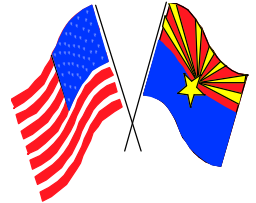


# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



FEBRUARY 2015

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

### President's Perspective *By Gary Grimes*



The Midweek Bass Angler's February fishing tournament fielded the largest number of boats in the club's history. At the February club meeting at the Deer Valley Airport, 31 teams were paired for Saguaro Lake. At the time of the pairing, the club's roster contained 78 members. With 62 of 78 members participating, that means close to an 80% turnout, which is tremendous.

Saguaro Lake proved very challenging for the club's anglers, as the fish were in the middle of transition from the winter to spawn, which meant there were fish both very deep at 60 feet, fish in three feet of water on spawning beds, and fish in-between. For those who were unable to locate bed fish,

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

the transitioning fish proved very difficult to hook. As I looked across the lake, I saw many boats carefully positioned over deep water structure, Video-Game-Fishing as I call it, using their electronics to locate fish and attempting to get them to bite, which was very difficult as the fish seemed to have lock-jaw.

As many of you know, one of Midweek tournament rules demands that any sight-fish be hooked inside the mouth. That means if you can see the fish sitting on a bed and you catch him, but your hook is somewhere on the outside body of the fish other than inside the mouth, that fish is not a legal fish and must be released immediately, it cannot be counted towards the day's catch. This rule obviously relies much on the honor system for the angler or team involved. This happened to team Hirlemann/Cunningham, who, in spite of having to release their biggest fish of the day because the fish was snagged, were still able to catch enough legal fish to accumulate an 18 lb. sack of fish. This was a great display of integrity, and I am sure made their victory even sweeter, as it was done the right way.



### Lake Saguaro February 18, 2015 *By Terry Tassin*

I cannot remember the last time I fished a club tournament and completely zipped! That means not a single tap on the line to indicate a fish was there. I have to admit for Paul Archer and I plus four other teams it was a very tough day of fishing. But I am sure you want to hear from some of the members who did catch fish so here goes!

### Team Lou Hirlemann & Doug Cunningham Have a Great Day With Win at Saguaro

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Hirlemann & Cunningham** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 18.48 lbs.



**"We Practice Catch and Release"**

**Lou Hirlemann:** I would like to thank Doug Cunningham for being patient because bed fishing can be tough on a back-seater.



**1st Place  
Doug Cunningham & Lou  
Hirlemann**

At our first spot no bites and still too dark to see beds. Second spot a good bass snagged in the tail and released right away per the

rules. Then Doug put two in the boat and we started to put our bag together. We caught 5 of our fish off spots I found Tuesday pre fishing and 3 we found Wednesday during the tournament. There were not a lot of beds out there but we found a few. How many days to Havasu?

Oh by the way, all of our fish came from the main lake on a Robo Worm that was not pink and 2 white baits, and a Sean Ballard special colored tube bait.

### **Jeff Mabry & Bill Page Finish 2nd Overall And Weigh Big Bass**

In **Second Place** the team of **Jeff Mabry & Bill Page** weighed five bass for a total weight of 16.33 lbs. Thanks to **Jeff Mabry's** 8.14 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors.



**2nd Place  
Jeff Mabry & Bill Page**

**Jeff Mabry:** I had been out pre-fishing twice - once with Bill and once by myself. I had only caught two fish each trip and figured if we fished hard

there may be a chance of getting 5. The night before the tourney I talked to a guy that had been up there earlier in the day. He gave me a big fish pattern and mentioned that they were also on beds.

On tournament day I was able to manage two fish early on a jerk bait and a crank bait, but when it got light enough we ducked into a cove to look around. I noticed a couple of fish on what I thought was a bed, but it was a little deep and there was a breeze making it hard to see very well. Once I positioned the boat and made a couple of casts I set the hook on a small "tick" and pulled a 3 to 4 pound bass half way to the boat before it came off. I repositioned the boat and tried again thinking my shot at a good bass was gone. A couple of casts later I again felt a little tick and set the hook again. This time when I saw it I noticed the bass was quite a bit bigger in size; obviously the female got it this time.



**1st Place Big Fish  
Jeff Mabry**

Bill and I basically kept looking for beds the rest of the day getting two more decent fish to

## **Next Meeting Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4 March** 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 Havasu on 17 & 18 March 2015**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

fill the limit. I never got to try the big fish pattern the angler from the day before gave me since we didn't have a limit until late in the day.

### Scott Olivier & Chuck Golden Bed Fish Their Way To 3rd Place Overall

Team Olivier & Golden weighed five bass for 13.89 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.



**3rd Place**  
**Scott Olivier & Chuck Golden**

**Chuck Golden:** Scott and I had pre-fished the week before and looked all over the lake and could not find any beds, so we started out drop shotting off the bank on points. Then we saw Lou Hirlemann pulling a fish off a bed nearby so we thought we would give it a try. Thanks Lou! So we caught one fish drop shotting and all the rest of our fish came off of beds. The drop shot fish was on a Robo worm and the bed fish were on a bright chartreuse lizard, even though

you can throw anything on a bed fish as long as YOU can see it.

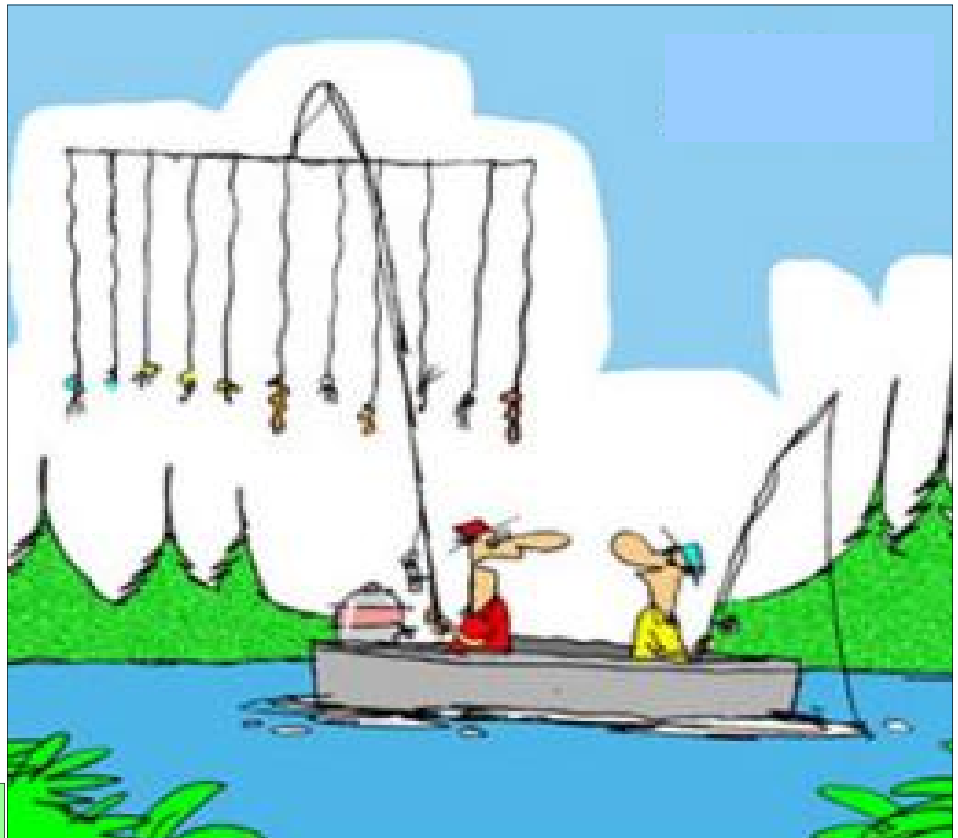
Thanks to Scott Olivier for a couple of great days on the water this past couple of weeks.

### Team Mason & Brown Ride Carolina Rigs to 4th Overall Finish and 2nd Place Big Bass Prize

Taking home **4th Place**, Team Jeff Mason & Rick Brown weighed five fish for a total weight of 13.61 lbs. Thanks to Rick Brown's 4.67 lb bass the team also won **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.

**Jeff Mason:** What's the old

saying? The "Luck of the Draw", that's what I had when I was paired up with Rick Brown as my non-boater. Rick had a great day on the water, catching our first and biggest bass, a 4.67 pounder, at 9:00 am off the buoy line on a Carolina Rig outside of Burro Bay. Rick kept it going by catching our next two bass on the flat across from Ship Rock. I managed a keeper in the channel on a drop shot, and Rick filled out our limit around noon. We were able to cull two more fish in the last hour on the flat across from Ship Rock. All of our fish came in less than ten feet of water. I really enjoyed the day fishing with Rick, and it gave me a chance to practice my netting skills.



**"If people enjoy buffets, then maybe the fish will too."**

#### Membership

As of February 20 2015 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 81 active members.



**4th Place**  
**Jeff Mason & Rick Brown**

**Rick Brown:** Another great draw for me with Jeff Mason. Jeff and I didn't get to pre fish together, well at least not on the lake. We did talk several times on the phone about our game plan. The first part of the morning started pretty slow. It wasn't until our third stop that we finally caught our first fish, which also happened to be our big one for the day 4.69lbs. I caught the fish in about 12 feet of water on a Chigger Craw. We fished about eight different areas, and of course a couple of them we hit more than once. We had a limit around noon, and managed to upgrade a couple of smaller fish in the last hour of the day. Jeff did a great job managing fishing spots and our time. I felt like we fished each spot thoroughly, but I never felt like we wasted any time. Thanks to Jeff for putting in his time pre fishing and putting me on the fish. Congrats to Jeff Mabry on a really great fish, and of course to Lou & Doug for a great bag and a 1<sup>st</sup> Place finish. The really bad thing for the rest of us is Lou kicked our butts while also honing his sight fishing skills for Havasu at the same time. But, maybe I just jinxed him!

## Bell & Boll Celebrate 5th Place Finish

A five fish limit weighing 12.59 lbs was enough to earn **Team Clinton Bell & Ed Boll 5th Place** money.

**Clinton Bell:** Tuesday my co-angler and I started the morning with hopes of a reaction bite. We threw everything in the boat - no takers! We switched to plastic and by the end of the day we had only 2 bites. At 1:30 we pulled in to Butcher Jones area and saw the trout stocking truck pulling out of the parking lot; that's where we started Wednesday morning. The trout swim baits never produced but the A-Rig got us 2 nice fish. We had looked for bed fish Tuesday and saw a few on the beds so around 9:00 we went back to those fish and finished the day catching 7 fish. Ed Boll is a good guy to spend the day with and learns fast. Thanks for a fun day Ed.



**5th Place**  
**Clinton Bell & Ed Boll**

**Ed Boll:** Clinton and I pre-fished on Tuesday which proved to be the key. We got just two bites all day. Checked

on the trout stocking and knowing that the weather has been great checked on a few beds. The water temperature was at 60 degrees and some beds had fish guarding them. Clinton formulated a pattern that worked for us in the tournament.

By 10:15 on tournament day we had two fish in the boat which Clinton caught on an Alabama rig. It got real slow for a period so we decided to go sight fishing. The man (Clinton) caught six more. The highlight of the day was the nine plus pound female that we chased for over an hour but could never get her to take a bait. I have been very fortunate to be paired with great teachers and fisherman in my two tournaments with the club.

## Riddle & Rojas Have A Blast On The Way To 6th Place Overall Finish

**Jason Riddle:** Let me start by saying I had a blast fishing with Richie Rojas; I hope we get paired up again buddy. What a beautiful day on Saguaro Lake but a tough day of fishing for us. I believe our first fish was landed about two hours into the tournament, caught by Mr. Rojas on a drop shot. We moved several times before finally deciding to focus on points and rocky shorelines fishing anywhere from 30 feet to right up on the shore. Finally around noon I landed my first fish of the day and 20 minutes later another fish came into the boat. As we moved along keeping our focus on the depth Richie landed his second and

third fish; finally we had 5 fish in the live well and I believe it was around 1:30 PM. We started moving back in the direction we started from along this rocky shoreline almost back to the point where we started when I landed our 6th fish culling out our little 12 incher for the final fish of the day.



**6th Place**  
**Richie Rojas & Jason Riddle**

We started out the day cranking and ended up catching all our fish on the wonderful drop shot rig. As tough as the day of fishing was Richie and I locked-in sixth place and felt good. I had a great time fishing with Richie and hope we get an opportunity to fish together again. Thanks Richie for the great memories you brought up while we talked and had fun fishing. I've got a craving for some good Ole Cudahy bacon.

### **Gary Martlage & Don Hegenderfer Work The River For 3rd Place Overall**

**Gary Martlage:** Being the last boat out for a 30 boat tournament did not put us at

too much of a disadvantage; Don and I did not have a bite until almost noon! Pre-fishing brought about the same results with nobody getting any sort of bite going. Knowing the bass were not on beds (BOY, WAS I WRONG!!), we just went fishing! All of our fish came from drop-shotting in 20-30 feet of water, with a 4.5 inch Robo Worm. The bite was ever so slight (pressure only) I am amazed we caught what we did! Don and I had a great time fishing; just wish the catching would have been better! Congratulations to the top winners, as they figured out what a one day difference can make!



**7th Place**  
**Gary Martlage & Don Hegenderfer**

**Don Hegenderfer:** Well what can I say; my partner Gary Martlage is one of the best anglers in the club. I thought I knew how to fish our lakes, but I found out rather quickly Gary knows some spots I had never fished. We did not get a bite until 11:45, and then Gary caught 2 on back-to-back casts. I had never been that far up in the river before, but I know now what kind of trouble lies just

under the surface on the right side as you approach the last section of the river. I never got a bite; Gary caught all five of our fish and I still won almost \$100 when you include the side pot. Go figure! What a nice day on the water.

### **Bryan Steele & John Reichard Spoon Up Goon Fish Prize**

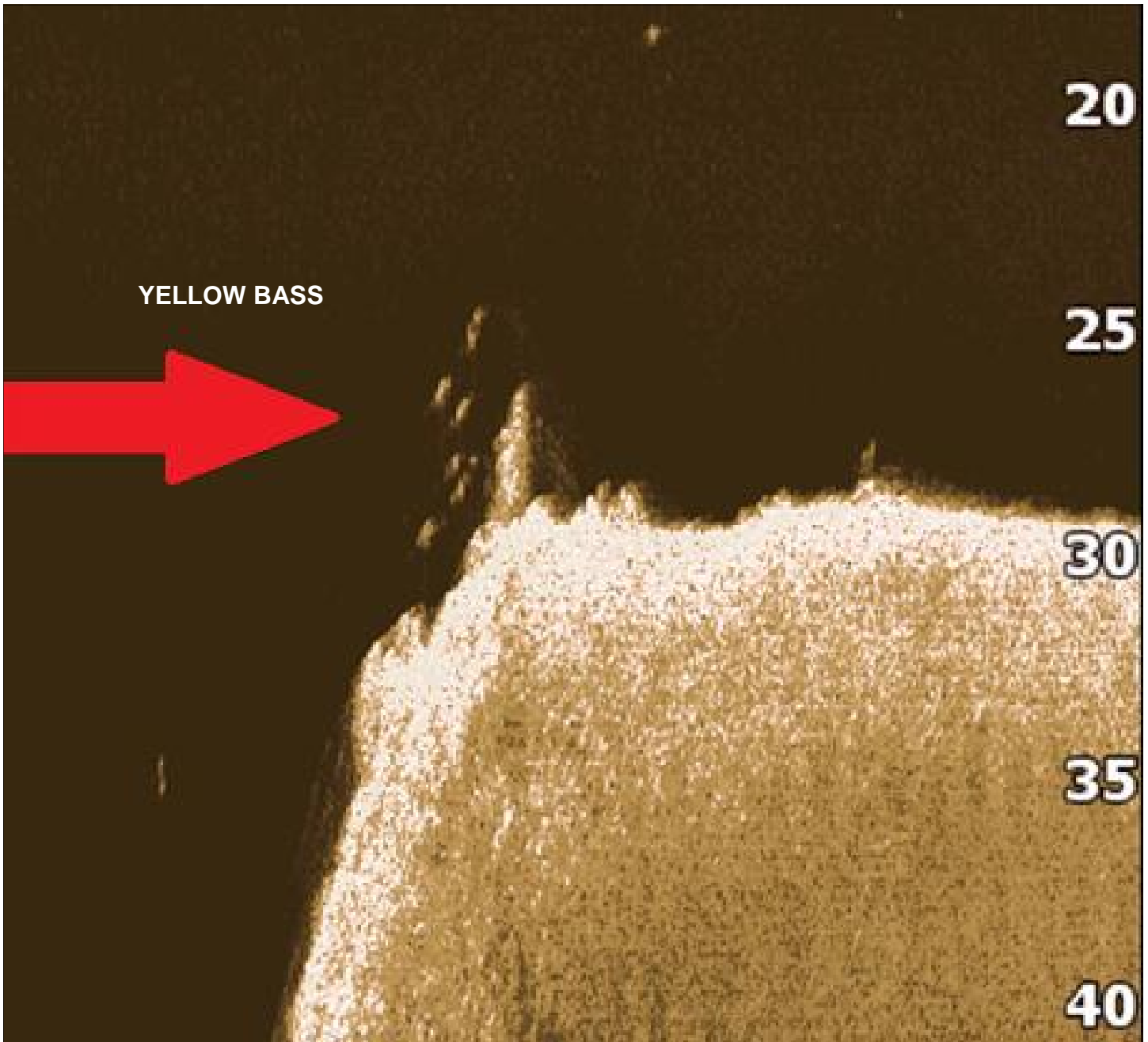
**Bryan Steele:** John and I had a fun day on the water—tough bite for us, but fun. We started ledge fishing and trying to get these staging bass to commit. They didn't want to be bothered by us. So, about 20 minutes into fishing, I saw a bit of surface activity in the middle of the point. I put the trolling motor on 100%, picked up the flutter spoon rod, and went after it. The spoon fell to the bottom and after the first hop, the Yellow Bass hit.



**Goon Fish Pot Winners**  
**Bryan Steele & John Reichard**  
**and \$160 Friend**

Luckily, John said - "Hey, a goon fish" - just before I was going to throw \$100 back into the water!

On the next page is a downscan of the fish.



**Money Matters**  
*By John Reichard, Treasurer*

Greetings from your Treasurer:

I had a great day fishing with Bryan Steele learning electronics and fishing deep. We only caught 4 fish but saw a lot of fish we couldn't catch. We used crank baits, drop shots and spoons.

Speaking about money, the Five Pound pot was taken on Saguaro by Jeff Mabry so a new pot starts next month at Havasu. Don't forget to enter at the next meeting.

See you all at the March meeting or on the lake at Havasu.



## Weighing-In

By Jack Hughes, Tmx Director

It all started with a phone call before the Saguaro tournament that got me to thinking how many tournaments is too many tournament to be held on the same lake. The phone call was from USFS advising me they have submitted some recommendations to AZG&F to insure quality fishing in the future for both recreational and tournament anglers at Bartlett and Saguaro. My first question was why AZG&F; don't you have the authority to do what you want? I was told there are agreements in place between the Fed's and AZ that they both must agree to in managing the lakes. Before anyone runs off complaining this is just the first step in taking our fishing rights away I want to ensure everyone that they really are looking at how to make fishing better for all and this is a long process. The two agencies must first agree on a plan and then public comment before any plan is finalized. As far as I am concern the fact that they are working together and both have the same goal of improving fishing for everyone is a good thing.

Just for the record I was told requests for Saguaro permits were up 39% and Bartlett 19 % so far this year and organizations may still request additional permits throughout the year. I think it is fair to say the lakes can only take so much pounding before they decline. The fact that AZG&F and the USFS are trying to get out in front of this potential problem is commendable because as we all know once a lake is hurt it takes years to bring it back.

Here in AZ we are limited on where we can fish due to draught (Alamo), lack of fish in a lake (Pleasant), limited number of lakes, and travel distance for some of the better fisheries in the state. For 2016 we **MAY** have to relook at how and when we fish certain lakes depending on what is decided. Even if there are no changes to permits the club may want to reconsider where and when we fish. This year we adapted to the ever changing environment by making Havasu

and Apache each 1½ day tournaments and the elimination of Pleasant from the schedule due to the poor bass fishing. There are still quality fisheries in AZ that can be fished but they are not as conveniently located as Saguaro and Bartlett and fishing those requires approval vote of members at schedule making time.

More than 30% of our current members were not members when we asked for inputs for the 2015 schedule. For you new members starting in June we will begin the process of getting information from each member on where and when they would like to fish in 2016. After we receive inputs a schedule will be developed and voted on to approve the proposed schedule of where and when we want to request permits. Permit requests will be submitted October 1, 2015 for the following year.

I have been assured when a draft plan is completed both AZG&F and USFS will freely share the information with us and will be looking for input from the club members. They are even willing to speak at one of our meeting as to how they reached their draft decisions and get inputs on acceptance especially from fishing clubs. In the meantime let's let them do their work and see what they come up with in draft form.

**HAVASU:** A few reminders: the club does not allow view funnels, cameras, or other devices for spotting bass beds under the water during the tournament (electronic down scan is okay). The Indian Casino is off limits and the cove sheltering the water police boats off limit area has been expanded. We also have a few special boat requirements that we will cover later in the month.



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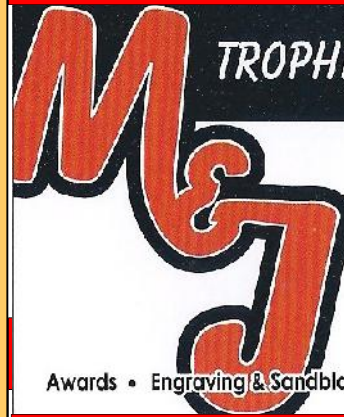
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - John Reichard

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

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

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Scott Vrooman (CO)  
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**Midweek Bass Anglers 2015  
Tournament Schedule**

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

**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**

**Born in March**

**Sean Ballard**

**Jerry Grina**

**Ron Malnar**

**Gregg Maura**

**Lew Southard**

