

# Dave Graybill

## The Fishin' Magician

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I have just returned from a trip to Belize, so I have some catching up to do. I did provide some information on several events that are coming up before I left, and I will remind you of some of them again, as they are getting near.

First of all, the Coastal Conservation (CCA) banquet is this Saturday, June 7th and there should still be some tickets available. I would encourage you to attend if you can. The CCA has a reputation for accomplishing great deeds for fishing across the country and is making headway here in the Northwest. The banquet is a major fund raiser for the local chapter and helps support the work they do here and the annual Wenatchee River Salmon Derby. The cost of tickets to the banquet is \$60.00 and that not only gets you a great dinner it also pays for your membership in CCA. To get tickets, it would be best to check with the folks at Hooked on Toys in Wenatchee.

Also this Saturday is the annual Kids Fish-In Day at the National Fish Hatchery in Leavenworth. Youngsters age 4 to 12 and their families are invited to come to the hatchery for some learning and safety activities and then catch two trout in the raceway. The fish are even cleaned and iced for the trip home. To learn all about it and register for the time you want to fish just go to my web site, at FishingMagician.com and click on the Friends of NW Hatcheries logo.

I know that many anglers are looking ahead to the 1st of July, when the Columbia River opens to summer-



run salmon and sockeye fishing. We expect about the same number of kings to return to the upper Columbia as last year, which means over 60,000, and the early season focus is often below Wanapum Dam. Before I left on my Belize trip, I checked with the folks at Grant County PUD and was assured that the boat ramp at the dam would be usable. There is always a crush on the opening day and for many days following here. I want to remind anglers that they had better be good at backing up their boat trailers, as the ramp here is not for those who are not skilled. This is the only ramp that I know of that has a narrow path between two barriers. You had better be able to keep your trailer straight or you will be in trouble. If you have issues, don't hesitate to ask for assistance. It will save everyone time and aggravation. Also open is the ramp on the opposite side of the river accessed via Huntzinger Road. This launch site has been much improved, and anglers that chose to fish

below the railroad trestle and off the mouth of Crab Creek will find this very convenient.

I missed the announcement of the opening of the Wenatchee River and Icicle River to spring salmon. Assuming that the season is open and anglers are out on both of these streams, I expect the Wenatchee to be busy. One new wrinkle is that anglers are out on the Wenatchee at the height of the rafting season. I talked to Gary Planagan, owner of Osprey Rafting, and he will be talking to his guides about respecting the presence of salmon anglers on the river. There are some places that get heavy use and anglers could avoid. One in particular is know as the Rodeo Hole which is just below the railroad trestle off Stein Hill south of Dryden. This spot is very popular with rafters and kayakers. Kayakers particularly like this spot as they can run through the rapid and easily cruise back up to the top in the side eddy. He also mentioned that there are certain eddies used by the rafters to rest and stage. These are not necessarily good fishing spots, but he is telling his guides to give anglers room. He also asks that anglers respect the rafters and their activity. No need to cast in front of them. They tend to use the middle of river and the faster water anyway.

I have forgotten to mention that I have added a new web TV Show, and have been meaning to tell everyone about it. The new one is called the "How To and What's

New" show. The idea is to dedicate the lead portion of the show to demonstrating how to do certain things that anglers would find of interest. Current shows that can be seen on the FishingMagician web site include How to Cure Salmon Eggs, How to Fish for Kokanee, and an interview with one of the owners of Hevi Beads. This segment of the show is intended to be informative and will cover a wide range of topics, as you can imagine. Then most shows will also include a segment showing some different products that I have used and can recommend or are being used by local guides and experts. The shows are much shorter usually half the length of the other shows that are available on my web site. To check out the new show, just go to FishingMagician.com and click on How To TV. This will open a page that has the available programs listed. You can just click and play them right on your home computer.

I am glad to be back home. Fishing for bonefish, tarpon and permit is a ton of fun, but the fishing available right here is what I look forward to every day of the year. The folks at Bob Feil Boats and Motors have a Smoker Craft boat all rigged and ready for me and I plan on getting out with as often as I can!

Reach Dave at:  
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