

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JULY 2012

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective *By Gary Grimes*

With the over abundance of boaters for our July Bartlett night tournament I elected to fish as a non-boater. I usually like to do this a couple of times a year for two reasons, #1 being it is much easier. As a boater, I usually spend a couple of hours prepping my boat for the tourney, things like fuel, oil, checking tires, and bearing fluid. If it's hot I usually make sure I have ice for both my partner and the fish. And since I am not towing the boat, I have the option to carpool with someone. Also, I will usually pre-fish at least twice, in order to give our team a fighting chance to win, so I save myself a little time this way as well. When the tourney is done I also spend a couple of hours cleaning up the boat, and performing any maintenance I might need for the next trip, this was especially nice for this tournament considering I didn't

roll into bed till 3:00 AM, it was nice not having a boat to put away. On the water it is a bit easier as well, firstly the burden of locating the fish doesn't seem as heavy as when I am the boater. I don't have to worry about the boat's position, since my partner will be running the trolling motor all night. The main drawback to switching from a boater to non-boater is determining which gear to bring. This trip was made much easier because my boater, Paul Cormany, had identified a pattern which simplified my choices of tackle.

The second reason I like to fish occasionally as a boater is to learn more. The two things I took away from my time with Paul were firstly, Paul trusts his electronics and uses them. I don't think a minute goes by when he had not looked at the graph below his feet on the front of the boat; if it shows fish at 22 feet, our baits will hit that target area. The second thing I notice is how aware and considerate Paul was to me as a non-boater. He was careful to position the boat in a way that allowed me good casting lanes to areas where we were targeting fish. He also announced to me when he was going to reposition the boat, which allowed me time to make

sure my line was safe.

I prefer being the boater, but there is nothing like an occasional trip as a non-boater to refresh my perspective.

Lake Bartlett

July 18, 2012
By Terry Tassin

So, how did the winners catch their fish this month?"

Jeff Mabry & Allen Clark Pre-fishing Pays Off With 1st Place Finish

Throwing crank baits and T-Rigged worms the team of **Jeff Mabry & Allen Clark** wound-up weighing the winning creel of five bass weighing 11.33 lbs. The team also won the prize for the **2nd Place Big Fish**.

"How I remember the night's events goes something like this", Jeff commented. "I decided to go as a boater for this tourney since my boat is set



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"

up pretty well for night fishing and I am very familiar with Bartlett Lake. I drew Allen Clark whom I had never met until 45 minutes before the tourney started. We did discuss what we would be doing and I had pre-fished on Friday and Sunday prior to the tourney. I really didn't know what to do prior to around 6:30, so I went to one of my old spots and tried to drop shot. I put two in the boat, but nothing to brag about.



1st Place
Allen Clark & Jeff Mabry

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 1 August** 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 **night** event at **Lake Saguaro** on **15 August 2012**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours presently are **5 PM to Midnight**.

We left that spot and went to where the wind may have been pushing shad in the back of a cove and we threw some cranks but had no luck. At 6:30ish I knew it was time to head up to around Bartlett Flats. On Friday the air was dead calm and I found a nice top water bite. On Sunday it was windy and I found a nice crank bait bite. I knew I was going to throw one of the two depending on the conditions. We had wind, so I threw the crank bait. I caught two fish quickly one was nice the other filled a spot in the live well for a while. I worked that pattern until almost dark without much luck other than one more keeper which turned out to be the smallest of our five. I was

just about done throwing the crank when I said "okay last cast". About 2 cranks of the reel handle after it hit the water I caught our big fish and the second big fish of the tourney. It turned out not to be our last cast, but was our last fish on that pattern.

After dark my plan was to start throwing shaky head craws or Texas rig the rest of the night. I left that spot and started with the Texas rig at our next stop. On our first bank I managed a couple on the Texas rig but nothing nice until I got to one of my favorite spots. I threw my rig where I wanted, but ended up with a bit of a backlash. When I got the line straightened out I felt some weight and set another fish near 3 lbs. I figured this put



The Rules By Gary Grimes

Continued on page 3

The Five Pound Pot: This pot is a separate fee, progressive, closed pot for the qualified member who catches the biggest bass (largemouth or smallmouth) five pounds or over. If the pot is not won, it rolls over to the next month, and continues to rollover until won. A few things to remember,

- * The 5 Pound pot is a closed pot. New entries are not allowed once the pot has begun.
- * Re-entries by a member who became ineligible due to a lapse in pot payments are not allowed. If you forget to pay, you are out.
- * The pot remains closed until someone catches a five pound bass, and thereby wins the pot. The pot then reopens for any club member.
- * The exception to this rule is at the start of the year. At the first meeting each January, a 'one time good deal' will be allowed where all club members who are not currently enrolled in the current five pound pot may back pay and become enrolled in the currently running contest.
- * All fees must be paid at, or prior to, the regular monthly club meeting.
- * Members are allowed to prepay into this pot. This prepayment is limited to the current calendar year. There will be no refunds from this pot.

around 10 lbs in the boat and had us in position for a check. I had one fish in the live well that was only around 1.25 lbs that I really wanted to get rid of. We made a few more stops catching small fish and we made one more move on a spot that a friend showed me on Sunday. First cast was another 1.75 that I figured put us around 11 lbs. It was my last fish, and the last one we put in the live well.

Allen caught another fish that didn't quite make the cut. It was a fun night and a pleasure to fish with Allen. I look forward to fishing with him again. I have been fishing tourneys for about a year now and this is my first win.

I consider Bartlett my home lake and the one I fish the most. Those two fish were the biggest I have ever caught out of that lake. It was nice they came the same night in a tourney! No one can convince me that luck isn't a factor in fishing tournaments!!!

Terry Tassin & Lionel Frailey finished with 8.43 lbs for their five bass. Lionel also caught the **1st Place Big Bass** which weighed 3.67 pounds.

Terry had this to say about the fishing for this tournament. "I have to say that Lionel Frailey is a great guy to fish with. He even brought sandwiches for both of us for the evening.



2nd Place
Terry Tassin & Lionel Frailey

We were number 11 in the start line and when we saw all the boats in front of us heading up river we decided we would

start down near the dam. We started fishing under the power lines with no luck but did experience some minor heat ill effects.

It was so hot in the direct sun we decided to head over and fish the high rocky wall from the dam back to the marina. It was definitely cooler in the shade along the wall. Lionel hooked our first and biggest bass of the day drop shotting a Robo worm close to the wall. We caught several more 'dinks' in the area and then moved on down the wall slowly. More small ones and then later that evening we moved across the lake to the area of the off shore islands. We drop shotted some more small fish then about 30 minutes before the end of the tournament we decided to go back and try the area Lionel had caught our biggest bass at the beginning of the tournament.

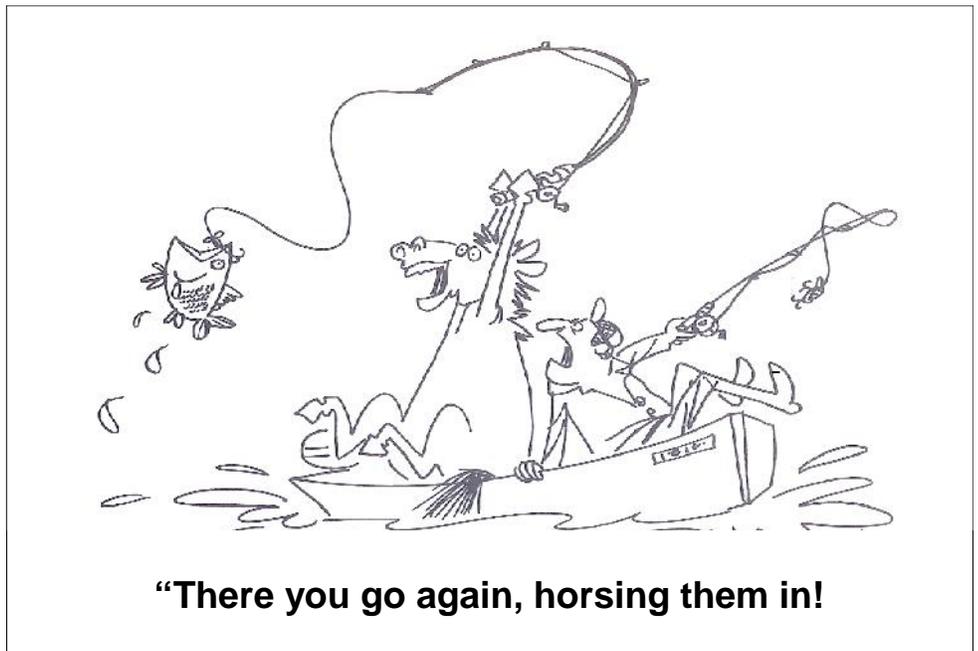
We fished the wall for 15 minutes and just as I was telling Lionel it was time to

Tassin & Frailey Drop Shot Main Lake to Win Second Place

In **Second Place** the team of

Sportsman's Warehouse Big Bass Prize

Lionel Frailey is the winner this month of the Sportsman's Warehouse prize of a \$20 gift card for the largest bass weighed by a club member pre-signed-up for this prize. Lionel's 3.67 lb bass was the largest bass weighed at Lake Bartlett.



"There you go again, horsing them in!"

secure the gear for the ride back to the ramp, he called out "I've got one". We thought it was another little fish so Lionel hustled to get the fish into the boat. However, as Lionel started to wind in line he said the fish felt bigger and to get the net. Well to make a long story short, I netted the fish and it turned out to be the second biggest fish we had boated that night. At this point we felt we might make it into the money little dreaming we would finish in 2nd Place.

Launching went well but the recovery of boats at the end of the tournament took longer than usual – probably because of the lack of lighting on the ramp. The weigh-in worked well and thanks go to Lou Hirlemann for cooking up the hotdogs – in the Navy we would call that "MidRats" (midnight rations). All in all it was a good tournament and we finished in good shape for not having pre-fished."

Lionel added, "The 5 O'clock temperature was 105 or 107 degrees, just right for two old guys – yeah sure. Fishing in 10 to 25' by the dam was very slow. We moved to the rock wall area and then, I remembered a special Robo worm I had bought at Phoenix Fishing; 10 minutes later I hooked-up and boated a 3 plus pounder as our first and biggest fish of the night. Something good was going on and that broke the ice for the catching of fish dry spell we were having.

Terry and I caught about 15

small ones, culling a few as we went along. As the evening progressed, it started to cool down just one or two degrees which made us physically feel better. Wanting bigger fish Terry caught a good one we were able to cull with. Then, it was time for the last cast! With a blue sparkle lizard in deep water by the dam, I brought in another nice one about 2 1/2 lbs. Then the race for the weigh-in was on. Terry sure eats a lot – snicker, snicker; but he needs to drink more water. It was really a fun time."

Team Paul Cormany & Gary Grimes Jig-Up 3rd Place

Team Cormany & Grimes weighed five bass for 8.12 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Paul Cormany commented, "I fished with Gary Grimes for the very first time at our night tournament at Bartlett this month. We caught all but two of our fish on jigs. I caught one fish on a 10" Power worm and Gary caught one fish on a lizard.

We hit our starting spot and it was the 'Gary Grimes Show'. I think he put five fish in the well before I caught my first one. Unfortunately, Gary had a good one come unbuttoned and I broke one off about five feet under the boat. Just before dark, we made a major move to a different spot. Shortly after we arrived there, Gary hooked a good one and broke it off. Then I hooked another good

one and it came unbuttoned as I tried to back off the drag to prevent another break off. A cast or two later, I hooked our best fish of the night and it jumped off at the net. I thought the fish jumped into the net until I saw it floating empty next to the boat. We were not having a very good night. Finally, I caught our two best fish off that spot and I think Gary caught a couple of upgrades there as well. We made a short move and we each managed one more upgrade in the next hour or so. We finished out the night at the previous spot and I caught one more upgrade there as well.

We found the bite to be unusual in that the strikes were very soft most of the time and the fish would swim toward the boat and suspend off the bottom. Several times we thought we missed the bite only to find we were hooked-up after reeling up about 10 feet of slack. Weird. Gary and I had a great time fishing together and, unfortunately, it will probably be long time before we will be paired again since we both fish as boaters.



**3rd Place
Gary Grimes & Paul Cormany**

Congratulations to Jeff Mabry and Allen Clark on the win. Those guys smoked everybody. And congratulations to Terry Tassin and Lionel Frailey on their Second Place finish and Big Fish. If I remember right, Terry caught the big fish in our last night tournament at Bartlett so it's great that this time his partner Lionel caught the 1st Place Big Fish. I look forward to seeing everyone at Saguaro next month. Hopefully, we'll have a few more non-boaters enter and we'll have an even better turn out."

Gary added, "As Paul said, we began the tournament down by Yellow Cliffs, at a spot where Paul had located fish while pre-fishing. We graphed fished at around 20 feet, and worked this area for the next two and a half hours, fishing the bottom slowly and catching our limit, culling a couple of times. We made a decision to move prior to dark, to another spot located by the Marina. This spot offered structure from 15-30 feet, with deep water access nearby. We worked this spot off and on the rest of the night, ultimately culling all of our fish. The bite was a bit odd tonight; I have never lost so many fish, either from short bites or coming unhooked, all while jig fishing. My partner Paul is a super guy to fish with, has lots of knowledge, experience and a real pleasure to talk to."

Team Brown & Golden Reel In 4th Place

The 4th Place Team of Rick Brown & Chuck Golden

weighed 7.83 lbs with a five bass limit. Thanks to Rick's 8.91 lb catfish the team also takes home the **Goon Fish** prize.

Chuck Golden reported, "WOW 4th place -- who knew! First of all I would like to thank Rick Brown for a very enjoyable day and night on the lake. I had never been on Bartlett, so I really can't give you any information on where we went. I will say that on take-off, everyone went to the left and we went right (I think towards the dam).



**4th Place
Chuck Golden & Rick Brown**

We both started with drop-shot rigs using different colors. I hooked the first fish (a little dink of course) and lost it when it jumped. Rick hooked the next one and he got it into the boat -- yea we are on the board! We continued fishing up near the dam for a while without much luck, so we moved and started kind of point hopping, catching one here and one there. I really can't remember where we caught the fish but I do know Rick was doing most of the catching. We were still fishing

drop-shots (various colors) and a Texas rigged craw. After it got dark, we moved back to where we had started and stayed there until weigh-in time.

Rick caught the catfish Goon Fish a little before dark while we were point hopping. We were hoping it was a bass but knew by the way the fight was going that it was probably a cat. When we got it into the boat, Rick was trying to get the hook out with the pliers. Well the fish flopped, the pliers slipped, and the hook went deeply into Rick's hand. It was deep! He pushed the barb through and I cut the barb off with a pair of side cutters. And you know what; Rick didn't even cry or anything, what a tough guy! I know that would have brought a tear or two to my eyes."

Rick added, "Fishing was a little slow for Chuck and I. We started the day down towards the Dam. A spot in which I

2013 Officer Nominations:

Recommendations for members willing to run for club office for 2013 should be to the Secretary by email or phone call no later than 1 September 2012. Be sure nominees will serve before nominating

2013 Bylaw & Tournament

Rule Changes: All proposed changes should be submitted to the Secretary no later than 1 September 2012 on the club form which has been provided by email.

fished with my wife Amy last Friday and she proceeded to put 5 fish in the boat for about 9lbs in about 10min. I had "High Hopes" for this spot, but unfortunately for Chuck and I the fish were no longer there, at least that's my Story. We moved all over the lake, picking up little fish here and there, and were fortunate enough to pick up a couple 2 pounders. We fished mostly drop shot worms, craws, and Baby Brush Hogs. I had a great time, and Congrats to Jeff and Allen for a nice bag of fish."

Statistics for the tournament: Thirty-six (36) men fished 7 hours each, bringing 95 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 126.56 pounds with a 3.52 pound average catch per fisherman. All but two fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



Treasure Chest

By John Milkint, Treasurer

It should be no surprise that Lake Bartlett did not produce a 5 lb Bass. That means that the carryover to August is \$595. There are 37 anglers in the pot and eligible for the August tournament. I would ask that until the pot is won, please do not include the 5 lb pot in your entry fee unless you are currently eligible. Returning the \$5 costs the club extra checks and stamps to return it to those who attempt to enter the pot when they are ineligible.

The big winners for our July

tournament were in boat #17 - Jeff Mabry and Allen Clark. 1st place and 2nd big fish totaled \$490.

Our club secretary, editor and publisher of Bass Bites, Terry Tassin and his co-angler, Lionel Frailey garnered 2nd place and split \$474. Their big fish weighed 3.67 lbs, a giant by Bartlett standards.

\$172 goes to Paul (*always in the money*) Cormany and Gary Grimes.

Rick Brown and Chuck Golden came in 4th place for \$88. They added to that total with the largest goon fish worth \$180.

The club is in good shape financially and the board is currently working on a budget to determine the expenses and prizes for our annual club banquet in January. Put the date of January 9th on your calendar for the dinner and awards night.



Weighing-In

By Jack Hughes, Tmx Director

Another very good tournament at Bartlett and all teams weighed in five fish. Considering all of the things that could have gone wrong on a very dark night no a lake where the water has receded and made the lake very hazardous, things worked out alright.

I want to thank everyone who participated and especially in

the manner you all conducted the launching and recovery of boats. It went so smoothly we even got an extra 10 minutes of fishing in with the early start. In my opinion it also shows what quality people you all are.

I think we all had our memories reinforced that night time fishing is even more challenging than fishing in the day time. In my past life in special operations we always went to work when the sun went down. I still think it is a lot easier walking through the jungle at night than night time fishing. Night time fishing sure has a lot more problems.

This tournament was a first for me in that it was the first time I have ever fished a tournament as a non boater. I did it intentionally to better understand non boater issues. Things I never think about were all at once before me; where do I store my gear, your mind always telling you this is not your boat so don't damage it, not as much fishing tackle, the strangeness of a different boat, how the boat reacts to water conditions and a 100 more things that crossed my mind and I even managed to forget my PFD and had to borrow one because mine is always on my boat.

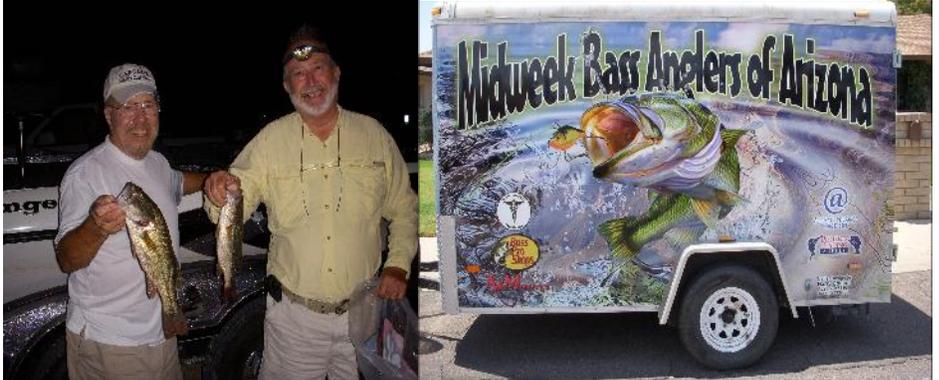
Thankfully, I fished with Ricky Boehm and for those of you that have never fished with Ricky he is absolutely fun to fish with and in my opinion could conduct classes on making your non boater comfortable not only while on the lake but before and after

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett - July 18, 2012

the tournament. He was very considerate on how he positioned the boat and always considered lanes for me to fish. He also was very communicative on what he was doing and going to do next. Thanks Ricky for a great experience!

There was one negative during the tournament and I have to bring it to the members attention; club rules call for the wearing of Personal Floation Devices (PFD) and kill switches must be attached to the boater at all times when the main motor is running. This includes when a non boater is boarding or exiting the boat to start or finish a tournament. The penalty for violating this rule is disqualification. During this tournament there was one report to me of a boater driving his boat without wearing his PDF and numerous non boaters were seen entering the boat from the dock without wearing their PDF. In the future let's remember this club rule and follow it before a team is disqualified for breaking the rules or even worse a PDF is needed and it is not being worn. The board members will be watching this more closely starting at our next tournament.

Finally, we have had a lot of comments about night fishing both pro and con. If you have a chance drop me a short email and your comments on night fishing.



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2012 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 Anglers
Since the Last Newsletter**

**Eugene Pauling (NB)
Keith Thompson (NB)**

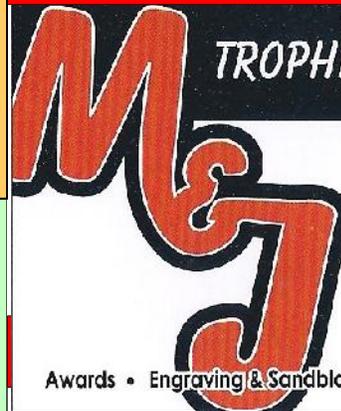
Tackle Box Sales!

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>
Jim Halka	2012 Motor Guide TM Call 509-460-2809	\$500

Something to sell? Contact the Editor

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**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday
Born in the Month of August**

- Charlie Ferrell
- George Fuzfa
- Al Gray
- Jeff Mabry
- Dave Nelson
- John Reichard
- Ralph Skelly
- Dwayne Steel



**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 (Night)
15 August	Saguaro (Night)
19 September	Roosevelt
17 October	Alamo
21 November	Bartlett