

Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

The Fishin' Magician

I had a great weekend in the hot summer weather and spent the whole time on the water, fishing a couple of lakes in our region. I wanted to get some footage for my Fishing TV Show on the walleye action, before I turned my attention to the summer run salmon fishing that is happening on the Columbia River. My wife Eileen and I packed the gear loaded the Lund and headed for Banks Lake. This would be our first stop on a two-lake weekend of fishing.

We couldn't have asked for a better day to hit Banks. Clouds scattered the blue skies and the lake was perfectly calm. We launched at Northrup Bay, ran around the corner and headed for the bottom end of Steamboat Rock. I decided to run my bottom bouncers, trailed by a white-bladed spinner in the 30-foot level and see if there were any walleye around. Sure enough, in no time we had a nice 18 1/2 walleye in the live well.

I ran further down the lake, and trolled without any success and then headed across the lake and fished an area a friend had mentioned. He had fished Banks a couple of week prior and had a very good luck on the walleye, fishing in about 25 feet of water on the west shore. I wasn't sure exactly where I was going and what I was looking for, but I put my baits out along a likely looking shoreline.

I immediately got into fish. I missed a few, landed a couple small ones and put one more keeper in the live well. We decided to leave that area, only because the loud music broadcasting from a nearby boat would have spoiled the audio in our video for the TV show. No big deal, the folks

in the other boat were having a great time lounging in the sun and casting for smallmouth. There was plenty of lake to explore.

We ran down lake to an area below the mid way boat launch, but on the opposite shore. There were a couple of other boats working this area, and the depth sounder told me there were fish down there, so we trolled for a while. I missed two fish, and decided I wanted to get back to the spot where we had faster action. When we go there we found the other boat had left so we put the baits down.

The fish were still there. We had a good hour of the fastest action of the day, but didn't add any keepers to the live well—except for one perch. It was a 12-incher and my taste buds wouldn't let me throw it back. We headed for the launch with a good fish dinner in the live well. After a full day on the water we were looking forward to a dinner at Don's Restaurant in Soap Lake, and another day of fishing.

We were meeting our friends from Moses Lake, Brian Muller and Velma Dunkin, who had taken us to Long Lake recently. Brian was interested in trying for the kokanee at Billy Clapp, and I was happy to oblige.

The weather was flat calm at Billy Clapp when we launched and we gave the kokanee fishing a good effort, but to no avail. I had been warned at the local gas station where I was filling my coffee cup that the kokanee just weren't around, but I may

find the walleye on the bite. One fellow had a great time on Billy Clapp the day before, catching a lot of walleye, but they were all on the small side.

We decided that we had enough of trolling around and getting nothing for our efforts and shifted gears to wall-eye fishing. We found what I learned at the Soap Lake gas station to be true. There is a good walleye bite at Billy Clapp, and just like they said, the fish were small.

We had a blast fishing along the east shore of the reservoir, about a mile or so below the Summer Falls power house. We really burned through the nightcrawlers on this stretch of water. Both Muller and I retrieved empty hooks or half-eaten crawlers time after time. We did manage to connect on some of our walleye bites, though, and got the walleye in the boat long enough for a photo before tossing them back.

By the time we decided to give the smallmouth fishing a try the wind had begun to blow, and it really made fishing difficult. We made a couple of casts in a small bay on the west shore a couple miles above the boat launch, and then tried the action off the face of the dam for short time. The wind just spoiled it for us and we headed in. Billy Clapp is a great place for summer fishing,



even if the kokanee action doesn't happen the way it did last year. I would suggest that you try to fish mid week and the parking here at the launch area doesn't come close to meeting the demands of the weekend crowds.

I would recommend to anyone to give Banks Lake and Billy Clapp a try this summer. The launches can be hectic at certain times on the weekends, but once you're on the water there is plenty of elbow room for everyone. The fishing can be good to fantastic, and I can't wait to get back to either of these great Central Washington waters.

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