

Braggin' Rights

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2014

June 19th. It was that day, as we remember, anyway. Chuck came forward immediately with a \$1 bill. He had not gone out fishing that day on Brownlee Reservoir. The bet was \$1 per boat. The boat with the most fish caught on that day got the dollar. He had stayed off the water; wanted to enjoy camp that day he said. The Walker boys went in the other boat and had to have caught at least one fish so he knew he owed that dollar and had not earned any bragging rights for that day. He didn't wait for the truck to stop, he was so ready to pay his money. Chuck pays off real quickly and quietly when he pays off fishing bets. But don't ever let him get his "braggin rights"!

Most fishermen never thought of it as a right to brag about out-fishing your partners, whether they were in your boat or another. Braggin' Rights is something just never thought of. To be proud of your catch and to find that it was a better catch, either in size or quality, than the catch of your peers just came naturally. But Chuck has "braggin' rights". Well, maybe he doesn't have to have rights; he just likes to show off when he finally has something in the net. Then again, Chuck is not your average fisherman.

This need for the privilege of belittling your fellow fisher folks may come to Chuck because either, number one, he rarely catches anything of which he is proud, or number two, the fishing partner of the day may out fish him regularly. Now...since his usual fishing partner is probably his wife, Jan, she just may garner more rights to brag than does Chuck. We just don't know. Most e-mail from the Stulls comes through Chuck, a report heavily biased. To look at the few photos Chuck sends along with his note one would think that perhaps Chuck is doing well. But he never, or almost never, sends along a shot of Jan's catch. One time a few pictures from Jan actually made it through Chuck's censorship, no brag attached, and no word from Chuck about that whole trip.

It seems, from Chuck's once-in-awhile e-mails, that he does catch fish at almost any given lake they travel to. They fish a lake in Washington for walleyes, one in California for mostly trout, I think. Several times they have fished Irongate, for the Yellow Perch and anything else Chuck can hook. His latest pictures came to us from Ten Mile Lake in Oregon and he claimed "braggin rights" and sent along a couple of photos to support his position. Once again, not a word about what Jan may have caught.

It seems to most of us that BOTH Jan and Chuck have "braggin rights". They have been married for quite a spell. They both can brag on making their catch in marriage. So here is to our bragging rights. We can say that we have netted two very fine folks for friends and we can hope to share a boat with either or both of them in the near future. Take along a camera and hope to maybe garner at least one shot of something to brag about. Maybe we can out fish one of them when they are busy trying to do their thing, which is to be the folks we like to brag about knowing and spending time with..

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