



Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



Central Oregon is blessed with big bugs that trout take off the surface of our local lakes and streams, like ants, beetles and hoppers. This food source is happenstance. Terrestrials by nature don't live in water. They live in fallen timber and other detritus on the forest floor; often near our lakes and rivers. Many terrestrials fly, but not always very accurately and they are commonly steered off course into the water, landing with a big "plop". That "plop" provokes an opportunistic trout to take these bugs on the surface with reckless abandon. It is this thought that helped choose this month's Sunriver Anglers Fly Tying Corner pattern; the Peacock Stimulator.

I fished this pattern a bunch last summer. And when the annual inventory of flies in my fly boxes was conducted this winter, there was only one mangled Peacock Stimulator left. I figured I better add a few more. I got busy tying this week and am now ready for the season. The Peacock Stimulator pattern is based on Randall Kaufman's famous pattern, but with a couple updates. I used Peacock in the abdomen, because it is just buggy looking. I also added a UV Krystal Flash underwing to the fly to provide further

characteristics of living insects. Lastly, I added some long rubber legs to the fly that will wiggle and move on the water.

Fish this pattern by cruising the edges of lakes and casting close to the shore. Alternatively, fish the grassy banks along our local rivers. Delicate dry fly casting is not necessary with this fly; in fact, the opposite is preferred. Plop this fly down heavily on the surface of the water. Trout will react to the “plop” and take the fly with a reaction strike. There is something heart-stopping about seeing the big head of a nice Hosmer or East Lake trout coming up aggressively to take this fly. I look forward to the summer months when I cast these big, easy-to-see flies.

Peacock Stimulator Materials List:

Hook: Firehole 718 Barbless Competition Hook, Size 8-10

Thread: Ultra 210 Denier Olive Green Thread

Tail and Wing: Elk Hair

Abdomen: Natural Peacock

Abdomen Hackle: Whiting Grizzly Dyed Dun Saddle

Rib: Ultra Wire – Black, Fine

Underwing: UV Tan Krystal Flash

Legs: Hareline Barred Crazy Legs – Pearly Flake Dark Olive

Thorax Dubbing: Blue Ribbon Flies Zelon – Brachycentrus Olive

Thorax Hackle: Whiting Dark Barred Ginger Cape

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/-LOvfRjqbl0>.

Learn to tie this fly pattern and fish it in rivers or lakes to imitate terrestrials, which are common in Central Oregon. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Peacock Stimulator, 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>.