

Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

The Fishin' Magician

My fishing travels took me back to Banks Lake last weekend. I reported on the great time I had there recently walleye fishing. This time I was after smallmouth bass. My wife Eileen and I were joined by Joe Arballo and his wife Roberta, and Roberta's granddaughter who was visiting from Yakima. We hit another great day to be on Banks. It was breezy when we launched, but the wind settled down and we enjoyed a classic July day on the big lake.

My mission was to tape a show on the smallmouth bass fishing, and who better to have along than Arballo. He has taken me to Banks several times over the years. Joe has kind of taken me under his wing and taught me a lot about bass fishing, and Banks isn't the only lake we have explored together. I will blame him for the amount of bass fishing gear that now crowds my garage.

Arballo's wife Roberta is fairly new to bass fishing, and it was to her great pleasure that she landed the first fish of the day. In fact she kept the lead for numbers of fish most of the day, and ultimately captured the honor for largest fish. Unlike Arballo and I, who were alternating between at least two rods and experimenting with different baits and lures, Roberta stuck with the same pearl blue Senko and fished with great effect, throughout the day.

We started in the canyons that are found to the northwest of Steamboat Rock. They are great places to start a bass fishing outing on Banks. They always produce fish and sometimes even provide shelter from the wind. The shorelines on the west side of the canyons are steep rock that drops quickly into depths of 30 feet or more. We cast our lures

close to shore and into small niches in the rock faces or shale slides. There are many sunken rocks off these steep drops, too, and all of them can produce smallmouth at one time or another. We all got lots of strikes in these canyons, and landed some smaller fish of a pound or more.

After fishing through two of these canyons we headed across Barker Flats to the opposite shore. In the spring and early summer Barker Flats wouldn't be skipped. This is where many bass anglers will focus their attention when the smallmouth are on their beds. There are acres of great fishing for bedding fish on Barker Flats, but the warmer weather finally moved the fish off these flats.

The shoreline here is not sheer rock walls as in the canyons. It does drop off to over 20 feet a cast-and-a-half from shore. There is a lot of broken rock that has sloughed off the bank, and lures placed among this rubble can get stuck easily. It is best to put the lure right at the break to depth. The fish will come out and get them.

Joe Arballo tried some crawfish imitating lures. I caught a couple on a diving Shad Rap. Roberta kept with the same pearl blue Senko along here, and it produced the biggest fish of the day, and her biggest bass ever. Patience pays.

It was about then that my wife noticed strange behavior from Roberta's granddaughter. She was a very polite and quiet 16-year-old. So quiet that she hadn't complained when she didn't feel well. My wife immediately recognized early stage heat stroke.

She got her feet in a bucket of cool water, draped with damp towels and got some sport drink, loaded with electrolytes into her. She immediately responded, but it was time to get off the water and out of the heat.

The timing was perfect, too. We had had a great day on Banks. We had constant action, and although most of the fish were the 10- to 12-inchers that abound in the lake, Roberta had her biggest-ever fish to brag about.

One of the biggest surprises anglers have seen in many years is the strength of the return of sockeye to the Columbia River. Locally, we were excited when we got a sockeye season on Lake Wenatchee a couple of years ago, the first in four years. We were astonished when we got another one the following year. This was unprecedented to my recollection. This year we are seeing an all-time record return of sockeye; the biggest since 1947. That year 335,000 were recorded over Bonneville Dam. When I last checked the dam count 384,000 had crossed over Bonneville and they are still coming at a rate of at least 1,000 per day. The largest number to ever pass over Bonneville was hit this year, with 30,690 sockeye counted in one day! This return is a surprise to everyone, including fish managers, who are pointing to excellent ocean conditions, increased spill at John Day and McNary dams, excellent juvenile survival and other factor to



account for the record numbers. Bottom line, it looks like we will have another sockeye season on Lake Wenatchee; the third year in a row. Wow.

Anglers are already reaping the benefits of this fantastic return. Six-fish limits are being taken off the mouth of the Okanogan, and the sockeye fishing below Wells Dam isn't bad either. I hope the bite holds up until I can get there. I sure like to fill a cooler with these prized fish.

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

VALLEY MARINE
For Boats & ATV's
Shop Online 24/7
www.yvmarine.com
866-888-1021

1904 Fruitvale Blvd in Yakima



**New 550cc EFI
4x4 Automatic**

\$6,599

or **\$141** per month
\$0 down **1.9%** 60 mos. OAC



**New 1650 Renegade Sport
With Mercury F50 EFI**

\$16,995

or **\$169** per month
Tax and license down **6.5%** 144 mos. OAC

To Advertise Here
Contact:
Bill Hansen
at the
Nickel Ads
662-1405
For More Information

Trinity Fishing Tackle Outlet
Cast Your Eyes On This!
Custom, Hand Tied Walleye Rigs In Various Colors
1630 N. Wenatchee Avenue, Suite #13 (509) 888-6675
MONDAY - SATURDAY 9AM - 6PM • IN THE RED APPLE CENTER NEXT TO GROCERY OUTLET

For Huntin', Hikin', or Fishin'
Radical 453 Danner
With Gortex 1 Year Waterproof Guarantee
NEAL'S FAMILY SHOES & REPAIR
662-8472
811. S. Wenatchee Ave
Open: Sat. 8-4 • Tues.-Fri 8-6

EVINRUDE
Get an Early Start!
15-300 HP
REPOWER WITH EVINRUDE!
Lyle's Boats & Motors Inc.
(509) 663-5191 • (800) 750-2318
5970 Sunburst Lane Cashmere

Huge Selection of Used 5th Wheels In Stock Now!



- 1984 Alpenlite 24'
- 1987 Layton 22'
- 1995 Alpenlite 1 Slide 30'
- 1997 Savanna 1 Slide 30'
- 2000 Montana 2850 2 Slides 29'
- 2001 Cougar 2 Slides (279 EFS) 29'
- 2001 Signature 2 Slides 28'
- 2005 Montana 2 Slides 30'
- 2006 Montana 3475 3 Slides 35'
- 2006 Gear Box (Fleetwood) 33'
- 2008 Cougar 278 Slide 28'

WWW.DLSRV.COM • 800-280-0851
SALES: 509.662.1668 • SERVICE: 662.1667 • PARTS: 662.1660

D&L's R.V. CENTER
Sales • Service • Parts