

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



NOVEMBER 2013

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



Apache Lake was a great place to end the 2013 tournament year. The weather was beautiful, and made camping very pleasant. The water was a very nice 62 degrees, but I still would like to know why the shad and bass were holding 50 – 60 feet deep; someone tell them they are supposed to be shallow and active this time of the year. Needless to say the bite was very tough for most, but as always, someone figures out a way to catch five nice fish. About 35 people showed up for the barbeque; burgers and Jack's macaroni salad were

very tasty. It was nice to catch up with everyone during the meal and the other down time we shared in the camp. After the barbeque, several guys got together for our final Midweek Poker Tour Event of the year, congrats to Steve Simer, Ernie Arvizu and Lou Hirlmann on the victories. We played until the wee hours of the night, well after the time most of the camp was asleep. I think we ended at 9:15 PM. Did you know Steve has played in several World Series Events in Las Vegas?

As the year draws to an end, I have enjoyed the time we have all spent together this past year. We have lost some club friends, made some new ones; enjoyed some great times on the water together,

shared some stories after, and learned from one another. I am excited about our 2014 schedule and look forward to many more good times together on the water with everyone.

Presidents Thanksgiving Poem

Big Enough to Keep

I pray that I may live to fish
Until my dying day.
And when it comes to my last cast
I then most humbly pray.
When in the Lord's great landing
Net and peacefully asleep,
That in His mercy I be judged
Big Enough to keep!

HALL OF FAME

2013 Tournament Season Winners!

Angler of the Year - Paul Cormany

1st Place Boater of the Year - - - Jerry Askam

2nd Place Boater of the Year - - - Mike Edgar

3rd Place Boater of the Year - - - Jeff Mason

1st Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - Gary Martlage

2nd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - Mark Royal

3rd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - John Milkint

Lunker of the Year - Jeff Mabry (8.34 lbs)

May - Lake Apache

Happy Thanksgiving!



"We Practice Catch and Release"



Lake Apache
November 20, 2013
By Terry Tassin

The final club points tournament of this year started off at 6:45 AM with boats heading up river, down river and all points in between!

The tournament weather was great with water temps around 63 degrees in most of the lake and the fish were caught from dam to dam.

All teams but one weighed fish at this tournament, and all fish were released back into the lake to live and fight again another day.

Now let's hear from our winners.

Team Mike Edgar & Gary Martlage Win 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place** honors, **Team Mike Edgar & Gary Martlage** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 13.86 lbs. Their winnings were increased by catching the **2nd Place Big Bass** which weighed 3.73 lbs.

Mike Edgar: I met Gary at the ramp to load his gear the morning of the tournament. He had a hand full of rods and said he had no idea what to do. I had no rods on the deck and nothing tied up. We sat there in the boat waiting to be released and planned our day. Gary mentioned top water but did not have any in his tackle box. Since I fish with my son Shane I carry a fully stocked tackle shop on the boat. I tied up a Lucky Craft Gun Fish. Gary tied on a spinner bait. We both found a lot of suspended fish in practice but decided to try and pick off the shallower single fish. I have only fished Apache 6 or 7 times so we went to Gary's spots.

We shut down at the first spot. Gary tells me, "Get to fishing boy!" as he reels one in. I got the trolling motor in the water and he reels in fish number two - both fish on a spinner bait. We had to work fast because the fish were shallow and we were not sure how long the cloud cover would hold up. 100 yards or so down the bank a fish hit the Gun Fish several times but would not take it. I threw it back again this time the 2.5 pound smallie would not let it get away. Gary caught our 4th fish then I filled out the limit with another top water fish or so I thought as I tried to swing it in we watched it shake off and was gone. Gary was not happy. He cancelled my boat insurance on the spot and I told him not to worry, I was just culling early. It took me a while but the cloud cover held up and I was able to catch a 3 plus on the top water bait. A little while later Gary picked up a nice 3 plus on a jig. We caught a total of 9 fish. Not a bad day for having no idea what we were going to do at 6

Next Meeting
Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4 December** 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 Bartlett** on **15 January 2014**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.



The Rules
By Gary Grimes

Boat Equipment

As the year draws to an end, it is a good time to inspect your boat safety equipment and replace them if necessary.

Fire Extinguisher: In Arizona, you must carry a USCG approved and non-expired marine type fire extinguisher, check your dial to make sure the needle is still in the green.

Personal Floatation Device's (PDF): Type IV throw cushions are required for all vessels over 16 feet long. If you have an inflatable PFD, check the status indicator to make sure it is green, or if it's been a few years since you have replaced the inflation canister, you might want to do it. In addition, if the lettering on the inside manufacturers label has worn off, the unit is no longer serviceable and should be replaced.

AM in the morning. This was another team victory for me. Gary is one of the most knowledgeable fishermen I have fished with.



**1st Place
Mike Edgar & Gary Martlage**

Gary Martlage: On Tuesday evening, after opting out of the hot poker game that was being played, I sat around with Dave Baca at the fire pit, enjoying

conversation over beer and Fireball shots. We were talking about old fishing days, and the next one coming up. Dave mentioned the cloud cover moving in, and said there might be a top water bite tomorrow. I thought about what he said, and got interested in the thought. I had pre-fished for 2 days the week before (Monday and Tuesday) for 17 hours, for a total of 3 bites, and one fish. To say the least, I was looking for any idea of improving the bite!

My partner, Michael Edgar, had also fished on Veteran's Day with his son, and they were also blanked. He opted to also not worry about a pre-fish on Tuesday; we both stayed in the valley and worked. When we met Wednesday morning, I asked Michael if he had a topwater tied on (he said yes), so I discussed a plan to try to get something going early in the morning. Being first boat out, we went to an area close to the marina that I told Michael should hold fish, if they

moved up shallow.

As Michael turned the ignition off, and proceeded to move to the front of the boat, I already had a fish in the bottom flopping around. I said "Are you going to start fishing or what?" In the next 30 minutes, we had 3 fish boated, 1 on topwater, and 2 on a blade. Michael proceeded to catch another on top, and lost another at the boat. We continued to fish tandem, using the front of the boat for topwater, following up with a spinnerbait. The day slowed down, but we had action on top up until around noon. Many fish would come up behind the bait and swirl, missing the bait up to 4 times! It was a strange day. We ended up with 5 fish on top, 3 on blades, 1 on a jig, and 1 on a Texas rigged tube. A big THANK-YOU also goes out to Michael for helping me hold-on to Co-Angler of the year honors!

We had a great time, and I would fish with Michael

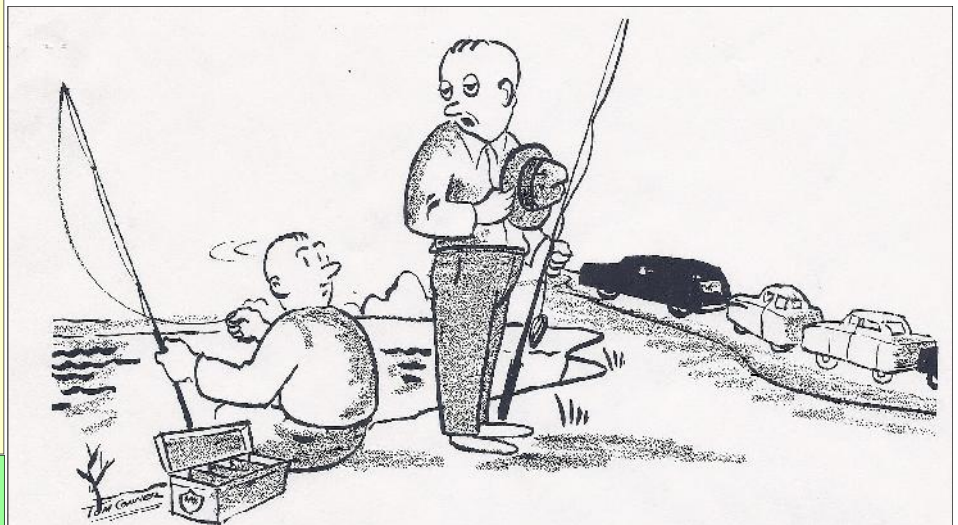
NOTICE!

Changes to Club Bylaws & Tournament Rules for 2014

All proposed changes were voted on and approved at the 6 November meeting. All changes will become effective on January 1, 2014. A copy of the approved revised bylaws and tournament rules will be provided to all members by January 1st.

Membership

As of November 22, 2013 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 85 active members.



It's the least I can do...After all, we would have been married 25 years come April.

anytime, anywhere! Michael is a "good stick", even though he is too humble about his ability! PS: If any future anglers have the opportunity of fishing with Mike, should you want to get on his good side, I recommend you bring a jar of SUPER EXTRA CRUNCHY Jiffy peanut butter!

Team Steel & Arvizu Finish in 2nd Place

In **Second Place** the team of **Dwayne Steel & Ernie Arvizu** weighed five bass for a total weight of 12.68 lbs. Their winnings were augmented by their **1st Place Big Bass** which weighed 4.14 lbs.



2nd Place
Dwayne Steel & Ernie Arvizu

Ernie Arvizu: It was a good time of the year at Lake Apache; great fall weather and missing the storm front was nice.

Dwayne and I pre-fished together for the first time; I knew he had a plan at the time or some idea of which honey hole to fish, so I just needed to sit at my place on the boat and enjoy the ride. Dwayne shared some of his fishing techniques

with me and I certainly took lots of notes and we just had good conversation throughout the day.

We caught fish at different points and shore lines that he had fished in the past. We pre-fished with shad crank baits most of the time and found bass eating on shad on occasion. Did some jigging and Texas rig fishing but very little catching during pre-fishing; we relied on cranks and spinner baits for most of the day. We knew at some time we needed to fish deeper waters, but for now we hooked decent smallies with cranks.

Tournament day I decided to start the morning with a one ounce spinner bait, white skirt, and chartreuse trailer with gold blades. We headed toward the river for about a mile and fished an area that had canes with rocky shore line on both sides of the canes. I caught my first bass; a few minutes later another bass came aboard after I cast into the edge of canes; it was a three and half plus large mouth. Dwayne said at that time he was laying his rod down and taking a nap. I ended with three bass in the livewell and all was good. I knew it was just a matter of time that Dwayne would finish the day with decent bass.

Early afternoon Dwayne pulled out his Carolina rig with a watermelon brush hog lure. It was time for big bass. We were on the main lake in a place he knew had possibly larger fish. We dragged our baits for a few minutes, I heard Dwayne call

out he had a fish hooked and I watched him bring in a nice four pounder plus. He hooked another a few minutes later in about sixteen to twenty-three feet of water.

We continued the day with one upgrade and the rest is history. We both had a great day on the lake and shared some good laughs and memories to take with us. Thanks Dwayne.

Many thanks to Jack's bar and grill for the good grub and to all that helped out with the cooking and cleaning.

Team Jeff Mason & Ernie Modzelewski Celebrate Ernie's 77th Birthday With 3rd Place Win

Team **Jeff Mason & Ernie Modzelewski** weighed five bass for 11.00 pounds.

Jeff Mason: Thanks to the club for the hamburger cookout Tuesday evening, had a great meal and talked fishing, what could be better. I met my partner Ernie Modzelewski, found out both of us were from Chicago, and took his equipment to the boat for the next day. Played a little poker and walked back to the boat with David Baca talking about the old days, and found out that Raccoons had gotten into Ernie's zipped up cooler and eaten his turkey sandwich and almond bars! Ernie got a good laugh out of it the next morning in the parking lot and fished hungry all day!



3rd Place
Ernie Modzelewski & Jeff Mason

This was Ernie's first time fishing with the club, and we had a great time and a lot of laughs fishing together. Ernie caught our first fish after about an hour, a nice smallie on a drop shot, towards the dam past the marina. We spent most of our time fishing mid-lake on steeper banks with a drop shot. I had pre-fished twice and had a tough time and tried just about everything, so I decided to stick with the drop shot and try to get 5 bites. I put two nice fish in the boat, and Ernie added our fourth fish. We fished down a long steep bank that I had caught good fish on before, and picked up our nicest fish of the day - a 3 pounder - for our fifth keeper. Fished a little further down the bank and caught a 2 pounder on the drop shot that culled one of our smaller fish. All of these bites came between 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM. We culled another fish, and then at 1:30 PM we caught another 2 pounder fishing around Turtle Island. All in all we probably caught about 10 fish, and felt good about our day under tough fishing conditions.

Had a great time fishing with Ernie, and look forward to

seeing him at future tournaments.

Ernie Modzelewski "Mod'ski": November 20th was nine days before my 77th birthday but I received a very much appreciated present. Fishing with Jeff Mason was a great gift. Thanks to the computer program that drew his name as my boat partner.

We fished hard and hit 10 spots Jeff had scoped out. They were all in the general area of the Marina and up lake. No more than one fish per stop. I fortunately, about 8:30, decided to open a bag of Trail Mix, laid down my rod and notice a twitch in my line. As I lifted the rod to determine "snag or bite" the water erupted with a beautiful small mouth. After an exciting tussle, the fish was in the net and Jeff estimated its weight as 2 + lbs.

I caught one more fish using the rod down Trail Mix technique. I ran out of Trail Mix so Jeff took over and caught the next 5 fish. We both used drop shot with morning dawn and red crawler colors. Most of the fish were holding close to structure and steep walls. Jeff did the heavy lifting and I enjoyed the ride. Glad to be on Board the MBA and a third place winner for my first tournament with the club.

Team Grimes & Frailey Cooperate For 4th Place Win

Team **Gary Grimes & Lionel Frailey** weighed five bass for 10.49 pounds.

Lionel Frailey: Gary pre-fished on Monday, mostly in the main lake. Almost all the fish he graphed were deep and deeper – 40 feet or more. Lots of marks on the graph and he caught a few.

I showed up for Tuesday pre-fishing and our meeting didn't last too long. Not knowing what to do, there was talk about going home, but the free dinner was on our minds (nice job, Gray and Jack).



4th Place
Lionel Frailey & Gary Grimes

In yesteryears, I had fished the river with great success so I and made my plea and I got my way this time, so off we went up the river.

Caught a few small mouths right off on cranks and spinner baits, even a secret top water lure that Gray laughed at. We stayed there till 11:00 or so then back out to main lake. They were still deep, no takers even on drop shot rigs.

The morning of T-day (that's tournament day for you young guys) the big question was "Where to go?" Back up the

river? A good choice was cranks and the famous spinner bait did the best for Gary. Gary, was hard to live with after he lost a nice large mouth 3 or 4 pounder; maybe next time.

I had a great time, with not a word about anything we normally push and shove about at meetings. Gary sure has a nice boat.

Team Terry Tassin & Gordon Drake Drop Shot For 5th Place Prize

Team Tassin & Drake weighed five bass for 9.11 pounds.



5th Place
Terry Tassin & Gordon Drake
Who is the masked man in back?

Terry Tassin: Only one bite while pre-fishing made me think that tournament day was going to be one tough outing. However, Gordon and I had found a spot while pre-fishing where we caught two quick bass just before we quit fishing for the day. It was a no brainer for us to head to that spot as our first stop of the day on tournament day. With the great weather helping us hold tight to a specific

location, we milked that one spot for a limit of fish and then moved on down the bank trying the same technique as we went along. All told we put a total of nine fish in the boat culling up two fish. All of our fishing and catching took place in an area that was probably no longer than two football fields long. Drop shot was the only technique we used and almost all the fish were caught on six inch Morning Dawn worms with and without chartreuse tails. The terrain we had the best luck in were areas that had flats with shallow water on top but dropped off into a trough to anywhere from 10 to 35 feet. We would position the boat out in the deep water and throw to the shallow end of the cuts and slowly drag the rig back to the boat. When the fish hit the worm they were slightly more aggressive than the usual mushy bite you get with drop shots – that made the catching a whole lot more fun than usual for us. A great day on the water with a great partner; I look forward to doing it again.

However, when you have two senior citizens in the boat who are both hard of hearing it makes for an interesting day. Eh, what did you say?

Gordon Drake: I caught three bass pre-fishing; one on a jerk bait and two drop shotting a Morning Dawn Robo worm. On tournament day I stuck with drop shotting and never got a bite but did a

good job netting Terry's fish.

Steve Cook & Mark Durben Carolina Rig Goon Fish For Prize

Mark Durben: Steve Cook and I got to fish together again and while we always have a good time fishing together we just didn't get on the fish. The first fish we caught was a small bluegill on a Carolina rig. I was going to throw it back and Steve said "throw it in the livewell, you never know". Well it ended up being the only goon fish weighed. Lesson learned for me – always keep at least one goon fish - it might pay off.

Tournament Statistics

Forty men fished 8 hours each, bringing 82 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 128.09 pounds with a 3.20 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.56 lbs. All fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



Treasure Chest
By John Milkint.
Treasurer

The November tournament at Lake Apache finishes out the 2013 schedule for Midweek Bass and this is the final payout for those teams fortunate to weigh BIG on a week where bites were at a premium.

With a solid weight of 13.86 pounds, including second big fish (3.73 lbs) was the team of

Mike Edgar and Gary Martlage. Mike and Gary split \$544, just in time for Christmas shopping.

Big fish of the day (4.14 lbs) and second place, with a total of 12.86 pounds, went to Dwayne Steel and Ernie Arvizu. They will be splitting \$500.

Jeff Mason and Ernie Modzelewski weighed in with 11.00 pounds and won 3rd place honors worth \$172.

Fourth place went to Team Gary Grimes and Lionel Frailey. Their weight of 10.49 pounds paid out a total of \$86.

With 20 boats participating we paid out a fifth place finish to Terry Tassin and Gordon Drake. They were the only placing team not to break double digits weighing in at 9.11 pounds for a split of \$58.

Finally with a Bluegill tipping the scales at 0.32 ounces and worth \$200 was Steve Cook and his co-angler Mark Durben. I'm not sure who handled the net when bringing in that valuable catch but it proved to be golden.

No 5 pound Bass was brought to the scales which means that \$540 will roll over to our first tournament of 2014 to be held on January 14, 2014 at Lake Bartlett.

A total of \$1560 was paid out to 12 club winners.

As a matter of housekeeping I would ask that all checks received for this tournament be cashed in 2013. We like to balance the bank account with no outstanding checks into the new year, if possible. It's amazing to me how many of you hold onto checks for weeks without bothering to cash them for real money.

Midweek Bass has voted in John Reichard as our new Treasurer beginning after the December general meeting and as such this is my last official Bass Bites Treasurer's report. The past two years representing the members in the Treasurer's capacity as a Board Member has been extremely rewarding and a privilege handling the finances of the club. Thank you for your confidence in voting me in two years ago with the responsibility of Treasurer. Now I look forward to just being a member and being able to enjoy the meetings without having to participate.

Photo Scrapbook Lake Apache November 20, 2013



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2013 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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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**

**Ernie Modzelewski (CO)
Charles Walder (CO)**

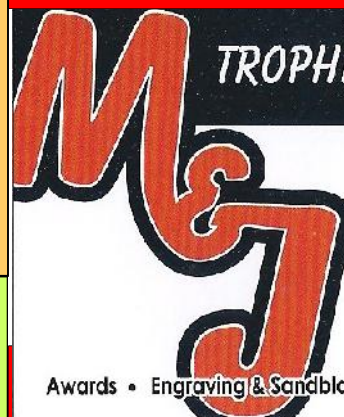
Sound Off

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.

**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	Martinez

**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday
December**

- Gordon Drake
- Lionel Frailey
- Don Hegenderfer
- Mike Holloway
- Richie Rojas
- Don Terpenning

