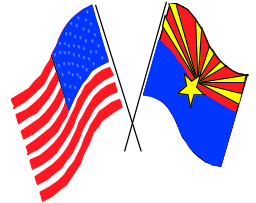


# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MAY 2015

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

### President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



Living in Arizona you get use to the heat, but it doesn't mean you have to like it. I can't

remember the last time I went to a May tournament facing the threat of snow in the high country and rain in the lowlands. Consequently, the Midweek Bass Anglers enjoyed beautiful weather at Lake Roosevelt for our fishing tournament.

Tuesday night we enjoyed a rib-eye steak barbeque on the shaded patio of the Hwy 188 Tackle Store in Tonto Basin, hosted by Dwayne and Bev Steel. Master Chef Gary Asmus did a fantastic job with the steaks, as usual. We had 52 fishermen at our tournament, which means I can usually expect around 40

people at the BBQ, so I was pleasantly surprised when all but two of our tournament anglers attended the BBQ. The highlight of the event had to be watching the young AZG&F officer field questions and comments from a few rather salty members expressing their passion for expediting the restoration of the lake's fishery. They say the squeaky wheel gets the grease, well, our wheel was squeaking.

The concerns voiced about Roosevelt were clearly illustrated on the lake the following day, as our 28 teams found it tough to catch either numbers or quality fish, with most of the teams weighing 6-8 pound bags of fish. Congratulations to Neil Burns and Doug Cunningham for the victory with a winning weight of 9.78 lbs. If there is a silver lining to tough fishing, it has to

be that it forces you to think outside the box as a fisherman in order to succeed on the lake, and to use lures and presentations that you seldom use elsewhere.

I am fairly certain that the hot weather will come, so a reminder that our June, July and August tournaments in the valley will end at 11:00 AM.

The board has begun discussions for next year's tournament schedule. You may wonder why we are discussing next year when this year is only half over. The reason is that we need to submit our permit applications to the governing agencies in September in order to secure our permits. As we did last year, the board will be

## Father's Day

### 21 June



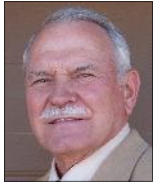
#### Tournament Statistics

Fifty-two men fished 9 hours each, bringing 131 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 187.57 pounds with a 3.61 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.43 lbs. All but seven fish were released back into the lake after weighing in to fight again another day.

**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"**

soliciting member feedback on the schedule once completed, so we look forward to your comments. Also, we will need a new Vice President for 2016; see the by-laws for information on the position if you are interested.



**Lake Roosevelt Report**  
**May 20, 2015**  
*By Terry Tassin*

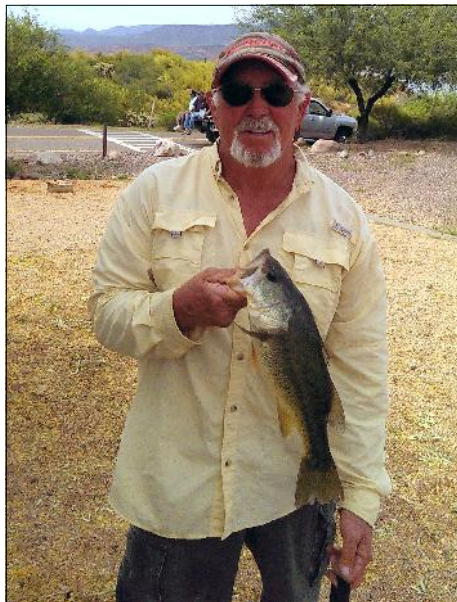
A very tough tournament for many of us. However, I would like to recognize some members for their valiant efforts to keep the fish alive that were released back into the lake after weigh-in. A big well done goes to **Steve Russell** and **Ron Chambers** for ferrying anglers and their catches up and down the ramp and a big thank you goes to

**Mike Adamson** and **Andy Goettl** for performing CPR on some fish to keep them alive and swimming back into the lake.

Now I am sure you are waiting to hear from the winners how they caught their fish so here goes.

**Team Neil Burns & Doug Cunningham Finish 1st By .61**

Taking home **1st Place**, **Team Neil Burns & Doug Cunningham** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 9.78 lbs.



**1st Place**  
**Neil Burns & Doug Cunningham**

**Neil Burns:** Doug and I started the day in the Salt end, just past Windy Hill, on the north side. I had fished this area the day before and had shaken off numerous fish. We fished mainly dark colored jigs on the rocky points and outside banks, casting right on the

shore down to about 15 feet. Doug caught a nice fish at the end of the day on a drop shot that certainly helped us.

**Doug Cunningham:** I always enjoy fishing with Neil Burns; Roosevelt was another day to put in the, "Book of Neil." I started the morning cranking and Neil was flipping a finesse craw shallow on the main lake. Neil picked up a quick 3. I switched it up and ended up contributing. We had our limit early and began culling. We both missed a couple of nice ones but I am glad it really didn't matter. Things really slowed up later in the day. I ended up catching a nice one by the main bridge on a dropshot (Oxblood) that gave us an extra pound. I literally caught it 20 minutes before the tournament ended.

I really want to also thank Neil for allowing me to get out of the weigh-in quick so I could get to my daughters Promotion ceremony at 6 PM. My wife told me that if I missed it that I should not bother coming home. I also want to thank Dwayne Steel for the bed and I know I owe him a chair. I ended up giving the chair a nice beat

**Next Meeting**  
**Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 3 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 **17 June 2015**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.

**Memorial Day 2015**





down, that's poker for ya.

### Bob Lanham & Deb Cunningham Finish 2nd Overall

In **Second Place** the team of **Bob Lanham & Debra Cunningham** weighed five bass for a total weight of 9.17 lbs.



**2nd Place**  
**Bob Lanham & Deb Cunningham**

**Bob Lanham:** Deb Cunningham and I fished by Grapevine in the back of the cuts all day. Debbie was using a white buzz bait and I was throwing a black buzz bait in the morning but started using a white chatterbait after about 10 AM. We never left the area until about 12:30 when we went to the Windy Hill ramp area (at

least 100 feet from the ramp) and fished the banks and outside brush. I caught the big fish at about 1:30 PM on the chatterbait in about 10 feet of water. All morning the fish bit in about 1 to 5 feet of water around grass and trees. We caught approximately 10 fish all day.

**Deb Cunningham:** I had a great time Wednesday; Bob is a great fisherman and I learned a lot from him. The buzz bait bite was good most of the morning; we had some pretty big fish jump over our baits which made the day exciting and disappointing all at the same time. I tried to drag a Texas rig with a Chigger Craw lure while Bob was throwing his chatterbait, but no takers. About 1:30 PM Bob caught our big fish which was a great finish to a fun day. I am looking forward to the next trip.

### Larry White & Jim Buchanan Work Salt To Finish 3rd Place Overall

Team **White & Buchanan** weighed five bass for 8.79 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Larry White:** The weather was perfect; my partner was great, and interesting to fish with. A pattern I found a few weeks earlier but was unable to fully explore was there again in practice.

We headed straight for the Salt end of the lake and within several casts Jim Buchanan caught one of our better fish on a Buzz Bait. A few casts later I followed with a very acrobatic fish. We were culling in the first hour using Senko's, Buzz Baits and Walking Baits. If anyone catches a near 3 pound fish with a black culling rope attached, could you please

### Father's Day 2015



**"See, Dad-I told you these gummy worms would work"**

### Membership

As of May 23, 2015 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 90 active members.

give the rope back as the fish left our boat's livewell about 11:30 with the tag in its mouth.



**3rd Place**  
**Jim Buchanan & Larry White**

**Jim Buchanan:** Larry and I started to fish on the other side of Windy Hill in the brush. I caught the first fish on a buzz bait, and then Larry caught a number of fish on a Senko rigged wacky hook style. Everything was going great until Larry hooked a fish and slipped off his seat. I thought he had broken his back. He's a

tough old bird and he did get the fish in. We caught a lot of fish and then something happened. We had 5 fish in the live well, Larry caught a 6th fish, I opened the live well to get the smallest fish out to measure and a fish jumped out onto the deck. I was not quick enough to retrieve it and it went into the lake. It had to be the biggest fish, about 3 lbs. That fish would have made us a first place winner, as it was we took third place.

The steak cook-out was wonderful as usual. Thanks to Dwayne Steel's hospitality and to his wife Bev for the desserts. Thanks also to all who helped make this another great cook-out and fishing trip

### **Team Asmus & Savage Fish Near Dam For 4th Place Overall Finish**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Gary Asmus & Tom Savage** weighed five fish for a total weight of 8.78 lbs. Thanks to **Tom's** 3.52 lb bass the team also wins the **1st Place Big Fish** prize.

**Gary Asmus:** Prefish day provided Tom Savage and I with several blow ups and hook ups with that hot buzz bait I've been throwing the past few weeks; the rest of the day we found several fish with Senkos and drop shot worms.

Tom and I were 4th out of the field to blast off after waiting for people that couldn't get on the lake on time!

We headed for the east side of Windy Hill where those top water baits provided zero results. Tom started picking up a few fish on a drop shot with a brown worm. We finished up near the east end of the Tonto end of lake. I was fishing a narrow cut in the bank just a little wider than my boat, so Tom threw out his Zara Spook behind the boat and caught the big fish of the tourney. Tom was great to fish with and I am looking forward to doing that again someday.



**4th Place**  
**Tom Savage & Gary Asmus**



### **The Rules By Gary Grimes**

If you are relatively new to Midweek Bass, you may wonder why we only had 6 weigh-in bags at the Roosevelt Lake tournament. Are we in need of money or are we just too frugal? The answer is neither. We have found the greatest way to minimize fish mortality is to reduce the amount of time the fish spend inside the oxygen limited weigh-in bags, and we accomplish this by limiting the number of bags available for weighing fish. Your fish will be much happier and healthier inside your oxygen rich live-well than in a bag. This restriction has no negative affect on the speed of the weigh-in, as there is always someone in line with fish to be weighed.



**Tom Savage:** Thanks go to everyone involved in coordinating the tournament. The barbeque was a good time with good food and friends. All the hard work from everyone involved in the barbeque is very much appreciated.

I had a great day fishing with Gary. Thanks to Gary, I listened to good country music all day. I wasn't sure how the fish would react to nonstop country music but they seem to love Brookes and Dunn. Gary put us in all the right places to catch fish. Most of the fish were caught on drop shots. The Big Fish was caught in the back of Methodist Cove on top water with a Super Spook.

### **Team Hobby Nelson & Steve Wells Fish Reaction Baits For 5th Place Finish**

A five fish limit weighing 8.46 lbs was enough to earn **Team Nelson & Wells 5th Place** money.



**5th Place  
Steve Wells & Hobby Nelson**

**Hobby Nelson:** I would first like to thank my co angler Steve wells for two great days of fishing. We had a blast although fishing was a bit tough.

Prefishing Tuesday we found an early morning reaction bite in the Windy Hill area so first thing Wednesday morning we went to the Windy Hill area where we were able to catch a limit by 7:30 AM. We then started working our way back down the lake picking up another six or seven fish throughout the day on drop shots which allowed us to cull a few fish.

### **Team Ballard & Brown 6th Place Overall Finish and Goon Fish Prize**

Taking home **6th Place**, Team **Sean Ballard & Rick Brown** weighed five fish for a total weight of 8.45 lbs. Thanks to **Rick's** 3.32 lb catfish the team also wins the **Goon Fish** prize.

**Sean Ballard:** I would just like to start off saying I was really thrilled to have Rick Brown as my partner. The first time I ever fished with him was at Roosevelt fishing out of his boat many years ago so it was my turn to host this time.

During my prefish days for this tournament I found a great top water bite and I had a bunch of fish located. Unfortunately so did a local fisherman that was on my spot when I pulled in but we still managed to get 3 fish out of that area and watched him catch a 2 pounder right in front of us. We caught a few on

topwater, dropshot, and cranks. Our biggest fish came off a bed and the little Gulp Minnow strikes again. We managed to catch a nice catfish by the dam on a Carolina rig which won the Goon Fish pot for our team. We managed to cull up a few times near the launch area while waiting for the end of the tournament.



**6th Place & Goon Fish Prize  
Rick Brown & Sean Ballard**

### **Team Johnson & Yeager Net 2nd Place Big Fish Prize**

**Dale Yeager:** Don Johnson and I were jig fishing about mid-morning. Green jigs just weren't producing like I thought they would so I looked around my tackle box and found a black football jig and a blue/black skirt and blue/black Chigger Craw in there. I figured why the heck not.

I put it all together, tied it on, and maybe 10 minutes later I am dragging it by a stump in

about 15 feet of water and whammo, a 3.39 lb bass hit the jig hard. I started reeling her in and hollering for Don to get the net. When she came out of the water I swore I had a 5 lb fish. I was jumping and dancing and all kinds of excited. While the fish did not go 5 lbs it still worked out well for Don and I.



**2nd Place Big Fish**  
**Dale Yeager & Don Johnson**

not won it rolls over to next month. See you on the lake.



**Weighing-In**  
*By Jack Hughes*  
**Tournament Director**

Last evening as I sat down to write this and not being exactly sure of what I was going to say, I was thinking how well Deb Cunningham did in her first club tournament. Also I was thinking about the BBQ and how great it was, when the phone rang and it was a voice from my past, Chris Shankel, saying "How you been Chief". As I was about to say piss poor for a number of reasons he never gave me a chance and went on with "Do you know that May 28 it will be 50 years since we crossed the fence the first time" (for our non-military people that meant doing a RECON mission into North Viet Nam and in this case our transportation was a parachute). I was floored; it seemed like yesterday, not 50 years ago, because I still remember how scared I was. After he hung up I sat and thought about the Special Operations teams I have been on and then I thought about our bass club and all of the members who served. I quickly came to the conclusion our club is just as fine an organization as any I have ever been with.

This labor day I want to thank the members of the club who served and tell a few stories about a few of them that you may not know. A good a place to start is with our former Marines, not Ex-Marines but

former. From the moment they earned their Globe and Anchor in boot camp their lives changed forever. For the rest of their lives, no matter what they achieved, the rest of the world will always know and refer to them as a Marine. Our club has a number of former Marines: Paul Archer, Gary Asmus, George Cobasky, and Gary Grimes.

Terry Tassin joined the Navy as an enlisted man and worked his way up to Lieutenant Commander; very few people achieve this in the Navy. In early years Terry did not have an easy job in the Navy, he was a Navy Diver and EOD Tech (Explosive Ordnance Disposal). Terry and I were talking one day about diving at Indian Head, MD in the Potomac River and he was so cool about it. Diving at Indian Head was like diving in Chocolate Milk back then; it was so muddy and polluted you could not see your hand when placed in front of your face at two inches. You learned to feel your way around and at times you felt things that were bigger than you and then they swam away. To dive there over and over takes a special man who admits to his fear of the unknown but never seriously thinks of not diving. Terry made many dive's there more than I like to think of. Also serving in the USN: Steve Bowlin (10 Years), Lionel Frailey, Mike Halleck, and John Reichard.

Do any of you ever wonder why Larry White's boat is



**Money Matters**  
*By John Reichard*  
**Treasurer**

Greetings from your Treasurer

Wow, what a BBQ Tuesday night at Hwy 188 Tackle. Lots of people were there. Hadn't seen John Majersky in a long time and it was good to see his back surgery was a success.

Fishing was tough for Paul Archer and me but according to the result sheet most teams did well.

Since the five pound pot was



wrapped in patriotic colors to honor returning heroes? Why, because Larry never stopped serving! Most of you don't know it but if Larry caught a five pound bass for every serious encounter he experienced in Nam we would not be talking about KVD but we would be talking about Larry. Larry's work was very classified and it was rare when he had more than a very few other people with him while working in the field. He has never forgotten those we left behind and how lucky he was to live through it. At Apache this year Larry walked up to me in the dark and quietly said "To those we left behind." As we tapped glasses for a toast he didn't say another word he just walked off to his camp site. Larry has never forgotten those he served with or those who didn't return home including his highly decorated close cousin Robert White.

Bernie Kowalski served multiple tours in Viet Nam. He survived numerous shelling from "Charlie" and never got to shoot back. Bernie was a bomb loader and the Air Force dropped lots of bombs but never had enough bomb loaders. Charlie did his best to kill the bomb loaders knowing if they did succeed in killing them more "Charlies" would survive. He beat the odds of Charlie missing him with various munitions. However, every time a tour was up and he was returning home to his wife he knew he could not beat the odds of him having to return to Nam for another tour of duty. I bet even though he didn't get to shoot back that he left more than one message on a bomb on it's way to make it a bad day for Charlie.

Also serving in the USAF: Gordon Drake (22 years), Donnie Hegenderfer, Tony Medina, Dave Rice, Richie Rojas, Lew Southard, and Bruce Nelson with a K-9 unit.

United States Army members are: Ron Gaudreau (22 Years), Ricky Boehm, Jim Buchanan, Neil Burns, Ron Chambers, Don Johnson, Hobby Nelson, Scott Olivier, Mark Royal and Mike Shaw.

I want to thank each of our members who served our country and all of them for being a member of Midweek Bass Anglers and making it a better club by their presence. If you served and I didn't mention your name I apologize and owe you a libation of your choice.

Next month Gary Grimes, Tom Savage, Bob Jolly and I make our annual trip to Canada in search of Northern Pike and Walleye's. I will still handle the pairing revisions and tournament applications until we depart on 10 June. After 10 June Lou Hirlemann will be the Acting Tournament Director for tournament day activities and Terry Tassin will handle any pairing changes that need to be made.



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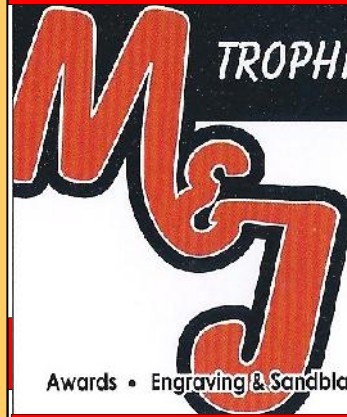
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Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>

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

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**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**

**Born in June**

**Steve Bowlin  
Doug Cunningham  
Gary Grimes  
Tai Hunt  
Ken Kennedy  
Tony Medina  
Jake Morrison**



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2015  
Tournament Schedule**

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