



Dave Graybill

The Fishin' Magician

Nickel Ads
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I didn't think it was ever going to stop raining. I had the plug out of my boat and it just kept draining for a week. It didn't stop me from getting out again to see if I could find a steelhead, though, and although I came home without a fish, I remain very excited about the steelhead season this year.

I know the water temperature on the Columbia is still high for good steelhead fishing, but I just can't help trying to get them. When my wife Eileen and I went last Friday I noticed that it had dropped a couple of degrees, but it is still hovering around 60 degrees. We put in at Chelan Falls and hit a couple of holes that have been productive in the past. Not his time though. Not a single nibble at the two spots that I like to fish at the Falls. I ran up river to another spot that can be very good, too, and once again it was a waste of time. Add to that I was almost out of gas! We ran into Chelan and filled the boat, but Eileen wasn't ready to go home.

Somehow we missed the rain squall that we drove through in Chelan and when we got to Wells Dam it had almost stopped. On our way in another rig was pulling out so I waded them down. Turns out the two anglers had a pretty good day here. They got six fish, including two that were unclipped. They were even complaining about how slow it was. They said that most of the holes that they like to fish usually produce at least a couple of fish, but on that day they were only good for one, maybe. They mentioned that the fish they got were taken on shrimp only, no jigs. Apparently they were only interested in a big meal.

Well, we were there and ever optimistic so



we put the boat in and ran bobbers and jigs down along the bar below the launch. Eileen's bobber went down on our first pass. I saw the rod tip bend and throb, but the bobber popped back out of the water when the fish shook the jig. We made a couple more passes here and way down below with another take on our baits.

I ran back up to the top and switched to plugs. I really like those Map Lip 3.5s and I know others that have had great success for steelhead on them. I had already rigged a few with barbless, single hooks so I ran them out. On our first slide the outside rod folded over, but the fish didn't find the hook. Two passes off the bar didn't produce any more than the one hit so I just kept going down around the corner. Clear down at the bottom my insider rod bent over. When I grabbed it out of the holder I saw the fish jump and throw the hook way down below the boat. I was encouraged by this and tried another long drift, but nothing doing this time. It looked like it was going to get serious about raining again so we pulled the boat and headed for home.

I know that one of these trips is really going to pay off. There are almost 20,000 steelhead over Priest Rapids Dam. That's 5,000 more than last year. This is going to be a great season when the fish decide to bite. When the water temperature drops a bit more I am sure it will turn on. I had frost on my boat for the first time this past weekend, so I bet the next time I go out it will be great!

It should be very good by the time we have the Pateros Celebrates Steelhead Season event on Friday, November 14th. This is going to be a great evening. It starts with a dinner at 6 p.m. On the menu is sirloin chili Colorado and home made corn bread, and a smoked and grilled half chicken with home made potato salad. There will be beverages available at the Central Building, too. The seminars will begin at 7 p.m., kicking off with Kevin van Bueren on how to catch steelhead on the Methow River with your fly rod. Next up will be Keith Roe, and he will share his secrets on how to catch steelhead on the Methow and Okanogan rivers with a bobber and jig. Finally, Shane Magnuson will talk about his success on taking steelhead with a bobber and jig in the vicinity of Pateros. I will be there to introduce everyone and hand out drawing prizes that will include overnight stays at local hotels, meals at local restaurants and more. I hope you all can make it.

I get questions all the time about what is going on up on Rufus Woods Reservoir, and the latest news I have is that there were 20,000 triploids released by the Colville Tribe toward the end of October. It will take a little while but many of these fish, which average a pound, will be showing

up above the dam at Bridgeport in a couple of weeks. I have also learned that there are still some whoppers coming out of Rufus occasionally.

I want to remind people that there are some new shows posted on both the Fishing TV Page and the How To Page on my web site at FishingMagician.com. "Steelhead Fishing on the Methow", "Fall Fishing for Walleye on Potholes Reservoir", "Steelhead Fishing on the Grande Ronde", and "Coho Fishing on the Cowlitz" are all now available to view. Remember, you can click on the Archives at the bottom of the page and see all of the shows from earlier this year and last. On the How To Page just posted is "How to Fillet a Walleye" and "How To Cure Salmon Eggs". These shows include interviews with the folks from CRKT Knives, Dutch Fork Custom Lures, and some product reviews as well.

I am happy to announce that my weekly column that currently appears in the NCW Nickel Ads in Central Washington and the Nickel Nik in Tri-Cities is now being carried by the Nickel Saver in Moses Lake, Cle Elum, Ellensburg and other Central Washington cities.

I am busy rigging tackle while watching football games, so I will be ready when I hit the water. It will probably be for steelhead, so wish me luck!

Reach Dave at:
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Steelhead Fishing Seminar

Friday, November 14th



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