



<b>Date</b>	Jan. 1, 2009	<b>Time</b>	8:30am to mid afternoon
<b>Location</b>	Otter Creek Res. in central Utah	<b>Weather</b>	Clear & Sunny
<b>Fish Species</b>	Rainbow Trout	<b>Size Range</b>	12-20" & some larger
<b>Fish Caught</b>	A dozen		
<b>Flies Used</b>	Mill worms and jigs		
<b>Techniques</b>	Ice fishing just off the bottom in 12-14' of water		
<b>Comments</b>	The early bird seemed to get the worm!		

While visiting my family in southern Utah, my brother asked if I wanted to go ice fishing. I thought sure; I haven't been ice fishing since I was a youth. The thought of going fishing with my dad and brothers sounded like a lot of fun. It would be a great time to catch up. It was all good until he mentioned we would be leaving around 5:00am on New Years! He was actually serious. I said, "No thanks". He eventually talked my dad and I into leaving at 7:00am while the other truckload left at 5:00 am.

He insisted the fishing was better in the wee hours of the morning. It still wasn't an option for me and my dad after the late night celebration. We arrived at the reservoir and saw many people on the ice fishing. I was surprised at all the early birds. Did I also mention it was cold. When we met up with my brother's friends they had a nice stringer of 18-20" trout. They were nice healthy footballs.



It was about the time that we arrived that the fishing started slowing down. We still caught fish but nothing compared to the number and size they were catching earlier. I was surprised that the time of day made a difference when ice fishing. Nonetheless, I enjoyed the camaraderie and it was great seeing my nephew reel in a few fish.



Ice fishing is not tops on my list but getting out and trying something different in the winter tempers the doldrums. Luckily for us, the day was clear and shiny and no wind. We didn't have to set up the tents or space heaters. My brother knew what he was doing and I soon realized there was more to ice fishing than simply dunking a worm. He had a sled to carry the table and all the gear. He knew where to drill the holes, what depth to fish and how to set the hook.

I learned a lot about ice fishing and enjoyed the outing with my family. My brother said the fishing was slow but it really didn't matter to me.

It is always exciting looking down the hole and wondering how big the next fish would be. Otter Creek Reservoir is known for having its surprises.

