

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JULY 2014

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

## President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



Even though the fishing may have been slow at Bartlett during our recent tournament, there is nothing slow about what is going on in the Midweek Bass Anglers. Here is a brief update on various club activities.

There are many new faces in the club in the last couple of months, and some really good sticks too. Welcome to John Hawkins, Steve Russell, Mike Shaw, Logan McCleve, Jerry Ford, Bernie Kowalski, Charles Murdock, Dennis Thiel, George Zaglifa, Joe Weisgerber, Allen Wacker, and Jim Furimsky. Glad to have you guys on board.

Andy Clark, Assistant Fisheries Chief Sportfish Management of the Arizona Game and Fish Department,

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

will be joining us at our next monthly meeting on August 6 to give us an update about bass fishing in our warm-water desert lakes. To date, our club has donated over \$800 to help the AZGFD restore the bass population at Roosevelt Lake. Combined with the matching funds from the AZGFD, that is over \$1600 worth of fish that we can look forward to catching someday.

The 2015 Midweek tournament schedule has been posted on the website at [www.midweekbassaz.com](http://www.midweekbassaz.com). Thanks to everyone for participating in the online survey, it made it much easier to collect your input and determine where you wanted to fish. Based upon the feedback we received, there will be two day-and-a-half tournaments in 2015; the first at Havasu in March and the second at Apache in October, looks like a great schedule.

Midweek Bass Angler's positions of President and Tournament Director are up for election this coming October. At present, both Jack Hughes and I desire to serve another two-year term, but don't let that stop you from throwing your hat in the ring. Nominations for the two positions are due by

September 1st. If you desire more information about the job duties and responsibilities, you can speak to either Jack or I. Check the bylaws for minimum qualifications.

Last week Terry Tassin and I finalized an agreement to host the 2014 Annual Banquet at the Elks Lodge on 32<sup>nd</sup> St and Greenway in Phoenix. They have a very suitable facility and appear to be much more skilled at providing a quality meal for a group of our size. The date of the event is 14 January 2015.

That's all for now, see you at the August meeting or I will see you on the water at Saguaro Lake.



**Tournament Report  
Lake Bartlett  
July 16, 2014  
By Terry Tassin**

Continued on page 2



**"We Practice Catch and Release"**

## Team Gary Grimes & Bernie Kowalski Net 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Gary Grimes & Bernie Kowalski** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 7.46 lbs.



**1st Place**  
**Bernie Kowalski & Gary Grimes**

**Gary Grimes:** When I pulled up the trolling motor at 10:45

### Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 August** 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 **20 August 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.

AM, fifteen minutes before weigh-in, I told Bernie Kowalski that 7.4 lbs would likely be a respectable weight, but I was a little surprised to discover that our weight was the biggest sack at our July Bartlett tournament. We fished three spots, all between Yellow Cliffs and Alder Point. During pre-fishing I had discovered the bite was going to be tough. Topwater - nothing, crankbait - nada, spinnerbait - nope, spoon - fat chance, jerk bait - no, A-rig - zilch. The only bait I had any consistent success with was drop shot. I had pre-fished the river, which is loaded with both baitfish and bass, but found it next to impossible to get a bite. I decided to seek waters where the shad were not quite so abundant, and hopefully give my carefully crafted baits a sporting chance of catching a fish. I had three spots chosen for our day; all had similar characteristics, 15-20 feet deep with brush or grass. I also tried a new color of Robo Worm, kind of a smoky purple and brown. Bernie and I, my friend and partner for the day, drop shotted the entire day, and even while drop shotting the bite was very slight, finger-on-the-line time. We caught about 30 fish, most of which were less than a pound, but our final spot held our better fish, most of which were over a pound. It was a fun day and I thoroughly enjoyed fishing with new Midweek member Bernie Kowalski, he's a keeper.

## Team Mike Shaw & Lou Hirlemann 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** the team of **Shaw & Hirlemann** weighed five bass for a total weight of 7.45 lbs.

**Mike Shaw:** Did I throw my wacky Trick Worm...NO. Did I throw the Drop Shot...YES. Now that I've covered that, I have something I want to say before I recap how and where my partner Lou Hirlemann and I caught our fish. This is the first tournament that I have lost by a total of 0.01, but I must tip my hat to Gary Grimes and his partner Bernie Kowalski as they **WON** the tournament by 0.01. After all, there is nothing wrong with second place. What I wanted to say is that I shared a post tournament lunch with the winners and others and sat shoulder to shoulder with Gary and across the table from Bernie. We laughed and joked about the 0.01 margin and this is what makes the Midweek Bass Anglers a great club. It's not about winning or losing but how you played the game. I am so happy to be part of this group and I hope everyone in the club feels the same.



**2nd Place**  
**Mike Shaw & Lou Hirlemann**

To give an overview of the



tournament in general, I feel this was the toughest I have ever fished Bartlett and Lou and I pre-fished everywhere from the dam up to the river's end where the water was too shallow for my boat. We fished with everything and then some and caught fish here and there but they were typical Bartlett fish and nothing in particular stood out that would win the tournament. So for those of you that finished back in the pack, we just got lucky catching the fish we did and next tournament may be your time to win.

Driving to the lake on tournament morning Lou and I discussed where we should start and where to fish until a decision was made to limit ourselves to the area between the submerged island across from the ramp to the first bend in the lake just past Rattlesnake Cove. We stayed in that area the entire morning. What did we throw? Buzz baits, spinner baits, Texas Rigged craws, deep cranks and Vixens mostly. After hauling water with no results, I told Lou like it or not we were going to the drop shot. All of my fish came on the Red Crawler and Lou was throwing the Morning Dawn and green Robos with a chartreuse tip that only produced a couple of dinks. My two biggest fish came off the same spot in

about 25 feet of water and we limited out before 7 AM. Culling with a balance beam became the norm with only minor differences noted with our smallest fish being culled. Catching fish here and there produced enough quality fish to be fortunate enough to place where we did.

Time to put this one behind us and start thinking about Saguaro again as I'm sure bigger fish will be brought to the scales. Once again, congratulations to Gary and Bernie.

**Lou Hirlemann** added, I fished 4 days with Mike and we shared a lot of areas and information with one another. The tourney was rough but I netted all his fish and I don't think we ever got more than one mile from the ramp but kept our lines in the water. Another great time with friends!

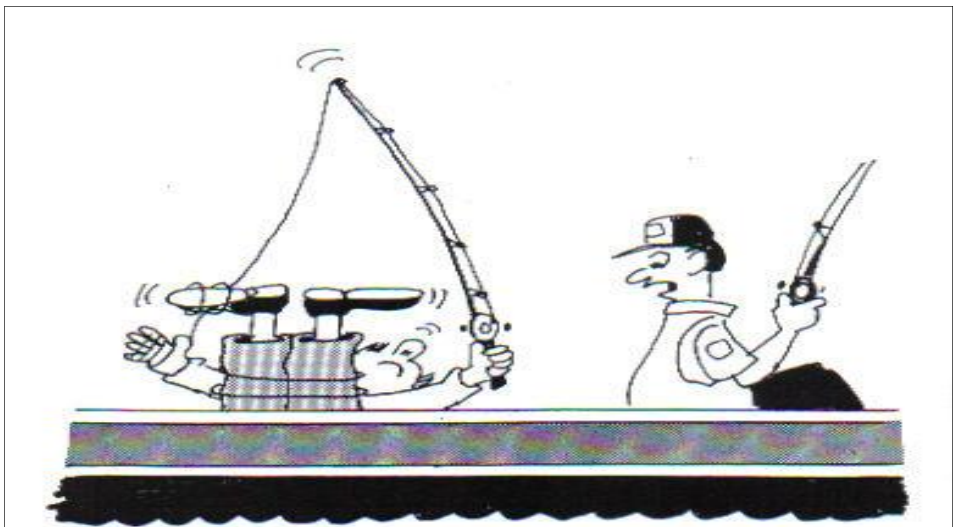
### Team Allen Wacker & Marty Ancona Finish In 3rd Place

Team **Wacker & Ancona** weighed five bass for 7.36 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.



**3rd Place**  
**Allen Wacker & Marty Ancona**

**Marty Ancona:** I got to fish with a new boater member of MBA today. Welcome to the club Allen Wacker, what a fun guy to fish with.



**"Ralph-you've got to practice a little more on your knot tying"**

### Membership

As of July 18, 2014 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 95 active members.

We started out in the marina area. I broke out my garlic scent spray for my Carolina Rig and Allen said, "Are you eating already"?

Allen caught a few fish there on a top water popper. Allen threw one small fish back, looked at me and said "Should I have kept that one"? One keeper out of that location went into our livewell to start.

We fished main lake points with not much luck but Allen got another keeper on a drop shot. He said my garlic scent spray was starting to make him feel like having pizza or Italian food. He asked me if I was going to catch a fish today or just make him hungry. I said maybe you should have kept that small bass at the marina.

We found a spot across from Bartlett flats around the Yellow Cliff area where we started to catch some fish, and I finally got a few better fish on that C-Rig with a watermelon baby brush hog. I had a smaller fish on a drop shot and said to Allen "Should I keep this one? Never mind, he fell off my hook back into the water"!

### Tournament Statistics

Fifty-two men fished 6 hours each, bringing 113 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 121.20 pounds with a 2.33 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.07 lbs. All but three fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

We did catch a few more keepers there on drop shot rigs with Salt River Craw color worms. Allen also got one on a jig and then we were done for the day. Nice day at the lake, too bad the fish were not bigger!

### Team Clinton Bell & Bill McGonigle Jr. Comb The Flats For 4th Place Overall Finish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Bell & McGonigle Jr.** weighed five fish for a total weight of 6.99 lbs.



**4th Place**  
**Clinton Bell & Bill McGonigle Jr**

**Clinton Bell:** Bill McGonigle Jr. and I met Monday morning at the lake with high hopes to figure out a plan of attack; we struggled to hook 5 fish in 6 hours. Wednesday was a different day and we still tried to make the reaction bite work but it never happened! Finally we picked up the jig and drop shot rods, went out on the long points and flats in 20 - 25 feet of water and that's where we found most of the fish that would bite. We were lucky enough to catch a few good

fish mixed in with all the rats. A lot of people complained about all the small fish, but I think this is great that the fish from House Shoe Lake restocked Bartlett Lake and the future of the lake is looking much better than it was 2 years ago.

### Team Larry White & Ernie Modzelewski Fish Deep For 5th Place

With a five fish limit weighing 6.18 lbs **Team White & Modzelewski** worked the lake with deep plastics for their **5th Place** finish. Thanks to Ernie's 2.35 lb bass the team also won **2nd Place Big Fish** honors

**Larry White:** What a guy Ernie Modzelewski is! We met at 3:30 in the morning (had alarm set for 4:00) no beauty sleep for me. We headed to our start spot and found that half the club was there. We caught 3 fish in several hours and should have moved. The spot I wanted to move to seemed to always have someone on it. So we motored toward the dam to a spot I had caught fish on Monday. I looked at the locator and told Ernie that we had fish below us. He dropped his dropshot down and fish number 4 was in the boat. We now had 4 fish weighing 2 pounds and were on a roll. I said lets move and we found the spot I wanted to fish earlier empty. Four casts later and 3 bigger fish culled two very small ones. With 30 minutes left Ernie said "Do you have a spot were we can catch a bigger fish"? I said yes, if you get a bite it will be a good fish.



Long story short, my reel back lashed and Ernie says "Fish on!" It took drag and I told him not to hurry. Ernie was the "man" of the day for our team. He never stopped all day and when something was suggested he was game to try. What a great draw for me!



**5th Place**  
**Ernie Modzelewski & Larry White**

**Ernie Modzelewski:** The early morning bite must have been on at Havasu. It sure wasn't much at Bartlett. Larry White tossed a crank; I tossed the top water Lucky 13 to the broken rock and sandy shore on the 2nd bay northwest of the ramp. Larry had a number of bumps and one modest fish. I proved that a Lucky 13 is not always lucky. After 6:30 we started to fish drop shot rigs (red craw and desert craw) we each boated a fish in the same area we started. Larry moved to deeper water looking for underwater mounds and quick changes in the bottom. He added two more fish staying with the drop shot and I was enjoying the scenery.

Larry moved to the 1st bay

north of the ramp and picked up two better bass off a hump. Time was running out and we had to decide to stay on the hump or try some new water. We went south pass the Marina along the big boulders. With 15 minutes left, I hooked a nice 2.35 lb. largemouth on the desert craw (which Larry provided). The fish was in about 20 feet of water and was very aggressive. We were excited to land it and head for home.

### **Team Hawkins & Riley Win Final Prize Spot With 6th Place Finish**

With a five fish limit weighing 6.09 lbs **Team John Hawkins & Ray Riley** worked the lake hard for their **6th Place** finish.



**6th Place**  
**Ray Riley & John Hawkins**

**Ray Riley:** Our biggest fish was caught early on a top water bait, then a couple of fish bit on cranks and the rest on drop shot rigs. We were able to cull 4 or 5 times and John Hawkins had a BIG fish on with a nice hook set, it fought and ran for several seconds, then it just unpinned. Overall it was a good

day with bites spread out over the tournament hours but we couldn't get a strong pattern going.

### **1st Place Big Bass Caught By Team Howard Thomas & Scott Olivier**

**Howard Thomas:** Fun day on the water with Scott Olivier. I have a nephew in Montana named Scott Oliver. Funny how life is. Scott is a great person, very helpful, with a great attitude and loves to fish. He is definitely a team player and a good sport.



**1st Place Big Bass**  
**Howard Thomas & Scott Olivier**

He did a great job of catching our biggest fish. We both fished on the front of the boat the first half and I said to Scott that all the speed boats had their chance early on at the Yellow Cliffs and that we were going back there to throw some Senko's on a wacky style jig head. He said let me see the hook and said "I don't have any thing like that" and I said that's OK, here is one just tie it on and start pitching it to the wall and make sure you hit the wall so it slides down in front of

the fish. On about his third try he threw out the wind put a big bow in his line and he had a lot of slack between him and the worm. Then he started answering a question for me, not paying attention, and the next thing you know the fish gobbled up that Senko and took all the slack out of his line only to be hooked and brought to the boat as our big fish of the day. Good job Scott and thanks for all your help. Old boys like Terry, Jack and me need all the help we can get. See you on the water next time and I hope you are fishing with me.

### Team Gary Asmus & Mark Royal Win Goon Fish Prize



**Goon Fish Pot Winners  
Mark Royal & Gary Asmus  
0.46 lb Bluegill not shown**

**Mark Royal:** Not much to say about the 0.46 lb Bluegill. It was caught on a 4 inch plastic worm in about one foot of water. Gary saw where I had cast and said "You will catch a little fish". He was right – a little fish worth \$100.



### Treasure Chest By John Reichard, Treasurer

I know you are all looking forward to the next tournament since Bartlett fishing was so great! 5lb pot will roll over to next month.



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

As most of you know by now we had two separate medical emergencies at our last tournament. I am happy to report both members are well on the way to recovery. In both cases proper action was taken by the other team member to get medical help.

The lakes we fish are normally a long way from quick medical help. Add to that the diversity of ages of members, individual medical conditions, extremely hot weather, and stubbornness of some members of wanting to push on and keep fishing no matter what has happen. When you add all of these together it is a subject your board has discussed many times and has taken steps to try to reduce the potential for serious injuries. The board has recommended reduced fishing hours in the summer which the membership has approved, safety briefings before every tournament, and emails on basic precautions during hot weather and so on. The final action for preparedness is the individual member's responsibility.

What is our individual member's responsibility? All members should have some knowledge of basic first aid and what to do for various emergencies. Responsibilities are often different depending on your status as boater and co-angler, your medical condition, and overall status of your health. First, individual responsibility is to know your limitations when fishing a tournament (we have a number of members who have informed the club for health reasons they will not fish during the hot weather months for example). One member who had to drop out of summer fishing told me it is just not worth trying it and besides if I do try against doctor's orders and something happens I not only mess up my day but the member I am fishing with also.

Boaters should have a very good first aid kit on board. A large percentage of our members for various medical reasons are on blood thinners and when they receive a cut the task of stopping the blood flow is enhanced. A small inexpensive first aid kit will not in most cases have enough medical supplies in them to stop the bleeding. My doctor has also recommended that I add to the first aid kit four low dose aspirins or a 325 mg Bayer aspirin for potential heart problems on the water. His remark was those four aspirin's will give the patient a 70% better chance of survival till he gets proper medical help. My first aid kit now



# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett - July 16, 2014

contains aspirin's. If you're a boater take a few minutes and analyze if you have a sufficient first aid kit aboard and are the supplies in it within effective date.

Co-anglers have individual responsibilities also. They should evaluate their health the same as boaters and determine does it make sense to fish this tournament. Will the weather have an effect on his ability to complete tournament? What will he do if the boater becomes unable to drive the boat. Know where the first aid kit is stowed on the boat. These are simple but important things to consider.

Finally, the biggest responsibility we all have is when we see a problem developing on the water is to recognize the problem, take steps that the problem does not get worst and then get proper medical help. Do not just try to carry on because in most case it just complicates everything. Take the proper action so that you can return and fish many more tournaments in the future.

Your Board wants all of you to be safe during tournaments and prepared for potential emergencies that may arise.





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John Reichard 623-512-0238

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Lou Hirlemann

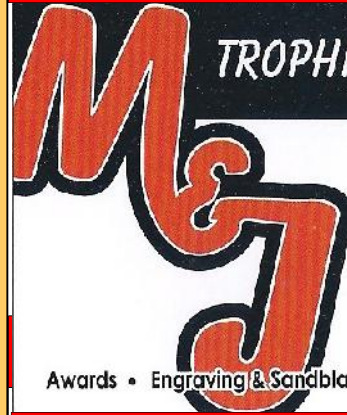
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - Vacant

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

**Welcome to New Members  
Since the Last Newsletter**

**Jim Furimsky (CO)  
Allen Wacker (B)  
Joe Weisgerber (CO)**

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Midweek Bass Anglers Club Apparel**



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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 August**

**Marty Ancona  
George Fuzfa  
Dave Nelson  
John Reichard  
Steve Russell  
Dwayne Steel**



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2014  
Tournament Schedule**

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