



Since 1991

## *fishstories.....*

### Fishing Pyramid Lake in the Winter

by Mike Phillips, HSFC Editor

Those who know me, know how much I like to fish Pyramid Lake. I fish it with both my 7wt. fly rod and my 7 foot jigging rod. How I fish it depends on the time of the year and where the fish seem to be hanging out. My favorite time of the year is spawning time from April to the end of May. It is a time where the fish are most accessible to the fly rod. My second favorite time is late October through the end of November. The fish are coming out of the deep water into the shallows, and there are fewer people fishing. Many of the outdoors types are hunting. But the time of year I want to talk about is December through February. Since we are in the middle of this time period, now it is a good topic to write about for our club members.

As you know during this time period we find our favorite stillwaters have frozen over and the streams and rivers we enjoyed for many months are really cold and low. Pyramid is a place we can still catch fish and maybe really big fish. Now many of you might be thinking that I am a glutton for punishment to fish during these months. I do not go when it is cold and stormy. Give me a day that is in the high 40's or 50's with calm to light winds, clear skies or some clouds (the cloudy days are definitely better), and I will be there. For shore fishermen or those wading these kind of days are slow with 1 or 2 fish the norm, since the fish drop into deeper water, 20 feet or more, following their food, bait fish. But for me and others like me, we can catch a lot more fish.

You will need a float tube or pontoon boat, a fish finder (Hummingbird makes the only one for float tubes and pontoon boats for \$159), a 7 or 8wt fly rod with a least a type IV full sink line, and the usual assortment of Pyramid flies to get into these fish. There is always a good supply of these flies at Crosby's store or our local fly shop, Angler's Edge. **A major word of caution to all considering getting out on the water at this lake do not go on a windy day! I consider 15mph or more too dangerous. With winds lower than that if they are blowing into the shore I launched from I know that I will be blow into shore if I stop kicking or rowing.** So it's important to check the weather forecast. I have float tubed Pyramid for over 20 years, and I have always checked the weather forecast before going out. I recommend weather.com on the internet and using the town of Nixon, Nevada on the southeastern side of Pyramid Lake for the reference point. Click on details once you get to the day you are checking to get an hour by hour description of the temperature, winds and their direction. Also keep an eye on the skies and the north end of the lake when out on the water. If you see dust being kicked up at the north end of the lake get off ASAP. Another thing to do is stay close to the shore. You want to get your float tube or pontoon boat into 30' or more of water without going to far out on the lake. Warrior Point, Spider Point, Pelican Point, and the North Nets are good examples of places for you to get into deep water quickly. At this time of year a lot of the fish in 30 feet or more of water are suspended that is they are not on the bottom but between the surface and the bottom. Many are suspended 10 to 20 feet below the surface. Your fish finder will be able to spot them for you. These are the fish that a fly fisherman can catch using his or her full sink line. One can troll or cast and strip using a count down method geared to the sink rate of the line. Boat fishermen do well this time of year trolling lures 5 to 20 feet under the surface and so can fly fishermen. In fact the quieter fly fisherman may have a better chance

to catch fish than a boater.

Occasionally when fishing this kind of situation, cutthroats will surface feed in deep water. If you see such a fish cast to it if you can, and do not be surprised when it takes your fly. I have caught fish like this on top in 30 to 60 feet of water numerous times. The two most important factors in fishing Pyramid this time of year are the depth at which you present your flies and the speed at which you are moving them. The fly or flies that you are using are not as important. If you get your flies close enough to the fish they will take it if they are hungry. The water at this time of the year is in the mid to low 40's and requires a slower retrieve than at other times of the year. If you are not sure how slow then experiment. Your fish finder will tell you the depth to put your flies. If you fish an area and do not spot any fish on your finder then move to another spot. The Hummingbird Fish Finder has a side view as well as bottom view to allow you to spot fish under you as well as to the side. In fact if you spin in your float tube, you can spot fish in a 240 foot diameter circle with your float tube as the center point!

In terms of clothing, I like to have three good layers under my neoprene 5mm waders with three pairs of socks. I wear neoprene sand flat wading boots which fit nicely into my fins. I go with three layers on top too. Sometimes I wear my fingerless wool gloves. Three hours is about how long I can last until I need to get out of the water to warm up. For added safety I put on a CO2 life jacket. It is comfortable and goes under my fly vest. One pull on the cord and the CO2 cartridge will inflate the vest.

When I enter the water I like to start searching for fish from shallow (15 feet) water to deeper water (80 feet). I will troll the shallower water first, and if I don't spot any fish or get any touches I go to deeper water. It's good to have a systemic approach. Eventually you should get onto fish. If I find a nice drop off, I like to troll the edge with an "S" pattern taking my flies from shallow to deep water. If I get tired of trolling and find a nice drop off I might anchor then cast, count, and strip.

Fishing Pyramid Lake in a float tube or pontoon boat during December, January, and February can be very productive and a healthy way to get some exercise. Just remember to know what the weather conditions will be like especially the winds and their direction. See you out there!

## **HIGH SIERRA FLY CASTERS ANNUAL FUND-RAISING DINNER**

**by Roger Arthur, HSFC Fund Raising**

This year our Annual Fund Raising Dinner will be held on Saturday March 10, 2012, at St. Gall's Catholic Church in Gardnerville.

If you have ever attended a Fund Raising Dinner you would have noticed the great variety of items that were offered at the Silent Auction and at the Raffle Tables.

Many of the items on the silent auction and raffle tables were donated by our generous club members.

Some of the items that have been donated were new and some of the items were gently used but in good condition. So while you are doing your winter and spring cleaning, and you come across an item that you are not going to need or use anymore, please consider donating it to our Fund Raising Dinner. These items do not have to be fishing related. The funds that we raise at the dinner go directly to the different projects that the club supports.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 265-2825

Thanks for your support!

## Membership Renewal is Here

by Mike Phillips, HSFC Newsletter Editor

We have included in this newsletter a membership renewal form. Simply fill it out (print it out first if you received it via email), make out a check, and send it to the address listed on the form. Please note the statement on the membership form to only put your name on the form if nothing has changed from last year. It saves us the time it takes to review all personal information on our membership list. We can use this time to fish! Dues for an individual or family are \$30 for the year. If you want to save the price of a stamp you can bring the form and check to our January 18th general membership meeting. Those of you who selected email delivery of our newsletter this past year have helped the club save on newsletter mailing expenses. Please consider this form of delivery again and indicate it on the form. Those of you who used the postal system reconsider email delivery if you have high speed download capacity. If you do not have a high speed download capacity we will gladly mail you a newsletter. If you renew or join before January 31st your name will be entered into a prize drawing that will be held at our February general meeting. The prize will be a \$50 gift certificate from Angler's Edge. You do not have to be present to win.

## HSFC Annual Dinner Slide Show

by Liz Weirauch, HSFC Member

Just a quick reminder, to start getting those fishing pictures ready. They can also be pictures from our various events ie picnic, cancer event, Boy Scout group or just the beauty that surrounds us when we fish. We will be needing them soon! Copy pictures from this past year, from after the dinner last year to now, onto a disk and get it to Liz at the fly shop. Remember to write up some details to help Liz in the captioning process. If you can not transfer your pictures to a disk then call Liz at the fly shop to see if other arrangements can be worked out.

## January General Membership Meeting Presentation

by Mike Phillips, HSFC Editor

Your board members had a great brain storming session on speakers led by Roger Arthur, so we anticipate a great slate of speakers for you this year. On tap for this month will be one of our best local fly fisherman, Peter "I can catch a fish in a mud puddle" Bauer. He will be speaking on fly fishing Pyramid Lake. The meeting will be held on January 18th at 7:00 P.M. at the Carson Valley Methodist Church located at 1375 Centerville Road in Gardnerville. Do not forget to bring some money for our raffle. See you there!

### 2011 HSFC Officers

Dan Sedergren	President	775-265-2767
Jim Norton	Vice President	775-265-3121
Ron Myers	Treasurer	775-783-1725
Unfilled	Recording Secretary	

### 2011 HSFC Board of Directors

Don Stockman	Membership	775-265-2825
Mike Matuska	Conservation	775-884-0394
Jim Norton	Education	775-265-3121
Ken Baldwin	Webmaster	775-849-3920
Bob Taormina	Publicity	775-265-9159
Roger Arthur	Fund Raising	775-265-2825
Mike Phillips	Newsletter Editor	775-265-4610
Kurt Zeilenga	Fish Master	775-790-2166

### At Large

Ron & Linda Sanstrom		775-782-1152
Bob Rittenhouse	Special projects	775-782-1201
Bob Haynes	Fund Raising	775-267-0840

### TENTATIVE FISH OUT SCHEDULE FOR 2011

<b>Feb.</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>To be announced</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>in Feb. newsletter</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
<b>May</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
<b>June</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
<b>July</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
<b>August</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
<b>Sept.</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
<b>Oct.</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
<b>Nov.</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	

**December and January No fish outs held**



## High Sierra Fly Casters Membership Application New and Renewing Members

(If you are renewing and none of your information has changed just put your name down)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, ZIP Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Newsletter Delivery:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>U.S. Mail</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Email</b>
<b>Are you a beginning fly fisher?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<b>What kind of fly fishing do you enjoy?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Streams</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lakes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Both</b>
<b>Are you a new or renewing member?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>New</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Renewing</b>

Dues are \$30.00 per year for an individual or family  
Individual membership for ages 16 and younger is \$10.00  
The membership period is January 1 - December 31

**Membership dues are due by January 31**

High Sierra Fly Casters is an affiliate club of the Federation of Fly Fishers

Please mail your completed application to:

**High Sierra Fly Casters  
PO Box 3121  
Gardnerville, NV 89410**

For more information about Club benefits and outings, please join us at our monthly General Meeting held on the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Rd., Gardnerville.

Name badges are available. Please see a Membership Committee member at the next General Meeting

**Here are businesses that chose to support this club, so think about supporting them!**

The Angler's Edge 775-782-4734 [www.theanglersedge.com](http://www.theanglersedge.com) G'ville, NV

York Plumbing 775-782-5336 G'ville, NV Giving a 10% discount for mentioning this ad

Virginia Lakes Resort 760-647-6484 [www.virginialakesresort.com](http://www.virginialakesresort.com) Bridgeport, CA

Lone Tree Frame Company and Gallery 775-782-2522 [www.lonetreegallery.net](http://www.lonetreegallery.net) Minden, NV

Edward Jones Investments Ron Bankofer 775-782-9752 [www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com) G'ville, NV

Michael Matuska, Attorney at law 775-782-7171 [www.brooke-shaw.com](http://www.brooke-shaw.com) Minden, NV

**Put your ad on this page for only \$50.00 per year!**

High Sierra Fly Casters  
PO Box 3121  
Gardnerville, NV 89410

Upcoming HSFC Events

HSFC General Meeting                      January 18

No Fish out for January

General meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. on the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Carson Valley Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Lane in Gardnerville.

The HSFC Board meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at The Angler's Edge, 1506 U.S. Hwy. 395 N. in Gardnerville.  
HSFC members are welcome to attend.

We welcome contributions, quotes, jokes, stories and articles to *fishstories*.....

Please send to: Mike Phillips, 887 Marion Way, Gardnerville, NV, 89460 or [mikephillips61@charter.net](mailto:mikephillips61@charter.net)