

# Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

## The Fishin' Magician



here were 12 to 13 inches and fat. The carryovers were up to 17 inches. Anglers weren't all getting limit numbers of trout, but the cleaning station was busy.

Park Lake edged out Blue for numbers of trout caught per angler, and the size of the fish was the same.

We watched one young angler battle a big rainbow right up to the bank before the leaping rainbow broke the line and swam away. I am sure that this happened more

than once at Park Lake.

It was obvious that the rehabilitation of Blue and Park lakes a couple of years ago really paid off. The rainbow were very hefty and the size of yearling and carryover rainbow has me planning a trip to these two lakes. They were outstanding this opening weekend.

As we were leaving Blue Lake I saw Dennis Beich, Region 2 Director from the Ephrata office of the Department of Fish and Wildlife. I pulled over to say hello, and Dennis introduced me to the fellow with him. Turned out it was Phil Anderson, Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife!

Anderson had come over to see first hand what the opening weekend of the lowland lake season was like here in our area. I was very impressed that the Director had made the trip. He was the first Director to do so. I really appreciate the fact that he visited our area, and the interest he is showing in the fisheries here in Central Washington.

We then checked out the action at Deep Lake, just up the valley above Park Lake. Trout fishing was not as good here as it was at Blue and Park lakes. This is a lake to keep an eye on though. Fishing will improve here and kokanee fishing should get good in June. We also made quick stops at Perch Lake and Vic Meyers. Perch was slower than usual this year and the fish small. Vic Meyer, though, was productive and gave up some nice carryover rainbow and some tiger trout, too.

We then headed up over the hill to check out the action at Jameson Lake. There were a lot of happy anglers here. I stopped by the fish cleaning station at Jack's Resort. This is a "must" stop on our tour as my wife has to get a pie at the restaurant here.

I was stopped by an angler that recognized my rig and he just had to thank me for the great article about Jameson Lake in Washington-Oregon Game and Fish Magazine. I really appreciated his comments. It made my day. Oh, back to the fishing. There were lots of limits being taken at Jameson. The fish were 10 to 11 inches and there were some 14-inch carryovers on some of the stringers.

From Jameson we headed for Lake Chelan area. Over the hill from Manson is Wapato Lake. I have fished at Wapato since I was big enough to hold a

fishing rod, so I always try to check on it. I guess the wind was pretty bad here in the morning. A couple of the guys I talked to at the clearing station had packed it in early, but just got back from a late afternoon try. They had caught three limits of rainbow in no time! The fish were fat 11-inchers, and I heard that there were some big carryovers landed at Wapato, too.

I got the report on the success rates on the lakes from Okanogan County in my e-mail. It looks like the opening weekend was terrific at several lakes. Pearygin Lake, which is near Winthrop, was on fire this year. If you didn't get a limit here, you must have lost your rod over board. Eric Granstrom, Director of the Wenatchee Sports Council happened to be there on Saturday and sent a couple of photos of his daughter Gracie with a load of rainbow.

The Conconully lakes were also good again this year on the opener. It not only produced lots of limits of 11-inch yearling rainbow, there were trout to 20 and 24 inches taken from these lakes. Alta Lake had one of the better opening days in a few years this season. The rainbow were smaller than in other Okanogan County lakes, but they were plentiful. Fish Lake, north of Okanogan, was another lake worth noting for the numbers of trout it produced.

We only drove to eight lakes on the opening weekend, but the ones I did visit reminded me of what this weekend is all about—that's families getting together for fishing fun!

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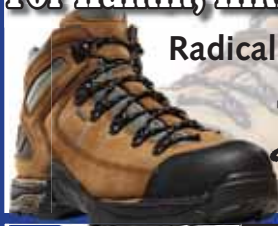
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