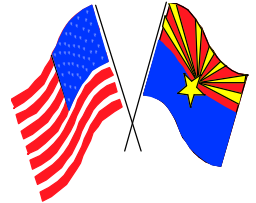


MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MARCH 2015

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



The Midweek Bass Angler's March two-day tournament at Lake Havasu proved to be a real nail biter, with the majority of the field of 21 teams very much in contention at the end of a very challenging day one.

Congratulations to the team of Jerry Askam and Bryan Steele on a fantastic victory, catching a 19 lb sack of largemouth during the shortened second day, which ended at noon, to propel them from ninth place on day one to final victory.

Lake Havasu has approximately the same surface area of water as Roosevelt Lake, but while Roosevelt has approximately 128 miles of shoreline, Lake Havasu has over 400 miles of

shoreline, which means triple the amount of fishable water. The anglers of Midweek took advantage of this vast opportunity, one team carefully navigating north through over 25 miles of sandbars and tules in the river to Topock, while others ventured over 25 miles south through open water to the Bill Williams river area, with everyone else somewhere in between. Though fishing was a bit tougher than expected for all, everyone had the opportunity to catch nice quality smallmouth and largemouth. The big fish of the tournament topped the scales at 4.89 lbs; there were actually two fish of the exact same weight.

There were a lot of team changes in the days prior to the tournament for a variety of reasons, which unfortunately kept our tournament director busier than a one legged man in a butt kicking contest. Thank you Jack Hughes for your diligence and patience and making sure everyone was able to fish. I look forward to fishing Havasu each and every year for the varied and endless shorelines to fish, and the opportunity to catch those red-eyed fighting smallmouth.

Another year is in the books,

time to get ready for some more great fishing at Apache Lake in April, and our annual pre-tournament lakeside barbeque on Tuesday night.



Lake Havasu
March 17 & 18, 2015
By Terry Tassin

Team Jerry Askam & Bryan Steele Have a Great Two Days at Havasu

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Askam & Steele** brought to the scales the winning two day creel of ten bass weighing 32.78 lbs. Thanks to **Jerry's** 4.89 lb bass the team wins half of the **Big Fish Pot** for an additional \$200.

Jerry Askam: At the tournament draw I was originally



**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”

1 of 8 solo anglers. After a system was devised to add co-anglers Jack called and said I got lucky because Bryan Steele was going to be my partner. Boy was Jack ever right. Bryan is a great guy, the club's electronic guru, with excellent fishing skills and knowledge of fish patterns. We spent most of the first day fishing beds we had identified in pre-fish. We had a limit of 1 3/4 to 2 lb. fish by mid-morning but the additional fish we caught were not upgrading our total weight. In the afternoon we saw a lot of fish in or near the back habitats. Bryan was able to stick a couple of good ones including a 4 plus which put us in a good position only a couple of pounds out of the lead.

It became apparent the largemouth were using the

habitats as a staging area for the next wave moving onto beds and were catchable with reaction baits. This set our pattern for day 2; fishing back habitats with reaction baits in a couple of areas Bryan had identified using Google Earth. I fished a chatterbait and Bryan followed up primarily with a drop shot. That combination put some good fish into the boat starting with a 4.89 largemouth I stuck on the chatterbait at our first stop on day 2. It was a great time fishing with Bryan and he taught this old dog some new tricks.

located many beds with fish on or near the beds, and our plan was in place for the tournament.

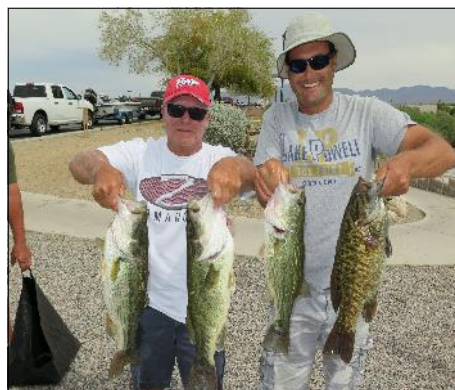
Day One: We had a small limit by about 10 AM, so the bed fishing was not that great for us--in terms of quality. Most of the bigger males and females were spooked easily and weren't very interested in looking at the bait.

In the afternoon, we went to an area that we had located some bigger fish, but they were relating to the habitat. We had to back away from those fish quite a bit, and a couple of them started biting. The first day a 4.25 lb largemouth bit a Matt Lures U2 Bluebill that I was jigging off the bottom and near the habitats. That set the pattern for the rest of the day and into Day Two - Fish the backs of the pockets with the shallow habitat. It wasn't an

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 1 April** 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 Apache** on **15 April 2015**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.



1st Place
Jerry Askam & Bryan Steele

Bryan Steele: Wow, great fun and great to meet Jerry and to fish with him this tournament!

Prefish: We both decided that sight fishing was going to be the primary method of fishing, but the main basin of the lake was murky and most beds were empty. We decided to go find clear, calm water so we could have a chance to find beds with fish on them. We checked from the Ski Coves down past Havasu Palms. We



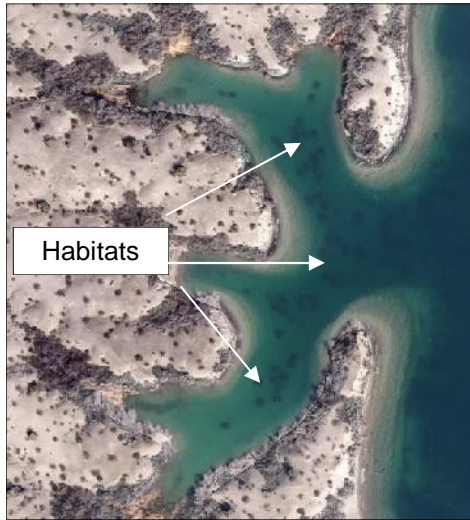
The Rules By Gary Grimes

For the first time in the club's brief history, there was a tie for Big Fish at the Havasu tournament. Unfortunately there was no provision in the tournament rules on how to handle ties, so the board decided the two anglers with the big fish should equally split the 1st and 2nd Place big fish money. We will likely include this as a new provision in the tournament rules when we review them this fall, though it is unlikely this situation will occur again anytime soon.

easy bite, but it was the only thing we found to hook up quality fish.

Day Two: The plan was to power-fish through the back of as many shallow, habitat-filled pockets as possible. Jerry smoked a couple of really nice fish on the chatterbait in those pockets very early—about 9.5 pounds. I picked up the dropshot to help fill out the limit before the early weigh-in. As it was getting closer to quitting time, Jerry asked if we should go make a longer run past Havasu Palms and try for that big Smallie we failed to pick off the bed on Day 1. In my mind, I was thinking “Nope, stick with this bite.” but what I said was... “Hey, pick what you are most confident in.” We made the run. A few “blind casts” later on a deep, windy bed, we had a four pound Smallie in the boat and headed back toward Windsor. Thanks Jerry--Great move! The Smallmouth hit a 3 inch tube/fluke looking bait on a short leader dropshot (custom pour, pearlescent & clear laminated bait that my Dad makes for me).

Since Jerry mentioned Google Earth, here is an example of how we located the pockets with the most habitats that ran into the shallows.



Sean Ballard & Steve Wells Finish 2nd Overall

In **Second Place** the team of **Sean Ballard & Steve Wells** weighed ten bass for a total weight of 29.55 lbs.

Sean Ballard: I started off on Friday with my wife joining me

in Parker at the casino. Never having fished the river below Parker Dam I wasn't sure what to do so I started throwing a small swim bait and started catching fish and having some fun and not thinking it was going to help out later in the week. I fished for 3 hours caught 12 fish biggest was 3lbs. Then on Saturday I fished the south part of Havasu around Cattail Cove and had a terrible time finding and catching fish – a real learning experience. Sunday I fished with Bob jolly and did some fun fishing around the island and found a few nice smallies and Bob caught a 4 lber. So thinking about Friday and how I caught fish in the river south, we headed north and I took Bob to a spot I fished years ago in my little boat. I fished

Membership
As of March 20 2015 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 84 active members.



with the swim bait and caught fish and we spotted some beds and had a few marks to come back to. Now this is where the story changed. Instead of being solo, I now have a partner for the tourney - Mr. Steve Wells and we are fishing on Monday and the first thing we did was head up the river to find some more areas to fish. Using swim baits as our primary bait we located a few back-waters that had fish. We worked our way up the river as far north as Pirates Cove just past I-40. Now it's serious fishing time!



2nd Place
Sean Ballard & Steve Wells

Our first stop was a 4 lb small mouth by Tuttle Bar and just for good measure we caught the fish next door to him and then we were off for our long drive north stopping to pick up a 3 lb smallie and 2.78 large mouth, and then just pass Devils Elbow we finished filling our limit by noon using the swim bait and Steve caught our biggest fish on a Senko. We now have 16 lbs and I am thinking fish management for Wednesday. We could have caught a few more 3 lb fish but

that would have only netted us a few ounces so we chose to wait and catch them on day two of the tournament. We located around 7 bed fish that I knew we could pick up quickly and all of our keepers on day two came off of the (fish crack) aka the Berkley Gulp Minnow. I would like to say thanks to my partner Steve Wells, he has more fish stories than fish in the ocean and anybody that draws him will have a great time. And I can't wait for next year and the great Lake Havasu.

Richie Rojas & Rusty Murdock "Just Go Fishing" To Finish 3rd Place Overall

Team **Rojas & Murdock** weighed ten bass for 27.14 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.



3rd Place
Rusty Murdock & Richie Rojas

Rusty Murdock: At first I was disappointed that we couldn't find a better sight fishing pattern. Then we decided to just "go fishing" and forget the sight fishing pattern. We caught fish on points, backs of coves, and main lake bluffs.

Our fish came on spinner baits, dropshots, flipping; a variety of baits and a whole lot of luck. I would like to say thanks to Richie Rojas. I had a great time during two days of pre-fishing and two days of tournament fishing.

Team Hirlemann & Grimes Ride South On River For 4th Place Overall Finish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Lou Hirlemann & Gary Grimes** weighed ten fish for a total weight of 26.26 lbs.

Gary Grimes: As many of you know, Lou Hirlemann and I are best buds, but unfortunately are never able to fish a Midweek tournament together since we are also both boaters, so it was quite exciting for me when I got paired with Lou on the Sunday before the tournament. Unfortunately for me, though, the pairing was forged after I encountered problems with my big motor, and hopefully the problem will not be too complicated or costly. Lou and I decided to fish the south end of the lake, since we would be unable to get to the closer spots due to the fact that Lou's boat is half as fast as most boats in the club. On Tuesday all of the fish we caught were smallmouth, and were all staged on beds for the spawn. Though bed fishing is usually quite easy, the terrible "mustard gas" floating on the surface of the water forced us to resort to blind casting to fill our limit. We had most of our limit by noon,

and spent the rest of the day primarily scouting new areas for Day 2.



4th Place
Gary Grimes & Lou Hirlemann

We were boat #2 on the second day, but I think most of the club flew by us within the first mile of the launch. We went south again, but the 50 minute drive cost us valuable fishing time during the shortened day. The fishing was definitely tougher for us on day 2, as we had caught most of our quality fish on Day 1, but we managed to catch enough for a decent bag. We left the river area at 10 AM, leaving us enough time to return to the ramp while also hitting a couple of other spots on the long journey home. Most of our fish came on drop shot, but we did manage a couple of reaction bites on Day 2 when the breeze picked up. Fun time.

Team Lanham & Russell Celebrate 5th Place and Goon Fish Pot Win

A ten fish limit weighing 25.27 lbs was enough to earn **Team Bobby Lanham & Steve Russell 5th Place** money.

Lanham's 33.65 lb Catfish added the **Goon Fish** prize money to their winnings.



Steve Russell: On Tuesday I caught most of my fish on a white chatterbait at the tulles. Bob caught the winning 33.65 lb Goon Fish catfish on a green crawdad rigged Texas style. On Wednesday I caught most of my fish on green crawdads rigged Texas style and Bob caught another flathead that was probably 15 pounds.



Goon Fish Pot Winners
Bob Lanham & Steve Russell
and \$100 Friend

Jack Hughes & Bob Jolley Win Half of 1st Place Big Bass Prize **Jerry Askam & Bryan Steele Take Second Half**

Bob Jolley: I think a tie for big fish was a first for our club. The

teams of Jack Hughes & Bob Jolley, and Jerry Askam & Bryan Steele each brought in a 4.89 lb bass which was only ounces away from the 5 lb pot.

On Tuesday Jack and I spotted a male and female largemouth on a bed. We kept both of our baits in the bed at the same time and the male finally took my white jig and we weighed him in on Tuesday. The bigger female would have nothing to do with us after we caught her boyfriend so we decided to wait and try to catch her on Wednesday.

On Wednesday Jack and I threw our baits on the bed for about 20 minutes until the female finally got mad at Jack's tube. Jack was very patient and waited until she had his lure in her mouth and started to swim off before he set the hook. He set the hook firmly and we had her in the net in less than a minute. Jack used a white tube with a black jig head to catch the big fish.

Our bed fishing was helped immensely by an anchor Jack had brought to keep the boat in place when the wind was blowing. It was the next best thing to a power pole and it worked very well. I asked Jack why he hadn't bought power poles and he said the power poles were \$2,000 and the anchor was \$8 dollars. So I was the power (no charge) and the anchor was the pole (\$8), the results, Priceless.

A funny anchor story while we were pre-fishing on Monday. We were bed fishing and we

decided to move to another location. We jumped in our seats and Jack hit the throttle. The boat took off slowly and I realized I had forgotten to pull up the anchor so I yelled at Jack (very loudly since he had forgotten his hearing aids) and he shut off the engine and I pulled up the anchor. Jack hit the throttle again and we started to get on plane when a wall of water hit us head-on and completely soaked us - Jack had forgotten to pull up the trolling motor. So there sat the two stooges laughing their asses off for being so stupid. However, it was a hot day and the shower felt good.

other problems. On practice day there seemed to be so many that Bob could have qualified as the first "Solo Co-Angler" due to my solving problems instead of fishing.

was not won so the pot will carry over to next month at Apache.

My roomy Terry Tassin and I rode to the lake together and we shared a room at the Hampton Inn. We did OK other than Terry snored more than I remember since the last time we roomed together – guess he was really tired after a hard day of fishing. We had a great time.

See you all at the meeting on April 1st.



**1st Place Big Fish Split
Jack Hughes & Bob Jolley**



Weighing-In
By Jack Hughes
Tmx Director



**1st Place Big Fish Split
Jerry Askam & Bryan Steele**

Finally, the anchor was much better all around than power poles because it cost much less and the power supply for the anchor never wore out. I highly recommend it for bed fishing when the wind is up or even with a little ripple. It allows excellent boat control and eliminates trolling motor noise around the bed.

Again, I want to thank all of the members who fished Havasu for their patience with the all the changes that took place. We started with six solo boaters and under our rules I went looking for co-anglers and had some success, then we had five boats that had mechanical problems that required additional changes. Finally, we ended up with only one solo co-angler, everyone who signed up was fishing and everyone seemed to be happy.

I thought the two day format worked very well and a big thank you to all the club members who helped make the Havasu tournament a success!

Jack Hughes: I agree with everything Bob Jolley said. I want to thank Bob for being a great partner and his outstanding patience and understanding of the numerous calls I received from members with either boat or



Money Matters
By John Reichard
Treasurer

Greetings from your Treasurer

I had a great time with Neil Burns at Havasu. My fish came on a swim bait that the tackle shop in Havasu told me would work. We caught some fish off beds and the others I assume were cruising off beds looking for a meal. Congratulations to all anglers with the bags of big fish. I was surprised the five pound pot

Havasu brought to our attention what I consider two deficiencies in our rules. One was what happens when a tie for big fish happens when the fish is less than 5 pounds. Our President took immediate action to correct the deficiency in our rules and will present it to the members for approval. The other rule that needs some clarification I think is helping a boater broken down on the water. About 1:30 in the afternoon Bob Jolley and I were waived down by another boat in

the club and when we got over to them they were dead in the water and could not get it started. After several tries to jump start his motor with no success I called Lou Hirlemann for assistance to transfer my fish to his boat for weigh-in by the rules. Then I realized one of us would be eliminated because we could not transfer two separate catches to Lou's boat and keep all the fish separated and two additional anglers. I made the decision that I would have to stay with the broken boat and tow it in and that meant we would be DQ'd and informed my co-angler whom was not real happy with the decision. However, he did agree we just could not leave a boat dead in the water. To make a long story short we tried to jump it one more time and it finally started and all made it in on time.

The end results were Lou's team and mine each lost over an hour of fishing time. If the boat had not started the next question was do we leave a boat dead in the water after transferring his fish just to make the weigh-in on time? My opinion is never leave a boat in trouble! The safety of the other boat angler and his boat take precedence over weigh-in on time. The question we could all face in the future is should the boat offering assistance to the other boat leave for the weigh-in or stay and provide assistance knowing under the current rule's he will be DQ'd if he stays. My past training influence's my decision that one never leaves a team member in trouble. In my opinion the club should take another look at this rule and consider changes to it to protect all later this year.

One other lesson from this is all boats should have a minimal tool kit on board and jumper cables. The boat which was in trouble had neither tool kit nor jumper cables.

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Havassu - March 17 & 18, 2015



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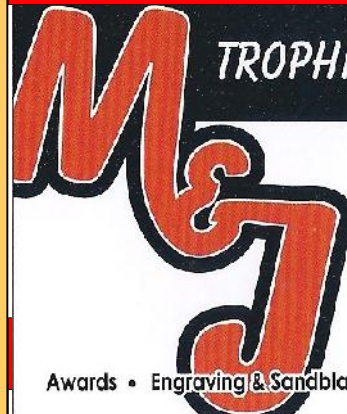
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Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>

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

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Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in April

- Paul Archer**
- Tom Carlson**
- Hal Hensey**
- Lou Hirlemann**
- Jack Hughes**
- Bob Landry**
- Ernie Modzelewski**
- Bill Page**
- Dale Yeager**



**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