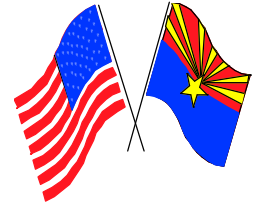


MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JANUARY 2015

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



I have always found it odd the club begins the New Year with the banquet celebrating last year, but because of trying to locate a suitable facility in December, along with everyone's busy holiday schedules, January seems to work the best for our annual banquet. This year we changed venues for our annual banquet, and selected the Elk's Lodge in north Phoenix to host our event. I think everyone who attended would agree that the Elks did a fantastic job for us. The room was bright and spacious, making it easy to move around and visit with everyone in attendance. The tables were big and roomy, accommodating 10 people. The food was great; I sampled

a bit of everything and found it hot and tasty. It was good to see so many of the wives in attendance; they really add a touch of class to our event. The evening ended with a huge raffle where over \$3000 of fishing related merchandise was given away. It was lots of fun for all who attended.

The first tournament of the year was at Bartlett Lake, and our anglers welcomed several new faces on the water, as well as several old faces that returned to our ranks as well. I am pleased to report that we were able to launch 24 boats without the need for first aid. It seems if something bad is going to happen at one of our events, it usually happens during the darkness of the morning launch. Congratulations to our tournament winners, and kudos for the team of Burns and Jolley for an exceptional Bartlett Lake bag of fish and a solid first place finish. Thanks to all who helped during the weigh-in. I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on Wednesday, February 4, or at our next tournament at Saguaro Lake on Wednesday, February 21. Just a reminder that our March tournament at Lake Havasu will be a two day event on

Tuesday and Wednesday. It's not too early to reserve a room, as Spring Break will be happening.



Lake Bartlett

January 21, 2015
By Terry Tassin

A little of this and a little of that might best describe the lures that caught fish at this tournament. Dropshot, jigs, cranks, etc, were all put to good use to make this event a fun, fish catching experience.

Please note that no Goon Fish was brought to the scales so that \$100 prize will be won by a lucky member at a drawing during our February 4th meeting.

OK enough of that. Lets hear

Happy Valentines Day!



**Monthly Breakfast
Meeting**
Deer Valley Airport
Restaurant
702 W. Deer Valley Rd
Phoenix, AZ
1st Wednesday of Each
Month 8:00 A.M.

"We Practice Catch and Release"

from our winners who provided after action reports from the tournament.

Team Neil Burns & Bob Jolley Start Season With Win at Bartlett

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Burns & Jolley** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 13.53 lbs. Thanks to one of the team member's 3.06 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors.

Neil Burns: I had the pleasure of fishing with Bob Jolley this tournament. We pre-fished Monday and settled on just a couple of areas on which we would concentrate on tournament day. Wednesday we were boat #1 so we ran up river and spent several hours throwing spinnerbaits and jigs.

I think we had 3 fish when we left the area. We didn't move far, just down from the no-wake buoys to a little, steep, rubble, rock bank. We caught a lot of fish on drop shots and jigs and had a nice limit.

With about 2 1/2 hours left we decided to return to our start area. The wind was blowing hard, and while this made it tough to fish, I think it moved the fish to the bank, and made them a little more active. In the next couple of hours Bob upgraded with 3 nice fish. You know you're having a good day when you're culling and your partner says, "Are you sure this is the smallest one?" Thanks again Bob, I enjoyed the day.

Another well run tournament, entertaining pre-tournament meeting, and great job by the weigh-in team.

we decided to head to the river at the start on Wednesday. Neil knew the river was a hit and miss area but he also knew the river had big fish, so we took a chance to see if we could catch some of them.

In the first couple of hours Neil caught three fish; a couple in the 1 lb. plus range and one around 2 lbs. We moved to another area of the river and started to catch more fish. Most of them were 1 to 2 lbs., except for our first 3 pounder which Neil caught.

With 2 1/2 hours left in the tournament we decided to move again to try and upgrade our smaller fish. And upgrade we did with two more 3 pounders and a 2 1/2 pounder. It was a great team effort as both of us caught big fish, none of the fish came unhooked, and there were no errors with the net. Neil did a great job controlling the boat in the wind which enabled us to stay on fish.

In all we probably caught 15 or 16 fish and the hardest thing for me was tossing 1 1/2 and 2 pound fish back in the lake as we were culling. I told Neil that there were a lot of tournaments I would love to have had those fish at weigh in. All of our fish were caught on jigs, spinner baits and drop shot worms (mostly Morning Dawn) in less than 20 foot depths.

It was good to get back on the water again with Neil and especially good to get the win at Bartlett. It's probably been

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4 February** starting at 8:00 AM, at **Deer Valley Airport Restaurant** (just one mile north of I-101 at the intersection of 7th Ave & Deer Valley Road). We hope you will come early and have breakfast together.

The next club point tournament will be at **Lake Saguaro** on **18 February 2015**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.



**1st Place
Neil Burns & Bob Jolley**

Bob Jolley: First Place 13.53 Lbs. & First Place Big Fish 3.06 Lbs. Neil and I pre-fished on Monday and probably ended up with 8 or 9 pounds, some from the river and some from the main lake. Since we were the 'Number One' boat

four or five years since I last fished with Neil and I had forgotten how easy going and thoughtful he is. Neil is very accommodating to his co-angler and a great fisherman to boot. I hope it's not another four or five years before I get paired up with Neil again.

Thanks to all the club volunteers for another well run tournament and to Gary Grimes for the ride down to the lake to release our fish!

Big Fish: Our three biggest fish were very close to the same size (3.06 lbs.) and two of them balanced exactly the same on the culling beam. We randomly picked one of those two for 'big fish' weigh-in, so I'm not sure if it was the one I caught on a spinner bait or the one Neil caught on a jig.

Tony Medina & Jim Buchanan Finish 2nd Overall

In **Second Place** the team of **Tony Medina & Jim Buchanan** weighed five bass for a total weight of 10.71 lbs.

Tony Medina: All I can say is this year's tournament was a whole lot better than last year's disaster. Last year my partner, Lionel took a bad fall coming down the ramp. As banged up as he was he still wanted to fish, so we tried for an hour until he told me he was having

chest pains, so that was it. I told him to "reel in and we are out of here." I dumped our four fish and told Lou Hirlemann we were leaving to get him to a hospital. Fortunately Lionel healed up and he's still amongst us.

partner, and last year's Lunker of the Year award winner, Jimmy Buchanan, who at this tournament caught the third big fish, a 2.99 lb. beauty.

We started on nearby points on the main lake and had a quick limit. Then we spent the rest of the day fighting the wind and trying to upgrade our catch. We caught our fish throwing jigs, spinner baits, cranks and drop shot.

Jim Buchanan: Another great trip but it would have been nicer had the weather cooperated a little better. We fished the shore line close to the marina. By 8:30 AM we had five fish in the live well. My partner, Tony Medina, caught 3 fish before I had even caught one. Then he gave me one of his special lures, a 1/2 oz. jig head pumpkin colored twin tail



2nd Place
Jim Buchanan & Tony Medina

This year was totally the opposite. We finished in second place thanks to my



"I don't care what it is! If he doesn't stop scaring the fish, I'm going to stick this fishing pole right up his alien butt."

Membership

As of January 22, 2015 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 72 active members.

grub with a pumpkin skirt. Bingo, 4 and 5 fish in the well.

We caught a total of 10 fish the whole day.

Martlage & Adamson Crank & Jig Their Way To 3rd Place Overall

Team **Gary Martlage & Mike Adamson** weighed five bass for 9.85 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Gary Martlage: I had the pleasure to fish with Mike Adamson for our 1st tournament of the year. I had spent a few days on Bartlett during the past month and had been struggling at best. During the winter, I usually spend most of my time fishing the main lake, but this year it seems that it has been producing very small limits of fish. Mike had pre-fished up the river a few days prior, so we decided "let's go"!



**3rd Place
Mike Adamson & Gary Martlage**

Our first 2 fish came on crankbaits on shallow river rock banks, with Mike catching our first fish of the year; a nice 2.5 pounder! I put Mike on the front

of the boat, so he could continue to cast his crank, with me following up with a spider jig. I started catching fish in deeper water with the jig, so we backed off, and started fishing 20-30 feet. We spent most of the day in the deeper water, upgrading throughout the day. I really enjoyed the day with Mike, and look forward to fishing with him again!

Mike Adamson: We started cranking the banks first thing and picked up a few. While I continued to crank, Gary went to a jig and we were able to get our limit before the winds picked up. Throughout the morning we were able to cull up a number of times to get a respectable bag. Fish varied from 10-30 feet deep.

Team Senft & Brown Ride Carolina Rigs to 4th Overall Finish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Gary Senft & Rick Brown** weighed five fish for a total weight of 8.43 lbs.

Gary Senft: It was nice to meet Rick Brown who is a really good fisherman. We both fished very hard but had a good time. After I caught the first fish in a matter of minutes - all of 10 inches long - we were off and running. We were both fishing Texas rigs and getting bites but not hooking the fish. Rick put on a Carolina rig and started catching fish. I started throwing a jig for quite awhile but not getting any fish. I finally put on a Carolina rig and we

were catching fish and culling. We both used chigger craws and I also used brush hogs and watermelon jigs. The wind caused us to not fish the outside points that I really wanted to fish. I was telling Rick I think this club is the best run and the best group of guys in the valley.



**4th Place
Gary Senft & Rick Brown**

Rick Brown: It was great to be back fishing with the club and seeing all the guys. Gary and I started mid-lake, I was throwing mostly a Carolina and Texas rigged Craw. Gary definitely puts in his time, and he put us right on the fish. I was bit on my second cast. Although the hook didn't set and it felt pretty small, it got me really excited that it was going to be a good day.

Soon after, Gary caught a small one, and threw it back. I think most guys would have kept it, but he was confident that we wouldn't need it, and I was with him on that thought. I kept getting bit by what we called "little peckers" and Gary soon said "let's get out of the nursery". He moved us and it wasn't long before I had a nice

2.5 lber in the boat from about 25 ft of water. Within the next hour or two I think we had our limit. The rest of the day we fished hard, fought the wind, and threw back little fish.

Congrats to Neal and Bob for a great bag. Thanks to Gary for putting me on the fish, and the club for putting on a well run tournament as usual.

Alauria & Boll Celebrate Boll's First Tournament Finishing in 5th Place

A five fish limit weighing 8.29 lbs was enough to earn Tom Alauria & Ed Boll the **5th Place** money.

Tom Alauria: It was a very interesting day and my partner and I were fortunate enough to find larger fish. My partner Ed Boll is new to the club and really wants to learn; he will make a good addition to the club.

Ed and I were on the lake two days before the tournament and learned that the larger fish were sitting below 22 feet. All of our fish came on jigs and drop shot.



**5th Place
Tom Alauria & Ed Boll**

Ed Boll: I have been fishing for over 60 years but this was my first tournament. From the very start at first light to the end at weigh-in it was impressive and a lot of fun. The banter between the members was fun and the stories that were told were unbelievable.

Tom Alauria, my boater, was absolutely outstanding. We pre-fished on Monday and he formulated a plan for the tournament. He took me under his wing and taught me how to drop shot, tie his special knot, and showed me how to develop a pattern. Needless to say come tournament day we were ready. Fish were located and Tom put many fish in the well. I even contributed two of them. At one point we both had a fish on at the same time. I learned a lot.

The wind blew us away as I am sure it did to most other boats. We tried to find a fish that would put us over the top by culling, but it was too hard to hold the boat on a spot in the wind. The white caps reminded me of my Lake Havasu days. We gave it up 1/2 hour early and joined other members who had also given it up. Looks like just about everyone caught a limit. Just the size of the fish made a difference. I am looking forward to Saguaro in February.



Money Matters By John Reichard, Treasurer

Hi to all from your treasurer.

I was good to see every body

on the lake this month and so many teams with limit catches. I enjoyed fishing with Jeff Mason even though we missed 4 fish and I froze my you know what off. I'm glad I threw my 10 Degree Below suit in the car before leaving home. We threw spinner baits, jigs, crank baits and drop shots.

Since the five pound pot was not won at Lake Bartlett it rolls over to our next tournament at Saguaro.

See you at the February meeting.



Weighing-In By Jack Hughes, Tmx Director

Do you remember way back in August when we asked for inputs to the 2015 schedule? Lake Bartlett tournament was the first tournament of 2015 and is in the books. It took the club six months to get all the members recommendations, paper work, permits and payments to hold the Bartlett tournament and this year for the first time in three years we did not need any waivers from the government because they got all of their work done on time. Bartlett is in the books for 2015. That means we have 10 to go or ten times more fun than we had this week. This year the board is hoping our schedule will provide more fun and excitement than in past years. We will not fish Alamo, again this year, so to add to the adventure we will be fishing two day and half tournaments with the teams remaining the

same for both days. Those tournaments will be at Havasu and Apache.

I would like to remind all of our members planning on fishing our tournament at Havasu in March to get your room reservations made as soon as possible. Camp grounds and hotels fill up rapidly due to spring break and remember we are fishing a day and half this year for the first time so plan accordingly. For the new members Havasu is traditionally the favorite tournament of the year among most of the members.

As many of you know I do manage to spend a lot of time with AZG&F and Tonto National Forest personnel. Recently, I was told by one of the enforcement people at Bartlett "It is almost a waste of our time to check people from your club; I cannot remember when the last violation was from a Midweek member and they are all so well mannered". It sure does make it a lot easier dealing with the lake authorities when I am representing a club with such a positive reputation. Thank all of you for obeying the rules and your good conduct.

On the negative side we recently had a member's trailer vandalized at Bartlett while he was pre-fishing. Saguaro has also been suffering from occasional theft from trailers and pickups. With our next tournament at Saguaro I suggest you leave nothing that can be stolen from your trailer or vehicle including your spare tire on the trailer. Make sure everything is locked down real well and I recommend you leave nothing in the bed of your pickup and lock your vehicle while fishing.

I had eleven members contact me about our latest Awards Banquet and here is a little summary. All of the inputs were very positive with no negative comments. Most thought it was the best we ever held. Another theme that ran with most of them was to paraphrase "My wife really enjoyed it". All of the members recommended we hold the banquet next year at the same location. There was not one complaint about the food or bar service. They all thought our goal of moving the awards faster worked out real well with the \$5.00 tickets. For the record I was told Sean Ballard bought 12 tickets and hit on 6 of them.

I wish all of you luck in 2015 and I hope each of you has a great year fishing - especially during our tournaments.



Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett - January 21, 2015



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2014 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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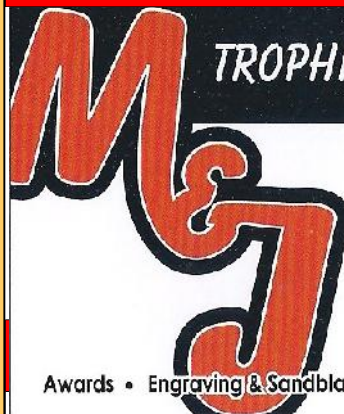
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Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>

**Welcome to New
Midweek Bass Anglers
Since the Last Newsletter**

- Ed Boll (CO/B)**
- Mike Halleck (CO)**
- Vern Ridgway (B)**
- Kyle Campbell (CO)**
- Greg Prather (B)**
- Jack Shearer (CO)**
- Ken Schueman (CO)**

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Individuals wishing to purchase a club shirt or cap can order directly from our provider - **M & J Trophies & Apparel**, 10802 N. 43rd Ave, Glendale, Arizona. See their ad above.

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in February

- Jerry Askam**
- Clinton Bell**
- John Milkint**
- Dave Rice**
- Vern Ridgway**
- Tom Savage**
- Gary Senft**
- Allen Wacker**
- Larry White**



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2015
Tournament Schedule**

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 21 January | Bartlett |
| 18 February | Saguaro |
| 17-18 March | Havasu (1.5 Days) |
| 15 April | Apache |
| 20 May | Roosevelt |
| 17 June | Saguaro |
| 15 July | Bartlett |
| 19 August | Saguaro |
| 16 September | Roosevelt |
| 20-21 October | Apache (1.5 Days) |
| 18 November | Bartlett |