

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JANUARY 2011

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective *by Dave Rice*

Another year has started and one tournament is out of the way. It was very hard fishing and not everyone caught fish, especially yours truly. I might say the good Lord blessed us with excellent weather again as has been the way for most of our tournaments. I read on one of the fishing reports that the fishing doesn't really turn on at Bartlett until after 4:00 PM. Oh well it was a good day anyway just to get out on the water.

I do have to make an apology to Jack Hughes for misinforming him of some information at the tournament. I got a brain lapse, which seems to happen more as I get older, and told him we would do a courtesy measurement for him. I forgot that starting with this new year we do not do courtesy measurements anymore and the boaters are suppose to have their own

measuring boards. It didn't cost Jack any money but did put him in a lower position on the final tally sheet. Sorry Jack it won't happen again. He was not DQ'ed but did loose 2 lbs and the weight of the short fish in his final outcome. I'll try harder, really guys I will.

I was glad to see all the boats that showed up for this tournament - 80% of the current members fished this one. If this was an indication of how the rest of the year is going to go, we are going to have an outstanding year. I also spoke to the hot dog cooker and Master Chef - Gary Grimes and he informed me that Jack Hughes is going to chip in and help him with the cooking duties from now on at the tournaments. Thanks Jack I know Gary will appreciate the help. Again thanks to all who pitched in and made the tournament at Bartlett a successful one.

For you that don't know, John Reichard had to cancel out of this tournament because the doctors thought his cancer had come back and he was going to have to go through Advanced Chemo treatments again. Well after reviewing the biopsy and scan the doctors made the decision not to do

chemo at this time. Needless to say John is glad and very relieved.

Let's keep him in our prayers just in case he needs our help in the future.

Stay safe! Your pres.

Lake Bartlett

January 19, 2011

by Terry Tassin

Really great weather for January. Warm air but with water temperatures lower than in current Texas lakes, and still very tough fishing - or should I say catching. Oh well, on with the "catching" reports.

Jeff Martineau & Bob Brewer Tops in Field of 27 Boats

The **First Place** team of **Jeff Martineau & Bob Brewer**, weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 7.85 lbs. The team also won the **Super Pot**

Happy Valentines Day!



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"

option.

Jeff Martineau said afterwards, "We started the day on a mid lake island, where we caught our first three fish including a two plus pounder. All were on small craw colored jigs. We then ran to another point in front of a large cut mid lake where we caught fish number four also on a small brown jig.

Knowing we had four fish in the well, and six hours left to fish we started to hit my quality fish confidence spots up-lake a ways. Well, four hours and four little eight inch bass later we still had only four keepers. We then decided to look for a limit fish. We targeted the same type of rock we caught all our fish on. The solid darker face rock seemed to be the deal. Fish number five came on a dropshot. Feeling better with a limit in the boat, we again went

looking for some better quality fish. We revisited a favorite bank of mine, where I broke a fish off earlier in the day. With thirty minutes left in the day, we caught our last and best fish, again on a little brown jig.

Kudos to Bob Brewer for catching both of our quality fish. The fish were very tough to catch but it seemed they were attracted to a smaller sized offering. They must be keying on smaller crawfish, and a certain type of rock."



1st Place
Bob Brewer & Jeff Martineau

with the net and netted him on the first try. This fish was caught in the area of the dam right off the bank in about 3 feet of water around 8:30 to 9:00 in the morning and turned out to be the tournaments biggest bass. To add just a little fisherman fun to this write-up; how does the old saying go...fishermen never lie."



2nd Place
Richie Rojas & Rich LaPointe

Team Neil Burns & Sean Ballard weighed five bass for 6.81 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Neil Burns wanted everyone to know how tough it was for him and Sean. "Sean and I prefished a couple times before our tournament with little success. The constantly rising water level had a lot to do with the slow fishing.

We started our day up river near the no wake area throwing crankbaits. Sean caught one early, but by 10:00 AM without another hit, we were concentrating on jigs and Robo worms - (Martens Madness). We fished one steep, rocky, stretch of bank about a quarter mile long several times the rest of the day. We knew the fish were

In **Second Place** the team of **Richie Rojas & Rich LaPointe** finished with 7.79 lbs for their four bass. Rich LaPointe included a 3.79 lb bass in their catch which turned out to be the **1st Place Big Bass** of the event.

Rich LaPointe provided this insight on the day of fishing. "Fishing Bartlett Lake on Wednesday morning in the cold, we got to the first place of fishing and I started jigging with a Yamamoto Hula Grub on the bottom. At first I thought I was hooked on the bottom. Then I said to Richie 'I got it loose', that's when I realized I had a fish. Richie got ready

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 2 February** 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 **23 February 2011**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

there, every now and then we found one that would bite. Bigger chunk rock, about 15 feet deep, with a pressure bite was what worked for us.”



Sean Ballard & Neil Burns
with a couple of bass

The **4th Place Team** of **Tony Medina & Charlie Ferrell** weighed 6.69 lbs with a five bass limit.

“What a tough day” said Charlie Ferrell. “Tony and I prefished together once before the tourney and also made a couple of solo trips trying to find a bite that was at least half way consistent. It seems that the only consistency to be found was that fishing was T O U G H for the both of us. One fish here and then one fish there seemed to be all either of us could muster. The only bright side was it seemed that both of us were getting a couple of quality bites each trip. So our game plan was to go out and grind out as many possible bites as we could and hope for the best.



Tony Medina & Charlie Ferrell
with some bass buddies

The day started off good with a 14.5 incher in the boat on about my 6th cast. Not too much later I lost a fish on a chatterbait and I was done for other than netting purposes until about eleven o'clock. Tony started chunking a jig that he had had good luck with on a previous trip and put our limit in the boat. Sometime between eleven and twelve we hit a nothing (literally: no rocks, no sticks, just soft bottom) piece of bank mid-lake and Tony stuck two jig fish. He had been kind enough to give me one of the jigs that he was catching fish on and I even managed to

catch one there. All three of those fish culled and I don't believe we got another bite after that.

Again, as seems to be the blessing of Midweek Bass, the weather was great and I had a great time out on the water. Clay did a great job running the scales and the tourney committee kept things rolling. Always great to see everyone and I'm looking forward to Rosey next month.”

The **5th Place Team** of **John Majersky & Lionel Frailey** weighed 6.13 lbs with a four bass limit. They also weighed the 2.95 lb **2nd Place Big Bass**

Lionel Frailey commented, “It was a slow start for us; I caught two fish in the first two hours, Then Majersky gave in and took me to “his spot”. I got two more, one was small. During all this action he lost a good one. I'm not sure how big



“I don't understand it, a minute ago they couldn't get enough of these minnows.”

Membership

As of January 21, 2011 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 66 active members.

the fish was but his rod was bent a little. In the next few hours John did get another one. Now you know the story, we would have tied up first place if his biggest fish had made its way into the boat. As a non boater I'd like to say, if you have a net, keep it where all the junk you own won't fill it up. John's big fish put us over the top. A nice day on the water and fun being out fishing with the club."



John Majersky with a prefish bass

John followed up with this comment. "I first want to say thank you to all who helped put this tournament together. I was fortunate to draw Lionel Frailey as my partner. He is a good fisherman, a good conversationalist, and a fantastic sandwich maker. I think I gained 2 lbs on tournament day! The overall fishing for us was slow. I hit a lot of areas and tried to locate the biggest bites we could. Lionel had three fish in the boat before I even caught one. I may have made a bad decision with one of Lionel's fish. I let one go back because his gill plate was nicked by the hook and was bleeding. If I would have kept the fish and took the penalty we may have

placed better. I chose to let the fish go. He swam away like nothing was wrong, so I hope he lived. We caught fish on a variety of lures, crank baits, jigs, Texas rigs and dropshots. Overall the day was fun and I was very surprised with our finish. I can also say that Wednesday was a 'grind'. We just would not give up, to the end! In fact, I kept telling Lionel, "Never give up". Hope to see you all at Roosevelt."

The 6th Place Team of Brad Woodburn & Bob Jolley weighed 5.64 lbs with a four bass limit. This was Brad's first tournament with the club.

Comments from Bob Jolley; "You heard it a hundred times on Wednesday and I'll say it again, "fishing was tough!" Brad and I worked our tails off to weigh in four fish. It could have been five but a really good one got off early in the morning. Fortunately Brad caught a nice one in the last hour which put us in the money.

Brad caught three of our fish, two of them on a Brown/Purple Bass Patrol Jig with a 330 Yamamoto Fat Body Craw. His third fish was caught on a Watermelon Candy Zoom Trick Worm fished on a shaky head. I caught our biggest fish with a Watermelon Seed Flickin N Shimmy Bass Pro Worm rigged Neko style (*Editor's note: Neko style is small nail in worm head with hook rigged wacky at front end of egg sack*). All of our fish were caught in the main lake.

Many of you know Brad, a

new MBA member, as a workhorse at Fisherman's Choice Pro Shop. He was a lot of fun to fish with and he treated me like one of his fishing guide customers. Anyone who draws him in future tournaments will be lucky to have him as your boater partner.



Bob Jolley & Brad Woodburn

We want to thank all of the members who helped with the weigh-in, and those hot dogs, what a great way to end the tournament!"

And finally we get to the **Goon Fish pot** which was won by **Team Mitch Ross & Steve Harbaugh**.

Steve Harbaugh said, "Just want to say I really enjoyed my day on the water with one of our newest members, Mitch Ross. Although the fishing, or should I say the "catching" wasn't so great, it was still a good day to be on the water. We picked up several dink fish but we were only able to bring one fish to the scale that barely hit 12 inches; but it's always good to at least get something on the board. Thank god I stopped Mitch from throwing back his monster bluegill! As a

new member he just couldn't believe that fish could be worth anything. TOLD YOU SO MITCH - \$205!! It was a pleasure to fish with Mitch, whoever gets him next time will have a good time."

Statistics for Alamo: 53 men fished 8 hours each, bringing 65 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 86.99 pounds. All fish were released back into the lake after weighing to fight again another day.



Option Pots

By Jerry Askam

5 lb Pot: The tournament's big fish was a 3.79 pounder weighed in by the team of Richie Rojas and Richard LaPointe. So for the eighth tournament in a row no one has been able to catch the elusive 5 pounder and the pot continues to grow and is now at a club record of \$2265. I have a feeling someone will cash in at Roosevelt, good luck to all.

Goon Fish Pot: The first Goon Fish prize of the year goes to the team of Mitch Ross, fishing his first tournament with the club, and Steve Harbaugh. Their 0.40 lb Bluegill, caught on a jig, edged a 0.31 Bluegill weighed in by the team of Daniel Elias and John Milkint. Mitch and Steve take home \$205.

Super Pot: The team of Jeff Martineau and Bob Brewer won the Super Pot worth \$205. They won without either of the tournament's two biggest fish

but were just one of five teams to weigh a limit on a tough fishing day at Bartlett. Congrats Guys.



Bits & Pieces

By Daniel Elias

The Midweek Bass Anglers

It's amazing how time flies. 2010 is in the books and we've already held our first tournament of 2011. But this month instead of looking ahead I want to take a quick look back at the previous year.

I joined Midweek Bass Anglers in December 2009 and was welcomed with open arms. I was immediately impressed with the club. Even before attending my first meeting I opened one of Terry's emails with all the club's operating documents and I was certain that I was joining a first class organization.

Our first tournament of the year was in January at Saguaro Lake and I think we all were a little relieved that it didn't rain and after looking back at a picture from that day I noticed that I was wearing a t-shirt so the weather turned out to be pretty good. Fortunately with the help of Doug Cunningham he and I won that tournament with 16.09 lbs; definitely a little more weight than I had expected.

In February we headed to Roosevelt for a pretty tough bite. It was cold in the morning but warmed up rather nicely later in the day. Clay Lippincott and Sean Ballard brought in

the winning bag weighing in at 10.22 lbs. That same day our fearless leader Dave Rice landed a bass that weighed 5.28 lbs netting him big bass honors and \$1005 for the 5 lb pot.

In March we headed to Lake Havasu to take in the sights and amazing beauty surrounding us. With the help of the club's resident "Net Master", Charlie Ferrell and I chalked up a win with 19.37 lbs. The 5 lb pot was won again by Lou Hirlemann with a bass weighing 5.57 lbs that was worth \$260 in addition to the big fish money and which turned out to be the Lunker of the Year.

In April we were off to Apache Lake and I think none of us really knew what to expect as it had been a long time since most of us fished it. The team of Steve Bowlin and Brian Jacobson won with 14.00 lbs and each one of them caught a bass over the 5 lb mark. Not bad for a lake that was supposedly still suffering from a major fish kill. Steve and Brian weren't sure who caught the bigger of the two bass but for the third straight tournament in a row the five pound pot was won, this time worth \$210.

In May our club fished Alamo Lake and during the ever changing post spawn conditions the team of Steve Cook and Gary Grimes came out on top with 12.67 lbs. The night before this tournament we held the first of our club cookouts for the year and Chef

Gary's burgers and brats certainly didn't disappoint.

June brought the club to Lake Pleasant. It was a very hot day and the final weights were very close. As a matter of fact it was the closest finish I've ever seen. Neil Burns and Lionel Fraley weighed in 10.19 lbs but it just wasn't quite enough to secure the win. Aaron Heath and Brian Jacobson brought in 10.20 lbs. That's only one one-hundredth of a pound difference! Now that's a narrow margin.

When July rolled around we were back at Lake Pleasant but this time we fished after dark. The temperatures were much more pleasant than the month before and the fishing was pretty similar. When the dust settled Mark Poe and Bruce Nelson took home the top prize after weighing in a 9.53 lb sack.

I think most were pretty excited to get back to Saguaro for our August tournament and with good reason because the summer action heated up nicely there. I was lucky enough to draw Doug Cunningham for the second time at Saguaro and after a pretty successful day we ended up weighing in 13.40 lbs. Unfortunately our sack included a dead fish and after a 5 lb penalty our net weight ended up being 12.90 lbs which wasn't enough to hold off the winning team of Mike Richter and Howard Thomas with 13.20 lbs. The five pound pot was almost won when Ron Pikul brought in a bass that

tipped the scales at 4.97 lbs but just couldn't make it quite to 5 lbs. What a heart breaker!

Our September tournament at Alamo Lake brought on some great camaraderie and some great fishing. Chef Gary was at it again and we had a huge turnout at the Tuesday night cookout. It appeared everyone caught their fair share of fish but by day's end Terry Tassin and Paul Cormany caught them better than everyone else weighing in a pretty healthy sack of 12.71 lbs.

As much fun as our September cookout was I think the October cookout was even better. We had some new members with us and apparently the food helped their fishing as one of our new members, Bill Tyger, paired with long standing member Ken Buvala pulled off the win with 9.70 lbs after an extremely windy afternoon and a very tough bite.

We finished the year in November with a very exciting tournament at Bartlett Lake. Most seemed to catch a lot of fish but the bigger ones were a little tough to come by. All but two teams weighed in a limit with 2nd through 9th place only separated by one pound, and 9th through 17th place only separated by one more pound. When it was all said and done Tony Medina and Dick Kirberg took top honors with 9.95 lbs.

With the weights being so close at our last tournament the Angler of the Year race

turned out to be a real nail biter. The top 4 anglers were only separated by a total of 5 points. Now that's what I call close!

Daniel Elias-----1315
Tony Medina-----1314
Butch Nessline---1311
Steve Cook--- --1310

What a great year! I personally want to thank everyone in the club for making my first year with you a whole lot of fun. I especially want to thank our 2010 Board of Directors (Dave, Sean, Terry, Jerry, and Clay); without you guys working as hard as you do our club just wouldn't be what it is. I also want to thank Gary for the cooking, pulling the trailer, our new web site and everything else he does. Ken thanks for bringing the trailer to a couple tournaments as well.

We have such a great group of guys who know how to fish, have fun, and work together to reach our common goals and we should all be very grateful for that.

On a final side note after tabulating the winning weights at each tournament I determined that the average winning weight for our tournaments in 2010 was 11.59 lbs. So if you have any friends who think they can do better bring them to one of our meetings and have them join our club. They can enjoy Gary's cooking and then one of us can win their money; unless of course the new member is Bill Tyger because obviously he took ours. Oh the memories.

Take care, and let's make 2011 great!

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett - January 19, 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:

Mitch Ross (B)
Scott Smith (NB)

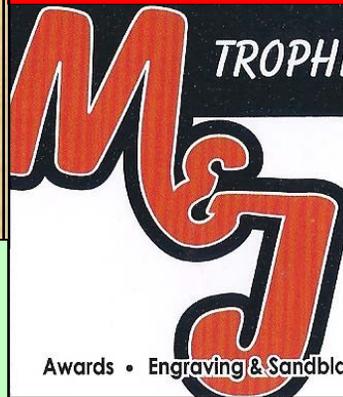
Tackle Box Sales!

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>
Larry White	3 New in boxes Quantum Tour Edition PTYE1170 Right Handed Reels	\$90 each or all for \$240

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 February

Rick Brown
Neil Burns
Ken Buvala
Ron Malnar
Jim Schultz
Mike Self
Jim Trayner

