

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MAY 2014

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



The Midweek Bass Anglers enjoyed another great tournament at Roosevelt Lake, starting off with a full steak barbeque on Tuesday evening, and culminating with the main event on the lake on Wednesday which found 20 boats going head to head to locate the heaviest 5 fish bag. About 40 people attended the barbeque at the Hwy 188 Tackle Store, with Dwayne Steel and his wife Beverly as our gracious hosts for the meal. The guys enjoyed a great meal while sitting in the comfort of the store's covered patio amidst the chatter of dock talk and great fishing stories.

Local professional fisherman Mark Kyle spoke to the group about the secrets of success at

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

Roosevelt Lake. He explained the post spawn activities of bass, and shared with us the baits that would provide the best opportunities for catching a big fish. He even predicted that someone would catch an 8 lb. fish on tournament day, and that team would win. Well, he was pretty close on his prognostication, as Nick Wampach caught a 7.2 lb bass, which proved not only to be the biggest fish, but also was a good enough kicker fish for he and Jerry Askam to win the event. Most other teams averaged between 6-9 lbs for their five fish limit. Not a lot of big fish, but hopefully the recent stockings will start to help the bass population. Don't forget to donate an extra \$5 on your tournament entry form to help restore the fishery at Roosevelt.

Thanks to all the anglers for coming, it is always a great time when we get together. Thanks also to everyone who helped; Sean Ballard brought up the big grill from the valley on a last minute request, Jack Hughes and Lou Hirlemann with the potato prep, Bev and Twila with the beans and cheesy bread, Dwayne with all the setup and tear-down, Gary Asmus on the grill, Gary Martlage as our head server

and a special thanks to Doc Belden, owner of the store property, for letting us all gather at his place. You all are the best.

Our next tournament is at Saguaro Lake on June 18, with summer tournament hours of safelight until 11 AM; hope to see you there.



**Tournament Report
Lake Roosevelt
May 21, 2014
By Terry Tassin**

Because I was not able to fish this event I have no witty comments. So, lets hear from the winners who provided after action reports from this windy tournament.

JUNE 15 Happy Fathers Day!



"We Practice Catch and Release"

Team Jerry Askam & Nick Wampach 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Jerry Askam & Nick Wampach** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 13.53 lbs. Thanks to Nick's 7.22 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors. That bass, nick-named "Frank the Tank", also won the **5 lb Pot** for Nick which he shared with Jerry.



1st Place
Nick Wampach & Jerry Askam

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4 June** 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 Saguaro** on **18 June 2014**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**. Summer hour changes are now in effect.

Jerry Askam: It was a pleasure to fish with my partner for this tournament, Nick Wampach. Nick is a super nice guy and a good young "stick" with a great attitude. Nick had a good fish come unhooked early in our start water and said 'my bad', I'll get it back". He got it back and then some in our second area near Vineyard Canyon when he hooked into a largemouth that he called "Frank the Tank" because of his broad back and overall size which was the tournament big fish (I'll let Nick tell you how he got it). We got all of our fish mid-lake on an A-rig (Nick fished this lure), top water, and tube baits. We did pick up one 1 ½ lb. bed fish.



1st Place Big Fish - 7.22 lbs
Nick Wampach

We ventured past Windy Hill and fished a couple of spots in the Salt end around 11:30 but had no luck there. Any time we had some time go by without a fish and started to feel a little discouraged it was nice to open the live well and see "Frank" comfortably resting and taking up one whole side, it sure made the day more pleasant. Great job Nick!

Nick Wampach: Had an epic day on Lake Roosevelt with my partner Jerry Askam. Jerry was awesome to fish with; a very knowledgeable and well rounded fisherman. I was nervous due to the fact I had never fished the lake before.

Jerry had a great game plan of fishing the points on the main lake. We both started off with reaction baits. Jerry was throwing a crank and I was throwing my trusty A-rig. We cycled through a few points picking up a fish here and there. It was evident that the A-rig was producing consistent bites.

Jerry had moved us to a new spot off Vineyard Cove. He had just picked a fish up with his tube bait and we had just netted it and dropped it in the livewell. Then I made a cast and before I could turn my reel over I noticed the line was taking off. I reeled down and said to Jerry "Net, this fish feels pretty good". I got the fish up to the side of Jerry's Ranger and to my surprise I was staring down the mouth of the biggest bass of my life. Jerry was swift with the net and before he knew what had happened the bass was in the boat. I told Jerry this is my personal best. I instantly named that fish "Frank the Tank" a 7.22 lb largemouth bass. The time was 7 AM, and my A-rig looked as if it had been shredded by a garbage disposal. You could sense that morale was high in Jerry's Ranger.

We moved shortly after and stumbled across a male guarding a bed. He was our

limit fish, 5 fish in the boat by 7:22 AM. Jerry said to me "let's get some upgrades". We worked together the rest of the day, only upgrading by a few ounces. We encountered a few fish busting shad and got on a quick topwater bite throwing poppers and spooks. The bite died around 9 AM for us.

We ventured to the Salt end of the lake where the waters were murky. With no success after a while, we moved back to the clear waters of the main lake. Jerry was fishing his tube deep when he said "Got one". I rushed up with the net and it looked like the fish would help us out with a few more ounces. By this time it was almost 2 PM. We headed back hoping what we had in the well would hold up against the rest of the field. Overall an epic day on Roosevelt with Jerry Askam a true gentleman and solid fisherman.

Paul Archer & Lou Hirlemann 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** the team of **Archer & Hirlemann** weighed three bass for a total weight of 9.15 lbs. Thanks to Lou's 5.99 lb bass the team also won **2nd Place Big Fish** honors

Paul Archer: I fished with Lou Hirlemann and had a wonderful time. For Lou, the tournament started after Mark

Kyle finished speaking. Mark said all the right words, fish fast, big baits, deep cranking, top water, and no drop shot. Right after mark finished, Lou was over at the table talking about what Mark said, and I could see in his eyes that slow fishing wasn't going to be an option, I changed all my plans and said that we would run and gun.

The next morning we blasted off and headed about 2/3 the way to the dam and pulled in on a point and started throwing top water and deep divers. Nothing happened until the third point. We were going down the inside of a long point and I asked Lou if he wanted to go back farther or cut across to the other side? He said to cross and he would throw back as far as he could. The next

thing I know, I hear this big splash and "Get the net it's a big one" and it was! We put it in the live well and worked our way on down to the dam. I caught a small fish on a drop shot on a ledge that Johnny Johnson fishes all the time. About 10 minutes later Lou saw water coming up into the boat. We went all the way back to the ramp, called Jack and let him know what was going on, and put the boat on the trailer to drain the water out.

After wasting about an hour on the ramp, we went to Windy Hill and fished a few points and put another fish in the live well on a deep diver crank. After that we never got another bite, the wind started blowing, and the boat started filling with water again. We had found fish on beds and were going to try



Membership

As of May 23, 2014 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 86 active members.

them, but between the wind and the water, we ended up by Cholla near the end of the day and spent most of our time telling stories to each other and waiting for everyone to come in.

I had a ball fishing with Lou. I learned a lot, and found someone for whom I can't go fast enough on the trolling motor while fishing. A real fun

time!

Lou Hirlemann: I had two days of fishing with Paul; luckily he kept me entertained with fishing stories because I only caught one fish with him. Good thing it was Wednesday and good thing I listened to Mark Kyle and threw top water for one big fish and a big paycheck. "The One" bait caught it. We lost about 2.5 hours of fishing time to boat issues but that just added to stories and memories. Paul caught our two other fish on a crank and a dropshot. Yep, 3 fish 2nd place always good to be lucky.



2nd Place
Paul Archer & Lou Hirlemann

Team Gary Grimes & Ernie Modzelewski Enjoy the Day and Finish In 3rd Place

Team Gary Grimes & Ernie Modzelewski weighed five bass for 9.11 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Gary Grimes: Pre-fishing for me produced neither a lot of numbers nor any size, so I was not very confident going into the tournament. I usually fish towards the Salt end, but didn't have much luck pre-fishing so I decided to try mid-lake for this tournament.



3rd Place
Gary Grimes & Ernie Modzelewski



Draw Team Etiquette
By Gary Grimes

Be prepared: You will be spending one to two days on the water with your partner, so know who your partner is, know when and where you are meeting, and know what you need to bring regarding food, water and tackle. Communicate early to avoid problems.

Be careful: Boats and trucks are expensive, and it is your responsibility should you damage something. Most of the damage occurs on the ramp or in the parking lot, so if you are not comfortable pulling or backing a trailer, let your partner know ahead of time.

Be considerate: A courtesy call to your partner right after the draw lets them know you are ready and excited about planning how you will work together. You will not be fishing with KVD, and more likely fishing with someone who fishes completely differently than you are accustomed, so be flexible and always appreciative.

Life is short; enjoy it and the people you are with.

Ernie Mods (Modzelewski), my partner, and I pulled up to our first spot and started throwing top-water over a reef without much success, so we turned and started down a brushy bank where he caught our first fish, a nice 3 lber. We continued to throw top-water in the mid-lake and picked up a couple more, then the bite died for us and we decided to move towards the Sally Mae area. We caught one on a C-rig, and continued to fish for another couple of hours with no success. The wind started to pick up, so we moved back to the main lake area, pretty much fishing point to point and continued to throw top-water

for most of the rest of the day. We caught one fish against the bank, but most of the others were coming from deeper water (6-10 feet) to hit our baits. We were both quite surprised that our meager 9 lb sack would be enough for third, but you never know what it will take to win. Ernie was a real pleasure to fish with, always willing to help. Fishing topwater all day is quite a work-out, and he was certainly up to the task.

Team Mike Shaw & Ron Chambers Shake the Salt for 4th Place Overall Finish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Mike Shaw & Ron Chambers** weighed five fish for a total weight of 8.72 lbs.

Mike Shaw: After two days of pre-fishing I determined the best bite for our team would come out of the Salt end where I usually do best. However the wind and wave action limited where I could fish and I usually do not want to explore new water on tournament day.

On Monday I went to my primary spot and had two good fish within 10 minutes and then pulled off the spot. By that time the wind had really picked up and the white caps and rollers were bank to bank on the Salt. My next 3-4 spots were totally unfishable, so it was going to be a tough pre-fish for the rest of the day.

On Tuesday, I met up with my partner Ron Chambers and hit all his spots first. The first spot

was on the Tonto end on the highway side half way to the dam from Cholla. We pulled out three bass there, but nothing to get excited about. After exploring a couple more of his areas near Windy Hill we decided to hit a few of my spots on the Salt that have been producing for me the last couple of years. My primary spot produced two quick fish in a matter of minutes so we left it immediately to save the area for the tournament.

Tournament day finally arrives and we are pumped for the long ride to the Salt. I decided to pull in and fish a secondary spot first with Ron throwing a Senko and I pulled out my D&M buzzbait first. Ron stuck our first fish within a few minutes but it was only about 13 inches; certainly not what I was looking for. After getting no blowups on the buzzer, I picked up the rod with my Boing topwater tied on which is similar to a spook. I threw this for about 30 minutes with no action and decided it was time to hit my primary spot to catch some fish. Someone was already there but they were pulling out so I told Ron we were going to fish the same spot with Trick Worms fished on a wacky jig head. As I assumed, we started catching fish immediately and had three fish by 7 AM and our limit by 9. We left the spot and culled a few times using the balance beam because we were catching the usual Roosevelt 15" clones. We tried to fish my primary spot later in the morning but the wind had already picked up and throwing the trick worm would not be as

easy so we moved on.

Our last fish of the day came from the Tonto end on one of my highway coves in 22 feet of water with my dropshot rod rigged with a Bitchin Craw Roboworm. This was the only time that rod came out of the locker. I had just told Ron that I saw quite a few on the bottom pre-fishing this same spot for another tournament when our big fish for the day 2.25 pounds hit.

Thinking back on my fishing plan, after catching our limit we should have concentrated on catching a kicker and start throwing deep cranks off the main lake points in the Tonto end as recommended by Mark Kyle at the pre-tournament dinner.

Team Bowlin & Arvizu Win Final Prize Spot with 5th Place Finish

With a five fish limit weighing 8.64 lbs **Team Steve Bowlin & Ernie Arvizu** worked the lake for their **5th Place** finish.

No after action report was received so how they caught their fish will remain a mystery.



Weighing-In
By Jack Hughes, Tmx Director

Well, Roosevelt's first tournament of 2014 is in the books. While the fishing was not the greatest it was still an exceptional tournament. With every tournament we hold I

personally observe something that makes me proud to be associated with our club and the quality of people who make up the club. This tournament produced one incident after another to continue that tradition.

First, Dewayne Steel and his lovely wife Bev need a huge thank you for all their work in hosting the steak cookout. They both worked for days getting everything ready for the cookout.

For all of you that called or told me that you enjoyed Mark Kyle's talk on fishing Roosevelt and thanked the board for arranging it. It was not the board's idea but Dewayne Steel set it up and asked the board if it was okay. Here again Dewayne went out of his way to make sure the cookout was a success plus added to all of our fishing knowledge. This is an excellent example of an individual club member working to make our club even better. Great job Dewayne!

Nick Wampach, a fairly new member, young, full of enthusiasm when it comes to bass fishing and big fish slayer. Yes, Nick caught the big fish at Roosevelt, 7.22 pounds, on an "A" rig. It was a pleasure to watch Nick enjoying his tournament success and his very gracious mannerism in winning. But, even better was watching the club members go out of their way to congratulate him and tell him how proud of him they were. I fished with Nick at Havasu and was with him when he caught his first

smallmouth off a bed. His enthusiasm then as now can only be described as contagious. Jerry Askam, Nick's boater at Roosevelt, told me he was a pleasure to have in the boat and not just for the check they are going to receive. What the members showed me when congratulating Nick was bass fishermen never think of age but of the skill required to win.

I also want to thank the members of the weigh-in team - Tom Savage and Sean Ballard - for the excellent job they did during the weigh in.

Finally, I will not be at the Saguaro tournament in June. I will be off with Gary Grimes pursuing big Pike and Walleye in Canada. For all questions or changes about the Saguaro tournament **AFTER JUNE 9, 2014** contact Terry Tassin. Lou Hirlemann will function as Tournament Director for this event.



Treasure Chest
By John Reichard, Treasurer

Can you believe that – the 5 lb pot has been won for three consecutive months in a row! Nick Wampach gathered in the honors at this month's tournament with a 7.22 lb bass. So the team of Askam & Wampach not only won 1st place overall (\$410) but added the prize money of \$252 for 1st place big fish and \$230 for the 5 lb pot for a grand total of \$892 dollars. Great job guys and not bad for a last minute

tournament entry due to the entry form being delivered to the wrong house.

We will be starting a new 5 lb Pot at the June meeting, so make your plans now to enter the pot when it begins – don't get left out of some easy money. Remember, you must join the new 5 lb Pot no later than the meeting the pot starts and then you must stay current each month that pot is running by giving your \$5 each month to the tournament director. Failure to stay current in the pot each month drops you from the pot with no refunds until a new pot starts.



Bits & Pieces
By Terry Tassin

QUOTES

"My biggest worry is that my wife, when I'm dead, will sell my fishing gear for what I said I paid for it."
Koos Brandt

"Somebody just back of you while you are fishing is as bad as someone looking over your shoulder while you write a letter to your girl."
Ernest Hemingway

"Rivers and the inhabitants of the watery elements are made for wise men to contemplate and for fools to pass by without consideration."
Izaak Walton

"When I am home alone I like to scatter my tackle across the floor and play with it. I may

pretend I am working on it, performing preventative maintenance, but really it is playing."

Howell Raines, author of *Fly Fishing Through The Midlife Crisis* in 1993

"It is just possible that nice guys don't catch the most fish. But they find far more pleasure in those they do get."

Roderick Haig-Brown 1960

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him/her the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in."

Rachel Carson

"If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, then let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it."

David Sobel, *Beyond Ecophobia*

"Game fish are too valuable to be caught only once".

Lee Wulf

"Anglers are born hones, but they get over it".

Ed Zern

"Rivers and the inhabitants of the watery elements are made for wise men to contemplate and for fools to pass by without consideration."

Izaak Walton

"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual

series of occasions for hope."

John Buchan

Common Sense Tips Summary

By applying everyday common sense to your fishing, you should be able to catch fish or at least improve your chances of finding them. Like anything you do, you can do it well only if you spend some time evaluating the conditions or circumstances surrounding the situation and making sound judgments to accomplish the results you're after. To succeed, you must have the facts or knowledge necessary to make your decision.

To catch fish, you must apply the same kind of thinking. You first have to find them, and to find them you need to know something about them. You need to know what affects them and you must learn to recognize their habits. Once you learn a few of these facts, you can make some judgments necessary to find and catch them.

The following list gives a few important facts that you'll need when you're trying to locate fish, regardless of the type of waters you will be fishing.

Ninety percent of all waters contain no fish.

* * * * *

Fish are creatures of habit; once you learn their habits, you can find them.

* * * * *

Fish require some form of cover (structure) in which to live.

* * * * *

Fish require some form of cover (structure) in which to move about (migration routes) when they search for food.

* * * * *

Fish concentrate in areas where cover (structure) is available.

* * * * *

Most game fish are in deep water most of the time (greater than 8 or 10 feet deep).

* * * * *

More Quotes

"The average dog is a nicer person than the average person." -- Andrew A. Rooney

"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion." -- Unknown

"If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man." -- Mark Twain

"Things that upset a terrier may pass virtually unnoticed by a Great Dane." -- Smiley Blanton

"I've seen a look in dogs' eyes, a quickly vanishing look of amazed contempt, and I am convinced that basically dogs think humans are nuts." -- John Steinbeck

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

**Welcome to Returning
Midweek Bass Angler**

Bruce Nelson (B)

**New Members Since the
Last Newsletter**

**John Hawkins (CO)
Steve Russell (CO)**

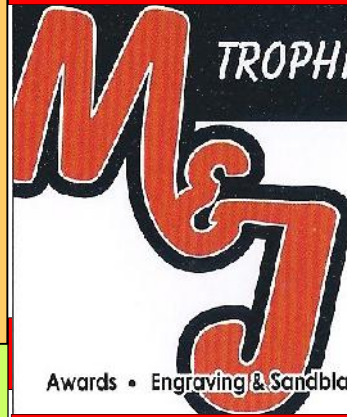
Sound Off

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 June

**Steve Bowlin
Gary Grimes
Steve Harbaugh
Ken Kennedy
Tony Medina
Dick Monell**

