

Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

The Fishin' Magician

Hot weather is the friend of fishermen that like to fish the Brewster Pool. When the weather cools down the summer-run salmon scoot up the Okanogan River, and the fishing action gets very slow. However, we have had some temperatures in the 90s and that will heat the Okanogan and improve the opportunity to catch these fish that are still showing up in good numbers.

I happened to plan a trip to Brewster when the fishing had slowed, but fortunately I ran into Shane Magnuson and he suggested that I try fishing above Wells Dam. He has been fishing there in the late morning into the evening and I saw his catch of six big kings to prove it.

My fishing partner Brian Anatatmula and I changed our plans from fishing the Brewster Pool. We got a few hours of extra sleep and decided to fish a bit below Chief Joseph Dam for triploids and then head for Wells Dam. I could have skipped the triploid fishing. I learned an important lesson. Be prepared. I had only brought my salmon weight gear, but did have some plugs along. I had mentioned in earlier reports that fishing with lighter leaders, and especially fluorocarbon, will improve your luck. I found out just how important that is. Even my proven plugs couldn't get strikes from the triploids. We saw other anglers catching them, drifting bait or jigs. There are still lots of triploids available below Chief Joe, and I would recommend that you give this a try before it closes at the end of the month. It is a ton of fun and the fish are great eating. Use light leaders though! It will definitely change your luck. I limped back to the launch at Bridgeport and headed down river. I could



only hope that I could do better on kings after a dismal start on the day.

There was only one boat working the water above Wells when we arrived. I set out the gear, which included a plug-cut style Super Bait on one rod and herring on the other. We made a few circles with out any luck when Magnuson arrived to join the parade. He immediately hooked up. He yelled over to put on a chrome flasher and red Super Bait, and I did.

Well what do you know, we hooked up pretty quick. We had left the area near the barrier and were looking for fish in the vicinity of the pump that is in the middle of the bay. Just after we passed over a good number of fish—wham. Brian grabbed the rod and brought in a nice 12-pounder. We were feeling

much better about our methods now. We weren't finding any more fish in the bay so we headed back to the barrier. There were several boats working this area now. The word is out that afternoons can be productive here.

On about our third pass I saw the rod bounce. Brian was fighting the fish while I was bringing in the other rigger to get it out of the way, and it really took off. Brian yelled that this was a good one, and he couldn't stop it, even when he tightened the drag. Before we could do anything about it the fish had run under the debris that is stacked up against the barrier and got caught in it. We tried all kinds of things to get it free, but eventually just had to break the line, and hope that the fish could work itself free. My advice to those who want to try the fishing up here is to use heavy lines and tight drags. There are some big kings in there and I can't wait to get back up there and get at 'em.

I want everyone to know about a new derby coming up in September that should not only be lot of fun, but there is some very big money and prizes to be given away. It is the Quincy Tourism Board's first Northern Pikeminnow Derby that will be held at Crescent Bar on September 24th and 25th. There is over \$15,000 in cash and prizes available in the derby.

The aim of the derby is to provide a fun-filled weekend of fishing and to remove as many pikeminnows as possible from the water above and below Crescent Bar. Pikeminnows are predators of young salmon and steelhead and catching as many of them as possible does these fisheries a big favor. There will be a \$20 entry fee, and kids under the age of 16 will be able to fish for free. More details will be available by logging onto quincyvalley.org.

Saturday, September 24th is when the annual Trout Unlimited Conservation Banquet will be held at the Fest Hall in Leavenworth. This event is the major fund raiser for the Icicle Valley Chapter, which has done millions of dollars worth of work in our area for the enhancement of fisheries. There will be all kinds of great items up for both the silent and live auctions. This has the reputation of being one of the best auctions of its kind, and I encourage everyone to attend. Tickets can be had by calling chapter president Dennis McMahon at (509) 548-7526.

Remember, with the drawdown at Banks Lake, the only ramp available now is at Coulee Playland at Electric City. There is also fuel, tackle and everything else you need here for a day's fishing or just fun on the water.

The summer we all were waiting for is here now, and there's a bunch of good fishing to do. I sure want to take more trips in to Wells for kings!

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

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