

Dave Graybill

The Fishin' Magician

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Wow, have I had a week, spending two days fishing with Austin Moser at Buoy 10 and then taking my daughter to Banks Lake. I had spectacular fishing at both locations. The kings and coho are pouring up the Columbia River. The walleye fishing at Banks Lake was the best I've ever had.

Austin Moser, of Austin's Northwest Adventures, and his able assistant for the day Aaron Peterson, had a boat load of clients on Tuesday of last week and I jumped on board with my video camera. For those who are not familiar with the area Buoy 10 is at the mouth of the Columbia River. Anglers will launch to fish the area from locations like Ilwaco and Chinook, Washington or Astoria, Oregon. We started our day just below the bridge to Astoria, which is best known for good king fishing. We found the kings alright, but we had a tough time getting them in the boat. This is a barbless hook fishery so tight lines are a must. We did put two nice kings in the boat before we headed for another area closer to the mouth of the river that commonly produces good catches of coho. They were there, too, but we had the same issues in terms of putting them in the boat. We lost a bunch of coho and even a dandy king here. I took the rod once and landed not a coho, but a hatchery steelhead. These are allowed to be kept down here. When we headed for the dock we had a total of two nice kings, two coho and a steelhead. Not bad given the number

of fish that threw the hooks.

The next morning we were back at the launch in Chinook to give it another go. This time we were joined by Mike McKee, of Mike's Meats and Zack from Bob Feil Boats and Motors. We ran way above the Astoria Bridge where Moser had learned the king bite was terrific the day before. We got into fish right away. Zack's rod went off and in spite of the fact that he was wearing a knee brace from a very recent ACL surgery, landed a king of over 20 pounds. We next hooked a double and when one line parted as the fish crossed over the Fish Flash we still put another big king in boat. I grabbed the next rod that bounced and what a fight I had. The fish tore down river and then turned and went right by the boat at about 30 miles an hour. It finally lost some steam and I was able to bring it to the net. This turned out to be a king of over 30 pounds! We were soon limited on kings so we headed back

down river and up to the spot where we hooked all the coho the day before. We did so well on the kings we were early to this spot, which really lights up when the tide turns. We trolled around and trolled around. Everyone was jockeying for position for when the tide would turn. when got some current the bite would get going. When it did it was just like the day before, fast and furious. Now we were having trouble putting fish in the boat and decided to head for the dock two short of our limits. Thing was we had five kings and two coho to clean, which was going to take a while. Most of us had to head back home and for me this was a six-hour drive. Anyway, this was the best fishing I have ever experienced down here. Moser has it figured out, that's for sure. This is the hottest part of this season and he has a couple of dates available. If you want to get in on the action I would call immediately. Austin Moser's number is 509-668-0298.

When my daughter visits in the summer we always go up to Banks Lake. We usually fish for smallmouth bass, but I had such a good day of walleye fishing the week before I suggested we try for them. She had never caught a walleye and was willing to try. We put the lines out and in about ten minutes had on a double. Turned out her fish was a 26-inch walleye that gave her a heck of a fight. So, on her first walleye trip the first walleye she caught was a huge one. She was thrilled. The

fishing was great. We caught walleye and smallmouth bass at an amazing rate. I was trolling Shad Raps that dive to 12 feet, near the mid way boat ramp on Banks and tried to keep the boat in about 15 feet of water. Actually, the hot rod was my Fetha Styx Homewater bass rod with a Frenzy plug of the same size as the Shad Raps. This one definitely out fished the other rods on this particular day. We got walleye of 26 inches, 24 inches and others that were 13 to 14 inches. The smallmouth were from 10 inches to a couple of pounds. We got one rainbow, too. I want to let everyone know that the mid way launch is narrow and very shallow and was tight for my 20-foot Kingfisher. Just take care and keep your big motor up when launching and getting your boat back on the trailer. The far left slot is the best to avoid pulling a bunch of weeds up with your trailer, too. Also, there are mosquitoes here and be sure to apply repellent when you get there and when you come off the water.

I was planning on getting back out on Potholes soon, but the way that Banks is fishing I think we might go back up there. My wife Eileen and I want to ride this wave as long as I can. It is so much fun!

Reach Dave at:
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