

Royal Wulff.... Tom Regina

The Royal Wulff is Lee Wulff's signature fly. Only the Adams is more popular as a searching dry fly. The Royal Wulff has three important attributes that make it an ideal dry fly searching pattern: It floats well, is easily seen by the angler from a long distance, and has the bugginess that attracts trout and other freshwater game fish.

Most Royal Wulff recipes specify the use of a standard dry fly hook, calf tail for the wings, and silk or nylon floss for the body. For this tying session we will deviate from the standard pattern and use a 2XL (extra long) hook, Polypropylene yarn for the wings, and Flex-Floss for the body. When I tie Royal Wulff's for my own use, I use a standard dry fly hook because I think it contributes to a more compact and attractive fly. The reason for using a 2XL hook for this tying session is because, until one becomes proficient tying the Royal Wulff, it is easier to learn how to tie it on a long shank hook ... and according to Tom Birdwell "The fish don't care." I do however use poly yarn and Flex-Floss for my Royal Wulffs. I find it quicker and easier to tie, separate, and control the wings with poly yarn than with calf tail. Flex-Floss, unlike silk or nylon floss, does not fray as it is wrapped, and it is easy to control body bulk and segmentation with Flex-Floss.

Tying Materials

Hook:	Tiemco 5212, 1XF, 2XL, size 12
Thread:	6/0 black
Wings:	White Antron yarn
Tail:	Natural moose mane
Butt:	Peacock herl
Body:	Red Flex-Floss
Shoulder:	Peacock herl
Hackle:	Brown rooster saddle



Tying Instructions



1. Using a jam knot, start the thread on the hook a bit less than one hook eye distance back from the hook eye. In neat touching turns wrap a thread base back to the middle of the hook shank. Return the thread forward to a position one-quarter hook shank distance back from the hook eye to establish the thread hang point. Cut about a two-inch length of Polypropylene yarn from the skein. Split this cut length of poly yarn into thirds lengthwise. Using tight figure eight thread wraps, tie the middle of a one-third piece of poly yarn to the top of and perpendicular to the hook shank at the thread hand point. Wrap a neat supporting thread base about 3/32-inch up each wing segment to cause the wings to stand up

about a 45 degree angle to the hook shank. *Note: For clarity and illustrative purposes the wings in each of the pictures have been cut to finished length. However you should not cut the wings to finished length until the hackle has been wrapped in order to ensure the wings are of proper length.* In neat touching thread wraps continue the thread base back to a point directly over the hook barb.



2. Cut 10 to 15 hairs from the base of the moose hide. Clean out the under hair. Even the tips in a hair stacker or by hand. Reduce the stacked clump of hair to about 6 or 8 well shaped hairs. Measure and tie the selected stacked hair to the top of the hook so the tail is about equal in length to the hook shank. Bind the butt end of the tail to the top of the hook shank with evenly spaced spiral thread wraps forward to the wings and cut away any excess butt ends. In several spiral wraps return the thread to the base of the tail.



3. At the base of the tail tie on two peacock herls after ruffling the feather barbs. Cut away any herl tag ends. Wrap a single herl to form a neat compact butt. *Note: Only one peacock herl will be used to form the butt. The second herl is tied on in case the first fragile herl breaks while being wrapped. The extra herl will be broken away if it is not needed.* Tie off and cut or break away the excess herl. Also break away the second herl if it is not needed. Take the thread forward to a point about 3/32-inch back from the wings. This will be the new thread hang point.

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4. At the thread hang point tie one end of a strand of Flex-Floss to the top of the hook shank with the running part of the floss strand overhanging the back of the hook. Bind the butt end of the floss to the top of the hook back to the herl butt. Cut away any floss tag. Return the thread to the thread hang point. Wrap the Flex-Floss forward to the thread hang point in overlapping or touching turns to form a neat segmented body. Tie off and cut away the excess floss. *Note: With a little practice you will quickly learn how much you can stretch Flex-Floss to build a neat body with proper bulk and segmentation. You will be surprised at how strong Flex-Floss is.*



5. At thread hang point, in front of the floss body, tie on two peacock herls for the shoulder. Treat them as were the butt herls.



6. Select an appropriate size hackle feather and strip away the fluffy barbs at the base of the quill. The stripped quill portion should be about 1/2-inch long. Orientate the feather with the convex side facing you, the running part of the hackle extending over the back of the hook, and the striped quill portion of the feather adjacent to the space between the shoulder and the wings, and at the side of the hook. The stripped portion of the quill should extend back so the first feather barbs are aligned with the back of the herl shoulder. With a few tight thread wraps, tie the butt or striped end of the feather to the hook shank in the space between the shoulder and wings. Take the thread forward by passing it under the

hook and wings. Tie the tip of the stripped feather quill butt to the front of the hook with a few tight turns of thread. Do not crowd the hook eye. Take four turns of hackle, one in front of the other, in the space between the shoulder and the wings. Pass the hackle feather under the hook and wings and take three turns of hackle, one in front of the other, in front of the wings. Do not crowd the hook eye. Tie off and cut away the excess hackle feather. Stroke and hold the hackle barbs back so as not to trap any barbs under the thread head. Build a neat thread head. Half-hitch or whip-finish the thread head. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount of head cement to the thread head. Cut the wings to a length about 1/8-inch higher than the hackle.

Fishing Report.... Captain Harry Huelsbeck



Fishing early just as the sun rises over the grass flats in the sound, has been producing a good spec bite on topwater. The best producing fly has been an Olive over Silver Rainy's Bubblehead 2/0, followed close by crease flies of the same size and color. (Spec picture attached) Out front in the Gulf, schools of bluefish could easily be sight cast to cruising right up next to the beach. Just find the school ease in, and fire away. With a barbless hook, you can watch them race it down, hook one, give some slack, release, strip, and watch them race it down again hooking another. Ladyfish

and hardtails have been taking blind casting along the beach front as well. Spotted some Jack Crevalles cruising the beach, but they were moving a little too quick for me to get a big stick out for them. The spanish were balling up schools of blood minnows on the shoals. Just find the bait ball, and you can see the Spanish swimming below. Cast a small surfcandy or clouser on the edge of the bait ball, and strip slowly. As the baitball drifts into the pass with the current, get ready for a bluefish blitz! Sight castable Pompano have been hard for me to find, still cracking the code. Found a few pods, but they have been spooky. Spotted a couple of tarpon, but they too were spooked easily and couldn't even get a cast in front of them. I've got a fresh batch of tarpon flies ready to try again. Sharks are all over, from the shoals up to putting their fins on the beach. They avoid the chum slick like the plaque, but have ran after a top water plug while trying to tease them in to take a fly on the 13+ wt rod, but spook off as they get close to the boat. (Another code I am trying to crack on these beasts) While blind casting along the beach front, I've also picked a couple of small rat cobias following rays.

L8, Capt. Harry