

Callibaetis Parachute

Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



For this month's pattern, I have chosen a favorite fly for imitating the dun stage of the Callibaetis Mayfly; the Callibaetis Parachute. I fish this pattern a lot during the Summer on East Lake, Hosmer, Crane Prairie, and others. Because the dun stage is often on the surface at the same time as other stages, I will fish this pattern in tandem with cripples or spinner imitations to give myself a better chance of success.

Callibaetis mayfly hatches will begin in June and will last through the summer and into early fall. The Callibaetis hatch is unquestionably the most important mayfly hatch on the Cascade Lakes in Central Oregon. Trout key on the nymph stage prior to the hatch, the emergence stage during the hatch, the dun stage on the surface, and spinners returning to lay eggs to begin the cycle anew. Fishing techniques for this insect vary, from nymphs fished beneath an indicator, to wind drifted or stripped, to fishing dun and spinner patterns on the surface. Hatches usually occur in the later morning and extend into the afternoon on many days. To

extend your fishing day, stock up on various stages of this insect to cover the hatch thoroughly.



Natural Callibaetis Mayfly

Many of my most memorable dry fly fishing days have occurred during the Callibaetis Hatch. One day on Hosmer Lake, I float-tubed one of my favorite areas and began casting wooly buggers with a trailing Callibaetis mayfly nymph pattern. Before long I saw the familiar sight of a large, probably size 12, Callibaetis mayfly on the surface of the lake. Just as quickly, this mayfly disappeared into the swirl of a rising trout. Soon I saw another rise, and another; the fish were feeding ravenously so soon after ice out. It didn't take too many rises for me to abandon the wooly bugger and nymph for a dry line and Callibaetis pattern. My presentations were greeted eagerly by the rising trout and I brought several of these magnificent fish to net. But the awesome part of the day, and the event that made it so memorable was the Bald Eagle I saw land in a tree nearby where I was fishing. He watched over the scene of feeding fish, and I stared at the beauty of this bird. Soon I returned to fishing and the rise forms on the water in front of me. On one of my casts, I laid down the fly on the water and was startled by a loud splash over my shoulder. I quickly turned my gaze toward the splash and saw the eagle, now with a trout in its talons, fly over my head no more than 20 feet high.

As he was passing by, I felt the line on the rod tighten with my own hook-up of a rainbow. It was truly one of those “it doesn’t get any better than this” moments. And it forever etched the Callibaetis mayfly hatch as my favorite time in Central Oregon.

Try tying this pattern on your vice and fish it during the Callibaetis hatches this spring and summer. I think you’ll like it.

Callibaetis Parachute Materials List:

Hook: Firehole Competition Barbless 419, size 12-18

Thread: 14/0 Veevus brown thread

Tail: Whiting Coq De Leon Spade Hackle – Natural Pardo

Abdomen: Natural Peacock Eye Barb stripped to form a quill

Thorax: Blend Light Olive Superfine Callibaetis dubbing (75%), UV Callibaetis (25%)

Wing: Natural Mule Deer

Hackle: Whiting Dun Dyed Grizzly

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/nlqQtmVIAqM>.

Learn to tie this fly pattern and fish it during Callibaetis hatches on our local lakes to imitate these mayflies. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Callibaetis Parachute fly pattern, 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 Philfischer@sbcglobal.net.