



KLAMATH COUNTRY FLY CASTERS

JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF FISHERMEN'S EXCUSES

by Domenick Swentosky adapted from a recent Troutbitten article

Fishermen are full of excuses for failure — because we get a lot of practice at not catching fish. Found below are excuses that can roughly be grouped into three classes:



- A. Conditions — where you blame the weather or the water
- B. Fish's Fault — where you blame the fish for not eating your flies
- C. I Wasn't Really Trying — these excuses are centered around the inference that if you really wanted to, you could have caught more trout.

When someone asks, "Catch any fish?" you might save face with something from this list.



1. They just weren't hittin'. (The fish were off.)

This classic is a solid favorite, and it has some merit. No matter how well you fish, sometimes, the trout just don't want to play.

2. I lost my fly box, tippet, (other necessary gear) somewhere on the stream.

Good one. This might build some empathy in the heart of your questioner. And that might distract from the fact that you couldn't catch a trout.

3. The water was too cold.

This one's overused. If the water is forty degrees or more, don't offer this excuse if you want others to take you seriously. But yeah, any temps in the thirties tend to put trout into lock-down mode.

4. The water was too hot.

A summer staple, and a fair excuse. Trout experience the lazy days of summer the same as the rest of us. Feeding patterns are already limited, and when the water temps reach the high 60's, we don't fish for them anyway.

5. I was trophy hunting.

Here's a way to make defeat sound intentional. Because, you see, you weren't actually trying to catch just any trout, you were after one big trout. So the moment you walked out the door today, you knew the odds were against you. Be sure to tell them that trophy hunting is a grind. See what I mean?

6. The spinners never fell.

For the crew that sits on a streamside log with a cigar, waiting for consistent rise forms, here's a good excuse. Hey, you waited for the spinners to fall, but they never came down. This one sounds more educated or advanced than the next one, but they are similar.

7. The hatch never happened.

Another for the dry fly crowd. If you go to the river with one thing in mind — casting to risers — it's easy to be disappointed.

8. They were touchy today, with lots of flashes and false takes.

Blame the trout! Here's a good one. It allows you to mention all the trout that you almost caught. Talk about the fish that looked at your fly but didn't eat it. This excuse makes failure sound like some kind of success.



9. Too sunny.

This is one of the best excuses on the list. Trout like dreary days best. We learn that over time. And when the sun is upstream, with bright light in the trout's eyes, this excuse has merit.

10. The creek is all fished out.

My uncle used to chuckle about this one, when it was said about our local stocked streams just days after the season opener. Granted, eventually the population thins. But this excuse seems hollow. Try using that other explanation about the sun instead.

11. They didn't stock the river this year.

When fishing for stocked trout, sometimes it does not pay to be ambitious. My friend, Brandon, always said this. And it's true. If stocked trout are your thing, you can't catch 'em if they don't exist. So, go where the stock truck goes.

12. Water was too high.

Extra water makes fishing harder. But it doesn't necessarily turn off the bite. In fact, it may turn them on. Now, if high water comes with too much color . . .

13. Water was too muddy.

Just like the high sun upstream, this is a fair excuse. So go ahead and fish in muddy water, because the expectations are always low, and your excuse is already built-in.

14. I couldn't figure out what they were taking.

At first, this sounds like the most honest excuse on the list. I mean, sometimes, it's best to simply admit defeat, right? So making it sound like trout are smart enough to selectively take just one food item in the drift boosts the challenge level for this whole thing. Blame the fish, and the uninitiated will believe it.

15. They were hittin' short.

This one's a holdover from my bait fishing days. It usually means the angler was slow on the hook set. Then again, trout do slash and posture at streamers a lot, and sometimes there's nothing you can do to seal the deal. (Make sure to add that last part in with your excuse.)

16. They kept coming unbuttoned.

This might be a statement of fact, but it's not much of an excuse. If you were losing trout all day, try to offer a reason why they all came unhooked before making it to hand. You can do better than this.



17. I think my hooks weren't sharp enough.

That's mostly your fault for either buying cheap hooks, \$1 flies from a third world country, or not bringing a hook hone. (They make those, by the way.)

18. The river was crowded.

Nice try. But this fails to acknowledge all the times when the river was crowded and you still caught a pile of fish. This one also makes it sound like you lack the ambition to find less popular access areas.

19. I just didn't fish well.

Ding, ding! We have a winner. This one is kind of pathetic, but as long as it doesn't come off as whiny, the sheer honesty here might make a good impression.

20. It was raining.

Nope. So what. That's why you bought the \$259 Goretex raincoat. Also, never forget this fun fact: Fish love water.

21. I got to the stream too late.

This is another honest account of a real problem. Well done. Say it with a sigh and an expression that indicates you've learned your lesson. Sell it hard.

22. Too much snow-melt.

Not a bad complaint. This is a real thing. Melting snow filling the river with cold water on a warm day can shut down the bite. It's especially true in freestone streams — but not always. So, link this excuse to a secondary reason.

23. I must have been fishing behind John Hyde.

This one is always good for a chuckle. So it's a good distraction. Deliver this line, and then immediately pivot the conversation away from fishing.

24. I didn't have them dialed in today. (The Sloop Special)

Nice work, subtly shifting half the blame over to the fish and making fishing sound more complicated than it is. Well done.

25. I was working on my technique.

Here's another excuse from the big bag of I wasn't really trying to catch fish today.

26. I let my fishing buddy hit all the good spots.

Solid stuff here. You just represented yourself as a selfless friend who sacrifices his own enjoyment to see his buddy smile. That's a good strategy.



27. I wasn't worried about catching them. I was just trying to move fish with big streamers to see what was in the river.

Yes, people actually say this. The streamer junkies have a lot of built-in excuses.

28. It was the low pressure, high pressure, warm front, cold front, etc.

Talk about the barometric pressure. Bury them with science.

29. The Solunar calendar predicted this!

Again, impress them (or bore them) with pseudo-science.

30. I was fishing marginal water that doesn't hold many trout.

Act like it was your plan not to catch trout in the first place, because you knew there weren't many fish there. Now you're an explorer! See how good that is?

31. I didn't have my two weight, twelve-foot fly rod, so I couldn't euro nymph.

See? It's not your fault. Blame it on a lack of specialized gear.

32. The river is getting too much angler pressure these days, and the trout are off.

If you believe this, go fish somewhere else.

33. I could have caught a bunch of trout, if I really wanted to.

This is known as the Austin classic. Act indifferent about it. Maybe you were out there for a higher purpose. Maybe trout were hardly on your mind. Be vague about the details and get philosophical about things

Does anyone have a different excuse to add to the list? Submit your excuses to kcflycasters@gmail.com and we'll include it in next month's newsletter.

The above Article was submitted to the Newsletter by Marie Ganong – Thank You Marie.



CALENDAR

June 6th - Annual Club Fly Casting Clinic at Moore Park Canceled
 Aug 30th - Annual Club BBQ at Yamsi Ranch Still Scheduled
 Sept 15th - Annual Club Fundraiser Auction – At Running Y Conference Center
 Oct 20th – Monthly Club Meeting if it will be held. Watch for updates
 Nov 15th – Monthly Club Meeting if it will be held. Watch for updates
 Dec 15th – Club Christmas Party if it will be held. Watch for updates

THE KCFC MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Klamath Country Fly Casters, out of a vital interest in the sport of fly fishing, do hereby join to promote fly fishing as a method of angling, to encourage youth to learn this method of angling, and to promote and participate in meetings to educate all persons in the many aspects of fly fishing as a sport. We agree to make every effort to protect and improve fishing resources in our area by encouraging the practice of catch and release fishing of wild, native fish and by supporting fly fishing organizations in other areas in the overall quest for improvement and perpetuity of fishing resources.

The members of the board of Klamath Country Fly Casters put forth this statement:

"We invite people to become board members of the Klamath Country Fly Casters who wish to promote a healthy and harmonious sense of collegial spirit within the environmental milieu of our board. We on the board, choose to care for the well-being of board members, Club members, and for our fly-fishing community. We ask those who want to be board members to practice positive intervention, to work harmoniously with other board members, and to be willing to promote well-being amongst fellow members of the Klamath Country Fly Casters and our community."

OFFICERS AND BOARD

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COMMITTEES

Conservation: Vacant

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Fly Tying: Ralph Carestia

Membership: Mark Kelley

Outings Coordinator: Kris Henry

Programs: Bob Kingzett

Social Events & Auction: Lois Krueger

Monthly Raffle: Marie Ganong

ORCFFI Club Representative, Newsletter Editor, Budget and Communications: Dale Zemke

Regular KCFC meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, September through May, at the Waffle Hut 106 Main Street, Klamath Falls. Dinner starts at 6:00 with the meeting beginning at 7:00. Board members, please be there at 5:00.

The KCFC website is: www.klamathcountryflycasters.com



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE from John Krueger

I hope everyone had a great Memorial Day, I myself visited Memorial Park Cemetery, what an experience for me. We also had a few friends over for a hotdog feast, with social distancing of course.

Most of all I miss our meetings on Tuesdays, I miss seeing each and every one of you. I hope to resume for our fall meetings....fishing however Hyde Lake was open and we had great time. It’s a great fishery I recommend it highly. I look seeing all in fall if all goes well.

NOTE ABOUT CLUB PICNIC from Lois Kruger

KCFC picnic! As of right now we still plan to have our annual club picnic on Sunday, August 30th at Yamsi Ranch. As it gets closer I will we asking for RSVP’s. If anything changes those plans, I will be sending out an email.

I hope you are well and enjoying this beautiful warm weather.



MEMBER'S PHOTO GALLERY:

Harry and Mary Returned to Juanita Lake, CA for some solitude and fishing:



Tippet to Hook Size Chart:

The table below shows the corresponding tippet weights and hook sizes to balance the presentation of the fly. Use this chart just as a guideline. The tippet choice should be made by considering the following factors:

Tippet "X" Size	Tippet Diameter	LB. Test	Hook Size
0X	.011"	15 lb.	1/0 to 2
1X	.010"	13 lb.	4 to 8
2X	.009"	10 lb.	6 to 10
3X	.008"	8 lb.	10 to 14
4X	.007"	6 lb.	12 to 16
5X	.006"	3.5 lb.	14 to 18
6X	.005"	2.5 lb.	16 to 22
7X	.004"	1.5 lb.	22 to 28

The air-resistance of the fly: If the fly is thick or bushy, choose the heavier tippet for that hook size, and conversely, if the fly is sparse choose a lighter tippet sizes.

The spookiness of the fish: If the fish are interested in your fly but making last minute refusals, try lengthening your tippet slightly or changing it to one size smaller. Note: air-resistant flies tend to spin fine tippets into a birds nest.

The desired action of the fly: Sometimes the desired action of the fly will override hook size as the determining factor in tippet selection. Ex: a streamer will sometimes have a better jigging action if fished on a lighter than normal tippet (within reason).

The size/strength of the fish being targeted – Sometimes this trumps all other considerations.



Hooked on Fish by Dale Zemke



Oven-roasted Black Cod (Sable Fish)

from *myrecipes.com*

<https://www.myrecipes.com/recipe/oven-roasted-black-cod>

Serves: Makes 2 servings

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp butter, softened
- 2 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp minced fresh chives
- 2 tsp capers
- 1 lb fingerling potatoes, halved
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp coarsely ground black pepper
- 2 tsp olive oil, divided
- 4 bacon slices
- 1 (12-oz or 2 6-oz) black cod fillet (about 1 to 1 1/2 inches thick)
- Garnish: fresh chives



Preparation Steps

1. Preheat oven to 400°. Combine first 4 ingredients in a small bowl; set aside.
2. Microwave potatoes in a large glass bowl covered with plastic wrap on HIGH 4 minutes. Drain potatoes, if necessary, and stir in garlic, salt, pepper, and 1 teaspoon olive oil. Set aside.
3. Cook bacon in a large cast iron or ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat until crisp; remove bacon, and drain on paper towels, reserving 1 teaspoon drippings in skillet.
4. Add remaining 1 teaspoon olive oil to skillet over medium-high heat; add cod fillet, and cook 1 minute on each side.
5. Spoon reserved potatoes around cod; bake 3 minutes.
6. Remove from oven, and spread reserved butter mixture over fish. Return to oven; bake 5 more minutes or just until fish flakes with a fork and is opaque in the center.
7. Sprinkle with cooked bacon; garnish, if desired. Serve immediately.

I get my Sable Fish (Black Cod) by ordering it on line. Email me at dale_zemke@yahoo.com if you want information about the family owned company I order from. They are a good source for very good wild Alaska Salmon, Black Cod and Halibut.



Fishing with Club Members:

If you decide to go fishing and would like some company, take some club members fishing with you. Contact Kris Henry at 541-880-8105 or [http://kj9henry@gmail.com](mailto:kj9henry@gmail.com) and give about 4 days' notice of the fishing event to provide time to get the word out. Leave Kris your telephone number or email so that others can contact you about going fishing with you. Kris will then see that the word of the event gets out in a club-wide email to announce your invitation to go fishing, and he will have those interested contact you directly.

Reminder - the following offer PAID MEMBERS of the Klamath Country Fly Casters Club discounts when making a purchase

Parker's Rod & Gun Rack at 7364 S 6th St offers a 10% discount on purchases when a current club membership card is presented

The Ledge at 369 S 6th St provides a 10% discount on purchases when a current club membership card is presented.

Timeflies Outfitters at 541-539-1505 or jk@timefliesoutfitters.com offers up to a 15% discount on fly tying materials & tools as well as all fly fishing gear & flies, to current members of the Club.



INDISPENSABLE FLIES, by Ralph Carestia

Birchell's Hatching Midge



Birchell's hatching midge is a beautiful little emerging midge with a parachute wing, so you can see it amid the others.

Midges are aquatic insects related to mosquitos and very in size from very small (size 22) to larger sizes (size 16). Often a midge hatch can be a prolific to the point when it's difficult to determine your fly from the rest on the water, especially in the Klamath basin. This midge fly pattern can solve the problem.

Midges rise to the surface as pupae and struggle slowly through the surface film while the pupa's body dangles vertically below. This is the most common stage for trout to take, though the adults may be useful at times too. Midge pupae account for much of the mystifying midsummer spring creek action on evenings when no bugs seem to be in the air or on the water, yet trout are rising everywhere and ignoring one's flies.

Despite the tiny size of Chironomid midges, trout can be very selective to their size and color. Remember that a difference of a single hook size in the tiny sizes is a very large percentage difference and very noticeable by the trout. Netting some of the real insects before choosing a fly is surely a good idea, but it's easier said than done.

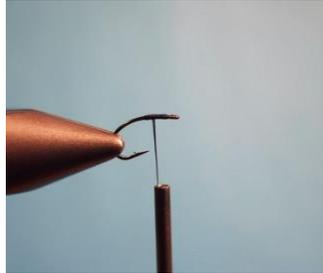
Recipe:

- HOOK: TMC 248Size #16 - # 20
- THREAD: Black 70 Denier (match fly body color)
- WING: Post White Calf Body hair
- TAIL: Grey Z-lon for Black
- BODY: Black Thread
- Rib: Small Silver wire
- HACKLE: Medium Dun
- Thorax: Dun superfine Dubbing
- WING: Post White Calf Body hair



Instructions

1. Attach the thread at the eye of the hook and wrap a smooth thread base to the midpoint on the hook. Return the thread to about the ¼ point from the eye.



2. Cut, clean and stack a large clump of calf hair. Be sure to remove all the short fibers and stack the bunch into a nice even clump. Measure this clump of hair against the shank so it is about a shank length long. Tie the calf body hair and cut the butt ends from the calf hair at an angle and form a smooth thread base over the tapered butts.



3. Tie in a sparse clump of grey Z-lon at the base of the wing and wrap back over it to the bend so it sticks out the back of the hook like a tail.



4. Tie in a small section of BR size silver wire extending off of the back of the hook shank to be used to rib the lower body of the fly later. Wrap the thread forward to just behind the calf hair wing creating a somewhat smooth tapered underbody.



5. Wrap the Silver wire forward up the tapered body in the same direction that you wrapped the thread for the body.



6. Select a medium dun saddle hackle that has barbs about equal to one and a half hook gaps. Peel the hackle fibers from the bottom of the feather, leaving the bare stem exposed for about half a hook shank length. Tie the feather in right behind the wing, by this bare stem, and wrap back over it tightly to the base of the wing. Wrap the thread around the wing post and the hackle stem from the base of the wing post up to the top of the wing post.



7. Apply a strand of dun superfine dubbing to the thread. Begin wrapping this dubbing immediately behind the hook eye, and wrap back, crossing to the backside of the wing, and building an elongated oval-shaped thorax.



8. Grab the tip of the hackle feather with your hackle pliers and pull the feather out over the hook eye. You want to bend the feather over backwards so the inside of the feather will face up as you wrap. Wrap the feather from the top of the post to the bottom, one turn under the last for a total of about 5 turns and tie off.



9. Whip-finish the thread by setting up the whip finisher and working the knot in around the hook shank but under the hackle fibers.





Top View



Bottom View

