

# Dave Graybill

## The Fishin' Magician

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This was a busy week on the water. I made two trips to Lake Wenatchee for sockeye. I also went to Fish Lake, near Lake Wenatchee to take my neighbor girls fishing for perch, and ended the week back up in Brewster after sockeye salmon. What a great week to sample the terrific fishing in just a few spots here in Central Washington.

On Monday Eric Granstrom, of Gaboon Productions, and I met Rollie Schmitten at his home at Sockeye Point on Lake Wenatchee. Schmitten had agreed to take us out to shoot a new video on fishing for sockeye on the lake, and we couldn't have timed it better for weather. It was flat calm and beautiful on Lake Wenatchee. We left the dock just before the sun came up and motored over the top end of the lake, closest to where the White River comes in.

The fish finder was full of fish but they were mostly ignoring out baits. It took us some running around and changing of gear to get some strikes. We actually started out the day with a double. We missed a few hits and lost a couple of fish. Along with some background provided by Schmitten and some tips on tackle and when and where to fish on Lake Wenatchee for sockeye. Granstrom produced a great show! It is now available through my web site, FishingMagician.com. Just go to the Fishing TV Page and click on Sockeye Fishing on Lake Wenatchee. I am sure you'll enjoy it. Also worth watching if you are interested in sockeye is the show on the How To TV Page. It is called How to Rig for Sockeye and has interviews with three guides; Shane Magnuson, Jerrod Gibbons and Austin Moser. Each of them shows how they like to rig for sockeye. You will find this very informative.

On Thursday I joined Leavenworth resident Kyle Kelley for more sockeye fishing. We launched very early,



and although there was a heavy chop at the bottom end of the lake, conditions were much better at the very top. There were quite a few boats that toughed it out. There was a pretty good fleet out after sockeye. Kyle has fished the lake for decades and has had a great season here so far. However, we had a tough time on Thursday. We tried a wide range of hoochies, with varying lengths of leaders and even some "hoochie-less" rigs that had worked for him earlier. The only thing we got fish on was a bright pink hoochie, with a walleye pill for spacing ahead of two hooks

that I had been using for the past couple of weeks. We only managed to put two fish in the net, although we had many tentative hits. Fishing has been tough this past week. The fish are still in great shape on Lake Wenatchee, and there is no shortage of fish this year.

Our two neighbor girls, Rory and Greer Swoboda, take care of our cats when we travel. This year among the treats that we gave the girls for this chore were two fishing rods, and a promise that my wife Eileen and I would take them fishing. Last Friday we made good on our promise. We took Rory, Greer and their Mom Heidi to Fish Lake, near Lake Wenatchee to do some perch fishing. There was a stiff breeze blowing, but not too much for my Minn Kota bow mount electric motor in Anchor Mode could handle. I schooled the girls on how the push button reels on their new rods worked, and in no time at all they were pulling in perch. Their Mom Heidi, who is a professional photographer, got some great shots of the ospreys plucking fish off the surface while we plumbed the depths. This is a great time to take the kids to Fish Lake. I remember my Dad doing the same thing with us when I was the age of these two girls. The Swoboda girls like eating fish as much as catching them, and they are really looking forward to their fresh perch fish fry.

Perch fishing on Fish Lake is very good right now, and those who get on the water early are having no trouble getting their 25-fish limits. Perch will bite worms, but for really good perch action, spend the time to look for periwinkles in the Wenatchee or Icicle rivers. Perch like nothing better and the time spent gathering periwinkles pays off with a good catch. I start looking for perch in 25 to 30 feet of water in the middle of the lake between the Cove Resort and the

opposite shore. I look for a good bunch on my fish finder drop a marker and then go back and park on them with my bow mount electric in Anchor Mode. Most of the perch are 8 or nine inches.

I finally got back up to fish for sockeye at the Brewster Pool. This time I took my friend Brian Anatatmula, his son Josh, his Mom Linda and Dad Mohan. I was a bit worried about fishing in the crowd up there, but found that fewer than a hundred boats on the Pool on Saturday. Fishing was easy and the sockeye cooperated. We got off to a slow start, and had only two fish in the cooler by 8 o'clock. We weren't seeing a lot of action, but I felt that we could do better, even though it was getting late for the traditional sockeye bite up here. Brian and I tried all kinds of different hoochie rigs, and then I dug out something I had tied up while fishing on Lake Wenatchee on Thursday, but never put out. It was a three hook rig, with three orange beads between the last two hooks. That did the trick. Fortunately for us the sockeye bite lasted until one o'clock and we finished the day with nine fish in the cooler. When I filleted the fish they were great, too. Want some sockeye? Better get to the Brewster Pool!

The one last thing I want to do to finish my week is to take my fly rod and spend some time on the Icicle casting for small rainbow. This is the perfect time of year for this. It seems like it's the perfect time of year for a lot of great fishing around here!

Reach Dave at:  
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