

# Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

## The Fishin' Magician



Everything has taken a turn for the better, in terms of weather and the result has been better success by anglers. On many waters anglers have just been able to get out and fish effectively. The high winds made fishing nearly impossible for those who like to troll for trout and walleye and even cast for bass. Things are looking up, though, and it looks like spring fishing is finally in high gear.

I got a call over the weekend from my buddy Shane Magnuson. He is still down on the lower Columbia, fishing for spring salmon. He just had to call to let me know that the sun was shining, there was no wind at all and he had been limiting almost daily on Drano Lake. When I was down there, the wind was howling, the rain was pelting us and fishing was less than red hot. The Columbia River above Bonneville Dam is now closed to spring salmon sport fishing. That is good news for us on the upper river. This will assure a terrific season on the Icicle. The bad news for Magnuson is that Drano Lake, which remains open, will be even more crowded with salmon anglers.

It has been difficult getting a good fishing report from Banks Lake. When I checked in with the folks at Coulee Playland they said that very few anglers had even been brave enough to be out on the lake in the high winds. You can bet that they will be out there now and I expect to be hearing of some good walleye action. With increased water temperatures you can count on the smallmouth bass bite to perk on Barker Flats, too. I did reach Gordon Steinmetz, who just returned to his houseboat at Two Rivers, and he is there to take advantage of a good walleye and trout bite. I got a good report on the fishing on Moses Lake, too. Anglers who find the right area can expect a mixed bag of walleye, smallmouth bass and even catfish.

Trout fishing on area lakes suffered with the unseasonably cold weather. The trout bite at Blue Lake was good, though, for those who were on the lake very early or late in the afternoon—when the wind allowed. According to the owners of Blue Lake Resort, the action has slowed since the opening weekend, but it will heat up as sunny skies warm the lake's waters.

I ran up to Fish Lake, near Lake Wenatchee last weekend. It was the first chance I had to get my new Lund from Valley Marine out on the water. I knew the engines would run properly, but I wanted to get familiar with the new electronics and particularly the I-Pilot Minn Kota bow mount motor. Everything ran just fine, and I had the new bow mount tracking course, and on cruise control in no time.

We were taping a show for Fishing TV on the lake, so I wanted to be sure and catch some fish. Taking no chances I picked up some worms and split shot at the Cove Resort store. I already had a supply of Scott West's High Lakes Special. He advised me to try the silver-bladed, pink bead model, reminded me to slide a piece of worm up the hook, leaving a nice tail wiggling behind it. He suggested I put on just two split shot and let the set up way back behind the boat and to make a lot of turns.

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trout fishing is really at its best. We have never made it before Memorial Weekend before. We have had great fishing then, but they tell me it's even better a little earlier. I don't know if I have told you, but they have a great incentive program to entice anglers to fish at Curlew. Every year they release about three hundred tagged trout into the lake. The tagged fish are worth from \$10.00 to \$100.00 and one can be cashed in for \$500.00. If you catch one, take it to Tiffany's so they can get the information from the tag. This helps the Curlew Lake Association and the Department of Fish and Wildlife gauge the success of their net pen project.

Next on the agenda is a Monday trip with Jerrod Gibbons, Upper Columbia Guide Services, at Lake Osoyoos. If our timing is right, the smallmouth should be easy to find in the shallows here, and Gibbons says we should catch them at will.

That's the plan for the weekend, and I'll be sure to let you know how we do. Look for fresh photos on the web site and a couple of new Fishing TV shows!

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I ran the Lund up to the top end of the lake, to an area that we always find rainbow, and put the rig out. In less than 60 seconds I had my first fish. In less than an hour we had eight in the boat. Just then a squall moved in. Wind and rain pushed its way across the lake and we headed for the launch. If we had stuck it out I am sure we would have had our limits of rainbow in about an hour. The rainbow ranged in size from 10 to 13 inches. We saw some nice catches of similar rainbow on the dock, too.

My plan for the coming weekend is a visit to Curlew Lake. The folks at Tiffany's Resort have always said that right about now is when the spring

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