

## Spring Pyramid Outing, March 31-April 2 Fishmeister: John Daniels

Nestled in a desert valley northeast of Reno and fed by the Truckee River is Pyramid Lake, home of the Lahontan Cutthroat. During the spring, the fish are always in the shallows in large schools searching for food. While the numbers are not what they used to be, you still have a better than average chance of catching a good number of fish in the 20-28" range...and there are also 20# leviathans (and bigger) cruising the shore these days. This is an outing for intermediate to advanced fly fishers. (Beginning fly fishers should consider attending the April 22-23 guided Pyramid Lake Outing, which is appropriate for all levels of fly fishers.)

The outing will be March 31-April 2. The lake should be open by then but if not, the alternate date is the following weekend. Most will be staying in town, and a meeting place for breakfast in Sparks will be announced later, along with a meeting place for Saturday at the lake. There is a lot of coastline to fish and almost all of it will produce. If you miss the meeting time, then cruising the beaches with an FRS walkie-talkie tuned to the club frequency/code (10-4) is your best way of finding folks, because there will be members from Warrior's to Dago Bay, and many points in between. Cell phones do not always function at Pyramid, so having a radio is a must and expect no sympathy from the fishmeister if you show up without one. If you are going up earlier and do not know the area, let me know, and I can see if I can hook you up with someone else.

To fish Pyramid, you need a bit heavier rig than usual. The typical setup is an 8 weight with a shooting head. This could be either a traditional running line & head combination (floating or sinking running line with Type 3 & Type 6 heads, sometimes heavier), or an integrated line with a 200+ grain head (5-6 ips sink rate, Teeny T200 or Rio Outbound Short), and straight 10-12# leader. You can get away with a lighter rig, but if the wind comes up, and it often does, you will have problems. Typical flies used are Woolly Buggers and Woolly Worms, size 4-8, HEAVILY hackled (colors: black, olive, chartreuse, white, purple, yellow, blue, etc.) on a straight 10-12# leader. Pyramid Beetles and Tadpoles in white/chartreuse and black/chartreuse are also a good idea. Indicator fishing can also be effective, so you may also want to bring a 6-7 weight, bobbers and a selection of flies. For flies, #12-10 nymphs work well, and local favorites include: Flashback Pheasant Tail, Copper John, Mahalo Nymph, Mahalo Midge, and chironomid patterns. Typically, 8# tippet is as light as you want to go when indicator fishing, with some recommending 10# these days. You will need waders and boots and enough clothes to cover every eventuality because the conditions at Pyramid can range from shirt-sleeve weather to sleet and snow. Leave your dinky little trout net at home and either invest in a Landing Hand, or a steelhead-size net. You will also need a fishing permit, which you can get online, at most sporting goods shops in town, and at Crosby's. If you plan on driving on the beaches a 4WD is REQUIRED -- and a 4WD can still get stuck, so use caution. Ladders are optional and unnecessary, and float tubers MUST stay a reasonable distance away from the fishmeister (1-2 miles) and have their liability waivers and life insurance up to date. Attendees will be responsible for their own lodging, food, and debts at the casinos.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the March general meeting or email me at [jedaniels@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jedaniels@ucdavis.edu)>

P.S. Latest news is that part of the lake may be open as early as in 2 weeks, and the whole lake will be open 4/1. Watch this space for further update\_\_