

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



APRIL 2011

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EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective *by Dave Rice*

Well guys another great time, great food, great weather, and great camaraderie was had by all who attended. We had a large turnout and only one incident of a boat breaking down, sorry Jack and Butch. Apparently a boat repair shop mechanic messed up Jack Hughes' boat and he was not able to fish with his partner Butch Nessline. In talking with Jack the matter is taken care of and the mechanic is going to make it right. I want to thank Gary, Jack and DJ for the excellent food. DJ can fix me steak anytime; it was perfect and I could cut it with a fork. There was a lot of planning that went into the meal and it was a job well done.

I also want to thank Clay and his crew for doing another great job on the weigh-in as they have done every time in the past. There were a few

DQ's due to too many slot fish brought in by teams. The only thing I can say is don't call it close on the measurements if you have a possible chance of calling it wrong. Clay and Lew have to go by the laws of the State Game and Fish Department pertaining to slots and have no lee way in giving someone the benefit of a doubt. To those of you who don't have one, get yourself a measuring board like the one used at the weigh table, then you will be sure - or - compare your board with the club's official board to see if there is any difference.

When Terry turned in the results of the tournament to the ranger station the ranger made a comment about the number of DQ's we had. For what it's worth he may be at the next weigh-in we have at Alamo and he can legally write tickets to whom ever brings in too many slot fish.

However, the next tournament is at Apache and I am looking forward to fishing for some smallmouth fun. I hope everyone can make it. I will see you all at BJ's for the next meeting on the 4th of May.

Looking forward to seeing you there. Stay safe!

Lake Alamo

April 20, 2011
by Terry Tassin

I have not had that much fun fishing since last month at Havasu! A really great weather day for Alamo. Fishing was great but the catching was better. Enough chit-chat, lets get on to the "catching" reports.

Neil Burns & Jim Schultz Will Remember Lake Alamo

The **First Place** team of **Neil Burns & Jim Schultz** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 13.00 lbs. This weight included the **1st Place Big Bass** and **5 lb Pot** winning 5.17 lb bass. The team also won the **Super Pot** option.



**1st Place
Jim Schultz & Neil Burns**

Neil Burns, commenting on the day on the water said, "What a great Alamo trip; good company, good weather, good food."

**Monthly Breakfast Meeting
Bill Johnson's Big Apple
Restaurant
16810 N. 19th Ave, Phoenix, AZ
1st Wednesday of each
month 8:00A.M.**

"We Practice Catch and Release"

Fantastic cook-out! Is the recipe for those beans a secret? I'd like to say thanks to all the members who do the extra work to make this a special club (officers, board, weigh team, cook team, gentlemen who pull the trailer). Sometimes we tend to forget the effort it takes to make things run smoothly.

Jim Schultz was my partner for this tournament and he had recently caught a huge bass at Lake Pleasant which received a nice write-up by Game & Fish. Congratulations to him! Good fisherman and partner - although I'm going to withhold comments on his singing ability.

Monday we fished an area that we really liked, nice big flat in the back of a cove, shallow to medium depth with lots of brush but a short steep rocky, channel maybe 30 yards wide

leading into and out of it. I think the fish were migrating out of the spawning area and that was their first stop.

By Wednesday we had decided to stay in the cleaner water of the main lake and had pretty much abandoned reaction baits, choosing instead to stick with plastics. Jim was throwing a Robo Worm in Bold Bluegill which I suspect had something to do with the Lake Pleasant fish, and I was using a small green pumpkin spider jig from Keitech.

Our spot was very close to the launch ramp and I don't believe there are any secret areas on our Arizona lakes, so we were hoping to be the first there and fortunately we were. We set-up in that channel, Jim had our first over before I could get the lights put away. We had a great limit by 8:00 and Jim caught our last over at 2:00. Good job partner. The big fish was our second fish, caught in that same opening, 20 ft in depth using a Keitech 2 1/2" Sahara Olive Spider Jig, 1/2 ounce tungsten jig head. We caught a 4.2 on Monday - same bait, same spot."

Jim added his thoughts on the fishing day. "After arriving at the lake on Monday morning Neil and I started pre-fishing around 10 AM and we both caught a fish. Neil's was 4.14 lbs so we decided right then and there to leave that spot. We did try an area close to Monday's fish holding area on Tuesday for just a fish or two. We just did not want to ruin this

area and hoped if any one else fished there they just wouldn't figure out where to fish and what to do. This proved to be a good decision. On tournament day it started out by me catching an over on the second cast, and then about 3 minutes later Neil caught our 5.17 pound fish. His scale only showed it at 4.12 lbs. We both thought it was bigger than that...I think Neil needs a new scale! We spent the greater part of the day in the same area. When the fish shut down late in the morning we moved to some other spots where we had been successful. But, we ended up the last two hours of the tournament back at our original spot.

We had our best luck on two different baits, catching 90% of our fish on a green pumpkin Spider jig and a 6" Bold Bluegill Robo Worm. Neil fished a jig and I used the Robo Worm. It did get a little dicey when I started talking trash to the fish...guess I've been hanging around DJ too much and then went to singing (very badly I might add) and Neil just hung his head down; shook his head and just wished I'd shut up...told me how much he enjoyed fishing with Billy Penrod - talk about a low blow. Other than that we had a great time! I'd fish with Neil anytime he'd invite me - hint, hint."

In **Second Place** the team of **Jeff Martineau & Howard Thomas** finished with 12.59 lbs for their five bass. The **2nd Place Big Bass** of 4.78 lbs was included in their catch. Jeff Martineau commented,

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4 May** starting at 8:00 AM, at Bill Johnson's Big Apple Restaurant, 16810 N. 19th Ave (just south of Bell Road on 19th Ave on the west side of the avenue). We hope you will come early and have breakfast together.

The next club point tournament will be a day event at **Lake Apache** on **18 May 2011**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

“Howard and I pre fished on Tuesday and covered a lot of water. We caught most of our fish on jigs and plastics instead of reaction baits. It was obvious the majority of the fish were on outside points and secondary points. On tournament day we focused on this pattern and threw the jig most of the day. A crawfish pattern seemed to be the deal, we caught some on shat pattern as well but the better fish ate the craw. We also found some flip fish in the muddy water up lake. After catching a limit with three overs fairly quick, we went to flip for some more big ones. That produced one more over on a flippin tube in dark pumpkin candy. We then went back to the jig bite mid-lake where we continued to catch fish, but no more upgrades. The 4.78 pounder came off the side of a point in about 18 feet of water on the football jig. It was a great couple of days on the water.”

Never at a lost for words, Howard Thomas added this to Jeff’s account. “I got a classic lesson on how to fish from Jeff Martineau. He is the man to try and beat (if you can). He had 5 fish in the boat in the first 45 minutes - maybe sooner. By the time I got started it was time to start culling. I’m not kidding. My coffee wasn’t even cold yet. I asked him if he could teach me how to speak

fish language. He had 8 rods on deck and he could play them like they were a set of piano keys. I think the fish would get all confused with his arsenal and then would bite anything he threw. All I can say is I caught the first over and he swabbed the deck with me after that. He’s equal to the number 4 hitter in baseball. If I learned one thing from this experience it would be always remain confident and keep fishing your strengths.

We used everything you could think of, crankbaits, Senkos, jigs, beavers, drop shot, wacky worms, and my new topwater frog I got from Brad at Fisherman’s Choice of which a bass struck at on the very first cast. (Remember who plugged your store next time I’m in. OK Brad?) Thanks to all my boater friends who have taken me on the water and have shown me how to fish and compete at a whole new level and thanks Jeff for whopping my ass because I’ll remember how to fish this way because of you.



2nd Place
Howard Thomas & Jeff Martineau

A special thank you to all the cooks and members connected with preparing our evening meal on Tuesday. It was awesome. If I had a bait that tasted that good I could win the Bassmaster Classic. It sure would be nice if the club had a 50 cup coffee maker so we could have coffee in the morning. Someone could be picked each meeting to be responsible to put the pot on for the next tournament. Hey! I will buy the first round of donuts. Good for my figure. HA! HA!

I appreciate all of my club members and I hope to fish with all of you guys someday

Membership
As of April 22, 2011 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 78 active members.



“These aren’t the grubs, this is the noodle salad.”

and maybe even get to remember your names. Give me time; I'm getting old.

Team Jerry Grina & Jim Murphy weighed five bass for 11.77 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.



3rd Place
Jerry Grina & Jim Murphy

Jerry Grina said, "We pre-fished Tuesday by starting out in the trees up lake. Caught a few slots but with the water so low I thought this area would get crowded during the tourney so we went looking for other stuff. We caught fish on just about everything and no real pattern.

On tournament day we started on a flat with lots of trees in the water; past the buoy line. We fished chatter baits and Rapala top waters. Had a limit with 3 overs by 8 o'clock. That bite died so we started fishing points and outside shoreline with rock and wood on them.

My 4 pounder came on a jig on a point. I stuck with a jig all day. We pretty much stayed in the area up lake past the buoy line all day. We caught a lot of fish and wound up with five overs. Great time, great steak on Tuesday night, great

partner. Thanks for putting on a well run tournament."

The **4th Place Team** of **Terry Tassin & Rocky Piazza** weighed 11.08 lbs with a five bass limit.

Terry provided this input for the newsletter. "Lake Alamo is probably the lake I enjoy fishing the most. Because of this, I managed to pre-fish on Tuesday with Jack Hughes. I won't go into the boat problems Jack had on Monday, but let's just say because of the boat problems Jack did not fish on tournament day. Any way, on Tuesday we found lots of bass including a 4.33 and a 3.5 pounder. However, for the tournament day I knew that most competitors knew where and on what bait the previous day's fish were caught. On tournament day my partner Rocky Piazza and I were the start boat and last out so we decided to be different. While almost everyone else headed up river, we went to the dam where we picked up our first two 'overs' in about 10 casts on jigs. After that we moved up the main lake north bank throwing jigs and wacky Senko's in the bushes and fan casting open water. We caught fish every where. In the late morning we did move to Tuesday's 'honey hole' but by then the area had been picked clean by those who got there early in the day. For those who like to come in for the weigh-in early, I should add that during the windy last 30 minutes of the tournament, we managed to catch several fish that allowed us to cull out some

smaller bass. These fish were again caught on jigs but this time on the south side of the lake on main lake banks and points. I want to welcome our newest club member Rocky Piazza to the club and let all the members know when you draw Rocky as a partner you draw a very good 'stick'. Rocky you can fish with me anytime!"



4th Place
Rocky Piazza & Terry Tassin

Rocky added, "Wednesday turned out to be a great day to fish. Being the last boat out we decided to change up the game plan Terry had originally planned to go with as we observed all the boats but one head up towards the river. We started off first thing by the dam where Terry picked up our first two keepers and eventually our biggest fish, both on jigs. Throughout the day we made our way up the lake working several pockets of coves. I mostly used Texas rigged baby brush hogs with spotty success and also caught a few off of spider jigs. Terry ended up getting on a pretty good Senko bite while still using jigs here and there. Throughout the day I would say we caught close to

20 fish between the two of us. Most of our keeper fish came from the jig bite Terry was on. We did get one Goon fish entry (a 2 1/2 lb catfish) that I caught on a brush hog; boy that was fun! Although it wasn't a wide open bite for us we did manage to net some nice sized fish. It was an awesome experience with even better company."

The **5th Place Team** of **Rick Brown & Ernie Arvizu** weighed 10.26 lbs with a five bass limit.



5th Place
Rick Brown & Ernie Arvizu (abs)

Ernie Arvizu remarked, "May is a great time to fish Alamo Lake and fishing with Rick made for a great day. We started our day in the upper river area searching for the elusive five pounder. Spinnerbaits worked well and tossing a buzzbait on occasion was productive as well. Flipping worked well in the brushes green color creatures and sweet beavers. We continued to pickup slot fish all day and lose weights and hooks as well. I also would like to thank Jack and Gary and their cook staff for their

time, work and effort putting on a great cookout Tuesday evening."

The **6th Place** honors went to **Team Gary Asmus & Charlie Ferrell** for their 9.72 lbs of bass. While the team did not manage to provide an input covering their day's fishing, Charlie was kind enough to tabulate the weigh-in weights.



6th Place
Charlie Ferrell & Gary Asmus (abs)

The **Goon Fish pot** went to the team of **DJ Martin & Mark Durben** for their 3.39 lb Catfish. No report on how they caught the big cat was received prior to newsletter printing.



Goon Fish Pot Winners
DJ Martin & Mark Durben
But where is the catfish?

Statistics for the tournament: 52 men fished 8.5 hours each, bringing 106 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 187.29 pounds with a 3.57 pound average per fisherman. All but three fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



Option Pots
By Jerry Askam

5 lb Pot: The new 5 lb pot didn't last long as Neil Burns landed a 5.17 lb largemouth on a jig to claim the \$260 pot. A new pot will begin with Apache next month. You must be in the pot when it starts to maintain eligibility if no one catches a 5 pounder and the pot rolls over.

Goon Fish Pot: Tournament winners Neil Burns and Jim Schultz won the super pot worth \$230 and pretty much "cleaned house" by also having the tournament's 1st Big Fish and winning the 5 lb pot. They take home a total of \$1218. Congrats on a great tourney guys.

Super Pot: DJ Martin won the Goon Fish pot worth \$225 with a 3.39 lb catfish caught on a chatter bait. His partner, Mark Durben, caught a bigger cat the day before pre-fishing and DJ caught 2 before the winner was brought into the boat. It appears they had the catfish pattern wired and no one would have had a chance if this was a catfish tourney. Congrats DJ.

WORDS YOU HEAR AT A TOURNAMENT

The fish you lose was at least 5 lbs, as in, "I lost a 5 pounder today". You seem to know, how much the one you lost weighed.

How come the boat compartments are all full of what you don't need when fishing.

The last thing between you and a big fish is a net with a long handle.

If I only had a lure that starts as a top water, then dives to 20 feet and wiggles.

I will always leave second place for you.

AND THAT'S HOW THE FIGHT STARTED!

*My wife and I were watching Who Wants To Be A Millionaire while we were in bed. I turned to her and said, 'Do you want to have Sex?' 'No,' she answered. I then said, 'Is that your final answer?' She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying, 'Yes..' So I said, "Then I'd like to phone a friend." And that's when the fight started...

*I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason, took my order first. "I'll have the rump steak, rare, please." He said, "Aren't you worried about the mad cow?" "Nah, she can order for herself." And that's when the fight started....

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Alamo - April 20, 2011



Photo Scrapbook - Lake Alamo - April 20, 2011



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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:**

**Rocky Piazza (NB)
Doug Smith (NB)**

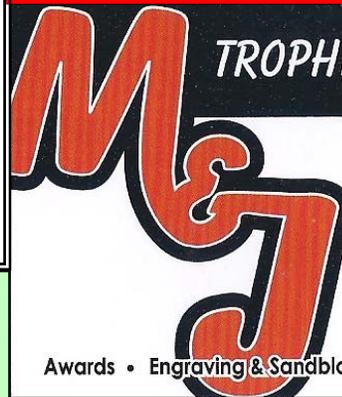
Tackle Box Sales!

Here is a spot in our newsletter for those members who have "fishing related items" that they would like to sell, trade, or give away.

<u>Seller</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>
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Something to sell? Contact the Editor

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**Midweek Bass Anglers 2011
Tournament Schedule**

19 January	Bartlett
23 February	Roosevelt
16 March	Havasu
20 April	Alamo
18 May	Apache
15 June	Pleasant
20 July	Bartlett (N)
17 August	Saguaro
21 September	Roosevelt
19 October	Alamo
16 November	Bartlett

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in May

Jon Barrett

Paul Cormany

Richard Lam

Fabrizio Ruggiero

Jamie Shaw

Terry Tassin

