

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



FEBRUARY 2013

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



### President's Perspective *By Gary Grimes*

I am eagerly awaiting our tournament next month at Lake Havasu, and seeing all the big bags of fish come to the scales, knowing that everyone will catch fish. It sure seems that we have been in a season of poor fishing at many of our lakes. This past fall Roosevelt and Alamo fished very poorly, and the pattern seems to be continuing into the spring. Maybe the good rains we have been receiving will recharge our reservoirs with nutrients and jump start the bass into greater activity, I for one am definitely looking forward to the next few months.

Spring is a great time for fishing, but also a great time to introduce new people to the club. The best way for our club to grow is through its membership, which is you. Do you know someone who likes to fish? Has Wednesdays off?

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

Doesn't take himself too seriously? Then Midweek is the place for him. See you all soon.

### Lake Bartlett

February 20, 2013

*By Terry Tassin*

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow, or should I say "if it snows we won't go!" I would say that this was the first time in club history we had to cancel an event because of inclement weather, but you will hear this in a couple of other places in the newsletter so I am not going to talk about the subject. Because the tournament was cancelled we have no money winners giving their reports. However, we do have a couple of "pre-fishing" reports so here they are - enjoy.

### Steve Simer Finds Fish Pre-Fishing

Steve said, "Since we don't have any actual "How I caught my fish" stories, I thought I would share my final day of pre-fishing with you.

Fishing had been tough for me on Bartlett. I'm new to fishing in Arizona, although being from Wisconsin, I have extensive experience fishing 49 degree water in the spring, but these

fish have had me pretty much fooled so far. Cold, muddy water is not my favorite fishing condition. The water level was up once again and was full of debris.

We didn't get an early start, probably hitting the water at about 8 am. We dropped the trolling motor and decided to start right in the marina - an off limits area for the tourney, but it might give us some information on what the fish were doing. Our first fish came early off a point on a slow rolled spinner bait in about 10 feet of water. Another fish picked up my jig on the same point, but didn't hook up.

We headed down to look at the water clarity near the dam and then over to the southeast side of the lake where we had the opportunity to watch two graceful mule deer mill around a bit before noticing us and then flee

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**



**"We Practice Catch and Release"**

up the mountainside, my first sighting of deer in Arizona. I've had Bobcats in the backyard and Javelinas on the golf course, but the first sighting of deer for an outdoorsman is pretty cool.

Ok, back to fishing. We only had one bite in this area, on a jig in about 6 feet of water. After shaking that fish off we spent some time on the electronics, just idling around and looking. I'm new here and learning the water and I still need some time on my new motor for break in. We motored up the lake to check out the water clarity or lack thereof at the north end of the lake. Turning around after stopping near Yellow Cliffs for a bit, we headed back down the lake.

Fishing windy points always seems like a good idea, al-

## Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 March** 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 Havasu** on **20 March 2013**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

though today we found our fish in the calmer waters protected from the wind. The key here wasn't the calm water as much as it was the sun beating on the bank near a secondary point. Fish started biting for us pretty nicely in about 6 feet of water when we could repeat the same conditions - sunny bank, chunk rock, and secondary points. Although I was shaking off most of the fish that hit, my partner boated a couple of fish in the  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 pound range. Although I suggested my partner use a drop shot, or a split shot rig with a wacky worm, I will admit here that he caught his fish on his favorite bait the Banjo Minnow - no joke (he's not a bass fisherman).

This pattern repeated itself pretty well. My jig was seeing some action, as was his bait. Later in the day we caught a few fish off steeper banks. I caught mine on a jerk bait after having no success on a deep diving crankbait, but when my partner caught one on a slowly fished green and chartreuse Banjo Minnow Frog, I went to the jerk bait and caught a couple of quick ones.

None of the fish we caught would have qualified for big bass awards, although we could have weighed in about a 6 pound limit of fish off the Banjo Minnow products. For the day, we probably had 15-20 bites, which are about 12 more than I've had on any other day at Bartlett.

I am Steve Simer and I am looking forward to Havasu!"

## Gary Senft & Bob Jolley Provide Pre-Fishing Tips

Bob Jolley commented, "Since the Bartlett tournament was cancelled here are some things Gary Senft and I did when we pre-fished Bartlett on Monday. Maybe some of this will be useful when you are back on Bartlett for some fun fishing.

For those of you who fished Bartlett on Monday you know how tough it was. The water was muddy, really bad north of Rattle Snake Cove, in the low 50's and the fish had lock jaw. Gary and I were on the water at 7:30 and off at 3:30. We ended up with 9 fish and our five best weighed around eight pounds, and except for the first fish we had to work hard for the rest of the day. I caught the first fish on my first cast with a 2.5 square bill crank bait. It was maybe 1 lb. and the 'first cast curse' was on me. I didn't catch another fish until early afternoon when I was able to catch two more with a drop shot.

Gary caught an early fish, also around 1 lb., with a white spinner bait and that was the end of our reaction bite. We moved from the Rattle Snake area and concentrated on water across from the dam. Gary caught three fish on a drop shot; Morning Dawn was the color of the day, and one on a spider jig. The fish were a little bigger - in the cookie cutter size of 1 1/2 to 2 lbs. We moved back to the area north of the ramp and we were able to catch two more on drop shots. Our final fish came on a drop shot along the wall north of the dam. Most of the

fish we caught were in the 10 – 25 foot depth range and fish showed up on the graph almost everywhere we went, even up the river in the mud stained water which we didn't try to fish.

Monday was a beautiful day to be on the water and I think Gary and I (mainly Gary) did pretty well considering the water conditions. If you haven't met Gary Senft he is a new club member and a very accomplished fisherman and a lot of fun to fish with. Gary is the Arizona team leader for Nitro boats through Bass Pro Shops in Mesa. Gary also conducts fishing workshops once a month at the Bass Pro Shops in Mesa. Gary brings in some very knowledgeable guest speakers and it's always a full house. For you non boaters who draw Gary for one of our tournaments you will learn a lot, have a great time and probably catch a bunch of fish."

**Statistics for those pre-fishing for the tournament:**

Four men fished 8 hours each, bringing an unknown number of keeper bass to the scales

for a total weight of untold pounds. All fish were released back into the lake to fight again another day.



**Treasure Chest**  
By John Milkint, Treasurer

February is the first time a Midweek Bass Tournament has been cancelled and as a result the Treasurer's report is unusual and in flux.

There are several members who have requested refunds from Bartlett since they are not fishing at Havasu in March. Those refunds are being processed as requests are received by me. Holding the Bartlett entry money for tournaments beyond Havasu would be extremely difficult to keep track of and a full refund seemed the most prudent way of handling a cancellation.

Those members who have paid for Bartlett, and are fishing Havasu, need to complete an entry form and make a note on the form that the entry has been paid with your Bartlett tournament entry fees. If your entry included the 5 lb. pot, there is no need to include an additional \$5. Since we did not fish in February, there is no 5 lb. pot fee for that month. For those not in the 5 lb. pot, it is still closed until someone weighs in a 5 lb. Bass – probably at Lake Havasu in March.



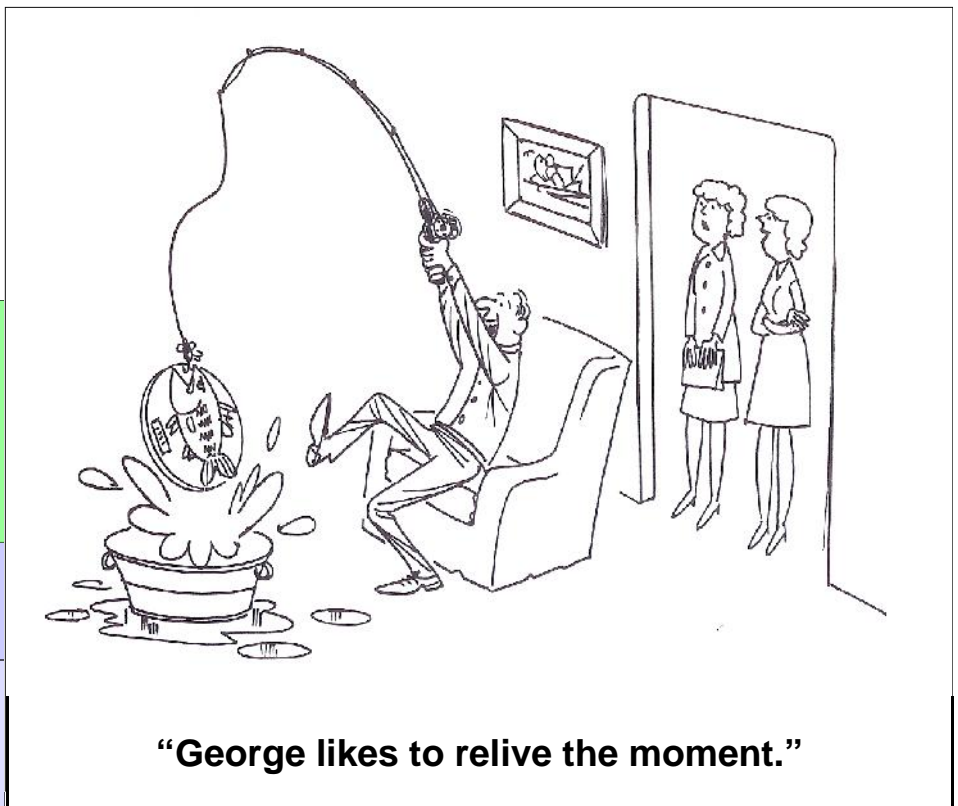
**Weighing-In**  
By Jack Hughes, Tmx Director

Well February 2013 set two new club records. It was the first time we ever cancelled a tournament and prior to the formal cancellation I had contact with 31 out of 46 members signed up to fish Bartlett and

**Membership**  
As of February 22, 2013 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 73 active members.

**Sportsman's Warehouse  
Big Bass Prize**

**No winner this month.**



here is the second record - 100% informed me that they preferred we cancel the tournament. That has to be a record that all agreed on something!

Since we had no tournament to brag about in February I thought I would inform the members how the decision to cancel came about. All the board members were aware that we had never cancelled a tournament before and if it was at all possible we wanted to fish. On Saturday before the tournament we became aware of the seriousness of the storm. Gary Grimes and I talked and we agreed to do nothing except follow the storm closely. Sunday, I received notice from Tonto National Forest (TNF) of the *potential* for flooding of the normally dry beds and dry streams leading into Bartlett and we sent an email notifying all members that were fishing the tournament of the potential for flooding and to plan accordingly. By Monday evening the forecast was chilly, wind 15 mph with gusts to 35-40 mph. Also by then seven members had already made the decision to drop out of the tournament (I guess they could also read the forecast). Gary and I talked it over and decided we would wait until Tuesday to make a decision and I started calling other club members for their input.

Tuesday morning we looked at four different forecasts, contacted Maricopa County for their forecast on dry wash flooding, and then I contacted TNF and asked what their plans were for 'stuck' fisher-

man at Bartlett in case the road washed out. They advised they were working on a plan because of past history and the forecast; also they were considering making the Bartlett Lake road starting at 9 PM Tuesday evening a one way exit only road and would let me know later in the day what the final plan was.

Later Tuesday morning Gary and I went over all the information we had: four different weather forecasts including looking closely hour by hour for when we were scheduled on the water, members input, TNF alert notice, Maricopa County dry stream flooding forecast, the number of solo fisherman we would have on the lake because of cancellations, the various type of boats club members had (not all our members have top of the line Nitro's or Rangers and I found myself thinking...Lou Hirlemann's Lund deep V would be the perfect boat for this tournament), the clubs possible liability if someone got hurt or even worse and finally safety of all members during the tournament not only on the lake but going to and from Bartlett on the main road. I know a lot of our information was based on someone else's best guess but we did not have hind sight - only our best guess of what would happen - and every piece of data we had was all negative and not one positive. At that point we decided to cancel the tournament. Cancellation was not taken lightly; however I reminded Gary if we look at past history both the FLW and Bassmasters have

cancelled tournaments the day before based upon the forecast and the safety of the contestants.

After we decided to cancel the tournament I notified TNF, as required in our permit, that we had cancelled the tournament. About two hours later I had a call from TNF thanking us for what they called "our wise decision" and special thanks from the rangers because they were concerned about our fishermen's safety on the lake and how they were going to cover the lake with that many boats from MBA on the water. I was also told statistically they thought no way could we have 46 fishermen on the lake in the forecasted condition without someone getting in trouble. The caller then said "you just made our job a lot easier and thank you again".

Gary and I really struggled with cancelling the tournament; it was not an easy decision. Each of us put in more than 30 hours each on the decision between talking to members and calling various agencies, answering members concerns, emails and finally Internet research on weather forecasts. However, I think it was a good decision, based on the fact our club was established to enhance each member's knowledge and skills at bass fishing not competitive fishing no matter what the conditions. The safety of club members will always come first.

### **SOME GOOD THOUGHTS**

First I want to thank all the club members who contacted Gary

and I and expressed their support for our decision. It is always nice to know with a club as large as ours that the members appreciated all the work that was done in trying to fish the Bartlett tournament then the decision to cancel it and why we did it. Again, thank you all!

The board is taking inputs on replacing the cancelled Bartlett event. If you have any ideas, and I know every member does, let one of your board members know what you're thinking. When I contacted TNF and told them we had decided to cancelled the Bartlett tournament they thought we had made a very wise decision and if we wanted to reschedule and they closed the road they will try to get our permit money transferred for a new permit in the future.

Havasu is around the corner and hopefully a great tournament will be enjoyed by all fishing. If you have not made your room reservation I suggest you get it done sooner not later. For our new members Havasu is the sightseeing/sight fishing tournament of the year and the only tournament where 22 pounds may get you listed in the standings as an 'also fished' team.

We will follow Havasu with Alamo and along with the tournament your club will host a steak cook out for all members at Alamo on Tuesday evening. The cook out will be in Area C at camp site C-29, so here again I recommend you reserve your camp site early

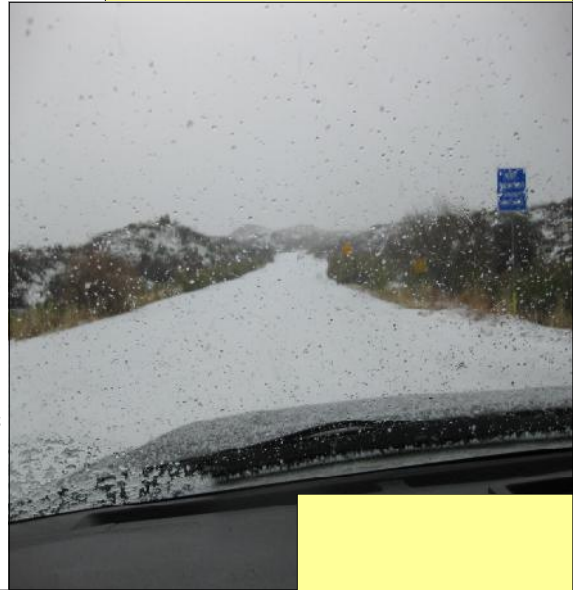
(now!) on the Internet.

If you were signed up to fish Bartlett the club will automatically carry over your entry fee for Havasu unless you inform us that you want a refund. If you have paid for Bartlett and are fishing Havasu just forward your entry form and mark on the top of it "FEE CARRIED OVER FROM BARTLETT". Remember, you still must submit an entry form for the Havasu tournament.

The remainder of 2013 looks like nothing but fun and if everything works we should be able to meet the club's objective of making all of us a little better at bass fishing!

**Photo Scrapbook -  
Lake Bartlett -  
February 20, 2013**

**The road to the lake the morning of tournament day!**



**Thanks to  
Paul Archer  
for the  
photos.**



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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**

**Clinton Bell (B)  
Jim Buchanan (NB)  
Arnold Washington (B)**

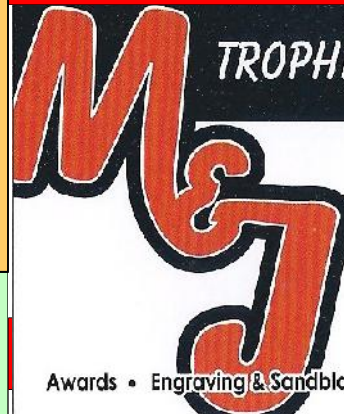
**Tackle Box Sales!**

For those members who have "fishing related items" that they would like to sell, trade, or give away.

<u>Seller</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>
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Something to list? Contact the Editor

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**Midweek Bass Anglers 2013  
Tournament Schedule**

16 January	Roosevelt
20 February	Bartlett
20 March	Havasu
17 April	Alamo
15 May	Apache
19 June	Saguaro
17 July	Bartlett
21 August	Saguaro
18 September	Roosevelt
16 October	Martinez
20 November	Alamo

**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**

**Born in March**

Sean Ballard

Jerry Grina

Brian Jacobson

Lew Southard

