

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



OCTOBER 2011

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective

By Dave Rice

Wow, what a fun tournament even though it was a 'little' hot. The camaraderie was great and the food was excellent as usual. I was glad to see the amount of members that took part in the barbeque. It made for a great time for all involved. It was good to see our old friend Mike Perry with us again though he is leaving Monday and heading back to the Middle East until March next year. God speed Mike and we all hope you will return safely to fish with us again. I had a great day fishing with Dave Nelson who is a lot of fun. We didn't catch the fish we wanted but did a lot of laughing and enjoyed our day on the water. Thanks again to DJ, Jack and Gary for a fabulous feed. Jack made a great pot of beans and if you tried the spicy beans I hope they were as good to you as they were to me. DJ cooked some more great steaks and

Gary had a perfect set up where everyone got their food and were sitting down eating right away. Evidently the gas bottle gave Gary a little problem a first but as usual he adapted and over came; who rah!

I want to congratulate all the newly elected board members for their stepping-up to serve next year. This is just a reminder for them that the monthly board of directors meeting is Tuesday night at Terry Tassin's home and they are invited to attend to see how things are done and get up to speed in the management of the club.

Okay, I hope to see all of you at the next membership meeting on the 2nd of November at the usual place - Bill Johnson's at 19th Ave and Bell.

Keep safe and enjoy what you do.

sooo glad when it cools off.

Now lets hear from our winners.

Neil Burns & Ernie Arvizu End Dry Spell With Big Win

The **First Place** team of **Neil Burns & Ernie Arvizu** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 11.00 lbs. The team also won the prize for the **Super Pot** option.

Ernie and Neal said, "Old guys rock! Neal and I pre-fished Alamo Lake on the north side near where the river once was. We found that the coves were shallow, but with enough structure to shelter the



Lake Alamo

October 19, 2011

By Terry Tassin

OK, now that the season is approaching it's end, we should get some cool weather to end up our year at Bartlett next month. I for one will be

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"

fish. Many of the spots were only, at times, about two feet deep and murky, but with grass where we found fish. We had to flip with 1/2 ounce weights to get through the grass with lots of stickups.



1st Place
Ernie Arvizu & Neil Burns

Most of our lures were Senkos and some watermelon red flake jigs. After finding the fish on points and inside coves, we decided to throw crank lures on the main lake areas. Many of our lures were in shad colors and bass hits were many. Often fish were not of sufficient size to keep.

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 2 November** 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 last club point tournament of the year will be a day event at **Lake Bartlett** on **16 November 2011**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

Fishing with Neal is all about having a good time. We laughed much and talked about nothing for three days. Having fun is what fishing is all about for both of us. Also want to thank Jack, Gary and all those that created the great cook out. Also, thanks to Terry and the Weigh-in Team for all you do."

Shaw & Southard Junk Fish to Second Place

In **Second Place** the team of **Jamie Shaw & Lew Southard** finished with 10.82 lbs for their five bass.

Lew said, "Jamie and I junk fished all day. We caught fish on crank baits like the old school Fat Rap #5 black & silver, Texas rigged baby brush hogs in green pumpkin and watermelon, and drop shot 4 inch Peoples worm. Three of our 'overs' came on a Yamamoto 5 inch double tail hula grub in green pumpkin, the fourth over came on a spinner bait with a white &



2nd Place
Lew Southard & Jamie Shaw

chartreuse skirt. Fish were caught from the dam to the river. Jamie and I would have been the winners but that Neil Burns guy was on one of my secret spots and I know that's where he caught those fish. Stay off my water Neil. Jamie and I caught a lot of fish; just needed one a little bigger for a really good day on the lake."

Bill Ruehle & Steve Harbaugh Fish Spinner Baits and Plastics For 3rd Place

Team Bill Ruehle & Steve Harbaugh weighed five bass for 10.35 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors. Steve's 5.10 lb bass was good for **1st Place Big Bass** and the **5 lb pot**.

NOTICE!

Changes to Club Bylaws & Tournament Rules for 2012

All previously proposed changes will be voted on at the 2 November meeting. All approved changes will become effective on January 1, 2012. A copy of the approved revised bylaws and tournament rules will be provided to all members by January 1st.

Club Officers Elected for 2012

The **Board of Directors** is pleased to announce the election of the following members as Officers of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Inc for the year 2012:

- President: Gary Grimes
- Vice Pres: Lou Hirlemann
- Secretary: Terry Tassin
- Treasurer: John Milkint
- Tmx Director: Jack Hughes



3rd Place
Steve Harbaugh & Bill Ruehle

Steve Harbaugh commented, "WOW!! What a great time at Alamo. Heads-up to non-boaters; if you draw Bill "What's a blind" Ruehle as a partner, you will have a great time. He is just a fun guy to hang out with. Bill "What's a blind" and I met up Monday night and hit the water at daylight Tuesday morning. Neither of us had fished Alamo for quite some time, and with the water level so low all our old spots were high and dry. We started looking in backs of coves because we both had heard the fish were shallow. We soon found lots of fish jumping, but those weren't biters. We worked the shore lines looking for small patches of sandy beach areas or rock rubble with some stick ups. Getting a few hits doing that with drop shots and me throwing a spinner bait. Kept trying to pull fish from the grass mats but with no luck. We did get enough hits to think that it might work Wednesday morning, but since we were

boat 21 we didn't know if any of our areas would be open. Thanks to one of the early boats that took our 1st choice spot we went to our second location.

Glad we did; I threw to the back of a little pocket with some grass. As I was pulling my spinner bait thru the grass it suddenly got much heavier. The fight was on! It felt like a good fish but I thought it might be just the grass till I saw a flash and Bill "What's a blind", grabbed the net. After the fish dove a couple of times he scooped her up and she was in the live well. I really didn't think too much of it at the time. Some silent time passed and Bill said "you think it's maybe 4 lbs"? I said I hope so but let's find her bigger twin sister about 4 more times. So I kept working the spinner bait and Bill "What's a blind", worked his MMII drop shot and we caught 2 nice slots and 2 unders, but it was slow and tough going. One of Bill's "What's a blind" slots came in water with a lot of stick ups and it got wrapped in a bush, but with good team

work and a bit of patience we managed to get it in the boat without breaking off. I really think the key to the fish I caught on the spinner bait was that I would throw it on the bank then twitch it into the water, working a slow pull and pause kind of like a jig. Hits most often came on the fall when it was near a stick up. I can't remember a time when I threw a bait for so long. I would have to guess in the 9 hours of fishing I threw that bait for 8 and 1/2 of those hours. I just really felt it was going to work for us. Wish it was maybe a pound better, but I'm thrilled with our outcome and payday.

Bill, "What's a blind", was throwing enough other baits besides his drop shot that I think we made the right choice. I always believe in throwing something different than my partner until one of us starts getting a lot of hits, then maybe doing the same thing. By throwing a different bait there is always the chance to throw something different if one of the guys gets hit but doesn't



"Sorry."

Membership

As of October 21, 2011 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 86 active members.

connect, thereby getting a second chance at the same fish. It seems so often that there is only one fish so if it gets two looks maybe one will work.

Now for those of you that are wondering, why I am writing Bill, "What's a blind" so often; after a great dinner Tuesday night several of us played poker. Bill was reluctant because he didn't quite understand what 'blinds' in Texas Hold-em are for. He kept hollering, "What's a blind" every time he had to put money in before he got cards. After a couple of hours of play it came down to Bill and me as the last two players. Since we were a team for the fishing I said lets stop right here and split the 1st and 2nd place money and keep it a happy boat for morning. We shook on it and both took home \$85 bucks. So it was a very nice - and profitable - couple of days at Alamo.



**1st Place Big Bass
Steve Harbaugh**

If I can say one more thing, I know this has gotten long, but my boss, and new member, Chad Schimmel and I fished together Monday morning.

When I decided to tie on a spinner bait, I realized I had forgotten to bring my bag with spinner baits in it. Chad said, help your self to mine. I took one; a white and chartreuse skirt with a large gold blade and small silver blade. Throwing that onto the bank so much, it's pretty beat up. So thanks' Chad for helping me get that 5.10 lb bass! I owe you a big lunch real soon. Also thanks Chad for stirring up the pelicans. Anyone that was still waiting to take off was given an awesome sight of the sky filling up with white birds. It was like a scene out of an African movie. That and Bill "What's a blind" and I seeing the mountain lion on Tuesday was pretty cool too."

Jeff Martineau & Charlie Ferrell Take 4th Place

The **4th Place Team** of **Jeff Martineau & Charlie Ferrell** weighed 9.87 lbs with a five bass limit. The team also won the prize for **2nd Place Big Bass** - 4.81 lbs.

Jeff remarked, "We started our pre fish on Tuesday covering main lake cuts and points. We caught a few fish but nothing that we thought would be enough to do well in the derby. We then started to concentrate on the upper end where the river used to be. There we immediately got a big bite and decided we would be up there all day for the tournament. There are lots of stick ups up there but we found that our best bites were in the trees that had thicker bases and branches.



**4th Place & 2nd Place Big Bass
Charlie Ferrell & Jeff Martineau**

Our first tree produced our first slot fish flipping a dark colored Yamamoto flipping grub. Our next tree produced our big fish on the same bait. We thought we were off to a good start, but as the day went on, we caught nothing but slots and unders. The areas we had were holding fish, it just seemed like they were not active with the lack of wind and the high temps. Still it was a fun day on the water, and a great steak dinner the night before."

Lou Hirlemann & Steve Baker Finish in 5th Place

The **5th Place Team** of **Lou Hirlemann & Steve Baker** weighed 8.96 lbs with a five bass limit. The team also won the prize for **2nd Place Big Bass** - 4.81 lbs.



**5th Place
Steve Baker & Lou Hirlemann**

Lou said, "Steve and I had fun with top water lures all day. We caught fish on buzz baits and one on a Texas rig. Camping and the steaks were great on Tuesday night.

Steve Baker added, "When it comes to how Lou and I fished it is no secret. He used the Lou, "Fish Call", to call them in and then the buzz bait to hook them. He is a surgeon with the buzz bait and taught me a lot. I am truly thankful for all the great people in the club. The BBQ and the camping was awesome and a great way to spend my birthday! See you all next year!"

Statistics for the tournament: 48 men fished 9 hours each, bringing 110 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 151.38 pounds with a 3.15 pound average per fisherman. All but three fish were released back into the lake after weighing to fight again another day.



Option Pots

By Jerry Askam

5 LB. POT: On an overall tough fishing day for most anglers three very nice fish came to the scales with a 4.35 weighed by the team of Berry/Thomas, a 4.81 by Martineau/Ferrell, and a 5.10 lb. Largemouth caught by Steve Harbaugh. Steve's fish won the pot of \$240 and took a spinnerbait shortly after the tournament start. I'm sure that made for a pleasant day knowing the 5 pounder was already in the livewell. Steve and his partner Bill Ruehle also

won the poker tournament on Tuesday evening so I would guess they had a pretty good time at Alamo. Congrats on winning the pot Steve.

SUPER POT: Neil Burns and Ernie Arvizu won the tournament and the Super Pot worth \$230. Coupled with the tournament win they take home a total of \$614. Neil proved his dominance at Alamo by being the winning boater in both April and October. Neil becomes the third two time winner this year along with points leader Jeff Martineau and runner-up Daniel Elias. Ernie becomes the club's first three time winner by being the winning non-boater at Havasu, Saguaro, and Alamo. Congrats Neil and Ernie on a great tournament.

GOON FISH: Because of the unfortunate DQ of Richie Rojas and Rich Lapointe there was no Goon Fish winner. In accordance with club tournament rules, the winner of the \$205 Goon Fish pot will be determined by random draw for all persons entered in the pot and the draw will take place at the November general meeting. Rich caught a Bluegill on a crankbait that was weighed in as the winning Goon Fish until the DQ became necessary. There is a story behind the DQ that displays honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship on the part of Richie and Rich that I will try to relate. It shows the quality of the people in the club and the sportsmanship the club strongly promotes.

Around 2 o'clock on tournament day, the Game and Fish officer pulled up to Richie's boat and checked for fishing license, fire extinguisher, etc and asked how many fish were in the livewell. Richie told him five, three unders and two slots. The officer pulled the fish from the livewell and took them to his boat where he measured them. When returning the fish the officer said one was a 16" over but there were only four fish. Richie thought he had five but didn't have culling tags on the smaller fish and thought maybe he had released one and assumed the officer was correct as only four fish could be seen. They subsequently caught another under and put it in the livewell thinking that completed their five fish limit.

Richie had been having problems with dirty water in the livewell and had installed a bilge pump to circulate the water. They had caught a small 5 to 6" bass and somehow during the tournament it got wedged behind the bilge pump and couldn't be seen. Richie has to use a vacuum to drain water from the livewell and in the course of doing that and cleaning his boat on Thursday he found the small fish. Richie immediately called the Tournament Director and advised he would have to be DQ'd because he actually had six fish in violation of the five fish limit. As a side note Riche says all of his fish were alive and well when taken by the Game and Fish officer but the 16" died after being returned to the livewell.

I'm sure we all feel bad about the circumstances resulting in the DQ but it shows the honesty and integrity of Richie and Rich. Well done guys.



Weighing-In
By Jack Huges, Tmx Dir Elect

I would like to thank the members for electing me to the position of Tournament Director for 2012. I want to assure all the members that I will do the best job I possibly can to make the tournaments fun and a place they want to be the third Wednesday of every month. As Tournament Director I consider my position as the elected representative of the members to bring forth their ideas to the board for consideration to make the tournaments even better than they are currently.

Midweek Bass Anglers exists for its members and I would like to remind all when you belong to a club you only get out of it what you put into it. I am encouraging all members to be more active in helping out with the numerous tasks that have to be completed in order to have a very successful club and tournaments. It takes many active members to have a first class club and not just the elected officers. It takes active members and inputs from the membership to make Midweek Bass even better than it is currently.

If anyone has any ideas on how we can make the tournaments better please bring it to my attention so that I

can bring it up to the board for a decision.

Finally, I would like to thank Clay for all his efforts in the past few years in helping the club to grow and showing the new members the enjoyment of tournament fishing. I am looking forward to working with him and receiving his guidance while I learn the task of being a successful Tournament Director.

Again, thank you for your confidence in electing me as the Tournament Director for 2012.



Terminal Tactics
Rigging Techniques That
Beguile Bass

Clip The Hooks - To make a crankbait or topwater plug more snag proof, clip off one point on all treble hooks. Position each set so that two points are up and one point is down. Then, with wire cutters or similar tool cut off the point that rides downward on each set of hooks. This modification makes the plug considerably less likely to hang up on underwater obstructions.

Impale Worm On Slider Head

Retrieved slowly at mid-depths, a plastic worm often attracts suspended bass. Tie on a slider head - a flattened, elongated jig-type bait that produces a good swimming action. For maximum action, add a curly-tail worm rigged weedless. If underwater obstacles are not a problem, a regular jig head is adequate; leave the hook exposed to increase the chances for a solid hook-set.

CAUTION
FISHING AND HUNTING
STORIES IN PROGRESS
PROTECTIVE BOOTS
MAY BE REQUIRED



Photo Scrapbook - Lake Alamo - October 19, 2011



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2011 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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Lew Southard

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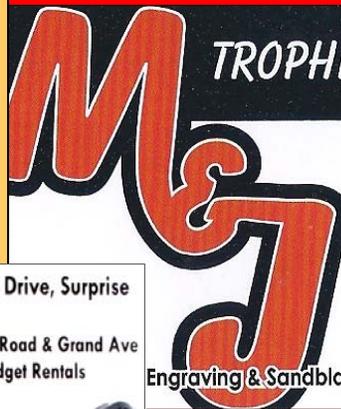
CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE - Vacant

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

**Welcome to New
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Since the Last Newsletter**

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**Midweek Bass Anglers 2011
Tournament Schedule**

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



**Steve Cook
Dusty Mathis
Rocky Piazza**

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
29 December	Holiday Open