Welcoming Dave Gray bill To The Nickel Ads The Its Internal Adaptation of the Nickel Ads Fall run salmon are rushing up the Columbia Fall run salmon are rushing up the Columbia

Fall run salmon are rushing up the Columbia River and anglers in our region are heading them off down river from the Wenatchee area. The popular areas below Wanapum Dam, Priest Rapids Dam, and in the holes at White Bluffs are getting busy as the counts indicate that there are plenty of fish up stream now. As many as 18,000 fall runs have passed over Bonneville in the past week, and most of them are headed our way.

Since I haven't been able to get down there myself, I checked in with Shane Magnuson, Upper Columbia Guide Service, asking if he was doing any good. He immediately sent a photo to my phone of a salmon that must have weighed 30 pounds. I guess there are enough fish around to keep him and his clients happy.

I know he will be bouncing around from Wanapum to White Bluffs and below Priest Rapids looking for the best bite. It's no secret what he will be using in the White Bluffs area and below Wanapum Dam. Like most anglers he will be trolling Super Baits and Super Bait Plug Cut lures behind flashers. The water in both of these areas lends themselves to trolling, and these lures are very effective. They can also be used in the King Hole above the Vernita Bridge below Priest Rapids Dam. There are some very big fish taken in the eleven-mile stretch from the bridge to the dam. In fact the biggest kings I have ever caught came from this area.

Years ago my brother Rick introduced me to fishing at Vernita. He, my cousin Greg Preston and I fished for three days down there and it was amazing. Not only did we catch good numbers of kings we caught some



huge fish. Over the three days we landed four that were 48 inches long and 35 inches in girth. There was someone on shore with a scale that went to 50 pounds, and the first one we caught bottomed it out! Fishing in the fall down here is very exciting. One of these monsters can latch onto your plug at any time. We caught some sturgeon, too, and anyone that thinks landing one of these fish is like reeling in a boot hasn't ever hooked one.

Fishing below Wanapum has its surprises, too. I was fishing with Magnuson and his friend Dan Schliefers we had a great day landing some nice kings. We were off the mouth of Crab Creek, down below the railroad bridge, and were getting drowsy as the sun had come out and it was getting pretty warm. One of the rods went down,

popped off the rigger and before we knew it had taken about 50 yards of line off the reel. Then it turned and ran back toward us. Dan started cranking as fast as he could and somehow caught up with the fish. I couldn't believe the speed and power of this fish. When we got it in the net and weighed it, it tipped the scale at 38 pounds! It was sleek and bright. I hope to hook one like this myself this year.

Again, fishing with Magnuson at White Bluffs his buddy Dan Redifer from Yakima hooked a fish I will never forget. It took off down stream about 40 yards and then came up to the surface. It ran in an arc on the surface all the way back up stream, crossed behind the boat, then came toward us and passed right behind the outboard motor and zoomed down stream again. It was an amazing sight, and one that I captured on video. I hope you caught the show last month. If not you can bet it will be shown again.

These are just a couple of my experiences with the exciting days I have had fishing these great fall salmon locations. I hope to get some more material this year. I am traveling down to the Columbia River Gorge for a couple of days, and then I am going to fish off the Oregon Coast. When I get back you can bet I am going to be making plans to get down river and see if I can tangle with some big fall kings.

I'll be cutting my travels short as The Wenatchee River Salmon Festival is coming up on the weekend. I want to get back in time to help get things set up, and as you know this event is by far my favorite each year. It has everything I like about an outdoor, educational festival. Lots of great things to see and do for families that attend. I think I could just walk around and watch the kids all weekend. They are having a blast.

I will be there with my Jet Craft boat from Bob Feil Boats and Motors, answering questions and listening to fishing stories. I love it. I should mention that I am being honored this year, being named the Volunteer of the Year. The core team surprised me with the announcement at one of our planning meetings and it floored me. They couldn't believe that something actually made me speechless! I am very honored believe me.

I will remind you all once again that Salmon Fest will begin on Saturday, September 22nd, with the gates at the National Fish Hatchery in Leavenworth opening at 10 a.m. The festival continues the following day with the same hours. Get there early. You'll be amazed at how much there is to see and do. There will be more food vendors than ever before this year, too, so bring your appetite. Be sure to visit the new Long House in the Native American Village.

While I am away I will be learning some new fishing techniques and seeing some new products. I will be sharing what I learn when I return, so stay tuned!

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

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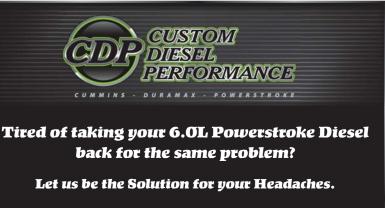
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