

# Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

## The Fishin' Magician

Whew. What a week! It started by getting all the production into KWCC-TV for both the Fishing TV and Cooking TV shows for the month of May. Thanks to my wife Eileen we got four new shows done for both programs. Be sure to check out my web site to see what programs are coming up this month. We have already started on getting some new shows done for next month!

On Wednesday of last week I floated the Yakima River through the canyon, south of Ellensburg. This stretch of the Yakima is famous among fly fishers, and it had been a long time since I had been on this section. I had arranged a trip through Doug Pendleton, who is Director of Special Programs with Red's Fly Shop. Steve Joyce, manager of Red's and the new Canyon River Ranch Lodge met our party in the morning and gave us all a tour of the new lodge. It is something to behold, let me tell you. I have known Steve for years and have done in-studio Fishing TV shows with him on the trout fishing in the canyon and the smallmouth fishing in the lower river. This was the first time that we had been able to put together a trip on the water. Thanks to Doug Pendleton we had a great day planned.

Joining us on our float was Rollie Schmitt, Fish and Wildlife Commissioner, Doug's wife Lois and Tom and Damaris Bartlett, neighbors of the Pendleton's in Plain, who were celebrating their 43rd wedding anniversary with this river adventure. We had visions of catching lots of trout while floating down the river and the trip was to be highlighted with one of Pendleton's shore lunches. It was my plan to get episodes done for both Fishing TV and Cooking TV shows.

Unfortunately, there had been a heck of a rain storm the night before and although the river level was fine, even lower than normal for this time of year, the water was very colored and visibility very poor. Fishing was not what is typical for this time of the season. The guides at Red's look forward to the spring, when March Browns are hatching in great numbers, and their clients have a ball. With the fishing slow, looking for bighorn sheep, elk and other animals and birds that inhabit the canyon kept us busy.

Pendleton's shore lunch was something special. He plans these to take less than an hour, so his clients can get back to fishing, so it was very well-planned. The menu included marinated chicken thighs (that cook quickly on his portable grill), a Caesar salad, potato salad, coleslaw, fruit and cookies for dessert. He has portable tables and chairs that set up in no time, and everyone was impressed with the quality of the meal as we waddled to the boats.

We finished our float back at the lodge, and while enjoying some crackers and cheese, were surprised when the general manager of the lodge presented the Bartlett's a bottle of champagne to celebrate their anniversary. What a great experience!

The next day I was on the road again on my way to meet Shane Magnuson, Upper Columbia Guide Services, for a couple days of fishing for spring salmon at Drano Lake, which is near Stevenson, Washington. I had joined Magnuson along with Mark Spada (Yakima Bait Co.) and his friend Rocky here last year, and they were back for more.

The weather in the Columbia Gorge in this region is famous for wind and rain, and it really lived

up to its reputation. I learned how not to dress on my trip here the year before, and this year I was prepared for what Mother Nature threw at us.

Drano Lake was once again filled with more than a hundred boats, and it was loaded with spring Chinook than the year before. Over 140,000 spring Chinook have passed over Bonneville Dam and this is early in the run. Magnuson fought the wind and rain—and the incredible boat traffic, like there was nothing to it. We hooked four fish in the first hour and a half, and got nothing to the net. Rocky landed a fish a bit later, so we didn't go home empty. The next day we had two fish in the boat by 9 a.m. We had enough of the wind and rain by then, so we headed for breakfast. All the fish came on the new Mag Lip Flatfish; in the color we called "Thumper".

Magnuson is way ahead in terms of the number of fish landed for his boat this year compared to last season. It appears that the whopper run of spring Chinook is making its way up the Columbia. The country here is spectacular, too. Go prepared for



the wet weather and you will have a ball. Expect lots of company. We counted 93 trucks and trailers parked along the highway that didn't fit into parking area at the launch at Drano Lake. I would recommend a trip with Magnuson before dragging your own boat down there, just to learn the ropes.

We feasted on fresh springer before I headed for home. Next to the fun of catching these bright, early run fish, eating them is hard to beat! See Shane's recipe next month.

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