

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



AUGUST 2014

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

## President's Perspective *By Gary Grimes*



With all the storms we have been having lately, I wasn't sure if we would have weather issues at Saguaro Lake for our August tournament, but we ended up having a relatively mild August day on the water. Twenty-eight boats matched the club record for highest number of boats at a tournament, and it was great to see everyone on the water. All the boats were in the water and ready to go well before safelight, which is quite an accomplishment at Saguaro Lake. Thanks to those who put in early and to those who helped at the ramp during the launch, it made things much easier. Poor George Cobasky thinks he blew his motor, happened first thing during the launch, what a bummer. I was boat 26, so I got to witness 25

boats making a bee-line from the launch to the narrows at wide-open-throttle. Hearing the scream of the engines and watching all the rooster tails being jettisoned into early morning sky was truly amazing. We only fished until 11AM, in order to avoid the blistering midday sun, so time passed rather quickly for all I am sure. The weigh-in went as smooth and as quickly as possible for a 28 boat field; great job to the weigh-in crew of Gary Martlage, Nick Wampach, John Reichard and club photographer Terry Tassin, you guys deserve a raise. I will propose doubling your pay at our next board meeting. Mmmm, \$0 x 2 = \$0. I guess we don't pay so well, but the benefits are fantastic. To the fishermen, make sure you thank these guys for what they do. We also had the privilege of hosting the Arizona Game and Fish Department during our weigh-in. They were able to collect genetic samples from 30 of our fish for a study they are conducting. They were also very appreciative of our cooperation in their effort.

Our next tournament is at Roosevelt Lake on September 17<sup>th</sup>, launching out of Cholla Ramp. Once again Dwayne Steel will be hosting a bar-b-

que at the *Hwy 188 Tackle Store* on the Tuesday night before the tournament. From a conversation I had with Dwayne after the tournament, he is now selling the Flow-Rite Remote Drain Plugs at his store, so call him and have one installed while you are up there next month. Until next time, Gary Grimes.



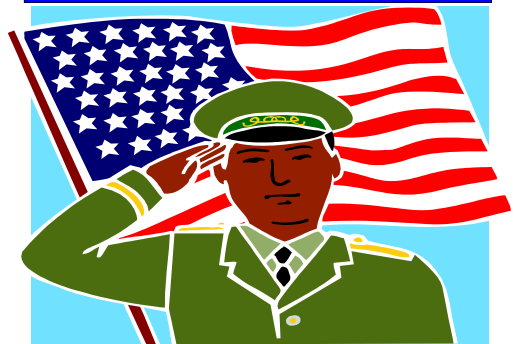
**Tournament Report**  
**Lake Saguaro**  
August 20, 2014  
*By Terry Tassin*

## Team Gary Grimes & Mark Royal Net 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Gary Grimes & Mark Royal** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 16.23 lbs.

Continued on page 2

**SEP 19 - POW / MIA  
RECOGNITION 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”**



**1st Place  
Gary Grimes & Mark Royal**

**Gary Grimes:** I had a great time fishing with Mark Royal at Saguaro Lake. We were boat 26, so we did not have high hopes of finding our first spot available after the launch. Needless to say we were pleasantly surprised upon rounding the corner at Ship Rock and finding our spot open, so we glided in and began fishing. Both Mark and I had prefished several times,

and had both great success and dismal failure. We had decided not to fish the river, mainly because the river is hit or miss, and seemed to miss 3 times more than it hits, so we thought we would play it safe. We caught our fish in two areas, and with one 20 minute exception, that is where we stayed all day. We caught fish in 20 feet of water on drop shot rigs, Texas rigs, Carolina rigs, crankbaits and spinner baits. We also fished Mark's sweet honey hole, which was 43 feet deep. I usually don't fish that deep at 6:30 AM, but it certainly was productive for us. Mark put on a clinic; I think he caught 6 fish before I had my first bite. We stayed in the same area, back and forth between the two spots, all day.

**Mark Royal:** I fish Saguaro a lot and, in spite of that, I usually get my butt kicked because the larger fish elude me. Watching Gary work his graphs to find the bigger fish was an eye opener to me and not only did I learn a lot, he was a pleasure to fish with!

We fished the buoy line along Mesquite Flats (around the corner from Ship Rock). We both had spots we liked and went back and forth between them. Gary's spots produced the bigger fish. We each caught one fish that was close to 5 pounds. My big one was caught on a 3/4 ounce spinner bait rolling it off the bottom. We caught the rest of the fish (2 pounders) spooning, drop shotting, and on Texas and Carolina rigs. Our two largest fish came in the last 1.5 hours

of the tournament.

Gary Martlage came by when our bag was all 2 pounders and said something about needing to get to work. I asked my partner if Martlage was talking about us or himself. Gary smiled and said US. I guess that was what we needed to improve our fish size.

### **Team John Hawkins & Nick Wampach 2nd Overall**

In **2nd Place** the team of **Hawkins & Wampach** weighed five bass for a total weight of 15.56 lbs.

No fishing report was provided.



**2nd Place  
John Hawkins & Nick Wampach**

### **Team Gary Martlage & Lou Hirlemann Finish In 3rd Place**

Team **Martlage & Hirlemann** weighed five bass for 15.32 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Gary Martlage:** Pre-fishing with Lou Hirlemann Friday did not start off as good as I hoped. After a few hours on the water,

## **Next Meeting Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 3 September** 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 **17 September 2014**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 2 PM**. Modified Summer hour changes are now in effect.

Lou stated he was getting a "little wobbly" on the boat (not again!!). I was relieved he was just tired after only getting a few hours sleep after working the night before. Our pre-fish did not turn up any pattern, just as the next 3 trips solo did not.



**3rd Place**  
**Gary Martlage & Lou Hirlemann**

Tournament day, we decided to hit the first open spot on the lake since we were in the back

of the pack. This paid off, as we cranked up 3 nice fish, then drop shotted our limit before 8 AM. The next 3 hours produced 2 more upgrades, but not the one we needed to have a chance for a win at the scales. We spent most of our day on the steep walls between the main lake, and Ship Rock, concentrating on weed lines in 20 feet of water. Lou was great to fish with; just glad I had another opportunity to fish with him, since it sounds like the "Havasu Special" is about ready to float again!

### **Team Gary Senft & Ken Kennedy Comb The Snags For 4th Place Overall Finish**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Senft & Kennedy** weighed five fish for a total weight of 13.36 lbs.



**4th Place**  
**Gary Senft & Ken Kennedy**

**Gary Senft:** Ken arrived at my house right on time. We got to know each other on the way up and decided what to use for fishing because we didn't get to prefish together. I did manage to go to Saguaro Saturday morning for a few hours to look around and try fishing.

On tournament day, we were



## **The Rules**

*By Gary Grimes*

Several questions came up at Saguaro in casual conversation.

**What are your options when a fish dies during a tournament?** Article 13.g - Per our tournament rules, No culling of dead fish is allowed. Any dead fish must remain as a part of the team's catch for the day and presented at the weigh-in.

**Can you fish after your partner leaves the boat?** There is no restriction presently in this regard, as long as it is still within tournament hours. However, contestants are not allowed to leave the boat to fish or land a fish.

**Are there any restrictions while fishing around the launch area?** Article 13.f - No culling of fish is allowed within fifty (50) yards of the ramp. In addition to this, there may be lake restrictions imposed by the governing authority, as is the case with the Tonto Lakes, which impose a 100 foot fishing restriction around public ramps and docks.

**At what point does it make sense to launch the boats in flights?** This was a question that was discussed among the board prior to this tournament, because we had such a large field with 28 boats. A decision was made not to use flights, primarily because the notification to the anglers would have occurred at the morning briefing, and we all know how everyone likes change...so we left it as is. This may be something we consider in future, as it will help relieve congestion at the ramp and at the weigh-in.



boat 24 out so all the good spots were taken as I drove past all of you that morning. I only had a couple of spots I wanted to try that had fish on them Saturday.

We stopped by a cove named the Snags to try our luck. I wanted Ken to fish a drop shot rig to start with while I threw every thing else. Every thing I tried failed to work so I started to drop shot because Ken was on his 3rd fish. We ended up using drop shot the rest of the day. Morning Dawn worked the best. Ken was a very nice guy to fish with and we had a good time catching fish and culling a little at a time. We Caught 14 fish total it was a nice day on the water.

### **Team Tony Medina & Ernie Modzelewski Fish Dark Water For 5th Place**

With a five fish limit weighing 12.96 lbs Team **Medina & Modzelewski** worked the lake with deep plastics for their **5th Place** finish. Thanks to Tony's 5.48 lb bass the team also won **2nd Place Big Fish** honors

**Tony Medina:** Ernie and I

#### **Tournament Statistics**

Fifty-six men fished 5.5 hours each, bringing 113 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 234.21 pounds with a 4.18 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 2.07 lbs. All but five fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

started in the main lake checking a couple of spots where I'd caught some fish pre-fishing, but we came up empty. So we moved up the lake around the Ship Rock area. I figured most of the crowd had cleared out by the time we got there. We got lucky; we had the whole place to ourselves. We both caught one, and then Ernie caught a 2 1/2 lb. catfish. Shortly after the catfish, I lost a 5+ I had hooked on a jig. I almost had him to the boat and it came unbuttoned. We then moved up to Divider Reef and caught a couple more on drop shots. We then moved up river and finished the short tournament working the banks with Texas rigs and drop shot rigs. My 5.48 2nd big fish was caught on a drop shot. I really enjoyed the outing with Ernie. We shared some great stories. I'm looking forward to fishing with him again.



**5th Place**  
**Ernie Modzelewski & Tony Medina**

**Ernie Modzelewski:** To expand on Tony's report, our success was all about keeping a bait in the dark water. The day started bad. No fish in the 1st 45 minutes. We hit all of

Tony's big fish spots in the main lake and nada. Finally found 3 fish off of Ship Rock - a 2 lb. catfish, a dink, and a 2+ lb. bass, all on my drop shot. Tony caught another small bass before heading up the channel. So here we are at 8:30 with 2 fish and high hopes. Tony announced we are going up the channel. Finally in the channel at the last bend before the dam. We both connected with nice fish on drop shots Desert Craw and Red Crawler Robo Worms. The fish were in the shade and cuts in the steep rock. Tony's 5.48 fish was holding in a small dark cut at about 15 feet. We moved up towards the dam and picked up a few more fish using same pattern and drop shots. It turned out to be a good day after all.

### **Team Southard & Hensey Win Final Prize Spot With 6th Place Finish**

With a five fish limit weighing 12.81 lbs **Team Lew Southard & Hal Hensey** worked the lake hard for their **6th Place** finish. Thanks to Hal's 6.40 lb bass the team also will split the **1st Place Big Bass** prize and the **5 lb Pot** money.

**Hal Hensey & Lou Southard:** We went to the upper river area and began with top water and wacky worms, but we didn't find much success. We gave it plenty of time to change but then switched to dropshot rigs. We caught some small fish, but it didn't look too encouraging for anything large,

and the fish seemed to be real tight on the banks. I was getting discouraged with the bite and the size of fish so I turned 180 degrees and cast my dropshot out in the channel. I twitched the Roboworm (morning dawn) several times and it hung up, so I put tension on it and I hesitated to make sure it wasn't a fish. A few seconds later I felt a reaction with real weight to it, so I added more tension and I felt a definite strong pull which got my heart pumping. I told Lou I had a fish on, and I think we were both expecting the same size fish we had been catching with some weeds attached. The fish started coming up and then took off pulling drag and went back down. It took several attempts to get it in, but when we caught a glimpse of the fish we were very pleased. After getting the fish into the boat I told Lou that this was the biggest bass (6.40 lbs) I have caught in the club tournaments.



**6th Place**  
**Lou Southard & Hal Hensey**

That made our day as it worked out. We lost two decent sized fish, but Lou caught a

nice sized bass during the last hour as well as another upgrade to help us. It sure was a pleasure to go to the weigh-in and add something to the board.

It was great fishing with Lou, as always. Lou caught more fish than me, so I kept watching him to learn some techniques. The boat ride was a thrill and I think my fingerprints are imbedded in the grab bar on my left side.

### **Catfish Wins Goon Fish Prize for Team Thomas & Jacobson**

**Brian Jacobson:** We were nearing the end of the day with maybe an hour remaining and Howard said that he knew a few spots he wanted to hit on the way back in. The first spot was a point just around the corner from Ship Rock. I was throwing a 6XD crank bait and cast it way back into a cut. About 2 or maybe 3 cranks and the crank bait got bit hard! This fish ran straight for deep water and my rod tip was pointing down under the boat. I would get a few cranks up and then it would dive. This happened several times. Finally I was making up some ground and barely caught a glimpse. It looked big and fought that way too. As I was able to get it up for a second glance just before Howard netted it I saw the whiskers. After Howard brought it into the boat I saw why it was such a big fight. One set of trebles in its mouth and the other on the top of his head. He wasn't a happy cat so that must

have been why he ran so hard. He never once rolled like catfish often do. At first I was disappointed because it wasn't what I thought which was this would be the 5 lb pot winner with the way it fought and its length at first glance. After a moment I was praising God because all day I had blanked and now finally brought one into the boat and it was a fun fight!



**Goon Fish Pot Winners**  
**Howard Thomas & Brian Jacobson**

Praise God for another great day on the water with a great fishing partner. Howard and I had great conversation and a lot of fun fishing together.



**Treasure Chest**  
**By John Reichard, Treasurer**

It was good to be back on the lake with you all. As usual Saguaro was good to most of us with 4 fish over 5 lbs and one 4.99 lb fish. I had a great time with Richie Rojas even though we couldn't find the big ones. I caught all my fish on dropshot with morning dawn chartreuse tail.

The 5 lb pot starts over next month so all you new members who weren't in the last pot can get in the new one. Mark your entry form and add your \$5.

See you at next meeting or on the lake!



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

The Saguaro tournament was a very special tournament for me. It was the first tournament in the last three years that we had zero changes in pairings after the initial drawing. Even more important was being able to observe all of the members helping each other launch their boats in the dark on a very difficult ramp with everyone's prime concern being safety for each other. With 28 boats being launched, the most we have had in the last three years, it was like watching a fine ballet being performed to perfection. I want to thank all of you who volunteered without being asked to help safely guide the vehicles down the ramp. It turned out to be one of the smoothest launching and recovery's we ever had.

Another big thank you goes to all the members who participated with the fish survey. AZG&F will send us a report in November showing the breakdown of the fish tested. They want to know how many remain pure Florida Strain Bass, how many have in-bred with local bass and growth rates. All Midweek club members should know our club was asked if we

would help AZG&F because of our past activities in helping them. As hard as it is for me to believe, they told me there are clubs that are just not friendly when they call to ask for help or to take samples. Again, thanks to all who fished and participated in the survey.

Our fund raising to help AZG&F has three more tournaments before we complete the matching funds task. While we continue to send \$100 from the club every month along with the member donations made on the entry form, we are seeing a big decline in donations on the entry forms. Please consider adding \$5 or more for each of the last three tournaments for 2014.

At the weigh-in, we had 5 dead bass at this tournament and we are not sure why. We do not think it was the weather or the depth they were caught at. In four of the cases it appears the fish were caught in less than 15 feet of water, fought well, but upon being put in the live well immediately rolled on their side or upside down and nothing worked to bring them back to good health. It was like they went into shock from being caught. Several fish were released back into the lake that died immediately. Thanks to Howard Thomas for retrieving the dead bass from the lake.

The Board has started planning the end of year banquet and has already made the down payment for the facility and bought a

number of Shimano Rods as door prizes with the help of Dwayne Steel's *Hwy 188 Tackle Store*. The banquet will be another great evening with a ton of prizes so don't miss it and plan on bringing your wife or sweet heart.

Our next tournament, at Roosevelt, we will again hold our cook out at *Hwy 188 Tackle* thanks to our hosts Dwayne and Beverly Steel. So if you need a few things for the Roosevelt Tournament think about purchasing them at the well-stocked *Hwy 188* to help show your appreciation for all Dwayne does for the club.

**Guest Column**  
By Bernie Kowalski

**NEWBIE'S REPORT**

Hi, my name is Bernie Kowalski and I'm new to the club and bass fishing. The only fishing I've done in 60 years has been putting a worm, night crawler, hot dog or live bait on a hook and throwing it in to the lake and hope for anything to bite. The most expensive combo fishing rig I've ever owned was \$24. Wow how things have changed.

I met Jack Hughes at the Bass Pro Shop and he invited me to attend the June meeting and consider joining the club. My first shock was that the meeting starts at 8 AM but we had to leave at 6 because we needed to get there for breakfast around 7. I was surprised at the number of



men at the meeting that early on a Wednesday. Shortly after arriving Gary, the President, introduced himself and told me about the club. I shared my concern about being new to this and was concerned about not being able to hold my own and contribute to the team. But he assured me that all the boat owners were nice guys and would be willing to help me and that it was all for fun. Well I joined and sat down to order breakfast. I listened to conversations going on around me and had no idea what they were talking about. Then the meeting started and the awards were given out from the May tournament. The winners explained where and what they used to catch the fish. Again, I had no idea what they were talking about. Then I said to myself, "Bernie you're way out of your league". After the meeting one guy said "Just learn to fish the drop shot rig" and another wanted to know how fast I could tie a knot. I had no idea. But on the way home I asked Jack and John a lot of questions and felt a little more comfortable.

A few days later Jack invited me to his house and showed me the difference between spinning and bait casting reels and told me I needed a bait casting combo. Then he showed me all the worms and lures he had. I swear if Jack put every thing in one room you would think you were in a fishing store. He suggested hooks, worms, sinkers, etc. I might need. Well I went to the Bass Pro Shop and bought the supplies he suggested and a

bait cast combo that was on sale and it was one like Jack owned. When I got home I was excited to try the bait cast reel and tied a weight to it. Went out in the back yard and thought this is a little like the closed face Zebco with the button on the back of the reel. Well as you can imagine I cast it about 10 feet and had a backlash like no other. Spent 20 minutes getting it straight and tried again with same results. OK so I need help. Got on the internet and saw how wrong I was. Read several articles and saw a few videos. Not doing real well but getting better.

Decided to get my feet wet and fish in the July tournament. I was still concerned about whom my partner would be and could I contribute to the team's effort. So I signed up and John and Gary both said don't worry about it. Well I had butter flies in my stomach when the pairings were being announced. Needless to say I gave a big sigh of relief when it turned out to be Gary the President. He said we were going to do a pre-fish and I would be fishing a drop shot. What a relief, no bait cast rig.

Jack and John went with me to pre-fish. I had a ton more questions and concerns. Had two spin cast reels (one valued at all of \$14.95) and a box full of stuff. Anyway, Gary was awesome; he lived up to his statement that he would help me. Showed me how to hook the worm and fish drop shot. He explained the boat

electronics and how to read the screen. I must say it was a little frustrating seeing fish below the boat and not being able to catch them. But again Gary had an explanation that you never know if they are active or what they'll bite. What I was not prepared for was traveling 50 MPH over the water. I thought my hearing aids were going to be ripped out of my ears. But I learned when Gary said "we're moving" I hold on to my hat, glasses and hearing aids. But I did catch about 6 bass, nothing real big but exciting for me. It was a fun day and I was looking forward to the tournament.

Well tournament day arrived and I met Jack and John at 2:45 AM. Had a tough time convincing my body it was time for breakfast at 2:15 AM. When we got to the lake it was quite a sight to see all those boats and guys ready to fish. I started looking for Gary but it was so dark I couldn't find him. However, he found me and told me to load up the boat. It was interesting to see all the boats waiting for the start. After about 15 minutes I was looking forward to breathing some fresh air and get away from the fumes. When it was our turn out I thought here we go and said a little prayer. The first couple of hours were very slow for me and I wondered about contributing. Gary caught the first 5 fish and I continued to be concerned. Well things changed and I started catching fish and I felt so much better. Heck I even caught fish that contributed to



the final five, thanks to Gary and lady luck. My biggest fish was bout 1 3/4 pounds and I thought what it must be like to catch a 5 pounder. It was super exciting. Gary figured we might finish in the top 10. Me, I was happy to just catch fish. But now I was able to say I drop fished and used Senko worms (morning dawn and red crawler). I have a lot to learn but at least it's a start.

After we weighed in we were in first place but only about half the boats where in. I watched guys bringing in their catch and saw a few bags being held by two guys and thought we were not going to hold on. Well we took first place team and I couldn't believe it. On the way home I thought, "I may never get first place again but at least I can say I won first place team in a Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Tournament".

# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Saguaro - August 20, 2014





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

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Since the Last Newsletter

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Born in September

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Bernie Kowalski  
Jeff Mason  
Bill McGonigle, Jr  
Bruce Nelson  
Howard Thomas  
Tim Todd



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.

### 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