

Kyle Burrell's Parachute Beetle....Russ Shields

Kyle Burrell is a professional guide on the upper Green River in Wyoming and the Chattahoochee River north of Atlanta Georgia. Art deTonnancourt and I fished with Kyle on the Green River and Terry McCormick fished with him on the Chattahoochee River. Kyle developed this beetle as a versatile terrestrial for general use for trout and pan fish. I can attest to its efficacy, it's a great fly to have in your box or on your line.

Materials

Hook: Mustad 94833 size 10 or 12
Thread: 6/0 black
Body: 3mm black closed cell foam*
Wing post: White or pink Antron Yarn
Under body: Peacock herl
Wing: Black dry fly hackle to match hook size



* Before you begin to tie this fly, cut out several foam bodies as shown in the photo. The body should be about 7/8 in. long, 3/8 in. wide at the back and taper to 3/16 in. at the front. Round off both ends. (I made a simple die from stainless steel to stamp out identical copies.)

Tying Instructions



1. Flatten the hook barb and mount the hook in the vise. Wrap a thread base from the hook eye to the hook bend. 2. Attach the wide end of the foam body at the rear of the hook with the narrow end of the body extending in back of the hook. Wind the thread forward to a distance 1/3 hook shank distance back from the hook eye. 3. Cut about a 1 1/2 inch piece of Antron Yarn from the skein and tie it on top of the hook shank with figure 8 wraps. Pull both ends of the yarn up to form the wing post. Wrap several tight thread turns around the base of the post to stand it up. Return the thread to the rear of hook at the body tie on point.



4. Tie on three or four nice peacock herls at the body tie on point. Lift the peacock herls out of the way and wrap the thread forward to a point about 3/16 in. back from the hook eye. Twist the herls into a herl rope. To form the under body, wind the herl rope forward and past the post to a point 3/16 in. back from the hook eye. Tie off the herl and cut away herl tag ends.



5. At the narrow end of the body cut a slit equal in length to the distance from the body tie on point to the wing post. Pull the body foam forward so one side of the slit parts is on each side of the wing post. Tie the two sides down on top of the hook shank in front of the post and just in back of the hook eye. Make several half hitch turns behind the head area but do not cut the thread away. Cut away the tag ends of the slit body parts even with the front of the hook eye to form the head. 6. Take the thread up to the bottom of the wing post and make several tight thread wraps around the post in a clockwise direction to form a secure attachment point for the parachute wing hackle.

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7. Strip a few fibers from the butt end of the wing hackle and tie the feather butt vertically to the wing post thread wraps with several clockwise thread turns going up the post about 3/16 in. then back to the bottom of the post.



8. With the concave side of the hackle down, wrap the feather in a clockwise direction from the top of the post thread wraps to the bottom of the post. Use three or four hackle turns to form the parachute wing. Carefully wrap the thread in tight clockwise turns around the base of the post close to the foam body and over the tag end of the hackle to tie off the wing. Cut away the tag end of the wing close to the post. Take the thread forward to the thread wrap area between the body and the head. Make several half hitch turns to finish the fly being careful not to trap any wing fibers under the half hitch wraps. Cut away the thread and apply head cement to the final thread wraps being careful not to get cement on the wing. 9. Cut away the top of the Antron wing post

leaving a tall section for visibility. About 1/4 to 3/8 in. for a size 10 fly seems about right.

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Veluerton



The false albacore fishing continues to be excellent along the edge of the gulf. On January 6 Ben Walters from Johnson City, TN, landed the first on fly. We were a couple hundred yards from the beach that day as the shore break was too big to get close.

The following Monday the gulf was like a lake, and we were there early armed to the teeth. Ken Hutchison, Nampa, ID, landed the first fish of the day in about two feet of water west of Battery Langdon. Later we ran down to the east past the pier and anchored a hundred feet from the beach in front of the Hampton and Hilton Inns. We were covered up with fish until they finally moved off the beach mid-afternoon. The fish were so close to the beach that one group of three almost beached themselves on a little finger bar. They had to swim hard with their tails partially out of the water to move off the bar. It looked like big bonefish accelerating in very shallow water. I'll attach a second photo of Hutch which shows our position relative to the hotels.



As you can see these fish are very much available to the hearty winter fly caster whose willing to put on a pair of waders and venture out into 62 degree thigh deep water. I tried it two days ago and got skunked, but it wasn't exactly the perfect day. The temperature was 35 degrees when I parked the truck, and the wind was howling 20-25 out of the NE. I stood in about 2 1/2 feet of water in front of the Hampton for two hours until my hands got too numb to handle the fly line. The sun was in and out of clouds. I'll be trying it again the next sunny day with a light north wind a few days after a front comes through. As one of my guide buddies puts it "these bonitos are bad little dudes". I can hardly wait to hook into one from the beach.



One final comment about the bull reds. The word is the big schools have moved well to the west almost to Mobile. A fellow guide claims to have landed seventy in one day a couple weeks ago. There are a few fish down by the Perdido Key condos, but they are hard to find. We landed three on spinning gear January 15 and hooked one on fly, but the leader broke...guide error. How hard would it have been to tie on a new piece of 20# fluorocarbon?!! Capt Baz