

# Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

## The Fishin' Magician

Boy, have I had a busy couple of weeks. I have traveled from Leavenworth all the way to the coast of Oregon and back, fishing for a variety of species on the Columbia River and the saltwater off shore. I then returned to Leavenworth to help kids catch fish at this year's Wenatchee River Salmon Festival.

I made my first visit to "Fish Camp", which is held in an RV Park, right next to the bridge that crosses the Columbia River into Oregon at Biggs. I have been invited to Fish Camp for years. I made the time to go this year, and I am sure glad I did. The event is organized by Ed Iman and sponsored by Cabela's and other fishing-related companies. They invite outdoor writers and broadcasters to the event to meet manufacturers of outdoor products.

This isn't like going to a sports show. Every morning you are fed breakfast and the group is split up to partake in the various fisheries that the area offers. Some traveled by jet boat up the Deschutes River for steelhead. Others fished for salmon, smallmouth bass, walleye or sturgeon on the Columbia River. The guides or tournament level anglers treated us to fishing for our choice of species.

The first day I was invited to jump on a boat skippered by Herb Good, who is a salmon fishing legend on the Columbia. He took five of us from Hood River to fish off the mouth of the White Salmon River to "hover fish" for kings. This means putting a gob of eggs near the bottom with a 2 ounce weight. We used heavy leaders, fairly short stout rods with level wind



reels loaded with 45-pound test braid. We were pestered by peamouth chubs, but when a king gave the bait a distinctive tug and the hook was set this tackle proved to be a lot of fun. We boated a total of 12 kings for the day, from a pair of jacks up to fish weighing 25 pounds. It was a blast. Good really showed his stuff. The other boat from our camp only landed two fish for the day.

While fishing, Good leaned over to me and said in a voice that only I could hear, "when you get back to camp, take all of the Pautzke BORX Cure that's left, that's why we're catching all these fish." I did what I was told and am anxious to get some eggs to cure myself for fishing at Vernita for fall kings.

In the afternoon and evening we were introduced to products that ranged from LED lights to knife sharpeners and all kinds of lines and tackle. I have already been able to use some of these products and you will be reading about them on my Product Review Page very soon. Be sure to check this page on my web site when you visit it for what I have to say about these products. More than just getting some products to try, I was able to meet and spend time with the makers or representatives of the items. I got to know the people behind the products and met some wonderful people.

On my last morning, when I was about to pack up, Ed Iman asked me if I would like to fish for smallmouth bass for a couple of hours. I had heard that the smallmouth fishing was great in this area and was eager to try it. Michael Gibney had his bass boat hooked up and ready to go. We crossed the river and launched above The Dalles. He set me up with a drop shot rig and we fished an area where he had found schools of juvenile shad. We were into fish immediately and caught a bunch on this submerged reef. We also fished some rip rap and some rocky islands. In about two hours we caught twenty smallmouth, with most of them around 2 pounds.

I left Fish Camp and headed south, my destination the sea side home of Richard Robinson of Leavenworth. He pretty much grew up in Nehalem and was a top guide on the area rivers. We were joined by Kevin Winters, also of Leavenworth and Mike Kitner of Wenatchee. We got a great break in the weather

and fished sunny skies on the swells and breakers at the mouth of the jetty. There is a mix of bright kings and coho entering the Nehalem River this time of year, and we caught an even mix the first morning. Skipper Robinson got us a king and a coho each, which is the daily limit here. Winters landed a king that weighed 35 pounds, and I landed a coho that was just over 16 pounds.

The next day we had a weather change and the terrific bite we experienced the day before just didn't develop. We didn't limit but still brought home some nice kings and coho. We brought some crab pots along on this morning, though, and had about 15 nice Dungeness to make up for our lack of salmon. Robinson really knows how to navigate in the rough conditions that are common here and knows how to catch salmon, too. I am eagerly looking forward to another visit to this area of the Oregon coast.

I barely had time to catch my breath when it was time for the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival. It was a tremendous success again this year, and the fishing pond, made possible by GoPaw, that I managed over the weekend was a huge hit.

Now I can get serious about getting after the steelhead in our local rivers and even some of those bright fall run kings!

Reach Dave at: [www.FishingMagician.com](http://www.FishingMagician.com)  
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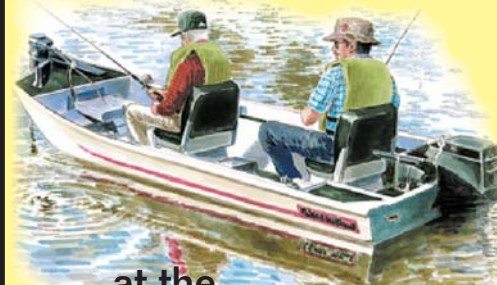
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