

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MAY 2019 EDITION

14 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

Interesting Tidbits About Bartlett Lake: The dam was completed in 1939 and is named after William H. Bartlett, who was a professional surveyor whose knowledge of the Verde River and surrounding topography was unsurpassed. He is credited with discovering the dam site. Bartlett lived in the Phoenix area until his death in 1966. Bartlett Dam was created for the sole purpose of providing irrigation water to the farmers of the valley. The river begins at Sullivan Lake, by Paulden, Arizona. It is a perennial river that is one of the main tributaries of the Salt River, where it connects by Fountain Hills.

The Midweek Bass Angler's May tournament at Bartlett Lake was fished by 36 boats, with a majority of the teams presenting limits at the end of the day. However, as usual with Bartlett, the average weight of the 176 bass presented was 1.29 lbs. This is one of the few lakes where hooking a 2 pound fish actually feels like you have a 'toad' on the line. Congratulations to new member Wayne Kukral and long time member Rick Brown on the victory with a nice Bartlett bag of 9.30 pounds.

Thanks to Gary Martlage and the weigh-in team for a fine job of running the weigh in. It was good to see Greg Prather back on the water, in a dazzling new Phoenix bass boat. So glad your wife is recovering. One of our members had a bearing failure on his trailer at the lake, a semi-annual occurrence for this individual. Kudos to our resident grease monkey, Johnny Hawkins, for repairing the damaged trailer in the parking lot, at the lake, in 100-degree weather. Your beer (not during tournament hours) was well deserved.

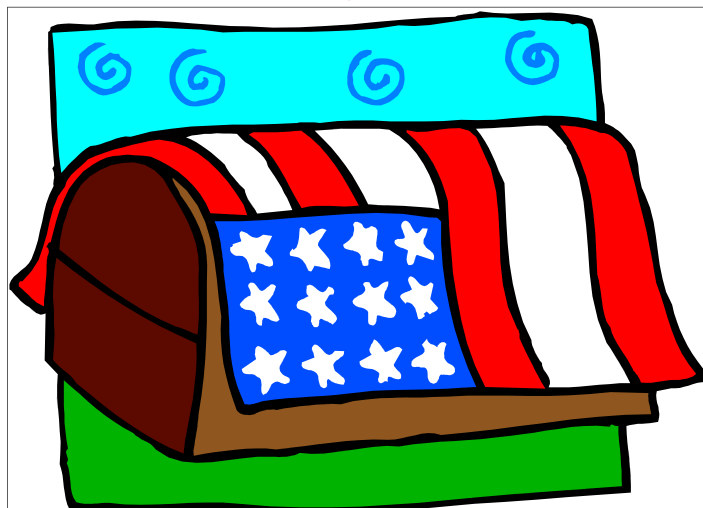
Expect changes soon to our tournament schedule,

starting next month. Continual problems with golden algae at Saguaro and Canyon are making it less likely those lakes will be viable options for us in the foreseeable future. It looks like a steady diet of Bartlett and Pleasant until October. So glad for the great turnout at this tournament, with 36 boats on the water there has been only one time when we had more boats participate and that was in January 2017 when 38 teams participated. See you next month.

Tournament Cost Sharing: Midweek Bass has established guidelines for cost sharing at each of the lakes we fish and those guidelines are noted on the tournament entry forms. Co-anglers, please pay your boater prior to the start of the tournament. Boaters, it is generally understood this amount will be sufficient and you will pre-fish at least one day with your co-angler. Though this system is far from perfect and certainly may not work in all circumstances, we leave it up to the individual teams to make changes as they see fit. The only matter the board is likely to get involved with is a co-angler who does not pay.

Remember Memorial Day

2019



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"



**Tournament Report
Lake Bartlett
May 15, 2019**

**Team Wayne Kukral & Rick Brown
Good As Gold For 1st Place**

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Wayne Kukral & Rick Brown** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 9.30 lbs.

Wayne Kukral: Guess what day it was? It was hump day and my first tournament fishing Midweek Bass. Some of the guys I know in Midweek were once in the Phoenix Bass Masters. I heard a lot of good things about Midweek from some of my friends that fish it regularly. They have been trying to get me to join for awhile now and I finally got a chance to fish this past Wednesday. I was paired up with Rick Brown, someone I had never met. Friends were telling me he's one of the best of the group and that I was lucky to be fishing with him. I never got a first place at Bartlett before so I was excited to have a good stick as a co-angler and hoped we might make the top 10.

It started a bit slow on the main lake; we started with several reaction baits and I got the first fish on a swim bait - a small 1 pounder. Rick threw a buzz bait all day long with only a few small ones missing it.

I decided to try my drop shot because I caught a small



1st Place Wayne Kukral & Rick Brown

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2019 is scheduled for **Wednesday, 5 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 points tournament is scheduled for **Bartlett Lake on 19 June 2019**. Club headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.

limit on the drop shot on Saturday while pre-fishing. They did not want it at all. So, we moved up river past Ship Rock where Rick had some luck last time he was there. Not a bite.

We then went to the Yellow Cliffs where we found one hot spot and I caught 4 more to get us our limit - several one pounders and one 2 pounder. I started to wonder whether they were kidding me about Rick being a good stick. Rick seemed to know what he was doing, so I knew he would soon start to help put some fish in the boat. He missed a bite at the cliffs but he never gave up.

We then moved to the main lake where there were some large boulders. Finally, Rick started to throw a Carolina rig and started to catch some good fish. We steadily caught fish the rest of the day and slowly culled our smaller fish to weigh in 9.30 lbs. for First Place. It was a surprise to me and I thought we might make the top 10. I had a great time and look forward to our next tournament.

Rick Brown: I had the pleasure of fishing with Wayne Kukral this tournament. This was Wayne's first tournament with the club, and he got to start out with a win. Our tournament day started pretty slow, with only a single 1 pound fish caught after our first couple of areas. After a couple of hours we moved to the Yellow Cliff area where we put together a limit, that included a nice 2 lber caught by Wayne. The "we" part of that equation was Rick netting and Wayne catching. The excuse I gave Wayne was I like to make a strong finish. Thankfully, as the day moved on I was able to make good on that. In the last 2 hours of the tournament we were able to upgrade several times including a couple of 2 pounders. Wayne did his damage on a Texas Rigged Craw and for me a Carolina Rigged Craw (big surprise, huh). Welcome to the club Wayne, hope we get to do it again soon. Big thanks to the weigh-in crew for a perfect job as usual.

Ned Rig Propels Jeff Mabry & Hal Hensey To 2nd Place Overall Finish

In **2nd Place** Team **Jeff Mabry & Hal Hensey** weighed five bass for a total weight of 8.40 lbs. Jeff's 3.06 lb bass took **1st Place Big Bass** honors and the team's 1.19 lb Catfish won the **Goon Fish** prize.



2nd Place Jeff Mabry & Hal Hensey

Jeff Mabry: Congrats to Wayne and Rick. Looking forward to hearing what they did to get the winning bites from 10:30 until 2 am. We had most of our bag by 8 am and fishing slowed way down after that. I started the day throwing a crank bait that I had some success on pre-fishing days, but after 30-45 minutes and no fish I went to the bottom of the lake. I had never thrown a Ned rig until the prior weekend, but noticed quickly that it was a fish catching machine. I caught the 3 pounder on my third or fourth cast with the Ned rig. Between the Ned rig and the couple of bass Hal caught on dropshot we were culling before 7 am.

We ran all over the lake looking to improve our bag, but only caught a few fish here and there that didn't help. At the end of the day we went back to where we started and put in two more small upgrades one by Hal on the dropshot and I got one on a crank. It wasn't a very exciting day, but I get to write about what I did to get 8 pounds. Enjoyed meeting and fishing with Hal and the tournament team did a great job for a fast and efficient weigh in.

Hal Hensey: I drew Jeff Mabry who is an excellent fisherman with knowledge of Lake Bartlett. Jeff had a plan for us that produced fish from the start. I'm known for drop shot mainly which fit in well for our locations. Points and bays and humps with plenty of rocks starting across from the launch site felt good and kept my weight bouncing with an active motion. As soon as I felt the rocks the bass would bite. They were small fish, but very fat. Jeff gave me guidance as to where to cast because of the drop offs and pockets which made my fishing more effective. I learned a lot watching Jeff fish which I will remember for future tournaments. Looking forward to fishing with Jeff again, and thanks to Jeff for putting us in the money. Thanks to everyone involved for a well run tournament.

Jeff Mabry & Hal Hensey Net Goon Fish Prize

No report on how the 'massive' Goon Fish shown here was caught by Team Mabry & Hensey, but our fearless club president wasn't afraid to hold the catfish for a photo, all 1.19 pounds of fish.



Team Lester Rapp & Tom Alauria Fish Secondary Points To Finish In 3rd Place

Team **Lester Rapp & Tom Alauria** weighed five bass for 7.42 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Tom Alauria: Congratulations Wayne and Ricky - you both did well.

I originally planned to go as a boater for this tournament but I broke my shift cable and didn't know if I could fix it in time. I was lucky enough to draw Lester Rapp as my boater. We had a great time and we worked well together. He told me that this was only his second time on Bartlett so he allowed me to run his boat and I showed him what I knew about the lake. We fished Tuesday and found fish on secondary points near the islands near the Yellow Cliffs. We went there on Wednesday and Lester caught our first fish on a drop shot. I couldn't get bit on a drop shot so I went to a Flick Shake. I stayed with it the rest of the day and we ended the day with three good fish and two rats, good enough for 3rd place. It was a good day.

Lester Rapp: I caught my first fish on a drop shot rig using a Robo Worm. Tom Alauria and I pretty much caught all the fish on drop-shot wacky rigs; it was hard to catch them and I hope we have better luck next time.

Carolina Rig Key For Team Steve Grier & Warren Brackey For 4th Place

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Steve Grier & Warren Brackey** weighed five fish for a total weight of 7.36 pounds. Clinton's 4.92 lb bass took 1st Place Big Bass honors.

Warren Brackey: It was another warm day on the water and another great MBA event. Major-league kudos to our club staff, the weigh-in team, and the volunteers that helped get the fish back to the lake to fight another day.

Congratulations to Wayne Kukral and Rick Brown for their well deserved first place finish. Also, congrats to all



4th Place Warren Brackey & Steve Grier

those who placed or caught big fish in this event; Lord knows the bigger ones were few and far between.

I had the good fortune to be paired with Steve Grier. Steve joined the club in January this year following his retirement from the work world, but he has fished competitively here in AZ for many years. For those of you who are lucky enough to get drawn with Steve you are in for a great time out there. Steve is a very personable guy, a very skilled angler and it was a pleasure getting to know him and to watch an expert fish a Carolina rig.

Steve and I were able to pre-fish the lake the day before the tournament focusing on the far side of the main lake. The fish seemed to be all over the lake, where ever there was structure on main lake and secondary points, reefs, around the islands, and they were even up on some flats in 5 to 20 feet of water. We threw reaction baits with some success but the fish were taking plastics – jigs, Senkos and the clear favorite - Steve's Carolina rig. I knew then I'd better rig one up to use on game day.

On tournament day we focused on throwing a jig and the Carolina rig, with me on the Hula Grub and Steve dragging the brush hog. Steve had a small limit in the boat by half past eight and he culled 3 more fish over the next hour. It was Steve: 9 or 10, Warren: nada. It was time for us to double up on throwing that Zoom brush hog in green pumpkin magic or something close to it. The fish were eating it up, and they seemed to like the tails dipped



5th Place Sean Ballard & Jerry Askam

Tournament Statistics

Seventy-two men fished 9 hours each, bringing 176 bass to the scales for a total weight of 228.22 pounds with a 3.16 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.29 lbs. All but eight fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

in garlic chartreuse even more.

We had a lot of fun; we caught a lot of fish, just not enough of the bigger ones. Thank you again Steve for a great time, for a great ride and for the expert Carolina rig lesson. It would be my pleasure to be drawn with you again anytime.

Steve Grier: We caught our fish on Carolina-rigged baby brush hogs Watermelon Candy and Green Pumpkin Magic colors. Dipping the tails in chartreuse dye increased the number of bites we got. We caught our fish on main lake points and humps from the dam to Yellow Cliffs area in 5 to 15 feet of water.

Team Jerry Askam & Sean Ballard Earn 5th Place Despite Rod Overboard

A five fish bag weighing 7.13 lbs was enough to earn Team **Jerry Askam & Sean Ballard** the **5th Place** money.

Jerry Askam: Our day of fishing was probably like most everyone's. We traveled the lake from the island past the "no wake" buoys in the river to the dam looking for a decent fish and never found it. We caught a lot of fish but they were all about the same size (small). We did a fair amount of culling upgrading an ounce at a time. We tried about everything catching fish on spinnerbaits, crankbaits, Texas rigged speed craws, drop shots, and Neko rigs. No luck on top water, Carolina rig, or jigs.

Our biggest excitement of the day occurred at our first stop when my partner Sean Ballard was taking off his jacket and his rod went overboard in about 4 or 5 feet of water. We tried running cranks and jigs through the area hoping to snag it but had no luck, so Sean decided to take an early dip in the lake and was able to feel the line with his foot and recover his rod and reel. It looked like a cold experience to me but Sean said it was refreshing.

Team Tony Medina & Jason Stanton Fish Secondary Points To 6th Place

Team **Tony Medina & Jason Stanton** weighed five bass for 6.92 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

Jason "Caveman" Stanton: First off, Bartlett has not been kind to me over the last 2 years; I have only caught a limit twice in the last 12 or so trips there. Secondly, we fished the first three to four hours with a broken outboard, so we stayed around the launch site until almost 9:30. Tony managed 3 small keepers all on a jig. All were caught on secondary points in 10 to 15 feet of water. After we wasted time trying to fix his outboard, much to my chagrin because he was the one catching fish (I couldn't buy a bite), Tony finally let the "Caveman" try to fix his motor, and 60 seconds later we were off to the races. We ran all over and continued throwing jigs on secondary points in the same depths and managed to catch 11 total fish - so easy even a caveman caught 4 of them. We even caught 5 in the last hour wishing we had more time. I fish with many different circuits and groups and this is



6th Place Tony Medina & Jason Stanton

truly my favorite. Can't wait for the next tourney!

I would like to thank the tournament crew for another outstanding event. Great organization and planning make for great events, awesome to actually witness it all. Congratulations to Wayne Kukral and "Big Fish Rick Brown" on the win.

Tony Medina: Well, it was a different tournament for me for a couple of reasons. First of all, I got to be the start boat after being in the club for 14 years. Another first was my boat didn't start after I stopped at my first spot. We were without our big motor for three and a half hours. I had to wait until I could get in touch with my mechanic at Performance Marine. He told me to push the center button on the side of the throttle and push it all the way forward, then start it and it finally started after a few try's. Boy the sweet sound of that roar was great; we thought we might have a second chance.

We started at the Sheriff's Cove and other close spots. We had a five fish limit before the engine over-heated. Once we had the big motor on-line we ran the lake and culled out all our small fish. We threw jigs most of the day.

Jason Stanton was a great partner. He kept the faith and we were on the comeback trail, but we just ran out of time; but as luck would have it we still got a check!

Congratulations to all the winners and an ata boy to the weigh-in crew.

Clinton Bell & Pat Johnstonbaugh Tie For 7th Overall Finish

In a Tie for **7th Place** Team **Clinton Bell & Pat Johnstonbaugh** weighed five bass for a total weight of 6.90 lbs.

Pat Johnstonbaugh: First I'd like to acknowledge how hard the staff and volunteers work to make our tournaments fun, safe, and successful. You guys work hard so that all we have to do is 'show up and fish'. Thank you very much for dedicating your time to make our day complete and full of value.

Clinton's experience led us to start with the coves near the dam end of the lake. Throughout the entire day we never entered the river and stayed on the main lake. In the first 15 minutes I landed a topwater fish on a Mega

Bass walking bait. After using that same bait for another 45 minutes with no luck, I couldn't catch another topwater bass and my partner couldn't catch anything on a buzz bait. We used brush hogs and hula grubs in the morning with the hula grubs prevailing in the beginning. Eventually though, the brush hogs began to take over. We targeted rocky banks and islands and were landing typical Bartlett fish. Clinton relied mainly on Carolina and Texas rigged craw imitations with 5150 dropshot worms also worked in. He was catching fish on everything, all day - I feel he just has a good technique. It felt like we caught 30 or more fish with Clinton catching the majority of them. We dipped all our brush hogs and hula grubs in chartreuse and almost all our baits were similarly colored green pumpkin and watermelon. All the fish came from between 5 and 10 feet and were clones of each other. I tried to 'break the curse' of the 1 pound fish by trying 2 different depth shad crankbaits, ghost paddle tail swim bait, green pumpkin beaver with no luck on anything. After hitting a dry spell for hours, I finally took a clue from the 'Book of Bell' and rigged up a Carolina rig with a baby brush hog similar to Clinton's setup and started catching a couple of fish again.

I really enjoyed fishing with Clinton. He's interesting to talk to and just a nice guy. However, how did I repay him - with a dead truck battery. I parked his truck in the morning and I failed to turn off the lights properly so when I went to retrieve it in the afternoon, it was dead (sorry Clinton). I let John Hawkins know we wouldn't get to weigh in on time and he mentioned there is a lot of help and jumper cables in the parking lot. By the time I walked back to the dead truck, John Hawkins already had his jumper cables in hand and gave me a boost. Thanks John.

Thanks again Midweek staff for an enjoyable tourney. Congrats to Wayne Kukral and Rick Brown for putting a one pound gap on the field while the rest of us were separated by tenths of a pound.



7th Place Pat Johnstonbaugh & Clinton Bell

Team Greg Prather & Ingo Moura Ride 'Green Hornet' To 7th Place Tie

Five fish weighing 6.90 lbs was enough to earn Team **Greg Prather & Ingo Moura** a tie for the **7th Place** money.

Ingo Moura: We just slid into the money and tied with good company. Congrats to all the winners and all who won a little cash.

Today I had the privilege to ride in the 'Green Hornet'; Greg Prather's beautiful new boat. We headed out to the boulders near the dam and started fishing topwater, jigs Senkos and spinnerbaits and we caught a mix of fish. After we got our limit by 10:30 am we were not able to cull any fish after that time. However, this did not stop us from having a good time. Greg has been staying home close to his wife in case she needed help, and he really needed this outing, he seemed to enjoy himself and shared a lot of old fishing memories. I hope to hook up with him again soon and I wish his wife a speedy recovery.



Money Matters By John Reichard

Greetings from your Treasurer. Congratulations to all the guys who fished Bartlett; it seems you all had fun. Just a reminder the 5 lb Pot rolls over to next month and should be almost \$1100. Don't forget the AZG&F donation option for the Bass Stocking program. Let's try to increase our donations over last year. See you all at our next meeting at Deer Valley Airport Restaurant.



Weighing-In By Gary Martlage Tournament Director

Congratulations to the winners at Bartlett, and I hope everyone had a stellar time!

For the next 4 months, our club will be operating on "modified" tournament hours. You might notice that it might take a little longer to get bags for weighing the fish. We do this to try to help the mortality rates of the fish. We will limit the number of bags, depending on the temperature at weigh-in time. You can help by keeping your aerators running, possibly an ice chunk or two, and leaving your fish in the livewell, until you receive an official bag to transport your fish to the scale. This might seem a bit of a nuisance, but we feel this will be best for the fish. At the scale, we will try to be gentle when handling the fish, and get them back to you as quickly as possible. You can make use of the volunteer shuttles, or carry your bag to the lake for release. When releasing your fish, please make sure they swim off. It is YOUR responsibility to retrieve any "floaters", and we will provide to the members for consumption any fish that will not revive. Just bring them back to the weigh area, and put them in the red and white cooler.

Let's do our best to take care of our fish - on and off the lake!

Bassin' Basics

Second Rod - Keep a second rod rigged with a Gitzit, plastic worm, or swimbait type lure when fishing a surface plug or buzzbait. If a bass misses the topwater lure, quickly tossing out the fake worm often results in an almost immediate strike.

Find the Warmest Water - Bass are extremely sensitive to water temperature. A one or two-degree difference to a bass feels roughly the same as 10 degrees of air temperature difference to a human. Use a surface temperature gauge to detect pockets of warmer water in early spring; then, you're almost certain to locate concentrations of fish that are more aggressive than those in cooler water.

Fish Between Fronts - Cold fronts are the curse of spring fishing because the fronts back bass out of the shallows and force them to become dormant. Watch weather forecasts and schedule fishing trips on the back end of a warming trend between fronts. Bass usually bite best just before a norther blows in. Fishing may be excellent as the wind shifts to the north, particularly if the front is accompanied by heavy cloud cover. Fishing is ordinarily worst during the high, blue skies and high barometer after the front.

Stay in Creeks - If you're at a loss as to where to catch bass in the spring, hit the creeks. Submerged creek beds are natural highways for bass, offering deep-water sanctuary into which the fish can retreat. Creeks also are near shallow spawning flats where the fish move during warm trends. Put your boat in the creek channel and cast to the submerged banks. Watch your sonar for indications of fish stacked in deep water under the boat. You can often catch such concentrations by jiggging a spoon.

Hot Weather Is Prime Time - Though many bass fishermen believe spring and fall fishing are tops, it's tough to beat summer fishing for bass. Summer represents the longest stretch of static weather in the entire cycle of seasons. Those seemingly endless days with no reprieve from the heat creates very predictable bass fishing. Water temperatures are high, and the fish are active. Feeding binges may occur at any time during the 24-hour period.

Summer is the best time to find concentrations of bass on main lake structure. Use plastic worms or crankbaits for best action. Early and late, topwater fishing in the shallows works. In lakes with good shad populations, watch for bass chasing shad. Schooling bass become predictable in late summer and early fall.

FISHERMAN'S HOROSCOPE

Gemini (May 22-Jun 21) - The Fishing Pole
With Gemini ruling your life, you are well aware of the duality of existence. You'd do well to remember that there's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore looking like a dope.

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett - May 15, 2019



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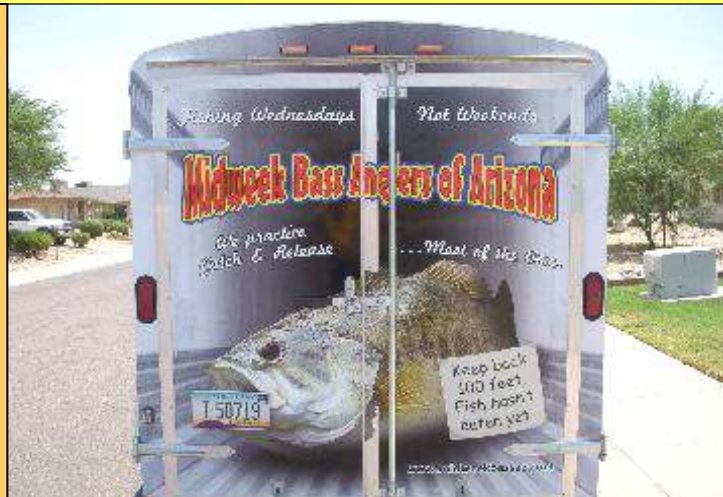
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE - Vacant

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

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

**Chip Albery (CO)
Wayne Kukral (B)**

Please meet and greet our new members



Club Apparel

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

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in June

- Steve Bowlin**
- Warren Brackey**
- Doug Cunningham**
- Gary Grimes**
- Tony Medina**



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2019
Tournament Schedule**

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