

Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

The Fishin' Magician

This past weekend was sure a fun one for me. On Saturday I helped out at the annual Kids Fish-In at the National Fish Hatchery in Leavenworth. Plus, Sunday I was a guest angler in the Central Washington Bass Club tournament on Moses Lake. Both days were all about fishing fun, and families, too. I was a bit worn out by the time I sat down to write this column, but I would gladly do it all again!

Once again Lynann DeJarnett had the hatchery grounds all laid out and ready for the kids. The hatchery's personnel not only set everything up for the Kids Fish-In, many of them, and their families served as volunteers (as they have for many years) at the education stations and helped kids catch fish. The Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association checked out rods to the kids as they completed the circuit of instruction. This group prepares the rods and reels for use at the event and they spend the day making sure all the kids have a good time catching fish. The Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association not only supports this event with hours of volunteer help, they are also a major financial supporter.

The Icicle Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited keeps this Saturday open every year. They also open their treasury to make sure that this event continues to serve the kids and their families that attend. They do a dirty job, too. Their members clean every fish and have a good time doing it. An often "icky" experience for the kids turns into a fascinating lesson thanks to these guys.

I also want to thank my Dad, Dave, who comes every year now with a group of guys from his church. They bring an ever-expanding array of

fishing gear that they display and describe its uses to the curious youngsters.

Weinstein Beverage Pepsi Cola is also a sponsor of the Kids Fish-In Day. They have supported every kids fishing event I am involved in again this year!

I wanted to save another group for last, although the members of the Central Washington Bass Club are the first ones that the families that attend the Kids Fish-In meet. They have been greeting and signing in our fishing "guests" since these events began. I saved mentioning them last because it was these folks that I spent the next day with, at one of their club tournaments. I have been invited to come along as a guest for years, and finally was able to go along.

I met Dave Massey, who was to be my fishing partner for the day, in East Wenatchee at 3:30 a.m. for the drive to Moses Lake. The driver's meeting was scheduled for 5 a.m., with the starting gun for the tournament being fired at 6 a.m. There were 13 boats in the club's flotilla on Sunday morning, and they headed off a full throttle to their favorite fishing holes on Moses Lake.



Massey steered our boat to the south on Moses Lake to an area known as the "lighthouse". It didn't take us long to find fish along the shore there. I got off to a great start, boating two smallmouth, one of which was over 2 pounds. Massey soon caught up me and later in the day passed me both in number and pounds—by quite a bit. He wound up boating twice the poundage that I did. We sure had fun chasing fish up and

down the lake, and he even pulled a very largemouth right out of weeds next to the boat, after stalking the fish for over an hour.

When we got to the weigh station we found that most everyone had a pretty good day on Moses Lake. Some pretty heavy bags of fish were toted up to the scales, and there was a good mix of smallmouth and largemouth bass. Everybody caught fish. Brian Nichols took top honors in the club tourney with a total weight of almost 20 pounds of bass. Joe Arballo got bragging rights for the biggest fish of the tournament with a largemouth weighing 5.15 pounds.

This competition among the members of this group is fierce but very friendly. What I liked about it was the mix of teams. They included husbands and wives, fathers and sons and just good fishing buddies, even opening seats on their boats on occasion for guests like myself. It was a perfect day to be on the water at Moses Lake, and being part of this tournament was something special. If you want to learn more about this group and their activities, go to the Links Page on my web site, and visit theirs.

If you have kids that you want to take fishing, where they are guaranteed to catch fish, there are two events coming up this weekend. One is at the National Fish Hatchery at Ardenvoir, up the road from Entiat. They will be breaking in a brand new fishing pond, made especially for these events. The event is scheduled for Saturday, June 11th from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. You can call the hatchery at 509-784-1131 for details.

Also on Saturday the 11th is the annual kids fishing day at the hatchery in Winthrop. There are all kinds of fun things to do for families at this one, which will take place from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. For information, call the hatchery at 509-2424.

I don't know what you have planned for the weekend, but either of these two fishing events would be great fun to attend, and Moses Lake wouldn't be a bad place to spend the day fishing for bass!

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

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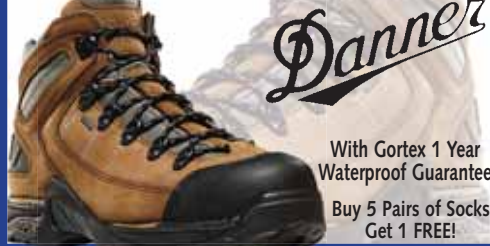
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