

Welcoming **Dave Graybill** To The **Nickel Ads** **The Fishin' Magician**

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I am glad to be back home for a bit. I spent last week on the road. I traveled first to the Washington State Sportsmen's Show and finished the week at the Seattle Boat Show. I met a lot of great people, and saw an incredible amount of tackle, travel destinations and other products for fishing and boating. It was my first time at the show in Puyallup and I won't miss another one.

I was able to make some special arrangements and get into the warm water demonstration tank area early on Thursday morning. I taped Ed Iman on jig fishing for walleye and Bob Adkinson on fishing for bass. I also did some footage with Herb Good on camp cooking. He has been doing cooking demonstrations at the show for 19 years, and had some good tips for folks. These will be available next month on the Outdoor Insider TV Show.

Our area was well represented by fishing and guide services and it was really fun to see everybody in a show atmosphere. I would recommend that anyone interested in hunting and fishing visit this show next year, and plan to spend at least one entire day.

On Wednesday evening I spoke to the Puget Sound Anglers in Auburn. This group works on a wide range of projects that benefit species from steelhead to sockeye on the west side. They are like so many organizations that dedicate their time and effort to things that make the future of fishing look brighter for all of us. It was a real pleasure to meet them, and also thank them for the work that they do.

From Puyallup I made my way north to



attend the Seattle Boat Show. I was there last year with the folks from Bob Feil Boats and Motors and Jetcraft, and had such a great time that I blocked out my schedule to return this year. I learned a lot at this show. There are so many advancements being made in electronics it's hard to keep up. One of the reasons anglers may want to visit both the Washington Sportsmen's Show and the Seattle Boat Show is for the really deep deals on a wide range of gear. I was shocked at some of the prices on rods, reels, lures and other equipment. When they say show special they mean it, and I was amazed.

There were a couple of things that you will only see at a show like the Seattle Boat Show that got my attention. One was called the SeaBreacher. This thing was shaped and painted like a killer whale and

even acts like one. You can drive this across the water at 25 miles per hour, dive it to 5 feet deep and then have it breach the surface like a whale. What a deal. There was another thing called the HeliCat that looks like a helicopter on pontoons. This thing doesn't fly but is powered by outboard motors on the pontoons. It just looks like your flying a helicopter across the surface. Go figure.

I am headed back to the Seattle Boat Show next weekend. It runs through this week and ends on February 5th. I will head home in time to watch the Super Bowl!

I gave Keith Roe a call to see what I have been missing on the fishing front while I was gone. I wanted to find out how the ice fishing season is going up in Okanogan County. He had good current information on the fishing at Patterson, Davis, Rat lakes and some others.

Patterson is producing good catches of rainbow trout and perch again this year, and anglers are also bringing home some nice kokanee caught through the ice. The rainbow can be as large as 16 inches at Patterson, and 10-inch perch aren't a surprise. The kokanee are being caught incidentally to the rainbow and perch and are running about 10 inches. They must be great eaters, too. He suggested that you fish for perch toward the south end of Patterson and in the middle for the kokanee. The trout are all over the place. Meal worms and maggots fished on jigs is the favored method for taking all three species on the lake.

Davis Lake ice anglers are catching good numbers of very nice rainbow. They are consistently 12 to 14 inches, and Roe is surprised at how few people he sees at Davis. He feels that most people just don't know that it's open. The quality of the fish is excellent and can easily stand more pressure.

Anglers are doing great at Rat Lake. Limit catches of rainbow are easy to come by, and the trout are 11- to 12-inches. The whole lake is frozen now and although the road got covered with deep snow recently, folks are getting in and out of there. A good four wheel drive rig is recommended, though.

Two of the lakes that Roe had visited recently were Sidley and Molson. These two lakes will be included in the Ice Fishing Festival in Molson, Washington this year. He said he didn't have any time to fish either of the lakes seriously but lowered a fish finder through the ice and saw plenty of trout in both of them. Work has been done to get the aerators working on both of these lakes this year, and fishing is best near them. To learn all about the 8th Annual Ice Fishing Festival, log onto my web site and click on the button at the very top on the right hand side of my home page.

If you make it to the Boat Show this weekend be sure to stop by and say hi. I'll be out and about this week and will have more info on local fishing next week!

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



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