

# TOPOGEAR NEWS

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## “Over ICE please!

Some are content in their warm home or office during the winter months. Others thrive in outdoors no matter what.

This article celebrates the cold and one of the sports it brings. Ice Fishing! Though this sport is enjoyed across much of the country, I am sure the techniques, though similar, varies from region to region.

Today we explore Ely, Nevada and Illipah Reservoir. Illipah (shown



below) is a small body of water 37 miles Northeast of Ely off Highway 50.

Illipah is at an elevation of around 6800ft. The snow was packed on the gravel road leading off highway 50. A 4 wheel drive was not even necessary. The temperature was in the 20's. The sun shining. We met a local walking up the grade to the parking area, with a stringer of trout. Just finishing up his morning. He said the ice was safe but not that thick...but the trout were hitting good.

There were 7 of us. We started out across the ice to some existing places we could see old holes. The ice creaking and cracking. Some cracking causing the noise to streak clear across the lake. Kind of an un-nerving sound at first. We tried to stay away from standing too near the next guy :-). The 7 of us now the only ones on the lake.

We augured the first hole and

found the ice about 5 inches thick. We set about drilling more holes, setting up our chairs, and rigging our poles. A small hook, a single split shot, and half a night crawler. We dropped the bait to the bottom and reeled up just enough to get off the bottom. The bottom was in less than 10 ft of water.

Some of us were slower at rigging up than others. Someone yelled out "fish on" before everyone had a line in the water. It was an indicator of what was to come for the next hour and a half. It was nearly non-stop.



We left soon. Not even enough time to get cold. Everyone had limited out with some very nice fish. We have fished Cave Lake, also in the area. On this trip I would have to

say the sizes ran much larger than those we have taken out of Cave Lake the past 3 years.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **CAVE LAKE ICE SCULPTURE**

Jan 16 & 17th

Contest on the Ice!

Cave Lake, Ely, Nevada

- **SHOT SHOW**

Jan 19th thru the 22nd

Tradeshaw for firearms/outdoors

Las Vegas, NV

- **ISE SPORTSMAN SHOW**

Jan 21st thru the 24th

Largest Sportsman show in CA

Sacramento, California

- **CAVE LAKE FISHING DERBY**

Jan 30th

Cave Lake, Ely, Nevada

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