

Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

The Fishin' Magician

Seriously cold weather is bringing out the serious anglers. Few steelheaders are braving the chilly conditions, but ice fishing is attracting anglers to several lakes in the region. We can expect a break in the very cold weather soon, but until then it might be time to give ice fishing a try.

One of the lakes that offers ice fishing opportunity is Fish Lake, near Lake Wenatchee. This is always popular in the winter. It is close to many anglers, just 20 miles from my driveway, and the main attraction are the perch that inhabit the lake. I made the drive up there this past Sunday. I wanted to confirm that the ice was good enough to walk on, and to see what people were catching.

This is the first weekend that ice fishing was possible at Fish Lake, and there was a pretty good crowd turned out. The weather was perfect. It was crystal clear with sunshine to take the edge off the 18-degree temperature, and no wind. There were anglers crouched over holes all over the lake.

The first group I encountered had an interesting mixed bag of fish. On the ice were some big suckers, a chub that looked like a peamouth to me, some perch and a big triploid rainbow. The rainbow looked like it must have weighed at least 4 pounds. The trout must have been quite a surprise, but I heard from another group of one other triploid being taken through the ice.

One of my favorite lakes in the winter is Patterson, near Winthrop. I am sure that there is good ice here, and I can't wait to get up there. The lake produces very good catches of yellow perch, and I have caught many that were 10 and 11 inches. It may sound funny, but we are "bothered" by trout while fishing

for perch. There are lots of 12-inch rainbow in the lake, and we have even caught them to 15 or 16 inches while fishing for perch at Patterson.

One of the lakes to keep an eye on this ice fishing season is Roses Lake. It always gets a good shot of catchable rainbow in the late fall, and can offer excellent fishing through the ice. There should be a solid cap on the lake by now, but I will be checking with my scouts in the area and confirm that there is thick enough ice for fishing.

I got a call from one of my contacts in Moses Lake, who promised to let me know when the ice got good on Moses Lake. It is. He had a super day ice fishing for perch, getting a limit with the perch running 10 to 13 inches and one was 16 inches. There were also some very nice walleye taken through the ice as well.

If the cold weather isn't enough to keep steelhead anglers at home, the ice flowing in the rivers should. The Wenatchee is really "unfishable" right now, due to the amount of ice that is floating on the surface of the river. This would frustrate even the most die hard of steelhead anglers that like to fish the rivers this time of year. You can bet that the Methow is



frozen from bank to bank in many stretches right now.

The upper Columbia is loaded with steelhead, and this is one of my favorite months to fish the big river. However, I have found that when the temperatures dip

below 25 degrees I spend more time cracking ice out of my guides than fishing effectively. Once it warms up I have had terrific luck fishing for steelhead in January.

Knowing that there are at least two more months of really good steelhead fishing ahead of us in Central Washington, the timing for the appearance of Buzz Ramsey at Town Ford for a seminar on steelhead fishing is pretty good. I am very pleased that Ramsey agreed to visit our area. He is a busy guy. I really appreciate that he found time to visit here in between the many fishing shows that he attends this time of year. He has a terrific Power Point presentation prepared for us, and you'll want to see it. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 12th. The seminar will be at Town Ford at 1001 Miller Street, and will begin at 6 p.m.

Also good timing is the appearance of Anton Jones, Darrell and Dads Family Guide Service, the same evening. Three of the last four state records for rainbow trout have been set on Rufus Woods in the month of January. Jones has been guiding on Rufus Woods for years, and he also has a Power Point presentation prepared for us. This is the peak for fishing on the big reservoir for big triploid rainbow trout.

While I am on the topic of seminars, I want to mention that Doug Arnold, the founder of Arnold Arms and the inventor of over 10 different production calibers will teaching a class at High Mountain Hunting Supply. He will be offering a course on basic reloading, arms care and accuracy techniques. The seminar will be held on Saturday, January 22nd, starting at 2 p.m.

To learn more about fishing on our area waters and some tips on cooking in the outdoors, be sure to check the line up of Fishing and Cooking TV Shows that will air in January. Go to my Fishing and Cooking TV pages on FishingMagician.com to see the schedules for the month.

I hope to see you at the seminar, if not, on the ice fishing lakes and steelhead waters of the region real soon!

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