

# Alpine Fly Fishers



## Meeting Location:

*Johnny's Bar & Grill*

*1015 N. Meridian*

*Puyallup, WA 98371*

*253-845-9553*

*Socializing begins at 6:30*

*Dinner, presentation, raffle begins at 7:00*

**A p r i l 2 0 0 9 / N E W S L E T T E R**

**April Meeting  
Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

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### **Presidents Line**

I spent an enjoyable weekend with a number of my fly fishing friends down in Albany, Oregon last month at the Oregon Fly Tyers Expo. We go to this event every year.

There were around 15 of us from the two clubs I belong to, and there were also a number of fellow Washington State Council FFF board members there.

I took some good classes on smallmouth bass fishing and a very interesting one on line management.

I had fun winning items in the raffles and the silent auctions. I tried to be good and not spend a lot at the live auction, but I did end up bidding on a great looking fly plate and won it.

The raffle and silent auction items will end up on the tables at our Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg this May 1 & 2.

Well not all of it, I am keeping a nice selection of Montana Fly Company 'Wonder Wrap' tying materials and some of their 'High Voltage' Mylar flash.

See you at the next meeting.

Larry

### **Wanted**

One Club member to volunteer to be the club's secretary

You will be given free On The Job Training

Apply at the next meeting or email me

Editors Note: Craig Smith belongs to FAOL, that is Fly Anglers On Line. Another FAOL member asked a question about running lines for shooting heads. I was very impressed with the answer Craig gave and thought I would share it with all of you. Larry

## **Running Lines for Shooting Heads**

*By Craig Smith of FAOL*

I use shooting heads for about 70% of my fishing. That equates to about 50 days of usage of shooting heads last year in fresh and saltwater. I have tried just about every type of shooting line (or running line if you prefer) but most of my fishing experience is with Rio and Scientific Anglers products. I have been using shooting heads for fifteen years. Here are my thoughts on different types of shooting lines, formed based on my experience in California inland, inshore, and bluewater environments, along with a small number of forays to more exotic cold, temperate, and tropical locations. Other anglers will have different, perfectly valid opinions.

My least favorite shooting line is braided mono. Some anglers love it. I quit using hollow braided mono about 10 years ago for the following reasons: 1. They blew around too much in the wind; 2. I found it abrasive on my hands; 3. When fishing the beach or other sandy areas, it picked up grit and was hard on the guides and hands; 4. The inherent stretch made it more difficult to get a good stretch at long distances. I was 'educated' about this disadvantage one day when striper fishing with a very experienced angler. I kept dropping fish that were hooked out at the end of the cast 80 -100 feet away. He didn't. He insisted I try his rig. I did, using my flies and leader. I didn't drop a single fish that day after that; 5. For sinking presentations, it was the slowest sinking shooting line. This is not an issue for surface and near surface work.

Amnesia monofilament is a line that some people love and many hate. If treated properly Amnesia shoots and handles very well. For optimal casting and fishing, it needs to be stretched before usage. If it is cold, it can act like a slinky. It is very inexpensive at around seven or eight bucks for a couple of hundred feet. It has a lot of stretch, but not as much as braided mono, and can be hard to grip to get a solid hook set. It can get kinky and not shoot well. It blows around more than braided mono. Due to its circular cross section and thin diameter it provides the least resistance to a sinking head, so your sinking heads get down faster. I hated it when I first used it. When someone told me to try soaking it in water for a few hours before using it I tried that. The nylon absorbs water and becomes much more limp and handles much better. I presoak my amnesia by soaking a paper towel in water and winding this on the spool between the shooting line and shooting head the night before a trip. Often, the presoaked line does not need to be stretched before fishing. This preparation technique changed my opinion of the stuff. Today I have one reel rigged with amnesia shooting line for use when deep presentations are the order of the day. The clear and the black colors seemed to perform the best for me. For my angling, I consider deep to be more than 20ft. I have used leadcore shooting heads and Amnesia shooting lines to hook fish at depths greater than 50 feet in the ocean. A few anglers are now experimenting with Suffix Elite 30lb test fishing line. Some like it and others do not. If you have some of this to spool up revolving spool saltwater reels, you might consider giving it a try. PVC Monofilament lines are another option. Rio Slick Shooter is the most common that I see used today. Cortland has a similar line called "Cobra" and there were others. These PVC mono lines have an oval cross section and the material is fairly hard. It may be the best distance shooting line I have used but is real temperamental.

It requires repeated stretching during the day, especially in cooler water. Because of the oval cross section, it does not sink as fast as a mono line. The fairly hard material can get kinked. The kinks impair shooting and increase tangling. I probably got the worst tangles ever using this stuff because the knots can cause kinks that make them more difficult to remove. I keep a spool around for special situations, though I haven't encountered that special situation yet. For my local fishing, that special situation would probably involve casting to breezing pelagic fish that are real skittish and put down by the approach of a boat. These lines are fairly inexpensive and may be worth and experiment at about \$10 per 115ft spool. While not my favorite, many anglers really like this type of shooting line.

Fly line like shooting lines may be the best option for most anglers. Most of the major line manufacturers sell shooting lines that are constructed like standard fly lines. Current prices tend to run from about thirty to forty bucks for a 100 to 120 foot line. For years these were essentially level fly lines in either a floating or intermediate configuration. Most of these now have a short, slightly thicker 'handling' section at the end that improves

durability in the section that is constantly pulled through the tip top when double hauling. I never found the lack of this handling section to be an issue though since I just cut off the worn out section and install a new loop. They also have surfaces and coatings designed to optimize shooting characteristics. I find these shooting lines to be the best all around shooting lines for me for most situations.

They are heavier and thus may not shoot quite as well as the mono lines, but 100ft casts are still easily achievable. They handle like regular fly lines and are just as durable. They do not stretch as much as single strand or braided mono, though there is some stretch with all lines. I drop significantly fewer fish with these lines. Every few years, the manufacturers introduce updated versions with better surfaces and coatings. I have had no kinking issues with any that I have used. Some may require a little stretching before hand in colder waters, and maybe later during the day, but cold and warm water versions are now available. These lines are usually available in different diameters ranging from 0.020" to 0.040".

The thinner lines tend to shoot better, are a little harder to grip, are more prone to tangles, have a lower breaking strength, and sink faster (or provide less resistance to a sinking head if that is the way you prefer to look at it.) The thicker lines tend to be easier to grip, tangle less and untangle easier, do not shoot quite as well as the thinner lines, and have a stronger core. Typically the thinner lines are used with lighter rods and heads and the thicker lines with heavier rods and heads, but that is only a basic rule of thumb.

My favorite lines today are the Scientific Anglers Saltwater Floating Shooting line and Freshwater/Saltwater Intermediate Shooting line, and the Rio Powerflex Core Intermediate Shooting line. I use all three in both freshwater and saltwater. I have used them for trout, largemouth bass, stripers, pacific coast surf species, tunas and other pelagic species, and tropical critters like Trevally.

I have used both S.A. lines in tropical waters as well as water down to 45 degrees. Both performed excellently in all conditions. The S.A. floater did require stretching in the colder environments however. I have used the Rio in water from 50 to 70 degrees, with air temperatures from 40 to 100. Again it performed very well. I think the Rio line shoots a little better than the S.A. and I think the S.A. lines are easier to grip, with the S.A. floater being the easiest to grip. The two intermediate lines seem slightly more prone to tangling than the floater but not significantly so. They also shoot slightly better, but again not significantly so.

The intermediate lines are still fine for surface presentations since a floating shooting head will hold them up on the surface. I do not have enough experience with the current similar offerings from Orvis, Cortland, Royal Wulff, Teeny, and Airflo to form an opinion whether I would like them any more or less than the Rio or S.A. lines, but I know those companies all produce quality products. I know a couple of people with more time with the Airflo shooting line that felt it was too limp, but others really like it. So much of this comes down to personal preference. I really want to try an S.A. Sharkskin shooting line, but want to try before buying.

Since I use shooting heads extensively, I currently have two reels rigged with an S.A. Saltwater floater (.035" dia. for 8 -13wt rods), one with an S.A. Fresh/Salt Intermediate (.030" for 7 - 10wt rods), and three with Rio intermediate shooting lines (2 with .030 for 7-10wt rods and one with a .025" line for 5-8wt rods). I also have one reel rigged with amnesia and an extra spool with Rio Slickshooter.

I have learned a number of tricks that help keep the use of shooting heads and lines an enjoyable experience. First, the recommendations of others, backed up by my own experience, has shown that all shooting lines cast farther and tangle less if they are kept wet. Dry lines catch on themselves more readily and water acts as a lubricant. I achieve this by keeping a quarter to a half an inch of water in my stripping bucket (ProTrim Line Tamer, Sea Level Fly Fishing "Bucket", Stan Pleskunas' VLMD, or similar homemade buckets) or solid bottom stripping basket (the Mangrove HipShooter with optional solid bottom is my favorite). Second is that the use of some type of spikes or pegs to separate coils of line greatly reduces tangles also. I have some sort of spikes or pegs in each of the line management systems I use. I also found that I need to pay more attention to induced line twist in shooting. The act of repeated roll casting to bring up sinking heads to the surface adds twists to the line, as does repeated casting without shooting all the line that has been stripped off the reel. As line twist builds, all lines become more prone to tangles as coils of line in your basket or bucket twist around each other. I take measures to remove the twists when they start to become a problem. By keeping shooting lines wet, using spikes to separate coils of line, and removing twists that build up in the line, all shooting lines perform better.

# A Fly Shop Review

## Puget Sound Fly Co.

*By Bill Aubrey*

This is a new series for our newsletter in which I will discuss fly shops, some near and some far, all of which I have or will soon visit. Actually, this is an attempt to justify an addiction--I love fly shops. Well, most of them, anyway.

Puget Sound Fly Co, co-owned and operated by Clark Jennings and Anil Srivastava, opened a few years ago at 25616 Pacific Avenue in Kent (253)839-4119, and especially with the loss of The Morning Hatch, is our local shop. I actually took my first casting lessons from Anil (he might not admit this). The shop is full service offering a nice line of products, including Sage, G. Loomis, Scott, Fishpond, Simms, William and Joseph and Fishcat. Classes include casting, two handed casting, tying, and fishing. In March alone, Clark and Anil are offering Introduction to Spey Fishing (BEWARE: It's addictive), a Beach Clinic and Eumer Tube Flies, with our ghillie, Joe Fitzpatrick. They also offer private instruction.

The shop features a good selection of rods, reels, clothing, waders, flies and tying materials. And, did I mention information? Clark and Anil are both eager to share their knowledge and advice.

Visit the shops website at [www.pugetsoundflyco.com](http://www.pugetsoundflyco.com). You will find upcoming classes and events and trip information. The shop runs a trip to offshore Oregon in pursuit of Albacore. The shop also books steelhead trips to the Salmon River on the peninsula in the winter.

A couple of years ago, I wrote a piece for the newsletters of PSFF and AFF asking members to make sure they patronize local shops. Shortly afterward, I sadly helped say goodbye to The Hatch. We need a local shop, and are lucky enough to have a really good one; let's patronize it. You can order a rod off EBAY or the net, but I'm reliably informed that bad things can happen to rods. A fellow I know bought a Sage XP from Puget Sound and sure enough, managed to break the butt section on the Clark Fork in Montana. Clark and Anil took over, sent the rod to Sage, and I (I mean the fellow) had the rod back with a new butt section in a little over a week. Now, that's service, and I doubt you'll find it on EBAY.

### *April Program*

Anil Srivastava from the Puget Sound Fly Co. will be talking to us about all the recent advances in fly lines and running lines and maybe sneak in a few fishing tips. Since I was running the FAOL article about Running Lines I thought it would be a good time to have one of the owners of our local fly shop, (see Fly Shop Review on Page 5) the Puget Sound Fly Co., come down here and fill us in on the changing world of fly lines.

### *Mark your calendar*

*Friday & Saturday, May 1 & 2*

*In Ellensburg*

*The Fly Fishing Fair*

*Brought to you by the*

*Washington State Council FFF*

### **A Revised Look For The Newsletter**

I loved the look that Doug had for the newsletters so I stayed with his format when I took over the editors job. However, a number of you talked to me and mentioned that the newsletter was taking too long to download. I have added some articles and in the past some graphics which made the PDF version of our newsletter to be over one megabyte in size. So, I designed this months newsletter on a simpler format. Let me know if it works better for you. Larry

## Quote Of The Month

“Even eminent chartered accountants are known, in their capacity as fishermen, blissfully to ignore differences between seven and ten inches, half a pound and two pounds, three fish and a dozen fish.”

~William Sherwood Fox — Silken Lines and Silver Hooks, 1954~

### **Free Seminars at the Fly Fishing Fair** **Here is your chance to learn some secrets from the best**

#### **Friday, May 1**

1:00-2:00 **Western Washington Fishing**-Shannon Carroll, Emerald Water guide reveals Westside fishing opportunities.

2:00-3:00 **Fly Fishing the South Fork Snake River** - Lee Davison, guide and master casting instructor, covers this wonderful cutthroat fishery.

3:00-4:00 **Fishing Dry on the Beaches of Puget Sound** - Leland Miyawaki will present a program on fishing his famous popper for searun cutthroat and salmon.

4:00-5:00 **Fly Fishing Yellowstone Park Back Country**-Bruce Staples, author and experienced angler gives the scoop on Yellowstone Park.

5:00-6:00 **Yakima River Trout** - Steve Worley will reveal where to, when to and how to catch gorgeous rainbow and cutthroat trout on the Yakima River, Washington's only Blue Ribbon trout stream.

#### **Saturday, May 2**

9:00-10:00 **How to Fish Lakes** - Tom Schrier will present a primer for beginners and new techniques for old hands.

10:00-11:00 **The Olympic Peninsula** - Doug Rose, author and guide, will cover the how to and where to of the Peninsula.

11:00-12:00 **Fishing Dry on the Beaches of Puget Sound** - Leland Miyawaki will present a program on fishing his famous popper for searun cutthroat and salmon.

12:00-1:00 **Fishing the Klamath Basin** - Marlon Rampy, Chief Guide for Lonesome Duck Lodge will show you the ins and outs of the famed area around the Klamath River.

1:00-2:00 **Fly Fishing Photography** - Ed Sozinho and Earl Harper will show you how to get better shots of your catch.

2:00-3:00 **Alaska On The Cheap**-Brian O'Keefe tells how to fish Shangri-La without selling your soul.

3:00-4:00 **Fly Fishing the South Fork Snake River** - Lee Davison, guide and master casting instructor, covers this wonderful cutthroat fishery.

4:00-5:00 **Smallmouth Bass in Washington** - David Williams, author and smallmouth bass guy will spill his guts about Washington smallies.

## **The Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg on May 1 & 2**

# April / May 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
March 29	30	<b>31 -2008 Fishing License Expires, Buy your 2009</b>	<b>April 1</b>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 East Idaho Fly Tyer Expo, Idaho Falls,	18 East Idaho Fly Tyer Expo, Idaho Falls, Idaho
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	<b>28 Alpine Fly Fishers Club Meeting 6:30</b>	29	30	<b>May 1 WSCFFF Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg, WA</b>	<b>2 WSCFFF Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg, WA</b>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	<b>26 Alpine Fly Fishers Club Meeting 6:30</b>	27	28	29	30
	31					

Club correspondence can be sent to:

Alpine Fly Fishers  
PO Box 3486  
Federal Way, WA 98036

If you have an email address allow us to send this newsletter via the internet. If your email address has changed recently, please share your new address.

Visit our website at [www.alpineflyfishers.org](http://www.alpineflyfishers.org).

## Club Officers:

President:	Larry Gibbs	253-863-4910
Vice President:	Bruce Everett	253-278-0164
Treasurer:	Duffy Christy	253-568-7965
Secretary:	Vacant	
Ghilly:	Joe Fitzpatrick	253-405-7356
Outings Coord:	Bob Jacobs	360-897-8733
Programs Coord:	Bill Aubrey	253-678-3683
Librarian:	Bruce Everett	253-278-0164