

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



APRIL 2014

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



Midweek's Apache Lake tournament is officially in the books. Twenty-Five boats fished with the same partners contending for the biggest two-day weight total.

With the help of Dick Kirberg, I managed my first club victory, yippee! The weather was near perfect, cool at night and sweatshirts in the AM, and many even got to witness a Blood Moon on Tuesday night. Most of the anglers were at the lake on Monday to prefish, and many camped at the Burnt Corral camp area. Over 40 men enjoyed the Tuesday night barbeque of burgers and brats, thanks to our grill master Gary Asmus who once again did an outstanding job on the grill. There is nothing like a good, free meal to get

everyone together and hear all the great stories of the day.

Sean Ballard and Jack Hughes shared pictures of some bighorn sheep they saw on the lake. Bill McGonigle was brave enough to get a picture of a rattlesnake swimming across the lake. Former member John Majersky and his sidekick Charlie even stopped by for a visit. My hat is off to our guys for making the newer guys feel so welcome at the dinner. It was good to see the Bass Pro boys again, Chad Schimmel and Steve Harbaugh, who hosted a Tuesday night poker tournament for 8 players.

Probably the funniest story of the event had to do with Jamie Shaw, who had made arrangements to pick up his partner at the dock Monday at 9 AM to prefish. Jamie arrived early and decided to fish a couple of hours. When 9 AM rolled around he motored to the docks where an angler had his tackle stacked at the end of the dock. Jamie pulled up and loaded both the angler and the gear, and they enjoyed a great day of pre-fishing together. It was only during roll call on tournament morning the following day that it was discovered that Jamie actually

had picked up the wrong angler at the dock; you see Howard Thomas also had planned to pick up his partner at the dock at 9 AM to prefish. I think Bill Daddario benefited the most from this mix-up, getting to fish with both Jamie and Howard.

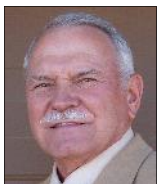
Tom "The Toolman" Alauria was able and willing to help me re-attach my broken transducer to my trolling motor; I owe him a roll of duct tape for that one. Howard Thomas snapped a critical support bolt on his trailer, for which Tom had a spare in his box of a thousand bolts. What a lifesaver, thanks Tom. It was good to welcome Ron Chambers back to the club; thanks for making the overnight tackle run Ron. All in all it was a great time at Apache Lake, thanks to all

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"

those who helped make it great. I would especially like to thank the board members for the time and sacrifice they make for these tournaments so we all can have a great time. Next month's tournament is at Lake Roosevelt, we will be launching out of Cholla Ramp (pronounced choi-ya - Jack) instead of Windy Hill. Dwayne Steel and his wife Beverly will be hosting a barbeque at the HiWay 188 Tackle Store in Tonto Basin on the Tuesday evening before the tournament. See you there.



Tournament Report
Lake Apache
April 15 & 16, 2014
By Terry Tassin

"Wind, wind go away, all the fishermen want to play." That thought was probably on the

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 7 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 Roosevelt** on **21 May 2014**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 2 PM**. Summer hour changes are now in effect.

minds of most competitors at this month's tournament. The blowing wind made things difficult to find and catch bass. Boat batteries were drawn down to either minimum or zero power levels the first day of this two day event.

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

Team Gary Grimes & Dick Kirberg 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Gary Grimes & Dick Kirberg** weighed the winning creel of ten bass weighing 26.42 lbs.

Gary Grimes: I fished with Dick Kirberg at my first club tournament at Roosevelt Lake back in 2009, and remember fondly how much he helped me. He introduced me to the drop-shot rig since I only knew how to throw one bait, which was a crank bait, so it is always a good time when we get drawn together.

His years of knowledge proved very helpful at Apache Lake as we searched for productive areas to fish. He would tell me, "Try this spot over here, me and Denny did real well here back in '89." It seemed like he had a story for every spot on the lake.

We concentrated our efforts in the areas between Burnt Corral and the Apache Lake Marina. I started the morning fishing the areas around tules and points; I was throwing reaction lures and Dick worked plastics, but

nothing was biting. We made a move to our next spot 'X', where Dick masterfully landed a nice 4.3 lb largemouth on a Texas rig in about 15 feet of water. We continued to move around throughout the day, picking one up here and there, changing up our baits depending upon the prevailing wind speed, with most of our time concentrated within Matazal Bay. We did not have a limit until 1 PM, and it was a poor limit at best. We returned to an area within the bay that we had previously fished, and apparently the fish were finally ready to eat. We were both throwing Carolina rigged craw baits, and caught three nicer fish which helped us cull our smaller fish.

It was not an easy day fishing, as the bites were far and few between, but we had enough weight for a third place on day one, which put us in contention if we could find fish on day two.



1st Place
Dick Kirberg & Gary Grimes

Dick Kirberg: Before I get into how Gary and I caught our fish on day 2, I would like to share this info. This will be the third time Gary and I fished together.

The first time was in 2009 and I was Gary's boater. This was his first tournament in Midweek Bass. I met him at the Tonto Basin Inn. He owned two rods and primarily threw crank baits along the shore. He caught his first smallmouth bass on a Zara Spook. He also stated he did not know how to dropshot. I told him we would do this later in the day, so I showed him how to rig one. We proceeded to catch lots of fish in the 25-30 foot depth range. After the tournament I dropped him off at the motel, and he wanted to know if he could take a shower before driving home. I thought to myself after he fishes a few times, he will be eager to go straight home after fishing.

Now day 2 of this week's tournament: We started out going to our last spot from Tuesday. We spent about 1 1/2 hrs there with no bites. We were using Carolina rigs with green pumpkin Zoom Superhogs - no takers. So we went to a place we fished on Tuesday where I caught our big fish. He caught a 10 inch smallmouth, our first fish. We now moved to our third spot. It was a rocky point with reeds close by, same story, no fish. Gary said we need to make a run, so we headed back to Burnt Coral ramp. We fished the hump by the ramp. We were still Carolina rigging Superhogs. I got my first bite, but no fish. Gary caught our

next two fish.

It was now close to 11 o'clock. I said we need to try another spot, so I took him to a spot that has always been good for me. It is a shore with many small rocks on the bottom. It was 11:10 and he caught our fourth keeper. He stated we needed one more for a limit. I had 2 more bumps, but no fish. We started working the shore line keeping the boat in 14 feet, and he found three fish on his sonar. I changed my Carolina rig to a green pumpkin chigger craw. He caught our 5th fish. We continued to work the 14 foot depth and I hooked up with a 3 lb. smallie, culled our first fish. I then caught our big fish for the day, a 3.4 lb. largemouth, culled another fish. He then caught another culler; we now went back to the spot where we saw the three fish earlier, another culler. We moved a little further, and he caught another culler.

I Had a great time with Gary,

and I am looking forward to fishing with him again. He has come a long way since the first time.

Steve Cook & Mark Royal Finish 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** the team of **Cook & Royal** weighed ten bass for a total weight of 24.24 lbs. Thanks to Mark's 5.44 lb bass the team also won **2nd Place Big Fish** honors



2nd Place
Mark Royal & Steve Cook

Steve Cook: First of all I would like to say thanks again to the



Membership
As of April 18, 2014 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 82 active members.

crew running the tournament Good job as usual!

It was a great time fishing and camping with Mr. Royal. The fishing for Apache seemed to be a little tough for this time of year. It was a struggle to find good fish on beds and the post spawn fish did not seem to be very hungry. I believe all the fish we weighed were caught on a drop shot rig.

Mark Royal: This was my second time fishing with Steve. The first time was Havasu a year ago and was my first tournament. I learned a bunch that first tournament with Steve and continued my education this time out.

We fished mainly in coves by the dam and in the areas around Turtle Rock. We threw chatterbaits, spinners, swim baits, a frog, drop shot and an 8 inch Huddleston. Steve hooked one on the frog and another two fish were caught on a spinnerbait, but the majority of our fish were caught

either off beds or with drop shots. The first day we found an area to fish that I thought was a great spot where the fish were moving across. The second day the wind calmed down and we saw that the "great spot" was just an area where there were a lot of beds. I caught our 2nd place big fish on a drop shot reaper in shallow water - likely off of a bed that we could not see. So the first day we fished beds we could not see, and the second day we fished beds that we could see.

Steve had some great bear hunting stories – I especially liked the story about a client that took off his clothes to wade across a stream only to find that the bear they were after was on the side they just left – the client got the shot off with clothes off, and then waded naked back into the stream to have his picture taken because no one would believe him.

Team Neil Burns & Terry Tassin Dropshot for 3rd Place

Team **Neil Burns & Terry Tassin** weighed ten bass for 23.27 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors. Thanks to Neil's 5.44 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors. That bass also won the **5 lb Pot** for Neil which he shared with Terry..

Terry Tassin: I could get to like this fishing as a co-angler; especially if you are having some health or physical issues with the old body that would

make it tough to run the boat. Before I say anything else I have got to recognize Neil Burns as one of the best fishing partners to share a boat with. The only thing that would improve Neil as a partner is if he would say something when he has a bass on the hook and is reeling him in; Neil is the quietest catcher of fish I have ever fished with and I got to watch his silent catching technique a lot during the two tournament days.



3rd Place
Neil Burns & Terry Tassin

On Tuesday, just about all our damage done to the bass was done with drop shot rigs. I was throwing Morning Dawn with a chartreuse tail and Neil used a Bitchin Craw Roboworm. Neil out caught me about three to one with his worm. Neil had great faith in a jerk bait he threw at various times through out the tournament; however, only one bass took that lure.

On Wednesday morning our plan called for first thing running almost to the dam and fishing for a huge female bass we had spotted and left on a bed on Tuesday afternoon. Well as they say, "The best laid



Conservation Update By Gary Grimes

Our goal is to launch at safe light, but some lakes have ramps whose design or condition really slow the launch down. When that happens, we wait until all the boats have been successfully launched before we start. We do not, however, hold up the launch for a single boat that may have had difficulties getting started. In that case, the tournament begins when ready, and the boat that had problems launches when able.

plans...” When we got to the correct cove the bass was still on the nest but after working at trying to catch her for almost an hour we finally gave up and ran back down the lake to more familiar waters and styles of fishing.

Catching was much slower on the second tournament day, but we did manage to weigh a limit of fish. Our best bass – which turned out to be the 1st place big bass and the 5 lb pot winner – was caught in Waterdog cove on Neil’s drop shot worm from Tuesday. Neil fought that fish for a good ten minutes so the six pound leader line he was fishing would not pop before I managed to net the fish and get her into the livewell. That was a really great feeling after a tough morning of fishing.

Neil, you have to know I would fish with you any time and any place.

Team Hirlemann & Reichard cover the lake on the way to 4th Place Overall Finish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Lou Hirlemann & John Reichard** weighed ten fish for a total weight of 23.14 lbs.

John Reichard: Tuesday Lou Hirlemann and I got blown all over the lake just like everyone else but we managed to bring 5 fish to the weight-in. Lou had several fish located while pre-fishing so we went after the first fish but it was not on the bed so our day started out with

a bust.



**4th Place
Lou Hirlemann & John Reichard**

We started moving around the lake and wound up with two dropshot fish, a couple on Carolina rigs, and one on a spinnerbait. Wednesday morning nothing went right at the first two stops including having to re-tie lures. Then the travel began as we changed locations often. At our third stop our first and biggest fish came on the first cast with Lou throwing a Carolina rig. After several stops Lou caught a nice bed fish out of the reeds and we moved on. We caught another fish out of the reeds and two off beds to finish our day with 5 fish.

I had a great two days with Lou and appreciate his concern for me. But then again that’s Lou - a good friend and great fisherman.

Team Hegenderfer & Nidosik Win Final Prize Spot with 5th Place Finish

With a ten fish limit weighing 22.58 lbs **Team Don Hegenderfer & John Nidosik**

worked the main lake for their **6th Place** finish.

Don Hegenderfer: Apache was a fun time on the water, but the wind did keep it interesting. I really enjoyed fishing with my partner John Nidosik. He is a real fish-catching machine and will be a huge asset to any angler lucky enough to draw him.

We did not “kill ‘um” on Monday while pre-fishing. John had four and I had one (drop shots and jerk baits). Tuesday was much better since we were lucky enough to catch a total of 15 fish. I caught a few nice fish on Senkos and John got his on drop shots. Wednesday John did his part, putting four keepers in the boat to my one. Both of us lost one, and John threw one back.

All in all, it was a good trip. Janet, my wife, said that we would have won, if it hadn’t been for those other four teams!



**5th Place
John Nidosik & Don Hegenderfer**

John Nidosik: First of all, Don and I had two plus days of good fishing, beautiful scenery,

and I got to enjoy the comforts of Don's camper. It was truly a pleasure to fish with Don and talk about the good ole days when it didn't hurt so much to fish. Thanks Don.

Monday we just went fishing looking for some sort of pattern to go on. We didn't catch many fish, but we learned where and how we were going to fish.

Tuesday morning we started on the south bank of the main lake just west of the marina boat ramps. Don caught a beautiful 3.5 lb largemouth before the sun was fully up. We then moved to the north bank and proceeded to catch three more nice quality fish. Further down the bank and into a large cut, Don caught another 3.5 lb LM. It was 9:15 and we had a limit of about 13.5 pounds.

Don was throwing a pumpkin Senko wacky rigged and I decided to let Tuesday's wind help me drag a drop shot rig behind the boat. Don was targeting the light colored water in the shallows and I kept my morning dawn Roboworm in the darker, deeper water right off the drop offs in around ten to twelve feet of water. We caught several more fish that day, making one upgrade.

Wednesday we started in the same area on the south side, but with no good results. We then went to the northern bank line and proceeded to put five in the box in short fashion. The quality of the fish were not the same as Tuesday, but it was nice to have a limit at 8:30 in the morning. Both of us lost a fish

that morning that may have helped our efforts, but that's fishing. The rest of the day we struggled to even get a bite. I was concerned that the lack of wind would change things for us and we wouldn't figure out how to adjust our pattern. My concerns proved right, but we did well enough to hold out for fifth place. Congrats to the winners and those that placed ahead of us.

Howard Thomas & Bill Daddario Crank a Cat For Goon Fish Prize

Howard Thomas: I never in my wildest dreams would have thought you could catch a catfish on a crankbait; but that's what happened.



**Goon Fish Pot Winners
Howard Thomas & Bill Daddario
and \$100 Friend**

We were working the bank as we always do when he hit. All I can say is they put up a great fight and I wished it was a bass fighting that hard. Bill Daddario was fun to fish with and he is a master at crank bait fishing. I learned something by watching him and I'm sure you can too if you get picked to fish with him.



Weighing-In By Jack Hughes, Tmx Director

Well another tournament is in the books and what a special tournament it was. From the unsolicited comments I have received it is obvious the members enjoyed the two day format, location, and quality of fishing. Just think we have Apache again in October which will be a time of the year that the club has never fished Apache. It should be great.

The Apache tournament also reminded us that as hot weather approaches we have to take special attention to keeping ourselves and our fish healthy as we fish the upcoming warmer months of the years. You will be receiving more and more information as the weather heats up.

Our next tournament will be at Roosevelt. Dwayne Steel and his wife Beverly will be hosting the annual steak cookout at the Hwy 188 Tackle Store in Tonto Basin. They have both supported the club outstandingly, especially at the end of the year banquet, and are the primary reason we give away such outstanding prizes. If you need an extra roll of line or a special Roosevelt lure why not get it from Dwayne during the BBQ, you will be surprised how competitive his prices are with Bass Pro and Cabela's. This will be a good time for members to show their appreciation for their support of the club.

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Apache - April 15 & 16, 2014



ARMED FORCES DAY - 17 MAY 2014

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

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**Welcome to Returning
Midweek Bass Angler
Since the Last Newsletter**

Ron Chambers (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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Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in May

- Tom Alauria
- Jim Buchanan
- Joel Perkins
- Ray Riley
- Jamie Shaw
- Terry Tassin



**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