

# Fly of the Month

## No Name Skater

*by Bob Percy*

### *Recipe*

*Hook: Daiichi 2441, size 4*

*Thread: Uni 6/0, Black*

*Tail: 6-8 strands yellow Krystal Flash*

*Body: Back; yellow crystal flash wrapped  
Front; Black bucktail clipped short*

*Wings: Black bucktail with Foam overwing*

*Foam: 5/16 wide 2mm thick closed cell foam*

*Note: tie the bucktail wings on top of hook and  
the clipped hair on the bottom*



This month's pattern is a skating fly designed to elicit a grab from a Steelhead. I originally tied it for use on the Deschutes River in Oregon and there I managed to get a few grabs but alas no successful hookups (my fault!). Just a few weeks ago I did have a very successful day with it on the Clearwater River. There is nothing quite as exciting as a big steelhead grabbing a fly as it skates across the surface.

This fly is based loosely on a pattern that was either given to me or I bought: I do not remember which. I cannot find the original in any catalogs or web pages so I am calling it here the No Name Skater. It differs primarily in using the materials I had at hand rather than being completely faithful to the original pattern. The foam back gives it good floatability while the extension over the hook eye creates a prominent wake. The design is similar to but simpler than many other skating flies incorporating foam.

Fish runs that are two to five feet deep and moving at a brisk walking pace. Cast down and across and let the fly wake back across the current. Skaters are effective early in the season when water temperatures are not too cold and the steelhead are most active. Sometimes the fish will boil at the fly but not grab it. You now know where the fish is so try changing flies to a standard steelhead wet fly pattern and maybe the fish will grab it.