

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MAY 2012

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective *By Gary Grimes*

Apache Lake was another great tournament for Midweek Bass. Congratulations go out to Team Medina & Van Spriell for the first place finish with the nice bag of 18 lbs. I can't wait to hear how you did it. Here is some information you might find interesting: last year we fished 20 boats, this year we fished 21, a slight increase, but we had 10 different boats out there this year than last, as well as 8 new non-boaters.

Our club is growing, one of these months everyone will show up and maybe we will have 40 boats; maybe this fall at Alamo. Thanks to all who fished as a boater, especially to those who had not planned on it, I think we were able to get everyone on the water except for one. As for fish, last year we caught 104 fish, 220 lbs, with 9 teams bringing in less than 10 lbs of fish. This year we caught 103 fish, 240

lbs, with only 6 teams bringing in less than 10 lbs of fish. It would appear the fish are getting bigger, or we are becoming better anglers, maybe a bit of both.

The last couple of tournaments we have had more non-boaters than boaters, and we do our best to make sure everyone gets to fish; that no one is left on the shore. Many times a boater chooses to go as a non-boater in order to save money, which is understandable given the state of the economy. Some choose not to fish at all. I have asked the boaters to share their Apache trip expenses with me, in order to get an accurate understanding of what it costs to be a boater in a tournament. It is important to me, and I think we would all agree, that the costs should be shared equally among team members. More to come on this subject.

Thanks to all who helped at Apache. Gary Asmus again did a great job on the grill, the burgers were outstanding. Thanks to Mark Durben, Lou Hirlemann, Dwayne Steel, and Sean Ballard for helping at the weigh-in. Thanks to John Reichard for once again towing up the trailer. Thanks to everyone else who pitched in,

you guys are awesome. A special thanks to Jack Hughes, for all the hard work he puts in before, during and after the tournaments.

Lake Apache

May 16, 2012

By Terry Tassin

For many Americans, especially those who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces, Memorial Day is more than just the three day holiday that kick-starts summer. It is the day we honor the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice on the field of battle. Memorial Day will always be our special time for reflection and traditions that pay tribute to the fallen. We – your board of directors - hope you enjoy the fishing, barbeques and celebrations this Memorial Day weekend and keep in mind those who today are in harm's way. Have a safe and happy Memorial Day!

Memorial Day 2012



America United

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"

Now lets see how the tournament was won.

Tony Medina & Bob Van Spruell Overcome Pre-fishing Curse to Win 1st Place

Led by **Tony Medina** the **First Place** team of **Tony Medina & Bob Van Spruell** targeted shore line boulders and weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 18.83 lbs. The team also won the prize for the **1st Place Big Fish**.

Tony provided this input on how he and Bob managed to catch the fish that earned them a first place finish. "I went up to Apache on Monday the 14th arriving around 9:00 AM. After securing a campsite, I proceeded to venture out on the lake to see what the fishing was like. I went up river to start with and fished all the way up to 3-Mile Island. I caught a

couple of 12 inchers on an old Yozuri shad crank, then moved on down the other side and headed down towards the main lake. I caught several more on a green Senko and then switched to my drop shot which I threw and caught a couple of smallies including one that pushed two pounds on a black bass Robo worm. I also fished my green jig along the entrance to the river with only one fish. That was pretty much it for Monday pre-fishing.

Tuesday, the 15th, I fished the main lake below Burnt Corral where I was cursed by catching a 5+ large mouth on my drop shot early in the day. After that I ran up to Burnt Corral to hookup with my partner for the tournament. I had the pleasure of fishing with Bob Van Spruell; it was only his second tournament as a new member. He was totally blown away with all the beauty that Apache has to offer. He managed to take many pictures of the many spectacular vistas. He also managed to catch a few fish with his trusty Zebco 33. We pretty much ran the lake all the way down to the dam, being it was his first time on the lake. We quit at about 2:00 PM to get back to get ready for the big meal the club was putting on. As usual, the meal was great and everybody enjoyed the meal and all the camaraderie. Kudos to Gary Grimes and Gary Asmus for preparing the meal; oh, and let's not forget Jack Hughes' spicy beans.

On Wednesday, tournament

day, everybody gathered at 4:30 AM to begin the briefing and start the tournament. We were boat 20 and I was a little tentative as to where to start. It was either up the river or to where I'd caught the 5+. I chose to go for the big one before somebody else got her. As goes the curse, you catch a big one pre-fishing, you'll die there trying to catch it again. We tried on and off until about 10:00 AM and we still didn't have a fish in the boat. So we bailed out to the main lake. We targeted big boulders on the shoreline, preferably with trees in the water. My first fish was a 3 1/2 pounder. The second one, a 3 1/2, was hooked, but came up and jumped and spit it out. I almost died. We continued and I caught two more 3 1/2's. Then I lost

Continued on page 3



The Rules By Gary Grimes

Let's talk insurance for a moment. Last month one of our members had a trailer break down returning from Alamo with his family and had to get towed home – cost \$850. He thought his insurance covered him, found out it didn't. This month, Lou Hirlemann's truck broke down on his way to Apache and he had to get it towed back to Phoenix. He wasn't sure if his insurance covered the boat tow, turns out it did – cost \$0. If you are a boater, check to make sure your trailer is covered if you need a tow. Not sure about your insurance? Talk to Jeff Mabry, he can answer questions you might have about your coverage.

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 June** 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 Pleasant** on **20 June 2012**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.

another one that came unbuttoned before we could net him. I caught number 4 at about noon. Then the pressure was on to try and catch that 5th one. Finally at about one o'clock I was able to get the last one in the boat, a 4.32 pounder. We were both just sky high after boating that 5th one. It was like a dream to boat five fish that averaged over 3.75 lbs each. I didn't boat any other bass except the five we weighed and the two that I lost were just as big. The curse almost got us but we got very lucky. My prayers were answered. I'd like to thank Gary Grimes, Dwayne Steel and Dick Kirberg for the use of their generators. It was another great outing for all that showed up and showed everyone what a great club we have.

Steel & Jacobson Drop Shot Shallow to Win Second Place

In **Second Place** the team of **Dwayne Steel & Brian Jacobson** finished with 14.37 lbs for their five bass.

Brian Jacobson speaking for the team commented: "Before going into the tournament I knew that Dwayne would have us dialed in to location and presentation. Sure enough he had us dialed in to the spots that would produce. Praise God because I needed it after my Alamo performance!

As we pulled into our first location he told me that crank baits and spinner baits would be what would get us our bite. So as Dwayne threw the crank bait I threw the spinner bait. However, we just weren't getting anything to hit as quickly as we anticipated and then just as we were getting a tad discouraged Dwayne got one in the boat. Not wanting to be a netter all day I switched

over to a crank bait as well to see what I could do, however to no avail.

As we neared some fist sized rocks I decided to throw a jig as a crawdad imitation to see if I could pull a smallmouth off the rocks. I did nothing better than to get hung up within a few casts and had to break off. Just as I broke off I noticed a large boulder that I decided to work a drop shot off of to see if I could get something off the fall and sure enough pulled one close to 3 lbs into the boat. Dwayne recognized the markings on this post spawn fish as he had caught that same one recently and he said "let's go" and on we went to his next spot. Seeing a similar underwater formation I threw the drop shot again and again caught one close to 2½ lbs. Thank you Lord. We were off to a great start. This pattern continued throughout the day and we continued to upgrade. We would get an occasional reaction bite but what was brought to the scales came



Ahaa, don't be that way, give us a kiss!

Sportsman's Warehouse Big Bass Prize

Tony Medina is the first winner of the Sportsman's Warehouse prize of a \$20 gift card for the largest bass weighed by club members pre-signed-up for this prize. Tony's 4.32 lb bass was the largest bass weighed at Lake Apache.



"Yuck! Tastes like rubber."

entirely from drop shot fishing the points and shorelines using Robo Worms in about 6-12 feet of water in most cases.

I am so glad I work at Cabela's because two days before the tournament I picked three bags up before heading home and used almost all of them on Wednesday. Guess I better replenish again! I wonder what will happen if I buy six bags this time? Ha, ha, ha, this could get expensive! The coves didn't give us a single fish but sticking to the main lake points and shorelines gave us enough to put us into 2nd place. Dwayne is a great guy to fish with and I really enjoyed the experience of being able to fish with him and have a great conversation with him. Dwayne also imparted some additional valuable experience to me that will help me in the years to come. I look forward to another opportunity to fish with Dwayne."



Team Rick Brown & Dave Nelson Connect For 3rd Place

Team Brown & Nelson weighed five bass for 14.20 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Rick Brown reported for his team, "The morning for Dave Nelson and I started a little slow. Our first three stops only resulted in one lost fish on a crank bait. Our next stop brought us to my usual fishing spot down towards the dam. We didn't catch many, but they were decent ones and we were happy to be catching. All fish were caught in 5 ft of water or less on Texas rigged craws, creature baits, and drop shot. The key for us was to keep moving and make as many casts as possible right up on the bank. If you didn't get bit on a couple pulls away from the bank, we reeled it in and did it again. The big excitement came when I watched a 17 lb carp come over and bite my crankbait, bad mistake. These carp at Apache are crazy, and they can really fight. Congrats to Tony and Bob for a really nice bag of fish."

Mason & Harbaugh Capture 4th Place

The **4th Place** Team of **Jeff Mason & Steve Harbaugh** weighed 13.76 lbs with a five bass limit.

From Jeff Mason: "The day didn't start off well for us as I decided to start in the river. I should have known something was fishy when we were the only boat to go up the river. After 45 minutes with two missed fish on top water lures

we made our way back out and fished some spots in Pine Cove where I had caught fish in the past. After missing another nice fish on top water we switched to grubs on a darter head. Finally caught 3 nice fish; the second one was around 3 lbs. Went across the lake and Steve caught our 4th fish on a grub, then crossed back over and caught our 5th fish and culled our smallest bass on a Texas rigged red crawler Robo worm. Both Steve and I caught more fish with Steve using a drop shot while I stuck with the Texas rigged worm. Our biggest fish – a nice 3.91 pounder, was caught on a worm down the lake towards the dam at around 12:30 PM.

I really enjoyed fishing with Steve and I felt we worked as efficiently as partners can catching fish, netting fish, weighing fish, checking the live wells, culling fish, and just plain having fun. It was great to see how the fishing has rebounded at Apache. All the fish we caught fought like hell, had beautiful color and were fat as footballs. Thanks MWB for another great day of fishing at Apache Lake."

Steve Harbaugh added, "Another fun tourney with another new friend. I was lucky enough to draw Jeff Mason as my partner for the first time, and as usual we had a great time and I learned some new stuff. That is always a plus that goes with fishing with new guys.

The day started pretty slowly, I

think the first fish didn't hit the live well till after 7:00; then we boated 3 quick fish. I would like to say here that ALL the fish we weighed in, I caught! That is I caught them in the net! Jeff did most of the work for us. Yes I did catch some fish on my own, but Jeff had all the good ones, allowing me to work on my netting skills.

The first couple of fish came on a grub that Jeff remembered his buddy reminded him to not forget. Once I switched to it I also got some hits. A few blow ups on top water baits but no fish caught. Then Jeff brought out his super special, favorite worm, and started landing better fish. I, mean while, started drop shotting and picked up some good fish. Most of the fish were on shallow rocky banks. I haven't fished Apache very much, so now I have a better idea on how to catch fish there.

I want to thank the guys for the burgers Tuesday night, and I think Jack should publish his bean recipe in Bass Bites so we can share it with our families. Hey maybe he can make a big batch for our next awards dinner?

Thanks to everyone it was a great time!"

“Special Bait” Works For 5th Place Team Cormany & Page

The **5th Place Team** of **Paul Cormany & Bill Page** weighed 13.61 lbs with a five bass limit.

Paul Cormany commented, “I fished with Bill Page for the first time at our tournament at Apache. We had a great time fishing together and I think Bill learned from fishing with me. I went up on the Saturday before our tournament and caught 10 fish with my best five weighing about 14 lbs. I caught most of those fish on a Phenix Vibrator jig and a couple on the Speed Craw. Most of my fish came between 8:30 and 10:30 AM.

On tournament day I told Bill "I'm fishing the Chatterbait until the fish tell me they don't want it." I decided to start in some submerged trees with the Speed Craw until the sun hit the water. My first fish I broke off in a tree. The second fish was a nice chunk that went into the livewell. Once the sun was up, we moved to a different area and out came the Vibrator jig. I caught a couple on it and I gave Bill one of my "special" baits since he couldn't get bit on the original Chatterbait. Then he started getting in the game. He put the next three in a row in the boat, including our best fish of the day. We kept moving and looking for a big bite, but never really found one. I managed to upgrade our limit two more times in the afternoon. The last fish I caught, I made a great cast to a prime looking spot and started to say "I can't believe there wasn't a fish there", when I got to "I can't b...", bam another culling size fish.

All of the fish we weighed came off beds. We couldn't see the beds and a long cast

seemed to work better than a short cast. I knew they were on beds because the females were all red and battered on the tail but were still full of eggs and the males all were squirting when they hit the deck. I did catch two on the Speed Craw that weren't on beds but that was the exception and neither of them made it to the weigh-in. I'll see everyone at Pleasant although I'm not really looking forward to fishing there. Pleasant has never been very good to me and I just can't seem to figure those fish out.

Remember to drink at least two bottles of water before we start at Pleasant, lay off the coffee and soda, and you will feel better all day long.



Food, food, we want food!

20.26 lb Carp Earns Goon Fish Prize for Shaw & Jolley

Bob Jolley commented, “Jamie cranked a Rapala to hook-up our big Carp. On Tuesday while pre-fishing, we saw several large Carp in the area. We went back on tournament day and saw

another big Carp. Jamie threw his Rapala out in front of the fish and the fish headed for the lure. He took it into his mouth and the fight was on! After a major battle I netted the fish – thanks to Howard Thomas for loaning us a net to use during the tournament – and the rest is history.”



Jamie Shaw with a keeper.

Statistics for the tournament:

Forty-four (44) men fished 10 hours each, bringing 103 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 239.89 pounds with a 5.45 pound average catch per fisherman. All but 4 fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



Treasure Chest

By John Milkint, Treasurer

Total payouts for the Lake Apache Tournament total \$1,736.00.

After several months of no Goon Fish winner 4 large carp were delivered to the weigh in scales with the largest being caught by the team of Jamie Shaw and Bob Jolley. They will split the Goon Fish pot of \$220. With all teams now

automatically entered into the Goon Fish pot, for future tournaments, the pot payout should occur with more regularity. In the event no team catches a goon fish, the pot will then be awarded at the next club meeting by random drawing by boat number.

The 5 lb pot of \$215 carries over to the next tournament. Anyone not entered in that pot for Lake Apache is shut out of future participation until the pot is won. Also, it’s important for anyone not fishing in the next tournament to pay the \$5 fee or they will not be able to re-enter the pot if there are future carryovers.

The team of Tony Medina and Bob Van Spriell split \$684 with 1st place and 1st place big fish. Tony also wins the Sportsman’s Warehouse \$20 gift card for his big bass.

Dwayne Steel and Brian Jacobson, with a second place finish, split \$286 for their effort.

A 3rd place finish for Dave Nelson and Rick Brown have them sharing \$190.

Jeff Mason and Steve Harbaugh’s 4th place finish was worth \$96 to that pairing.

Finally 5th place, worth \$64, went to Paul Cormany and Bill Page.

Not placing in the top 5 finishers the team of Lou Hirlemann and Ernie Arvizu, with the 2nd big fish, still garnered \$176.

All payouts will be available at our next Midweek Bass Club meeting on June 6th. Congratulations to all the winners!



Weighing-In

By Jack Hughes, Tmx Director

Well Apache is done for the Midweek Bass Anglers for another year. I am sure in the remainder of the year we will have tournaments that are just as much fun or even more so but we will not have a more picturesque place to fish than Apache Lake.

I had the pleasure of fishing for the first time with Gary Martlage. Gary is not only an excellent fisherman but a real first class person to be around and especially to fish with. On Tuesday when I hooked an estimated 35 pound buffalo carp Gary looked at me and laughed as he moved to the front of the boat saying “you’re going to be tied up for the next 20 to 30 minutes”, and he was right on the 20 minutes. Tony Medina and Bob Van Spriell may have won the tournament on paper but the pleasure I received from fishing with Gary made me a real winner that I will remember long after the checks are cashed. Gary thanks for a great time.

To all of you none money winners I would like to point out that most of the teams in the money for this tournament have not been there for a while. It is also a big change in winners than the last three tournaments. The other major change is

under the new format of doing away with the Super Pot we paid a little more money down through fifth place and a seventh team won the Goon Fish prize money. That equates to almost 30% of the teams receiving a check. The Bassmaster's organization released some figures last month that show that Kevin Van Damn, one of the most if not the most proficient bass fisherman of our time, only wins 8% of the tournaments he enters. This is a number that in any other sport would not even get your name mentioned. Yet, in bass fishing he is one of the most feared fishermen on the circuit. Come June with a little luck, proper planning, excellent team work between the teams there could again be all new names at the top of the list. That is the nature of our sport and one of the reasons we all love it so much.

On Thursday I had a call from Roosevelt Ranger district thanking the club members who camped at Burnt Corral camp ground for the condition we left the camp sites in; EXCELLENT! The forestry service maintainers said we left the camp sites in the cleanest condition they have seen in a long time, which apparently is not the norm. I want to thank each of you for again leading the way in how a fishing club should conduct a tournament and taking responsibility for each of your actions and being good neighbors in the use of public lands. As your Tournament Director since the start of the calendar year I cannot express how proud of each of you and the club over all I am when I receive those types of phone calls.

With the brutal temperatures on tournament day, we had four dead fish contributed to live well malfunction. In the coming months we will have to continue to pay special attention to keeping caught fish in excellent condition to be returned to the lake for our next tournament after they are weighed.

One last reminder I will not be at the June meeting or tournament due to business commitments out of state and a fishing trip to Canada in mid-June for pike and walleyes. Terry Tassin will be collecting the applications and checks so mail them to Terry for June only; Lou Hirlemann will be the acting Tournament Director.

Member Guest Column
By Brian Chambers

A Big Thank You

I wish to thank everyone in the club that donated or contributed to help offset the expense of Thomas and Brandon competing at the 2012 Boat USA College World Championship at Pickwick Lake. The raffle drawings will be held on Saturday May 19th at Sportsman's Warehouse, where we will have a table set up to sell raffle tickets. If any members have any fishing line that they don't want or are not going to use contact me; the boys could use it during the tournament. The boys will be competing out of the Bass Federation Boat during practice and the tournament. They have some pretty big shoes to fill as the high school

team from last year finished in 19th place over all of those college teams. This year there are 200 boats in the field from all across the United States so it should be challenging but also fun and exciting and a very unique opportunity for the boys. High school fishing is on the map in Arizona and the boys are ready to make a statement in Alabama. I will email reports to the club while we are in Alabama to let everyone know how the boys are doing.



Top: Grimes & Ballard pre-fishing
Below: Hughes & Martlage



Below, last but not least:
"Yum, yum fresh meat!"



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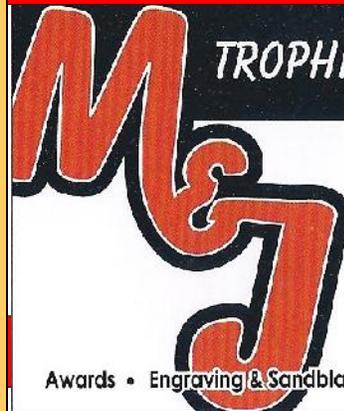
Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>

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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.

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in June

Steve Bowlin

Doug Cunningham

Gary Grimes

James Halka

Steve Harbaugh

Tony Medina

Dick Monell

Jim Wicklund



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