Welcoming Dave Graybi agicia

There's all kinds of good news to report on the fishing here in Central Washington, and there are a couple of special events coming up that anglers and their families will enjoy, too. The weather is even heading in the right direction, making time on the water even more enjoyable now that summer has finally arrived.

Summer run salmon fishing is starting to heat up as the fish counts have taken a real turn for the better. Already over 25,000 summer runs have passed over Priest Rapids Dam, and over a thousand a day are going over the dams from Rocky Reach to Wells. The first kings of the season were taken earlier this week in the Brewster Pool, and now that the sockeye fishing has opened, this will be a great area to look for some action.

Extremely heavy river flows have closed the ramp at Wells Dam since the beginning of the summer run season. The ramp is to be opened by July 22nd, and although flows continue to be very heavy, they have moderated a little. I would check on the progress of getting that ramp open before I plan a trip to Wells. When I last looked at it there was quite a bit of work to do, and the water was so high in the launch bay that the old fish ladder was completely under water. Fishing above Rocky Reach Dam is looking attractive with the big jump in the fish counts. Remember, you will need the new Discover Pass and pay a launch fee when you use Lincoln Park. Fishing can be good in the early morning here

near the net pens is much better. You can catch fish, and some dandies a few miles above Chief Joseph Dam, but the action is much faster if you launch at Seatons Grove.

I have had good success trolling in some of the bays above the upper pens, and even trolled below the lower pens. A really great way to catch these aggressive triploids is the dead drift jigs. Instead of pulling up next to the pens and risking snapping the nets, most anglers are just running to the top end of the Nespelem Bar, shutting off the motor and casting their jigs any direction from the boat. You just "walk" the jig back to the boat and cast again. I have had these trout inhale these jigs. Sure, you miss some hits, but the bites are so frequent and hard you'll get your two fish limit in no

I usually set my drift in about 30 feet of water and reset when the water drops below that at the bottom end. I used ¼-ounce Max-Jigs with the barbs pinched down and they get to the bottom fast in the current. There is good bottom here and I haven't lost a jig yet.

I don't care what species you like to fish for, mark your calendar for July 29th, 30th and 31st and plan to come to Hooked on Toys in Wenatchee. The Berkley Experience Trailer is back again this year, and if you were there last year you'll know are super deals on all kinds of tackle and while the trailer is there if you buy something, and I mean about anything, you'll get something for free. This

gear. The guys that come along with the trailer really know their stuff and you'll get great answers to your questions. In addition to the Berkley Experience Trailer, the folks from Scotty Downriggers will be there over the weekend, and Bob Feil Boats and Motors will have some of their fishing boats on display. I plan to be there throughout the weekend myself, and will be happy to talk fishing and tell you all about the Bob Feil Jeftcraft I have been driving this year.

If you have under the age of 15, you'll want to bring them to Leavenworth this weekend. The Icicle Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is having their annual

Kids Trout Derby at the Juvenile Pond on Blackbird Island. The pond is absolutely loaded with fish, so the kids will be sure to have a great time catching them, and they can enter a drawing for a ten speed bike valued at over \$350.00. There will be lots of other prizes handed out, too. This is a bring your own tackle affair, but there will be TU volunteers on hand to make sure you catch fish, and there will be

feed. Fish Lake is famous for its summer time perch bite and it has started. As many anglers know periwinkles are great bait for perch, but with the rivers so high it's hard to get at them. I have been told that anglers are getting their 25-fish limits of fat perch with chunks of nightcrawler.

Boy oh boy, there are sure lots of things to do. I haven't even mentioned the great bass and



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