



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS
OF ARIZONA INC

B a s s B i t e s

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



SEPTEMBER 2016

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EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's
Perspective

By Gary Grimes



I am sure that most of you are aware that I usually fish as a boater, so obviously I have a boat. I have a nice boat, as a matter of fact, a 2009 Ranger Z520 with a 250 Evinrude. Well, about three weeks ago I decided to take it up to one of the boat shops located at Roosevelt to have some basic maintenance done, only to discover the boat was in need of major repairs, so my boat was not available for use at Roosevelt. I was fortunate that my tournament partner also had a boat so I was able to fish as a co-angler.

There are pros and cons to fishing as a co-angler, so I got to reflect on them during my time at Roosevelt. It only costs me \$80 to fish for two days.

Now some of you may feel \$80 is quite steep, but as I consider my costs of boat ownership for just this year alone, it is quite costly. Let's see; new batteries- \$600, new tires - \$450, boat detailing - \$195, replace front tongue/brake actuator - \$700, new transducer - \$175. This doesn't even consider fuel and oil costs, permits, registration, extra travel costs towing my boat multiple times to our lakes for pre-fishing and tournaments, prep time before a tournament, cleaning after a tournament, and having to park my truck in the sun because my boat gets the prime spot in my garage. \$80 seems like a pretty good deal to me.

Fishing as a co-angler I can totally chill out on the back of the boat. The most stress I will have is dealing with the co-angler-tangle from having to store all my rods in the mere six inches of space between the passenger seat and the side of the boat, and it never fails the one rod I need is on the bottom of my twisted mess of rods. Other than that life is pretty good. I feel absolutely no pressure to decide how fast to run the trolling motor, how far to stay off shore, how long to stay in a spot, or which spot to try next. My only choices are how to fish the water we are on. I do try to compliment my partner on the front of the boat, so I watch where he is throwing his baits

Happy 241st Birthday
US Navy - 13 Oct 1775!



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"

and I try to hit the spots he is missing. I try not to throw over his line, or at least not too much. Until we figure something out, if he is throwing a buzz-bait, maybe I will throw a spinner-bait or crank-bait, or if he is throwing a jig, I can throw a drop-shot. I try to throw something that matches the speed we are moving as it is kind of tough trying to work a drop-shot while my boater is burning the shore with a buzz-bait. If I get tired, I can simply toss a Carolina rig out of the back of the boat and enjoy a nice sandwich and a cold bottle of water, life is good. Who knows, maybe I can accidentally drop some trail-mix overboard that wakes up a sleeping giant bass just in time so he hits my bait trailing 100 yards off the back of the boat (commonly referred to as the Non-boater drag). I sure hope I don't get snagged back there though, hate it when that happens that far behind the boat. I do, however, try and keep my area

somewhat organized so that if I need to move quickly, I won't trip and fall over my tackle and land on his console and break something that would likely cost more than the \$80 that I paid to fish with him. In addition, I get to learn new angling techniques. I have never been a real good jig fisherman, but fishing with David Baca at Roosevelt gave me the opportunity to watch him and learn. He also works a spinner-bait a bit differently than me, so I learned something there as well.

When the day is over, I may have to re-tie a few rods, but I bet I will be relaxing with a cold beer well before my boater is, because I know he has to fuel the boat, check the oil, re-charge his batteries, and probably do some type of repair to something that broke during the day. If he is real lucky, the only thing he has to do is clean up 15 or so used soft plastic baits that I forgot to pick up when I got out.

Probably the most pressure that I will experience is putting him in the water, and getting him out at the end of the day. Now I am fairly experienced in backing up a trailer, but I likely will have to ask him how to run his truck. Does he have an old-school key, or one of those new style fobs that can start the truck when I am 5 feet away? Is his shifter on the column or on the floor? God forbid I mistake the windshield wiper lever and break it off because I thought it was his shifter. Where is his emergency brake and how

does it operate? Does he have 4-wheel drive in case the ramp is slick? Where in the heck is his light switch and how does it work so I can turn off the lights on the ramp? The last thing I need at 5AM is a handful of guys flipping me off on the ramp because I don't know how to work the lights. And how the heck does his truck lock?

So being a co-angler definitely has its pros and cons, and though I love my boat and am very comfortable using it, fishing from the back of the boat is certainly a nice change of pace. I gladly gave my boater his \$80 before the tournament began, knowing all too well his costs are far greater than the few gallons of gas and oil we burned during the tournament.



**Lake Roosevelt
Report
September 21,
2016**

Team Jeff Mason & Joe Kane D/S Deep And Win 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place** Team **Jeff Mason & Joe Kane** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 10.61 lbs. Thanks to **Jeff Mason**, one of those five bass weighed 3.14 lbs which was good enough to also earn the team the prize for **2nd Place Big Bass**.

Jeff Mason: I enjoyed the day fishing with Joe Kane and look forward to fishing with him again. Joe got us off to a fast

**Next Meeting
Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 5 October** 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 Apache** on **18-19 October 2016**. Club launch headquarters, weigh-in location, and tournament hours will be announced.

start by cranking two of our first three fish in the Porter Springs area. We moved to a spot off Windy Hill and caught fish number four and five by 7:45 AM. I got my drop shot weight stuck and moved the boat over to jerk it loose when fish number four hit. Joe got broke off on a Texas rigged brush hog, and I caught fish number five, a nice 2 1/2 pounder, for our limit on a drop shot in about 15 feet of water.

We fished some other spots and caught some smaller fish until I hooked a nice 2 plus pounder smallie on a drop shot in a cut across from Windy Hill in about 18 feet of water later in the morning. We then moved to the dam area around 11:30 AM and I caught the 2nd Place Big Fish (3.14 lbs) on a drop shot in about 25 feet of water. We bounced around to a few more spots and caught some more fish but did not cull any for the rest of the day. I only had three rods on the deck all day, two drop shot rods rigged with a Robo Worm Red Crawler, and a Vixen which I threw in a couple of areas but never had a bite.

Joe Kane: I got to fish with



1st Place
Jeff Mason & Joe Kane

Jeff Mason; a good guy and a good stick. We caught a limit pretty early on drop shot Robo worm red craw and a Norman Deep Little N Bumble Bee crank bait (big shout out to Chet at the Highway 188 Tackle Shop for putting me on that lure, along with the 10% discount for Midweek Bass guys). After early morning the

Team Askam & Kelly Fish North Side of Salt For 2nd Overall Finish

In **Second Place** the team of **Jerry Askam & Sean Kelly** weighed five bass for a total weight of 10.27 lbs. Thanks to **Sean's** 3.93 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors.

Tournament Statistics

Fifty-three men fished 8 hours each, bringing 112 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 154.20 pounds with a 2.91 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.38 lbs. All but two fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



Jerry Askam: For the second tourney in a row I had the pleasure of fishing with a partner fishing their first Midweek Bass tourney. My partner at Roosevelt, Sean Kelly, was also fishing his first tourney off a boat.

He fishes a lot at urban ponds including pond tournaments where he has done well. He is very knowledgeable and you



Apache Lake By Gary Grimes

Our next tournament will be at Apache Lake, and this is a two-day event. Day one is Tuesday, October 18, from safelight until 3PM, and day two is obviously the following day, fishing from safelight until noon. Hopefully you are able to join us.

We had a lot of late registrations at Roosevelt, which makes for additional and unexpected work for the board so please register no later than the day before our next club meeting, which is on Wednesday October 5th at the Deer Valley Airport at 8AM. The club will be hosting a barbeque at the Burnt Corral Campground on the Monday night before the tournament - most likely burgers and brats. If you wish to bring some chips, salad or a desert, let me know beforehand. In addition, there is a strong possibility we will be having a poker tournament following the dinner for those who are able to stay up later than 8PM. This tournament is a favorite for many; good weather, good camping and good fishing. See you there.



**2nd Place
Sean Kelly & Jerry Askam**

would never guess this was his first lake tournament. He is a great guy, good fisherman, and he is the 5th youngest member of the club. Any boater will be lucky to draw him in the future.

Sean and I pre-fished on Tuesday jumping around looking for areas holding fish. We ended up sticking some good fish while pre-fishing and we had a bag better than on tourney day. Because of the "pre-fishing curse" I feared our good luck on Tuesday would kill us for Wednesday.

We started and fished most of the day in the Salt end on the North side. Sean stuck our big fish and the big fish for the tourney on a Senko pitched to the bank. We caught around 10 fish total. Sean got most of his fish on the Senko and I picked up fish swimming a grub and on a Texas rigged super hog.

I've had such good luck with the new guys I think I'll volunteer to be the designated boater for the new members for every tournament!

Team Mark Royal & Paul Ojala Take 3rd Place Overall

Team **Mark Royal & Paul Ojala** weighed five bass for 9.22 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Mark Royal: Congratulations to Jeff and Joe - nice job guys! Two days of pre-fishing and only putting four fish in the boat can cause some pessimistic thoughts. Being boat 29 of 29 can extend that pessimism to make you think that the only two spots that you caught fish will for sure have a boat parked on them when you arrive. Well, Roosevelt is a big lake and we found our first spot with no one there. In case you are wondering where it was located, it was past Windy Hill on the north side of the lake. We were there for 40 minutes without a bite and I know Paul Ojala was thinking we should leave until he got out a Sexy Shad crank bait and put a fish in the boat. I thought that is probably a one-off. Then he did it again! Well that was a no brainer for me. I put on a crank bait with a similar color and caught one on my second cast. That was it for that spot - three fish.

We then used drop shot rigs along Windy Hill (Robo worm MMIII) to pick up three more, culling one that was about 5



3rd Place
Paul Ojala & Mark Royal

inches. We were very fortunate to have some size to the fish we caught since we only caught six fish total. It was great to fish with Paul and a nice end to a very tough fishing day.

Team Archer & Meyer Harvest Salt For 4th Place Overall Finish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Paul Archer & Jeff Meyer** weighed five fish for a total weight of 9.16 lbs

Paul Archer: I met Jeff Meyer for the first time at 188 Tackle the day of the tournament. I loaded his rods up while he got his tackle bag. Was I in for a surprise! I have never seen a tackle bag with rollers and a handle. I told him to put it in the truck and we would strap it to the back seat when we got to the lake.

We took off and went all the way to the Salt end of the lake.

I had found fish pre-fishing in one spot and it was getting better each day. The bite was deep in the morning and gradually moved up to the shore line as the day progressed. Jeff caught the first fish after about an hour; I think that was our biggest. By 8:00 we had a limit with two small fish to cull. That took the rest of the day. The fish gradually moved up and were on the shore by 11:00. That is when Jeff tied on a swim bait. He started picking up fish but they wouldn't stray hooked-up. We both had fish come off before we could get them in the boat. We culled our last small fish with about 30 minutes left in the tournament.

Jeff is very knowledgeable about fishing and I had a good time swapping stories and telling lies with him. He can even handle a truck and trailer like a pro. We had a great time.

Team Gary Senft & Jim Buchanan Crank Main Lake For 5th Place

A five fish limit weighing 9.11 lbs was enough to earn **Gary Senft & Jim Buchanan** the **5th Place** money.



5th Place
Gary Senft & Jim Buchanan

Gary Senft: As the day started I was glad to see cloud cover. That changed fast to sunshine. I knew then it would be a grind. I started on Windy Hill with a big crank bait looking for a big bite that didn't happen. I moved to the other side of Windy Hill and fished a seven inch worm Texas rigged. My first good deep bite broke off because I didn't check my line going over all those sharp rocks. I moved over to the rocks across the lake and we fished small crank baits and caught a small limit. I fished the rest of the day using Texas rigged brush hog and Robo



4th Place
Paul Archer & Jeff Meyer

worms. I also finished the day throwing a crank bait. It was a very good day fishing with big fish Jim Buchanan. Thanks to all the guys who weighted the fish. You guys do a super job.

Team Terry Tassin & Todd Gentner Limit Early For 6th Place Finish

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 8.14 lbs was enough to earn **Terry Tassin & Todd Gentner** the **6th Place** prize.



6th Place
Terry Tassin & Todd Gentner

Terry Tassin: What a great partner to draw for this event. Todd Gentner is a super stick and a great guy to have in the boat. I have to admit that Todd put the majority of bass in our livewell while I provided guide service and functioned as boat driver. As most of the other competitors mentioned, pre-

fishing was very difficult; I only caught one fish on Tuesday, but it is interesting to note that on tournament day Todd using a drop shot rig, caught a beautiful smallie in almost the exact same spot I had caught my one pre-fishing large mouth bass. Todd pretty well sums up how we caught our fish so that's a wrap for me.

Todd Gentner: What a beautiful day on the lake! We started out pounding the rock wall in Sally Mae (Salome Cove) with drop shots, where we limited by 8 AM. After hitting some points and coves throwing numerous varieties of lures and baits, we proceeded to hit the north rock wall at Windy Hill around noon, where we caught a couple, which we were able to cull - again on drop shot rigs. We finished the day at Rabbit Island where we caught a nice smallie that culled a smaller bass - yep on a drop shot. Thanks again to Terry for great company and a good day of fishing.



Weighing-In
By Jack Hughes
Tmx Director

My article this month will be very short due primarily to work overload.

First, all of our tournament dates for 2017 have been approved by the Forest Service and now a three month process of sending paper work back and forth

begins. Additionally, the proposed rate hike from the Department of Agriculture for tournament fishing has been rejected by Congress and the Senate.

Senator McCain has been successful working through the Senate Department of Interior Committee and the Department of Agriculture in getting Senior Rates for camping reestablished within Tonto National Forest to half price of what they charge all others. We are continuing to fight for the Disabled Veteran prices recognition of the Golden Eagle passes within Tonto National Forest which is the only Forest Service office in the nation that does not recognize the Golden Eagle pass.

The Senior rates will go into effect as soon as the pay machines are installed for collecting camping fees or 120 days. The time is needed to reprint fee information and new signs. If you have Red camping permits you can use three of them instead of one Blue pass at Apache for camping.

Senator McCain's office was also instrumental in stopping the proposed Forest Service rule of no fishing in the river north of the main Lake Havasu and establishing a speed limit on Lake Havasu of 35 MPH for all boats as previously requested by several Greener Organizations and tentatively approved by the Department of Agriculture. Those two rules were estimated to cost 9000 jobs in the Havasu area.

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Roosevelt - September 21, 2016



John Hawkins, yes the cow is eating and the bass are biting.
(inside joke!)



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

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Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in October

**Ernie Arvizu
Tom Atherton
Kyle Campbell
Tanner Cormier
Mark Durben
Ron Gaudreau
Dennis Hardy
Fred Krumsiek
Mark Royal**



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2016
Tournament Schedule**

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