

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JUNE 2015

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



We all know that there are two things for certain in our life; death and taxes. I would like to add another; if you get 50 men together you are guaranteed to find at least one subject that not everyone agrees upon.

Those are the topics which I usually try and avoid at our general meetings, in order to keep the peace and allow everyone to enjoy their bacon and eggs along with pleasant conversation with the other anglers at the meeting. I think you would all agree with me in this regard.

For those of you who may not be aware, our meetings, per the bylaws, are supposed to follow parliamentary procedure. What the heck is

that? Well, parliamentary procedure is a set of rules and practices which govern meetings and the operation of clubs and organizations. Blah-de-blah-blah, worthless information for sure, what does that have to do with fishing or my breakfast. Well, nothing really, except that these rules are intended to help keep the meeting in order, to avoid arguments or, heaven forbid an all out brawl.

I will be honest with you in that I am by no means an expert in the matter, but I have attempted to learn a little on the subject. One of the items I have discovered is that it is the chairman's responsibility to keep order at the meetings, which I seemed to have come up a little short at our last get together, for which I apologize. It is because of this responsibility that at times I may choose to either reject or end a discussion item at a meeting, if I believe that no good will come from its continuation.

Members will, from time to time, approach us with an idea they believe will improve our club, and as a board we welcome this input. The board always will discuss these ideas, weigh the pros and

cons, and see if it is something that makes sense for the good of the club, or something that makes absolutely no sense, or worse yet, something that has the potential to divide the club. Believe me, you want your board to hammer through these issues, and keep the controversy out of the meetings.

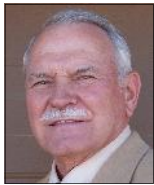
The board of Midweek is by no means perfect in their judgments and actions, but I can attest to you that we strive to make decisions that are in the best interest of the club. I welcome your input and ideas, and I only ask that if you desire a subject discussed by all the members of the club, that you give us a heads up before our monthly board meeting so that we can properly vet the idea and potentially save us all a lot of grief.

Happy Fishing!



**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”



Lake Saguaro Report

June 17, 2015
By Terry Tassin

OK, I know the club fished this event three days before the first day of the summer; but that was no reason for Mother Nature to dump 114 degree temperatures on us - we are nice people! It was really **HOT**. I can hardly wait to see what the temps will be for our July tournament at Lake Bartlett. I am sorry I do not have photos of all the winning teams to put in this newsletter, but I did not make it to this event with my trusty camera because I came down with some kind of bug which sapped my will to fish. My thanks to those of you who did provide the photos used in this Bass Bites.

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 1 July** 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 Bartlett** on **15 July 2015**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.

Team Bryan Steele & Rick Brown Squeak Out 1st Place Finish

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Bryan Steele & Rick Brown** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 18.53 lbs. Thanks to **Rick's** 9.16 lb bass the team also wins the **1st Place Big Fish** prize and **5 lb Option Pot**. This bass moves to the top of the list for largest bass caught this year to date.



1st Place
Bryan Steele & Rick Brown

Bryan Steele: If you were near the Shiprock area around 6:15 AM, you probably heard some loud cheering. You guessed it that was all caused by Rick Brown catching the 9.16 pound largemouth. Not a bad way to fill out a limit! We didn't weigh the fish, and we didn't take a second look at it until the weigh-in. Our weight estimate started out at 8 pounds and by the end of the day, we figured it was definitely over five and had to be at least 6 something.

So when the scale went to 9.16 lbs, again, there was more cheering from us!

Rick fished great, and we had a blast all day! I am pretty sure he upgraded everything I put in the livewell and maybe I can claim 2 pounds of that entire bag! He had a late day upgrade that culled out a 1.87 pounder for an extra pound and that ended up putting us on top by 4/100's of a pound (or just .64 oz). It was one of those days where it all just worked out. Fantastic fishing Rick – way to go!

During pre-fish, I tried to find a shallow, heavy-cover bite, but did not succeed. I graphed a bunch of offshore spots and saw most of the fish scattered around the deep weed line that starts around 23 feet deep. That set the tone for our tournament plan, and we stayed offshore for 90% of the tournament. Most of our fish were caught in the 15 to 25 foot range. We just ran a bunch of mid-lake rocky points and weedy ledges all day. I caught my fish on dropshot finesse worms, and Rick caught his fish on Carolina rigged creature baits. In the last 30 minutes of

Tournament Statistics

Fifty men fished 6 hours each, bringing 116 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 261.88 pounds with a 5.24 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 2.26 lbs. All but five fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

the tournament, we ran down a line of habitat in 15-20 feet of water, which is where Rick got the final upgrade fish.

Rick Brown: Well, I have to say it again, "Another great draw for me". I had not had the privilege of meeting Bryan Steele prior to this tournament. We had planned on pre fishing on Monday, but due to that nasty word "work" I was not able to make it. On Tuesday Bryan filled me in on what he had found on Monday. The fish were set up right where I like them.

Wednesday morning, time to go fishing! Man this guy has got some GRAPHS! First thing in the morning, we made an attempt at a shallow water bite. Bryan caught our first fish on a topwater lure, but it was not quite what we were looking for. He quickly moved us out to deeper water.

After a couple of stops and four fish in the boat we pulled up to Shiprock. I think it was my second cast when I set the hook, "got one" I called out, then "Oh S-t BIG Fish". What a relief and excitement all at once when that fish was in the net. About 30 minutes later, Bryan gave me the "time to move" signal. I said "one more" and made a long cast out to a little deeper water and caught

a nice 3 lber.

Bryan continued to move us around and kept us on the fish while we slowly upgraded our smaller fish. I pretty much threw a Carolina rigged craw all day, targeting the +/- 25 foot depth. I really enjoyed fishing with Bryan; he might just be my new Best Friend! He is very knowledgeable about his graphs, and really passionate about figuring out what the fish are doing. Thanks to Bryan's hard work (installing a new lower unit on his boat Saturday, putting us on fish, and then taking good care of them throughout the day) I was very fortunate in catching a great 9.16 lb bass, and my personal Arizona best.



**1st Place Big Fish
Rick Brown 9.16 lbs**

Membership
As of June 19, 2015 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 96 active members.



Medina & Thomas Junk Fish To 2nd Place Finish

In **Second Place** the team of **Tony Medina & Howard Thomas** weighed five bass for a total weight of 18.49 lbs. Thanks to **Howard's** 6.42 lb bass the team also wins the **2nd Place Big Bass** prize.

Tony Medina: The Second place team of Tony Medina and Howard Thomas weighed five bass for a total weight of 18.49 lbs. including the 2nd big fish of the tournament which weighed 6.42 lbs. We caught our fish throwing reaction baits, jigs, Senkos and drop shots. We fished points and banks with trees.

Congratulations to the first place team of Bryan Steel and Rick Brown on their big bag and big bass.



2nd Place
Tony Medina & Howard Thomas

Howard Thomas: Well another day in Paradise is in the books. Congrats to Rick

Brown on his 9 lber. I had a fish on that would have put us over 20 lbs but he took off running with the Senko and the hook popped out. Oh well that's fishing; you have to learn to live with it. Rick always has a way of getting that 5 lb pot away from me. In 2009 I had just joined the club and the pot was \$2000 dollars. He caught a 5.4 pounder and as he was coming in to the ramp with 3 minutes to go I hooked a 5.7 pounder and he watched us lip the fish into the boat because the net was buried under rods in the locker. At that point his heart sank knowing he might have just been knocked out. What he didn't know was I was not in the 5 lb Pot because it hadn't rolled over yet. Well ya got me again Rick but that's OK because you are good people and that keeps me competitive.

On another note we caught our fish all over the place on jerk baits, Senkos, and jigs. I waited 6 years to fish with Tony and finally got the chance. When I first joined the club Tony called me and asked if I wanted to go fishing, but I had to say no because I had to work that day. He never asked me again, so never say no to Tony because I think it hurts his feelings. Well this time I was picked with you Tony and you had to fish with me. I hope you had as much fun as I did. Tony is the only boater I know who will make you one of his famous Costco breakfast sandwiches so you won't be fishing on an empty stomach. Great time Tony. Thanks

Drop Shot Key to 3rd Place Finish for Wacker & Buchanan

Team **Allen Wacker & Jim Buchanan** weighed five bass for 16.74 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.



3rd Place
Jim Buchanan & Allen Wacker

Jim Buchanan: Alan and I started fishing on the right side of Shiprock in the brush. I was using a buzz bait and Alan was using a Rico lure. He caught a couple, I caught nothing. We moved down the lake and started fishing with drop shot. Fishing got better. We started sizing our fish and we mistakenly put our limit 5th fish back into the lake. Two hours left in the tournament and only 4 fish in the live well. Then we went over to Shiprock area again and bingo, I caught a 6.11 lb fish. On the way back to the dock we caught a 5 pounder. Most of the fish we caught were caught on drop shot rigs. Alan was a great boater and I hope we get to fish together again.

By the way, you are never too old to learn new tricks. Alan taught me how to hook the worm weedless on the drop shot and what hooks to buy. What a difference - no more snags, at least not that many.

Team Southard & Hand Fish River For 4th Place Overall Finish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Lew Southard & Spencer Hand** weighed five fish for a total weight of 15.10 lbs.

Lew Southard: I fished this tournament with Spencer Hand, one of our new members, and had a great time. We went to the river and stayed there all day. All of our fish came on a drop shot rig; three or four of the fish came off beds. Sean was fishing in that same area and left them for us, thanks Sean. The big fish was a cruiser and I threw my drop shot about four feet in front of her and she went right to my worm and ate it. That was what we needed to get us in the money.

Spencer Hand: Lew and I were both using drop shot rigs. His was a 5 inch Robo worm with a Chartreuse curly tail. I was using a Robo Worm FX straight tail in a purple color. We went almost to the up river dam but we caught most of our fish near the cliffs at the far end of the lake just about 200 yards from Cottonwood Wash. Early in the morning I almost took the first fish with a SPRO Frog in natural colors. He hit, I set, and the fish swam away.

I spotted a very large bass moving past the boat. Lew then spotted him and stated that it looked sick but threw his dropshot at it anyway. The bass took the worm quickly and Lew pulled him in with a little help from me with the net. We worked on several bedding bass - first time I ever did that - and I caught two with our drop shot setup. Just for your information, I use a Pflueger Presidential reel set up with 8 lb Stren and Gamakatsu #2 hooks. The reel is on a 6' 6" Medium Lightening Stick.

Hopefully this is descriptive enough for the readers of this article. My brain is still a little fried after the day on the water in 114 degree heat, but a good fried! I look forward to the next tournament on Bartlett. I will pay more attention to everything. I was just a little overly excited.

I had a great time fishing in my first Arizona tournament. Lew was a great teacher and an all around great guy. I can't believe Lew and I took 4th Place which put us in a little money for my first tournament in Midweek Bass Anglers. Part of a dream comes true!

Steady Pays Off For Team Rojas & Riley For 5th Place Finish

A five fish limit weighing 13.52 lbs was enough to earn **Team Richie Rojas & Ray Riley 5th Place** money.

Richie Rojas, boater / **Ray Riley**, co-angler finished in 5th

place. (We attended the same grade school, same high school, same attendance years, small world)

Our day started slow and continued slow but steady, only one top water bass was caught by Richie and a very small blue gill (goon fish) was caught on my Rico. We both changed over to drop shot rigs and we slowly picked up a limit by mid morning then we were able to start culling and upgrading until weigh-in. We could not identify any sort of pattern, so both of us just kept changing colors, every color from A to Z, various sizes, anything to try to upgrade our fish. Only one fish was caught on a wacky worm and only one bass was caught on a top water lure, zero fish were caught on crank baits or rip baits.

Congratulations to all of the winners, and special big fish congratulations go out to Bryan Steele and Rick Brown for landing a 9.16 lb, Big Fish and 18.53 pounds total weight. Also congratulations to Tony Medina and Howard Thomas with a 6.42 lb big fish and a total weight of 18.49 pounds. Hopefully everyone is looking forward to another fun tournament at Bartlett Lake on July 15.

Team Ridgway & Mabry 6th Place Overall Finish

Taking home **6th Place**, Team **Vern Ridgway & Jeff Mabry** weighed five fish for a total weight of 13.14 lbs.

Jeff Mabry: Vern & I were both

on pretty good bites heading into this tournament. Our patterns didn't really produce until late in the tournament when we were lucky enough to stumble on to 3 and 5 pound fish. Unfortunately I made a massive mistake culling fish and left our smallest fish in the live well all day. Luckily the mistake only cost us one spot in the standings and \$15. Vern's is a great guy and anyone will be lucky to fish with him.

Vern Ridgway: Jeff and I teamed up with a plan and approach on how to execute our efforts. Our first stop produced a fish on a crankbait on the first cast of the game, a small one but a keeper in any case. We then moved into a cove where a good fish blew up on a top water plug. Jeff called for the net shortly after and we netted our first good keeper. Time to change locations. We lost a good one right away in the deep weeds of our new location. Five minutes later I dumped a 5 pounder at the boat on a Texas rig worm. Moving along, Jeff threw his lure off a deep point and called for the net, another good keeper for number 3. We then moved to a cove near Shiprock and caught another one on a crankbait (bluegill color) number 4 in the boat. Jeff called for the net again for number 5.....its now culling time. We then moved up to mid channel and Jeff was on the fish right away - we removed a small fish from the live well. The biggest fish came shortly afterwards. When Jeff yelled "fish on" I turned to see this large mouth trying to jump, I was there with the net and she turned out to be 5 plus pounds.

We then moved back to our starting spot but other than a couple of strikes, our plan had run its course.

Most of our fish came on worms, Texas rigs, Shakey Head set ups, and drop shot rigs.

Jeff is a fishing machine and I was lucky to draw him

Team Lou Hirlemann & Paul Clark Net Goon Fish Prize

Lou Hirlemann: Yeah I caught the big catfish (6.40) on a drop shot rig and took forever to reel it in. But more importantly I would like to thank everyone for the smooth launch and smooth weight in at this tournament. I thought the flights worked well and almost everyone from the first flight was in when the second group came back to the ramp at the end of the tournament. And, thank you Howard Thomas for taking a few fish home with you that did not make it back into the lake after being weighed. I fished with a new guy to the club, Danny Clark. We had a good time on the lake and I'm sure he'll help anybody he fishes with in the future.



Money Matters

**By John Reichard
Treasurer**

Greetings from your Treasurer. Sorry I wasn't there to see all the big fish. I hope everyone had a great day on the lake. I am here in Las Vegas receiving a big award from the Cal West

Circulation Managers Association which I was a member of for 42 years and a past president.

Just a reminder, a new 5 lb pot begins next month so **all** members are eligible to enter. See you at our next meeting.



Weighing-In

**By Jack Hughes
Tournament Director**

I wanted to take a few minutes to explain the Permit Process. In just two and half months we will be deciding our 2016 Tournament Schedule. I have had a few new members ask why so soon. USDA who issues permits for all of Tonto National forest has a long cycle for approving permits. Their cycle for permits starts October 1, 2015 and it is on a first come first served bases. Normally they will notify the various Tournament Directors and publish the date they will start taking calls at 8 AM on the published date for 2016 permits.

When I call in for permits I am given a number which is based on let's say I was the fourth call they answered so I would be assigned number four and later that day they will call me back after talking to the first three and we can request our desired dates to fish in 2016. However, even if they "tentatively" approve our dates we have many other hurdles to go through to obtain the permits, including

filing all of the after action certifications for our permits issued in 2015 and the clearing of any additional charges/fees we may have incurred, then payment in advance for all tournaments in 2016. Our fee for each tournament is based on the number of boats we think we will fish each tournament. If we guess too high refunds ARE NOT issued, if we guess too low we are charged for the additional boats plus a penalty cost for being too low. There is also a long list of dates that are not available for anyone to obtain a permit.

Our club lets the members decide when and where we want to fish. The process takes about two months to complete. That does not mean because we are first in line we will get all the dates we want. Each lake has restrictions on the number of boats allowed on lakes for tournaments and on some lakes the number of boats changes with the time of year. Each year the club's Board of Directors conducts a survey by listing all of the fishable lakes for each month and the members vote on where we want to fish. The members WHO VOTE DECIDE our desired schedule not the board. Our club's decision on where we want to fish does not mean we will get a permit to fish that lake on that date. What it does mean is that is our ONLY desired date and we apply for those dates.

Two weeks ago AZG&F met with the Forest Service to discuss putting limits on the number of tournaments to be held on certain lakes and several other restrictions. What they have decided for 2016 has not been finalized and we do not know at this time what they have decided. Lake Saguaro for example, because of the good fishing, had over 100 requests for permits in 2015 with some permits asking for 80 boats and clubs as far away as California wanting multiple day permits. It is obvious to everyone Saguaro cannot sustain this type of pressure without reducing the quality of fishing. AZG&F is determined to keep the quality of bass fishing excellent at the lakes that are currently good and improve all the other lakes they are responsible for (by the way, the city of Peoria is responsible for Lake Pleasant not AZG&F, so do not look for improvements at

Pleasant). The only thing we know for sure is some type of change is coming and how it will affect us is unknown. We do know both agencies want to control the number of tournaments per year on given lakes and the number of tournament boats. How they accomplish this task is like I said - unknown.

This year we are listing all of the lakes we think the club could possibly fish including Alamo, Canyon and Martinez. Since our last vote on Martinez and Alamo for example we have had over 36% change in membership and most of them are dedicated fishermen and how they will vote - who knows. Alamo has very low water and no ramp to launch off of but AZ State Parks thinks we could safely launch off of the dirt at the end of the main road. At Canyon Lake the problem is at certain times of the year we will have a 30 boat limit and other times 70 boats. Clubs who fish Canyon typically have less than 15 boats due to the limited prime fishing areas. At local lakes we are constantly about 30 boats or more, if we go to Canyon how do we decide which 30 boats can fish? Martinez is a great fishery at certain times of the year. It is also the most controversial lake to list for a tournament. Water conditions and shifting sand bars make some fishermen very nervous. Others love the big 30 pound plus bags that sometimes come out of there in January and February for five fish. As a board all we can do is list the available lakes to fish then let the members decide.

What I do know is this year club members should all take extra time deciding how and where "they" want to fish. We cannot continue to fish Saguaro and Bartlett for half of our yearly tournaments and continue to grow the club and have great tournaments. Take a little extra time and if you have a question about a certain lake contact me (Jack Hughes) and I will get you the correct answer to your question.



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2015 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Gary Grimes 623-203-7436

SECRETARY

Terry Tassin 623-931-1546

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Jack Hughes 480-510-7779

VICE PRESIDENT

Lou Hirlemann 480-272-0050

TREASURER

John Reichard 623-512-0238

Committee / Chairmen

PROGRAMS

Lou Hirlemann

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE Jack Hughes-Chairman

Gary Grimes, Terry Tassin, Lou Hirlemann, John Reichard

RAFFLE COMMITTEE - - Lionel Frailey

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Terry Tassin

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Lou Hirlemann

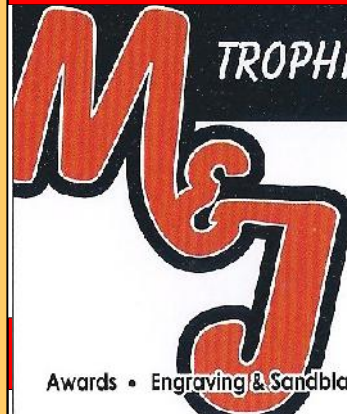
CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE - John Reichard

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

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

**Jason Christy (B)
Danny Clark (B)
Nick Gage (B/CO)
Spencer Hand (CO)**

**Official Supplier of
Midweek Bass Anglers Club Apparel**



TROPHIES & APPAREL

John Balzic
Owner

10802 N. 43RD AVE #2
GLENDALE, AZ 85304
P 602-548-4200
F 602-548-4204

john@mandjtrophies.com
www.mandjtrophies.com

Awards • Engraving & Sandblasting • Screenprinting • Embroidery

Individuals wishing to purchase a club shirt or cap can order directly from our provider - **M & J Trophies & Apparel**, 10802 N. 43rd Ave, Glendale, Arizona. See their ad above.

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in July

- Jack Shearer**
- Bryan Steele**
- Greg Prather**
- Scott Olivier**
- Ricky Boehm**
- Gary Martlage**
- Nick Wampach**



**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