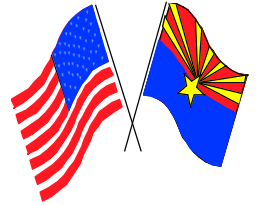


# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



SEPTEMBER 2013

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

### President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



Another great tournament this month at Roosevelt Lake for the Midweek Bass Anglers. In case you didn't notice, we had three new co-anglers join us for this tournament; welcome to Bill McGonigle, Marty Ancona and Scott Olivier. Bill and Marty were on teams that cashed, what a great way to start! Congratulations to Jerry Askam and John Milkint, who battled a very tough bite to win with 9.94 lbs.

Several board related items: (1) Club officer elections will be held at the October general meeting, (2) We are already starting to purchase raffle prizes for our annual banquet, look for more better stuff, (3) The legal complexities of fishing our local lakes continue to increase, and Jack is doing a great job to insure we can

fish where and when we want, (4) We continue to work to insure our first trip to Lake Martinez is a great time for all. I Hope to see you all there.

### Lake Roosevelt

September 18, 2013

By Terry Tassin

A little of this and a little of that might best describe the lures that caught fish at this tournament. Dropshot, jigs, cranks, etc, were all put to good use to make this event a less than average fish catching experience.

So, how did the winners catch their fish this month?"

### Team Jerry Askam & John Milkint Good As Gold For 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Jerry Askam & John Milkint** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 9.94 lbs.

**John Milkint:** Fishing with Jerry Askam was another positive experience as a non boater with Midweek Bass. Jerry is a great team mate and I look forward to drawing him in future tournaments.

Our pre-fishing on Tuesday indicated that tournament day looked to be a tough one. I caught one fish all day while Jerry did much better with several in the boat, but we had nothing with much weight. There was nothing to indicate that we would end up in first place on Wednesday. I had also fished on Sunday and Monday and had not one bite during those two

**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"**

days.

We started the tournament day near the Grapevine launch ramp and I had our first fish of the day jump and throw the hook near the boat. He looked to be in the 2 pound category and when he got off, I thought, what a way to start, when the day before we did not see a bass that large. Fortunately that was the first and last negative for the day.

After that, we had a limit in the boat by 10:00 AM and upgraded several times by culling. It was a good feeling being able to contribute to the live well after such lousy pre-fishing.

While Jerry was mostly drop shooting, I started long lining out of the back of the boat using a "MOJO Rig" which had worked

well for me in Florida, but I have used very little here in Arizona. The long thin cylinder sinker slides over the snaggiest bottoms with minimal hang-ups. I was fishing it with a Zoom Trick Worm in a Green Pumpkin color. Between the two of us, with the two differing methods, we put together the winning weight.



**1st Place**  
**Jerry Askam & John Milkint**

**Jerry Askam:** It's always a pleasure and a good day on the water when fishing with my partner John Milkint. John and I had not fished together for awhile and coincidentally the last time was at Roosevelt several years ago.

John had struggled to put fish in the boat on several pre-fish days but had his 'Mojo' working on game day and that's literally a "Mojo rig" that John used to bring all of our

quality fish to the boat. Our start water was down in the Grapevine area where we got 3 fish to the boat and John lost a good one on the first hook-up of the day. We hit several other spots in the Salt end but got our limit and culled several 1 to 1 1/4 lb. fish in our second main area on the west side of Windy Hill in 10-15 feet of water. John's "Mojo rig" was more effective than what I tried at various times (chatter bait, crank bait, Rico, Texas rig, Carolina rig, and drop shot).

Our big fish came off of what I call "Tassin Island" as in club secretary Tassin in 25-30 feet of water on you guessed it, John's "Mojo rig". We fortunately didn't follow the sage advice that Weighmaster Martlage offered the night before the tournament to look for red dragonflies and throw red worms in those areas. To sum up, John and I had great teamwork; I picked the areas, ran the trolling motor, and netted the fish, John caught the fish.

### **Cook & McGonigle Junk Fish To 2nd Place**

In **Second Place** the team of **Steve Cook & Bill McGonigle** weighed five bass for a total weight of 9.67 lbs. Thanks to Steve's 2.94 lb bass the team

## **Next Meeting Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 2 October** 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 points tournament will be at **Lake Martinez** on **16 October 2013**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.



## **The Rules By Gary Grimes**

Did you know our tournament rules have a penalty of sixteen (16) ounces per minute for contestants arriving late at the end of the day? Make certain to be within the buoys before the tournament stop time.



also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors.

**Steve Cook:** It was a great experience traveling and fishing with our new member Bill McGonigle. We drove up early Tuesday morning to get in a day of pre-fishing which turned out to be somewhat unproductive, but we did eliminate a lot of water. With only one spot that was productive, for us, it was an easy decision as to where we would start our tournament day.



**2nd Place**  
**Steve Cook & Bill McGonigle**

Bill was throwing a spinner bait and before I even had the trolling motor down he hollered "fish on"! With a nice two pounder in the live well we continued down the bank and in short order had a blow up on my buzz bait and the big fish in the boat. Wow! Considering the fishing the day before I was a happy camper, but it was a struggle soon after. We did

**Membership**

As of September 20, 2013 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 82 active members.

manage to scratch out a limit. Bill caught another keeper on the spinner bait and all the others came on worms. We caught a total of six fish, a little disappointing for mid-September at Roosevelt. But that's fishing.

Great job again by the board and the weigh in crew!

**Team Gary Senft & Larry White Sew-Up 3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

Team **Gary Senft & Larry White** weighed five bass for 7.97 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Larry White:** Gary and I had a tough day. We had both fished the All Stars championship finishing 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. We were very confident going in to the club tournament. We received a big surprise early on tournament day. Our fish had moved from both our locations we had found during All Stars. We wound-up using brush

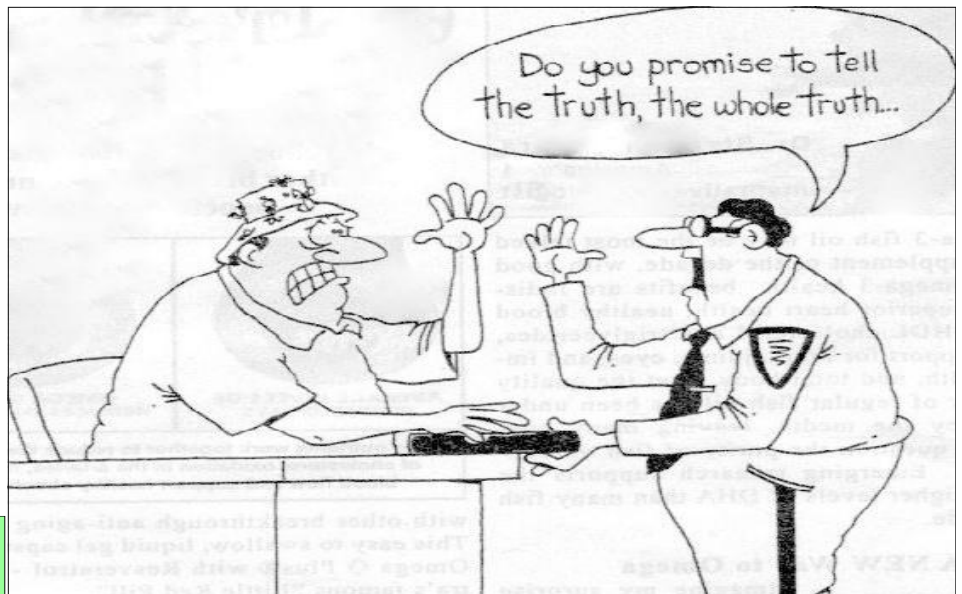
hogs, T-rigs, drop shots, and C-rigs in a variety of colors to catch the few fish we did put into the live well.

Gary has a vast knowledge of the lake and was a ball to fish with. We were laughing most of the day.



**3rd Place**  
**Gary Senft & Larry White**

**Gary Senft:** This was the first time I ever fished with Larry. We thought we would start with top water and big cranks. Did not work for us! We went to several places down by the dam; nothing. So we broke out



**A fisherman's worst nightmare**

the drop shot and Texas rigs and went to work. Fishing was slow for us at first so we kept moving around. We started picking up one by one on drop shot. Morning Dawn, Red Crawler, Salt River Craw. Tried other baits didn't have any luck, but we did have a lot of fun fishing together.

### **Drop Shot Key to 4th Place Finish for Edgar & Ancona**

Team **Mike Edgar & Marty Ancona** weighed five bass for 7.95 pounds and took home **4th Place** honors.

**Mike Edgar:** Wow, what a tournament! I fished with Phoenix Jr. Bassmasters all week-end before our club tournament and fishing was spotty at best. A little top water, a little drop shot, and some spinner bait action. My son Shane was on a Senko and buzz bait bite. I hit the lake to pre-fish for the club tournament on Tuesday morning and started out around the south side of Windy Hill where I caught a solid fish on a deep crank bait; tried to shake it off and got tangled in the rocks, broke off, no fish!

Left for Grapevine ramp where Shane had caught his fish; lots of shad in the area. Four herrings eating shad were also there but NO FISH for me to catch. Wind kicked up, headed for the rocky banks out side of Salome cove to throw deep cranks. NO FISH! Looks like time for bass fishing 101. Turned on high priced fish

finder, went to hit points and look for fish. Found fish on a point on the main lake. Drop shot a nice 2 pounder. Must save the rest for Wednesday's club event.



**4th Place  
Mike Edgar & Marty Ancona**

So, why did I spend so much time telling you about my pre fishing? There is really no story to our club tournament day. Marty Ancona and I started out early behind Windy Hill looking for a top water bite - NO FISH. Around 8:00 or so went to a point where I caught my drop shot fish on Tuesday. Within 1 hour we had a 5 fish limit on that point! We used drop shot rigs in 15-25 feet of water; 3 different colors of red to brown. We went down to the dam; no fish, moved over to some islands that Marty suggested where we were able to upgrade a little on green pumpkin jigs in 25 feet. We caught 7 fish total all day. Fortunately for me I drew another great co-angler. Thanks to Marty Ancona for a great tournament (he caught most of the drop shot fish, and took me to the island where I caught the jig fish.

Finally, all you Guys know Dwayne Steele at "188 Tackle". I would like to say thank you from Shane and Phoenix Jr. Bass Masters. We stopped by on Sunday after Shane's tournament to chat. Dwayne was very generous in donating to Shane and his two friends and Phoenix Jr. Bass Masters. Dwayne is always there with a boat if we need him at Roosevelt. Thanks Dwayne for your contributions to the great sport of bass fishing!

**Marty Ancona:** Mike Edgar was my boater. What a class guy to fish with my first time out with the club. We started out in the cuts on the salt end of Windy Hill. No luck on reaction lures.

Mike had a spot he pre-fished; a man made rock pile near Badger ramp. That made our day! We got a limit there on drop shot Morning Dawn and Salt River Craw Robo worms. After that, main lake points looking for "Big Bass" was our ticket. Mike was able to cull a few fish on jigs before weigh in. Great Fun, I hope we pair up again in the future.

### **Richie Rojas & Gary Martlage Team Up On 2nd Place Big Bass**

**Gary Martlage:** Not much to report, especially when a 2.59 pound bass wins 2nd place big fish prize! The only thing I can say is the fish was caught with 10 minutes to go, off a shallow point not 500 yards from the ramp. Never give up!!





**2nd Place Big Fish**  
**Richie Rojas & Gary Martlage**

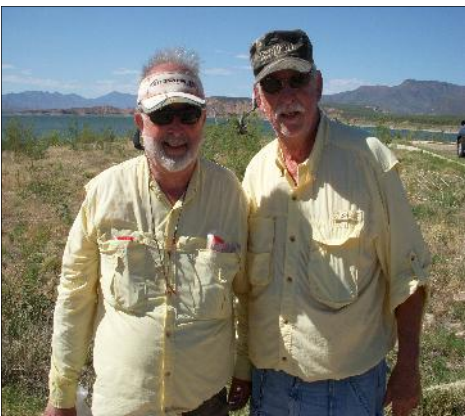
**Tournament Statistics**

Thirty-Six men fished 8 hours each, bringing 79 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 112.66 pounds with a 3.13 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.43 lbs. All fish but one were released back into the lake after weighing to fight again another day.



**Treasure Chest**  
**By John Milkint. Treasurer**

The Lake Roosevelt tournament proved a tough one with the first place team of Jerry Askam and John Milkint weighing in 9.94 pounds. A winning weight less than



The only known photo of the Tournament Director-but where are the fish?

double digit is extremely rare, indicating the difficulty of the bite. Strangely enough the weight did not include either first or second place big fish. Jerry and John split first place money of \$346.

First place big fish, which didn't break the 3 pound mark, another rare occurrence, and second place overall, with a total of 9.67 pounds went to Steve Cook and Bill McGonigle. Steve and Bill split \$474.

Gary Senft and Larry White, with 7.97 pounds, claimed the third place prize worth \$172.

Fourth place overall, weighing in 7.95 pounds, worth \$88, was won by the team of Mike Edgar and Marty Ancona.

The second big fish, weighing 2.59 pounds, was brought to the scales by Richie Rojas and Gary Martlage. Richie and Gary split \$144.

With no goon fish weighed in, and no carryover of this pot, a random drawing will be made at the next general meeting on October 2nd for the \$180 goon fish pot. All 19 boats are eligible for this prize and will automatically be entered in the drawing.

The 5 pound pot, however, does carry over each month until it is won with the largest bass over 5 pounds weighed in at a tournament. Because no one brought a 5 lb. bass to the scales, the carry over amount to Lake Martinez is \$210. This is now a closed pot, with anyone not entered at Lake

Roosevelt ineligible to participate.



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

**CHANGE!** They added a new lake to our schedule, what was the Board thinking? Doesn't the Board know we are bass fishermen we don't like change, we like our lakes where we know all the sweet spots and we are comfortable fishing. Where we know every inch of the lake and where the 5 pounders plus hang out (knowing and catching are two different things). Then on top of all that I keep hearing Lake Martinez is dangerous and that's why **"I have never fished there"**! Just so everyone knows none of the Board members have fished Martinez before except for Terry Tassin who fished it one time 35 years ago (we gave him a waiver for not being current on Martinez as the Boards expert).

If I have heard it once since Martinez went on the schedule I have heard it more than 50 times. I will tell you, most of the people complaining admit they have never fished Martinez or even been there, but they do admit their neighbors' 5th cousin fished it five years ago and he hit a sand bar. Yes, Martinez is different; it has a river that flows through it, several lakes, miles and miles of area to fish, grass beds in the bottom of the lakes, over 200 miles of shore line to explore flipping and on

weekends the water is lowered primarily because they don't need to generate as much electricity but the river is always navigable. Oh! We fish on Wednesday's when the water is normally higher another advantage to fishing with MBA.

I called a local pro at Martinez and his report was very encouraging. First he said this is the best September he can remember with lots of quality fish being caught and it just seems to get better every day. Then he advised "right now the hot lures are weightless Senko's, spinners and shallow cranks over grass beds, Carolina and Texas rigs with worms on the points, and along the river flip, flip, flip!" Surprise, never once did he mention drop shot. When I asked him "no drop shot" he politely reminded me "This is the Colorado River basin and you can leave your drop shot rod and reel at home and fish for bass the old fashion way". He had me laughing and thinking maybe the 6 foot bass rod is also going to also make a comeback.

Then I checked with AZGFD about the dangers of fishing the lower Colorado including Martinez. Guess what, all those people who have been telling me how dangerous it is are statistically wrong. As a matter of fact the lower Colorado complex does not even make the top ten for boater's requiring help due to an incident on the water. However, Havasu and Alamo both are in the top ten. Then I asked Paul Hite who has been there for at least 30 years and is on the

water 3-4 times a week and he said we rarely ever have a tournament boat that has a problem but on weekends when they add alcohol to the boat drivers, this causes the incident rate to increase directly to the amount of alcohol poured to the driver. My thought was another problem solved since we do not allow drinking during the contest. However, this is new water for most of us so take it easy and learn the water before you put all 250 horses on the back of your bass boat to work (this does not include Lou Hirlemann who only has 45 working horses most of the time pushing his boat).

One last reminder until the end of the year a Colorado River stamp is required along with two noise devices, a throw life preserver with 25 feet of rope attached and last but not least a pee bottle to keep the California side of the lake pure. I wonder if California allows the largemouth to pee on their side of the river; nah no way.

I must admit I had fun writing this article but I honestly believe Martinez will be a positive experience for the club and lots of fun for all. So come and enjoy the Colorado River and Martinez, we will have a club cookout and you will be a participant in the first Midweek Bass Anglers tournament at Martinez. Hell, in four or five years you can brag to the new members how you remember the "good old days" and fished the first club tournament at Martinez

and how good it was.

## Bassin' Basics

### Working flats with a flutter spoon

When fish are really spread out, maybe because it's a cloudy day or it's in the fall and they're really feeding and roaming around a lot following the bait, a good lure to fish is a flutter spoon. With its vibration and flash, and the fact that you can cast it a mile, it's a good lure for covering a lot of water.

Usually, the 5-inch size works best, but sometimes downsizing to the 4-inch model helps with the catching. Mainly this is something you should try on a fairly flat bottom between a drop-off and the bank, where it's probably much less than 20 feet deep. Look for slow tapering bars between the river ledge and the bank, a hump on the flat – places like that.

The flutter spoon has a nice cradling action, so you don't need to use any kind of swivel with it; just tie it directly to 20-pound test fluorocarbon. You'll get some line twist, but not bad. Fish it with a long rod that's fairly stiff because you can make long casts with it and set the hook better. After casting out, let the spoon sink to the bottom, and then sweep it up with that long rod. Then "kill it" and let it go back down on a slack line; that's very important. You'll get more strikes if you let the spoon fall horizontally on a slack line so it has that good rocking action.



# Photo Scrapbook Lake Roosevelt September 18, 2013





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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**

**Bill McGonigle Jr. (NB)  
Scott Olivier (NB)  
Marty Ancona (NB)**

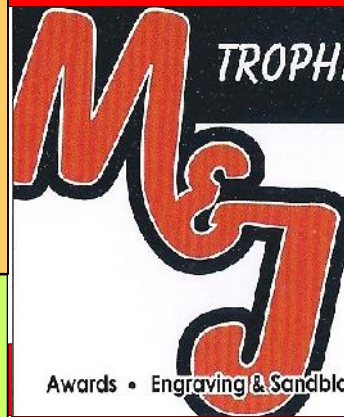
**Sound Off**

Let us hear from you. The newsletter is your vehicle for communicating and sharing with other members.

Many of you have things to say, opinions to share.

Contact the Editor who would be delighted to hear from you.

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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 October**

Ernie Arvizu

Steve Baker

John Belden

Mark Durben

Ron Gaudreau

Clay Lippincott

Mark Poe

Mark Royal

Bob Trevillyan Jr



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2013  
Tournament Schedule**

16 January	Roosevelt
20 February	Bartlett [Cnxl]
20 March	Havasu
17 April	Alamo
14 May	Apache [Feb resked]
15 May	Apache
19 June	Saguaro
17 July	Bartlett
21 August	Saguaro
18 September	Roosevelt
16 October	Martinez
20 November	Apache