

Midnight Sun Flycasters
GRAYLING GAZETTE

December 2004

E-MAIL: msfc@ptialaska.net

Fly tying experts headline December MSFC meeting at UAF Geophys. Inst.

Several experts will demonstrate fly tying techniques at the December meeting of the Midnight Sun Flycasters. The meeting is set for Thursday, December 16 beginning at 7 p.m., in the Globe Room (Room 215) of the Elvey Building (Geophysical Institute or "GI") on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus.

Those experts who have confirmed they will be there include Mark Wade, Jim Johnston (who will be showing woven bodies), Scott Peters (Atlantic salmon flies), and Richard "Moose" Mousseau (tips for tying Catskill-style dry flies). According to MSFC Vice-President Chris Swain, there may be other people demonstrating as well. There will be several tables set up in the GI Globe Room so members and guests can go from station to station at their pace.

MSFC has made special arrangements for parking on campus. Please see the map and instructions below. Anyone needing special arrangements or extra help getting from their car into the meeting should contact Shann Jones at 474-5382 (work phone).

As usual, pizza and salad will be available for \$5. Drinks will be provided as well for this meeting as the GI has a "No Alcohol" policy. So come and learn from the expert fly dressers at the next monthly Midnight Sun Flycasters meeting December 16 in the Globe Room (Room 215) of the Elvey Building (GI) on the UAF campus beginning at 7 p.m.

Adult /Child Fly Tying

taught by Shann Jones

in cooperation with the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

**Where: Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game,
1300 College Road**

**When: Monday through Thursday, 1:00 -
3:30 p.m. December 27 – 30, each day**

Cost: \$15 per Adult-Child Team (made payable to the Midnight Sun Flycasters)

Registration Forms Available at:

- 1) Room 616, Elvey Bldg, UAF Campus
 - 2) ADF&G Office, 1300 College Road
 - 3) On the web at www.staff.uaf.edu/fnspj
- All tools and materials are provided. This program is limited to one adult and one child (ages 7-13). Space is limited to the first 12 adult/child teams who register. For more information, call Shann Jones at 474-5382 or the ADF&G Sport Fish Division at 459-7346.*

How to get there—The UAF Geophysical Institute (GI) is located in the Elvey Building (see map above). The Elvey Building is just northwest of the number 13 on the map. For reference, the Museum is number 12 and the Ag Farm is number 14. To get to the Globe Room (Room 215), come in the south entrance to the Elvey Bldg. Please be aware that Koyukuk Drive is one way (going east to west). You may park in the lot just to the southwest of the Elvey Building (marked park here). We will make arrangements with the UAF parking authorities so that MSFC members and guests won't get ticketed.

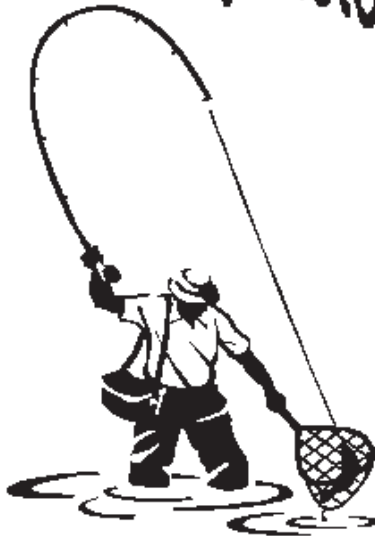
Speak Your Piece

By Shann Jones

Midnight Sun Flycasters' club activities are off to a great start this year. At our October meeting, we had 25 members for Jim Fish's presentation on the new Fairbanks Hatchery and Cal Skaugstad's report on the ADF&G stocking program. "Moose" Mousseau spoke about rainbow fishing and rod building to a gathering of 32 members in October. Club members also participated at the Love, Inc., event in November and at a Crafter's Fair at the Carlson Center in October.

We're happy to report that the club is growing. Over the past two months, we've picked up eight new members. Each month the newsletter will recognize the people. We hope that all of the members will help them feel welcome. Speaking of membership, if you have a red dot on the back page of this newsletter, then it's time for you to renew your membership. It's so easy, you can drop us a check or money order in the mail or see one of the officers or board members at the next meeting. MSFC is planning more activities for its members. Planning is underway for a rod-building workshop for some weekend after Valentine's Day. Stay tuned for details!

Midnight Sun Flycasters



The Grayling Gazette would like to welcome the following new members to our club:

Barry Hill

Tim MacDonald

The Richard Mousseau Family

John Napski

MSFC CLUB OFFICERS

President: *Vacant*

Vice Pres: *Chris Swain* 372-1125

Treasurer: *Tom Norton* 452-2388

Board Members:

Cliff Cullings 479-5559

Bob Dickerson 458-9532

Tom Early 457-3577

Henry Garbowski 457-1734

Hubert Griffin 452-4692

Shann Jones 452-0588

Newsletter Editor:

Shann Jones 474-5382 fnsbj@uaf.edu

Meetings:

Held the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., October through May. December's meeting is held in the Globe Room of the UAF Geophysical Institute at 903 Koyukuk Drive (near the University of Alaska Museum).

The Grayling Gazette published monthly from October through May by the Midnight Sun Flycasters. Deadline for submission is the 28th of each month. Send articles, etc... to:MSFC Newsletter, PO BOX 81031, Fairbanks, AK., 99708-1031 or fnsbj@uaf.edu. Submissions will not be returned and become property of the Midnight Sun Flycasters.

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Yearly Membership: \$25/yr Family/Individual Application can be found on the back of this newsletter.

The Professor's Fly Box

Introductory Fly #2 - Chenille Egg



- ❧ Can be tied in lots of colors especially pink, red, cream, yellow, and in varying shades
- ❧ Also tie in different sizes as well, can use any short shank hook

Chenille Egg materials

Hook: Mustad 3906, Dai-Riki 135 or Tiemco 3761 or equivalent hook of another brand sizes #12 - #18

Head:(optional): Bead, any color, metal or glass 3/32" or sized to fit the hook used

Body: Chenille size small, extra small or micro. Colors and shades include but are not limited to shell pink, hot pink, fuchsia, white, cream red, orang. Sparkle chenille may be used.

Thread: 3/0, color to match body

Weight: Bead and/or lead wire; .010

- ❧ Imitates: Salmon eggs, also other fish's eggs
- ❧ Can be used in shallows, riffles, runs, pools and drop-offs in moving water.
- ❧ Effective on all, trout, char, whitefish and grayling in rivers where salmon, et al, spawn.
- ❧ Also very effective right after break-up in streams and sloughs where grayling spawn.

Chenille Egg tying instructions

Step 1: Crimp barb and slip on bead (if desired)

Step 2 Wrap a thread base from eye of hook along shank to bend.

Step 3 (optional): Wind three to seven wraps of lead wire on the stand starting direct above the point and going forward to the eye.

Step 4: Tie in a length of chenille just a little behind the eye (or bead if you have one) secure snugly with two half-hitch knots.

Step 5: Wrap chenille 3 to 5 times toward the bend of the hook. Each wrap should touch the other with no gaps.

Step 6: Wrap chenille 2 to 4 times back toward the eye of the hook. This builds the egg shape. Again, each wrap should touch the previous one.

Step 7: Add 1 or 2 chenille wraps near the middle to completethe egg shape. Stop the last wrap near the backside of the eye (or bead if you have one) secure snugly with two half-hitch knots and / or whip finish.

Field Notes

Tackling the Talachulitna Takes Tenacity

Editor's Note: This article was originally written to partially fulfill the requirements of the Fall 2004 Intermediate Fly-fishing & Tying offered at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The piece is edited and reprinted with the author's permission.

By John Napolski

The water I have chosen for my "fish story" is the Talachulitna River. The river is located north west of Anchorage in the Susitna River Drainage. The river can be found in Unit 4 of the Susitna Drainage regulations. Depending on what end you start at determines the method of getting there. If you start at the north end, you can enter the river with a boat from the Skwentna River. If you choose to enter the river too far from the Skwentna, you can be dropped off by float plane.

Depending on the time of year, the river is mainly clear. During the spring months and high temperature days, the days the river will cloud from runoff. In the prime fishing months the river is usually low enough that you can wade into it. There are sections that are too rough and deep for this, but finding the shallower spots is not hard. The river bottom is primarily rocky.

The four main species of fish found there are king salmon, rainbow trout / steelhead, Dolly Varden and arctic grayling. The kings are found in the summer months mainly, starting around the end of May up until the late fall. The trout and grayling are found year around.

Tackle requirements depend on for what you are fishing. For grayling and smaller trout, rods as small as 4-weight are ideal. A good 9 or 10-weight rod is needed for the kings that are running through. Reels should have a good drag if you use a drag reel because the current is strong in areas and the fish are not small by any stretch of the imagination. Leaders should be of the non-sinking type unless you don't mind losing flies. The swift current will take the sinking leader to the bottom quickly and embed your fly in the rocks.

Local favorites for flies are numerous. I had success with mainly the Elk Hair Caddis and Griffith's Gnats for the grayling and rainbows when I wanted to use dry flies. Prince Nymphs and Egg-Sucking Leeches worked well for the wet stuff. These patterns are great during the summer months. But in the late summer, fall and early spring, egg patterns and flesh flies work well. For kings, I mainly found success with pink Baker Busters and bright leeches in pink, orange or lime green.

The fishing is excellent on this river. Its one major advantage is that it is not fished as hard as other rivers in the state. Due to its remoteness, it is pretty expensive to get there and there is no road-side access. The grayling were all in the 18"-20" range, the trout were huge, and the kings were well worth the money for our plane ride. The size range was quite varied, but all of them were respectable.

At the time of the writing of this article, the state fishing regulations were as follows for the Talachulitna River drainage and all waters within a 3/4-mile radius of its confluence with the Skwentna River

- Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure is allowed year around
- Open season for rainbow/steelhead is year around, but NO RETENTION is allowed.
- Kings over 20 inches—only 1 per day and 2 in possession from January 1 to July 13.
- Kings under 20 inches—10 per day and 10 in possession
- Arctic Grayling—2 per day and 2 in possession

This river is a lot of fun, but it can be expensive for some people. For a self-guided fully-outfitted trip with a float plane drop-off and pickup, you are looking at about \$780 per person for a 5-7 day float. If you want a guide-supported trip, the price runs about \$1,200, and for the fully-guided adventure, \$2,100 will cover everything.

Field Notes appear as a feature in the Grayling Gazette to inform members of the Midnight Sun Flycasters about various destinations other fly fishers find special and rewarding. Field Notes are meant for the non-commercial use of its audience. Any reproduction of the pictures, text or content of this copyrighted piece without the express written consent of MSFC or the author is strictly prohibited.



ALASKA FLY SHOP

Simms Stuff Sale!

All Simms Fly Vests — 25% off
Simms waisthigh guide waders — 25% off
Women's sizes, lightweight
and guide-weight waders — 25% off

Sale Limited to stock on hand — Sorry no layaways

Sage Fly Rod Sale!

All Sage Discovery and LE Series fly rods on sale at
30% of the regular retail price!

Sage Discovery Series Rods - 2 piece

8'6", 3-weight: Sale Price — \$154.00
7'6", 4-weight: Sale Price — \$147.00
9', 4-weight: Sale Price — \$157.50
8', 5-weight: Sale Price — \$154.00

Sage LE Series Rods - 2 piece

9', 4-weight: Sale Price — \$115.50
8'6", 5-weight: Sale Price — \$115.50
9', 5-weight: Sale Price — \$119.00
9', 8-weight: Sale Price — \$136.50

Sage SLT Series Rods - 3 piece

8' 1", 1-weight: Sale Price — \$360.50
8' 2", 2-weight: Sale Price — \$364.00

Sage Discovery Series Rods - 4 piece

8', 3-weight: Sale Price — \$185.50
8'6", 4-weight: Sale Price — \$189.00
9', 4-weight: Sale Price — \$192.50
8'3", 5-weight: Sale Price — \$189.00
8'6", 5-weight: Sale Price — \$192.50
9', 5-weight: Sale Price — \$196.00
9', 7-weight: Sale Price — \$199.50
9', 8-weight: Sale Price — \$199.50
9'6", 8-weight: Sale Price — \$203.00
9', 9-weight: Sale Price — \$203.00

Sage LE Series Rods - 4 piece

9', 5-weight: Sale Price — \$136.50

Sale Limited to stock on hand — Sorry no layaways

1875 University Avenue South
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
(907) 456-3010

Business Hours:
Monday - Friday — noon to 6:30 p.m.
Saturday — noon to 5 p.m.

2005 MIDNIGHT SUN FLY CASTERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MSFC is a non-profit group of fly fishers, whose chartered goals include promoting the sport of fly fishing, education, and youth involvement in outdoor activities.

Each member will receive our monthly newsletter.

Membership: Family/Individual \$25/yr. New Member • Renewal •

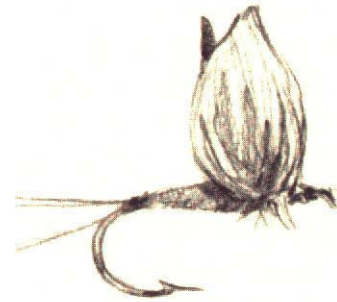
NAME _____

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Please send payment to: **Midnight Sun Flycasters**
 P.O. Box 81031
 Fairbanks, AK 99708

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P.O. Box 81031
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Bring a fly for our fly box giveaway and a guest to our next meeting December 16, 2004