



Dave Graybill

The Fishin' Magician

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I was on the road again this week. This time I spent Thursday and Friday at the Washington Sportsmen's Show in Puyallup, and then spent the better part of Saturday at the Seattle Boat Show. I saw most everyone that I had wanted to catch up with at the sports show, and was able to spend some time with Mark Delaney from Kingfisher at the boat show.

The Washington Sportsmen's Show is the biggest outdoor show of its kind in Washington State, and once again the Puyallup Fair Grounds was packed with exhibitors. There was a good showing of manufacturers and more fishing and hunting lodges and destination exhibits than I have ever seen before. There was a very good showing of hunting and guide services at the show, too. Attendance appeared to be very good the two days I was there, and most of vendors I spoke to were pleased with the turnout.

This show is like the shows in Eastern Washington. They are like a reunion of sorts. There are many people I see here that I get to see only once or twice a year. It is a perfect place to catch up with many friends of mine in the general business of fishing and the media.

As many of you may know the Seattle Boat Show is the largest of its kind on the West Coast. The number of boat manufacturers there is enormous, and there are over 1,000 boats on display at the CenturyLink Convention Center and even more that you can see via regular shuttle service to Lake Union. Here the really big boats, some over 100 feet are displayed on the water. In addition to the boats there are incredible numbers of



exhibitors of boating accessories, fishing and hunting destinations and fishing products.

Most everyone I saw at the Puyallup show was going to the biggest sport show on the West Coast. This is the Pacific Northwest Sportsman's Show and Sport Fishing and Boat Show in Portland taking place from February 4th through the 8th. It is held at the Portland Expo Center. Some of these same people will be also heading for the Central Washington Sportsmen's Show in Yakima. This show has been going on for a long time and is very popular with people in Eastern Washington. It is held at the Sundome from February 20th through the 22nd. You can find a link to both of these show and other events by going to my web site at FishingMagician.com and clicking on the Anglers Calendar Page.

A show that fly fishers will want to know about is the Fly Fishing Show that will be held at the Lynnwood Convention Center on

February 14th and 15th. There will be two days of seminars, demonstrations and exhibitors for local fly fishing trips and some to exotic locations. You can learn more about this show by logging on www.flyfishingshow.com/lynnwood-wa/.

You don't need to be in the market for a boat to have a great time at the Seattle Boat Show. The variety of boats you can see is amazing and some of the products are very unusual. Every year I see something that is being introduced for the first time at the boat show. I have seen personal submarines, jet packs that allow you to fly over the water and even personal hydroplanes for promotional purposes. This year the thing that stopped me in my tracks was a two passenger airplane that was designed to allow you to explore lakes and rivers by air and then set it down to go fish. It even had folding wings so you could moor it in a slip at a marina. Very cool.

The Seattle Boat Show is a long one. It started last week but will remain open until Sunday, February 1st. I wouldn't expect attendance to be very good on the last day of the show. It just happens to coincide with Super Bowl Sunday. Go Hawks!

I have to say that the mood at both of these shows was very upbeat. The state of the economy and gas prices has everyone very optimistic about the coming year. Combine this with the great projections for good returns to the Columbia River for our salmon it could be an outstanding season.

Anglers who like to fish the Tocannon River

for steelhead should be aware of some new regulations. All adipose clipped steelhead must be retained and all wild steelhead must be immediately released, and barbless hooks must be used. Anglers may retain up to 15 whitefish and two hatchery steelhead a day. These rules are in effect until February, 28th, and the river closes to fishing on March 1st. Please refer to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the specific boundaries for this fishery.

Trout fishing on the Naches River in Yakima County has been a favorite of fly anglers for many years, and they will be pleased with the adoption of a new regulation on the stream. Catch-and-release fishing on the Naches is now required from Rattlesnake Creek all the way upstream. The trout season is from the first Saturday in June through October 31st.

Also, kokanee and sockeye salmon anglers will be in favor of the new rules on Cle Elum Lake. The size and daily catch limits will be adjusted to help restore the sockeye run that is being attempted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Yakima Tribe. The daily limits for eastern brook, brown trout and lake trout have been removed.

I haven't had a line in the water this week so I am getting twitchy. I am going to get out somewhere this week and do something. Maybe to try steelhead from the shore at Wells Dam, or Rocky Ford for big trout on a fly. Heck, maybe both!

Reach Dave at:
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