

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JUNE 2011

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective *by Dave Rice*

It appears the tournament went well at Pleasant and quite a few fish were caught. Again this month I apologize for not making the tournament but as Terry has told you I have injured my back and getting around is a little difficult at this time. I can walk and do other things but to stand or sit for 6 hours and cast as many times as we do would not be wise for me at this time. I am seeing a specialist and hopefully they can do something for me. On another note I will continue to do my job as your president as long as I can do it properly. I just won't be fishing for a little while until I can get things straightened out with the old back.

I do want to thank all who helped at the tournament to make it another good one. Next thing I would like you all to consider who you want to

nominate to run for an office on the board next year. Lew Southard has already said he would not be running again for vice president because of FLW obligations next year. I am unsure if I am going to run again due to my back problems but will know more later. Also if you have any changes to suggest in the bylaws get them to Terry so we can talk them over at the board meeting.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the next general meeting the first Wednesday in July. Take care all and stay safe.

Lake Pleasant

June 15, 2011
by Terry Tassin

With the super clear water at Lake Pleasant it reminded me of fishing Lake Havasu in March - only without the great 'catching' that took place at Havasu. But enough about the water clarity, lets get on to the winner's reports.

Jamie Shaw & John Reichard Find Lake UnPleasant - Pleasant!

The First Place team of **Jamie Shaw & John Reichard** weighed the winning creel of four bass weighing

10.24 lbs. This weight included the 3.21 lb **2nd Place Big Bass**. The team also won the **Super Pot** option.



**1st Place
John Reichard & Jamie Shaw**

John stated, "Jamie Shaw and I started fishing the right side of the bank just after the first S turn in the river. We threw top water and had several hits but were unable to catch any fish. We moved on up the river fishing the right side and then over to the left side. We found a hole that gave up three fish - thanks to Jamie's Lowrance HDS-8 with down scan. Those fish turned out to be our smallest and two largest fish. We then went back down the lake to fish around the Sheriffs area on the west side of the lake. We threw Peoples worms, bold bluegill, morning dawn and jigs. All our fish came on plastics. Jamie and I had a great time fishing together as a team."

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"



**2nd Place Big Bass
Jamie Shaw**

In **Second Place** the team of **Gary Asmus & Tai Au** finished with 9.46 lbs for their five bass.

Tai remarked, "Lake Pleasant can best be compared to a woman. She's complicated, changes her mind all the time, confuses you, and let's face it...she can be downright brutal at times. She has put smiles on my face at times but has broken my heart many times.

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 July** 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 our **ANNUAL NIGHT** event at **Lake Bartlett** on **20 July 2011**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **5 PM to 12 Midnight**.

She and I have a love hate relationship but I was happy to say that she was forgiving during the tournament.

Anyway, this is my second showing in Midweek. I feel very lucky and fortunate to have done so well thus far with the partners I've drawn. Gary Asmus is just an awesome guy and any non-boater would be lucky to draw him. Gary and I had decided to go pre-fish on Sunday. We both shared our experiences on the way to the lake and decided we would check out my usual spots since I used to live a few minutes from there.

First spot we pulled up to was on the main lake. It was a flat that led to a steeper wall with points and some small cuts on it. Gary got to work very quickly and caught a nice keeper on a Reaction Innovations Skinny Dipper in Money Shot Violet. A few minutes later, I answered back with a 6 inch Gary Yamamoto Senko in black/blue fleck and caught a nice 3.5 lber. We decided to leave to check out what was happening in the other areas of the lake. By the end of the day, we had pattered main lake points, steep walls, and banks near deep water that is near creek/lake channels using a combination of swimbaits, Senkos, and dropshot.

On judgment day, we decided that we would do a "re-run." The fish were still there but it seems like they shrank in size. I believe we had a limit around 8:00 AM with two tiny little guys. It took us until 10:00 AM

to cull them out.

We used mostly drop shot and Senkos and worked the banks. The drop shot was the ticket to working the deeper banks near the creek and lake channels. We caught our fish in anywhere from 5 ft to 30 ft of water. I was using both the 5 inch and 6 inch Senkos in various colors. I used a darker color like black/blue fleck or purple/blue fleck before the sun came up. After the sun came up, I switched to lighter colors like the light watermelon with small red fleck. My color choice was pretty much the same for the dropshot. Darker colors when there was little light out, lighter colors when the sun came up. We didn't get bit using swimbaits that day except for a few strippers.

Since I had to be at work at 12:00 sharp, we headed in at 10:30. After loading up the boat, and weighing our fish, I left to go to work. For those who didn't know, I work for Liberty Mutual and if you need a quote, please don't hesitate to contact me. Anyway, I thought we were sitting just outside of check range. I was very surprised to learn that we tied for second place for weight. We just squeezed by for second place beating Daniel Elias and Ralph Skelly by a few drops of water for big fish. I think it was 0.03 lbs.

Thanks again to all the guys at Midweek for making this event possible. You guys are awesome! Congrats to the winners!"

Team Daniel Elias & Ralph Skelly weighed five bass for 9.46 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.



3rd Place
Ralph Skelly & Daniel Elias

Daniel said, "I was pretty excited to be fishing Lake Pleasant again as I consider it my home lake. I was also excited to fish with Ralph as I have never had the pleasure of sharing a boat with him.

Our day started out with some trouble. Just as we passed the start boat I noticed that my motor lost a cylinder and then another, and then the entire left bank before it died. I quickly discovered that I had a fuel leak and after a little work was able to cut the hose and patch it back together. It looks like the hose got dry rotted most likely from the ethanol in our fuel. I didn't start using ethanol treatment until about 10 months ago but the damage was already done. I guess I'll have to talk to Clay and buy some more of that Lucas Oil stuff and make sure I use it

Membership

As of June 17, 2011 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 81 active members.

religiously.

After I cut and put a temporary fix on the fuel line I didn't have enough line left to turn my motor to the right so if we needed to make a big right turn I had to turn to the left and bring the boat all the way around.

I had fished the lake a few times over the last two weeks and had been doing pretty well. The bite at first light was definitely best and my bigger fish were consistently coming before the sun cleared the horizon. After the motor trouble we were a little behind the 8 ball so to speak and were never able to get any quality bites.

We moved around a lot and covered quite a bit of water and we were rewarded with quite a few fish; they just weren't the size I had been catching over the past two weeks.

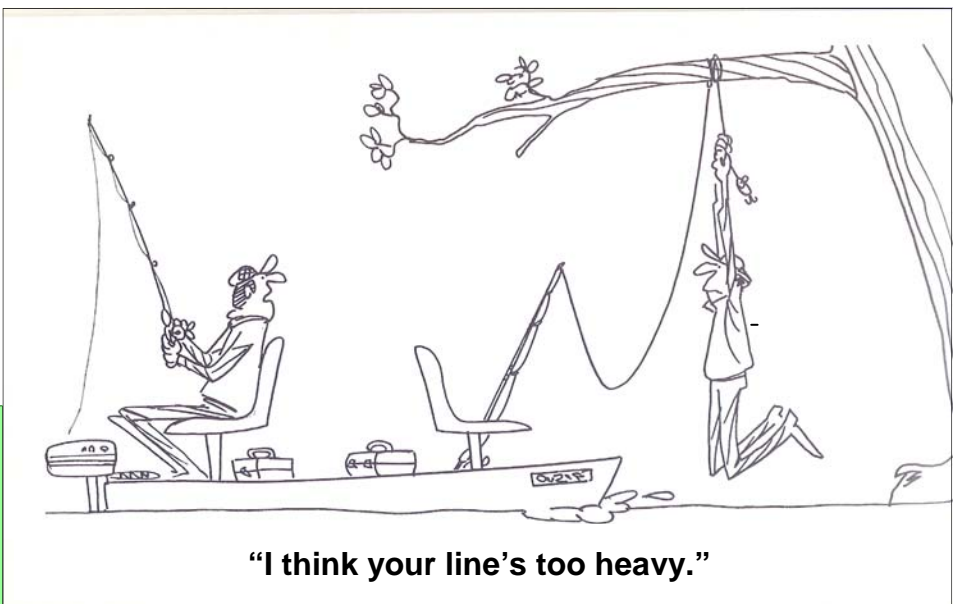
We had to make a gut wrenching decision when Ralph caught a fish that

probably would have been our second or third biggest. It was hooked in the gills and was bleeding pretty bad. We put it in the livewell and stopped fishing while we debated on whether or not to keep it. We eventually decided that it probably wasn't worth risking the potential half pound penalty for a dead fish so we sent him back into the lake. He swam off ok and we kept wondering if he would have survived in the livewell.

We ended up tied with Tai for second, no pun intended, who was fishing with Gary but we slipped from 2nd to 3rd since their big fish weighed 0.03 lbs more than ours!

I can't help but wonder if we made the right decision releasing that fish and I guess we'll never know.

I sure enjoyed fishing with Ralph; he's a lot of fun and a really great guy. I hope we have another opportunity to fish together soon; I'm certain it would be a blast."



The **4th Place Team** of **Steve Cook & Bill Roscher** weighed 8.28 lbs for their four bass catch. They also took home the **1st Place Big Bass** prize for their 3.39 lb bass.



4th Place
Bill Roscher & Steve Cook

Steve commented, "I had a great time fishing with Bill Roscher. I can't tell you what a treat it is to get to hang out with such a distinguished gentlemen and hear of all his great accomplishments. The fish we caught were all 'up the river' on a drop shot. The color of choice was red. The fish seemed to be located along the steep banks that had the big chunk rocks in about twenty feet of water."

Bill Roscher added, "I am pleased to join the august group of our members who achieve the "money" status. I want to thank Terry Tassin, who is in another veterans support group I belong to, for introducing me to the MBA. He said that I could put some extra info in this article if I wanted to.

For a guy who started fishing in the 30's using a cane pole, string, bobber made out of a bottle cork and a hook, to now be fishing in this group is a

wonderful feeling. I have only fished for food up to now having had a small cabin cruiser on Lake Powell for almost thirty years and fishing for crappies in the three pound range in the mid 70's.

Steve and I prefished and he asked me if I was in all the pots. I said yes so he said then we are a team and will share anything we win. I told him that I probably had the best part of that agreement. However, I did hold up my end of the deal I am happy to say. On tournament day we lamented over the fact that we only had four fish in the live well. Especially, after we lost a couple. After seeing the results I see that many wished they had had four fish. It was a hard day of fishing and I really learned a lot from Steve during our two days together.



2nd Place Big Bass
Steve Cook

I have been lucky to have been partnered with some great guys. This is especially true since I have only been a member since October of last year. I am very pleased how everyone has assisted this 'senior' senior citizen on each of our outings. Thanks again to all the members I have fished

with and those I will fish with in the future. I especially want to thank Terry for bringing me into the MBA where the equipment used is somewhat better than that which I started out with some 75 years ago. As Terry says I hope I have a lot of tight lines in the future."

The **Goon Fish pot** went to **Larry White** for his 2.59 lb catfish.



Goon Fish Pot Winner
Larry White

Statistics for the tournament: 34 men fished 6 hours each, bringing 55 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 91.91 pounds with a 2.70 pound average per fisherman. All but one fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



Option Pots
By Jerry Askam

5 lb Pot: After three straight tournaments with a 5 pounder coming to the scales no one could land one at Pleasant or as many people say "Lake Unpleasant". The pot of \$230 will roll over to our night tournament at Bartlett next

month. Steve Cook brought in the tournaments big fish at 3.39 lbs.

Goon Fish Pot: Larry White won the pot worth \$140 with a 2.59 lb Catfish edging out a stripper caught by Ernie Arvizu. Congrats Larry!

Super Pot: Tournament winners Jamie Shaw and John Reichard won the Super pot worth \$140 and also had the tournament 2nd Big Bass and take home a total of \$548. Great job guys!



Bits & Pieces

By Daniel Elias

Non-Boater Success

I was watching a fishing show on television the other day called "Ultimate Match Fishing". I'm sure many of you have seen it. Two professional anglers compete against each other while fishing out of the same boat and trade control of the trolling motor a few times throughout the day. The goal is to catch the largest five fish limit of fish. The angler in the back of the boat cannot at any time cast his lure forward of the boat consoles without being penalized. The angler controlling the electric motor commonly tries to "backseat" his competition by positioning the boat nose-in to the shoreline or very close and parallel to the bank in order to reduce the casting angles available to his competitor on the back deck. Although at times this can be somewhat successful there are many occasions where the angler

being back-seated catches more and larger fish than the person up front.

Watching this chess match of sorts go on brought back some memories of my early days fishing tournaments as a non-boater. I didn't have a boat, heck I didn't even have a driver's license yet! I fished club and federation tournaments and none of them had the shared weight format that we enjoy in Midweek Bass Club. The non-boaters didn't just fish against other non-boaters; we competed against the boaters as well including the one you were paired with.

I was on my own, I didn't know very much about bass fishing and most of my boaters didn't take the time to explain what they were doing or how we would be fishing. But why would they? I was their competition. I do not want to discount the fact that I did draw some excellent boaters at times and gained much knowledge from them. However, there were many times that I didn't have a whole lot of water to fish. Sometimes that was intentional, sometimes it wasn't. There are many situations where you don't have much room to cast based on the weather conditions or the pattern your boater is fishing. The wind can blow so hard at times that the back end of the boat can get blown out and away from the shoreline and that's not the boater's fault.

I had to find ways to catch fish and be competitive from the

back deck. The first and most important thing I learned as a non-boater was to never throw the same bait as the person in the front of the boat. Sure, it can be very tempting especially if he is filling the boat with fish. Take a second and think about it though, he's throwing in front of you and most of the water you will fish is what I refer to as "used water". If the bass like the bait your boater is throwing they will strike his first because they see it first. If they don't like his bait and he doesn't get bit you probably won't fare any better if you're throwing the same thing.

I always tried to mix it up. If my boater was throwing a crankbait, I might try a spinnerbait. If he was using a topwater popper, I might tie on a spook. If the fish were feeding on craws on the bottom and he was using a jig, I might fish with a Texas rigged brush hog. I rarely use the same color especially if we're still developing a pattern. If the fish only seemed to attack his jig and I couldn't get bit on any other bait I may tie on a jig but I will use a slightly different size or color to give the fish a different look. If a crankbait is definitely the ticket and my other baits aren't producing I'll throw a slightly shallower or slightly deeper running model that's a different color than the one he's using.

Another important thing I learned was to watch where my boater is casting. I try to place my casts in the areas between where his casts have been made in order to fish

where he hasn't. If he's moving slow and being very thorough I try to change up the angles and show the fish my bait from a different direction.

One of the hardest things to deal with as a back-seater is fishing with someone who has their boat close to the bank and is paralleling the shoreline. This is often a necessary and very successful way for a boater to fish. He can keep his bait in the strike zone throughout the entire cast and can cover water very quickly. Unfortunately, this severely reduces the amount of water that the angler in the back of the boat has available to fish. You can't really cast forward and there isn't much water between the boat and the bank where you can work your lure. When this happens don't get frustrated and put your rod down, maintain a positive attitude because you can still be successful.

I learned a few ways to catch fish from the back of the boat when we're paralleling the shoreline. If we are fishing a steeper bank with chunk rock or cracks in the rock I like to under hand pitch a jig into the cracks and shade pockets as we pass them. Sometimes some of the biggest fish hang in these cracks and shade pockets and if the boater is casting forward he isn't fishing these areas. The second thing I like to do when I can't cast forward is to simply drag a Carolina rig behind the boat. I have caught some very big fish doing this and so have some of my non-boaters. It can get hung up at times and you end

up breaking off some gear because it is too difficult to turn the boat around and go all the way back for it which may not help anyway. The last thing I like to do when fishing from the back of the boat while paralleling is to fish a very small hair jig. I either fish it using the "float & fly" technique or by simply letting it slide over the rocks behind the boat. If you don't know what the float & fly technique is it's very easy to learn. You just tie on a very small hair jig, (I like to use either a 1/16 oz or 1/8 oz) and place a small bobber above the bait at whatever distance you think the fish are holding beneath the surface. Cast it out behind the boat and let it float along as the boat moves down the bank. Fish it just like a kid would that's fishing a night crawler below a bobber. When the bobber goes down reel in the fish, it's that simple.

Fisherman's Choice Pro Shop now carries some awesome hair jigs made by Spro that seem to work very well.

There are times where fishing as a non-boater has its definite advantages. I fished a tournament one time where my boater positioned his boat out on the end of a very long point. The wind was blowing about twenty five miles per hour right into that point and my boater was struggling all day to keep his boat from blowing into the rocks and the front of the boat was pointed away from the bank. I just sat down in the chair without a care in the world and pulled a Carolina rig across that point. I caught 18 pounds of fish at Alamo on that

single point while my boater struggled to get a limit. I ended up winning that tournament handily.

There are days now when the wind is blowing hard and I'm fighting the trolling motor. I wish I could just sit in the back of my boat like I did that day at Alamo. I wouldn't have to worry about keeping the boat in position and I could just fish.

Thankfully the Midweek tournaments aren't structured like Ultimate Match Fishing and the guy in the back of the boat isn't getting deliberately back-seated. Our anglers work together as a team to try to put together the biggest sack of fish that they can and that's a good thing.

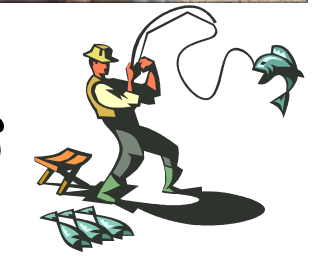
It seems that the non-boaters that keep an open mind and throw something a little different than their partner usually have a little more success come tournament time.

It is amazing what you can learn from the back of the boat at times. I gained so much knowledge fishing as a non-boater during the couple of years that I did it. Looking back, I would do it again in a second and I wouldn't trade that time for anything because it truly made me a much better angler.

AND THAT'S HOW THE FIGHT STARTED!

My wife sat down next to me as I was flipping channels. She asked, "What's on TV?" I said, "Dust." And then the fight started.....

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Pleasant - June 15, 2011



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 returning
Midweek Bass Angler
since the last newsletter:**

Rob Lawson (B)

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	EZ-Troll Low Profile Butt Seat (used once) Cost new \$150 <u>asking</u> = \$75	
Low profile seat with back rest, lean or sit and rest your sore back while fishing. Narrow 9.5" wide design.		

Something to sell? Contact the Editor

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Individuals wishing to purchase a club shirt or cap can order directly from our provider - **M & J Trophies & Apparel**, 10802 N. 43rd Ave, Glendale, Arizona. See their ad above.

**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 July

**Joe Auksel
Tom Berry
Rob Lawson
John Majersky**

