

Windknots

Fly of the Month – August 2017

The Crazy Charlie

By Charlie Smith and Bob Nauheim

Tied By Chris Summers



I have a trip to the Yucatan planned for the end of October and, one of my target species will be the bonefish or, known in certain circles as the “Gray Ghost”. The next couple of months will find me at the vise filling up my bonefish box and, no matter where you go looking for these somewhat elusive creatures, one pattern you will want to have in your fly box is the *Crazy Charlie*.

The Crazy Charlie fly was designed and originally tied by the legendary Andros Island bonefish guide Capt. Charlie Smith and made popular by Bob Nauheim, one of Charlie’s regular clients from California. Since then, this pattern has become a staple in every bonefisher’s fly box and, I believe it’s going to be there for a long time to come.

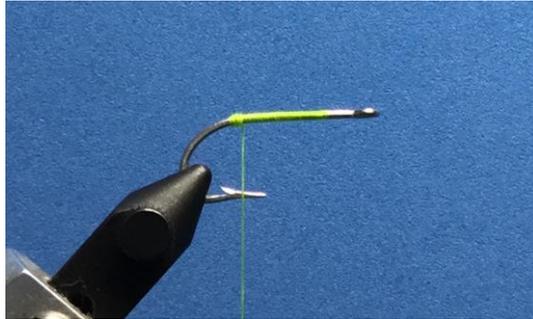
Materials:

- Hook:** Mustad 34007 or similar saltwater hook, Size 4
- Thread:** Flat Waxed Nylon, Chartreuse
- Underbody:** 3-4 strands of Krystal Flash (I prefer Rainbow)
- Overbody:** Clear V-Rib, Medium
- Eyes:** Small bead chain, silver
- Wing:** Bucktail, White or Tan, and Krystal Flash, Rainbow
- Weed guard:** 16-pound Hard Mason mono (optional)

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Tying Instructions:

Step 1



Tie in thread about 1/8 – 1/4 inch behind the hook eye. Tie in a set of bead chain eyes. Wrap the thread to the bend of the hook.

Step 2



Tie in 5 or 6 strands of Krystal Flash, leaving a tail of about 1/2 inch extending past the bend of the hook. Tie in the V-Rib so that, when you wrap it to the hook shank, the curved side will be on the outside. Leave enough V-Rib extending behind the hook so it will cover the entire hook shank when wrapped back to eyes.

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Tying Instructions: - *Continued*

Step 3



Wrap the thread back, binding the V-Rib down to the hook shank, to a point just behind the eyes. Trim the V-Rib. Wrap the Krystal Flash around hook shank and V-Rib back to the eyes and tie off. Trim the Krystal Flash. Save these tips for later use.

Step 4



Wrap the V-rib around the hook shank and cover the Krystal Flash. Make the wraps closely towards the hook eye. Tie it off behind the bead chain eyes and trim.

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Tying Instructions: - Continued

Step 5



Flip the fly over with the hook point up. Tie in the Krystal Flash tips with a couple of wraps. Cut a small amount of bucktail and tie in the bucktail so that the tips extend just beyond the hook shank with a couple of snug wraps, making sure you don't flair the bucktail wing. Apply a drop of head cement and tie off with a couple more wraps.

Step 6



Cut a 2 inch piece of 16# Mason Hard Mono and tie in as the weed guard (optional). Whip finish off the head and tie off. Apply a drop of head cement to seal the wrappings.

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Tying Instructions: - *Continued*

Step 7



The finished fly.

This pattern can be tied in any number of colors or combinations. Some of my favorites are tan, rootbeer, pink and chartreuse

Tight lines, Chris



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