

Dave Graybill

The Fishin' Magician

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Our fall weather continues to be warm and dry, and I have been taking advantage of it. I was invited to fish at Potholes Reservoir this past week, and I also made another trip up to Bridgeport to do some salmon fishing.

When Mike McKee, of Mike's Meats and Seafood, invited me to join he and his friend Lloyd Woodard at Potholes Reservoir to do some walleye fishing I jumped at the chance. Potholes has been great all year and I wanted to see if the fall fishing was holding up. While I waited for the boat to be backed down at the launch at Mar Don Resort, Shelby Ross, of Ross Outdoor Adventures, pulled up in his boat. He was grinning from ear to ear, and I learned why. Not only has he been limiting on walleye on a regular basis, he had put a 13-pound walleye in the boat the day before, his largest of the season!

McKee pointed the boat toward the dunes in the center of the reservoir and we began trolling. Shelby Ross had mentioned that he had switched from trolling crank baits to fishing with Slow Death Hook rigs, so that's what we decided to do. I got a nice 20-inch walleye right away, and then I watched McKee and Woodard catch fish. One of the first fish that Woodard landed was a big largemouth bass. It must have weighed over 4 pounds. We got several bass, a few perch and a couple of catfish while we trolled in this area. The bottom is rolling dunes here and the depth changes constantly. We caught walleye of 13 to 14 inches in this area. Late in the morning Woodard's rod folded over and he was into a very good fish, and we didn't know what kind until it was right next to the boat. It was a big walleye, and it



went crazy when it came to the surface. I stabbed at it with the net and missed it a couple of times. All of a sudden the hook came flying out of the fish. Miracles do happen. I made one last lunge with the net and caught the fish in the air! Woodard slapped me on the back, saying "Dave you are my hero!" It was a great day on Potholes, and there should be a lot more this fall, as long as the wind is calm and the weather not too chilly. We were having good fishing here even in February last winter, though, so we'll see what happens.

On Thursday I took a couple of the guys from the sales staff at Bob Feil Boats and Motors up to Bridgeport. I wanted to show Marcos and Zak how the Minn Kota Ultrerra electric motor worked, and how I often use it in conjunction with the Mercury kicker motor. I showed them how the Scotty downriggers worked and how the Kingfisher 2025 with the off shore bracket performed. Everything

worked. I started with Super Baits and flashers and we put two fish in the boat. Then I switch to Flatfish 5.0 plugs and back trolled. We put two more fish in the boat. The weather was beautiful and it was a great day to be out on the water learning how to salmon fish on the Columbia River. I particularly got a kick out of watching Marcos, who had never caught a salmon, wrestle with two kings that were over 20 pounds. They gave him a good battle and about wore him out!

If you are not familiar with the Moses Lake based organization known as Youth Outdoors Unlimited, I suggest that you go to their web site, www.youthoutdoorsu.org and check it out. This group is dedicated to providing young people with a range of physical and other challenges the opportunity to have hunting and fishing experiences. They have had tremendous success and have a long list of heart warming accomplishments with young people, thanks to the help of many outdoors people. They are having their first fund raising auction in the Tri-Cities. It will take place at the Red Lion in Pasco on Saturday, October 10th. They are already receiving applications from youth for the 2016 season, and funds gathered at this auction will make more outdoor wishes come true. To learn more about the event contact Cindy Carpenter at 509-431-1604.

The grand opening for the new Wanapum Heritage Center, located near Priest Rapids Dam, is Thursday, Oct. 15 at 10 a.m. Following a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the center will open to the public with all-new exhibits and displays to demonstrate the Wanapum culture and history. Located on the ancestral

grounds of the indigenous Wanapum Band of the Priest Rapids, the 50,000 square-foot facility is a key element to protecting, preserving and perpetuating the culture, traditions and identity of the Wanapum people. The center features artifacts, exhibits, artwork and thematic elements that illustrate the culture and history of the Wanapum. There are many permanent displays as well as room for temporary exhibits and collections. There is also working space that will be used by the Wanapum to preserve their culture, language and traditions for future generations. The heritage center is owned by Grant PUD, but will be operated by the Wanapum band from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The facility is an important resource for maintaining Grant PUD's relationship with the Wanapum and fulfilling the PUD's value of protecting the heritage of the Wanapum.

I wanted people who camp at Vernita to know that the rumors that tickets will be written for camping there are untrue. I talked to Mike Livingston, Director of Region 3, and he told me that there is a three-day limit on camping at Ringold, but there is no such rule at Vernita. To have a rule put in place would be a process that would take a couple of years.

I am hoping to get to fish for fall salmon below Wanapum Dam off the mouth of Crab Creek this week. If not, I am sure I will get out somewhere and will be sure to let you know how I do.

Reach Dave at:
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