

Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

The Fishin' Magician

It's going to be a good week. I have some fun fishing planned. Eric Granstrom and I are going to do some steelhead fishing, and give fishing for triploids a try at Rufus Woods Reservoir. He and I haven't been out yet this season and we're way overdue for some fishing. Whether we get a load of fish or not, it's going to be fun.

Granstrom and I are going to start at Chelan Falls and then fish our way up stream. I want to try bobber and jig fishing from the shore, and I think that the area where the outflow of the Chelan Hatchery is would be a good place to start. The water is very shallow right at the mouth of the small stream, but there is a good drop off to water deep enough to hold steelhead within easy casting distance from the shore. We'll give this a try for a while and then move on up river.

The next stop will be below Wells Dam. We fished here a couple of years ago and it was a memorable trip. We were back trolling plugs off the bar, and Granstrom was using a rod that was a birthday gift from his father. He got a great fish on that rod, and he will always remember the first time he used it, and to land a nice steelhead.

We will be doing a different type of fishing at Wells this time; fishing from shore and using bobbars and jigs. I know Granstrom has caught steelhead on a bobber and jig, when fishing with Shane Magnuson near Bridgeport a few years ago, so he knows the ropes with this gear. I am hoping that we will find some eager fish



along the bar, and I am prepared to fish all the way down around the corner to a shallow point below the power lines. This can be a good stretch. Rollie Schmittsen has caught fish through here casting a spey rod, and I have caught many steelhead here back trolling.

After we had made our plans I checked in with Bob Fateley at the Triangle Exxon in Brewster, to see if he had any recent reports on Rufus Woods. In fact he had. According to Fateley the water temperature has cooled enough to get the bite going on the reservoir. Shore anglers were having good success on the north shore. Limits of triploids were being caught, and a lot of the fish were in the 4- to 6-pound class. That got me excited alright. Even better he had a big fish story from the Brandts Landing area on the lake, which is where I had planned to be with Granstrom on Sunday. Fateley

said that one of the local anglers that fishes here all the time got a triploid that weighed 13 1/2 pounds recently. Oh boy. I hope there are a couple more of these big ones hanging around when we get there. I think our timing is good for a visit to Rufus Woods. Fateley said that the fishing is the best he's heard about in a year.

On Monday we have an appointment that I am really looking forward to. We will be meeting with Patrick Phillips, the manager of the new Colville Tribal Hatchery that is under construction just below Chief Joseph Dam. Some of you may already be aware of this new facility. It is going to be a state of the art hatchery and will be producing about three million fish each year. These will be a mix of primarily summer run Chinook, some spring Chinook and steelhead. I will be there to see how far along they are with the construction, when they will begin releasing fish, and get a handle on the numbers of each species that they plan to produce. Can you imagine what this facility will mean to sport fishing and the communities in our region? It has the potential of making serious changes in what recreational fishing means. I envision the upper Columbia becoming the center of the world for sport salmon fishing. Why would anglers spend thousands to travel to Alaska or Canada when they can fish in the sunshine of Central Washington where salmon will be so abundant?

I also want to let everyone know that the spaces for the April trip to Belize are filling up. I still have a few spots left, but I would give the folks at Journey Travel a call right away. Go to my web site at

FishingMagician.com, click on the Travel button on the bottom left hand side and a page will open with the dates and costs. You will also find the phone number and web address for Journey Travel there as well.

I had lunch earlier this week with Bill McGuire and his friends. I took him home after and got to hear a couple of his amazing stories. He is a remarkable man. If you aren't familiar with McGuire and his exploits as a master craftsman of gun stocks, fishing rods and his amazing accomplishments as a tournament caster and angler, I suggest you check out the video about him on the Fishing TV Show airing this month on my web site. It provides a brief glimpse into his incredible life. The show has received more views than any other show so, by a long ways. I think you'll enjoy it.

Well, I have a lot to do, and to report on next week. I look forward to checking into the fishing on the upper Columbia for steelhead; triploid fishing on Rufus Woods and learning more about the new hatchery being built at Bridgeport. Be sure to pick up a copy of next week's Nickel for all the details.

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

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