

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

My brother Rick and I had debated about where to go fishing last weekend. We both would like to find a good spot to catch a mess of perch. He had been looking for perch the week prior without success, but we knew that something had to break soon. I finally suggested that this would be a good time to try Palmer Lake. The ice had been off for a while and last year I had great kokanee fishing up there. Kokanee would be an attractive option to perch fishing, so we made plans to head for Palmer on Saturday.

As we drove north in the morning, Rick shared some reports that he had read about Palmer. They mentioned that when the kokanee fishing slowed these anglers had caught a bunch of nice perch. This made our decision to try Palmer look even better. The weather report added to our enthusiasm. It was forecast to be a pretty nice spring day. It would be his first trip in the new Jetcraft, too, and I was anxious to show him how it had been setup and performed.

We got an idea that the word was out on the kokanee fishing at Palmer when we stopped for ice in Loomis. A fellow had spotted my Ford across the street and came in the store saying he would like to strangle that Graybill guy. The parking lot at the ramp was overflowing and the lake was covered with boats. It was my fault that it was crowded. All of us in the store got a laugh out of it, especially the guy at the cash register. Eighteen boats had stopped by that morning getting ice and supplies. He would laugh all the way to the bank.

We had been advised that the kokanee bite was happening early in the morning, but we arrived well after that. When we launched we saw most of boats gathered off the rocky point on the northwest side of the lake and we watched the other boats closely after we got our gear out, to see if there was any action. There wasn't. As we passed other boats we learned that fishing was tough that day. We hadn't seen a single net out or any evidence of fish being caught, when we got our first hit. The "flat-lined" rod bounced hard a couple of times and went slack. At least we thought we must be doing something right anyway.

It wasn't long after that the downrigger rod of Rick's went off and we landed a dandy kokanee. It had hit a Wedding Ring spinner. I was fishing my favorite Super Duper and a Martin's Magic spoon, and he had a squid rig he tied on the rod that had got our first hit. The next fish came on my Super Duper. He got the next one on his squid rig, and I landed another on a Wedding Ring.

We were trolling just north of the rock point and fishing shallow. We tried fishing as deep as 25 feet, but got all of our hits at between 12 and

15 feet. We trolled at between 1.2 and 1.7 miles per hour. The lures were put from 50 to 75 feet behind the boat. We caught fish on everything we trolled, except the Martin's Magic. The only constant was that the hooks on all of our lures were tipped with a couple of kernels of white shoe peg corn. Rick had soaked the corn in Graybill's Guide formula and something that colored it purple, too.

I can see why people make the long trip to Palmer for the kokanee. They were all 17 to 17 1/2 inches and heavy bodied. This makes them big compared to most of the kokanee caught in our region—except the ones at Lake Roosevelt. People will travel a long ways, like we did, to catch kokanee like these.

We still wanted to see what the perch fishing was like so, after about four hours of kokanee fishing we went looking for a school of perch. It didn't take long. We ran down to the area near the outlet of lake and started looking or a pile of perch on the Lowrance. We hadn't gone fifty feet when what we were looking for appeared on the screen, and we threw a marker buoy over the

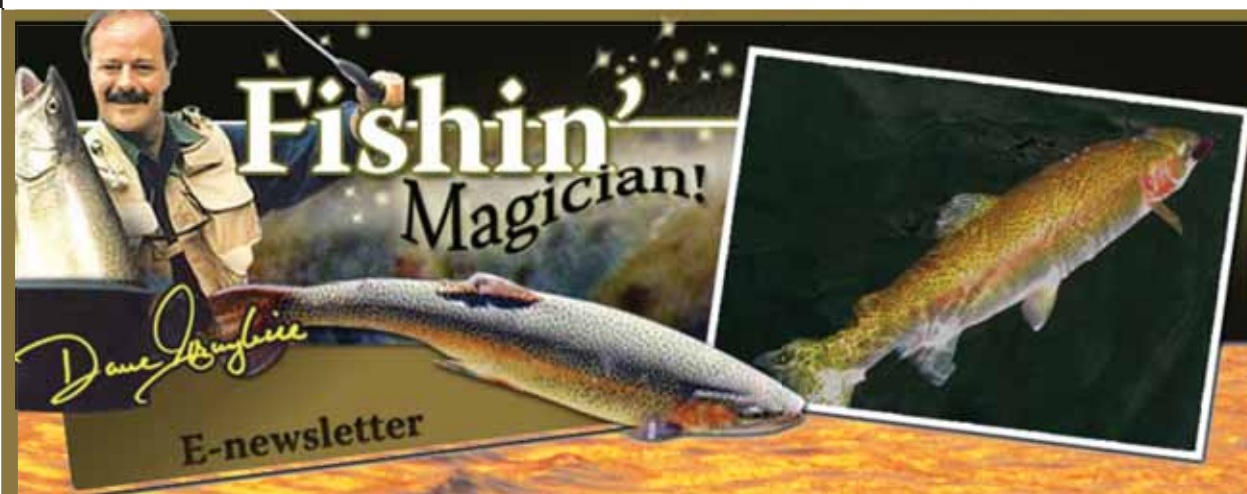
side. We tossed worm baited hooks to the marker and were into fish immediately. They were nice keepers, too.

We had a long drive home, so we stopped when we had sixteen nice perch in the cooler. These fish are very near spawning, and I wouldn't count on the perch fishing to be good much longer, but the kokanee fishing should continue to be good here at Palmer Lake for quite some time.

I will be spending next weekend at Connolly Park in Moses Lake, at the Annual Columbia Basin Trout Derby, put on by the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District and sponsored by Pepsi. This will be the third year for this event and I want to thank the MLIRD and Pepsi in advance for this great family day.

Families with kids under the age of 15 should plan to come to the Annual Free Kids Fishing Day at Rock Island on Saturday, April 23rd. The Pit Pond will be loaded with rainbow, there will be free hot dogs and soft drinks, and the Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association will be on hand to help kids catch fish. This is a great way for families to get ready for the opening of the general lowland lake season opener the following weekend.

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



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