

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

Once again the City of Brewster showed how to make everyone welcome, and the 5th Annual Budweiser-Lowrance King Salmon Derby, sponsored by the Brewster Chamber of Commerce was a huge success. Fishing was slower than usual, but it didn't seem to matter much. There were more than enough summer-run salmon caught to fill the leader board and there was more than enough cash and prizes to make everyone who participated in the derby glad they made the trip.

J.D. Smith, chief organizer of the event, was the master of ceremonies and he made sure to thank all those who helped out by providing sponsorship cash and prizes and dedicated their time to making this derby one that folks travel great distances, they know that they will have a great time.

Rebecca Meadows provided me with a list of the derby statistics for each day, and the final tallies. There were 260 anglers registered in the derby this year and an all-time number of youth entries at 25. There was over \$18,000.00 in cash and prizes handed out at this year's derby. Each year the number of sponsors that step up increases—and so does the prize money.

The top three winners in the adult division were: 1st place, Brandon Pritchard, winning \$1,250.00 for his 29-pound 5 oz. fish; 2nd place, George Batemen, winning \$950.00 with a 28-pound 11 oz. king, and taking 3rd place was Rory Bergere, winning \$800.00 with a 26-pound 12 oz. fish. In the youth division, 1st place was won by Logan Dechenne winning \$450.00 with a 21-pound 11 oz king; 2nd place was claimed by Daniel Rossman winning \$350.00 for

a 20-pound 6 oz fish and in 3rd place was Katelyn Worley winning \$250.00 with an 18-pound salmon.

Derby organizers were very excited about the improvements that have already begun in the Community Park and Boat Launch area. Next year derby participants will find an extended dock and a two-lane boat launch, along with other improvements.

Whether you fish or hunt you will want to make plans to drop by High Mountain Hunting and Fishing Supply on Saturday, August 14th for their Grande Re-Opening. They are inviting everyone to stop in to see their recently completed expansion. They have added about 3,000 square feet to the shop, with a lot more fishing tackle, archery gear and firearms and shooting supplies. They have also added a lot more outdoor wear, becoming the exclusive dealer of Columbia Sportswear Performance Wear.

There will be hot dogs served from 11 a.m. till 2 p.m., but there will be manufacture reps on hand all day from All Sports, Tica, Macks Lure, and the RSR Group. They will also have the Brad's Super Baits on sale at a special price. When you buy two you'll get the third for free! There will also be drawings for prizes throughout the day to help celebrate this grand re-opening of the store.

The extended sockeye salmon season at Lake Wenatchee opened last Saturday, but the fishing was stalled by rough weather. There are plenty of fish

available, but with three-foot rollers on the lake, very few boaters decided to try trolling for them. The weather was better on Sunday, and anglers had better results. Anglers who want to catch some sockeye should get at it soon. These fish will be entering their spawning phase soon, and to get the best quality, do it now. Sockeye are still being caught in very good numbers off the mouth of the Okanogan River in Brewster. Quite a few are still being taken on Cut-Plug Super Baits. A surprising number are still coming over Wells Dam.

This is prime time for hitting the high lakes in the Alpine Wilderness Area near Leavenworth. Lakes like Colchuck, Eighmile, and Stuart not only offer very scenic trails, but have some nice trout waiting when you reach them. I spoke with Jeff Stroup of Leavenworth recently and he mentioned that the fishing at Colchuck was worth the hike. He cast a fly from shore and caught and released a bunch of rainbow, one of which was about 14 inches long. The trout hit both dry flies and leech patterns. The hike to Colchuck is four miles, with a steep pitch to reach the rim of the lake. Remember, you need to have a pass visible in your vehicle to park at the trailheads of these lakes. These can be purchased at the Forest Service office in Leavenworth, and at many retail outlets in town.

I am anxious to try the upper Entiat River with my fly rod. The river is open to fishing above Entiat Falls and I have had a ball catching rainbow, cutthroat and brook trout on this stream. I have never hiked and fished my way to Myrtle Lake. I have heard



that there is some really great cutthroat fishing along this trail and I plan to make the trip this summer.

I am also getting some reports of terrific fishing for walleye at Banks Lake. Typically the fishing is fair to good by this time of summer, but the walleye bite continues to be the best in years at Banks

The Icicle Chapter of Trout Unlimited had a great Kids Fishing Derby at Blackbird Island Pond last weekend. The derby signals the opening of this juveniles-only pond for trout fishing through the summer. Only anglers under the age of 15 years may fish the pond. It is full of 8- to 11-inch trout. The daily limit is five.

Reach Dave at:
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