

Wally Wing Callibaetis

Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



For this month's pattern, I am celebrating the art of fly tying through a modern and classic tie of the Wally Wing Callibaetis. The wing style was originated by Wally Lutz of Alberta, Canada. I like it because the wing has graceful and elegant lines and brings back me to my roots of fly tying. One of the reasons I tie flies is to fish with them and catch fish with something I created. But equally, I tie flies for the art and beauty of fly tying. Over time, fly tiers have created an endless array of unique and beautiful techniques that catch fish, and may hang on the wall as a unique piece of art. The Wally Wing Callibaetis fits in nicely to the artful side of this craft. But I bet it catches trout too!

I've used a couple unique techniques in tying this pattern. The first, are the Wally Wings themselves. This style of wing is a relatively easy technique once practiced a few times. Watch the video at the link below and I think you'll see that the appearance of difficulty in these wings is overshadowed by their simplicity. A second technique I used is the method in which the hackle is prepared and tied onto the fly. I've stripped one side of the saddle hackle clean, and tie with the barbs on the opposite side. I generally only use this technique when I'm reaching to tie a fly with very clean hackle lines; perhaps one I'll gift to a very good friend or mount in a picture frame destined to hang on the wall. When fishing, the fish don't discern the difference between a neatly tied fly and one that leans towards being sloppy. So, I don't use this technique on most of my fishing flies. But I know next season, a few of those nice rainbow trout in East Lake might gain an appreciation for this artist's impression of a Callibaetis Mayfly floating on the lake's surface.

Try tying this pattern on your vice and fish it during the Callibaetis hatches next spring and summer. I think you'll like it and you may even hang your best version in a frame on the wall.



Wally Wing Callibaetis Materials List:

Hook: Firehole Competition Barbless 419, size 12-18

Thread: 16/0 Veevus black or gray thread

Tail: Whiting Coq De Leon Spade Hackle – Natural Pardo, or dun microfibbets

Abdomen: Spirit River Natural Turkey Wing Feather dyed Callibaetis

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

Wing: **Whiting** Natural Guinea Hackle

Hackle: Whiting Dry Fly Saddle, Unique Variant

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/V_dsw278PJE

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 Wally Wing Callibaetis 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.