

Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

The Fishin' Magician

What a week for weather. I traveled south to the lower Columbia to fish for springers. I have always experienced heavy rain and high winds when fishing down here. Turns out it was dry, not a drop of rain. Then I return home with plans to get out and get after the walleye on Moses Lake or Banks, and it pours! Go figure. Looking at the forecast, I may not get out till late this week if I don't want to troll in the rain all day.

The trip south was great. Richard Robinson and I had been invited to join Shane Magnuson for a couple of days, and fish along with two of his clients. He had been fishing both off the mouth of the Wind River and at Drano Lake with good success for spring salmon this season. During an after-dinner pow wow Magnuson decided to start the day at Drano. The coffee maker started gurgling at 2:00 a.m. and by 3:00 the lunches had been made and we were headed for the launch. It is important to leave this early for Drano so you can find a place on the water near the launch to meet your clients. Drano is a very busy spot when the springers are in.

Bob and Pete, Magnuson's clients found the boat not long after he had rigged the rods and prepared his baits and we were "on station" and in The Circle near the Highway 14 bridge at 5:10. By 6:00 there were two limits of springers in the fish box. When the bite comes on in the morning at Drano the action is fast and furious, and it's a scramble to get the lines back out as soon as possible.

Bob and Pete were enjoying the day so much that they opted to stay on board and give Richard and myself a chance to get a fish or two before they headed for their motel. Richard obliged



by hooking a dandy springer, only to find it to be an unclipped fish which we released. I soon put a good fish in the box. Not to be outdone, Robinson hooked and landed the biggest fish of the day, weighing close to 18 pounds.

We all agreed that we would repeat our plan the next morning. Seven fish by early afternoon is pretty good fishing at Drano. When we pulled out the fish checked had been on nine boats with a total of 14 fish. We sure had our share.

The next day was a good example of what can happen to even the best of anglers. You just can't count on the Fishing Gods to smile on you two days in a row. We were fishing by 5:00 a.m. and

ready to fill the fish box in short order. The bite came on and the boat next to us hooked a fish that immediately ran under our boat. In shock, Magnuson watched helplessly as the fish swept all but one of our rods into an impossible tangle. He netted and handed over the other angler's fish, moved out of the trolling path, and as quickly as possible got our gear re-assembled. We were able to get one fish to the boat before the bite quit, and it turned out to be wild!

We ground it out with the other boats and when a bite occurred later in the morning we got two fish. Bob and Pete had a long drive home so we called it quits. They had six fillet springers in their cooler when they left. Not bad, when you consider that Bob had made three previous trips to Drano, fishing with other guides, and had not caught a single fish. If you have ever wanted to give the fishing on the lower river a try, this would be an excellent time to go. Fishing off the Wind and at Drano is going great guns and these bright, early-season salmon are a real treat to catch and are claimed to be the best eaters of the season.

Closer to home, two sections of the

Yakima River have opened to springer fishing. Go to the WDFW web site for all the details.

If you haven't heard, the Discover Pass has been approved by the Governor. This pass must be purchased by those who use Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Resources and State Park lands for hunting and fishing. There are some exemptions. "When you buy certain types of hunting and fishing licenses, you will receive a vehicle access pass for WDFW-managed lands and won't need the Discover Pass on those lands. You will still need the Discover Pass to hunt or fish on DNR or State Parks land. Also: "you will not need a Discover Pass to launch your boat from a State Parks boat launch if you have the appropriate permits. You will need the Discover Pass for boat launches managed by DNR and WDFW." Complete information about the new Discover Pass, go the WDFW web site. The cost of the new permit is \$30.00 annually, and will be required to be displayed on your vehicle, starting July 1st.

As I mentioned earlier, my next plan is to get out after walleye. Fishing for these toothy critters is already going strong on Potholes Reservoir, Banks Lake and Moses Lake. I just have to decide which area to try first. I want to fish them all. I also have a catfish trip planned to the Tri-Cities area. This will be a new adventure for me and I can't wait to see what fishing for big cats is all about!

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

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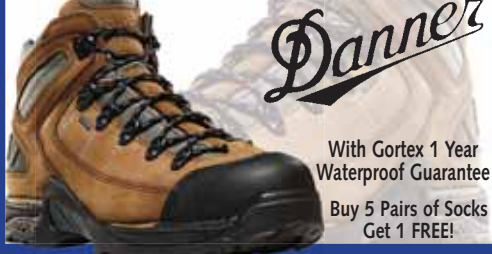
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