

# Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

## The Fishin' Magician

This is going to be a busy weekend. Anglers are going to be scattered from Bridgeport to White Bluffs on the Columbia River. They will be chasing summer-run and fall-run salmon, and steelhead. I expect to see a fair number of anglers out on the Wenatchee, Methow and Entiat rivers, too. Steelhead fishing hasn't been hot, but the fishermen have the fever and they want to hook up with some of the early arriving fish.

The biggest crowd will be at the National Fish Hatchery in Leavenworth. As many as 10,000 people will be there to attend the 20th Anniversary of the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival. The weekend will be packed with activities that families have enjoyed year after year. As each year has passed the organizers and partners in Salmon Fest have added more things that showcase the natural wonders that we enjoy here, and hands-on learning experiences

that kids of all ages enjoy.

I discovered Salmon Fest over ten years ago, and I was so taken by what was happening here that I just kept coming back. I would bring my boat and just hang out; talking to people and watching kids and their families participate in various activities offered. I am still doing it. I mark my calendar for Salmon Fest weekend every year and forget fishing and everything else and just go enjoy the sights and sounds of Salmon Fest.

The gates open to the public at 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and did I mention that everything at Salmon Fest is FREE? That's right, a whole day of fun at no charge, and believe me it will be a full day.

The fish painting station is one of the first things that you will encounter when passing through the gates, and your kids will want to stop here. After the "art" piece has been created it is carefully hung to dry and to be picked on the way home. The Story Telling Tent is also a big hit, and before you even enter it you'll see the original art that is created in chalk on the sidewalk in front of the main hatchery building. Across the way you'll see the brand new, giant aquarium. This was built just for Salmon Fest and is portable so that it can be used at other sites like it. What I have just described could

keep a family busy for an hour and they haven't even fully entered the complex! But wait—there's more!

Right next to the new aquarium is the entrance to the Outdoor Recreation Area. This part of the Salmon Fest grounds are dedicated to showing families what kinds of fun they can have in the outdoors. This includes activities like fly casting and fly tying, kayaking, archery, pellet gun target shooting, snowshoeing, rafting, and even taking a spin on a peddle-powered go-cart. Kids will not just see these activities but actually pick up a paddle and get in a kayak or strap on a pair of snowshoes and take a stroll in them. They will be able to do all of these things—for free. There will be scheduled presentations on a special stage set up in the Outdoor Recreation Area on Saturday and Sunday, too.

There is a full slate of entertainment scheduled for the main stage again this year. Everything from Reptile Man to the Cody Beebe and the Crooks band will appear. There are some very special performances planned and you'll want to pick up a copy of the "O-Fish-At" program or visit [www.salmonfest.org](http://www.salmonfest.org) to check it all out. Don't forget about the Native American Village! A new tule mat longhouse has been constructed this year and there will be lots of dancing and art displays. Salmon Fest is truly a special event, and I hope you will come out and help celebrate its 20th Anniversary.

I'm not sure if I shared with everyone my experience on the San Poil and Kettle rivers.

My wife and I like to get up to the Republic area and fish these two streams in the fall. The San Poil flows south from Republic and enters the Colville Indian Reservation, and eventually flows in to the Lake Roosevelt at the San Poil Arm. It is a small stream and loaded with rainbow. My wife finally got a chance to put down the video camera and do some fly-fishing, and she had a blast. She caught and released over 30 small rainbow during our day on the San Poil. The Kettle River is a much larger stream and has larger fish. I have caught both rainbow and browns on the Kettle. On this last trip I caught only rainbow and up to 14 inches and some whitefish, but what keeps me coming back is that I have hooked and lost or been broken off by much larger fish.

I hope you're planning to attend the seminar at Town Ford on Wednesday, September 22nd, beginning at 6 p.m. Shane Magnuson will be there talking about his proven bobber and jig techniques, and we are lucky to get another great speaker at the seminar; Brian Nielson of BJ's Guide Service. He has been featured on Fishing the West, Columbia Country and American Fisherman. He has also been featured in many newspaper and magazine articles and has been on the Pro Staff with Hyde Drift Boat for eight years. Nielson will describe his proven techniques for pulling plugs. It's going to be great. I hope to see you there.

Reach Dave at:  
[www.FishingMagician.com](http://www.FishingMagician.com)  
or [Fishboy@nwi.net](mailto:Fishboy@nwi.net)

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