



SSFF-CLUB'S Pyramid Lake | March 20-26, 2023

Here we go, are you ready for a shot at a 20-pound trout? It's time for SSFFclubs annual Pyramid Lake outing. This is basically a DIY trip, loosely structured. We can certainly meet at a certain beach, or rock in the morning and fish together. Those staying in town can arrange a meet up for dinner if they so desire. Most afternoons we will get together at a beach and talk strategies for the evening bite. If you have never fished Pyramid, come join us. There will be plenty of club members who are willing to share spots, knowledge and flies with you. Members will be arriving and leaving at different times during the week.

Lodging

Reno & Sparks both have a multitude of lodging options. Camping/RVing is also allowed along the lake. It's about a 35-minute drive from the casinos to the lake. Over the years we have narrowed our lodging choices to these 3 options. There are certainly, many more in the area.

1. Pyramid Lake Lodge. (Crosbys Lodge) | <https://www.pyramidlakelodge.com/lodging/>

These are cabins, trailers and mobile homes located in Sutcliffe. These are very difficult to reserve and fill up fast. Don't be afraid to be put on the waiting list. Call back frequently to check on availability. Staying here puts you right on the lake.

2. The Nugget Casino and Resort Sparks, NV | <https://www.nuggetcasinoresort.com>

One of the best deals for rooms in the area. Good food and entertainment, if you so desire. Very easy and quick access to the road out to the lake, a big plus.

3. Grand Sierra Resort | <https://www.grandsierraresort.com>

GSR is a full-on Casino & Resort, many great options for food. Several restaurants that are open 24 hrs. Very comfortable and clean accommodations. Its not unusual to see fisherman in their waders hitting the slots at 5 a.m. before heading to the lake. It takes a few more twist and turns to get out to the Hwy to the lake, but the availability of quality food might just be worth it.

Meals

If you are staying in town your options are unlimited. Reno/Sparks has every meal option that you can imagine available. On your way out of town to the lake, you will pass many fast-food restaurants. Coffee and breakfast are available at several places. Most bring their own lunch to the lake. You will see everything from PB & J to elaborate BBQ food. The choice is up to you as to what you want to make and bring along. There is one bar/diner in Sutcliffe. It does offer good burgers and sandwiches and I'm sure we will meet there for at least a couple lunches. The noon time Bloody Mary's are epic!! Just be warned that it can get crowded, especially if it's raining.

Permits

Pyramid Lake is entirely within the boundaries of the Pyramid Lake Piute Indian Reservation. No Nevada fishing license is needed only a tribal permit.

*Attention – Covid 19 Update for Permits

During the 2020-21 season Permits are only being sold online or at the Ranger Station until further notice. I'm not sure if this has changed for 2022.

Ranger Station – 2500 Lakeview Drive Sutcliffe, NV. 89510 Phone: 775-476-1155

Online link- <https://plpt.nagfa.net/new-online/index.php>

Gear

The most popular fly-fishing technique at Pyramid is making long casts with a very fast sinking line or shooting head. For this method, a stout 9 to 9 ½ foot 7-8 weight rod is the most common. Stripping gloves or finger guards are recommended as you will be doing a lot of casting and stripping. Nymphing (bobber) is also popular at the lake as well, especially in the spring. Shorter casts and lighter lines can be used, and a lighter rod will work. You can use anything from a 6 weight to an 8 weight for this technique. Wind is still a factor, and a 7- 8 weight is the way to go for best results. Switch Rods have become very popular at Pyramid Lake. An 11-11.5-foot 6-8 weight is ideal for indicator fishing in the wind. Everyone has their own choice on lines and rods, the links at the end will provide you with even more info and contacts to get questions answered.

Ladders

Yes, this is the place where you stand on a ladder and fish for trophy trout. The water is usually very cold due to the season. So, standing on something gets you out of the cold water. It started with standing on a milk crate and has evolved into some pretty elaborate ladders. From your basic Lowes 6 ft fiberglass ladder to platforms with swivel seats with rod holders and a place to hold your drink. We have a basic 6ft ladder that has served us well, we will share pics and design if anyone is interested. You can also rent ladders at the lake. And no, you don't have to have a ladder to be successful. There are plenty of rocks and beaches to fish from that don't require a ladder.

Ladder Rental: <https://www.pyramidlakeflyfishing.com/rentals/>

Flies

We won't spend much time on flies but will provide a link or two that will help you in fly selection and tying info. Foam Beetle/Polliwogs, Buggers, Midges and Balanced leaches are the go-to flies. You can also purchase flies at the store in Sutcliffe. There is a Cabela's and a Scheels Sporting Goods in Reno that both have the hottest flies.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.pyramidlakeflyfishing.com>

Pyramid Lake Flyfishing has a ton of info . Spend some time here, everything is discussed. From flies and lines to rods and ladders. Rob Anderson is a wealth of information. He will answer any questions you may have. He will be on the lake on most days. His fly selection is second to none. If you are not sure about flies, I would contact Rob and order one of his guide boxes. (we do it every year) Tell him when you will be at the lake and your preferred method of fishing. He will get you set up.

<https://renoflyshop.com>

The Reno Fly shop is another great source of information. Email them or give them a call. They will certainly be able to point you in the right direction.

[@buhlerbroflies](https://twitter.com/buhlerbroflies)

Our own Ryan & Rob are considered locals at Pyramid Lake. Shoot them a message and they will certainly steer you in the right direction.

Miscellaneous

- Clothing. It can be brutally cold in March at Pyramid. We have fished when it was 19 degrees and howling 45 mph winds and 2 ft of snow. But also, have had bluebird days in the mid 60's. Be prepared, think layers and more layers. Electric socks, vest (single malt whiskey) and anything else that will heat you up is recommended.
- Light latex gloves over the top of wool fishing gloves are the answer.
- Bring your tying stuff. Last years White over Chartreuse fly that you tied 20 of just may not be the color this year. Late night or lunch tying sessions at the vice are not uncommon.
- Be prepared to arrive at the lake before sunrise and stay until sunset. That hour after sunset and hour after sunrise can be the magic hour. Plus, you need to stake out your rock or beach very early. Because of that we would suggest that you pack your lunch and snacks. If you leave, you just may not get your spot back.
- Bring extra rods, Tufa rock formations are sharp and have claimed more than a few broken rods upon slipping and falling. If the weather is mild and sunny a float tube or pontoon boat can be a blast. In good weather the fish may hold just out of casting range. If you are driving and have room, throw in your watercraft.
- Speaking of driving..... going over the 80 or the 395 may require chains at any given time. They are much cheaper at your local box store versus buying them on the mountain.
- As we move along, we will add people to our group text. Lots of fly info and line selection will be shared.
- This is really a magical place, the chance at a double-digit trout is certainly attainable here. Nowhere else in the world will you find yourself trying to knock off 8-pound fish so you can get your fly back out on the water.

Basic Pyramid Checklist:

- Rods-
- 8 wt- 9 ft (2)
- 7 or 6 wt - 9 ft (2)
- Switch Rod (2)

Reels-

- Reels with sink line (both 8 & 6wt rod)
- Reel with Chucker line for switch rods
- 6 & 8 wt floating line.
- Xtra reel to put line on if one gets damaged.

Leader

- tapered 1x,
- 8,10,12,15 & 20 pound
- Seaguar Red Label Fluoro

Flies

- Beetles, Buggers, Balanced Leaches, Midges

Misc gear-

- Nippers
- Forceps
- Fly Tying stuff
- Bobbers
- Stripping Basket
- Waders & wading jacket, Boots
- Net-BIG
- Small Backpack
- Empty fly box (for flies purchased at lake)
- Hand & Toe warmers
- Scale
- Rubber gloves & warm gloves
- Ladder
- Binoculars
- Ice Chest
- WARM clothes