and at times guest's*) favorite lake just outside Merritt (*starts with the letter "L" and ends with "M"*). Sorry that I can't mention the lake as the club likes to be discreet about naming locations...

Anyway, in the doldrums of summer who would think that you could have a banner day on just one particular fly, that being the "Pumpkin Head Fly". Never had heard about it or seen one until I joined Anne on her favorite lake and experienced its success. She told me how she had heard about it three summers ago.



*Anne proudly displays one of several large rainbows that couldn't resist the Pumpkin Head fly.*

### MATERIALS



- Hook:** Mustad 9672
- Thread:** Black
- Head:** Orange Prism Bead
- Tail:** Olive Marabou
- Body:** Peacock Herl
- Rib:** Copper Wire
- Hackle:** Orange Grizzly

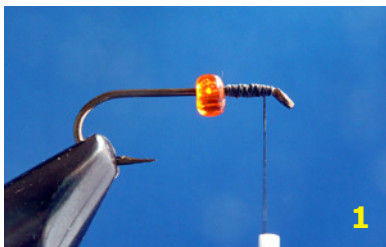
It was tough and hard day in late July and Anne was not touching anything that swam but she did observe a couple of anglers who were doing quite well. Fortunately enough, Anne being the friendly person she is, managed to chat up the guys and found out the fly that they were using (*must of felt sorry for her*) and that was the very first time she had heard of the Pumpkin Head fly. Anne tried to look it up later on but never really pursued it and figured it was one of those one time things.

The next summer .... same time of year .... believe it or not, the same thing. Anglers doing very well again in midsummer with that damn Pumpkin Head fly! So this was it, next thing on the list was to come in touch with this pattern and get a good close look at it. So one day as Anne was browsing at Riverside she saw a whole whack of orange flies on display and asked Gary Elgear (the store owner) the name of that fly. The rest is history.

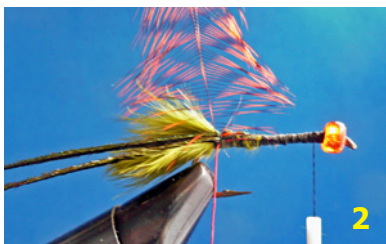
On the third summer after Anne had heard of this strangely named fly, we put it to the test and it is truly is a great attractor pattern that every fly fisher should carry in their fly box especially for tough conditions! Oh and don't forget your camera.

### TYING INSTRUCTIONS

*Photography by Peter Chatt*



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- Debarb the hook and thread the bead on the hook.
- Build up the thread so the bead fits snug and tie off.
- Reattach the thread and wrap the hook shank with tread as a base
- Tie on the marabou tail.
- Tie in the copper wire, grizzly hackle and Peacock Herl in this order.
- Wrap the peacock herl forward to the bead head to form the body.
- Palmer the grizzly hackle forward .
- Counter wind the copper wire through the palmered hackle.
- Whipfinish and add a drop of head cement.

*The Finished Fly*



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*The Pumpkin Head Fly*