

Dave Graybill

The Fishin' Magician

Nickel Ads
Classifieds

I have had a couple of good bank fishing trips to Lake Roosevelt, and those trips inspired me to have the folks at Bob Feil's put the cover on the Kingfisher so I could take the boat. I had Eric Granstrom along with his video gear, and Shane Magnuson brought his side planers, so we would have a good shot at the shallow trout and kokanee.

I thought that I had picked a good weather window, but there was snow in Wenatchee when we picked up Eric, and there was even more snow on the ground at Coulee Dam. Fortunately, the ramp at the Spring Canyon Park had been plowed and sanded, so we had no problem getting out on the water.

There was a stiff breeze blowing, but we had the bow mount down and the kicker going, so boat control wasn't an issue. We got all our gear out, which included two side planers, two downriggers and a middle rod that we used to flat line a plug way back behind the boat. From what I had learned, the trick to getting fish at this time of year is to put your baits way back behind the boat. The fish are in the very top of the water column and we didn't fish any deeper than 10 to fifteen feet.

We put bright orange, F7 Rapalas out on the side planers, dodgers and hoochie rigs on the downriggers and a large purpledescent plug on the middle rod. We put a hundred feet of line from the clip on the side planers and eighty feet behind the downriggers. The hoochies were baited with corn and everything got a dose of Graybill's Guide Formula Kokanee scent.

I ran us down the shoreline toward the dam. I tried to

keep us in 30 to 50 feet of water. This is where I had fished from shore, and had seen boats trolling here with success, too. However, this produced zip. Granstrom had noticed a fish jump out toward the middle of the reservoir, so we headed that direction. When we got out here, things changed for the better. We began getting hits and landed some nice rainbow, but then a snowstorm hit.

It was a wet snow and combined with the wind it was darn cold. We could have stuck it out, but visibility was so bad that when we headed in I steered toward the dam, rather than the launch! We made it back safely and were all glad when we reached the warmth of our rooms at Coulee House Inn and Suites in Coulee Dam. This is where I always stay when fishing in this area. It is only two miles from the south end of the town of Coulee Dam to the launch at Spring Canyon, and just six miles to the Seaton Grove launch at the top end of Rufus Woods Reservoir.

What a difference a day makes. In the morning we were greeted with sunshine and calm water. We made our way to the launch through the fresh snow, put the boat in the water and went right out to where we found the fish the day before. We were geared up the same way and found the bite much better. We started landing rainbow right away. The most productive lures turned out to be the orange Rapalas,



but we did get a few on the purpledescent flat lined lure. I was running this on a new 10-foot rod from Fetha Styx and it worked out to be perfect for this. It had a soft enough tip to see that the plug was working and made landing the rainbow that ranged from 14 to 17 inches really fun. I am going to find many uses for this rod, one of several I have from Fetha Styx. If you are not familiar with this rod manufacturer, check them

out at www.fethastyx.com.

The downriggers had been fairly quiet on the second day, so I decided to change things up. I wanted to see if we could get some kokanee, and although we had run some small hoochies, I put on some of my standard sockeye gear. This included a size 0 dodger and a Macks Lure Sockeye Rig. I had picked up a tub of nightcrawlers and folded a whole worm on the top hook. I made sure that I gave the bait a good squirt of the Graybill's scent, and put them back out. The trout liked them! Now we were getting fish on the downriggers as well as the side planers.

Now we were really cooking. We were getting a lot of action now, and guess what? Here came another snow storm. We had enough of fishing in the snow from the day before, so we tore everything down and headed in. We had a total of a dozen of these Lake Roosevelt rainbow in the

cooler when we left, and the second day on the water made us all eager to get back up here. If you want to see what our experience was like, you can log onto the Fishing TV Page on my web site (FishingMagician.com), and watch the video that Granstrom produced.

One thing I want to mention is that if you put your top up on your boat, be careful with the propane heater. You need to have plenty of ventilation if you are using a standard heater. Carbon monoxide poisoning is a serious concern. Check the warnings on the one that you are using, or don't use it at all if you have your cabin totally enclosed.

On our way home we stopped by Coulee City Marina to see if there were perch being taken through the ice there. Sure enough, there was one angler on the marina ice and he had several perch. When we got out on the highway, though, we noticed that there were a bunch of cars parked out on the new dike and there was a large group of anglers fishing on the ice from the point. I know the water isn't very deep there and it appears this is where most of the perch are hanging out.

If you don't have it on your calendar, the annual Tri-Cities Sportsmen's Show kicks off this Friday and runs through Sunday. This is a favorite of mine and if you haven't been to this one I know you'll enjoy it.

I finally got a good report on the fishing at the bottom end of Rufus Woods, and that's where I am going next!

Reach Dave at:
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