

Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

The Fishin' Magician

Boy, did I get buried in snow this week in Leavenworth. I had an interesting drive down to Pasco to attend the Tri-Cities Sportsmen's Show. Some of the exhibitors didn't even make it! I got a trip to Rufus Woods Reservoir in before all this hit, so I have some good information for you on tactics for winter fishing for triploids. I jumped on board with guide Stuart Hurd and some of his buddies and we launched at Bridgeport.

Of course, I happened to pick the coldest day of the year. I think it was about 12 degrees in Bridgeport and it got colder when we got on the water. There is a barrel of sand at the launch, but it was pretty low and frozen, we launched without it alright. When fishing in these temperatures all kinds of things just don't work or you have to do some things you typically don't to keep fishing.

Hurd likes to troll and we started along the can line across from the launch above the dam and worked our way up the reservoir. We had some lines out with nothing but a small dodger and maybe a split shot to get the fly and lures under the surface. Hurd offered the triploids a variety of colors, including pink-and-purple, black and olive. There was a Wiggle Fin ActionDisc placed right on the head of each of the flies. We had to submerge the rod tips and carefully handle the line to get the lures out behind the boat. Line jumps off the reels in the cold and the guides would fill with ice.

We did attach a couple of lures to our downriggers. Hurd will run his downriggers as deep as 50 feet to catch triploids, but on this day we never caught fish any deeper than 15 feet. It just isn't possible



to run downriggers very deep when the weather is this cold. Ice builds up on the braided line and freezes. We had trouble a couple of time when the guides on the rigger arms filled with ice and prevented the line from going down. Our spinning reels would often freeze in free spool in the cold, too.

In spite of all of these challenges, Hurd put us into a lot of fish. They would come in flurries and there was a period of an hour or so that the sun came

out and the bite really turned on. There were more than twenty fish caught and released during our time on the water, and we kept a few to take home. The fish ranged in size from about a pound to 4 or 5 pounds. The fish hit all the rods, so a variety of flies and Kokanee Pro lures worked. You'll be able to watch the action on the new Outdoor Insider TV Show in February.

The recent meeting of the local chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association was held in Wenatchee and had a different twist.

Many local guides and other companies attended and shared information about their services prior to the meeting. Brian Irwin, Washington Director of the CCA gave a brief presentation about the CCA and its success in the three years it has been in Washington.

The CCA was formed over 30 years ago in Texas and has an amazing track record for successfully countering over-fishing of several species and returning them to health.

The balance of the meeting was devoted to announcements about the new salmon fishing derby in Wenatchee and others that will be coming up later this year. The Wenatchee derby will take place July 13th through 15th and will be limited to 75 boats. Derby tickets will cost \$100.00 and will include a membership in the CCA, the awards dinner and auction, and launch fee. The big fish cash prize for the Wenatchee derby will be \$2,000.00. There will be several other cash prizes in the derby and raffles prizes handed out at the event as well.

There were some other derbies announced at the recent meeting of the CCA in Wenatchee. The very popular Budweiser/Lowrance King Salmon Derby in Brewster will be held on August 3rd through the 5th this summer.

The big fish prize will be \$1,500.00 for adults and \$500.00 in the 14 and under division. Brewster derby tickets are available and you can get tickets through the Brewster Chamber right now, and they will be available on line soon. The cost of a ticket is \$25.00. There will be a new "Trippin' with the Triploids" derby on Rufus Woods Reservoir on May 12th. The top prize in this tagged trout derby will be my Jetcraft boat, valued at over \$40,000.00! Tickets are \$40.00 and include a t-shirt and a BBQ dinner at the awards ceremony. You can get more details by calling Dave or Nancine in Bridgeport at 509-449-3542. Another tagged trout derby that is held in the spring by the Quincy Valley Tourism Association is planned for March 3rd at Burke and Quincy lakes. The QVTA did an excellent job with this one last year and everyone is looking forward to this spring's event. Tagged trout in this derby could win the lucky angler up to \$3,000.00 in cash! Details on this one will be on my web site very soon.

I'm off to the Washington Sportsmen's Show in Puyallup. I will be speaking to the Puget Sound Anglers group while I'm over there. Then I'll be at the Seattle Boat Show with the folks at Bob Feil Boats and Motors and Jetcraft. I'll have all kinds of great information for you next week!

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