

Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

The Fishin' Magician

We are about to enter what many consider their favorite time of year here in Central Washington. Fall weather is often sunny and mild, and the variety of fishing opportunities at this time of year is some of the most exciting that an angler can find anywhere, at anytime. Where else can you consider fishing for big, fall run salmon, bright steelhead, walleye and bass—often on the same stretch of water! It just can't get any better than that. We're truly fortunate here in the center of Washington State.

The month of October this year starts off with one of my favorite events, the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival. Celebrating its 21st year, it will be held at the National Fish Hatchery in Leavenworth on October 1st and 2nd. The festival was created to help educate youth on the importance of a healthy environment, with emphasis on the lifecycle of salmon. It continues in that tradition and has added a variety of activities that both educate and entertain. In recent years it has also expanded the number of outdoor recreation exhibits and demonstrations that visitors can participate in that encourage families to get outside—and it's all free!

Visitors that come to Salmon Fest on the weekend may not realize that as many as 2,500 children from all over Eastern Washington are on the grounds on Thursday and Friday. They have been studying a curriculum provided by the staff at Salmon Fest that prepares them for a day of hands-on activity that makes it all real. Many of the schools that participate have been doing so for years the program is designed to not only meet the needs of school districts'

educational requirements, but is also jam-packed with learning exercises that the kids really enjoy.

There is a wide range of local, state and federal agencies represented at Salmon Fest on the weekend, and it's a great place to learn what role they play in our region. Some of these agencies are sources of funding for the all-free event, and more and more local organizations and businesses are becoming sponsors of Salmon Fest as these agencies face budget reductions.

I have been coming to Salmon Fest for many years. It is just a great place to hang out and visit with families that are there. I will bring my boat and just answer questions about fishing in our region. Last year I took on

a more active role with Salmon Fest and devoted time to the Outdoor Recreation Area, which is sponsored by High Mountain Hunting Supply in Wenatchee. This special area has a lot to offer families that come on the weekend. They can actually paddle a kayak, target shoot a bow and arrow, target shoot a pellet gun, learn to fly cast, tie a fly and catch a fish on the fly they tied. These are just a few of the nearly 20 different outdoor recreation activities that can actually try.

When families enter the grounds of Salmon Fest one of the first things they see is the fish painting, or gyotaku provided by the Chelan County PUD. Kids get to create their own fish art to take home by adding color to "fish" and rubbing that onto paper.

It's a huge hit. Another exhibit supported by the PUD and fascinating to see is the Native American Village, where visitors can watch authentic dancing, drumming—all in a "village" setting. Don't forget to taste the salmon that is prepared Native American style.

On the stage, where there is entertainment on both Saturday and Sunday, check the schedule for Reptile Man. This educational presentation of snakes, turtles and lizards is a huge hit with kids every year. There is other entertainment, too, and you'll learn about it through the schedule available when you enter the hatchery grounds. I have only mentioned a small fraction of what families can expect to see and do at the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival. You should plan on spending a full day or more to take it all

in. Learn all about the festival by visiting their web site at www.salmonfest.org.

One of the other favorites of mine in October is the traditional opening of the steelhead seasons in our region. There is already a season open at the Hanford Reach, and last year our upper Columbia steelhead seasons opened in September. This was the earliest opener I can recall, and although we haven't been fishing for steelhead yet, we will have another great season for sure. I have already encountered steelhead while back trolling below Wells Dam, and I expect to take a bunch more in this area through the season.

I want to let everyone know that I have a new E-Letter out, that covers tackle and technique and good places to fish for fall salmon, steelhead. It also covers some of the other fisheries that should be good this fall. The E-Letter is free and you can easily subscribe and get the most recent one by logging onto my web site (FishingMagician.com) and click on the button at the top left of my Home Page. While you're there, be sure to check out the schedules for my Fishing TV and Cooking TV shows for the month of October. I have some good ones on steelheading in our region and some good cooking shows coming up.

I am very excited about a trip to the Oregon Coast to do some salmon fishing in the salt. I have never visited the Tillamook area and haven't fished off the coast for many years. Be sure to check my Blog to see how I'm doing down there, and I'll give you a full report when I get home!

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



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