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# FLY OF THE MONTH

## Parachute Hopper

Hook -	TMC 5212, Mustad 94831, 2X Long, 2X Fine
Size -	#8 or #6
Thread -	Tan or grey 6/0
Body -	tan or yellow dubbing or chenille (fine) or sparkle yarn
Wing -	Natural turkey tail
Legs -	Pheasant tail knotted
Hackle -	Grizzly for parachute
Post -	deer hair, calf tail or poly yarn
Head -	brown or grey dubbing



**S**tart the thread at the 7/8 hook shank to mark the wing post position and wrap a thread base to the bend and back. I like to tie in the hair wing post first to allow you to blend in the butt ends with the abdomen. Remember wings are at the  $\frac{3}{4}$ -shank mark for standard dry flies, and 7/8 for Parachutes and Comparaduns.

Calf tail post. Calf tail or white deer hair is more difficult to use than poly yarn but it looks good. Select a good clump of white calf tail, two match sticks in diameter. Clean out the short hairs and even up the tips by pulling out the long fibers and putting them back into the stack. It is difficult to stack crinkled calf tail. The thread is now at the 7/8 position in preparation for the wing. Size the bundle of hair to have two hook gaps sticking out in front of the thread mark. Hold the bundle on top of the hook and make two soft pinch wraps of thread. Pull down straight and make several tight wraps on top of each other. Wrap thread to the back a few turns and then pull up on the

front of the bundle. Make a thread dam in front of the post to lock it up at 90 degrees. Compact the post by wrapping 5 or 6 wraps up the post and then 5 or 6 down. Wrap around the hook shank in front and behind the post to secure. Trim the butt ends of the calf tail at an angle or trim by picking up the butts in three small bundles and trimming. Wrap thread over the cut butts and end at the bend of the hook. Do not use too many thread wraps or compress all the air out of the hair bundle. The hair will help the fly float.

(There is no tail on this recipe, but a little orange or red yarn loop or hackle fibers would never hurt.) Select a fairly large noodle of dry fly dubbing, yellow or tan. Attach at the bend, twist a loose rope around the thread and form a tapered abdomen. The abdomen is pointed at the end and fatter toward the mid-shank. Leave a small section of bare thread on the wing base for a better connection for the wing and legs. (They might pull out if tied on top of softer dubbing.)

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## Fly of the Month

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Treat a mottled turkey wing with Dave's Flexament, PVC Glue or just head cement to make it durable. Cut a slip of the wing 1 1/4 hook gap wide. Fold the wing, bi-laterally and trim the wing to make rounded tips. Size the wing to extend past the abdomen about 1/2 hook gap. Attach the wing just in front of the abdomen, keeping it flat on top of the body. Make rear legs by knotting 5 to 7 pheasant tail fibers 1/2 inch from the end. Use a crochet needle or Knit Picker tool to make the knot easier. Attach at each side of the wing tie down point. The elbow or joint of the rear legs should be at the hook bend. (Knotted rubber legs can be used as a substitute.) Add a small drop of head cement on the thread connection of legs and the base of the wing post for durability.

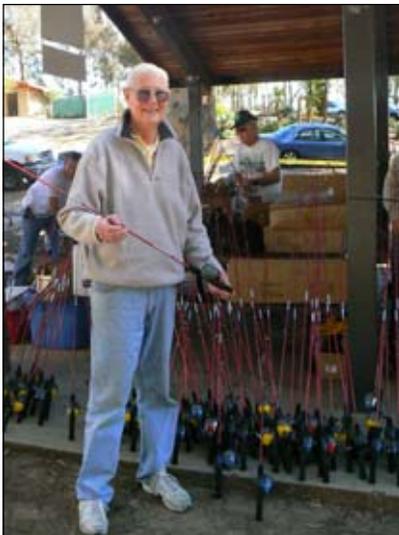
Select a grizzly rooster or saddle hackle sized at two hook gaps. Prepare the hackle, cleaning the barbs from 1/4 inch of the quill. Attach the quill at the front of the post and wrap the thread around the quill and the post 5 or 6 times and end at the

rear of the post. Select some tan or grey dry fly dubbing for the thorax. If you used tan for the abdomen, use just a little darker shade for the thorax. Attach the dubbing noodle to the thread and wrap a thorax 30% larger than the abdomen. Figure 8 wrap in front and under the wing post, making an even platform for the parachute wing. Wrap up to the hook eye and back to the post. End the dubbing just behind the post. Wrap the grizzly hackle 5 or 6 times counter-clockwise down the post, each wrap under the next. End close to the body. Pull tight on the hackle while wrapping the thread three times around the post close to the body. Pull the thread to the hook eye and whip finish. Trim the excess hackle with your scissor tips at the base of the wing. Trim thread and add a small drop of head cement.

The small hopper patterns were good on the Green River in the hotter part of the day. They were especially good when the wind picked up along sections that had grass or short bushes lining the banks.



Photos taken by Mac McCollum in preparation for the STAR PAL Kids Fishing Derby on Friday, February 8th.



The ringleader, Joe Bain.



Paul Woolery.



Louie Zimm (left) and Gordie Zimm (right), preparing the rods and reels.

