

Stellako River June 2016

From: Bruce Murray (drbm@shaw.ca)

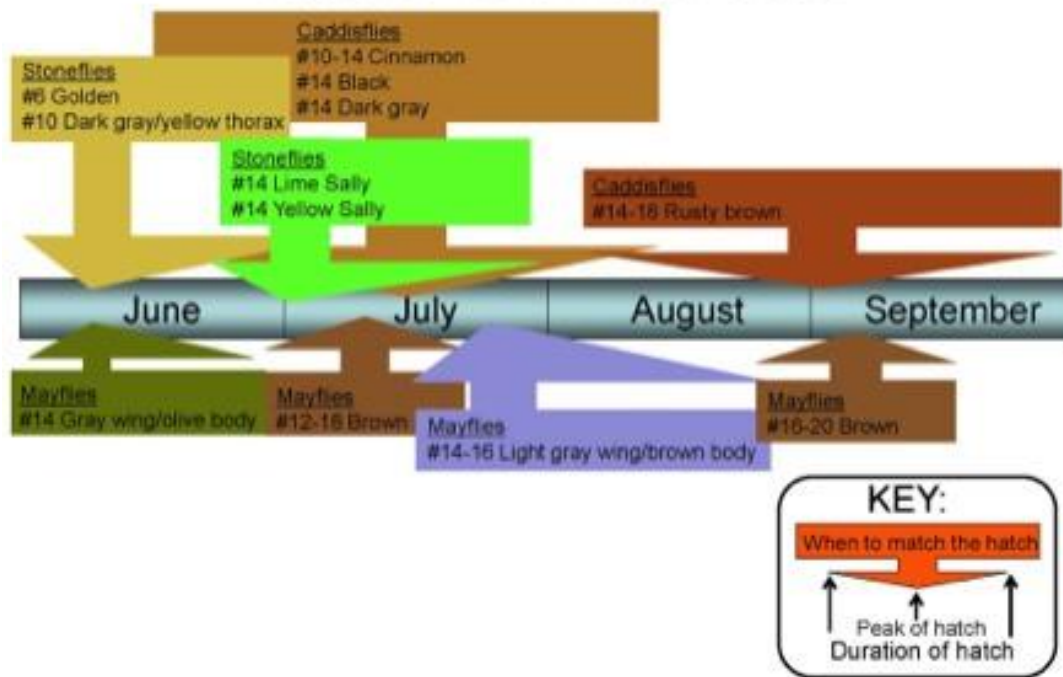
It was tough job leaving the Chilcotin but it had to be done and was only possible knowing “I Will Return”. Good thing I had a “tee off date and time” with Bob Leverman for running the Stellako River because it was hard to drive past the Black Water River, Horsefly River and numerous other lakes and rivers on the way without wetting a fly.

The Stellako River (Class C water) is locally notorious for fly fishing, matching hatches, comfortable living at the Stellako Lodge and accompanying campground and dining with gourmet chef Erwin Vogt and lovely wife Trudy (also owners). The river is 11.3 km long linking Francois Lake to Fraser Lake and is about 50% white water. Sockeye Salmon make their way up the Fraser into the Nechako and Nautley Rivers to access Fraser Lake, Stellako River and provide the nutrient base enriching the faunal bug life in the Stellako River.



Sockeye spawning in the Stellako River, photo complements of Lewis Johnson.

Stellako River Hatch Chart



Prior to the trip, **Bob provided the follow instructions which proved to be right on.** *“I use 94831 size 6 for stimulators, 94845 (or 94840 with the barb crushed) for all my floating flies regardless of size. For the wets, like the March Brown Spider, I use 9671 size 12, for caddis pupa I use 2457 in size 10 (it is 2x short, 2x heavy, and 2x wide gape).*

I may not have mentioned that I take March Brown Spider and March Brown emerger (klinkhamer) as well as some Leadwing Coachman to represent the various emergent stages of the March Brown (Rhithrogena morrisoni). Of course I also take March Brown cripples and March Brown duns, tied on the appropriate wet or dry hook and I just tie all of them in size 12. If forced to fish the nymph, I use the old standby – Hare’s Ear Nymph, again size 12.

I tie my caddis pupa in the Gary LaFontaine manner using both a tan body and a green body one, with the antron sheath pulled over the back and tied off. I tie only the emergent sparkle one and not the deep sparkle caddis pupa.

For the Little Tan Caddis, also known as the Cinnamon Caddis, I tie it in sizes 14 and 16 and pattern it along the lines of the King’s River Caddis. I also take, of course, some Elk or Deer Hair Caddis (I find deer much easier to tie with than elk) and some Tom Thumbs in 12 and 14.

I mentioned some leeches just as we were leaving the pub, and they are just ordinary, weighted, black (and maybe a few maroon) leeches, maybe some egg-sucking, and tied on 79580 size 6 or if you don't have hooks that heavy and long, then just use 9672, or as I have taken to doing now, tie them in articulated style using the 2 hook method with the front hook cut off at the bend, braided line to the second hook, wrapped full length in cross-cut rabbit and glued to the hook shaft of the front hook and the braided line with tear mender. You can get tear mender at Wholesale Sports in the fishing dept.

See you on the water,

Bob"

Wow, great information for a great trip. I tied feverishly for about 2 weeks leading up to the trip north. I totally under estimated the time driving and arrived late in the evening before the "BIG Day".



The Welcoming Committee at the Stellako Lodge Campground

As I was close to a week without a shower so I elected to stay in the cabins at the Stellako Lodge, not realizing the Campgrounds had very nice showers also. Wow, flushing toilet, hot water, stove, fridge



Home away from home with River Front View

and river front view



Opening morning mist rising off the river signalled the start of a new adventure for Bob, daughter Morgan, friend Tony and moi.



Just like Deliverance, the start was peacefully (boring) calm as we left Francois Lake, then picking up



NO Banjo Music However



Bob leading the way through the lower tie shoot....Giddy UP!!!





Then Morgan







The typical catch at the tail out of a riffle section...

The release.... at https://youtu.be/54GW_uuSjQ8



More "Beautifully" Water made for a WaterMaster craft (able to stand on boulders in river) and cast.



Tony at Big Eddy with Fish on...





The Fly



Matching the hatch of Rhithrogena morrisoni (western march browns)



The Watch...no more COs ...just Eagles



More bows



And another...



...and another

The Hatches



Mayfly dun



Yellow Sally Stonefly



Toads watching a spent spinner (Crane Fly perhaps)

The Falls

Your Clue that the falls are up ahead is when you cross under the overhead transmission lines. Prepared to exit the river on River Left.



Falls Left



Falls Right



Start of Portage Trail on Left Bank



Another view of Portage Trail from water's edge



Bob heading out into the current from the bottom end of the Portage Trail



Final Photo op before heading downstream....



That's all Folks