

CalliKlink

Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



I have had several challenging fishing days at East Lake during the Callibaetis hatch this summer. I got refusal after refusal and I think a few of you have educated those fish about the pointy thing at the end of your line; they have gotten very selective. So, I started looking for alternatives. The answer came to me float-tubing during a good Callibaetis hatch one day. I was watching Callibaetis hatch right in front of me. It was eye-opening. I could see that the flies took a few moments to crawl out of their nymphal shuck before flying off. I thought to myself, the abdomen of the fly is protruding below the surface of the water. I set about trying to solve this puzzle with a pattern designed specifically for this phenomenon.

My answer came from Denmark; a Klinkhammer style pattern. The Klinkhammer style of fly was designed by Dutch angler Hans Van Klinken in the early 1980s. Standard parachute flies are designed to imitate an insect emerging from the water, so the body of the fly is suspended on the water's surface. Avid grayling fisherman Hans Van Klinken adapted the standard parachute pattern to create a fly that hangs down through the surface of the water rather than sitting in it. Like standard mayflies, the Klinkhammer aims to imitate the profile of a hatching mayfly, but it is designed to sit lower in the water. The

Klinkhammer style has a different profile versus a parachute fly; the abdomen hangs beneath the surface of the water while the hackle and wing are on or above it. As always, I have put my spin on the pattern and used some specific materials to help sell the pattern to those wily East Lake trout.

I've given this pattern a field test on those challenging fish on East Lake recently. While not a panacea, it does give an additional effective option for the Callibaetis hatch. Trout do also like some motion on Callibaetis patterns, and sometimes jiggling the tip of your rod to impart a little motion is effective. I like to sight cast to these fish along the shallows throughout the lake and observe the fish's reaction to my pattern. They reacted favorable to the CalliKlink.

I gave this pattern a name to blend the original with the mayfly I'm imitating.... Callibaetis, plus Klinkhammer, equals CalliKlink. Try this pattern during summer and early fall Callibaetis time on a favorite local lake.

Materials List: CalliKlink

Hook: Firehole 317, Size 14-16

Thread: Veevus 16/0, Black or Gray

Wing: Natural Whitetail Deer

Abdomen: Stripped Peacock

Thorax: 75% Callibaetis Superfine, 25% Callibaetis Ice Dub

Hackle: Whiting Dry Fly Saddle, Grizzly Dyed Gray

Tying instructions and steps are being published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/sHxLCdx1pA>

Experiment with this pattern during the Callibaetis Hatch. If you have questions or would like additional information about the CalliKlink, 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.