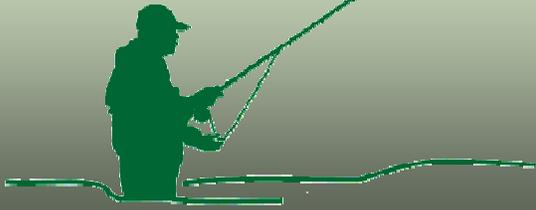


# Alpine Fly Fishers



## Meeting Location:

Niftys Sports Bar  
8924 Canyon Rd E  
Puyallup, WA 98371  
(253) 531-8202  
Socializing begins at 6:30

N O V E M B E R 2 0 0 8 / N E W S L E T T E R

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- November Meeting
- Fly Tying Sessions
- Conservation Corner
- Wader Maintenance and Repair
- Fly of the Month
- November/December Calendar

## *NOVEMBER MEETING!* *Tuesday, November 25th*

**Steve Egge will show us how to make welded loops on the ends of sink tips and fly lines!**

**You can use them instead of braided loops.**

**Bring your lines you want welded and we will do it at the meeting!**

***SEE YOU AT NIFTYS SPORTS BAR  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!***

---

## *Fly Tying Sessions a Hit!*

*By Larry Gibbs*

October 20th was the first Alpine Fly Fishers fly tying session at the Sumner library.

Eleven of us showed up to. There was a lot of tying going on, mixed in with lots of fly fishing tall tales and discussions about different tying methods.

Thanks everyone for showing up. Next month, remember it will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, now through January, 09, the fly tying sessions are from 6 pm to 9 pm and will be on:

***Monday, December 15th 2008  
Monday, January 19th 2009***

\*\*\*\*\*Bring an extension cord if you need power.\*\*\*\*\*

---

## *Conservation Corner.....*

From the Wild Fish Conservancy

Dear Friend of Wild Fish,

The long-awaited draft Action Agenda to recover Puget Sound by 2020 has just been released for public comment. The deadline for submitting your comments is November 20th. See the links included below for a copy of the Action Agenda and to submit comments.

The draft Action Agenda could not come at a more pressing time, especially for the Sound's iconic and highly endangered orca whale. Just this month, researchers confirmed that seven orcas - 10% of the Puget Sound population - are missing and believed to be dead. Some experts say dwindling populations of endangered Chinook salmon, the orca's main food source, are at least partly to blame. Is this a sign that our ecosystem is on the verge of collapse?

Now is the time for decisive action to restore Puget Sound. The Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda is a golden opportunity to carry out a recovery plan that is accountable, effective, transparent and decisive with sustained funding that will restore this national treasure to health by 2020.

The draft Action Agenda includes many of the essential elements that must be done and identifies four strategic initiatives designed to address the threats endangering Puget Sound:

1. Protect remaining healthy places.
2. Restore places to health.
3. Stop water pollution.
4. Coordinate cleanup efforts.

The draft Agenda promotes the following science-based actions:

- Require low-impact development to reduce stormwater pollution incorporated in draft plan.
- Prohibit new bulkheads near feeder bluffs and forage fish spawning beaches.
- Fund local governments to develop and carry out shoreline master programs.
- Fund compliance staff at state agencies and local governments.
- Implement specific, aggressive cleanup plans for polluted waters (the so-called "TMDLs").
- Fully fund a year-round rescue tug at Neah Bay.
- Acquire vital properties.
- Preserve water quantity (ex: setting and enforcing minimum in-stream flows for all major rivers).

While these and other proposed actions are great, we believe the Action Agenda can and must be improved. The Partnership must clearly identify benchmarks and sustained funding to get us to a healthy Puget Sound by 2020.

To get a strong and effective Action Agenda that will restore Puget Sound to health, The Partnership needs to hear from YOU, today. This is our chance!

For a copy of the Draft Action Agenda go to: [www.psp.wa.gov](http://www.psp.wa.gov)



## *Gear Management—Wader Maintenance & Repair*

### ***By Jim Kazakoff – Taken from the Boise Valley Flyfishermen Newsletter***

I've owned my breathable fabric waders now for eight or nine years, and I have never had a problem. At least I didn't realize I had problems, but this year I've concluded that the minor dampness in my socks I have previously noticed at the end of the day--never more than a brief discomfort after removing the waders, was now a little more than minor, and was definitely more pronounced in the left foot than in the right. Yep—they leak.

I am not particularly hard on waders, as I don't fish that many days a year. (This in itself is a problem). Consequently, I have not practiced the best maintenance policies for my waders, mostly out of ignorance, and only partly out of laziness. I suspect I'm not alone. In researching a solution for stopping the leak, I have become better educated in what I should be doing as regular maintenance, and some means of repairing waders when they ultimately begin to leak.

**Breathable Fabrics - How They Work** - The first breathable fabrics were co-invented for the space program by Rowena Taylor, W.L Gore, and his son Robert W. Gore. The first patent was issued in 1976. The fabrics from W.L Gore & Associates have been branded as Gore-Tex. Since then there have been several other fabrics brought to market, which are used in waders and outdoor apparel, among other purposes. All work generally in the same way, with variations in how they are constructed.

In Gore-Tex fabric, a durable fabric (e.g. nylon) is bonded with a semi-permeable membrane layer. The membrane consists of a Teflon-like material that has very tiny holes- the holes are small enough that water, in liquid format, is too big to pass through the holes. However molecular water vapor is sufficiently small. Thus perspiration from your warm body when it evaporates can be passed through the breathable fabric. It is amazing that this works even

when the fabric is totally submerged in water. The semi-permeable membrane material typically does not wear well, so a protective layer of thin fabric is often bonded on the inside. Some of the heavier fabrics utilize multiple membrane and fabric layers, resulting in system fabrics of four or five layers. Unfortunately the addition of the protective layer (and presumably additional layers) can diminish the breathability of the composite fabric. Some of the other brands of breathable fabric membranes do not require or use a protective fabric layer, and claim superior breathability. In addition, the outer layer of breathable fabrics are treated with a Durable Water Repellent (DWR), necessary for their proper breathing, which is where the maintenance of your waders comes in-- this DWR needs to be replenished.

**Care and Maintenance** Storage - After a day in the river or lake, do not leave the waders wet—hang them to dry. Leaving them wet can induce mildew, and cause the seam taping to fail. If possible, and particularly for

winter storage, it is best to store your waders hanging up or flat, not folded.

**Cleaning** - Once you understand how breathable fabric works, it becomes evident of what needs to be done to keep it working. Most important is to keep it clean. Since the breathability depends on the porosity of the membrane, any gook that clogs the pores will prevent its semi-permeability, and hence its breathability. Cleaning the Mucillin®, fly floatant, caked fish slime, or the mayonnaise from last week's outing lunch that accumulates will help keep your waders from having clammy feeling areas, where the fabric is no longer breathing.

The approved means of cleaning waders varies by the manufacturer. A label inside your waders will indicate what is appropriate for you. If you have neoprene rubber stocking feet on your waders, this can impact the approved procedure of cleaning. My waders (Simms brand, Gore-Tex fabric) require hand washing in cold water, with pow-

### *Enjoy Fly Tying With Friends!*

JOIN FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS AT THE SUMNER LIBRARY THE THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH THROUGH JANUARY FOR FLY TYING SESSIONS.

BRING YOUR VICE AND TYING MATERIALS FROM 6 P.M. TO 9 P.M. AND LEARN, SHARE AND ENJOY THE COMPANY OF FELLOW FLY TYERS AT THE SUMNER LIBRARY. SEE SCHEDULE BELOW.

THANK YOU TO LARRY GIBBS FOR RESERVING THE SPACE AND MAKING THE ARRANGEMENTS.

FUTURE DATES:  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH 2008  
MONDAY, JANUARY 19TH 2009

**Replenishing the DWR and Restoring the Breathability** - If your waders feel clammy than you remember when you first bought them, it is likely the DWR coating has broken down and needs to be restored. The water repellent coating has a big effect on the breathability of the fabric. Several DWR products can be used-- Simms recommends Revivex®, and Patagonia recommends NikWax®. I used Revivex® with good results.

- With the waders returned to inside-in, thoroughly saturate the outside fabric with the DWR.
- Allow waders to drip-dry.
- The DWR and the fabric breathable membrane now need to be set. Oddly enough this is done with heat. If your waders do not have neoprene or boot-foot (not so many do), they can likely go into the dryer at a low heat for about an hour (check the care label). Otherwise the DWR and membrane can be set with a hair drier or an iron, dialed to low heat. I placed a thin dish towel over the waders, when using the iron. Avoid the boot or neoprene bootie attachment areas.

These cleaning and DWR restoration procedures are also appropriate for other breathable fabric products. Cabella's offers a breathable fabric maintenance kit that includes both a specialized detergent and a DWR.

**Fixing the Leaks** - There are several products that can be used to seal leaks. Most wader brands that I researched recommend AqualSeal®, which is a polyurethane glue. Another is 3M Scientific Anglers Ultraflex®. Orvis offers a complete repair kit for their waders that includes AquaSeal®, iron on repair tape, and some fabric patches.

- Minor Leaks - After a while, breathable fabric will develop pin-hole leaks, particularly in stress areas. These can be located and repaired easily as follows, with a particularly clever trick: Turn the waders inside out.
- Apply isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol to areas suspected of leaking. A small spray bottle works well for this. (You may want to have a window open while doing this). Any leaks will show up as dark gray spots! The alcohol will also help clean the area.

If this is NOT a seam leak, and you are using AqualSeal®, apply the glue immediately - alcohol does not adversely impact the glue. Dab small thin amounts on the holes. The sealant should then be allowed to cure at least eight hours. Make sure to keep the repair area clear, so that you don't unintentionally glue portions your waders together.

If you have a seam leak - bad news, most wader manufacturer's web sites I reviewed recommend contacting them and returning the waders to their service departments for repair in this situation. There are several products available, such as Seam-Seal, for sealing fabric seams on nylon tents, etc. However I have not used them, and I would be cautious in their use on waders.

**Holes, Rips, and Tears** - For locating larger holes another recommended approach is to take the waders to a darkened room or closet and shine a flashlight inside them while watching the outside surface.

For tears or larger holes, the repair area should have some supporting fabric as a patch, much like repairing dry-wall or using fiberglass. Small holes and tears can often be repaired with iron-on repair tape that is available. Orvis includes this in their wader repair kit. This tape may be suitable for other breathable fabrics as well. The procedure for repairing with the tape is as follows:

- Turn iron to low steam polyester/rayon and turn waders inside out.
- For small tears, cut a piece of the fabric tape to size and place over the hole, white side down.
- Press with iron for 10 seconds. Rub with a cool piece of fabric to set.
- For larger tears, cut a piece of the wader fabric patch to size and place over tear, gray side up.
- Cover edges of patch with heat tape, white side down. Press with iron for 10 seconds and rub with cool fabric to set.

**Patching large holes and tears** - if you kept the small patch of breathable fabric that came with your waders - perfect. Otherwise a piece of nylon stocking can be used. The patch can be placed on the inside, outside, or both.

- Place paper, wax paper, or some plastic behind the area to be repaired, to keep the glue from going where it shouldn't. This can be temporarily taped in place.
- Apply a thin coat of the AqualSeal® compound to the repair area. Allow it to cure so that it is tacky (~ 5 minutes).
- Cut a fabric or nylon stocking patch the size of the glued area. It should extend well beyond the hole or tear, by about half an inch. Apply the patch to the glued area, making sure the patch area is kept as flat and smooth as possible.



**Field Repairs** - When you are out in the field, you cannot afford to wait the hours that the urethane glues require for set up. The answer - Loon Outdoors UV Wader Repair® (Made right here in Idaho). This stuff is a trip-saver, and no tackle bag should be without a tube of it. Apply to the damaged area of the waders, then let it soak up sunshine for few seconds - the compound is UV light activated, and will cure almost immediately. My experience has been that the compound will begin to peel away over time, but others have reported they have had no problems. I also recommend checking the tube in your gear bag as part of your yearly spring gear maintenance, as it appears the product also has a finite shelf life, and will degrade over time.

**Neoprene Booties** - Neoprene appears to be the weak link in waders. If you can't find a leak, but your feet are getting wet, the neoprene in the booties has probably broken down. After a lot of wear, the rubber cell walls fail, and the neoprene becomes compressed. In my waders, the neoprene in the booties has become stiff and brittle.

AqualSeal® or equivalent can be used to repair neoprene as well. For larger issues, including seam leaks or bootie repair, it may require sending the waders back to the service department of the manufacturer.

#### Not Recommended

- Do not fill your waders with water in an attempt to locate leaks - this can stress and blow out the seams.
- Do not use chlorine bleach or dry clean.
- Do not put waders with neoprene in the dryer. Avoid heat.

When all else fails and your waders are beyond repair, you can go green, by donating them to Recycled Waders, who will re-purpose them into a new product of some sort. See <http://www.recycledwaders.com/>

As taken from the FFF Newsletter

*MARK YOU CALENDARS  
DECEMBER CLUB MEETING  
FUNDRAISER!*

*Our Christmas meeting will move to Tues,  
Dec 16th,  
as the 23rd is too close to Christmas.*

*Don't forget it is our yearly fund raiser  
so see if you can get some donated  
items  
for the raffles. Also, flies are always a  
hit.*

*Bring Your Spouse and Friends!*

#### **2009 FFF Conclave**

Commemorative  
Bamboo Fly Rod  
Raffle

Steve Pennington of Ankeny, Iowa created this 2009 FFF Conclave commemorative bamboo fly rod.

Handmade and signed by Steve Pennington, this rod is an 8ft 4wt Pine River model trout rod with solid nickel-silver threaded uplocking reel-seat hardware; figured maple reel-seat wood; solid nickel-silver ferrules and 2 tips.

The rod includes a rod bag and a gunsmoke anodized aluminum rod case with a gold end caps. It fishes well with either a 4 weight or a 5 weight line.

Raffle tickets are only \$5. Buy some for a chance to win this fantastic bamboo fly rod. See Larry Gibbs to buy some tickets!!!!!!

## Fly of the Month

By Steve Egge

### Brian Silvey's Bunney Leech

I learned how to tie this fly while fishing with Brian Silvey and Marty Sheppard on the lower Deschutes river last year. It wasn't till my most recent trip to the Deschutes that I tied some up ... should have done dine that before as it produced!

The fly utilizes tubes and is tied in two parts. This lends itself to "production tying". Tie up 6 fronts and then add a tube to the back. The front of the fly has a weighted eye to help orient the tube and get it down. The rabbit strip is tied to the top of the assembly. The larger diameter rear tube is lashed to the end of the rabbit strip to hold the hook in the optimal position for capture.

#### Materials:

- Tubes: ¼ inches of plastic small diameter tubing with ends melted giving a "lip" to tie on. This tube should be a "liner" type tube so your leader with a knot tied in it won't go through the tube. I used an "extra small" froden FITS tube or you could use any of the liner tubes (HMH) on the market.
- The rear tube is also about ¼ inch or so with flares melted at both ends. This tube can be any diameter you want. You will need to thread a "loop" of leader through it and then attach your hook to the leader.
- Eye: barbell eyes ... I used spirit river.
- Rabbit: your choice ... you want the strip to be "zonker" style and not crosscut. Big and Full is best ... at least 1/8 inch wide ... your choice of color ... black and purple are hard to beat. Length ... 3 to 6 inches.
- Dubbing: flashy dubbing with long filaments you can brush out letting the "head" of the fly flow back on the rabbit strip.
- Flash: optionally you can put a few strands of holographic flash or crystal flash to draw the steelheads attention to the hook.

#### Directions:

- *Front Tube:* Mount the small diameter tube and apply the thread. Secure the barbell eyes well. Turn the assembly over so the eyes are on the bottom.
- You can coat the threads on the top of the tube with super glue and then set the front of the 3 inch rabbit strip on top.
- Lash the front of the strip down and then wrap back (don't worry about the bunny hair, just lay it back and tie over it) on the tube.
- Once the rabbit is secure, then spin some flashy dubbing on the head, making it quite full. It is better to take multiple layers of thinly dubbed material than fewer wraps of heavy dubbing. The thinner sparser multiple wraps "brush out better".
- Make sure you cover between the eyes and whip finish and cement the thread.
- Then take a tooth brush and brush out the dubbing so it gives bulk to the head and flows back a bit.
- *Rear Tube:* Then take the assembly off the vise. Mount the larger tube and apply thread wraps. I add a little flash on the "lower half of the tube" ... rotate the flash to the bottom and attach the end of the rabbit strip to the tube. Again you can optionally lay some super glue on the top of the tube.
- Separate some of the rabbit hair giving you a point to tie the rabbit down on the front of the tube.
- Lash it down and then take the thread to the rear and whip finish. Apply cement and you are done.

The fly is finished. Now you need to rig it ... much better at home than on streamside.

#### Assembly:

- Insert your mono through the front tube.
- Then tie a large loop (a Kreh loop works well) in the line.
- Put the end of the loop through the rear tube and loop or snell the hook of your choice to the kreh loop. The idea is that the knot holds tight to the front tube and allows the rabbit strip to fully hang back with the hook closely positioned under the strip at the rear of the fly.
- I put a loop on the front of the mono also ... just loop the mono (2 – 3 feet in total length) to my sink tip and go fish.



# November/December 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				20	21	22
23	24	25 AFF Club Meeting Nifty Fifties 6:30 pm	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Fly Tying Session 6 pm to 9 pm Sumner Library	16 AFF Meeting and Xmas Fund-raiser Nifty Fifties 6:30	17	18	19	20
21	22	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!		

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.

**Club Officers:**

President:	Bill Aubrey	253-678-3683
Vice President:	Bruce Everett	253-278-0164
Treasurer:	Duffy Christy	253-568-7965
Secretary:	Doug Smith	253-864-0674
Ghilly:	Bob Alston	253-848-6884
Outings Coord:	Bob Jacobs	360-897-8733
Programs Coord:	Vacant	
Librarian:	Bruce Everett	253-278-0164