

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



SEPTEMBER 2014

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

## President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



When you fish in mid September at Roosevelt Lake, usually the only weather concern is whether or not you are going to suffer through the last heat wave of the summer or if you will finally be able to wear that long forgotten jacket for the first run of the day during a cool fall morning. What we don't usually receive is the remnants of a hurricane.

Tournament day on Wednesday brought us a rather unusual and yet welcomed day of weather. We awoke to a slight drizzle of rain and then experienced a bit of what appeared to be fog on the drive to the lake. The rest of the day was mostly cloudy, not much rain to speak of, unless you happened to be down by the marina around 11:00AM

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

when a mile sized cloud opened up and delivered a torrential downpour for about 15 minutes. I think I learned that buzz-baits don't work very well when the raindrops are making bigger splashes than my bait.

Fortunately, the weather was not much of an issue for our barbeque on Tuesday night at the Hwy 188 Tackle Store. The crowd of 40 anglers was in good spirits sitting under the store's roomy covered patio. Gary Senft, a club member and also pro-staff member of Bass Pro Shops, shared some closely guarded finesse angling tips to help the guys in attendance. While Gary was speaking, Gary Asmus was busy cooking up 60 hamburgers for the hungry crowd, with Gary Martlage carefully setting up the serving line, while Gary Grimes drank a beer and watched. I think that's one too many Garys. Overall another successful tournament for those in attendance, but I am certain most would have preferred more participation from the fish; we can blame it on the weather. Someday I can tell my grandkids that I fished during a hurricane.

Our next tournament will be at

Apache Lake in October. Both the weather and fishing should be much better, with another barbeque at the lake on Tuesday night. Hope to see you there.



**Tournament Report  
Lake Roosevelt  
September 17, 2014  
By Terry Tassin**

## Team Bryan Steele & Howard Thomas Fish Electronics For 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Bryan Steele & Howard Thomas** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 11.11 lbs.

**Bryan Steele:** I fished with Howard Thomas, and we had a great time on the water...along

Continued on page 2

**OCT 13 U.S. NAVY  
239TH BIRTHDAY**



**"We Practice Catch and Release"**

with a few frustrating challenges throughout the day!



**1st Place**  
**Howard Thomas & Bryan Steele**

During prefish on Tuesday, I noticed a lot of life on a couple of main-lake ledges using the onboard electronics, but I could not figure out that bite. I figured the bite in back of the coves/pockets around the weeds and trees was going to get hammered, so I bet on

## Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 1 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 point tournament will be at **Lake Apache on 15 October 2014**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

trying to get the offshore ledge fish on tournament day.

The first hour of the tournament and the first main lake ledge was a bust; tons of carp in that area.

The second hour was a ledge at the mouth of a cove and had a nice point bar associated with this structure. The big fish (Smallmouth) was caught here at around 8 AM on a lizard in about 5 feet of water. This Smallie was near the outside edge of the visible trees on that point. Another fish was caught about 20 minutes later on the ledge using a Strike King 10xd crankbait in about 18-20 feet. Focusing on the irregular feature on the ledge was the key, because both fish were near that particular area, but at different depths.

The Lakemaster Western States maps were key in locating these ledge areas. The water level offset feature of the Hummingbird makes it much easier to see the real depth contours with fluctuating lake levels. Roosevelt was at about a minus 65 foot offset

relative to the Lakemaster Map. Once you have the water level offset plugged-in, you can shade the deep water area where you see most of the life showing up on your downscan. This is the green shaded area you see the picture, which was set to 20 feet (+/- 4 feet). This was the deep water range that I found most productive in prefish. Once all of the depth ranges are dialed-in, it makes it easier to find the ledges at the depth you want, and line up your deep water casts so you can put your bait where you want it.

So, all is good with the kicker fish in the boat and one other. Around 9 AM the front graph starts showing a large voltage drop within a few minutes...11.1v, 9.8v, 8.9v – uh oh! One of the batteries in my parallel bank was dying.

9 AM – Shut off all the graphs, the big motor barely cranked over, livewell pumps still going. Without any electronics, Howard and I decided to go fish steep cliffs with big boulders by the bridge to try to fill out the limit with the Morning Dawn





dropshot.

10 PM – Two more in the boat near the big boulders with visible trees. Now, the big motor would not start, but the aerators were working.

10:30 PM – Beached the boat and rewired the battery banks. One of the batteries in parallel was completely dead, and the other had just enough juice to keep the livewell pumps going. I had to sacrifice the trolling motor bank to start the outboard motor—GREAT, no more trolling motor for the rest of the day! Howard and I decided on a new plan...we'll use the outboard to position the boat near the rocky point and then drift as far as we can. Fire it back up and move on to the next point.

11:00 AM (onward) – Howard filled out the limit with another

morning dawn fish. We got two more morning dawn fish and culled one. At around 1 PM, Howard had another nice 2+ pound bass on that jumped off right near the boat.

**Howard Thomas:** "NASA do you read me? Go ahead Bryan we read you. Say NASA, can you show me where all the structure and fish are in Lake Roosevelt? Sure Bryan, we'll get it right out. Over and out." I felt like I was in the Best Buy electronics and TV section of the store. All those units wore our batteries out pretty fast and Bryan said that he was in need of a couple batteries. I expect to see some kind of solar charging unit on his boat soon to correct that problem. Maybe like mounted on top of a Bimini top. I hope you can take a ribbing Bryan because I really had a blast fishing with you. I never saw anyone with so much energy as you have.

Bryan jumps up on his boat, on the trailer as fast as the raccoon that did, while he was camped next to us, that ate all his bag of Fritos that were in the console. All kidding aside I had a great time fishing with him. If I can remember all he told me about electronics I will be able to get my PHD in fishing electronics. For those of you who don't know what PHD is, it means "piled higher and deeper" and that means better fish stories. Now the fish story. Bryan caught our big fish on a lizard off the bottom in about 4 feet of water and the rest came on morning dawn worms and one on a crank bait Sexy Shad. Bryan thanks for a great day on the water and better yet a great education on boating electronics. Those fish may run but they will never be able to hide from you. Good luck in all you do.

**Team John Hawkins & Dennis Thiel Fish Shallow For 2nd Overall**

In **2nd Place** the team of **Hawkins & Thiel** weighed five bass for a total weight of 9.51 lbs.



**2nd Place  
Dennis Thiel & John Hawkins**



**The Rules  
By Gary Grimes**

This is not so much a rule but a suggestion for those of you not comfortable backing up a trailer into the water. I know there are many that have a difficult time backing a trailer in the dark, my suggestion for the beginning of the day; the boater backs the boat to the water's edge, then all you have to do is pull the truck and trailer into the parking lot and park it. Be careful of the turning radius so you don't hit another vehicle or jack-knife the truck and trailer and ruin your day. If it doesn't matter whether its day or night, and you just can't back a trailer, here is another suggestion for the end of the day. Your boater likely needs to stay in his boat, because there is no room at the dock for tying up. After he drops you off, go get his truck, and drive over to the line where each vehicle is waiting their turn to back in. While in line, ask one of the other drivers to help you back into the water. I am sure someone will gladly help; after all, we are all friends and that's what club fishing is all about.

**Dennis Thiel:** First of all I cannot thank John Hawkins enough for the knowledge and overall hospitality he showed towards me.

John and I pre-fished Tuesday together. We caught five fish very quickly that day and spent the rest of the day looking for secondary spots. Most of the fish came along breaks in the 16 to 20 foot range. The morning of the tournament came and we headed right back to our spot, however we were not getting bit right away. John calmly told me not to panic. I took a deep breath and went back to fishing.

After a short while I began casting up shallow and ended up catching two fish and losing two. We did not put it together right away until we moved to our next spot and I caught two more fish casting up shallow. Then it was on! We spent the rest of the day in two feet of water or less. We were using Bitchin Craw Robo Worms on a dropshot throwing into open pockets in the grass. We did not get the big fish but we did get a bunch of two pounders and that was enough to bring home a check.

### Tournament Statistics

Thirty-Eight men fished 8 hours each, bringing 76 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 106.27 pounds with a 2.79 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.40 lbs. All but 8 fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

## Team Tony Medina & Joe Weisgerber Finish In 3rd Place

Team **Medina & Weisgerber** weighed five bass for 7.74 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.



**3rd Place**  
**Tony Medina & Joe Weisgerber**

**Tony Medina:** Our 3rd place team of Tony Medina and Joe Weisgerber weighed 7.74 pounds. We caught our 5 fish limit in the first hour of the tournament in the main lake area on drop shot morning dawn rigs. We then fished the rest of tournament moving around the lake culling our entire early limit, but we could never find the kicker we needed to win it all. It was my first time fishing with Joe, who is a relatively new member. He is a good fisherman and I'm looking forward to fishing with him again. Kudos to the man upstairs for holding off on the rain showers where we were fishing.

## Team Gary Grimes & Jim Buchanan Buzz The Brush For 4th Place Overall Finish and Goon Fish Prize

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Grimes & Buchanan** weighed five fish for a total weight of 7.51 lbs. Jim's 2.75 lb Catfish earned the team an additional \$100 for the **Goon Fish** prize.

**Gary Grimes:** The thing I like most about the draw team format is that you get to know so many different people throughout the year. This month I had the pleasure of fishing with Jim Buchanan, with whom I enjoyed conversations about family, business and the state of our country; fun day. We were drawn as boat number one, a first for me. When the horn sounded at the start of the tournament, we sped across the perfectly calm water to our first spot, where we both threw buzz-baits in the back of coves. We slowly motored our way around the area, targeting each bush or tree, or open patch of grass. After catching a couple of fish, we motored into the next cove over and continued with the same technique. It was there that we completed our limit and so spent the rest of the day looking for bigger fish, which did not happen.

We ran to the outside of Salome Bay, throwing crank-baits down the bank, when Jim hooked on to the big flathead catfish which was good enough to win the Goon Fish pot; another first for me. Like most of the other fishermen, we had several nicer fish that we were unable to get into the boat for one reason or another, but were happy with what we had. Most of you may have seen the big downpour at the marina;

well, we were right in the middle of it for 15 minutes of torrential downpour. After it stopped, the sun came out and it started getting warm in our raingear, so we decided it was a good time to make a move to try and dry out. We went into the cove across from the Cholla ramp, again throwing buzz-baits.

I was feeling an odd vibration from my fishing reel and thought I might have a loose screw and figured I would take care of it when I got home. My next cast was towards the shoreline, through a brush-pile, and bam, fish-on. As I am lifting my rod for my hook-set, I grab onto the reel handle and begin reeling, when my reel falls off the rod and lands on the deck of my boat. I immediately grabbed the line in the rod, which is still in my hand, in order to keep tension on the fish, and slowly, hand over hand, am pulling in the fish when I notice my line went over the top of a bush. As I continue to slowly pull in my line by hand, the fish slowly rises out of the water, flapping and jerking, settles down and ends up hanging suspended from the branch about a foot above the water. So there I am, hands over my head keeping tension on the line so the fish stays above the water, while using my right foot on the trolling motor to bring the boat closer to fish. When we got close enough, Jim grabbed the net and carefully landed the fish. Perfect execution. Next time I will check to make sure all my reels are seated properly.



**4th Place & Goon Fish  
Jim Buchanan & Gary Grimes**

**Jim Buchanan:** Another great trip. Big thanks for all the food at the cookout and to those who prepared it.

We did get our share of rain (more than our share, ha!). It was nice weather for ducks. Gary taught me how to throw a buzz bait to no avail. However, I did help out a little; I caught the goon fish Catfish on a crank bait. By the way, I think it was the ugliest Catfish I have ever seen.

It was another great day with good guys. I look forward to next time

### **Team Gary Martlage & John Reichard Weigh 2nd Place Big Bass**

**John Reichard:** Gary caught our 2nd Place Big Bass on a white spinner bait fished over a mix of brush and rocks along the bank just before the dam. It was fun fishing with Gary Martlage at Roosevelt even though we got wet at times. I thought the weigh in went well this month. Thanks to all who helped ferry the fish back down

to be put back into the lake. Just a reminder the 5 lb pot was not won so the pot rolls over to next month at Apache.



**2nd Place Big Bass  
John Reichard & Gary Martlage**



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

Roosevelt is in the books for 2014 and I think it is safe to say it will be remembered long into the future and not for the quality of fishing. The weather between wind and rain was atrocious with some of the hardest rain we have had at a tournament in years not to mention on practice day some of the highest waves we have seen.

I guess along with the weather forecast it led to some of our cancellations and the driving distance to Roosevelt didn't help. We had a total of 13 changes to the lineup after none for last month. To all of you that stepped up to fill the voids, I and the club management thank you very much.

The big positive of the



inclement weather was there appeared to be a lot more camaraderie during the down time among all the members. Just walking around there was a lot of conversations taking place on other than fishing and on any subject you can think of. For those who attended, when I asked if they were sorry they came to the tournament, there was not one negative answer. One member said "Are you kidding, I finally get to wear my new Gore-Tex I bought a year ago" and in the case of Terry Tassin it was the first time he got to use his new Gore-Tex he bought five years ago.

One more time we have to thank our host Dwayne Steel and his lovely wife Bev for the use of the Hwy 188 Tackle Store for our cookout. Again, as usual, Dwayne went out of his way to make sure all who attended were very happy with the cookout. Dwayne and Bev, thanks for all you do for the club!

Gary Senft as our guest speaker proved once again what separates us ordinary fishermen from sponsored guys is thinking outside the box. His talk about drop shot fishing caught 99% of the people attending off guard. When you stop and think of his technique it just makes excellent sense and it is so simple it is a wonder why we have not heard of it sooner. For those of you who do not know it Gary presents a few seminars every month for Bass Pro Shops and he always tells his audience if you want to fish tournaments for fun and enjoyment join Midweek Bass Anglers. Thank you Gary for being an outstanding

member and for the way you support the club.

For almost every tournament I receive 4-6 envelopes with cash in them for entry fees. During the past four months we have had two envelopes (without cash in them) never show up after being sent to my house. Checks we can easily stop payment on, but cash will be gone forever. Therefore I am asking you to reconsider when sending cash unless you're ready to accept the risk the club will not cover your loss.

Several people have asked me about the tripling of permit fees to fish Saguaro and Canyon. As of this writing I am not sure it has been finalized and if not it is close. The increase will NOT affect Midweek Bass. We are a recognized club with an AZ tax number and a real club that holds monthly meetings and other events. We are not like some who claim to be clubs but anyone can sign up and fish their tournaments. What AZG&F and Tonto National Forest (TNF) are targeting in a joint effort is the so call clubs that pound the lakes hard week after week. The increase in fees and other new restriction are designed to protect the quality of fishing at the lakes. Another new restriction being seriously considered is to limit all clubs to just one tournament per month on any of the AZ lakes including TNF lakes I am told. There are, as of now, no new restrictions on recreational fishing or on recognized clubs.

The good news is we have been informed all of our permits have been approved for 2015 just as we submitted them so mark your calendars for next year.

Our next tournament is at Apache I hope to see you all there.

## **Bassin' Basics**

### **Think pink in the fall**

I've heard a lot of pros say that lure color doesn't really matter, but after 30 years of experimentation with different colors, I've proved to myself that it makes a big difference. In the fall, from September through November, I use one color pattern on my crankbaits: dark lime back with khaki sides and a pink belly. I'm so sure about it that I send my crankbaits off to a guy in Ohio who paints them for me. Big deep-diving crankbaits, shallow-running squarebills – it doesn't matter. They all get that color pattern and it works in muddy water, dingy water or clear water. I think it has something to do with how the water starts cooling off in the fall and shad go through a gradual and subtle color change as they move back into the creeks and coves.

Strike King has a crankbait color pattern that's lime green on top, white in the middle with a touch of red under the chin and that's pretty close. It's not just a color pattern for crankbaits, either. For instance, I like a lime and white skirt on a spinnerbait in the fall, and I'll paint the head pink. There's something about that color combination that works in the fall. I don't wonder why too much; I just believe in it.  
*Sep.2012 by George Cochran*



# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Roosevelt - September 17, 2014



**WHO SAYS THERE ARE NO SMALLIES IN ROOSEVELT**



**SOME OF THE LITTLE ONES**



**AND THIS WAS MY BIG ONE!**



**HOW SWEET IT IS!**





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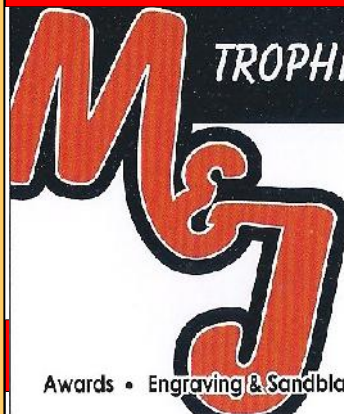
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - Vacant

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**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**  
**Born in October**

**Ernie Arvizu  
Steve Baker  
John Belden  
Ron Gaudreau  
Clay Lippincott  
Mark Royal**



**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>