

Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

The Fishin' Magician



the Columbia and retreat back into the cooler Columbia River. More and more kings are entering the Brewster Pool every day, and they just keep stacking up in the Columbia. Also, the heavy runoff that had all the dams in the region spilling water has finally slowed. The heavy currents have settled and fishing conditions are much better. The fact that for the first time ever the derby sold its maximum number of tickets also means that the maximum numbers of anglers were on the water fishing this year. Consider all of these things together and you can see why the fishing at this derby was such a success.

Derby organizers once again did an excellent job of putting everything together to make the event run smoothly. There was a brand new double wide launch this year, with a 300-foot dock, that made getting on and off the water much

faster, too. Organizers also got a record amount of sponsor support this year. The total amount of cash and prizes that was handed out was \$26,600. J.D. Smith, organizer and master of ceremony during the awards did a great job of mentioning and thanking all of the sponsors.

Okay, who won? First place for biggest fish was won by Mark Main, with a 32-pound fish. It was turned in on Friday and held its position all weekend. Second place was claimed by Lance Manning with a king weighing 28 pounds, and third place went to John Simmons with a 27-pound fish. The Simmons clan took home a pile of cash. They also won the Individual Daily Sidepot and Team Daily Sidepot on Friday. On day three John won the Individual Daily Sidepot and they took the Team Daily Sidepot. John Simmons also won the Derby Total Weight Sidepot with 121 pounds, 13 ounces! Cody Simmons won the Youth Division with a 22-pound king. I think we will be seeing the Simmons family again next year.

Anglers can expect the salmon fishing in the Brewster Pool to continue to be very good. More and more kings are moving up the Columbia and arriving in Brewster every day, and that thermal barrier will keep them there. Even the fishing in Wenatchee is holding up very well. There were three big kings, the biggest weighing 27 pounds in a cooler at Hooked on Toys on Friday. They were all caught at Walla Walla Point.

There were sockeye caught at Brewster over the weekend, but nothing like the numbers

that were taken on Lake Wenatchee on the Saturday opening day. There were well over 100 boats on Lake Wenatchee, and the creel folks reported that 80 percent of them were coming in with limits of sockeye. The limit on Lake Wenatchee for sockeye was three fish this year, and it's the most generous limit I have ever heard of for this fishery. The skies were clear and waters calm all weekend at the big lake, which made conditions ideal for slow trolling. I fished with my buddy Rollie Schmitt, who lives at "Sockeye Point" on Lake Wenatchee and Dennis Beich, Director of Region 2 for the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Beich's wife Monica and her daughter Elisha also came along and caught their share of sockeye. I joined the same crew on Sunday, and the fishing was just as good as on opening day.

The Lake Wenatchee sockeye are in great condition right now, and we caught several fish in the 25-inch or larger category. About 30,000 fish are expected to pass through Lake Wenatchee this year on their way to the spawning grounds in the White River. Fresh sockeye are entering the lake every day, so fishing should continue to be good and the condition of the fish in the still cool Wenatchee and even colder lake will remain excellent for a longer period of time than usual this year.

What can I say? The fishing is great. Grab your gear and get out there!

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

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