

Bumble Bee.... Tom Regina

The "Bumble Bee" is another tie in our series of terrestrial imitations. Because bees are such good fliers they are not as common as other bugs on the waters we ply for both cold and warm water fishes. This may be a good thing for the fly angler using a bee imitation as a searching or prospecting pattern. Our prey may not be as wary of a bee imitation as they may be of an imitation they have seen or been stung by time-and-time again. Unlike most other terrestrials that end up as fish food close to shore, bees may be more widely dispersed over the stream, lake or pond - but in smaller numbers. This is not to say however you should concentrate all or even most of your bee bug fishing efforts casting to mid stream. Cast to mid stream, but don't neglect the holding areas next to the bank.

Many fly anglers, for good reason or not, feel yellow is a good fish attracting color. This seems especially true on Appalachian Mountain streams and rivers. Case in point is the success many of our members enjoy when fishing a Gray Hackle Yellow Nymph on the Tuckesegee and Nantahala Rivers, and other rivers and streams of Western North Carolina. (Thanks SeaWo and your dad for introducing us to the Gray Hackle Yellow.) Assuming this *yellow stuff* has credence, then the "Bumble Bee" presented here should be in your terrestrial bug box because yellow is the only color used to tie it. The other materials used to tie this fly are black and by definition black is the absence of color. (Did you really need a physics lesson?)

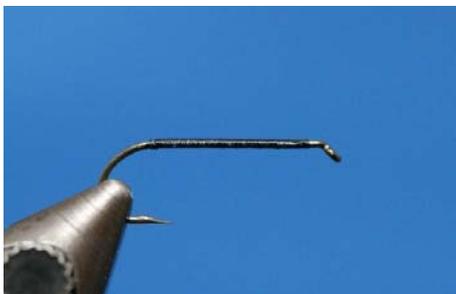
Tying Materials

Hook:	Mustad 94831 size 10, 2XL, 2XF dry fly
Thread:	6/0 black and 6/0 yellow
Body:	Rainy's Black/Yellow Foam Bee/Wasp Bodies, 1/8-inch, super glue
Wing:	Black stripped goose biots
Legs:	Small black round rubber
Hackle:	Black rooster saddle
Eyes:	Spirit River black X-small mono eyes



Tying Instructions

1. Debarb the hook and place it in the vise. In neat, tight, touching turns wrap a thread base over the hook shank from the hook eye to a point directly over the hook barb. Spiral wrap the thread back to the hook eye and tie it off with whip finish or half hitch thread wraps. Cut away the thread.



2. Round off the front and rear edges of the body foam cylinder with a small pair of scissors. Smooth the edges by quickly touching the ends of the cylinder with a small flame then shaping the ends between your fingers while the foam is still heated.

3. On the tying bench, orientate the foam cylinder so the first yellow segment represents the front or head of the fly. Using one half of a double edge razor blade, cut an incision parallel to and centered over the length of the cylinder to a depth equal to half the cylinder's diameter. Make this cut from the front of the last, long, black segment to the end of the yellow front or head segment.



4. Apply a light coat of super glue over the length and circumference of the thread wraps. Place the foam body incision over the top of the glued thread so the first yellow or head segment is one and one-half hook eye distance back from the hook eye. Press the body down into the hook and pinch the foam together with your fingers for a few seconds until the foam bonds back together around the hook shank.

Bumble Bee.... Tom Regina (continued)



5. Tie the black thread back onto the fly at and over the second yellow segment from the front. Compress this entire second yellow segment with thread wraps. *Note: To avoid cutting through the foam cylinder with the thread, first take four or five light spiral thread turns in the compression area then allow the bobbin to hang free and spin it counterclockwise to untwist and flatten the hanging thread. Take several tighter back-and-forth spiral thread wraps, untwist and flatten the thread and repeat until the segment is compressed. Use as few thread wraps as necessary to compress the segment.* Select two striped goose biots for the wings. Measure the biots so when tied in over the compressed segment they extend to the end of the body. Position one wing concave side down, on top of the compressed segment and cocked about 30 degrees to one side of the body. Take two

or three firm thread wraps to hold the wing in place. Add the second wing in the same manner but cocked to the other side of the body. Cut away the biot butts. Cut two 2-inch rubber leg pairs from the skin. Tie in one pair of legs to each side of the compressed segment. You can cut the legs to the desired length at this time. *Note: Keep in mind, the primary purpose of the legs is to give the fly the illusion of "life" and "movement". Therefore don't cut the legs too short, or just wait until you get to the water to cut them to the desired length.* Select and prepare a hackle feather. Tie the feather in by its butt over the compressed body area. Working from the back of the compressed segment area, take three or four turns of hackle forward over the leg and wing tie in and compressed area. At the front of the compressed area, tie off and cut away the excess hackle. Tie off the black thread at the hackle tie off point with whip finish or half hitch thread wraps. Cut away the thread and carefully apply a small amount of head cement to the finished black thread wraps.



6. Directly in back of and adjacent to the hook eye, tie on the yellow thread and lay down a yellow thread over wrap base from the hook eye to the front of the foam cylinder. With figure eight yellow thread wraps tie the mono eyes onto the top of the hook shank. Finish the eye tie in with whip finish or half hitch thread wraps. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount of head cement to the yellow finish wraps.

Casting & Tying at the Club.... Tom Regina



At the Thursday August 14 Bull Session starting at 6:30 PM, Terry McCormick will lead us in tying the Gurgler Frog. This fly is not difficult to tie and uses sheet foam and Ice Chenille for the body, round rubber legs, and a tail (optional) of bucktail hair.

At the Saturday 16 August Casting and Tying Clinic starting at 9 AM, we will tie a Bumble Bee as part of our ongoing series of terrestrial imitations. This bee imitation uses a foam cylinder for the body, goose biots for wings, round rubber for the legs, some rooster saddle hackle, and mono eyes. All fly tying materials are provided by your club for both tying sessions. If you have them, bring your vise and tools... or use the club's vises and tools.

For those of you who have a greater interest in improving your casting skills and techniques than in playing with fake bees, John Brand will be on hand at the Saturday clinic to help you achieve your goals. Bring your fly rod or use one of the club's sticks. Russ and Jerry Giles will prepare us a mighty fine lunch of mesquite grilled chicken breast and ranch baked beans on Saturday. Big people and little people beverages will also be available. And it's all free. So bring a guest... or more. Guests are always welcome.

New in the Library.... Bill Parrish

Essential Saltwater Flies by Ed Jaworowski. An excellent fly pattern book of saltwater flies. Beautiful illustrations. This book was reviewed in detail in the July newsletter. Book #87