

Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

The Fishin' Magician



island. It is just across from the State Park, at the bottom end of the lake. We have always had good luck here and this trip proved that the spot is consistently a good one for rainbow.

I should mention that Jack Walker, a regular at Curlew Lake and a resident for about five months every year at Tiffany's Resort, had reminded me to tie on my Rapala with a "Rapala Knot" to make the lure work properly. I often clip my Rapalas on with a plug snap, but this time I made sure that had a solid tied, overhand loop through the nose of the lure. It

really made a difference. I would suggest that you try this and compare the action you get with a clip. I tried a bright orange version that looked great to me.

The trout loved it, that's for sure. I also had to have a Martin's Red Magic spoon in my box, which is another of Walker's favorites. I am glad I found it. It kept pace with the Rapala in terms of attracting strikes from the Curlew Lake rainbow. We found that both lures worked best at 1.7 to 1.9 mph on my gps. The trout ranged in size from 10 to 13 inches, but Curlew produces good numbers of rainbow to 4 pounds every year.

The population of rainbow trout is sustained through a unique program on the lake.

Working with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Curlew Lake Association maintains a net pen and raise between 60 and 80 thousand rainbow every year. When they are released in the fall, between two and three hundred of these fish will be wearing a tag. If an angler catches a tagged fish it is taken to Tiffany's Resort (uncleaned) to be weighed and measured. The numbered tag can be worth from \$10.00 to \$100.00 to the lucky angler, and important information is gathered. There is a trout worth \$500.00 that was released last season that is still swimming around in Curlew Lake right now.

I also got to give my new Minn Kota I-Pilot at test on this trip. I had already used the auto pilot function and cruise control with the remote. This time I tried laying in a course, recorded it with the remote, and found that the unit would repeat my trolling path without having to make any adjustments. I have to thank the folks at Valley Marine in Yakima for outfitting my new Lund with this bow mount. It's quite a leap in technology over the Co-Pilot unit I have been using for years.

Because it usually doesn't take long to get a couple of limits of rainbow at Curlew my wife and I will than shift gears and turn our attention to the largemouth bass fishing. This year we motored a short distance from our favorite trout spot, through a narrow channel and into a large bay, almost like a separate lake, at the south end. We caught bass with good consistency, using a green and white Senko in the evening. A smoke blue version caught fish the next morning. The bass we took were mostly ½-pounders to 1 ½ pounds, but I have caught largemouth to 4 pounds

or better here.

The spring trout fishing is excellent at Curlew Lake, and we have also had terrific fishing in the fall. The bass fishing was good in the fall, too. In fact the trout and bass fishing is so good we have spent little time really targeting the tiger muskie. One of these trip we will devote more time to these monsters. There are fish well over the 50-inch minimum residing in Curlew Lake.

I want to remind everyone that the Leavenworth Kids Fish-In Day is coming up on Saturday, June 5th this year, and will again be held at the National Fish Hatchery on East Leavenworth Road. Families with kids age 5 to 14 should get their kids registered at Hooked on Toys by the end of May. Each child registered that has paid a five dollar fee will receive a t-shirt, thanks to area sponsors, and a rod and reel combo that they get to keep for future fishing trips. All the bait is provided and each child will get to catch two fish, which are cleaned and iced for the trip home. You can also register by logging onto my web site, FishingMagician.com, and click on Events for Kids. You will see where to click to get a printable registration form on your home computer. I hope to see you there!

Reach Dave at:
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