



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MAY 2017 EDITION
12 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



If you were fortunate enough to fish the Midweek Bass Apache Lake tournament this month, then you also witnessed something that I have never seen before in all my days of tournament fishing. Every tournament boat was located and fishing in the last mile of Apache Lake located at the base of the Roosevelt Dam. Apparently there is a golden algae bloom at Apache, which is the root cause of the poor fishing throughout the lake, everywhere but the river. You could not buy a bite almost anywhere else. I think every angler spent time working throughout the entire lake, looking for a secondary bite, but that bite was not to be

found. On tournament day, almost every angler headed for the last mile of upstream water in Apache Lake. Obviously that many boats fishing so close together are not without its problems, but there are tremendous benefits. There was no such thing as your own water. As people moved off spots, others moved in. However, the sharing of food, tackle, tips and general conversation were made quite easy due to our closeness. The river area was absolutely stacked with fish, but congratulations go to Dwayne Steel and Ingo Maura on a well-executed victory.

As with every Apache Tournament, we always hold a barbeque the night before the tournament. Gary Asmus and Greg Prather did a masterful job on the grill, cooking up 72 brats and 40 burgers. Rusty Murdock's wife, Christine, graciously contributed salads and deserts. The food was plentiful and wonderfully tasty. Thanks to everyone who pitched in to make this event happen.

Of course we held our annual Apache Poker tournament after the barbeque. Eighteen savvy anglers tested their poker skills

against each other to see who could win the big prize of \$50; yours truly bested the best.

Thanks again to all who helped make this event a success. The weigh-in team did a great job, as usual. Thanks to Gary Martlage, Sean Ballard, Tom Savage, Mike Adamson, and Terry Tassin. You guys are great.

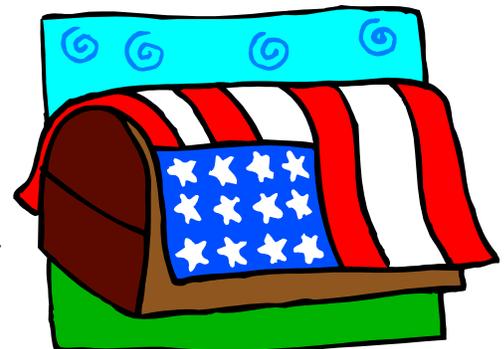
The June tournament will be held at Lake Pleasant, from Safe Light to 11AM. Hope to see you there.

Team Dwayne Steel & Ingo Moura Squeak Out 1st Place Win

Taking home 1st Place, Team

Memorial Day

2017



**Monthly Breakfast
Meeting**
Deer Valley Airport
Restaurant
702 W. Deer Valley Rd
Phoenix, AZ
1st Wednesday of Each
Month 8:00 A.M.

"We Practice Catch and Release"

Dwayne Steel & Ingo Moura brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 16.73 lbs.

Ingo Moura: Who doesn't like Apache Lake? Really it's a gorgeous area and a great fishery. It's peaceful and remote enough that you can't be on your cell phone all day. One of our favorite parts is getting the club together for "The Camp Out and BBQ", and of course the friendly poker game. Gary Grimes schooled us this time. Thanks to everyone that participated in the cook out; good food and good times. Thanks also to all the volunteers and weigh-in crew. I like the saying "Volunteers give the time of their lives", so thanks again.

Congrats to everyone who placed and were in the money. There were some very close weight numbers, especially in

the big fish contest. I have to admit I made an amateur move when I eyeballed my Big Fish; it's quite possible that this could have been costly. Live and learn right? I still get to claim #1 credit for this event.

I was once again paired up with good stick Dwayne Steele. When I commented on the home made burritos that were stashed in his glove compartment, he said "Stay Out Of Them That's Rule #1". It turned out that Dwayne is all

bark and no bite, and the burrito was one of the best I have ever had. I thought Dwayne being from the Tonto Basin area, we would have the edge or some secret spots, but we headed up the river like everyone else. We were boat 13 but probably the 3rd boat up the river. I was holding on tight as we passed several boats racing to the Rosie Dam. We started out using top water Rico's with no luck. Dwayne started dead sticking a super fluke and filled the boat with



The Rules By Gary Grimes

How about a dam explanation please!

Earlier this year the subject came up regarding fishing beyond the dam buoys at Bartlett Lake. The area is clearly posted "Keep Out," but we wanted to know if this applied to fishing from a boat. Well, our ever diligent tournament director contacted AZ Game and Fish department and was told that yes, keep out also means no fishing. They tell us "no fishing," so that is the way it is. It was unfortunate, however, that of course at Apache Lake there was a boat load of five plus pound largemouth located on the other side of the buoys.

Co-anglers

Frustration by the co-angler is the number one thing that contributes to a less than positive experience for a day on the water. For the most part though, it's completely avoidable. Don't think about what the boater should be doing; what he's not doing right, or where he should be going. Instead, focus entirely on what YOU are doing. The boat's going to go where it's going to go, and you can catch fish no matter where it is if you focus on fishing the water and cover in front of you. If your boater is doing something you can't compete with like bed fishing, or fishing a point, try fan casting a wacky rig or dragging a Carolina rig out deep, it's very seldom that all the bass in one lake are located where the boater is casting. Many times you can join the boater on the front of the boat and cast right next to him, just ask. Without exception, there is always something a co-angler can do to catch fish, and getting frustrated isn't going to put anything in the boat. Remember the golden rule! Being polite and courteous to your boater and his equipment will result in a much more positive day on the water than banging around in his boat. Be as organized as you can, don't leave your stuff lying around out of box, pick-up after yourself. And please don't be "that guy" who brings two massive tackle boxes and twelve rods on the boat on tournament day; a single medium sized box and 5-6 rods is more than enough. Bottom line is: his boat, his rules.

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 7 June** starting at 8:00 AM, at **Deer Valley Airport Restaurant** (just one mile north of I-101 at the intersection of 7th Ave & Deer Valley Road). We hope you will come early and have breakfast together.

The next club point tournament will be at **Lake Pleasant** on **21 June 2017**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.



1st Place Overall
Dwayne Steel & Ingo Moura

rat bass. I started to feel like I was out of my league, so I picked up my go to crank bait Sexy Shad and started upgrading fish immediately. Every time I caught a fish, Dwayne kept saying "Don't stop throwing that crank, so that's all I threw all day. Yes, my arms are killing me today. Dwayne will tell you I'm just crying – LOL. After 7AM we were slowly upgrading and culling fish. Dwayne switched to a wacky Senko in pumpkin color and had his share in upgrades as well. As most fishermen were fishing near the banks we fished more mid-channel, slowly moving up and down a couple hundred yards stretch of river. It was a pleasure fishing with Dwayne and like most anglers I have fished with, I have learned a ton.

John Hawkins & Gary Grimes Mix It Up For 2nd Overall

In **Second Place** the team of **Hawkins & Grimes** weighed five bass for a total weight of 16.26 lbs. Gary's 4.47 lb bass took **1st Place Big Fish** honors.

Gary Grimes: I had the pleasure of fishing with the mild mannered, soft-spoken, and generally un-opinionated John Hawkins at our Apache Lake tournament and had an absolutely great time. Johnny is a super guy and a veteran angler with map-like knowledge of the lake and how to work it.

Like everyone else, we tried to locate a secondary pattern somewhere else in the lake, but also, like everyone else, we too ended up in the river. We caught fish early on top-water, but soon realized that would not win the tournament. We ended up catching our bigger fish on jigs, spinner baits, jerk



2nd Place
Gary Grimes & John Hawkins

baits, and swim-jigs. Our big fish came on a ½ oz. green pumpkin jig on a deep-water point. Thanks for a great day Johnny.

John Hawkins: Gary Grimes and I found a place to fish amongst 27 other boats and

Come On Guys - Step-up Help Wanted - Club Treasurer

The club will be in need of a Treasurer at the end of the year when John Reichard steps down. We recently migrated all of our financial data to QuickBooks Online to make it easier to access and enter information.

This will be John Reichard's last year serving as club Treasurer for the Midweek Bass Anglers. In preparation for his departure, we are looking for someone to assume the responsibilities of Treasurer when he leaves, but more importantly we would like to bring this person aboard early this year so that John can provide some training and oversight. As Treasurer you would be required to provide an accounting of the club's income and expenses, as well as deposit monies and issue checks. This position does require a vote and approval by the club in November, but your approval is very likely with the support of the board behind you. The term of Treasurer is two years, and any applicant must be an active member. Interested? Let me know. Gary Grimes, President.

gary@bestexpression.com

started top water fishing jerk baits then Carolina rigs, swim jigs, spinner baits, and jigs and we caught fish all day. Gary Grimes is a fantastic guy and we're both boaters so we don't get a chance to fish with each other often. Gary schooled me on a swim jig and we had a great time bouncing ideas off each other to find our bite.

I would like to thank the club for another great tournament. This club is good because we have great members and a very good board of directors. A special thanks to the cooks and the members who volunteered their help and supplied wonderful food for our Tuesday night cookout. More of my tall tales are to come at the next club meeting. See you there.

Dead Fish Knocks Team Baca & Brakefield To 3rd Place Finish

Team **David Baca & David Brakefield** weighed five bass for 16.04 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

David Baca: What an awesome tournament! It looked like the USS Enterprise came in from outer space with its sparkling machine and took all of our boats at start time and beamed them all into the back of the river just like they were sitting before takeoff time. Congrats to Dwayne and Ingo for a tough win. Word was out that this would probably be the case, so we tried to find places back there where the fish would replenish in case we



**3rd Place
David Brakefield & David Baca**

could not move around. Fortunately my first pick spot was not taken up when we got there and we started catching fish right away. Even though the top water bite was excellent, my jig and pig fish were stacked up right on the bald point, so I stayed mostly with that while my partner, David Brakefield, was catching fish with his top water baits. We also caught some fish with Senkos and 6 inch Zipper worms. It was a very great day of fishing with a super partner and watching everyone catch so many fish just topped off the day.

David Brakefield: I fished with David Baca; great guy, great fisherman. I learned a lot, mostly how to net a fish while culling one and reeling in my line without a fish, grabbing the net because David had another one on, all at the same time. I prefished with Dave the day before and he was on fish but was not sure we could get his

first choice spot on tournament day because we were in the second flight. Luck was with us, no one within 50 yards and the fish bite started. The boats were stacked in as tight as the fish and it looked like everyone was catching fish. We did not think we would place as high as we did and third was great, thanks to that dead fish we had to weigh. Great time, great dinner.

Team Neil Burns & Terry Tassin Hammer One Spot For 4th Place

Team **Neil Burns & Terry Tassin** weighed five bass for 15.63 pounds and took home **Fourth Place** honors.

Neil Burns: Once again it was a pleasure to fish with Terry. We were 3rd out, so we went almost to the buoy line. It was crowded but it wasn't bad, everyone just moved around, found a little spot and made a casting lane. It was quite a sight to see all those boats stacked in that last 1/2 mile. We caught fish on spinnerbaits, A-rig, and chatterbaits, until we finally settled into a little pocket at the west side of the buoy line. The fish seemed to be there, so we just decided to stay put. Where were we going to go anyway? We pounded that corner for the rest of the day, mostly with Keitech swimbaits. We had decided to leave at 20 minutes to 2 PM so we could make it through the flotilla of boats, and then on his last cast, Terry caught one of our best fish. For me it was quite a day;



**4th Place
Terry Tassin & Neil Burns**

great partner, caught a lot of fish, and BS'd with everyone around us. I did manage to kick a nice rod & reel into the lake. If the water ever gets low enough it's in that little corner we were fishing in.

Congrats to Dwayne and Ingo for the win and thanks to the cook-out crew, I know it's a lot of work but it always turns out great!

Terry Tassin: What a tournament! I guess you could say that the tournament started for us on Tuesday with a pre-fishing day. However, I was pre-fishing with Tom Savage in his boat which I am very knowledgeable on and Neil fished solo. During pre-fishing we covered the lake from the Three-Bar Point area back up to the No Entry float line near the Roosevelt Dam. Nothing was to be found in the main lake area – something is wrong in the main lake; however, when we headed up-river

things changed. The fish were plentiful and willing to eat a lure and that makes for a fun day.

Neil Burns and I put together a plan after pre-fishing that would immediately take us straight up river as far as we could go. Being the 3rd boat out on tournament day worked in our favor and we had our pick of hot spots up river as soon as we got there – for about two minutes. After that it was “take a ticket to fish” time with most of the 28 boats fishing the tournament all fishing the same spots in their turn. That did not include several weekday fishermen who thought they were going to have a nice, quiet, lonely Wednesday fishing day at Apache. Boy were they surprised! However, it worked out fine for all of us and everyone was as courteous as could be expected given the circumstances.

Neil and I fished with several other boats cycling through the same spots in an area near the float line that was about 50 by 50 yards wide and long. On one of our passes near the float line we noted a non-tournament fisherman with his boat tight against the float line, casting his swimbait lure over the float line and throwing his lure as far as he could get it along the float line and also out into the open water between the floats and the dam. We noted he seemed to be catching lots more fish than we were, but we could not fish over the line because of TNF/SRP rules. In a short

period of time Neil and I figured out how to catch some bass in a small corner of the water near the end of the float line and a steep rock wall. We decided to stay there all day and harvest any fish that came further down river past the float line. We also wanted to observe how the “other” fisherman was catching his fish.

Now comes the good part. From where we were fishing we had an excellent view of the greatest “catching” performance I have seen in many years. The lone fisherman who had laid his boat against the float line and was fishing on the other side of the line began catching and releasing bass so fast I could not keep count. It seemed to me he was catching a bass on every cast. Some fish were small but the majority of fish were really nice bass that any tournament fisherman that day would have loved to have in their livewell. Let me just say this young man was still catching bass on every cast when Neil and I had to head back to the weigh-in at 2 PM. It really was a great show to watch – I just wish it could have been Neil and I. He had to catch over 100 bass while we were watching during the day.

Ok, guess you want to know how we caught our fish. Some were caught on chatter baits, spinnerbaits, top water chuggers, jigs, and dropshots all within the same small area I alluded to earlier in this rambling. I have never fished the same spot during a tournament as long as we did

this time. Finally, to top it all off, on my last cast of the day as we were hurrying to get ready to run back to the launch ramp I hooked up with our largest bass of the day on a drop shot using a Robo Margarita Marauder six inch worm. What a day and what an ending. I can't thank Neil Burns enough for a great day on the water. Let's do it again soon Neil.

Team Vern Ridgway & Ernie Arvizu Tie For 5th Place

A five fish limit weighing 14.53 lbs was enough to earn **Vern Ridgway & Ernie Arvizu** a tie for **5th Place** honors.

Vern Ridgway: I had the pleasure of drawing Ernie Arvizu, a nice man and good fishing partner (he brought 20 poles to be sure he had the bite covered). Our practice day was very bad with short strikes and too few fish. So it was



**5th Place Tie
Ernie Arvizu & Vern Ridgway**

plain to see we would need to follow the whole club to the river. All the fish came from a 20 yard area of the river. We threw jigs laced with a crawler, Texas rigged speed craws, and top water from the "spook" family to catch our fish. We did make a big fish move to some key spots that Apache has been known to have, but to no avail. The fish in the main lake were sick and did not want to eat. We heard the same comment about the main portion of the lake from several other teams. We culled a total of four times during the tournament.

Team Roger Root & Mike Bloxam Dropshot To Tie For 5th Place

A five fish limit weighing 14.53 lbs was enough to earn **Roger Root & Mike Bloxam** a tie for **5th Place** honors.

Mike Bloxam: My partner for Apache was Roger Root with whom I really enjoyed fishing and sharing the day. Roger is a great guy, really knows the lake and was dialed in on areas and what to fish. At the start of the tournament, as we were boat 17, we watched the first 16 boats all head up river. Roger commented that it was going to be crowded up river and so we went to a couple of spots about a mile short of where the crowd collected. The first hour of fishing we threw everything, Top water, jerk baits, swim baits, jigs, drop shot and flick shake. We didn't get a bite, so we finally headed up river and joined the crowd. The area we fished probably



**5th Place Tie
Roger Root & Mike Bloxam**

had 20 boats in it with most of the teams already having a limit of bass and now culling. After we found a spot to fish we had a limit in 45 minutes all on Drop Shot 4 and 5 inch Bold Bluegill Roboworms. Over the next couple of hours we were able to cull 2 small fish before it looked like the bite had finally died.

So we headed down river to fish other locations, structure and depth all the way down to the other end. To our amazement we got very few bites and caught one cat fish. It appeared that the only productive bite was at the upper end in the river. So for the last hour we went back to where we caught our fish. We were able to land four more but they weren't large enough to cull any of our smaller fish.

In closing, congratulations to Dwayne Steel and Ingo Moura for First Place. Also thanks to Midweek Bass Anglers for



**2nd Place Big Bass
Doug Cunningham & Larry White**

another fun and well run event.

Team Larry White & Doug Cunningham Worm Way To 7th Place Finish and 2nd Place Big Bass

Team **Larry White & Doug Cunningham** weighed five bass for 14.81 pounds and took home **7th Place** honors. White's 4.42 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** money.

Larry White: I was very lucky at the community rock. I cast my little ole worm up next to the big ole rock and started twitching. About half way back to the boat there was pressure. I set the hook and Doug scooped into the boat (after 5 tries) my 2nd place big fish...LOL. Flick-shake strikes again

Team Deb Cunningham & Jeff Meyer Pull In The Goon Fish Prize

Taking home the **Goon Fish Prize** Team **Deb Cunningham & Jeff Meyer** weighed a 25 pound Carp to earn the prize money.



**Debbie Cunningham
25 lb Carp Goon Fish**

Jeff Meyer: I can tell you that Debbie Cunningham caught the goon fish on a Carolina rig, up near the floating buoy line. She set the hook thinking it was a good fish or a tree. Once we saw a flash of copper we knew at that point it was a big Carp. Deb's scale's maximum weight ability was 15 pounds. When the fish was weighed it maxed out the scale. Several other teams were in the area and weighed the fish on a higher reading scale and determined it

weighed 25 pounds. The photo shows the Carp and the competitor who caught it. Good job Deb.



Weighing-In

**By Jack Hughes
Tmx Director**

This will not be my normal good news and congratulations for this or that article. What I am about to say has finally gone over the top with me and it concerns every member of our club and could ruin our club's reputation with AZF&G and TNF as the Gold Standard of bass clubs in Arizona. There is a reason why we are the biggest and in my opinion the best bass club in the state and that is because our members care about bass fishing. I as Tournament Director DO NOT want to see our reputation endangered in any way. In our discussion with both agencies your Board has told AZG&F that we have no objections to the enforcement of the rules.

If the Tournament Director does not brief you about a specific Arizona fishing regulation or state law are you responsible to know the Law? Yes, of course, you are responsible. Let's get specific with a few examples. If there are buoys on the water that say "Keep Out", or even if no signs are there can you stay on the outside area of the buoys and throw a line into the Keep Out water area? The answer is you broke two Arizona statutes.

1. You are guilty of trespassing because under AZ law your

rod and fishing line is considered an extension of your body and that puts your body in the Keep Out area (I want to point out this is not a fishing law but a civil one under trespassing).

2. The second statute is you can be charged with fishing in a restricted area and the enforcing officer can charge you with both or either one!

Almost every tournament one of our members says I also fish with club so-and-so and they let us do this or that. My answer is always the same "Midweek follows all of the laws and regulations to the letter and if your other club wants to put you in jeopardy for violating a rule and face the potential of losing all their permits for one year, let them do it, we will not". Midweek Bass tries to never violate the laws and regulations as a club. Yes, the regulations say that if a permit holder violates any of the permit restrictions the club can have all permits suspended for up to a year.

One of the rules for every tournament permit issued is that a permit holder must submit a plan on how we are going to ensure when the tournament is over, that we leave the camping and weigh-in areas clean of all trash generated by club members. We had submitted a plan that says we will have a clean-up committee. Burnt Coral camp ground where our members camped had trash all over the place including beer cans, fishing line and paper cups. Gary Martlage led the effort in

cleaning up the mess. Gary is a volunteer and it should not be his job to clean up after you. We have never had this happen to this degree in the past. Why; is it because we have so many new members or are our club members just getting lazy or just not caring? I think the individual club members must take responsibility for their actions. This is another case of a few not caring and putting the club's reputation in jeopardy.

I often get calls the day after a tournament complaining that so and so broke the rules. I listen and then tell them there is nothing I can do because our club rules state how a protest is submitted and the time frame it must be reported. Each of you when you joined the club was provided with a copy of the club bylaws and tournament rules by our secretary. Additionally throughout the year the rules are again emailed to all members to ensure they are available on your computer for you to reference. I would bet that over 80% of the members have never read the rules. There are clear and precise rules on reporting rules violations and a time limit for submitting protests. Just as a reminder, here is what the tournament rules say.

Tournament Rules - ARTICLE 17: RULES INTERPRETATION Will be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee. Any violation of the club tournament rules may result in disqualification from the tournament or revocation of club membership. All protests must be submitted to the Tournament Director verbally

and then in writing no later than 15 minutes after the scale is closed. The member filing the protest must have at least one witness to confirm the violation other than their team partner. A clear photograph can be used as a witness. To avoid protests, if a possible infraction is about to take place, the would-be offender should be alerted to check the rules! All Tournament Committee decisions are final.

Let me close by saying again, this is the finest bass club in Arizona. You have worked hard to get it to this point so let's not endanger it. I hope you are all looking forward to our Lake Pleasant event in June – and a problem free tournament.

Good fishing!



Photo Scrapbook - Lake Apache May 17, 2017



MULTI-TASKING

Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2017 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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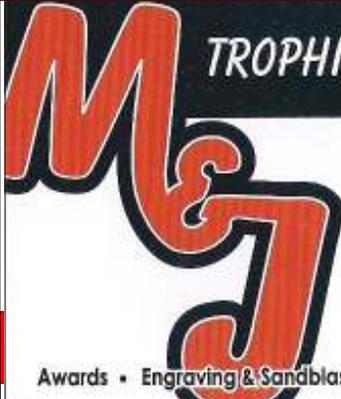
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Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>

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

**John Hilland (B)
Luke Spreitzer (B)**

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**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday
Born in June**



- Steve Bowlin
- Warren Brackey
- Doug Cunningham
- Gary Grimes
- Steve Harbaugh
- Steve Mawson
- Tony Medina
- Brendan Southwind

**Midweek Bass Anglers 2017
Tournament Schedule**

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 18 January | Bartlett |
| 15 February | Roosevelt |
| 14-15 March | Havasu (1.5 Days) |
| 19 April | Saguaro |
| 17 May | Apache |
| 21 June | Pleasant |
| 19 July | Bartlett (Night) |
| 16 August | Saguaro |
| 20 September | Canyon |
| 18-October | Roosevelt |
| 14-15 November | Apache (1.5 Days) |