

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



APRIL 2013

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



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

Nineteen teams made it to this month's Alamo Lake Tournament. Most made it up for the Tuesday night barbeque; others arrived bright and early for the pre-tournament meeting at 4:50AM. There were a few glitches, but as always we adapt, overcome and move forward.

The wind started blowing two days before the tournament, and continued to blow after we left, it even blew at night. The lake water level was at it's lowest in the past few years. According to our local insider - Billy Penrod - the level is sufficient to perform the dam maintenance required by the Army Corps of Engineers, so hopefully we will see the lake fill as the rain and runoff come. The fishing was still good, yet

challenging, but limits were caught by most, and the fish for the most part looked healthy and strong.

Once again it was great to enjoy the company and fine fixin's at the steak barbeque. Gary Asmus and Jack Hughes did a great job cooking, as usual. The evening culminated with our traditional Alamo Lake Poker Tournament, I think Jeff Mabry won....again!

Everyone awoke bright and early on tournament morning around 4:00AM. The camp was alive with the sounds of footsteps, conversations, and vehicles getting ready to head to the water. I did hear the faint moan of some poor tent camper who inadvertently decided to camp amidst our bivouac, letting us know that "not everyone had to be up that early."

Next month is a two day event at Apache Lake, should be great fishing. I look forward to seeing you all out there.

comments on tournament day at Lake Alamo. Now on to the team reports.

### Team Steve Cook & George Fuzfa Find Pink Is The Color That Catches Fish

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Steve Cook & George Fuzfa** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 10.55 lbs. Thanks to George's 3.41 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors.

Steve Cook: "First I would like to say hats off to the cookout crew and the weigh-in crew; they did a great job as always.



**1st Place**  
**Steve Cook & George Fuzfa**

I was fortunate to draw George Fuzfa for this tournament; he seems to have a winning streak going at Alamo. George is a

### Monthly Breakfast Meeting

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

### Lake Alamo

April 17, 2013  
*By Terry Tassin*

Wind and waves go away, Midweek Bass wants to play! I guess that about covers my

**"We Practice Catch and Release"**

# Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 1 May** 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 **14 & 15 May 2013**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 2 PM**.

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Just a reminder for all club members that our May event at Apache Lake will be in the form of two back-to-back days of fishing. This is not one 2-day tournament but rather two separate 1 day tournaments. Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> will count as a make-up for the February tournament at Bartlett that was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> will be the normal May tournament for Apache Lake.

Two separate entry forms and fees are needed if fishing both (one February Bartlett make-up) tournaments – one form labeled **“Apache Tuesday”** and the other form labeled **“Apache Wednesday”**.

### Special Event Notes:

Contestants are not required to fish both events, but they are encouraged to do so.

There will be separate random computer pairings for each event. Contestants must complete two separate tournament entry forms, one for each day. Mark entry forms as “Apache Tuesday” and/or “Apache Wednesday”.

A separate entry fee will be required for each day (tournament) fished.

Tournament hours are: Safelight – 2PM each day, per our schedule for Apache Lake.

The predetermined non-boater cost sharing of \$80 for Apache Lake will be adjusted due to two separate tournaments at the lake on consecutive days. The fee for non-boaters will be determined by the number of days he fishes. If a non-boater is fishing both days he will give to each of his boaters a minimum of \$40 each. If a non-boater is fishing only one day his minimum cost sharing will be the club standard of \$80.

There will be a club barbeque at the event on Tuesday evening consisting of a simple cookout of hot dogs & burgers.

There will be a separate option pot for the boaters for two day total weight. \$20 total, payable in cash to Gary Grimes at the event, payout to be determined; will wait to see how many boaters participate.

great attribute to have as a partner; even though I forgot the net he was calm and cool under pressure and we only lost one fish all day.

George caught the big fish on a drop shot rig pretty early - I'll say around 7:30 AM. We had five in the livewell by 8 AM and ended up culling three times. The others came on a jig or chatter bait.”

George Fuzfa: "I would first like to thank my partner Steve because without his vast knowledge of bass fishing I would not have been on the fish. This was my first tournament with Steve and he picked me up and we drove together and pre-fished on Tuesday. As we all know, Tuesday was almost as windy as tournament day.

We started in the north end in the brush pitching a homemade plastic creature bait and I had



### The Rules By Gary Grimes

Did you know that it is illegal to waste game fish, which includes largemouth and smallmouth bass? How does that apply to me you might ask? Well, when releasing your fish back into the lake after a tournament, if you have a dead fish in your bag, it is illegal to dump it. Better yet, if it looks like it won't make it, take it home. Better one less fish in the lake, than risk the club's integrity with floaters after a tournament.

only one bite. We soon became really tired of the wind and started to fish the dam area; we used a dropshot and fished a pearl crankbait on chunk rock ledges. We had some hits and we decided to go back to this location on tourney day. As we were on our way out to the first spot I asked Steve where he kept the net. Steve replied "it's back in the truck!" So we had to hand land all our fish that day. We had a few takers on a drop shot tube and pink dropshot worm. I caught our biggest bass on that pink worm. Our crankbait bite was nonexistent. So we changed up to a chatterbait and then a spinnerbait...nothing. Steve changed to a hula-jig and I stuck with a drop shot. We ended up culling three times, but only with a very slight upgrade in weight.

Thank you to MBA for the phenomenal cookout. It was by far the best steak I've had at a tournament BBQ to date. Thank you to Steve's friend Bill, who was kind enough to tow a large trailer to give us a place to hangout and sleep."

### **Jerry Askam & John Belden Deliver in Alamo Wind Fest**

In **Second Place** the team of **Askam & Belden** weighed five bass for a total weight of 10.47 lbs.

#### **Membership**

As of May 19, 2013 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 77 active members.

Doc Belden: "First of all, I would like to thank Jerry Askam for allowing me to fish with him. We had a great time, and Jerry is a class act. I had fished a tournament at Alamo the week before and was on a good reaction bite. We started by throwing cranks, blades, and jerk baits but never got a bite. Then I switched to a drop shot and started picking up fish and also using a Texas rigged brush hog which also produced some fish. We caught a lot of fish and culled several times. We didn't have a large kicker, but Jerry boated a 2.65 pound fish that really helped. All in all it was a great day and I would look forward to fishing with Jerry in the future.

Jerry Askam: "I had the pleasure of fishing with Doc Belden. It's always a good day with Doc in the boat. We hadn't fished together for quite awhile, coincidentally the last time was also at Alamo. He reminded

me of our launch that day when he backed out into what seemed like the middle of the lake trying to get the boat to float off the trailer when I finally realized I had forgot to unhook the front strap. I have gone on to make a couple of launch blunders since but have avoided repeating that one.



**2nd Place  
John Belden & Jerry Askam**

Doc had fished a tournament at Alamo the week before our event and found a good bite on



**"Why didn't you tell me he was a bass fisherman before I said 'a bass is a trout with the brains taken out!'"**

a shallow flat with stick-ups throwing cranks and blades. On my pre-fish day I caught fish shallow on chatterbaits so we decided to start on the flat. We found no bite there early, we came back later in the day and never did get a hit in that area.

As it turns out my best strategic move came as we moved to our second area, a bank with some good cuts and rocks. I had to retie two lines and Doc moved to the front of the boat and almost immediately began catching drop shot fish. From that point we (Doc) had good success fishing outside points and a rock pile along the drop off with the buoy line on the south side of the lake. I do have to say I did most of the heavy lifting for our team i.e.: netting all of Doc's fish. He caught quite a few - me not so many. I did try to throw something different to look for the big bite as he continued to bring fish to the boat. My only contribution to our 5 keepers was the big fish caught on an inside point on a Biffle Head Jig with a Baby Brush Hog trailer. Doc had given me the jig to try as I had never fished it before.

As it turned out the wind wasn't as bad as advertised most of the time and it was a fun day on the water with a great partner. Congrats to Steve and George for their tournament win."

### **Larry White & Steve Simer Experience "Pre-Fishing Curse" But Still Win 3rd Place**

Team **White & Simer** weighed five bass for 10.38 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Steve Simer: "First of all, I was fortunate again in my draw. Larry White is a good fisherman and a great guy to fish with. We worked well as a team and contrary to popular reports, the gash on his nose was not from me. I'll let him explain how that happened.



**3rd Place  
Steve Simer & Larry White**

Anyway, we stopped in a cove to check the water clarity first thing on Tuesday during practice. Not seeing a mass bedding extravaganza, we headed down the cove shoreline throwing jigs and reaction baits to no avail. We then headed to a main lake shoreline up toward the dam and fished a main lake bank near a spawning cove. Flipping jigs, craws, creature baits, etc., we managed to get bit early and often, shaking off each fish. We were pretty confident we could put together a quick limit with this pattern, so we went looking for a second pattern. We headed up shallow, to a main lake bank

on the north side of the lake where some Grebes were actively chasing shad into a small cove. Trying to imitate a shad, I threw a spinner bait and was quickly bitten by a 6 pound bass that did not want to come off the hook....and didn't. Larry then hooked up with another fish about 4 pounds on a chatterbait; we then quickly decided that we were done with this area. These were the only 2 fish that managed to hook themselves and go figure both fish would easily have improved our tournament day catch to first place and big fish prizes, but that is commonly called the pre-fishing curse!

On tournament day, we started at our big fish spot and fished for about 40 minutes without a bite. There were no signs of shad and no Grebes so we headed to our "guaranteed limit" spot and fished our jigs for about an hour without a bite. Finally Larry caught a couple of fish on a Texas rigged craw in a green color with a bit of chartreuse color on the claws. At one point I was able to hook up on a fish with a spinnerbait, but it came off before we could see it. After another hour of trying our "easy limit" pattern without a bite, we decided to head to the big fish spot and just put the trolling motor down and beat the bank with spinnerbaits and chatterbaits to see what happened. Over the next few hours we were able to finish our limit on chatterbaits and cull out one small fish. We caught fish on both a green chatterbait and a white chatterbait although we only

boated 6 fish all day.

We did get close and personal to a large bobcat and also saw wild donkeys and a bald eagle, so although the scenery wasn't quite the same as Havasu, it was still pretty spectacular.

Considering we caught 10 pounds with two fish and probably had 20 jig bites before 11 AM on our practice day, you could say we were quite surprised to finish so high with only 10 pounds on tournament day."

### **Team Gary Asmus & Keith Zimmerman Come Away With 4th Place**

In **Fourth Place** the team of **Asmus & Zimmerman** weighed five bass for a total weight of 9.91 lbs.



**4th Place**  
**Keith Zimmerman & Gary Asmus**

Keith Zimmerman fishing his first event with the club said: "I would very much like to express my appreciation to the organizers of the MBA and their efforts in putting on a first-class tournament. As a newbie, it was a great first experience with the Club and its members.

I would, however, suggest trying to "lure" a fishing dentist into the club to help eliminate any last minute dental problems or, purchase a set of teeth extractors and some moonshine which could be used for anesthetic purposes. If you were at Alamo you know to what I am referring.

My partner, Gary Asmus, and I had a great day together and I feel that a friendship was formed. We didn't catch as many fish as others did, but we had 10 to 15 nice fish. It wasn't until the "hurricane" started that we were able to establish a really good spinnerbait bite. Had we another half hour plus 4 to 6 more spinnerbaits with a certain blade combination and size, I think we would have landed more fish. It was a fun day and I enjoyed it tremendously. My only regret is that I didn't have a birthday cake for my partner Gary to help celebrate his 66th birthday!"

### **2nd Place Big Bass Weighed by Ballard & Edgar**

Sean Ballard said, "I got the opportunity to fish with Mike Edgar and had a blast fishing with him. We started fishing around the main ramp that is out of the water now, but I did find some fish in that cove on Monday and we thought we might find fish there on tournament day. We moved to a mud flat and started to catch some fish. With the wind blowing all night I changed what I was throwing to what Lou Hirlemann likes to call the

flash mob (A-Rig) and immediately started to catch bigger fish. We fished that flat all day off and on and continued to catch fish. I figured out the best bite came while slow rolling the A-Rig in shallow water. We would hang up about every third cast (some times more) but that's where the fish wanted it and if they didn't get hooked on the first cast I would throw it right back in and they would smack it again.



**2nd Place Big Fish**  
**Sean Ballard**

I want to thank all the guys for another great dinner on Tuesday night. I know how much work goes into putting that much food out and you guys make it look easy."

### **Bell & Milkint Crank Cats For Goon Fish Prize**

John Milkint commented, "As a non boater it was my pleasure to fish with one of our newer members, Clinton Bell. Clinton caught the catfish on a crank bait during the early morning hours. In fact he caught two catfish within about 10 minutes and we had to cull one to keep the heaviest. Not much else to

say about the goon fish except we were very glad to get one in the boat for a chance at the Goon Fish pot.

two fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



**Goon Fish Pot Winners  
John Milkint & Clinton Bell**

Clinton is not new to bass fishing in Arizona and had a great plan for fishing Alamo. Unfortunately he did not get much help from his non-boater who had a tough time catching anything for the day, and when I did it was smaller than anything in the live well. We had an interesting experience when a dust devil (water spout) came right over our boat almost blowing us out of the boat. The wind itself was strong enough without that happening.

Any non boater drawing Clinton will be extremely fortunate. He is an extremely competent angler and treats his partner with great respect. Thanks Clinton for a great day on the water."

### Tournament Statistics

Thirty-Six men fished 9 hours each, bringing 89 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 162.15 pounds with a 4.50 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.82 lbs. All but

### Treasure Chest By John Milkint, Treasurer

Congratulations to Steve Cook and George Fuzfa on their 1st place finish as well as 1st big fish. Each team member receives \$281.

Second place finish goes to Jerry Askam and Doc Belden splitting \$258.

Larry White and Steve Simer each receive \$86 for their 3rd place finish.

The fourth place finishers were Gary Asmus and Keith Zimmerman, each getting \$44.

Once again, 2nd big fish was not caught by the leading teams, but was weighed in by Mike Edgar and Sean Ballard. That fish was worth \$144.

A 2.56 pound catfish won the Goon Fish pot for Clinton Bell and John Milkint. Each man will receive \$90.

No 5 pound Bass was caught and that means \$225 rolls over to the Apache tournament. The 5 pound pot is now closed and limited to those members in the Alamo pot.

### Weighing-In By Jack Hughes, Tmx Di-

Having to leave the Alamo tournament due to a health problem I have little to say about the tournament. One thing that did stand out when I looked at the winners was both Paul Cormany and Howard Thomas were not in the top five and Steve Simer was in the money for the second month in a row, not bad for a new member.

Next month's **two** tournaments at Apache are going to require even more work than normal and special care so that we do not make a mistake or leave a member who wanted to fish on the shore because of poor paper work. Special care will be required by all member not just the board members.

Members are supposed to either mail their entry forms to the tournament director or turn them in at the monthly club meeting prior to 8 AM. This will be modified for the Apache tournaments. Members who are fishing one or both tournaments are asked to please send to the tournament director their applications for the Apache tournaments before the club meeting if possible. Please mark each application "**Apache Tuesday**" or "**Apache Wednesday**" so that we make sure you're entered in to the proper tournament or both. I will notify each applicant via email when I receive their entry forms and checks and which day I believe they are signed up for. **DO NOT** send or give your application to another board member because it sometimes just causes delays and confusion. The treasurer and tournament director process the

application the day before the monthly meeting to make sure all applicants are current members, and if they entered into the five pound pot and are eligible to be in the pot (last month we had two non-members who tried to enter our tournament at Alamo).

This month please mail your applications early if possible due to the time required to process everything at the monthly meeting. Remember there will be two pairing drawings at the monthly meeting and having the application in advance will reduce the time required to conduct the drawings. After the meeting both drawing results will be available in hard copy for member review.

Remember non-boaters fishing both tournaments will pay each boater a minimum of \$40 each. If fishing only one tournament they will pay the normal amount of \$80.

Now on to a new subject, as usual I ended up with two extra chairs following the steak cookout at Alamo. If I do not hear from the owners I will donate them to one of my favorite charities, Wounded Veterans Association.

I want to thank everyone who helped make the Alamo cookout a success. Those of you that helped with the set-up, cooking, cleaning up after dinner your efforts were greatly appreciated by your board member's.

Finally, Apache will be much warmer, members and fish health will as always be a concern. Take the appropriate steps to protect yourself and of course the fish.

Remember this is two days of fishing so extra supplies will be required. I am looking forward to seeing you all at Apache and two great tournaments.

# Photo Scrapbook

## Lake Alamo - April 17, 2013



# Photo Scrapbook Lake Alamo April 17, 2013





# Photo Scrapbook Lake Alamo April 17, 2013



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

**Keith Zimmerman (NB)**

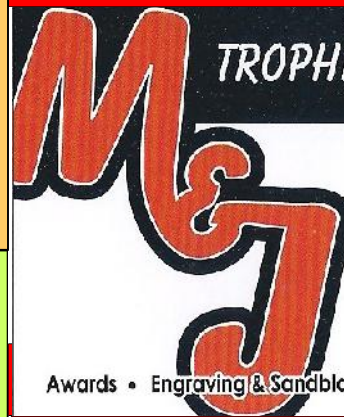
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Let us hear from you. The newsletter is your vehicle for communicating and sharing with other members.

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 2013  
Tournament Schedule**

|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 16 January   | Roosevelt           |
| 20 February  | Bartlett [ Cnxl]    |
| 20 March     | Havasu              |
| 17 April     | Alamo               |
| 14 May       | Apache [Feb resked] |
| 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 May**

- Tom Alauria
- Jim Buchanan
- Paul Cormany
- Louis DeGrado
- Jamie Shaw
- Terry Tassin

