

Hi-Desert Flyfishers

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The Official Newsletter of
The Hi-Desert Flyfishing Club

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General Meeting Notice

Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2009
Time: 7:00 PM please be on Time!
Place: County Fire Station
Located: Apple Valley Road and Yucca
Loma Rd

Program

Last I heard, Paul was going to tie some flies for us. Hopefully the TV screen will work!
A reminder 2009 HD dues are **due now**.
Any one not paid will have their names taken off the rooster by March!

Cruise

I am going on an 8 day cruise so the tying class will be cancelled this month!

The Pasadena Center, 300 East Green Street Pasadena California 91101

February 21 and 22 Pasadena Fly Fishing Show

From the north, take 210 or 101 to 134 east freeway.

From the east, take 10 west to the 210 west freeway.



Kids Day at Jess Ranch

We are going to help the Sheriffs at Jess Ranch on January 17, 2009. We are looking for volunteers to assist. We will talk about

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this at the January meeting. So please put this date on your calendar!

Since all of us have waders I feel this is worth saying!!!!!!!!!!!!

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

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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 powdered detergent, primarily to preserve the integrity of the neoprene boots, and the taped seams. Others that do not have neoprene or rubber boots attached may be machine laundered carefully. Check the care label on your waders.

Bad stains can be removed using pre-wash treatment such as Shout® or Spray 'n Wash®. Follow the pre-wash manufacturer's instructions, and again, check the wader care label. I suggest washing them, then repeating the wash with the legs turned inside out. I was amazed at the color of the water after a second wash. Rinse thoroughly. Hang them to dry.

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.

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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.

- _ Allow at least eight hours to cure. Several passes of gluing may be required to achieve a properly smooth patch. Thin coats are better.

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/>