

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

B a s s B i t t e r s

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



APRIL 2012

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective *By Gary Grimes*

It was a great time with everyone at Alamo, as is customary for a Midweek tournament. The fishing was very good to excellent, with most anglers having little trouble catching their limit. Spoke with many who caught dozens of fish each day they fished, but size, as always, was tougher to come by. As usual, someone always seems to find a way to locate bigger fish and this time the teams of Brown / Milkint, Cormany/Ballard, and Hirlemann/Buvala took the top three spots, congrats guys. Also, looks like the days of cool weather are probably behind us, as tournament day was the hottest day we fished all year.

Tuesday night we had our pre-tournament barbeque of steaks, potatoes and beans. 42 guys were served. A special thanks to Gary Asmus for

cooking the steaks, he did an outstanding job. Was good to see all the guys hanging around "Jack's Place" for the dinner; what a great time to B.S. and meet new people. There are so many varied personalities in the club, but at least one thing we all have in common is a love of fishing, which means you have something in common with everyone there.

Following the dinner Tuesday night, we had our pre-fishing tournament poker tournament (what a mouthful). Eighteen guys donated \$10 each for a chance to claim the short lived title of club poker champion. The previous champion, "What's a blind" Bill Ruehle, maybe next time. Unfortunately, the final table lacked the fortitude to cull out a winner, so five guys chopped the \$180, receiving \$30 each. Congratulations to Cunningham, Schimmel, Chambers, Harbaugh and Mabry. Thanks to all who helped, see you at the next meeting.

5 pounder while pre-fishing for the tournament. When it came time for the tournament day all my team could find were little bitty bass. Oh well, at least some contestants found the big ones. Lets see how they did it.

Rick Brown & John Milkint Crank & Flip to 1st Place Win

Led by Rick Brown the First Place team of Rick Brown & John Milkint found a 'magic tree' and weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 16.09 lbs. The team also won the prize for the Super Pot option.

Rick Brown's report: "Like always, the Alamo lake trip was a great time. The cookout was great. Thanks, to all that made that happen. Now to pre-fishing. I was on the lake 10 days ago and we caught a lot of fish, with most of the big fish coming from

Happy Armed Forces Day



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

Lake Alamo

April 18, 2012
By Terry Tassin

As usual I wasted a catch of a

"We Practice Catch and Release"

the main lake. On Tuesday, John Milkint and I went and checked these spots and we never got a bite. I also had a couple of spots in the river to check out. We found a lot of fish but they were all pretty small, we only managed one over all day. There was one spot I was counting on, that I was saving for our starting spot on tournament day.

Now to tourney day. We made it to our starting spot; it appeared that the bass were chasing shad. I broke out the crankbait and first cast a 3 pounder, next 2 casts 2 slots. Good start, but the bite quickly died. Time to make a quick move. In doing so, I was watching another boat that I thought might be heading toward my other spot, and when I took off, I ran over a large tree stump with the big motor. Lucky I didn't break anything on the boat. But I

think I gave the fish in Neil Burns' spot brain damage.

We pulled into the next spot, and again first cast a 3.5 pounder, then the third cast another 3 pounder. We were pretty excited at that point. John and I then started a rotation around 3 or 4 trees flipping plastics and slowly upgraded our slot fish. Then about 8:30 from the same magic tree I set the hook on what felt like a good one, but I was also wrapped around something. After releasing a little pressure a couple times the fish finally came out. It was our big fish 4.5 pounder; thank God I had braid on. Shortly after that, John caught our 5th over that culled out our last slot fish. What a GREAT feeling – 9 am and 5 good overs in the livewell.

Not so fast, when I pulled the hook out of John's fish it had slightly nicked the gill and the fish bled a little. I thought it would be OK. John kept a close eye on that fish, but it wasn't doing so good. After about 30 minutes, we discussed the dilemma we had with that fish. Keep it, and end up with a possible half pound penalty, or release it while it was still alive and would probably recover better in its natural habitat. We gambled and released it. I was a little stressed, and second guessing our decision, until about 30 minutes later when we caught another over, similar in size. We caught about 20 more fish the rest of the day, but no more upgrades. John and I had a lot of fun, hope we draw again

soon. Thanks again to the cooking crew, and everyone who helped with the tournament. Also, would someone tell that guy NO Speedo's while fishing - YUKKKK!"



**1st Place
John Milkint & Rick Brown**

John Milkint added to Rick's narrative, "Never having the opportunity to finish in first place as a non-boater, the Alamo tournament final result was a great feeling. The day started out great for us since Rick caught our first 3 fish on his first 3 casts. I hadn't had an opportunity to even get my fishing rod in my hand. What a start! We had discussed our approach after pre fishing together on Tuesday. We were going to start the day with Rick throwing a crank bait and me

Continued on page 3

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 2 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 16 May 2012**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.



The Rules By Gary Grimes

As for fishing equipment, only artificial lures may be used, no live or prepared bait will be permitted and only one rod and reel may be used at any time. This is just a reminder, in case you are thinking of throwing homemade dough-balls at a big carp.

throwing a spinner bait. His worked to perfection but I couldn't get a hit on the spinner. That great start settled down to our next move to a stump that Rick had identified in a prior tournament. I actually lost count of the number of fish we caught on that one stump. It was incredible. We were only fishing in 3 feet of water.

We rotated between that stump and two brush piles all morning, moving from one to the other. I called it the golden triangle. We caught fish on all three spots. For the most part, Rick fished a weightless Senko rigged whacky style with a weedless hook. I fished a weightless Senko rigged in the traditional Texas Rig style. Both produced fish in each location. The bass were holding tight to the cover and we had to throw directly into the brush to get strikes. Even with weedless rigs we spent a lot of time removing snags due to the dense cover and underwater hazards. We had to retie our tackle on many occasions, but the results were worth it.

Rick put the plan together, and being an astute non boater, I didn't try to change it. Everything worked to perfection except that elusive 5 pound Bass that we desperately wanted to catch never showed-up. Fishing for two days with Rick was a pleasure and a non boaters dream. Rick was always courteous as we approached a structure making sure I always had a side to fish while he fished the opposite side.

Thanks Rick for a GREAT two days!"

Cormany & Ballard Concentrate on River to Win Second Place

In **Second Place** the team of **Paul Cormany & Sean Ballard** finished with 15.52 lbs for their five bass. More importantly, Paul weighed a 5.49 lb beauty to win the **5 lb Pot** and the **1st Place Big Bass** prize for the second time in three months.

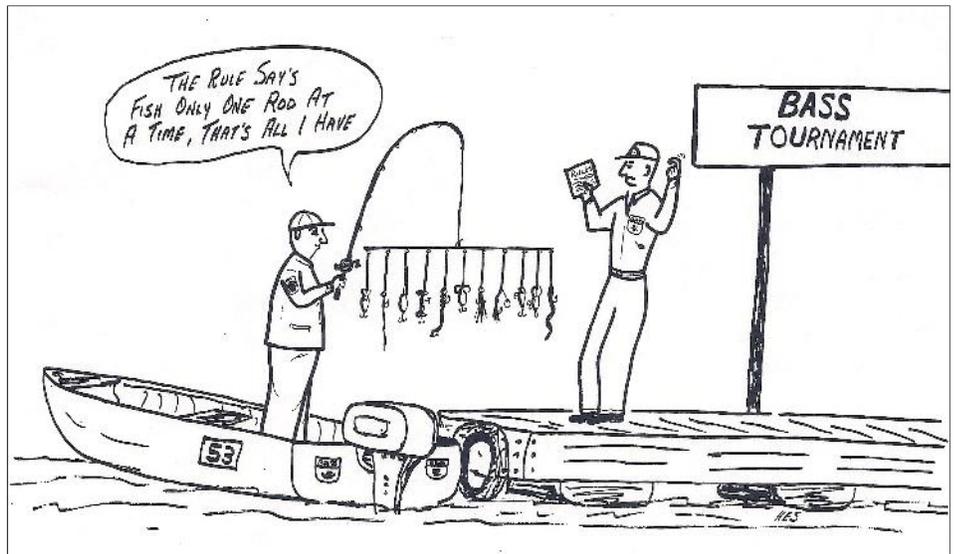
Paul provided this detailed account of the tournament day. "I fished Alamo with Sean Ballard and we had a great time fishing together again. I didn't have a chance to prefish other than a half day on April 7th. I made some Alabama rigs and wanted to test them out. I wacked about 30 fish on the A rig but no overs, just slots. Sean and I started with the A rig at mid lake and had zero fish. I told Sean, "Time to head to the river". We continued with the A rig and pitching into the visible trees in 6-8 feet of

water. Sean caught our first over on the A rig and I caught a couple of unders. Sean started pitching a Texas rig Hula Grub and I went with my old standby, the Speed Craw. We caught a couple slots to fill our limit by 7:30. We then just kept grinding it out pitching the rest of the day.



**2nd Place
Sean Ballard & Paul Cormany**

We managed a couple more overs and I noticed the better fish were coming a little deeper and from trees that were just barely visible or too deep to see at all. Sean seemed to be getting better quality on the Hula Grub so I switched over to it too. Fishing got better later in the afternoon and I culled out



"The Ultimate AZ Rig"

our last slot with a pretty good over. The last three fish we caught were all over's, two that didn't help our limit and of course the big fish that I caught at 2:30. I was really thinking "Threepeat" and was feeling pretty good at the weigh-in. I felt Sean and I had done a great job of grinding out a good limit under somewhat tough conditions. I was already thinking that the pressure would really be on to continue my winning streak at Apache.

Then came Rick Brown and John Milkint. They really deserved that victory to be able to best what I thought would be a winning weight based on the fishing we observed. Sean and I fished really well together and covered every inch of productive looking water. Everyone that has fished with Sean knows what a good fisherman and great partner he is. If you haven't fished with Sean, hopefully you will get the chance to learn for yourself one day. We truly have a great group of anglers and anyone is capable of winning on any given day. I'm just thankful to be enjoying a bit of a streak this year. I'm looking forward to fishing at Apache, but I'm not looking forward to the last six miles of dirt road!"

Team Lou Hirlemann & Ken Buvala Connect For 3rd Place

Team Lou Hirlemann & Ken Buvala weighed five bass for 14.14 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Ken Buvala said, "I'm not sure of the area that we had the most luck in, except that at one point at mid-morning, I counted 30 boats within eye sight of us, so where we did most of the fishing should be no secret to anyone.



**3rd Place
Ken Buvala & Lou Hirlemann**

The beginning of the day did not start out like gang busters; i.e., we did not have a limit within the first hour! We started fishing the trees, as my 'guide' Lou suggested. I snagged my first two attempts and broke off my lures which were a weighted Senko rigged Texas style. Changed to an unweighted Texas rigged 4 inch Baby Bass Senko and landed our 1st fish. After the day was done, Lou caught more fish than I did because he has more skill than I do. I think we had one over and two fish in the slot. The "catching" slowed down when we decided to move and we headed for the dam and to my surprise, no one was there, not even Tony Medina :-). Lou caught one slot fish there on a creature bait and lost one bass.

We moved on to another area outside of the dam area and came across Jason Riddle and

Brian Jacobson and they said that their trolling motor conked out, so they were fishing nestled along the shore and they caught 2 bass while we were there, so we moved on. No fish in the other locations, so back to the starting point. Now Lou and I have had some good luck (1st Place at Bartlett) using spinner baits, so I broke out a rod with a Chartreuse spinner bait with a Chartreuse twin tail grub on it and did not catch a fish. Lou picked up his rod and spinner bait and proceeded to catch 2 nice over's in the trees. I have never fished a spinner bait by letting it fall into a tree or log, (a new method as taught to me by Lou), so as I was trying to do so with a white spinner bait and a white single tail grub trailer with the tail dipped in Spike It, I was saying to Lou that I wasn't getting the hang of it like he was doing when I got a hit and landed a fairly nice fish - visualize Lou laughing. That is to say it was a better slot than we had. It was around 1:30 PM when we had 4 in the live well - 3 over's and 1 slot. It was around 2:30 when we moved to another spot, but still in the general vicinity, and while Lou was maneuvering the boat into position, I got to throw the spinner bait into the trees and our biggest bass of the day hit as soon as it landed in the water.

Now we have upgraded our 5 fish to 4 over's and one slot. The wind is blowing harder and it's 2:36 and we see Steve Baker leave a spot and Lou, our expert guide, says to me "Lets go over there and fish the

trees just above where Steve was and I will run the big motor and let you have three casts before we have to head in". This is like a movie script because on my third cast into the middle of the trees, I hook and land our 5th over. This is unreal and Lou and I are laughing all the way to the dock. Talked to Lou today and told him I was still smiling.

Ok, here's the part where I give cudo's to Lou, the boater. No kidding, I really like fishing with Lou, love his "no carpet deck" boat and fishing with him is really cool; that's right I said "cool". He's a fun guy and I will fish with him anytime and anywhere!!

Lastly, cudo's to the club for another great tournament, good food, good guys, and good everything!"

Lou added, "Thanks to all who were there, I had a great time before the tournament started - I got to fish with Ken again. I have been terrible the last few tournaments so I figured I would go out of my comfort zone and fish the river. Our morning was awful - I think we had 3 fish, no overs at 11:30. In the after noon we threw spinnerbaits and wacked over 20 fish and got very, very, very lucky. And yes, my buzzbait bite started."

Burns & Brewer Capture 4th Place

The **4th Place Team** of **Neil Burns & Bob Brewer** weighed 13.72 lbs with a five bass limit.

Neil Burns commented, "Bob and I didn't get a chance to pre-fish but I had been on the lake for several days the week before so we hoped things hadn't changed too much. We concentrated our efforts in what's left of the channel on the upper end of the Mohave side, northeast side. We targeted isolated brush piles & stumps in about 10 feet of water - actually the deepest water in that area. All our keeper fish came off two stick-ups probably about 75 yards apart. We would fish them, let them rest and revisit them several times during the day.



**4th Place
Bob Brewer & Neil Burns**

Something about those two stick-ups draws the fish. I used a Texas rigged Paca Craw in green pumpkin with a punch skirt & punch stop to try to avoid hang ups. Bob used a variation of the same bait. It was nice having only one rod on the deck. It was a great day with a good partner, we were however distracted by the sight of two guys in red Speedos; my eyes are still hurting. I missed our cook-out and card game, but Bob said it was fantastic as usual. Big thanks to all the guys that make those

happen. I am looking forward to the next one."

5th Place Team Gary Grimes & Bob Jolley

The **5th Place Team** of **Gary Grimes & Bob Jolley** weighed 13.58 lbs with a five bass limit.

Bob Jolley reported for he and Gary Grimes. "What a great day to fish, a little warm in the afternoon but perfect conditions to catch fish. Alamo was on fire and so was my boater Gary Grimes. Both of us caught a lot of fish but Gary brought in the big ones which included five 'overs' and one that was 4.4 lbs. - fourth biggest fish of the tournament. Actually I did all the heavy lifting because I had to land his fish. Two of our larger fish were caught up in the trees so we had to go in and dig them out. Fortunately we were lucky and didn't loose any big fish all day.

I was unable to pre-fish but Gary found the hot areas on Monday and Tuesday and it paid off on tournament day. We were up river in the trees, like most of the other teams, and pretty much caught everything in the depths of one to seven feet. We fished primarily on the South side of the lake but we did catch a few in trees in the middle of the lake and a couple of drop shot fish in the main lake.

We caught fish on a lot of different lures including Baby Brush Hogs, Chigger Craws, Pit Boss, Hula Grubs, Paca Craws, Senkos, Flukes and Robo Worms. All of our big fish

came from flipping craw baits in the Green Pumpkin and Watermelon colors. I haven't done a lot of jig flipping so I learned some new techniques from Gary and he also showed me a way to attach a 'keeper' on Texas rigged plastics. No more messy glue to deal with.



5th Place
Rick Brown & Mike Self

This is the thing I like best about the Midweek Bass Anglers; you always learn something at every tournament. Our members like to share ideas and it does make us better anglers.

Gary and I had a lot of fun fishing the Alamo tournament and taking fifth place and being in the money was a bonus. Unfortunately I missed the cookout and I understand it was another big feast, but I did save \$10 by not being there to play in the poker tournament. I do want to thank John Reichard for saving me a parking place when I arrived late on Tuesday night and thanks to everyone who helped run another smooth MBA tournament."

2nd Place Big Bass
Caught By Jeff Mabry

Jeff Mabry remarked about his day on the water: "I had the pleasure of fishing with Tony Medina in his freshly carpeted Crestliner. Tony and I went out pre-fishing on Tuesday and almost immediately found a Senko bite. With all the stick ups I chose to Texas Rig the Senko without weight. The pattern seemed to last all day as long as we were in areas with rip rap and stick ups on main lake and secondary points. I figured as long as there wasn't any wind that I would probably fish a Senko all day.



2nd Place Big Bass
Jeff Mabry & Tony Medina

On the morning of the tournament Tony threw a top water lure and caught a few fish; I started with a buzz bait, with no luck. I quickly switched to the cinnamon with red blue fleck and started catching fish. The 4.91 pounder was the second fish I put in the boat. I was fishing a slack line letting the bait fall, when I went to catch it up I felt a small bump and set the hook. In my short tournament history this fish and our other over fish (3.5 lbs) are the biggest two I have caught in a tournament. What a great day, thanks to Tony for taking me out and showing me some

water on Alamo. Just an FYI my last tournament on Alamo I didn't put a fish in the boat all day!

Statistics for the tournament: 46 men fished 9.5 hours each, bringing 110 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 217.82 pounds with a 4.74 pound average catch per fisherman. All but 8 fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day. Major fish lost was due to a malfunctioning livewell pump.



Treasure Chest
By John Milkint, Treasurer

This is the 2nd time out of the last three months that the Treasurer will be writing a check with Paul Cormany's name on it for the 5 lb pot. Paul will be sharing \$265 with his co-angler, Sean Ballard.

Once again the Goon Fish pot will revert to a drawing at the May 2nd monthly meeting. There were two goon fish weighed in at the Alamo tournament. Unfortunately, there was no payout to the first team, due to a disqualification of the team, which weighed in 3 slot fish. A second team goon fish was caught; however, the angler who caught it was not in the goon fish pot. Therefore, the lucky boat team drawn, who were in the pot, will be splitting \$185.

The first place team of Rick Brown and John Milkint (your humble Treasurer) will be sharing \$632 which includes

the Super Pot.

Paul Cormany and Sean Ballard, in addition to the 5 lb pot, also share 2nd Place money and 1st Big Fish, adding an additional \$574 to their total payout.

Tony Medina and Jeff Mabry weighed in the 2nd Big Fish sharing \$184.

Third Place money of \$198 was won by Lou Hirlemann and Ken Buvala.

Neal Burns and Bob Brewer share 4th Place money of \$98.

Club President, Gary Grimes, and his co-angler, Bob Jolley split \$68 for 5th place.



Weighing-In

By Jack Hughes, Tmx Director

All I can say is what a great tournament. The camaraderie was second to none and the steak cookout was one very fine event. I want to thank all the people who helped with the cookout, especially Gary Asmus, John Reichard for getting the trailer to the lake, and your Board of Directors who all jumped in to help.

The winning team of Rick Brown and John Milkint showed unusual sportsmanship in their journey to winning. They had earlier in the day hooked an approximately four pound largemouth that was showing sever stress in the live well and going belly up occasionally. The team made a decision to release the fish and go to four in the well. They reported the fish swam away

quickly. Later they replaced that fish with one slightly larger and as John said, "it was a tough decision to let it go but the right decision". I will add there is a saying all good deeds are rewarded and they were rewarded.

Paul Cormany and Sean Ballard were a very tough second place team and for the third month in a row Paul was in the big money not only for winning 2nd Place but for also taking the 5 lb Pot for the second time in three months. The team managed to win the five pound pot with a 5.49 pound bass. That is really a hot streak, congratulations Paul.

As we move into the hotter months we all have to remember how important it is to check on your fish in the live well. Adding ice and other stimulates to make the fish comfortable and relieve stress, and changing the water often to keep the oxygen content high should all be considered. We also need to remember when we fish slot lakes that during hot weather a Bassmaster's study found a fish in the live well can shrink a quarter inch or more in 3-6 hours in the live well. During this Alamo tournament one team did the right thing and released a fish they were sure would be in trouble in the live well, again congratulations to Rick Brown and John Milkint for making that tough decision. It looks like that fish recovered from the way he swam away and will be there for our future tournament.

One last thing and that is thanks to all that helped during setup and getting the weigh in started and moving so well. Mark Durben continued to do his outstanding job on the bump tank and to help making the weigh in move as fast as possible. Thanks Mark, you are making all of our jobs easier at the weigh in.

If there was a negative it was the next evening after our steak cookout when clearing the camp site I had five chairs left in my camp site along with a half barrel of trash that I had to pick up. I brought the chairs home and have found some of their owners. Let's see if all of us can do a better job of keeping things picked up at Apache.

Remember to get your entry form for Apache in early and using the **NEW FORM**. The fishing reports from Apache Lake are that the fishing is hot. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the next club meeting and then at Apache to continue the fun!

Finally, I want you all to know that Bartlett is expected to drop down even further as reported at our last meeting. Our ability to hold a tournament there in July is in serious jeopardy and we will have to make a decision in the next week about where to fish since it takes 60 days or more to get permits. The board will keep the membership informed as we go through the process and decisions.

Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2012 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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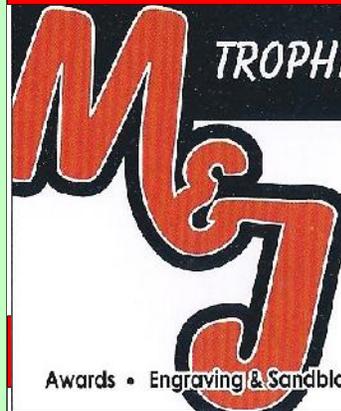
Here is a spot in our newsletter for those members who have "fishing related items" that they would like to sell, trade, or give away.

<u>Seller</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>
Dick Kirberg	Cul M Rite culling scale (original model) by Stren: consists of scale, culling bobbers, instructions and hard plastic case.	\$50.00
	Fulton fold-away weld-on hinge kit. Fits 3" x 3" sq. steel tubing. Converts a straight trailer tongue to a hinged tongue.	\$40.00

Contact Dick Kirberg at 480-650-8250

Something to sell? Contact the Editor

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Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in May

Tom Alauria

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Paul Cormany

Robert Malone

Larry Mantle

Fabrizio Ruggiero

Jamie Shaw

Terry Tassin



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2012
Tournament Schedule**

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