

# Pyramid Lake Revisited

By Beth Jappay

Well, this article is an update on the one I wrote for last month's newsletter. For those of you who didn't read it here is a [link](#).

My first week at Pyramid was pure vacation, but I decided to further investigate this fishery to better understand it. I also wanted to work on finding a better balance between work and fishing. So instead of driving my RV home after my first week of fishing I instead drove to the Reno airport and put my RV in long-term parking, and flew home. I worked in the office for a week, then flew back to Reno and retrieved my RV from airport parking, and drove back to Pyramid lake. Observing the lake as I arrived, I once again saw many people fishing at Pelican Beach so this is once again where I set up camp, dragging My Fancy Ladder down to the beach to an open spot in the line of fishermen.

Being now the first week of April I found the weather to be much more tolerable--in the 45-60 degree range instead of the 34-45 degree range. The fishing was better as well and instead of 2-10 fish per day I caught 5-20 fish per day. After trying multiple different flies and techniques I reaffirmed the importance of starting fishing an hour before sunrise and discovered that at this time now a size #14 black midge larva with copper and gold ribbing worked best. During the day the popcorn beetle on a fast-sinking line was once again the winner.

Pyramid Lake was once again hard on my rods. On my first trip, fishing my 7 weight with a heavy sink tip and casting into the wind I had twice hit my rod with my line or flies, and then ended up breaking the end of my rod on a fish. This trip I resorted for one of my lines to using my 9' 6" 6 weight, then snapped the tip of the rod when it hung up getting it out of my RV. I converted it into a 9' rod with wire cutters and continued to fish with it.

I once again had a great time socializing with my neighbors, having new people to share my funny stories with. Benson was there again and stopped by to say hi after recognizing my rig. I met 2 people living at Lake Almanor, a place I had lived as a teen. I met a retired dentist named Mhing and shared my story about meeting Benson at Klamath lake, only to learn that Benson was the godfather to Mhing's children. What a small world!

For this trip I purchased a Verizon Hotspot and brought my laptop. I fished from 5am to 11am, then went back to my RV and worked ~4 hours telecommuting, then went back and fished the evening bite. That worked out surprisingly well and I've decided to try in the future to make this work in other places as well.

Pelican Beach is ¼ mile long, and on this trip I set up my campsite in the middle of the campground instead of the far (left) end. Doing so I made a new observation--the ladder spots on the far right of the line (now visible to me) were definitely catching both more fish and bigger fish than the ones in the middle of the line or on the far left. I made a new goal to fish those

spots. Each day I would set my alarm 30 min earlier, only to discover the best spots already taken, even at 4:30am! By my last day I was determined to spend one day in the prime spots, and set my alarm for 3am, finally finding myself finally first on the water. I put my ladder in my chosen spot, hiked back to my RV and had breakfast, returning to start fishing an hour before sunrise. It definitely paid off, as I hooked and landed (with my broken 6 weight!!) my biggest fish to date--16 lbs!



At the end of the week I drove home, already planning on returning in October to fish the first week after opening day. I've heard that the biggest fish are caught in October and November. I will be bringing my pontoon for that trip, as it's my understanding that the fishing at that time of the year is streamers at 30-40' of depth.

To be continued...