

Welcoming **Dave Graybill** To The **Nickel Ads** **The Fishin' Magician**

I am going to blame it on the full moon. Kevin Winters, of Leavenworth, and I were bound for a days fishing on the White Bluffs area of the Columbia River on Sunday, but didn't get to the water. This has happened to most of us. An early morning departure, after a near sleepless night due to the anticipation of a great day of fishing, interrupted by the fickle finger of fate.

We were talking strategy for our first trip for fall run kings, and had just turned off Highway 24 onto the gravel road that leads to the launch when Winters noticed something in his rearview mirror—smoke coming out of the boat trailer wheel. We found a wide spot in the road, pulled over and contemplated our predicament. It was decided that Winters would make the run back to Mattawa and see if he could find a grease gun and plenty of grease to go with it. Our hope was that we could keep the bearings lubricated long enough to get us to a repair shop.

I chose to stay with the boat. I first thought I would sort out my tackle box, which always needs attention, but the mosquitoes wouldn't leave me alone. I thought what the heck I'll explore the desert, and get away from the pesky bugs. I found more bugs; big black beetles, smaller beetles and long black beetles with orange heads. Of the three vehicles that passed while I was waiting, one belonged to the fish checker on his way to the launch site. I mentioned what I found and he actually got excited. He hadn't seen these particular beetles, the orange-headed ones for ten years. He tossed me a fresh nectarine and headed off to work. I felt like I had

made a real find! Along with a bag of cans and bottles that I had collected near the roadside I was having a productive morning.

When Winters returned we jacked up the trailer to see just how bad things were. If the wheel was stable and turned freely we could risk limping toward Mattawa. If the wheel was wobbly we were stuck. A tow truck would get us to the repair shop. As it turned out we had a very wobbly wheel, but Curt Connor at Sandbar Marine & RV Repair suggested we call Randy at Davis Towing. Fortunately, Randy was available and had just the kind of truck we required to lift the boat and trailer. He would deliver us to Conner's shop, which is open on the weekends. We spent a lot of time in the scorching heat of the high desert, but found friendly, local help. Turns

out Winters made all the right decisions and we kept the damage to just a wheel bearing. Good thing it was light enough for him to see the smoke! We will be back in business and ready to give White Bluffs another attempt some time soon.

I am anxious to get back there. I had reports that the fishing there on Saturday had been great, with many limits of kings posted. This was confirmed by folks headed by that checked on us on the way out the main road. Fishing was poor on Sunday, though, and only one angler we talked to had landed a fish. Apparently, we didn't miss much. I'm sure a fresh batch of big fall run kings will be waiting for us next time.

There is a new salmon fishing opportunity opening to anglers this week. As many as 2,000 summer run salmon expected to return to the tailrace area of the Chelan Powerhouse at Chelan Falls. This is the first time that fishing will be allowed for them. The special fishery is restricted to a very specific area, and I would recommend that you go to the Department of Fish and Wildlife web site and get the specifics.

According to Jeff Korth, regional fish manager, this is the second return of summer run salmon to the trail race area below the Chelan Powerhouse since the rearing operation was moved from Turtle Rock to the Columbia River. Next year up to 3,000 salmon will be moving through the tail race area, and once the Chelan PUD's

new salmon hatchery is completed, the annual return could increase to 7,000 per year.

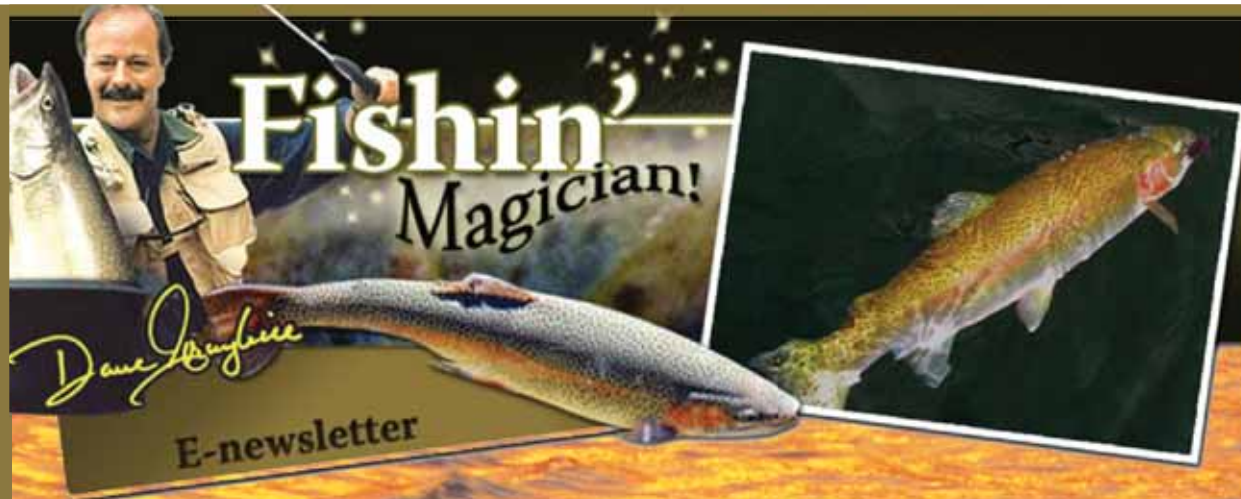
The daily catch limit will be six summer Chinook salmon, including up to three adults, of which only one may be a wild adult. The minimum size is 12 inches. Any Chinook with an attached floy (anchor) tag and/or with one or more holes punched in the tail fin must be released. There are some other rules in effect for this fishery that are detailed in the department's news release.

To participate in the fishery anglers must have a valid fishing license and a Columbia River Salmon/Steelhead Endorsement. Revenue from the endorsement supports fisheries for salmon and steelhead on many rivers in the Columbia River system, including this new tail race fishery below the powerhouse in Chelan.

Ever wanted to be able to fish without size restriction or limits? You can now at three lakes in Okanogan County. Alta Lake, near Pateros, is open to no-limit fishing now through the end of September. Fish Lake, north of Riverside, has a no-limit fishery until October 22nd, as does Schallow Pond, which is 4 1/2 miles north east of Conconully, at the outlet of Fish Lake.

If you plan to fish in the new Northern Pikeminnow Derby out of Crescent Bar, you'll want to do some pre-fishing. It may help your odds in winning some of the big money and prizes that will be given away the following weekend. Log onto www.quincyvalleytourism.org for details.

Reach Dave at: www.FishingMagician.com or Fishboy@nwi.net



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