



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MARCH 2012

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective *By Gary Grimes*

Fishing doesn't get much better than March at Lake Havasu, that is, unless it is snowing. Lou Hirlemann and I went up on Saturday with every intent on spending 4 solid days of fishing, unfortunately, our timing could not have been worse. The largest storm of the year, which happened to be an arctic blast, hit the state on Saturday prior to our tournament, and dropped temps by 20 degrees, blew strong winds, hailed, and dropped snow on the peaks surrounding Lake Havasu. We managed two half day trips on Saturday and Sunday, but the chop on the water was so bad you couldn't see anything. The weather started to break on Monday, and finally started warming up. Tournament day was an enjoyable 77 degrees.

The nice weather is also attractive for the fish, making them more active, which made

for some great fishing. It was great seeing all the nice bags of fish come to the scales at the tournament, looks like everyone caught lots of fish. The problem with Havasu is not finding fish, but rather finding the right fish...the big ones. Seems every year the biggest bags contain largemouth bass, rather than smallmouth bass, but the smallmouth bass are "a plenty." Was good seeing everyone on the water, I hope you all had as much fun as I.

Lake Havasu

March 21, 2012

By Terry Tassin

Another fantastic day of sight fishing at Lake Havasu for the boys of Midweek Bass! I would have to go back through the club records since the club started on 27 January 2005 to verify the information, but I believe this is the first tournament where every team weighed-in a limit of five bass each. When you consider that there were only a total of 110 bass weighed, the final total weight of all fish was a super 323.22 pounds for 44 fishermen which works out to 7.35 lbs of fish per man. Even better was the fact that all fish survived this tournament to fight again another day.

Team Paul Cormany & Steve Harbaugh Find the Sweet Spots for 1st Place

Led by **Paul Cormany** the **First Place** team of **Paul Cormany & Steve Harbaugh** swept the field again this month and weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 20.61 lbs. The team also won the prize for the **Super Pot** option.

Paul provided this great report. "This tournament I was paired up with Steve Harbaugh. Steve and I have fished together before and, as usual, we always have a good time. I was unable to get away to practice until almost noon on Tuesday. I felt I really needed to have some time on the water because I expected we would have a good sight bite on the bed fish. Steve came up early and was out with Lou Hirlemann. Lou's partner, Brian Chambers, rode up with me so



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"

we all decided just to swap partners for the last few hours of practice. Brian and I launched at 3 PM, so I had a total of three hours to practice. I went to a few areas I had saved in my GPS from the previous two spring trips. We found fish in all of those areas and I marked three in the 3-4 lb range.



1st Place
Steve Harbaugh & Paul Cormany

When Steve and I arrived at our starting spot, it was too

dark to do much sight fishing. I was casting to one of the bigger fish marks and told Steve to cast in a direction where I had some smaller fish on beds. It didn't take Steve long to put our first 4 lb smallie in the boat. I told Steve, if those little ones are four pounds, how big are the big ones? About 10 minutes later, Steve put another one in the boat that weighed about 3 1/2.

We went to my second area, I made a cast to a 1 1/2 I saw the day before and on the first cast, bingo, another 4 pounder. I guess the fish on those deep beds are just a lot bigger than they look. We moved around some more and managed a limit. I told Steve we are not going to make a cast at anything that looks under 4 lbs. We passed a lot of fish that didn't make the grade. Once we got to about 19 lbs, I told Steve it would really be tough to upgrade. I found a fish on a bed in 14 feet that looked like it might help. I turned the boat into position to work that bed, and saw what looked like a carp, but it wasn't moving. I cast toward that fish and it was a big smallie on a fresh bed. It bit on the first cast and got my Gulp Minnow off my hook. I re-rigged and made another cast with the same result. After four casts in a row it bit and got my bait. Finally, on the fifth cast, I cast further out from the bed and let it eat a little before I set the hook. Fish on! But it was not the one I was looking at. A little 2 1/2 pounder spoiled my plan. I boated the little one, got him off the hook and grabbed another rod. Next cast, I

caught our best fish of the day. I moved up to the fish that first made me stop there and caught it on the first cast. Another small upgrade. Steve and I caught four fish in 15 minutes in about two boat lengths. I managed to make one more small upgrade later, but now it was really becoming difficult to find something big enough.

About 2:30 in the afternoon, I caught one just under 4 lbs and it wouldn't cull anything we already had in the well. Steve and I were laughing when I threw that one back. I told Steve, if somebody wants to win, they better 'bring it' cause we have ours.

The secret to our success was concentrating on beds in 11-14 feet. We just kept moving to areas where the water was glassy and looked for beds. When the wind came up in that area, we would move to someplace calm. Steve fished the same Robo worm all day, and I fished with the Gulp Minnow all day. All of our fish came on those two baits.

I sure look forward to fishing Havasu each spring and can't

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The Rules
By Gary Grimes

Have you ever been in a tournament and noticed how close some boats follow others during the launch? That is why Midweek uses the "ooze off" start, with 10 seconds between boats. Be safe on the water.

Next Meeting
Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4 April** 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 Alamo** on **18 April 2012**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

wait to go again next year. By the way, all of the fish we caught were males as they "squirted" when we put them in the boat. I can't imagine what kind of weights could come if someone could catch all the females! What an awesome lake."

Steve added, "I was really looking forward to fishing Havasu again. I didn't get to fish last years event, and I know it is one of the best on our schedule. Then when I saw I drew Paul Cormany as a partner I was REALLY excited!

Did I expect that we would have a day when we would have to cull 3 and 4 lb fish; no way, but that's what we were doing in the last couple of hours of fishing.

Paul gave you the technical stuff for our day, but one of the best tips I got was from our clubs newest member - and my supervisor at Bass Pro Marine Dept - Jeremy Ray. He told me about a Robo worm called "Bed Bait". It's a color we don't sell at BPS, so after fishing a few hours on Tuesday I stopped at the local tackle store and got some to use on Wednesday. The smallies hated that bait! They hit it hard; no question when I had a bite on those baits. This was really helpful because I lost my sunglasses that morning before we launched and fishing

all day on Havasu with no sunglasses was a major bummer. Actually the first two fish in the boat were caught on what we started calling "blind fishing". I was just throwing my bait out in a area were I hoped fish would be, it was still too dark to see beds anyway, so it was like any other lake that is not so clear; just waiting to feel the bite without seeing them. It was great. Then when we could actually see the fish hit the bait that was even more fun.

As a side note I did find my glasses in Paul's truck when we got back in, so that was a relief. On the ride home Jeremy reminded me how our victory is somewhat tainted. You see this was to be Jeremy's first ever tournament, but his boater had a motor problem and didn't fish. So Jeremy was left at the dock. So yes Paul, and club members, we won but we weren't able to test our skills against Jeremy

Ray. But you know what? I will still savor the victory despite that fact, and really enjoy this as an opportunity to mess with my work supervisor as we so often do to each other at work! Plus now the pressure is on him to really produce when he gets on the water. Seriously boaters, he can fish so if you draw him you should do well.

Thanks Paul and everyone else, for a great time, and non-boaters be very happy when you draw Mr. Cormany as a partner. You will have a great time; this man can fish!"

Bright Colored Baits Take Mason & Arvizu to Second Place Win

In **Second Place** the team of **Jeff Mason & Ernie Arvizu** finished with 18.66 lbs for their five bass. More importantly, Jeff weighed a 6.56 lb beauty to win the **5 lb Pot** and the **1st Place Big Bass** prize.

Ernie Arvizu speaking for the



"Mixing a little business with pleasure this trip?"

Membership

As of March 23, 2012 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 86 active members.

team said, "I had the pleasure of fishing with Jeff Mason, a longtime Arizona bass angler. Jeff is new to the club and brings along his knowledge, skills, and willingness to share fishing techniques, which I definitely needed, thanks Jeff. We had a great time on the lake and had many stories to tell. Congratulation's on your big fish Jeff.



2nd Place
Jeff Mason & Ernie Arvizu

We had a plan, well sort of. After Tuesday pre fishing day, we still were not seeing any significant size bass and were seeing many abandoned beds. Wednesday morning we decided to go just outside the marina, about thirty yards and found the two we had seen on Tuesday. I hooked one but it got away and little did I know it was the last one of the day. I had used a chartreuse tube. Jeff hooks the two bass using a white craw, somewhat similar to a speed craw. We proceeded to leave and go south about three miles staying on the California side. Found a cove Jeff had fished before, only to find again many empty beds and no takers. Jetted back towards the marina and heading to left of it were many

RV's along the bank. That is where we ended up. We saw a few of our club members coming in or out of the cove to our left, I thought "There's got to be a party boat in there". But we stuck to our bank and fished it for about four hours. Jeff decided to use Robo worms right off the bat and it did produce a few needed fish.

The best color of Robo worm was oxblood with a brown bottom. I was amazed how Jeff kept bringing in fish and I was using the same worm with no fish. I'm getting really good at netting though. It can be stressful at times especially when I saw what Jeff was bringing towards the boat when he brought in the "big bass". I had my hands tightly on the net pole, heart pumping; you can see the size of this bass a mile away. I kept saying to myself why me, but I managed to finally net it just in time because the hook came off in the net. Like the old saying, it's a tough job, but someone's got to do it. Great fishing Jeff!

Sean Ballard, thanks for sharing your baits; I really appreciated that. Jeff, thanks for a great fishing day.

Team Neil Burns & Joel Alderman Connect For 3rd Place

Team Neil Burns & Joel Alderman weighed five bass for 17.93 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

New member Joel Alderman commented on his first outing

with the club; "I just wanted to say that I had a blast fishing at Havasu with Neil Burns and I look forward to next month's tournament. I can't complain about placing third in my first time out with the club.



3rd Place
Joel Alderman & Neil Burns

Now as to how we caught our fish. We moved around the lake quite a bit throughout the day, we had a limit early on so our focus turned to finding the bigger bass. Neil and I covered a lot of water using primarily finesse and flipping techniques in varying depths of water and locales. I'd have to say Neil definitely caught more bass than I, but we both worked hard for every bass we brought to the boat. There were a few bigger bass that both of us probably would have loved to have in the livewell; it just didn't work out that way. All in all I had a ton of fun and a great day on the water for my first MBA event; I couldn't have scripted a better experience. I chose to join MBA due to its great reputation. I have to say it is a very well run club, and everyone was extremely friendly. I hope to get to know more of the members in the future."

Neil added, "There is no secret to how we got our fish. We were – believe it or not – sight fishing! Joel and I had run down the river to the Bill Williams area and the water was more dingy than up in the main lake. We saw more largemouth bass on beds than smallmouths and they were pickier when it came to biting on our lures. Our fish came off of beds that were tucked into the tules along the side of the river and were caught on white Hula Grub jigs. While we spotted quite a few fish the catching was tough. Despite everything, I had a fun day fishing with Joel and look forward to pairing with him another time."

Jack Hughes & Sean Ballard Capture 4th Place

The **4th Place Team** of **Jack Hughes & Sean Ballard** weighed 17.35 lbs with a five bass limit.

Sean reported for the team: "I had the pleasure of fishing with Jack for the second time at Lake Havasu. We pre-fished some of the same water as last year and found a lot of beds. We came up with a plan to pick

up a limit early then go after some of the bigger fish when we could see them better after the sun came up. By 7:30 AM we had our limit and were culling.



4th Place
Sean Ballard & Jack Hughes

We headed to our secondary spot and found a house boat parked on our 4 lb smallie so we moved to our other 4 lb smallie and quickly picked it up. We used a small drop shot rig for most of our fish with the color of the day being yellow. Part of our plan was to go back to our starting spot and see if we could get one last largemouth to bite. With two hours left in the day it only took about five casts to catch it; it was our big fish and the hook came out in the net. Thanks Jack for another great trip to Havasu. And I want everyone to know Jack kept saying, "I LOVE IT WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER".

5th Place Won By Rick Brown & Mike Self

The **5th Place Team** of **Rick Brown & Mike Self** weighed 17.07 lbs with a five bass limit. They also won the **2nd Place**

Big Bass prize for their 4.54 lb bass.

Mike Self commented, "I had the pleasure of fishing with Rick Brown for the first time since I joined the club. Rick and I pre-fished the tournament on Tuesday and marked several fish despite the wind and ripples.

Wednesday morning we became the kick boat by default and we watched 42 competitors leave the launch site ahead of us. We arrived at our first spot to find an empty bed. We moved on to our second fish only to find it empty too, as was the third. This scenario repeated itself several more times, and things were looking a little bleak....a lot of hunting and fishing going on....but no catching.



5th Place
Rick Brown & Mike Self

We finally boated our first fish at 8:15 and things went better from there. We filled our 5 fish limit and began to slowly cull up a few ounces at a time through early afternoon. Rick made a decision to move closer to the marina area, where he felt we might find a big fish to put us in the money

Member Information Update

Please keep the Secretary informed of any changes in your vital statistics: home address, phone numbers, email address, number or expiration date of your auto or boat insurance policy or anything else.

and possibly win. His decision paid off as he coaxed a 4 ½ pounder off the bed flipping a craw bait. We used tubes, drop shot, and craw baits throughout the day.

I had a great time fishing with Rick. He taught me a lot about sight fishing and the characteristics of spawning bass. I'll look forward to fishing with him again sometime in the future."

Statistics for the tournament: 44 men fished 8 hours each, bringing 110 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 323.22 pounds with a 7.35 pound average catch per fisherman. All fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



Treasure Chest

By John Milkint, Treasurer

When the weigh-in at Lake Havasu was completed it was assumed that the **Goon Fish Pot** was won by our new member Robert Malone. Unfortunately for Robert and his partner, Tom Alauria, Robert was not entered in the Goon Fish pot. Therefore by rule, the \$200 goon fish pot will be paid out at the next meeting by "luck of the draw". All individuals entered in the March Goon Fish option will be eligible to win.

The **Super Pot** of \$200 was won by the team of Paul Cormany & Steve Harbaugh. They had a weight of 20.61

pounds. First place money was an additional \$350.

The **5 lb Pot** worth \$285 was won by the team of Jeff Mason & Ernie Arvizu. The next meeting begins a new 5 lb Pot. Remember if you are not entered in the 5 lb Pot for the April tournament at Lake Alamo, you cannot jump into this pot until a 5 pounder is caught. Team Mason & Arvizu also scored the **1st Place Big Fish** prize of \$264. Their **2nd Place Overall** finish added up to an additional \$244.

Second Place Big Fish prize went to the team of Rick Brown & Mike Self in the amount of \$176. They also get **5th Place** money of \$54.

Neal Burns and Joel Alderman share **3rd Place** money of \$152.

Jack Hughes and Sean Ballard scored a **4th Place** finish with \$80.



Weighing-In

By Jack Hughes, Tmx Director

Another Havasu tournament is in the books. This tournament for me will be remembered not for the number of big fish caught or that every team weighed in a limit but for ethics and sportsmanship shown by club members. Top of the list for me was Jamie Shaw. Jamie had scouted hard for two days looking for big bass and found them. Tournament day Jamie went to collect his largemouth on the bed and thought his

plan was working when the fish was still on the bed. Just as he set the hook the fish turned and was fouled hooked. This was a fish that that probably would have helped Jamie win not only the tournament but also big fish. Jamie being the knowledgeable fisherman he is knew the rule that when sight fishing all fish must be hooked inside the mouth; this one wasn't and Jamie promptly released the fish. Then at the weigh in Jamie found \$50.00 lying on the ground and turned it in which made Larry White very happy to have it returned. I just want to say: "Jamie thanks for choosing our club to fish with and leading the way with ethics."

I would like to also thank all of the members who fished at Havasu for helping with the weigh in. All of you did great helping get everything set up and not approaching the tanks until we announced the scales open. Special thanks again goes to Mark Durben for working the tank, Robert Malone for doing the white board (this was also Robert's first tournament with the club) and again the outstanding job by Richey Lapointe and Ralph Skelly checking live wells, they have made launching and live well checks go much faster than we thought possible.

For the winners of the Roosevelt tournament who attended the last club meeting congratulations to all of you. All of your presentations at the club meeting on what you were using and where you were fishing went over very well. I

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Havasu - March 21, 2012

received almost a dozen emails and phone calls about the quality of your summaries. Most of the comments included 'that's why I joined the club to learn how to catch big bass'. All of you have set the standards for the winners who follow you in helping all of us become better bass fisherman.

Alamo is our next tournament and our annual steak BBQ. This year Alamo will be very challenging for all of us due to the surface area of the lake being almost 25% less than the last time the club held a tournament there. Alamo has become one of our fun tournaments of the year and a smaller lake will not dampen the fun or camaraderie so come and join us and enjoy a steak dinner with all the trimmings, compliments of your club, while sitting around a friendly campfire.



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**Welcome to New
Midweek Bass Anglers
Since the Last Newsletter**

- Joel Alderman (NB)**
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Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in April

- Paul Archer**
- Gary Asmus**
- Lou Hirlemann**
- Jack Hughes**
- Bill Page**
- Bill Ruehle**



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2012
Tournament Schedule**

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