



Welcoming
Dave Graybill
To The
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The Fishin' Magician

I can't blame folks for staying close to home. We had the big Thanksgiving holiday, and some very cold temperatures. Heck, even I didn't get out on the water, and I consider myself one of the hardy. I have drug family and friends out in the winter on days that I know they would have rather been at home watching football games, or doing anything other than freezing.

been using the new Worden's Maxi Jig, made by Yakima Bait. These jigs come with head colors that many are familiar with, as they are similar colors to the Corkies that Yakima Bait also makes. These are marabou dressed jigs. Since he baits these with shrimp that are already treated with Graybill's Guide formula the marabou isn't ruined by adding extra scent. The 1/8th ounce size is working just fine.

has moderated a bit, more anglers are venturing out and reporting good success well upstream. Earlier this season only those who fished the lower river were having any luck. Things are different now, though. I just may have timed this one right, for a change. I'll let you know.



Things are going to change for me starting this week. I have a trip with some other guys with Shane Magnuson at Pateros (Upper Columbia Guide), and I am really excited about this one. There are very high hopes for some hot action with our group. The trip is the result of a donation made by Magnuson to the Icicle Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, at their annual fund raising auction.

Magnuson tells me that the average size of the steelhead this year is around 8 to 10 pounds, which is hefty compared to some years, and he is releasing some very large wild fish. Steelhead are in great condition this season, too. The photo that runs with this week's column was taken almost to the day one year ago. You can see how bright the December fish can be.

Later in the same week as my trip up the Methow I will also be using my fly rod. I have a morning meeting in Moses Lake with the folks at the Columbia Basin Herald. We will be talking about what they have planned for their Hook and Bullet web site for the coming year and how I may be able to help. I'll let you know what develops. Since I'll be in the neighborhood I will stop by Rocky Ford Creek on my way home. This is one of my favorite times of the year to fish at The Ford. The crowds are usually pretty thin by the afternoon, and the big rainbow here can be very hungry. They can also be very frisky in the cool winter weather. I have taken double digit numbers of very hefty rainbow from Rocky Ford in December.

Magnuson tells me that I have really been missing out on some great steelhead fishing. Those who have made their way to Pateros to go out in spite of the severely chilly weather have been happy that they made the choice. There are many days when very few, if any, other boats are on the water and steelhead have been plentiful. He has taken limit numbers of fish, even with parties of four anglers. The number of steelhead taken on these days to get to their limit of hatchery fish is astonishing. When you consider that many of these anglers are going steelhead fishing, using a bobber and jig, for the first time, it is really amazing.

Be sure to check the web site and look for the photos from this trip. While you're on the site check out the line up for the Cooking TV and Fishing TV shows for the coming month, too.

I want to remind everyone that I will be doing a free seminar on bobber and jig fishing at High Mountain Hunting and Fishing Supply on Wednesday, December 8th. I intend this to be a very detailed seminar and would be of interest to anyone that wants to learn this very effective technique for taking steelhead on our area rivers. There will be some very advanced details on all aspects of fishing with the bobber and jig. High Mountain Hunting

and Fishing Supply is located at 223 N. Mission Street, in Wenatchee. The seminar will begin at 6 p.m. I would suggest that you call ahead. Seating is limited. Their phone number is 509-665-9362.

Finding fish hasn't been an issue either. Just about all the known spots near Pateros are holding good numbers of fish. He isn't doing anything radically different than he usually does this time of year. If there is any change in his bobber jig approach it may be his jig selection. He has recently

I also have a trip planned on the Methow. I will be fishing with Kevin van Bueren of Cascade Fly Fishing. Yup, I said fly fishing. I don't do it often, but have been known to chase steelhead with a fly rod. It has been a while since I have hooked a steelhead on a fly and I am really looking forward to the chance to do it again. I have fished with van Bueren a few times and if anyone can help get me hooked up it will be him. It looks like we'll have some decent weather for a float down the Methow.

I have heard some good things about the fishing on the Methow. There are fish in the upper reaches of the river now, and since the weather

Reach Dave at:
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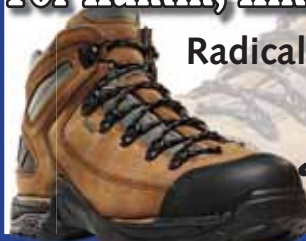
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