

Dave Graybill

The Fishin' Magician

Nickel Ads
Nickel Saver
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had the shore all to ourselves.

Ed was already set up and it took him no time at all to bait up and cast. He was rigged with "Felps Floaters", a colored foam coated hook that I had never seen before. He added a bit of marshmallow and some worm. This was anchored on the bottom with a slip sinker. The wind was howling, and we could tell it would be difficult to see a bite with the big bow that the wind put in our lines. I finally got two rods together with slip sinkers, and marshmallows and worms. I added a dash of Graybill's Guide formula before I cast. We waited and waited and I finally had to do a bait check. Well, what do you know, I had a fish. It wasn't a surprise that I didn't see the bite. It was only about 10 inches long. Most likely a recent fall plant, and since we were using bait, Heim put it on a stringer.

Ed also did some bait checks and found his

worm missing a couple of times.

We waited and waited and both Ed and Eileen said, Hey, your line straightening out! I jumped down and grabbed my rod and sure enough there was a good fish on my line. I worked it in close and managed to slide it up on the bank. Now this was what we were after. The rainbow was 19 inches long and probably weighed 3 pounds. Nice. Karen and Jessica were honking the horn in the rig, Kallie licked the fish and we all celebrated. After getting a few photos it was time to get my rig back into the water. Probably about 15 or 20 minutes later my line straighten out again, and this time I reeled in a fat 15-incher. Well, we were almost out of worms, and since we had three fish we called it a day. I was very impressed with the fish that can be caught on the Missouri. Ed said he also catches a lot of 3- to 5-pounders through the ice in the winter. You can use five rods each when ice fishing and he said it gets pretty wild some times. He would like me to come back this winter and give it a try. He said it gets down to 20 below zero when they are ice fishing on Canyon Ferry. I will have to think about that! It sure was fun. We got to see some new country. We spotted lots of wildlife on the way out and back, and really good company, too.

Closer to home I am getting reports of good fishing from a couple of different spots. Mike McKee, who I introduced to Omak Lake cutthroat fishing a couple of years ago, arranged an outing with the Wenatchee Fishing Forum folks to the lake recently. He reported that the fishing was fantastic. The group trolled crank baits and flies

in 90 feet of water and caught and released about 80 2- to 4-pound Lahontan cutthroat. Omak Lake is just eight miles from the town of Omak on the Colville Indian Reservation. A tribal fishing license is required to fish the lake and fishing is with barbless hooks and no bait.

Another fishing buddy of mine, Brian Nielson, of BJs Guide Service, has sent me some photos of the steelhead he is catching on the Grande Ronde River in the south east corner of the state. He is getting limits of steelhead on most of his floats down the scenic canyon. I have two videos of the fishing on the Grande Ronde and they can be found by visiting my web site, fishingmagician.com, and clicking on the Fishing TV Page.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife reminds anglers that several east side lakes received fry plants last year and should offer great fishing when they open. Some of the better prospects are Williams and Hatch lakes in Stevens County, Fourth of July Lake in Lincoln County and Adams counties, and Hog Canyon Lake in Spokane County. These lakes open on November 27th and remain open through March 31st 2016. North Elton Pond near Selah will receive a plant of 2,000 trout soon and will open on November 29th.

My next fishing plan is going to be for steelhead on the upper Columbia. I have had good luck so far and have got some dandy hatchery fish, too.

Reach Dave at:
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