

# Dave Graybill

## The Fishin' Magician

Nickel Ads  
Classifieds

I have been catching up after my trip to Belize. The Icicle River opened to fishing for spring salmon just before I left and right after my return the Wenatchee River opened to spring salmon fishing. Anglers have been celebrating with good catches of springers for the first time in nearly two decades. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife finally got the necessary permits that would allow such a fishery, and the excellent run of spring salmon also contributed to the opening of the Wenatchee River.

There are over 10,000 spring salmon expected to return to the Wenatchee River this year. That means there should be excellent fishing on the Wenatchee and Icicle rivers, and anglers should know that there are two sections of the Wenatchee where they can fish. One is from the Washington State Parks foot bridge at Confluence Park (just upstream from the confluence with the Columbia River) to 400 feet below Dryden Dam. The other is from the confluence with Peshastin Creek to the downstream side of the confluence with the Icicle River, and from that point to a marker on the opposite shore.

The bag limit is two adipose fin clipped spring salmon, and anglers may retain one daily limit regardless of how many waters they fish. This is a mark-selective fishery and all adipose present fish must be released. Anglers should be aware that this means up to three barbless hooks are allowed and knotless nets are required. Bait is allowed when fishing the Wenatchee. There are no gear restrictions on the Icicle. Also, anglers must release any spring Chinook with one or more holes punched in their tails. These fish are being used for ongoing studies in the upper Wenatchee Basin.



The warm weather we have had recently has put a damper on the walleye bite on Moses Lake, at least for me. Gary Feil and I hit Moses on Wednesday, and while I had fantastic fishing earlier this spring on Moses Lake, and we had a tough time finding fish. The bite was very different, as the fish were not nearly as aggressive, so I know we missed a bunch of hits. We were busy, not only replacing torn up or missing worms on our Macks Lure Slow Death rigs, and we had a lot of perch bites. We ended up getting just five walleye and a dozen nice perch in the cooler. I was feeling pretty bad about my performance for the day until I ran into one of the anglers that was pre-fishing for the big derby this weekend. I have fished with him before and he's a pro at walleye fishing. He had caught just one fish that day. Whew. I felt better. I will be interested in hearing how the tourney turns out. I am sure they will do well, but it isn't what it was earlier this spring. The water temperature on

Moses hit over 72 degrees on Wednesday. On my next trip here I will focus on bass.

There are two events coming up this weekend that families could enjoy. One is the annual Pike Minnow Derby sponsored by the East Wenatchee Rotary Club. The club has been doing this derby for over twenty years, and it not only provides families with a good excuse to get out and go fishing over Fathers Day weekend, it also serves a great purpose. Pike minnows are the leading predator of our salmon and steelhead smolt that are moving downstream to the ocean. This derby removes thousands of them from the river every year. Those who participate can also win some amazing prizes, including a boat, motor and trailer. To learn more about the derby and where you can get tickets for the event, just go to the Home Page of my web site, FishingMagician.com, and click on the Pike Minnow Derby logo at the top right hand side of the page.

Another popular fishing event is the Icicle Valley Trout Unlimited Family Fishing Derby at the Cove Resort on Fish Lake. The derby starts at 6 a.m. on Saturday, June 14th and lasts until Noon. There are lots of prizes to be awarded for a variety of categories for both adults and youth. There is a breakfast supplied to all participants, and the cost is \$10.00 per person or \$20.00 per family. To learn more about the derby contact Ed Lee at 509-548-2300.

Don't forget the next free seminar is coming up at Town Ford on Wednesday, June 18th. Stuart Hurd will be there talking about fishing for summer-run salmon and Ron

Oules will tell you how to catch some of the over 340,000 sockeye that will be coming here this summer. The seminar will begin at 6 p.m. at the Town Ford dealership in East Wenatchee, across from Costco.

The trip to Belize was a great success again this year. My wife Eileen and I hosted seven people to Ambergris Caye, where I had arranged four days of guided fishing with my friends at Go Fish Belize. We had people from East Wenatchee, Boise Idaho, Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island and southern California. Everyone said that the fishing was beyond their expectations, and included catches of bonefish, tarpon, permit, jacks, snapper and barracuda. We also spent a day snorkeling on the barrier reef and enjoyed an amazing lunch of fresh fish on shore prepared by our guide. Sandy Mathews at Journey Travel and Tours made all the travel arrangements and everything came off without a hitch. I will be announcing another trip soon, which will be to Costa Rica for sailfish, marlin and giant roosterfish, and if you want to get the details when they are available, you can send me an e-mail through my web site, or call Sandy at their office in Wenatchee at 509-662-7775.

I just brought home a brand new and fully rigged 20-foot Smoker Craft boat from Bob Feil Boats and Motors. I can't tell you how anxious I am to get out and put it through its paces. Maybe while fishing for kokanee on Lake Chelan!

Reach Dave at:  
www.FishingMagician.com  
or Fishboy@nwi.net

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