

# Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

## The Fishin' Magician

The timing of the Lowrance-Budweiser King Salmon Derby in Brewster has always been dead on. When the derby kicked off in early August in seasons past, the Brewster Pool was teeming with summer run salmon and catch rates were excellent. This year there was some doubt that there would be enough fish caught to fill the leader board down to 20th place. However, the leading edge of a strong run of summer runs showed up just in time. Sunday is typically a slow day at the derby but this year the leader board was active with fish coming in right up to the weigh-in deadline.

Derby organizers, as usual, ran a very successful derby. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and headed up by J.D. Smith, with able assistance of his wife Rebecca, there was over \$20,000.00 in cash and prizes available to the 248 anglers that paid the entry fees. There were a good number of new participants this year as word has spread about the way this contest is conducted. I heard one angler suggest that they should have a "longest distance traveled" award. His fishing party traveled all the way from Springfield, Oregon to participate. J.D. Smith also complimented anglers for their help in making this year's derby perfect. There wasn't a single disqualification of derby rules reported.

The catch was down this year. The salmon that arrived in the Brewster Pool were shooting up the still-chilly Okanogan River. They usually stack up when they encounter the mid-seventy degree water pouring into the Columbia. The "thermal barrier" works in favor of the derby anglers, as the salmon stack up near the mouth and



mill about the pool. This year the summer runs, which should number even more than last year, arrived about two weeks late and didn't hang around. There was a spike in their numbers just in time to produce some action during the derby, but the total number of fish weighed in was about half of what was tallied last year.

Anglers easily filled the 20-place reader board for adults and there were seven youth division anglers on the board. Finishing in top place was Ralph Tipton, with a 33.84-pound king. He will be cashing a \$1,200.00 check for his efforts. Jim Eggart won \$750.00 for his second-place fish that weighed 25.93 pounds. Third place was claimed by Nick Christoph with a 20.12-pound king and \$450.00.

In the Youth Division, first place was taken by Levi Dechenne with a 19.56-pound fish worth \$475.00. In second place McKayla Ford won \$350.00 for her 12.30-pound king. Katelyn Worley won \$275.00 with a king weighing 12.16 pounds. I have to mention that Peyton Oules finished 5th this year. She's been "in the money" four out of the six derbies.

Congrats to the organizers and sponsors of this year's derby it was a big success.

I mentioned that the Columbia River below the bridge at Bridgeport to the bridge at Brewster was opening to fishing for triploid rainbow on the 1st of August. Well, I took my wife Eileen up there and boy did we have fun. We started just below the bridge, casting bobbers and Maxi Jigs, and caught some nice fat triploids. We shifted gears and dropped down stream and fished some shoreline, and caught a couple more. The best fishing we had was on a flat below one of my favorite pump houses. We had very good success with large crank baits. I mentioned that I wanted to try a crawdad pattern plug. I did and it caught fish.

I had even better luck with Fire Tiger pattern plugs. A friend had suggested that I give the Fire Tiger color a try. He had been fishing this pattern on the upper reservoir for walleye and found it very effective. When I went back to this same area later in the week the Fire Tiger pattern not only continued to be a favorite of the triploid rainbow, it also claimed a walleye weighing 10 pounds, landed by Rich Brown,

from the Super Stop and Pateros Lakeshore Inn. His Dad Bob had a blast landing triploids on the trip.

I have been spending my time from the hatchery outflow to the bridge, but after talking to some of the derby participants I could have been fishing all the way down to the Brewster Pool. I talked to a couple that had landed two limits of triploids fishing off the mouth of the Okanogan. They were trolling herring, and the big rainbow loved it. Last year people were having fun catching a mess of sockeye while fishing for summer run salmon in the Brewster Pool. This year they can catch triploids. The triploids are bigger than the sockeye that are running this year, and darn near as good to eat.

I stopped by Wells Dam on my way up to Brewster on Sunday, and I saw that anglers are still following a pattern. That means that most of the boats are on the far side first thing in the morning. Everyone is still trying to get their limits of sockeye, and then they shift over to the other side to catch kings. I am just guessing, but I would think that the sockeye are beginning to thin out, but the fishing for summer runs is about to take a definite turn for the better.

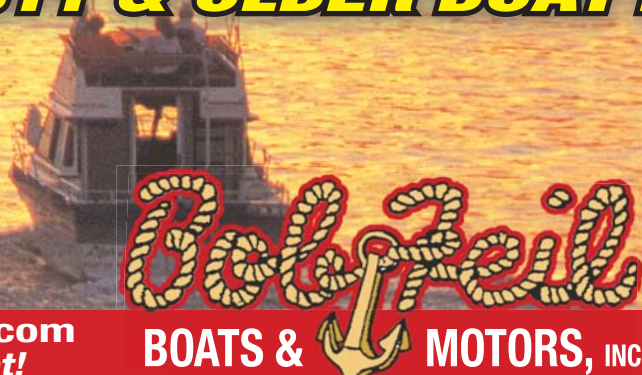
Looks like it's time for me to start getting serious about salmon fishing at Wells and the Brewster Pool. I have a hunch the bite is about to take off here, and I want to be there when it does!

Reach Dave at: [www.FishingMagician.com](http://www.FishingMagician.com)  
or [Fishboy@nwi.net](mailto:Fishboy@nwi.net)

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