

Dave Graybill

The Fishin' Magician

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Last week I spent two terrific days in Pateros. Eric Granstrom and I fished and shot a new TV Show with Shane Magnuson on Friday morning and afternoon. That evening was the Pateros Celebrates Steelhead Season event with a great dinner and presentations by three experts on steelhead fishing in the vicinity of Pateros. The next day I fished with a friend and we landed five steelhead! What a fantastic time!

We started our day with Shane Magnuson at Bridgeport. Joining us were Loren Dunbar and Reed Swallow of the Hevi-Beads company. It was so cold steam was coming off the water is huge clouds. It was just tolerable as we ran up river a ways to pull plugs. It was too cold to fish bobbers and jigs. Then the wind started blowing. Although we were pulling plugs it was too cold to be doing anything! We retired to the Rivers Restaurant, had some hot food and regrouped.

It didn't warm up much, but Magnuson was determined to catch some fish on plugs and what do you know, we did. We didn't get a fish until about 2:30 and then we wound up getting four more out of one hole. I have to mention that four of the five fish we got came off plugs that had a Hevi-Bead tied on ahead of the plug.

I think you will enjoy the show, which will be posted on the Fishing TV Page of my web site, FishingMagician.com, soon. In addition to the action of catching the fish, we took the time to give some very good information about how we rigged up to get them.

That evening the Central Building in Pateros was packed. Over 100 people turned out for the dinner



and seminars. Thanks to Charles and Jeanette Palmer the word got out and people came from all over the state for the event. The dinner turned out to be a great success thanks to Teresa, and we had great prizes and advertising support from lots of local sponsors thanks to Joni Parks at KOZI Radio. The presenters: Kevin van Bueren, Keith Roe and Shane Magnuson all did a terrific job and each received ovations from the audience for sharing their expertise on steelhead fishing. There is already talk about having a similar event at the same location on summer-run salmon fishing some time in mid-July. I'll keep you posted.

I really want to thank the organizers and the community for supporting this first-time effort. Everyone agreed that it was more successful than we had imagined. I will be putting a link on my web site soon that will list all those who contributed.

Fred Lillian who was on our trip to Belize two years ago heard about the event on KVI Radio on Seattle and

decided to come over. He sent me an e-mail saying he was going to be there, so I said pack some warm clothes and we would go fishing the next morning. We met after the seminars at his room at Howard's Place, and visited for a while and I finally got to sleep around midnight. I thought my alarm was going off at 7 the next morning, but it was my phone ringing with a message from Magnuson, saying, "there's a Hooked on Toys gift certificate to win today, get your butt out there!" I laughed, got dressed and met Lillian for breakfast. The day was bright and clear and not quite as cold as the day before. Better yet there was no wind. We put the boat in the water and motored down to the Rocks. I could see there was one boat there so I headed across the river to a point I like to fish and we cast our bobber in here.

On our first pass Lillian yelled Fish On, and we landed a nice legal fish. This was his first steelhead ever, so our day was a success. We made a few more drifts but got no more bites so we ran across to the Rocks to try it. On our second drift it was Fish On again for Lillian and we released the fish after seeing the adipose fin. Three more drifts without another bite made me wonder if our first spot had settled down enough to be worth another try. Why not, said Lillian, and we headed back across the river.

On our first pass my bobber went down, and I got to release a nice steelhead that had an adipose fin. Whew. I wasn't skunked, and we thought, what the heck let's give it another drift. This time my bobber went down again, and when I yelled at Lillian that I had one on he said, so do I! Just then my fish made a terrific run

under the boat. I stuck my rod as deep as I could and cleared the motors. I went over the side of the boat where Lillian was fighting his fish, and we soon realized that my fish had crossed his line when it made that run. We tried unwinding the tangle by passing rods over and under each others but found it hopeless. I had my fish close to the surface and suddenly I could see his fish just below it. It was HUGE. I said, okay reel yours all the way up to mine, I will hand you my rod and lift both rods up as high as you can. He did it and I managed to slide both fish into the net. It worked, and even better the fish were both keepers!

I figured that was a good way to end the day, so we headed in. We pulled the boat out of the water and then took our fish to the Rivers Restaurant and had the big one measured. It turned out to be 32 1/2 inches long, and was the winner of the contest! Fred Lillian not only caught his first steelhead, he got a limit and one of them won him a Hooked on Toys gift certificate and a Chevron gas card! What a day.

I would say that steelhead season is definitely in full swing now on the upper Columbia, and I also hear that the fishing on Rufus Woods is going great guns. Both of these would be fun, so I guess that's what I'll do!

Reach Dave at:
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