

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



AUGUST 2011

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



### President's Perspective *By Dave Rice*

I looked at the standings for the last tournament and it appears either the heat got to the fish or the fisherman. I guess it was a scorcher. Congratulations to the winners and hope everyone had a good time. Sorry I missed it but I am going to try to make Roosevelt. As you can see the club is moving along quite nicely with a growing membership. We do have a lower participation in the summer but let's blame it on the snow birds and the heat. Kudos to those of you that fish all summer, you have more stamina than I do. Now we are going into the hunting season soon so attendance at the tournaments will probably be down again.

Elections are coming up and there are a few guys that want to run for offices on the board so if anyone else wants on the ballot you better get you name

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

placed on the ballot by recommendation. Also if you think of any bylaw changes you want to make get them in to Terry as soon a possible.

Okay hope to see you all at the next meeting.

### Lake Saguaro

August 17, 2011

*By Terry Tassin*

Well one more 'hot' tournament in the record books. Actually the temp on the water did not seem too bad this month. This might be because we started an hour and a half earlier than we normally would during this time of the year. However, after the fishing was done and we were in the parking lot putting gear away and cleaning boats I had a "little" heat exhaustion experience just as I had three years ago at Roosevelt. While wiping down the boat I bent over and then straightened up quickly and then things got a little woozy. Lucky for me Doc Belden and Dick Kirberg were standing next to me and helped me get to my truck and lay down. Doc iced me down, force fed me a bottle of Gatorade (thanks Dick for providing) and a sugar pastry (for the sugar replenishment), and watched to ensure I was

alright. By the time the weigh-in was over I felt better and good enough to drive home. I'm sorry there are no photos of the weigh-in for the Bass Bites this month because the photographer (me) was out of action.

However, thanks to our money winners we do have the following input as to how they caught their fish this month.

### Martineau & Arvizu Fish T-Rigged Plastics to Win

The **First Place** team of **Jeff Martineau & Ernie Arvizu** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 15.95 lbs. The team also won the prize for **1st Place Big Bass** - 4.15 lbs - and the **Super Pot** option.

After the tournament, Jeff remarked, "We started out on some main lake points that had grass and fish habitats. We threw Texas rigged lizards and worms and caught a limit after



**"We Practice Catch and Release"**

about two hours. We then moved further up the lake to where I caught a six pounder on Monday morning. I hooked a big one over 6 pounds and we lost it next to the boat. As we continued down the bluff, I caught a four pounder - again on a Texas rigged worm. It made us feel a little better about losing that big one. Ten minutes later I hooked another four pounder that came unbuttoned as it jumped in front of the boat. We then returned to the main lake where we drop shotted reefs and managed a couple more quality fish to cull with. I definitely didn't expect to win considering we lost those two big ones. We were fortunate to get so many quality bites throughout the tournament."

### **Carolina Rig and Cranks Take Pikul & Skelly To Second Place Finish**

In **Second Place** the team of **Ron Pikul & Ralph Skelly**

#### **Next Meeting Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 7 September** 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 Roosevelt** on **21 September 2011**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

finished with 13.67 lbs for their five bass.



Ron Pikul reported, "First I want to say fishing back to back tournaments with Ralph was a real pleasure; all around great guy and I had a great time. We fished grass beds on the main lake near large drop-offs. Most fish were Carolina rigged, and we only got 7 or 8 bites, but all were quality fish. I contribute our success to pre-fishing with our pal John Majersky and patience to wait for the fish. We fished 4 spots and all produced. It was finally nice to pre-fish and think you have a plan and it actually works tourney day! Ralph caught our big fish cranking while bass were on a feeding frenzy! I think I found a new favorite lake!"

Ralph Skelly added, "I fished again with Ron Pikul and had a great day. Ron was at the parking lot waiting for me when I arrived. Fortunately Ron had pre-fished earlier in the week and had a plan in mind. We headed for his first spot and

Ron caught a nice fish while it was still dark. I was hoping I wouldn't knock it off with the net because it was real hard to see the fish. As it became lighter in the sky, Ron nailed another nice fish and then one more before we moved to his second spot. He told me he was marking fish suspended in about 20 feet of water, so I picked up my crankbait and nailed a healthy bass. At no time did we have to measure a fish for legal size; they were all obviously over 12 inches long. I had fished the week before and was totally skunked on that trip, so this was one great day for me. Thanks Ron for doing the homework. I can't wait for the next tournament because regardless of the results I always enjoy fishing with the guys from this club. Who needs sleep anyway?"

### **Jamie Shaw & Butch Nessline Fish Spooks & Cranks For 3rd Place**

**Team Jamie Shaw & Butch Nessline** weighed five bass for 13.16 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

This team fished main lake flats holding grass beds in 25 feet of water using top water Spooks and Norman crank baits. Butch Nessline landed their biggest bass weighing 3.25 lbs.

### **Paul Cormany & Ken Buvala Dropshot to 4th Place Finish**

The **4th Place** Team of **Paul Cormany & Ken Buvala** weighed 13.10 lbs with a five

bass limit.

Ken Buvala reporting for both he and Paul said, "We left the launch and went directly to the area called the Meadows, directly west of Ship Rock and since we were the 9th boat to launch, we were not the 1st boat there. I think there were 5 boats there already and I began to wonder if the entire club was going to fish this spot. Paul caught our biggest fish on his 2nd cast using a drop shot. We had a limit of fish in the boat before it got light and were culling before the sun came up. We caught all of the fish there on the drop shot rig. Just before the sun came up, some fish started boiling in the center of where all the boats were circled-up; this started a casting frenzy among the boaters with only one fish caught. Paul was using some drop shot worms that I had never heard of before and now can't remember the name of. I used Orange Crush, Green Weenie, Red Crawler, Red Flake Curly Tail, Silver Shad Leach and Red Flake Zipper, and others, all Robo Worms. Needless to say that they were biting everything we would throw at them.

We left that area as the bite slowed and went to Bass Cove, where I caught another bass and then to Divider Reef, where Paul caught one and then back to The Meadows

where there was still a bunch of our club members plus a number of non-member boaters. We saw Lew land a bass, but no one else, including us, so we left and went to a spot closer to the ramp, but didn't hook anything and finally as time was running out we moved down to a bank along the north side of the lake by Sunset Ridge and with 18 minutes left I caught our last upgrade fish. Every fish landed was on the drop shot.

Paul threw a swim bait a couple of times at the boils with no luck as did I. I brought a number of different rigged rods and threw a jig, crank bait, swim bait, and Senko with no takers. I have to say that I learned a lot from Paul about where to fish, what to use and how to rig a swim bait in a manner that I never knew. Ironically, Paul and I fished back to back tournaments together and not only did he share his knowledge with me, but also some of his swim

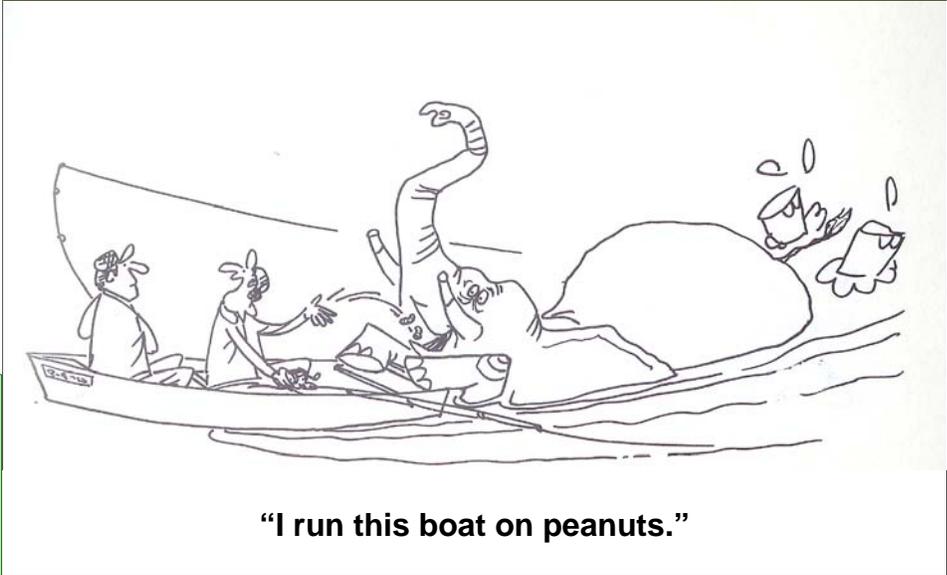
baits, drop shot baits and jigs with creature baits. Hope to fish with him again - he is a really Great Guy!"

### Bluegill and Yellow Bass Split Goon Fish Pot

The **Goon Fish** pot was split between two teams for their fish with identical weights - .26 lbs. **Daniel Elias & Bob Jolley** weighed the Yellow Bass and **Lew Southard & Gordon Drake** brought in the Bluegill. **Lew** also accounted for the **2nd Place Big Bass** of the event which weighed 4.06 lbs.

Bob Jolley remarked about the Goon Fish they caught: "Our goon fish was a yellow bass that was about the same size as Daniel's crank bait. Daniel battled this monster for about two seconds. He caught it late in the tournament and it was amazing it held up to tie for the largest goon fish. You never know, so it pays to keep even the small ones."

**NOTICE**  
Skeet Reese will be at Cabela's 30 August from 5 to 7 PM giving a presentation on "Choosing the Right Lure."



"I run this boat on peanuts."

**Membership**  
As of August 19, 2011 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 83 active members.

**Statistics for the tournament:**

38 men fished 7 hours each, bringing 73 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 174.28 pounds with a 4.58 pound average per fisherman. All but two fish were released back into the lake after weighing to fight again another day.



**Option Pots**

*By Jerry Askam*

**5 lb Pot:** For the third tournament in a row no one boated a 5 lb bass so the pot of \$625 rolls over to Roosevelt in September. Jeff Martineau weighed the biggest bass coming to the scales at 4.15 lbs.

**Goon Fish Pot:** For the first time in club history we had a tie for the Goon Fish Pot with Lew Southard landing a Bluegill weighing a whopping .26 lbs on a drop shot and Daniel Elias nailing a Yellow Bass the same size on a crankbait. They split the pot of \$165. This was the smallest winning Goon Fish this year. A lesson to learn for any new club members is don't throw back a small Goon Fish because you just never know, it could be a winner worth some decent bucks.

**Super Pot:** Tournament winners Jeff Martineau and Ernie Arvizu won the Super Pot worth \$185 and also had the tournament's big fish. They take home total winnings of \$717. Jeff became the first boater to win two tournaments this year and Ernie became the first non-boater to do the same. Good job guys and congrats on

a great season so far.



**Member Guest Column**

*By Ken Buvala*

**The Continuing Saga of "Truckin' with Ken"**

Well, lately, I would not suggest you "Truck with Ken". Last tournament I broke down on the road going "into" Bartlett and this month I got a flat tire on the front driver's side on the road going "out" of Saguario.

In the last month now I have replaced a fan clutch; radiator, air compressor, serpentine belt and idler arm, and the tire got cut from something on the road and needs to be replaced. It's an oversize tire, but will not cost me anything, other than the pain and suffering in the hot sun of changing the tire. As I was preparing to turn on the road (Bush Hwy) heading back to the Beeline Hwy, I heard a noise like I had something stuck on the tire and every time I drove a little, it would start and stop. Then I hear a final "sssssssss" but this time I thought it was something coming from the engine. I got out and checked and saw nothing. I got back in the truck and that's when I realized that I had a flat tire. I have never had a flat on this truck and it is a 1998 model, so I started on my adventure of changing the tire. You have to crank the spare down and crawl under the truck to release it. The jack that comes with the truck is a baby jack that is only good if you might be driving a "Smart car",

aka a puny little thing.

So as I am working on this problem, along comes Tony Medina again with Hal Hensey riding shot gun for him. Remember last month Tony broke out the bailing wire for me near Lake Bartlett, and this time a little better jack which did the job and a star lug nut wrench and the two of them preceded help me change the "oversize" tire. Once again Tony arrived and save the day for me and I am sure glad that he did, because I don't think the little jack would have worked. I have AAA, but it would have taken forever for them to get out there, so let's hear it for Sir Tony and Prince Hal!



**Bits & Pieces**

*By Daniel Elias*

**New Abu Garcia Revo MGX and Villain Rods**

This past July I had the chance to go to the ICAST convention in Las Vegas with Dustin and Steve from Fisherman's Choice Pro Shop. ICAST is the largest sport fishing trade show in North America. Manufactures set up various size booths in the Las Vegas Convention Center in order to display their new products to retailers, distributors, and the media. Unfortunately this event is not open to the public as it is already quite crowded. Often these new products have been under tight wraps and are kept secret before their unveiling at the show.

Manufacturers have their pro-staff on hand working the booths in order explain products to potential buyers and the media. Honestly, as a fan of professional fishing it was pretty incredible to look around and see Kevin Van Dam, Skeet Reese, Rick Clunn, Paul Elias, and the rest of the bunch.

At one point I was in the Pure Fishing display area checking out the new Abu Garcia Revo MGX bait casting reel which was mounted on one of the new Abu Garcia Villain rods when someone walked up behind me and said, "Hey man, I'm Mike. What's your name?". I turned around and standing there behind me was Mike Iaconelli. He asked me if anyone had shown me the new MGX reels or Villain rods to which I replied, "No". He then explained to me all the benefits of the new Abu Garcia Revo MGX bait casting reel.

The Revo MGX is constructed with an X-Mag magnesium alloy frame and utilizes C6 carbon side plates which are lighter than aluminum. To further reduce weight the MGX employs a carbon swept handle and EVA foam handle knobs. The reel contains 10 bearings, nine of which are high performance corrosion resistant (HPCR) ball bearings. The drag is incredibly smooth as it utilizes a high performance carbon matrix drag system. The cast control system uses what Abu Garcia calls Infinitely Variable Centrifugal Brake (IVCB-IV) system. Instead of having to

remove the side plate like you do on other reels to adjust the brakes the level of braking can be adjusted externally on the Revo MGX. When the spool spins the brakes move out to an adjustable plate instead of up on a pin like most other reels. This gives you a much finer level of adjustment which translates into better control of your cast and much lower odds of having a backlash. The MGX is offered in two gear ratios, 7.1:1 and 7.9:1. What's most impressive about this reel is that it weighs in at only 5.4 ounces! Apparently, I wasn't the only one who was impressed because this reel went on to win ICAST's "Best in Show" award for freshwater fishing reels.

After Mike went through this awesome new reel he moved on to the new Abu Garcia Villain rod series. This series of rods will initially debut with 9 bait casting and 5 spinning rods which weigh as little as 3.7 ounces. These rods were designed to balance perfectly with the Revo MGX but will also work great with any other reels you may have. He explained that the rods are built using 40 ton low resin content graphite (the industry standard for a premium grade rod) with carbon fibers integrated into the blank. The low resin content graphite blanks are significantly lighter than traditionally constructed rod blanks. The Villain rods feature C6 carbon total exposure reel seats in order to save weight and increase sensitivity. They all are designed with split grips and

use EVA foam handles to further save weight. The Villain rods use titanium framed guides with titanium nitride inserts for increased sensitivity and light weight. What's really impressive is that when the guides are attached to the rod they are wrapped with carbon fiber instead of using thread in order to save additional weight. There is also a Texas rig hook keeper integrated into every rod in the series for convenience.

These are some of the lightest bass rods ever made. The 6'9" medium heavy rod weighs in at only 4.1 ounces and the 8' heavy action flippin' stick weighs only 5.4 ounces. Now that's incredible!

I have to say, after Mike showed me this new combo and I had a chance to play with it a bit I was very impressed! I'm so impressed in fact that I will be selling all of my current rods and reels and will soon be fishing exclusively with the new Abu Garcia Revo MGX reels and Villain rods. I know that once I own these combos I'll have the lightest, most sensitive, and best performing bass rods and reels ever made.

Abu Garcia has not released any of these rods or reels quite yet but I'm anticipating that the Revo MGX will be available at Fisherman's Choice this fall and they should have the Villain rods available around Christmas time.

The Revo MGX will retail for \$349, and the entire line of

Villain rods will retail for only \$179. I work hard for my money and when I spend it on new tackle I want to make sure that I am getting my money's worth. I can say without a doubt that the Abu Garcia Revo MGX and Abu Garcia Villain rods are worth every penny.

If you have any questions about these rods or reels please feel free to ask me. As soon as I get mine I will be happy to let you take a look at them and make a few casts. Hopefully I can explain them as well as Mike did.

Next month I'll give you a full recap on many of the other items that were introduced at this year's ICAST show.



**Member Guest  
Column**  
By Bob Jolley

### 'Bucket List' Bass'n

My favorite sport fish has always been the smallmouth bass. I have fished for them for over forty years, both in northern Minnesota and Ontario, Canada. I have always been an above average smallmouth fisherman as opposed to a below average talent when fishing for AZ largemouth. And that's why I joined the MBA, to better learn how to catch them in the AZ lakes. And I haven't been disappointed as I have learned a ton from our members!

Back to my story. For many years I have been aware of the

Canadian Bass Championship which is held on Rainy Lake out of Fort Francis, Ontario. I have fished Rainy for many years and decided if I ever wanted to fish a big tournament, before I got too old to hold a fishing pole that I would do my best on Rainy going after the smallmouth. Hence, the first item on my 'bucket list'



I had no expectations of finishing in the top half of the 99 teams entered, I just didn't want to finish last and I wanted to see how it felt to fish in a big time tournament. There were many pros and celebrity teams including Al, Ron and James Lindner (In-Fisherman & Angler's Edge). James Lindner has won this tournament three times and Troy Lindner (FLW west coast) fished with his father Al. Many of Lindner TV shows have been filmed on Rainy Lake. For you hockey fans Dustin Byfuglien, a Stanley Cup winner with the Blackhawks and now with the Winnipeg Jets, fished in the tournament.

Most of the teams were from Minnesota and Canada with a few from Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa. I was the only one from Arizona and Troy Lindner is from LA. There was one Texan in the tournament, Bill Wilcox,

who with his partner Dorian Lindholm took first place last year. Wilcox, who has competed on the BASS Tour, is host of the Honey Hole All Outdoors TV show in Texas. What's incredible is he films 52 shows a year without a re-run. Bill brought his camera crew with him and they filmed the tournament. I doubt if you will see it on ESPN but maybe you can check out one of his shows if you're visiting Texas.

My partner, Ron Mazur, is a retired teacher from the Chicago area who spends his summers fishing for muskie on Lake of the Woods in Ontario. The tournament director hooked us up after both of us requested a partner. We fished out of his new boat, a Tuffy, designed primarily for walleye and muskie fishing. There were a lot of Lunds, Crestliners and many brands of bass boats. Lund, Mercury, Northland Tackle, Rapala and Ford Motor were the primary tournament sponsors.



It was nice fishing out of Ron's new boat but he also had a new fish finder and the Navionics chip was not compatible. This meant we had to fish the tournament without

a GPS on a 345 square mile lake full of rock and reefs. So we were stuck with using a lake map which really slowed things down.

On the first day of the tournament we traveled 23 miles to our first fishing spot and just before we got there we hit a reef which tore off half of the skeg, bent the prop and messed up the lower unit. The motor sounded like a clothes dryer out of balance but it still pushed us along but at a very slow pace. We fished for a half hour, without catching anything, and limped back to the ramp which took the rest of the day. That gave us a '0' weight for the first day.



Fortunately there was a new format for the three day tournament. The ten teams with the highest two day total weight would keep their weight and fish for the championship on the third day. The other 89 teams were split into two divisions and they all started fresh with no weight and each division had a payout. After the first day we new we were out of the top ten, which we didn't expect anyway, so we spent the second day pre-fishing for the fresh start on the third day.

The boat was still damaged and we couldn't go much more than a mile from the ramp since we were really slow. Well, would you believe, we came in with 13.74 lb. the last day and took 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Mercury division. We also beat out all of the Lindners and many of the other pros on the last day. Our payout was \$800 and we beat out 73 other teams that didn't cash a check.

There was a tie for the championship with both teams weighing in with 54.42 lb. That's a lot of big smallies.



I had a great time at the tournament, learned a lot and met some great people. This was a terrific start with my 'bucket list' but I think I'll stick with the MBA for my future tournament fishing. I just gotta' figure out how to catch those largemouth.

### A Letter To The Men's Helpline:

Hi Bob, I really need your advice on a serious problem:

I have suspected for some time now that my wife has

been cheating on me. The usual signs: if the phone rings and I answer, the caller hangs up; she goes out with the girls a lot. I try to stay awake to look out for her when she comes home but I usually fall asleep.

Anyway last night about midnight I hid in the shed behind the boat. When she came home she got out of someone's car buttoning her blouse, then she took her panties out of her purse and slipped them on.

It was at that moment crouched behind the boat that I noticed a hairline crack in the outboard engine mounting bracket.

Is that something I can weld or do I need to replace it?

### AND THAT'S HOW THE FIGHT STARTED!

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed. But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first, the shed, the boat, making beer. Always something more important to me. Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point.

When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a minute, and when I came out again I handed her a toothbrush. I said, "When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway."

And then the fight started... The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

*Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2011 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 Angler  
Since the Last Newsletter**

**Mike Strole (NB)**

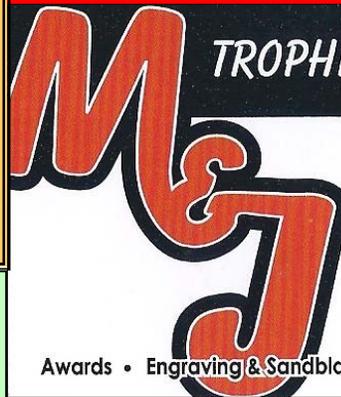
**Tackle Box Sales!**

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>
Terry Tassin (1)	Pflueger Echelon Bait casting reel Used once.	\$40

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 (MH)
20 July	Bartlett (N)
17 August	Saguaro (MH)
21 September	Roosevelt
19 October	Alamo
16 November	Bartlett

**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**

**Born in September**

**Brian Chambers**

**Pete Gesswein**

**Bob Jolley**

**Rich Lapointe**

**Chris Lee**

**Howard Thomas**

