

Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

The Fishin' Magician

I made a road trip last Saturday to check on the fishing on the Upper Columbia River. The first stop was at Wells Dam to make a few casts; then I visited with anglers at Rufus Woods Reservoir at a couple of the more popular shore fishing spots. I even found time to run up to Rat Lake at Brewster to check on the ice.

The Columbia is still running high and fast, and that makes it tough for anglers. It is a particular challenge if you are fishing from shore, and even fishing from a boat in the heavy currents can be difficult. Fishing from the bar below Wells Dam was tough. I had fished here earlier with a bobber and jig and this time tried drifting a Corkie in an attempt to slow down my presentation to waiting steelhead. Even that didn't help. I know there are steelhead here and I will be going back in January when the water settles down.

My first stop at Rufus Woods was above the dam at the spot just below the power line. If you take a left on Murphy Road it will lead you right to a parking lot where you will find a nifty rod holder set up and a firebox and picnic table. This is a great spot and the couple that was fishing here when I arrived had two small fish. These were the only fish I saw at Rufus Woods. To reach the launch and the other good shore fishing spots, take the next left on Fisher Road. The fishing at Rufus Woods seems to be good one day and terrible the next. I visited with one group that had caught four nice triploids in two hours a couple of days earlier. On Saturday they had been fishing for four hours at Brandts Landing.

I noticed that there was just one rig parked at the launch at the City Marina at Bridgeport. I could understand why. The current was very heavy and it was also snowing pretty hard. I heard that there were some fish caught in this stretch of the river, but not many anglers were willing to spend much time on the water in these conditions.

Rat Lake should be an excellent winter fishery this year. It was rehabbed a couple of years ago and I have had good reports on the trout fishing during the catch and release season. On December 1st it opened to catch and keep fishing, and will remain under these rules until March 31st. I found the lake beginning to freeze, and with the cold weather in our forecast it may get solid. To reach the lake from Brewster, take a left on 7th Street, at the intersection just past Brewster Drug. Just up the hill bear left on to Paradise Hill Road. It is four miles to the Rat Lake Road, and then another 5.8 miles into the lake. I would recommend four wheel drive vehicles on this road. I didn't have a problem with my Ford F-150 with lots of weight in the back end. When you get a about a mile from the lake be on the look out for a herd of Black Angus cattle. There is a feed lot here and these animals are all over the road.

As we begin the New Year we are going into the "Show Season", with sportsmen's and boat



shows happening as they do every year. If you are interested in a good list of the shows and their schedules, go to my web site, at FishingMagician.com and click on the Pepsi logo on the Home Page. I will be attending a few of these shows and will be spending at least two weekends at the Seattle Boat Show with my friends and sponsors from Bob Feil Boats and Motors and Kingfisher. This show runs from January 25th through February 3rd. I also plan on being at the first-ever Wenatchee Valley Sportsmen's Show which will be at the Town Toyota Center from February 22nd through the 24th. I am hoping to have a new video that will show some of the best fishing in Central Washington to present at this show. If you have a business that should be at the show contact Merle or Bev Shuyler at www.shuylerproductions.com.

I am putting together my new E-Letter on Winter Fishing. I put out these e-letters quarterly and usually have a couple of feature-length articles and other information on a particular season. Apparently people like them. I have over 800 people getting them. The e-letters are sent out to you for free. All you have to do is go to my web site and click on the E-Letter buttons on the Home Page and fill in the blanks.

A new month has begun and there are new programs available on the Fishing and Cooking TV Shows. All of the four new shows can be watched at any time through my web site. Just go to my Home Page, click on Fish or Cooking TV and you will find a page with the shows listed. Just click and watch!

I am already thinking of the warm sunny skies and great fishing in Belize. I still have a couple of spots open for the trip planned for April. If fishing for bonefish, tarpon, permit and other exotic species is something you've always wanted to do, better click on the Travel button my Home Page and get all the details.

I can't tell you how excited I am about the coming year. I have so many great things planned. All the best to all of you for the New Year!

Reach Dave at:
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