

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



FEBRUARY 2014

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



When I consider the four days I have recently spent at Lake Pleasant, the two words that come to mind are frustrating and humbling, and I am certain I am not alone in these sentiments. The fish were extremely difficult to catch, but as always, someone figured it out, albeit only two teams had a limit. Congratulations to Gary Martlage and Sean Ballard for their winning weight of 7.96 lbs.; fishing a lake as tough as Pleasant is a tremendous challenge. Why is it so difficult to get bit? Full moon? Clear water? If you know, please let us know. The reason shouldn't be the weather, because I think this was the nicest temperatures ever for a February tournament. Whatever the cause, I am glad this tournament is behind us

and we can look forward to catching more willing participants at our next event at Lake Havasu in March. Thanks to the weigh-in team, you guys do a great job.



Lake Pleasant

February 19, 2014

By Terry Tassin

I guess if you have to have your right (driving) foot in a cast or boot our February tournament at Lake Pleasant was a good time to be out of the tournament action. I just hope I can make it to Havasu in March.

OK enough of that. Lets hear from the winners who provided after action reports from the tournament.

Team Martlage & Ballard Good As Gold For 1st Place

Taking home 1st Place, Team Gary Martlage & Sean Ballard weighed the winning creel of four bass weighing 7.96 lbs. Thanks to Sean's 2.77 lb bass the team also won 2nd Place Big Fish honors.

Gary Martlage: Good ole'

Lake Pleasant! After 35-40 hours of combined pre-fishing by my co-angler and me, we were in the 'best' position starting the tournament. Being the "start boat" did not concern us, since we had no place to go! I decided to fish at the launch area, since we both had not had a bite on the lake during prior pre-fishing outings! When Sean put the first fish in the boat, I was excited - we were going to get participation points!

Moving to the underwater island in front of the marina, a second fish was caught by me! Unbelievable! Two fish in the boat before 9AM, both on drop shot worms. Moving to an area between Coles Wash and Goose Bay, we caught two more; Sean catching the 2.77 lb bass, and I donating another 2+ lb fish. Sean had missed two other fish, and was being pretty hard on himself. I told him I was excited to have 4, and it proved to be enough for a win.

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"

All fish were caught on drop-shot technique, in 20-30 feet of water, next to 50-60 feet deeper areas.

I am glad I drew Sean as a partner. He is a great fisherman, and we worked well together, just "going fishing"!

Now that Lake (Un) Pleasant is behind us, I am looking forward to a great season. I am excited to fish Havasu, and I'm sure all other club members will have a better time catching fish next month.

Tim Todd & Jamie Shaw Finish 2nd Overall for Silver

In **Second Place** the team of **Tim Todd & Jamie Shaw** weighed five bass for a total weight of 6.85 lbs.

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 5 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 19 March 2014**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

Tim Todd: What a great guy to get drawn with – Jamie Shaw. For the first time in club history Jamie was going as a co-angler! Prior to the tournament day Jamie and I discussed our plan for fishing at Pleasant. As we were talking, he mentioned that he had this great Ranger boat loaded with thousands of dollars of electronics and if I would like to check it out he would take his boat and go as the boater. Well how can you turn down an offer like that? Plus I would get to relax in the back seat and not over tax my energy levels.

Tournament day we drop shotted and jigged the main lake points. The water temps ranged from 56 to 58 degrees during the day but the temps did not seem to make any difference to catching fish. We caught quite a few bass (13) but they were mostly 'rats' – heck I own swimbaits that are bigger than most of the fish we caught. Our best fish were caught on drop shot rigs with Oxblood and Morning Dawn Robo Worms in 30 feet of water.

At the end of the day Sean Ballard offered to get Jamie's truck so we could take the boat out of the water. He knew I have health issues which make it difficult for me to walk up and down ramps. Thanks Sean, you are one great guy!

I am really looking forward to some great fishing at Lake Havasu next month. I will be heading to the lake on Monday of the tournament week so if anyone would like to share the

ride and pre-fishing let me know.

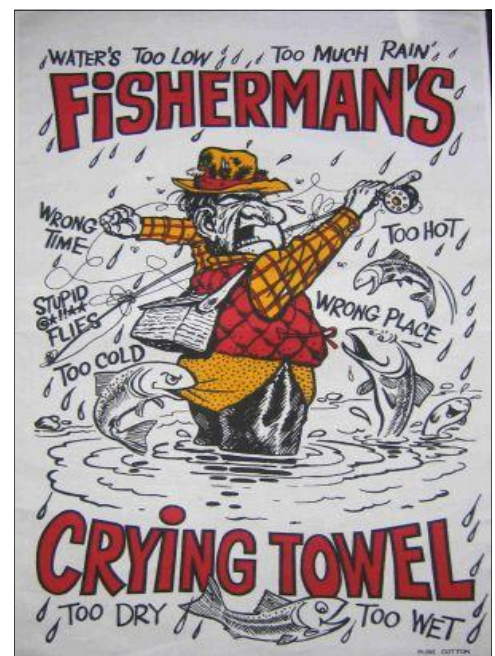
Team Bowlin & Grina Win 3rd Place Overall

Team **Steve Bowlin & Jerry Grina** weighed four bass for 6.74 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Jerry Grina: I pre-fished on Thursday and caught two little fish. My partner Steve Bowlin had fished on Saturday and had two bites. I knew this was going to be tough.

We started in Steve's spot in Humbug and he caught one fish. We moved to my spot in Coles bay and Steve caught two more fish, then back to Steve's spot where he caught one more and that was it for the rest of the day. I served as net man and never got a bite.

All fish were caught drop-shotting Salt River craw Robo worms. Weather was perfect and I got a ride in Steve's beautiful new Ranger Z520.



Team Steele & Cobasky Dropshot Their Way to 4th Place Overall Finish & 1st Place Big Fish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Bryan Steele & George Cobasky** weighed five fish for a total weight of 6.59 lbs. Thanks to Bryan's 3.44 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors.

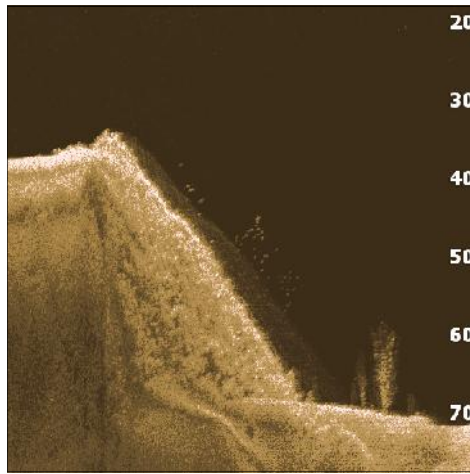
Bryan Steele: My partner George and I fished two deep water schools of bass, which we fished back and forth all day. The schools were about 150 yards apart. All of the bass were caught on dropshot rigs using a custom pour 6 inch straight tail worm that my Dad makes for me. The color is kind of like a light Oxblood with some clear purple. He uses super-soft Plastisol and a slightly thinner profile worm than Robo Worms.

These schools were located near a creek channel in a main basin cove, and the bass were gathered around rocky ledges formed by a channel swing (the inside swing ledges). The first school was in the 40-60 foot range and second school was located in the 30-35 foot range. Interestingly enough, the 30-35 foot school was extra tough to get a bite and the 40-60 foot fish were a bit easier to fool. In the morning I got a couple of 9 inch bass out

of the 55 to 60 foot depth range, which was not the size of fish I was hoping to bite at that depth. The bite was slow but consistent from this deeper school during the morning, but nothing was caught from either school in the afternoon.

The biggest bass was caught near the area of the 30-35 foot school but was located at the bottom of the ledge near a few big boulders in 52 feet of water at about 11AM.

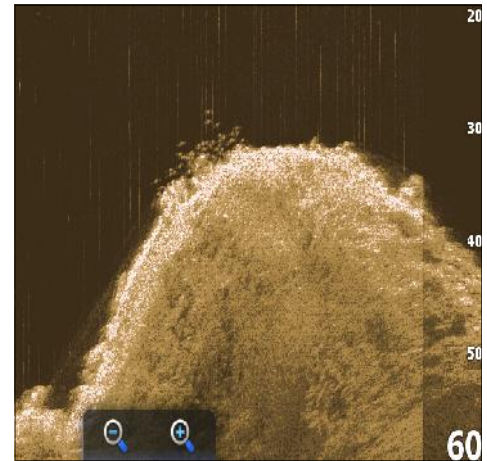
Here is a downscan image of the deeper school of bass (40-60 ft):



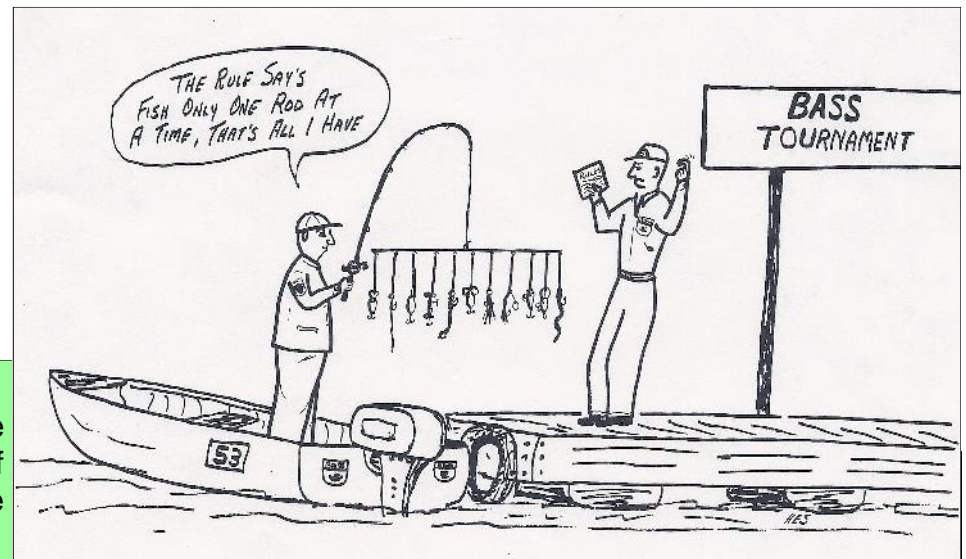
motor that shows the bass piling up at the bottom of the ledge of the deep school:



This is a downscan image of the 30-35 ft school near the top of the ledge:



This is a 200 Hz sonar shot from underneath the trolling



Membership

As of February 21, 2014 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 76 active members.

Steel & Buchanan Win Final Prize Spot with 5th Place Finish

Three fish weighing 6.29 lbs was enough to earn **Team Dwayne Steel & Jim Buchanan** the **5th Place** money.

Jim Buchanan: Wednesday morning after launching our boat the start boat called our boat Number 13. Almost everyone took off up the lake but us. Dwayne decided to stay around the boat launch and fish there. Good move. About 15 minutes into the tournament I caught a nice fish in 10 feet of water on a jig. No sooner did I get it into the live well, I caught another. Then Dwayne caught a fish on a drop shot. We thought it was going to be a good day - we then headed up the lake. We did not catch another fish all day. We threw everything minus the tackle box and I almost threw the box into the lake due to frustration. All in all, it was a good day with a great boat captain.

Asmus & Royal Master Striper Technique for Goon Fish Prize

Mark Royal: Regarding the goon fish; Gary took us to the east cove at the back of Humbug. I caught two stripers there at about 1 PM on a white and blue spinnerbait working it slowly up from the bottom in about 4 to 8 feet of water. Got my heart pumping on the first one as I had hopes that it was a largemouth – that is about all the excitement we had the

whole day.



Treasure Chest By John Reichard, Treasurer

I don't even want to talk about the fishing at Lake Pleasant. However, the 5 lb pot was worth \$1255 this month which, because no 5 lb bass was caught at Lake Pleasant, will roll-over to next month at Havasu. The pot should be worth about \$1475 for March at Havasu and I am pretty sure the pot will be won at the March tournament.



Weighing-In By Jack Hughes, Tmx Director

Well next month, Lake Havasu, is what many of the anglers in MBA think is the best tournament of the year. Traditionally more fish are caught during this tournament than any other tournament during the year thanks to the incredible bed fishing that normally occurs during this time period.

As tournament director it is also the one tournament of the year when I receive more complaints than any other tournament. Most of the complaints come from co-anglers with remarks like "I did not sign up for Havasu to net fish" or "I never got to fish for one fish on a bed - my boater took them all" and the list of complaints keeps going. When we as a board look into the complaints we determine that

most complaints are valid.

I am asking all of you boaters to consider the guy in the back of the boat. He is your teammate, he has just paid the most money he will spend for any tournament in the year, he wants to catch fish off the beds also and this may be his only real chance to catch a five pounder this year.

Most of our bass boats can safely handle two men on the front deck. Invite your co-angler up front; beside four eyes are better than two at spotting beds. The extra set of eyes also keeps an eye on the fish on the bed while you are maneuvering the boat. If you each have a different lure it does add to the frustration of the fish when something different keeps entering the bed. Alternate on trying to catch the fish off the bed (and we all know this can often take a while). As a team, by throwing two different baits at the bed, you can irritate the fish a lot faster for a strike. You may get lucky and have two beds at the same time also. Most of our co-anglers have years of experience and they just may be able to show you boaters a new trick to catching them on the beds.

The past four years I have invited my co-angler up front and you will be surprised how much fun is added when you are both standing there side by side trying to figure out how to make the fish bite. For me it is one of the most fun experiences of the year.

One thing I will guarantee you is that you will have more fun and enjoy the day a lot more working as a team and the odds are you will end up catching more fish than if the co-angler stayed in the back of the boat. Think of your co-angler as being able to double your catch more rapidly and you will be surprised what an extra set of eyes sees that you missed! The other major advantage is if your eyes wander because of the youthful scenery, just maybe your co-angler might have kept his eyes on the fish on the bed instead of the scenery (but don't bet on it).

Finally, remember to get your room reservation early.

Spring Tactics

10 Rules of Sight Fishing

Certainly, there are times when an inexperienced angler can catch a spawning largemouth, but not every fish is fooled so easily.

As a rule, tricking a big spawner into biting your lure will test your patience, if not your nerves. There's an art to it, one which some of our members have refined over the years. There are days when the bass will thump anything you drop in the nest. But more often than not, especially when several other anglers are targeting spawners, there is a small margin for error.

Here are some best tips for stacking the odds in your favor

when the bed bite is on.

1. Be Patient

This is the No. 1 factor in sight fishing, because sometimes it takes awhile to get a fish to eat. Sometimes you have to keep changing baits and trying different things to figure out the exact formula that will trigger a fish's reaction. Most people don't have enough patience.

2. Keep Your Distance

It's easier to catch fish that aren't aware of your presence. Catching 10-pounders that are within the shadow of your boat is rare. There's a tendency for anglers to get close so they can see the bass better, but that can hinder you. If you know where the bed is and can make out the outline of a fish, you're better off staying back than looking the fish in the eye. Of course, polarized sunglasses make a huge difference, but so does boat position. Keep the sun to your back and set up where you have optimum view into the water and can see the bottom. A slight angular adjustment to either side can make a difference too.

3. Move Quietly

Keep a low profile in the boat and keep sudden body movements at a minimum. Remember, a bass' eyes are on top of its head and they're very aware of things above them. Eagles and ospreys are their predators, so any overhead movement puts them on guard. Avoid using the trolling motor unnecessarily, and if you have an anchor or Power-Poles, use them to help keep you at a distance and in

position. One of the biggest keys to getting a bass to bite quickly is to make the cast before he knows you're there. If you come upon a big female unexpectedly and startle her, mark the location, ease off and revisit the bed later. When you do go back, stop ahead of time and make the longest cast you can. Cast beyond the target and drag it slowly into the bed.

4. Don't Fish Fast

Many anglers put the bait in the nest area, shake it a few times, and then pull it out. That may work at times, but it can also cause a fish to lose interest. A bedding bass gets jaded quickly. When she sees a bait constantly coming and going, she figures 'It's going to leave, so why mess with it?' Keep the bait there as long as you can, shaking, wiggling and squirming before you take it away.

5. Be Choosy

Don't invest a lot of time in pairs of fish that are in the act of spawning, such as when the male and female are rubbing, bumping and rolling. Unless you're there at the very end of the ritual, it's tough to get those fish to bite. Mark the bed, and then go back later. If they're done, you stand a better chance of catching them.

6. Study the Fish

Experienced anglers know how to read bedding fish to determine their "catch ability." If a fish doesn't leave the bed when it sees you, chances are you can catch it. If that fish takes off quickly and doesn't come back immediately, it's

going to be tougher to catch. If it's a big fish and there are other anglers in the area — and you have the time — you can sit her out. Otherwise, mark the bed's location and come back later with a more stealthy approach. If the fish noses up to the bait, you're doing something right, even if it doesn't take it. That is a positive sign the fish is interested and that whatever you're doing is right. Keep doing it, and keep putting it in the same place. You will get it to bite unless you spook her. There is generally a key spot of the bed in which the bass is more likely to bite if the lure gets there. You can usually tell by the interest she shows or how agitated she becomes when the bait hits a different spot.

7. Don't Overlook Deep Water

Not all bass spawn in shallow water. Some of the most productive spawning areas lay deeper than most anglers look. Look as deep as your eyes will allow you to see. If you can see down to 6 feet, that's where you should start looking — from there to a foot of water. On extremely clear lakes, you may find bedding bass in 20 feet of water or more.

8. Search for Them Early

While biologists say 68 degrees is the optimum spawning temperature, bedding activity begins long before that. In fact, on some northern U.S. lakes, bass have been caught off beds in 50-degree water. 60 degrees tends to be when activity picks up most on lakes, but you should start looking when the water hits 55 degrees. Follow the weather patterns closely.

And by all means, start looking during full moon or new moon periods of early spring.

9. Show Them a Variety

There's no lure in your box that won't catch bedding fish, but there are some that will catch them better. Lure color generally isn't as important as is your ability to see the bait and know when the bass sucks it in. That's why lighter colors on small baits or adding some chartreuse to the tails of others works good. However, there are days when color or lure size make a difference. Baits that undulate or move with natural water currents while sitting still can aggravate a bass into biting. If a fish is locked on there and big enough to fool with, keep experimenting with baits until you hit one that the bass seems to notice more. It can be a nerve-racking process, but big ones make it worthwhile.

10. Avoid Heavy Lures

Bass often spawn around wood and rocks. For that reason, rig your plastics with 3/8 or 1/2 ounce sinkers, preferring the lighter of the two in shallow water. Heavier weights can cause the lure to snag easier, and the last thing you want to do is disturb the bed environment. That's a sure way to mess up your chances of catching a big fish.

You Know You're a Redneck When!

1. You take your dog for a

walk and you both use the same tree.

2. You can entertain yourself for more than 15 minutes with a fly swatter.

3. Your boat has not left the driveway in 15 years.

4. You burn your yard rather than mow it.

5. You think 'The Nutcracker' is a vice on the work bench

6. The Salvation Army declines your furniture.

7. You offer to give someone the shirt off your back and they don't want it.

8. You have the local taxidermist on speed dial.

9. You come back from the dump with more than you took.

10. You keep a can of Raid on the kitchen table.

11. Your wife can climb a tree faster than your cat.

12. Your grandmother has 'ammo' on her Christmas list.

13. You keep flea and tick soap in the shower.

14. You've been involved in a custody fight over a hunting dog.

15. You go to the stock car races and don't need a program.

16. You know how many bales of hay your car will hold.

- 17. You have a rag for a gas cap.
- 18. Your house doesn't have curtains, but your truck does.
- 19. You wonder how service stations keep their restrooms so clean?
- 20. You can spit without opening your mouth.
- 21. You consider your license plate personalized because your father made it.
- 22. Your lifetime goal is to own a fireworks stand.
- 23 You have a complete set of salad bowls and they all say 'Cool Whip' on the side.
- 24. The biggest city you've ever been to is WalMart.
- 25. Your working TV sits on top of your non-working TV
- 26. You've used your ironing board as a buffet table.
- 27. A tornado hits your neighborhood and does \$100K worth of improvements.
- 28. You've used a toilet brush to scratch your back.
- 29. You missed your 5th grade graduation because you were on jury duty.
- 30. You think fast food is hitting a deer at 65 mph.

Into a Belfast pub comes Paddy Murphy, looking like he'd just been run over by a train.
 His arm is in a sling, his nose is broken, his face is cut and bruised and he's walking with a limp.
 "What happened to you?" asks Sean, the bartender.
 " Jamie O'Conner and me had a fight," says Paddy.
 "That little shit, O'Conner," says Sean,
 "He couldn't do that to you, he must have had something in his hand."
 "That he did," says Paddy, "a shovel is what he had, and a terrible lickin' he gave me with it."
 "Well," says Sean, "you should have defended yourself, didn't you have something in your hand?"
 That I did," said Paddy.
 "Mrs. O'Conner's breast, and a thing of beauty it was, but useless in a fight."

 An Irishman who had a little too much to drink is driving home from the city one night and, of course, his car is weaving violently all over the road.
 A cop pulls him over.
 "So," says the cop to the driver, where have ya been?"
 "Why, I've been to the pub of course," slurs the drunk.
 "Well," says the cop, "it looks like you've had quite a few to drink this evening."
 "I did all right," the drunk says with a smile.
 "Did you know," says the cop, standing straight and folding his arms across his chest, "that a few intersections back,

your wife fell out of your car?"
 "Oh, thank heavens," sighs the drunk.
 "For a minute there, I thought I'd gone deaf."

AND THE BEST FOR LAST
 A drunk staggers into a Catholic Church, enters a confessional booth, sits down, but says nothing. The Priest coughs a few times to get his attention but the drunk continues to sit there. Finally, the Priest pounds three times on the wall. The drunk mumbles, "ain't no use knockin, there's no paper on this side either!"

Beannachtam na Feile Padraig
 May there always be work for your hands to do,
 May your purse always have a coin or two.
 May the sun always shine warm on your windowpane,
 May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.
 May the hand of a friend always be near you,
 And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

Happy St. Patrick's Day



Only the Irish have Jokes Like These Oldies

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

Nick Wampach (CO)

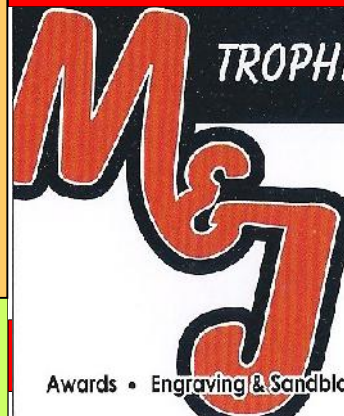
Sound Off

Let us hear from you. The newsletter is your vehicle for communicating and sharing with other members.

Many of you have things to say, opinions to share.

Contact the Editor who would be delighted to hear from you.

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**Midweek Bass Anglers 2014
Tournament Schedule**

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

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in March

Jerry Grina

Brian Jacobson

Lew Southard

