

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



FEBRUARY 2019 EDITION
14 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

This month's tournament was held at Martinez Lake in Yuma, Arizona. While the name implies only one lake, it is an area of about 25 miles along the southern Colorado River made up of the river and several lakes. While many lakes have easy access from the main river, some backwater areas are only accessible through narrow heavily vegetated canals. You can flip the tules, rip the grass, hop the frog, skip the dock, jig the rock (if you can find one), and yes you can even drop shot. Congratulations to Roger Root and Howard Thomas on the victory and also for finally winning the 5-pound pot.

The weather was unusually cold for this time of the year. I had a bottle of water on my boat that was drinkable at 5 AM but frozen at 7 AM, our tournament start time, so needless to say the first run was chilly. The cooler weather also made for tough fishing as well, but it was still a great time. Tuesday night the Fisher's Landing Bar and Grill provided a Mexican food dinner while we all mingled at the bar with 47 members in attendance.

From comments that I have heard, many enjoyed the opportunity to fish Martinez Lake's

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

unique and diverse fishery, so we will likely return next year. I am confident we will all do better now that we have the first year behind us. Next month Midweek travels to Alamo Lake, and with the rising water levels we have new areas open that haven't seen water in a long while. See you there.



Tournament Report Lake Martinez February 20, 2019

This was our first event at Lake Martinez at this time of the year. We were hoping for an awesome early spawn bite, however, with the cold fronts that came through the bass seemed to be holding out off the spawning areas. Some of our guys figured out where they were hiding and managed to put together decent bags of bass. Lets read how they did it.

Happy St. Patrick's Day



"We Practice Catch and Release"

Team Roger Root & Howard Thomas Figure Out The Bite And Take Home 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Roger Root & Howard Thomas** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 13.96 lbs. Thanks to Roger's 5.56 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors and the long running **5 lb Contest**.

Roger Root: I almost did not go to this tournament. Then I ended up going to the lower Colorado River for five days. I stayed with a fine individual Richard Brookins and I must say thank you Richard you pretty much saved my life.



1st Place & 5lb Pot-Roger Root

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2019 is scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 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 points tournament is scheduled for **Lake Alamo on 20 March 2019**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

Richard helped me prefish for 3 days. We went south and we went north. We caught a fish here and there. I caught a 3 plus and a 4 pounder in Ferguson. I did not go back there until tournament day.

Howard Thomas fished with me on tournament day. Howard caught our first 2 fish. At about 9 AM I caught the big 5.56 pound bass – what a beauty! Howard and I went back and forth catching fish here and there. We put around 15 fish in the boat. I used a green pumpkin jig and Howard used a drop shot plus a variety of different lures. A big shout out goes to this great club for another wonderful event.

Howard Thomas: Cold! That's what I say about our day of fishing. I had a lot of fun fishing with my partner Roger Root. How can you not have fun when you win almost everything. Roger prefished for 5 days prior to the tournament and he proved it pays to do your homework.

On tournament day, when we arrived at our first stop Roger got out one rod and said, "This is the only rod I'll use all day". That rod was a baitcaster with a 3/8 oz. green pumpkin jig. It took about an hour for it to start working properly and bringing in the fish. In the meantime I caught 3 bass pretty quickly with the 'dominator' bait. Ask Jeff Mason what that is; he knows. However, after I caught my three fish here comes Roger to pull off a come-from-behind victory for the team.



1st PI Overall-Howard Thomas

The next thing I knew we were culling and on the road to financial freedom. Roger has an uncanny way of making everything work out right and catches the fish. Let me wrap up by saying, we fished points all day long in Lake Ferguson from the shore out. The big fish was caught on a green pumpkin 3/8 oz jig in 6 feet of water 20 feet off the bank. All bites were pressure bites except the 5 pounder - Roger said he hit like a ton of bricks. All day long the water temperature was around 54 degrees with a strong wind. So until next time, anglers, don't forget to do your homework ahead of time.

Reddish Colors Propel Clinton Bell & Terry Johnson To 2nd Place Overall Finish

In **2nd Place** Team **Clinton Bell & Terry Johnson** weighed five bass for a total weight of 13.54 lbs.

Terry Johnson: I was Clinton Bell's co-angler in Boat 22 (Clinton's flashy new-to-him Triton 196) and boy was I lucky to be that guy. I had never fished Martinez and Clinton had not been there in years but he still knew his way around.

We prefished on Tuesday and had a long morning with limited success on Martinez. Then, at mid-day, Clinton made the call and we headed for Ferguson. We hit a cove up-lake and worked our way in from the wood outside, throwing reaction baits mostly. No love, so we moved inside. Off a secondary point, in shallow water, Clinton scored a dropshot bass that was either 8.5 - 9 lbs (his guess) or 9.5-10 lbs (my guess based on a 9.5 I had 2 weeks ago on Baccarat). Not much later, we worked a long primary point in that same cove and I got a 4 lb bass on a 4" chigger craw. We knew then that we had our spot for Wednesday.

On Wednesday, we made the run to our spot, broke the ice off our eyeballs and cheeks, and

Membership

As of February 22, 2019 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **94** dues paid active members.



2nd Place Clinton Bell & Terry Johnson

by 10:00 we had a good limit; nothing as big as the prefish bass but solid. We culled four or five times through the day, working the same two spots, again and again. The area was mostly silted in bottom, but a rocky shell patch really stuck out and that's where we caught all or almost all of our fish. Toward the end of the day, I dumped an A-rig 4 lber right at the net, which was a heartbreaker. Still, we felt pretty good as we headed in. Still felt good at 13.54 lbs until we heard Roger and Howard had 13.96, plus a 5 plus pounder that took the 5 lb pot. Oh, if we had only landed that missed A-rig fish! My kudos go to Roger and Howard for a great job of catching the fish. Our Wednesday fish came in 2 to 10 feet of water on a dropshot, with a crankbait or two and the one dumped A-rig bass while we were running two small Keitech swimbaits. Red, reddish-brown, amber and oxblood worked best, regardless of what lures we threw. We threw a ton of stuff but could not repeat Tuesday's magic. Even so, it was a fabulous day for me, lots of fun and very successful. Thanks to Clinton for doing the heavy lifting on the catching and for opting for a dual console boat! Glad I was able to help round out our keepers.

Team Jeff Mason & Randy Bosket Save Fuel And Finish In 3rd Place

Team **Jeff Mason & Randy Bosket** weighed

five bass for 12.61 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Jeff Mason: Congrats to Roger and Howard on their 1st Place win and to Clinton and Terry for their 2nd Place finish. My partner Randy Bosket and I prefished Tuesday and didn't do any good but we narrowed our areas where we wanted to fish during the tournament down to four spots. Being boat #23 there were already three boats in Lake Ferguson by the time we got there and those guys were gracious enough to let us fish the area with them. After not catching a fish for the first hour and half I hooked our second biggest fish of the day, a 3 plus pounder on a red lipless crankbait. We moved to our second spot in Lake Martinez where I picked up our biggest fish of the day, a 4.42 lber on a drop shot, and Randy added our third keeper also on a drop shot. We were going to move to our third spot in a backwater down south at about 11:15 AM but as we were passing Fisherman's Landing I decided to duck in there to fish a couple of spots I had fished before. Lucky we did. We caught keepers #4 and #5 on a drop shot in the first ten minutes and then caught a 2 lber that culled fish # 4; right place, right time. We rotated back to the other places we had fished earlier but only managed to pick up several little ones. This was the second time I have fished with Randy Bosket and we certainly enjoyed our day on the water and I hope we get to do it again. Looking forward to the higher water level at Alamo, thanks Midweek Bass Anglers!

Randy Bosket: Congratulations to the winners. I was able to prefish both on Monday with Gary Martlage (thanks again Gary) and Tuesday with my partner Jeff Mason, and only had a few bites here and there. On tournament day I wasn't too positive about catching a lot of fish.

Tournament Statistics

Fifty men fished 8 hours each, bringing 73 bass to the scales for a total weight of 155.50 pounds with a 3.11 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 2.13 lbs. All fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



3rd Place Randy Bosket & Jeff Mason

Standing in the parking lot for the morning meeting with the outside temperature showing 24 degrees I started to question my sanity. But luckily there was no wind in the morning so even though it was very cold there was no wind chill.

We started by heading up to Ferguson Lake. Since we were boat 23 as we came through the opening there were at least three other boats already fishing in the area Jeff wanted to start in. We joined the crowd without violating anyone's fishing space and went to work with lipless cranks. After about two hours of throwing everything but dynamite at them Jeff hooked a nice keeper. We stayed awhile longer but finally decided to move to Martinez to an area I had got two nibbles the day before. Within 20 minutes Jeff caught our big fish and another keeper using a drop shot. I joined the fray by adding a keeper. After another hour we decided to move out and go down south to Hidden Lake where we had caught one the day before, but as we went by the opening to Fishers Landing Jeff had the idea of quickly checking it out. We were both drop shotting and found a narrow cove where we proceeded to catch the rest of our bag and a few more. Then the winds came up howling and the bite seemed to turn off. We decided to head back up to Martinez to the same spot we left earlier and started catching a bunch of small ones until it was time to go.

I had a great time with Jeff; he is a great guy and fisherman for any of you that are lucky

enough to get paired with him. Thanks to the weigh team for doing such a great job and getting those fish on and off the scales quickly.

Prefishing Pays Off For Team Tom Savage & Rick Brown With 4th Place Overall Finish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Tom Savage & Rick Brown** weighed five fish for a total weight of 11.73lbs.

Tom Savage: Congratulations to Roger and Howard for their 1st Place win. After fishing with Rick Brown for 3 days, it was easy to see why he does so well in our tournaments. Prefishing was tough and we weren't able to come up with a pattern. We decided to go to a small cove where Rick had found a bed fish and we had caught a 3 pounder. We ended up catching those two and two more in that same cove in less than an hour. We were able to get our fifth fish not long after that. The rest of the day was pretty slow, but we were able to cull up three or four times, the last two were in the final fifteen minutes of the tournament near the docks. Our fish were caught on dropshot and Carolina rigs. Even though the weather was cold and windy and the fishing was hard, I still had a great time camping with my friends and fishing with Rick. Thanks Rick, I look forward to fishing with you again.

Rick Brown: I had the pleasure of fishing with

Tom Savage in this tournament. This was my first time at Lake Martinez and the expectations were high for some great fishing; however, less than ideal conditions made it pretty tough. With tough conditions in mind we decided to go after a small bed fish with another close by that Tom had caught on Monday that I was pretty sure was on a bed that we couldn't see. That part of the plan worked out as we caught both those fish plus 2 more. We moved to an area with a little deeper water with hopes of catching that elusive 5 plus pound bass. Well, that didn't happen. However we did complete our limit and were able to cull 2 fish in the last 15minutes of the tournament. As always it was a lot of fun camping around the campfire and having drinks with the guys. I had a blast fishing with Tom Savage; he is a great fisherman and pleasure to be around. Congrats to Roger and Howard for the big win.

Team John Hilland & Ron Rudzinski Fish Soft Plastics To Win 5th Place

A five fish bag weighing 10.93 lbs was enough to earn Team **Hilland & Rudzinski** the **5th Place** money.

John Hilland: Congrats to Roger and Howard, well done! I had the pleasure of being paired up with Ron Rudzinski, great guy and a really good fisherman. Ron and I were able to put in a few days of prefishing that really didn't produce any



4th Place Rick Brown & Tom Savage



**5th Place
John Hilland**

**5th Place
Ron Rudzinski**



idea of what to do come tournament day. We had been from the dam down south to Island Lake way up north throwing everything in the boat at them. On tournament morning we decided to head into Ferguson first thing to an area where we had a few bites prefishing; this didn't produce for us and we headed out. Our next stop was Martinez Lake. We pulled out the small swim baits and drop shots to put one keeper in the boat along with a few short fish as well. Moving again sent us in the lake just north of Fishers Landing where Ron was on fire with the drop shot and caught our biggest fish. We stayed there most of the day putting a limit in the boat and culling a few times before the weigh in. Thank you to the weigh in crew and the guys behind the scenes that make this such a great group. See you at Alamo next month.

Ron Rudzinski: Anyone at Lake Martinez sure figured out it's no fun to fish during or after 3 cold fronts. The bite was tough, but my boater sure worked to see what we could find that produced fish for us. John Hilland was great to fish with and we settled on drop shots and some Senkos to get our fish in 2-10 feet of water.

**Team Lannes Brock & George
Cobasky Prefishing Bite Holds
Up for 6th Place Finish**

Team **Lannes Brock & George Cobasky** weighed five bass for 10.07 pounds and took

home **6th Place** honors.

George Cobasky and Lannes Brock: First of all, I would like to say that it was a real experience fishing with Lannes. After 70 years fishing the river, Lannes knows every fishing hole. Both days we fished Clear Lake and Island Lake, and getting into these lakes was a real chore. I had to use a push pole to navigate the bending channels. Island Lake was a fisherman's glory hole with rock points, underwater trees, and it's a big lake. Prefishing we tested the water; Lannes caught a 2 lb. fish and I pulled-in a 3 plus pounder; we had our water reserved for the tournament day. Tournament day, Lannes drove to Island Lake as fast as his boat would go and we pulled out our limit of fish and one was over 4 pounds. I learned a lot while fishing with Lannes and had a super time.

**John Hawkins & John Milkint
Find Fish On Grass Lines And
Finish 7th Overall**

In **7th Place** Team **John Hawkins & John Milkint** weighed five bass for a total weight of 9.62 lbs.

John Milkint: As the start boat, we watched everyone motor out ahead of us and since we had no positive plan the decision was made to just put down the trolling motor and start fishing. John Hawkins had caught a bass in the area as we prefished on Tuesday and it seemed the thing to do. As it turned out, it proved to be a good move. We put 3 fish in the live well pretty quickly. Then the bite slowed down.

As everyone who participated at Martinez knows, it was a tough day on the water. We caught a total of 6 bass, one of which didn't measure. None of our fish were caught on reaction baits. Fortunately the wind was very light in the early morning and allowed us to fish weightless Senkos along the reeds to begin the day in a positive manner. Once the wind really started blowing around 11 AM, our slow day became even slower. Then it was more of just keeping warm.



7th Place John Milkint & John Hawkins

John Hawkins: I would like to congratulate Roger and Howard for the tournament win. I also would like to thank the club for putting on a fantastic tournament. I'd like to thank my fishing buddy and friend John Milkint and say we had a wonderful time trying to make as much fun out of a crappy day as we could. We had no idea that we managed to "place" again fishing together. Thanks go to the club, with congrats to the winners and runner ups.

Team Tom Alauria & Lou Hirlemann Take 2nd Place Big Bass Prize

Tom Alauria: Congratulations Roger and Howard. They were able to put together a plan and weigh five fish including the big fish for the tournament. There were a lot of good fishermen who couldn't bring in a limit. Lou Hirlemann and I only weighed two fish but one of them was the 2nd Place Big Fish. Lou caught the big one 30 minutes before the weigh in by dragging a Carolina rig. I think this lake frustrated a lot of anglers including me and Lou.



2nd Place Big Bass - 4.54 lbs Lou Hirlemann



Weighing-In By Gary Martlage Tournament Director

Our second tournament of 2019 is now history. Personally, I thoroughly enjoyed our tournament. Under some adverse conditions, I will still put this one as a very fun event. Our buffet was awesome, the camping facilities were acceptable, and the fishing was average, at best. Overall, I feel it was a great time.

Our weigh-in was a lot different than we are used to, but I feel we pulled it off without any major problems. Congratulations to ALL of you for helping out your fellow fishermen getting fish to the scales. I had a concern about the dock situation, but it all worked out better than expected.

I believe next year will be even better since we know what we are dealing with. I hope everyone that participated feels the same about going back to Lake Martinez.

Thanks, again to our weigh-in team of Tom Savage, Sean Ballard, Tom Alauria, and Gary Grimes. Also Jason Stanton stepped up to take photos for the Bass Bites. Sure helps out when every time I turn around, someone is there to volunteer. I will be looking forward to this continued support at ALAMO next month. Hope to see you all there.

Sound Off By Gary Grimes

As I travelled to Martinez Lake on US95 from Quartzite, I was amazed at the rugged beauty of the Kofa Mountains along the east side of the highway. I recalled Rick Brown had recently taken a desert bighorn from the range, having been fortunate to be drawn with one of the rarest hunting tags in the state. After returning home, I did a bit of digging to find out more about these mountains, and I discovered a bit of Arizona history I thought you might find interesting.

In 1936, the Arizona Boy Scouts mounted a

statewide campaign to save the desert bighorn sheep, leading to the creation of Kofa. The Scouts first became interested in the sheep through the efforts of Major Frederick Russell Burnham, the noted frontiersman turned conservationist who co-founded Scouting. Burnham observed that fewer than 150 of these sheep lived in the Arizona mountains. He called George F. Miller, then scout executive of the Boy Scout council headquartered in Phoenix, with a plan to save the sheep. Burnham put it this way: "I want you to save this majestic animal, not only because it is in danger of extinction, but of more importance, some day it might provide domestic sheep with a strain to save them from disaster at the hands of a yet unknown virus."

On January 18, 1939, over 1.5 million acres were set aside at Kofa, and a civilian conservation corps side camp was set up to develop high mountain waterholes for the sheep. On April 2, 1939, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge was officially opened; Burnham gave the dedication speech. The desert bighorn sheep is now the official mascot for the Arizona Boy Scouts, and the number of sheep in these parks has increased substantially.

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Martinez - February 20, 2019



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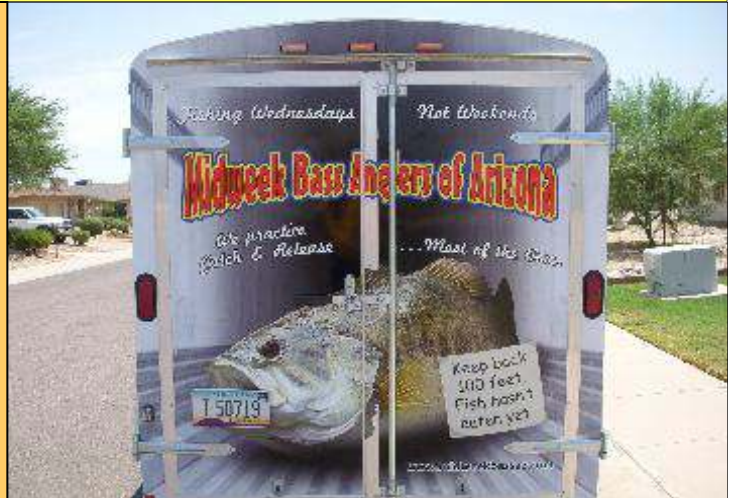
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE - Vacant

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

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

**No New Members
This Month**

Please meet and greet our new members



Club Apparel

Individuals wishing to purchase a club shirt, jersey, or cap can order directly from our president.

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in March

- Sean Ballard
- Lannes Brock
- Richard Brookins
- Jim Duel
- Otto Gal
- Robert Plante
- Lew Southard
- Luke Spreitzer



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2019
Tournament Schedule**

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 16 January | Pleasant |
| 20 February | Martinez |
| 20 March | Alamo |
| 17 April | Roosevelt |
| 15 May | Bartlett |
| 19 June | Canyon |
| 17 July | Saguaro |
| 21 August | Bartlett |
| 18 September | Saguaro |
| 16 October | Roosevelt |
| 20 November | Alamo |