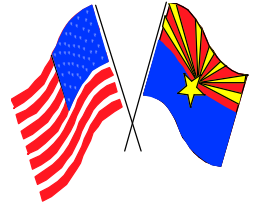


MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



NOVEMBER 2014

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



The Saguaro Lake tournament marks the end of the 2014 tournament season for the Midweek Bass Anglers; the 11th and final event of the year. If you asked most of the anglers they might say the fishing was tough and the weather was cold, though we did not need to shovel any snow or drill through ice unlike much of the rest of the country. It was cold enough, however, that you actually had to wear a jacket for the first couple of hours of the day, that is cold by Arizona standards. It was also cold enough, that most of the water

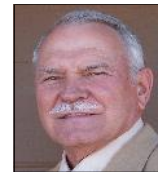
skiers stayed off the lake, for which we are all grateful.

This tournament was also the final event for angler points for 2014. Several anglers were still in contention to win the coveted Angler of the Year honors; a closer race hasn't been seen in years. Congratulations to Lou Hirlemann, whose second place tournament finish was just what he needed to secure the lead in the AOY points race, and this was in spite of fishing most of the year as a co-angler in someone else's boat. This marks only the second time a co-angler has won Angler of the Year since the inception of the club; Steve Cook won in 2008.

We have travelled many miles

together this year, fished on each other's water often, borrowed baits, loaned tools, and helped each other out whenever we could. Heck, even Howard Thomas towed my 30 lb carp around for three hours at Apache Lake because it wouldn't fit in my live-well. We have a great group of guys.

Thanks for making 2014 a great year on the water and I look forward to another fun season in 2015. See you soon.



Tournament Report
Lake Saguaro
November 19, 2014
By Terry Tassin

Continued on page 2

HALL OF FAME

2014 Tournament Season Winners!

Angler of the Year - Lou Hirlemann

1st Place Boater of the Year - - - - Gary Martlage

2nd Place Boater of the Year - - - - Gary Grimes

3rd Place Boater of the Year - - - - Richie Rojas

1st Place Co-Angler of the Year - - Sean Ballard

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

3rd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - Tom Savage

Lunker of the Year - Jim Buchanan (7.82 lbs)

June 2014 - Lake Saguaro

Happy Thanksgiving!



"We Practice Catch and Release"

Team Gary Martlage & Howard Thomas Fish River For 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Gary Martlage & Howard Thomas** caught the winning creel of five bass weighing 17.23 lbs. Howard's 6.25 lb bass earned the team **1st Place Big Bass** honors and an additional \$685 for the **5 lb Pot** prize.



*1st Place Overall
Gary Martlage & Howard Thomas*

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 3 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 point tournament will be at **Lake Bartlett** on **21 January 2015**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

Gary Martlage: Howard and I pre-fished on Tuesday without much luck. We caught 3 fish, with the biggest one being 1.5 lbs. This sure did not help, after hearing the same reports from guys on the lake during the day.

Tournament day came and we decided on a plan. We were going to try to catch a big fish early, by cranking some deep water points in the first narrows, then head up river. It was 8AM when I told Howard to get buckled in, since we had not a bite or a fish in the livewell.

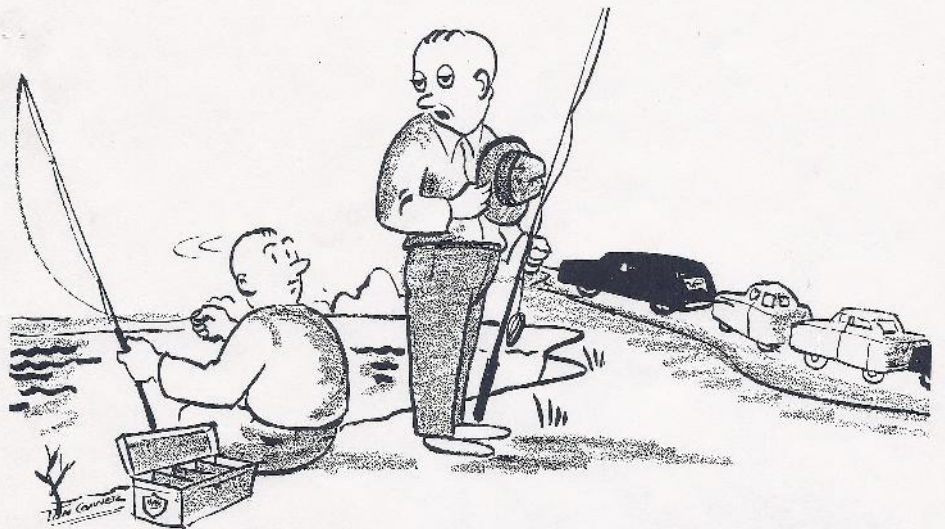
We went up the river, until we passed all the boats, and started working our way back. By 11AM, we had 4 fish in the well, including a nice 4 lb bass Howard caught on a Texas rigged craw. I caught 3 on a Redeye Blade 3/8oz. in white. (Dwayne Steel is making them for me at Hwy 188 if you want to try them out).

I told Howard at the start that I

am a pretty "cranky" partner, until I put 5 fish in the boat! I put down the Blade, and started drop-shotting. Within one hour, we boated another 10 fish, culling up ounces; I figured we had 12 lbs by now. We decided to go back to 'big' fishing, running a blade in front, with Howard pitching a Senko from the back. Howard yells for the net only for me to turn around and see the 6 lb. bass jump completely out of the water only 5 feet from the boat! Definite yelps and "high 5's" were heard the next 15 minutes!

Howard Thomas and I had an exceptional day (very lucky) at Saguaro! The camaraderie we enjoyed both days was priceless and I look forward to future times together!

Howard Thomas: Wow! It felt like the bases were loaded in the bottom of the 9th, we were down by 3 runs and I caught the fastball over the heart of the plate and took it deep over the center field wall to win the game. I was pitching a Senko



It's the least I can do...After all, we would have been married 36 years come December.

into the tules when this fish hit and made a run for deep water. Gary assured me I was all right because we had plenty of water underneath us and the battle was on. Gary netted the fish and the high 5's started. Catching this fish had something to do with Gary always saying "Come on Howard I'm counting on you, get em" for 2 days straight. His initials GM stand for "Great Manager" and that he was.



**1st Place Big Fish - 6.25 lbs
Howard Thomas**

Even though it started out with me losing my first fish Gary always acted like it isn't over till it's over. In practice he had me 3 fish to none and I felt bad for not contributing, so I told him I would rather do this now than in the real game and it all turned around for me tournament day. The last time I was there I caught a 7.9 in practice and 2 dinks in the tournament so I didn't feel that bad about not catching anything. I am so glad that I was introduced to Midweek Bass. I sure have learned a lot from you guys and if you don't think that's truth just ask Richie Rojas. LOL. And remember the more casts you make the

better your odds are of catching a lot of fish or a big fish. I hope all of you guys had as much fun with the club as I did this year thanks to people like Terry, Jack, Gary, and John. They make it possible for us to do what we do so don't forget to thank them for all their hard work; you know, the stuff you and I don't want to be bothered with. I want to take this time to wish all members Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2014-15 and thanks again to Gary Martlage for putting up with the guy with the heaviest tackle bag.

Team Hirlemann & Chambers Fish Deep & Shallow For 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** the team of **Lou Hirlemann & Ron Chambers** weighed five bass for a total weight of 11.29 lbs.

Lou Hirlemann: I would like to thank everyone I fished with this year, I made some new friends and got to know others better, thank you. Prefishing for this tournament produced no bites on Monday or Tuesday so expectations were low for Wednesday. We caught 6 fish all day on tournament day from 7 to 40 to feet deep. Ron caught our big one on a drop shot and had a lot of good stories to share to make the time past more swiftly. A beautiful day on the lake was had by all. I just wish we could have gotten together for a photo.

Ron Chambers: It's been a long time since Lou and I have had the opportunity to fish

together. He is always a great host and there is never a dull moment between us. The day started out slow, but we kept at it.



**2nd Place
Lou Hirlemann & Ron Chambers**

As normal, Lou had done his pre-fishing and knew the spots to hit throughout the day. Of course we had to go to all the coldest spots on the lake first. We were lucky and started the day with our one really good fish. Lou was very polite and 'allowed' me to catch the first fish. We didn't catch a large amount of fish, but the ones we did catch were quality and we did little culling. We had one fish we tried administering first aid, but he did not make it.

NOTICE!

Changes to Club Bylaws & Tournament Rules for 2015

All proposed changes were voted on and approved at the 5 November meeting. All changes will become effective on January 1, 2015. Copies of the approved revised bylaws and tournament rules have been provided to all members by email.

We used drop shots, spoons, and crank baits as our baits. I look forward to fishing with Lou again next time.

I have enjoyed the year fishing with the club. There are a lot of new faces, but a great group of guys. Thanks to all of you.

Team Allen Wacker & Mike Adamson Work Flats Finish In 3rd Place

Team **Wacker & Adamson** weighed five bass for 9.36 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Mike Adamson: We caught our first three fish in the Flats



3rd Place
Allen Wacker & Mike Adamson

Tournament Statistics

Forty-two men fished 8.5 hours each, bringing 71 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 112.18 pounds with a 2.67 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.58 lbs. All but two fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

area dragging a drop shot with a morning dawn chartreuse tail dipped worn through the weeds. By 8:30 we had boated the three fish including the 5 plus pounder we weighed-in and thought it was going to be a great day of culling. Then the wall hit us. The 4th bass came at noon and then finally the last of our five bass back in the Flats where we started. Even though the fishing was tough it was great weather to be out fishing.

Team John Hawkins & Hal Hensey Fish Reeds For 4th Place

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Hawkins & Hensey** weighed four fish for a total weight of 7.82 lbs.

Hal Hensey: John Hawkins and I had a fun day fishing. We were fishing the reed line before the river. We tried jigs, spinner baits, wacky worms, chatterbaits, swimbaits, and eventually drop shot. It was slow, but after John caught two nice bass, he immediately reminded me that it was my turn.

After a while I caught one (possibly our largest), that made us feel we were going to get a limit. Later I caught another, but this one was only a strong half-pounder. We did go upriver for a while, but found nothing and went back to the reed line. We could not get the fifth fish and we didn't have a good feeling about placing, but we had three decent size fish. John gave me some good

direction on fishing drop shot rigs and after that I started catching fish.

We both expressed that we would enjoy fishing a tournament together again.



4th Place
John Hawkins & Hal Hensey

Team Bryan Steele & Terry Tassin Spoon Their Way To 5th Place Overall Finish

Taking home **5th Place**, Team **Bryan Steele & Terry Tassin** weighed five fish for a total weight of 7.20 lbs.



5th Place
Terry Tassin & Bryan Steele

Bryan Steele: Terry and I had a really fun day on the water.

We caught a couple of deep water ledge fish (dropshot and flutter spoon), and a couple on dropshot near artificial habitat, but I'd say that our best bite was main channel fishing for suspended bass. Terry wanted to see the electronics put to use, and suspended bass fishing heavily relies on electronics. It isn't the easiest way to fish, but it can be fun when it works!

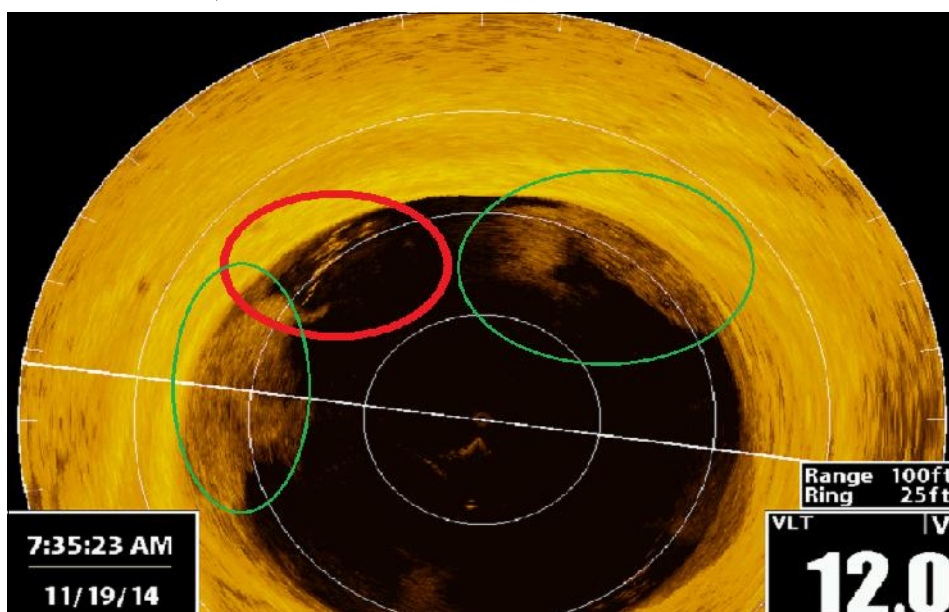
The screenshot below is a view from the bow-mounted, Humminbird 360. I have a pack of Bass circled in red at about 11 o'clock - they show up as thick dashes in the water column on the 360. I also have two groups of Threadfin Shad circled in green. In this screenshot, the bass are actively busting apart a large group of shad. The 360 view gives you an idea of which direction to cast your lure, and the game is to keep the large shad schools within the 360 view. If you have the bait located in open water, you know the predators will not be too far away.

Also, you need to combine this 360 information with information from your downscan, which tells you how deep the bass are in the water column. In this case, the Largemouth Bass were generally cruising between 20-30 feet of water within a total depth of about 70 feet of water in the main channel. The key is to swim your lure in that depth in order to be in the strike zone. These bass seem to get overly focused on smashing through shad, so they

generally do not chase a lure that is far away from the shad slaughter.

A couple more tips: How far away from the boat are they, and which direction are they headed? Each white ring on the 360 screenshot is 25 feet of distance with the trolling motor in the center (this range is adjustable and is displayed near the bottom right corner). The Bass are at the 50 foot ring, but they are only 25 feet deep in the water column. You can estimate that this school of bass was about 25 feet away from my trolling motor at 11 o'clock and about 25 feet down in the water column. Also, you can get an idea of which direction the pack is headed by looking at the way the shad ball is deformed. That helps you keep them within view longer with the trolling motor and put your cast ahead of the pack. In this example, they were probably headed toward the 9 o'clock area.

Humminbird 360 View:



This is a downscan view of the action taking place. Again, the packs of bass are circled in red and all of that other stuff is Threadfin Shad. Most of the time we would see the bass within the 20-30 feet range of the water column. This particular instance shows that they pushed some of the shad up above the 20 foot range during their attack.

Lowrance HDS Downscan View:



Team George Cobasky & Jack Hughes Weigh 2nd Place Big Bass

The team of **Cobasky & Hughes** weighed two bass one of which weighed 5.93 lbs and

was enough to earn them **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.



**2nd Place Big Fish
Jack Hughes & George Cobasky**

Jack Hughes: I was fishing with George Cobasky and we had fished Saguaro three times in pre-fishing. Our last practice we selected 7 spots we were going to fish. The day before the tournament we took one fish off each of those spots. Our largest in the boat was 9.3 lbs and the smallest was 5.3 lbs. We were positive we were on them. One tournament day, we launched as boat number five. Wouldn't you know it when we got to our spot we followed a boat right to where we wanted start and were soon joined by a third boat. So much for our secret spot. I was fishing in 40-50 feet of water with a Carolina Rig, 3/4 ounce of weight and a watermelon green Brush Hog. On my third cast I caught a 5.93 lb bass while very slowly reeling in the line. As George was netting the fish and I looked over and 20 feet away was Terry Tassin and Bryan Steele watching us land our fish. George and my confidence were very high now that we had the spots and were justly rewarded. After all, the day before we had more than 25 lbs with five fish

from 7 spots. Well the fishing Gods I think decided we had enough fun on Saguaro for the month because we only caught one more fish, less than 1 lb, the rest of the day. However, I am sure George and I will always remember our practice and the great day we had with some of Saguaro's big ones.

Team Steve Bowlin & Ray Riley Collect Goon Fish Prize

Ray Riley: The winning goon catfish was "attracted" to our boat, by having on board, secretly hidden deep in my tackle box, a special fish wooing worm - John Hawkins Pink. (Please take note, Gary Grimes, this pink worm works wonders) Check your tackle box it may be secretly working for you. This is an "inside" joke that I am sure Gary will 'get'.



**Goon Fish Pot Winners
Steve Bowlin & Ray Riley**



**Treasure Chest
By John Reichard, Treasurer**

Just a note from your

Treasurer: Saguaro was a tough day of fishing for some of us but congratulations to the winners and the fishermen who found the big ones. As you know the 5 lb pot was won with several fish weighing-in over 5 pounds.

The pot will start over in January so all members will be able to enter the pot. I would like to encourage members to take advantage of the club policy that allows you to pay for the complete tournament year in advance to enter the 5 lb pot (\$55 for eleven tournaments). That way you do not have to worry about remembering the pot for those months that you cannot fish and forget to pay in to the pot to stay current. After paying in advance for the 5 lb pot all you will need to pay for your monthly tournament entry fee is \$50.

See you all at the next meeting.



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

The 2014 MBA tournament season is over and what a year of memories. Number one for me was the pleasure I received in being your Tournament Director (TD) and all of the help I received from members. During 2014 every time I asked a member for help the answer was always the same, "I will help." Thanks to all of you for making the TD job such a pleasurable time! Some of the things that were

of interest this year follow.

When the club was informed of the AZG&F program of matching donated funds to stock Roosevelt Lake with Florida strain bass MBA stepped right up to support the program with matching funds. Individual club members and the MBA club account donated more than \$2000. A special thanks to George Cobasky who donated \$450.

Gary Grimes won 4 tournaments and was in the top five in 2 others.

During 2014 Midweek Bass Anglers received outstanding support from Hwy 188 Tackle owned and operated by Dwayne Steele and his wife Beverly. They hosted BBQ's, worked tirelessly to support the club, were always there to help with advice and products, and were quick to help any member who had a problem with their boat or tackle and not to mention a place for tired anglers to hang out and recoup.

The Angler of the Year (AOY) close race between Gary Grimes and Lou Hirlemann was not decided until the last tournament of the year with Lou edging out Gary for the AOY title. What makes this even better is Lou fished over half of his tournaments as a Co-Angler. Gary Martlage managed to beat Grimes out by one point to win Boater of the Year.

At our last Roosevelt tournament I received another lesson in determination when I had Mark Royal as a partner. Mark I believe caught one fish in three days but he was always thinking on the next cast "I will get a big one". The weather was miserable and very wet. Mark went on to win second place as Co-Angler. If my math is close to correct one three pounder that day would have given him the title.

In May we had our first 1 ½ day tournament at Apache Lake. The tournament was such a success members voted to continue it during our 2015 schedule.

Nick Wampach catching a 7.22 pounder and winning his first tournament with Gary Askam as his Boater.

Bernie Kowalski also winning the first tournament he ever fished at Saguaro with Gary Grimes.

Jim Buchanan pushed Nick's big fish to second place with a 7.82 bass at Saguaro to win Lunker of the Year.

Of course there was always lots of humor at all of our tournaments like Nick Wampach being chastised for missing a tournament just because he got married, poor timing Nick. At Apache the raccoons are still thanking Tony Medina and Ray Riley for the excellent snacks they provided from Tony's boat and Ray's truck and can hardly wait for their return next year. Then there was Howard Thomas dragging around an over 25 pound carp all afternoon caught by Gary Grime's. Rumor is Gary decided it was beneath the dignity of a Ranger boat to have a carp in it.

We all thank Rusty Murdock and his wife Christine, for a real upgrade of our member BBQ menu at Apache. Custom made cakes and salads. Also bringing their young son to the BBQ I am sure was part of Rusty's plan for a long term fishing partner.

If you look at this year's winners of our club end of year awards you will see a lot of new faces at the top. This should be encouragement to all of us going to fish in 2015. It is hard to repeat wins and I read that recently Kevin Van Dam, most say the best bass fisherman ever, has won only 7.2% of the tournaments he has entered as a pro.

My final thought is I want to thank our President Gary Grimes, for what I consider an outstanding job of leading and growing our club. Under Gary's leadership the club is recognized state wide as an excellent club and whenever AZG&F wants inputs from bass clubs we are one of the first they always contact. Great job Gary!



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2015 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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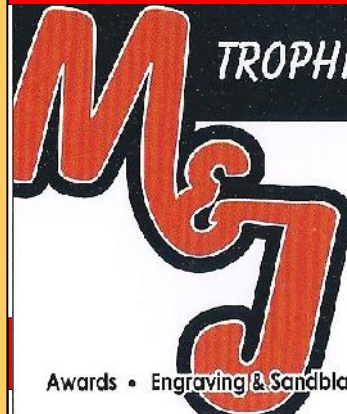
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Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>

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

**Tom Carlson (B)
Hobby Nelson (B)**

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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 December

- Bob Brewer**
- Bill Daddario**
- Gordon Drake**
- Lionel Frailey**
- Don Hegenderfer**
- Mike Holloway**
- Richie Rojas**
- Dennis Sullivan**
- Joe Weisgerber**



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2015
Tournament Schedule**

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