

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JULY 2015

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

### President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



Who fishes in the desert in the middle of July? The Midweek Anglers that's who. Twenty-five boats met at the ramp at 4:00 AM to get things going, which means that we all had to set our alarm in order to rise and shine somewhere around 2:00 AM. Crazy right? Not for the guys in Midweek. Another great tournament this week; congrats to Vern Ridgway and Jeff Mabry on a well executed victory. A special thanks also to those dedicated few who worked the weigh-in, Gary Martlage, Jack Hughes, Terry Tassin, Nick Wampach, Tom Savage, and John Milkint who did the white board; you guys are the best and deserve a raise. Since we don't pay them, I will let you guys buy them a beer at our next

camping trip, I am sure they will appreciate it.

I recently posted a club advertisement on Facebook/AZAnglers page specifically targeting co-anglers to help with our recent co-angler shortage, and within the next few days we had 10 inquiries about joining, and actually signed one new member who fished Bartlett with us, welcome aboard John Browning. In addition, last week the Midweek Bass Anglers signed their 99<sup>th</sup> member, and its only July. Huge thanks to our tournament director and club secretary, Jack and Terry, for their tireless efforts to pair all the solo boaters, great job guys. For those who may not be aware, these guys make dozens of phone calls after every meeting in order to address the countless pairing changes that occur. Midweek recently agreed to a change in the pairing procedure establishing that nobody fishes solo twice before everyone fishes solo once. This is a goal that we will attempt to meet, but as most of you know there are usually many pairing changes that occur between the meeting and the tournament so we will do our best.

We continue to work on the tournament schedule for 2016, which should be available for feedback soon. Some things will likely remain unchanged, like our standard of trying to stay close to home when it's really cold or really hot. March, April, May, September and October are likely to be the months when we travel to lakes like Roosevelt, Apache and Havasu. Alamo is a consideration for next year, but we are concerned with the low water level. Many long time fishermen, however, remember fishing Alamo when it was even lower than it now is. There is always a small group lobbying for a return to Martinez, which is fine as long as we have member support. Mohave anyone? Your opportunity for input is coming soon, so keep checking your emails from the club.

As we approach the fall season,



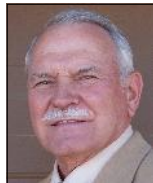
**Monthly Breakfast Meeting**  
**Deer Valley Airport Restaurant**  
**702 W. Deer Valley Rd**  
**Phoenix, AZ**  
**1st Wednesday of Each Month 8:00 A.M.**

## “We Practice Catch and Release”

we will be considering changes to the bylaws and tournament rules, so now is the time to send us your suggestions. We are also seeking a new vice-president; candidates are required to be active in the club, have been a member for at least a year and can make it to the monthly board meeting. Terry Tassin has graciously agreed to seek another term as club secretary. THANK YOU SIR. I don't know what we would do without you, you are the best.

Terry and I both continue to update the club's website with current tournament information, as well as posting other interesting fishing information on the website's blog. Gary Senft has been working on a series of instructional videos about bass fishing techniques

that are beginning to appear on the blog. They are high quality videos full of lots of tips; Gary even shares some of his fishing secrets. I recently added a "Frequently Asked Question" page to the website, primarily geared towards new or prospective members, which should answer many questions that might arise to someone not familiar with Midweek. That's all I have for you now, see you at our next meeting or tournament at Saguaro Lake in August.



**Lake Bartlett Report**  
**July 15, 2015**  
*By Terry Tassin*

Great fishing and catching! Lots of bass caught. Hot again, but what do you expect - it's Arizona in the summer. Many thanks to John Reichard for providing transportation to and from the lake from the weigh-in site so the members could put their fish back into the lake. I know of only one bass that did not make it to survive for some other day of fishing. So now on to the tournament results.

**Team Vern Ridgway & Jeff Mabry Save Gas And Take 1st Place**

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Ridgway & Mabry** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 12.99 lbs.

**Vern Ridgway:** Jeff and I teamed up and decided to cover as much water as we could to get a limit. We caught

5 aquarium size bass in a short time, then the bigger bass seemed to come out after the sun was up; we suspected they were sleeping in some dark hole early in the morning. We then were able to cull out the baby bass with a littler better fish.



**1st Place**  
**Vern Ridgway & Jeff Mabry**

We threw buzz baits, top water plugs, worms and Shakey Heads. Most of our fish came on top water lures, some early in the day some later; the biggest one came about 10 AM.

**Tournament Statistics**

Forty-nine men fished 6 hours each, bringing 122 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 185.07 pounds with a 3.78 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.52 lbs. All but one fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

**Next Meeting**  
**Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 5 August** 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 Saguaro** on **19 August 2015**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.

We spent most of our time on the south east and south west end of the lake covering water. Jeff Mabry is a great stick and I really enjoyed fishing with him.

**Jeff Mabry:** Vern and I were drawn together for the second month in a row. We did well on Saguaro so I was looking forward to fishing with him again. I had a tournament at Bartlett on Saturday prior to our tournament and put in 13.25 lbs so I had a pretty good idea where the good fish were. Vern agreed to start where I wanted to and we were going to throw top water. I started with a buzz bait and he started with a Sammy. The buzz bait didn't work so I switched to a Spook Jr. We caught small fish to start but as we started heading up the bank the fish started to get bigger. By the time we got to the end of the area we probably had close to 12 lbs. By then the sun was up and wind had stopped. We changed areas and caught a couple more on the bottom with cranks, but no help. When the clouds moved in we headed over by the dam and Vern started catching them again on top water. He made a couple of more culls and I added one more to our five fish limit on a crank. We never left the main basin of the lake and

probably only burned 2 gallons of gas in the boat. A Great day!

### Asmus & Brown Buzz To 2nd Place Finish

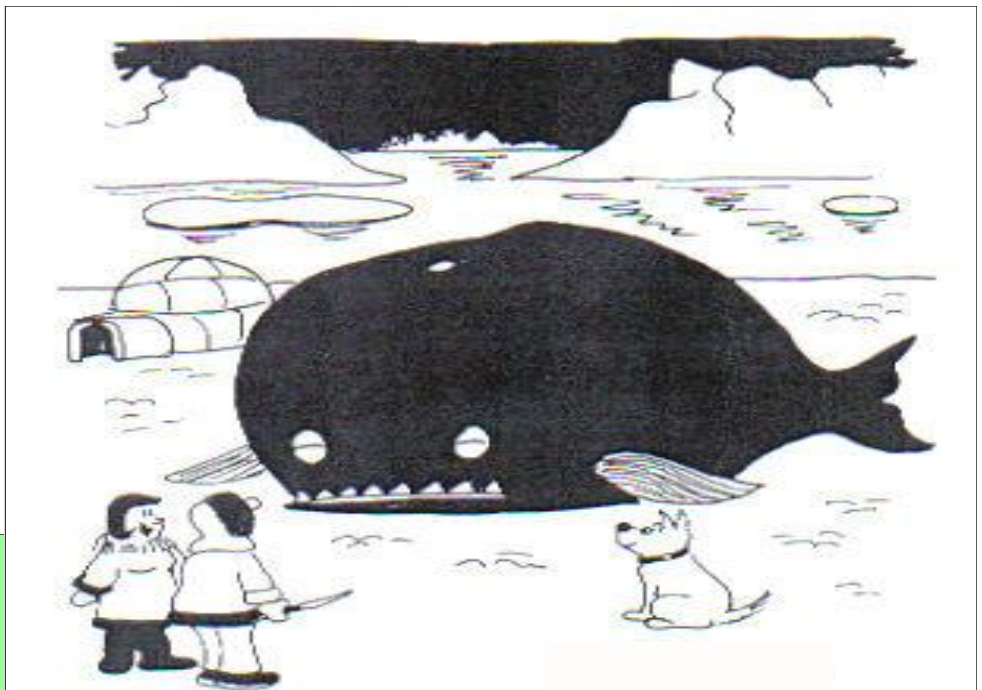
In **Second Place** the team of **Gary Asmus & Rick Brown** weighed five bass for a total weight of 10.46 lbs. Thanks to **Rick's** 4.34 lb bass the team also wins the **1st Place Big Bass** prize.

**Gary Asmus:** This was the best on time start for a tournament we have had yet. Rick Brown and I started our day at the dam with crank baits and a couple of buzzbait fish to start. Later we switched to plastics and fished in deeper water. Rick was a lot of fun to fish with and even though we both missed our pre-tournament guess on how

much our big fish would weigh, we only missed it by a pound or so. We caught 10 or so fish today and that was it.



**2nd Place  
Rick Brown & Gary Asmus**



**"Now's a good time to try out that new fillet knife I bought you"**

### Membership

As of July 17, 2015 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 99 active members.

**Rick Brown:** This is kind of the same old story for me. Another great draw, I could not prefish, and Gary (G1) had figured out the bite for us.

Gary informed me that he had been catching fish on buzz baits and on jigs. I decided that I would compliment that with a crankbait and my trusty Carolina Rig. First thing in the morning we headed for the dam area. G1 throwing his Buzz and I started with a Wiggle Wart Crawdad Crank. It wasn't long and I was calling for the net, with a decent fish on my line. About 3/4 way back to the boat the fish jumped and threw my bait. Rookie! That was no way to start the morning. With-in the next 45 minutes Gary caught 3 Buzz Bait fish and I caught 1 more on the crank. Pretty good start with 4 fish, EXECPT I think our weight was about 2 lbs total. Time to get out of the nursery! Next spot nothing! Then we went to a favorite spot of mine by the Yellow Cliffs and again a couple of tiny bass. We worked our way down the Cliffs and Gary caught a couple of upgrades on his jig, 1 pounders to replace some of the half pounders. We moved towards the river, but it didn't take long to determine this was not the spot to be. We headed back toward the main lake. I asked Gary to stop 1 more time for 5 minutes at my favorite spot; I had to give it one more chance. On my second cast with my Carolina rigged craw I felt the bite before it hit the bottom. That fish ended up to be our biggest of the day 4.34 lbs. That was

pretty much it for me, except for half pounders. G1 continued to upgrade the rest of our bag with his Yamamoto jig a little bit at a time. Most of our fish came from 15 to 20 feet of water. I had a great time fishing with Gary, I managed to catch the kicker and he pretty much upgraded the rest of the bag.

### **Carolina Rig Key To 3rd Place Finish For Grimes & Jolley**

Team **Gary Grimes & Bob Jolley** weighed five bass for 9.96 pounds and tied for **Third Place** honors.



**3rd Place Tie  
Gary Grimes & Bob Jolley**

**Gary Grimes:** Bob Jolley and I started the morning throwing topwater lures at main lake points. We caught a few but only one remained in the livewell all day, and the others were culled. We spent the morning moving around quite a

bit, and then slowed down to fish the bottom, and that's where we found our better keepers. We were both throwing Carolina Rigs, and found our fish located around 16 feet deep. Our fishing was located primarily between Yellow Cliffs and Rattlesnake Cove. Bob is an excellent stick who really knows how to put fish in the boat - a real pleasure to fish with.

**Bob Jolley:** With a tie you always wonder about the one that got away. There were a lot of short bites on Wednesday and Gary and I had a couple get away that might have made a difference. But that's fishing and both of us had a fun time and were happy with what we did catch.

Gary and I pre-fished on Friday and came away with a game plan for the tournament. As it turned out Gary found the fish and his plan worked well for us. When we pre-fished on Friday we caught fish on about everything we threw, crank baits, drop shot, top water, Texas rig, C-Rig and jigs. But the big fish were hard to find (big fish as defined for Bartlett is 2 pounders).

On Wednesday we again caught fish using several methods, the ones we weighed in were caught on a top water popper, C-rig, Texas rig and jigs. They averaged just .01 under 2 lbs. each which gave us a good bag for the day. We spent most of our time on four of Gary's favorite spots on the main lake and caught our keepers in the first hour and

the last two hours of the tournament. Gary and I “hammed and egged” it and we both contributed to our third place finish (tie). It was slow until about 9:00 and then the better fish started to feed and we were able to cull several times. We were worried about the condition of our fish because three of them were stressed and we were afraid they may not make it, but they survived and swam away when released. It appeared that all the fisherman also survived thanks to a good breeze.

I want to thank Gary for the great job he did finding fish and sticking to his plan and I look forward to the next time we get paired up.

After the tournament several of us went to Harold’s in Cave Creek for lunch, cocktails and tall tails. Thanks to who ever arranged that. It was a lot of fun, and thanks to all the club volunteers for another well run tournament!

### **Team Krumsiek & Morrison Scratch Bottom For 3rd Place Tie**

Taking home **3rd Place**, Team **Fred Krumsiek & Jake Morrison** weighed five bass for a total weight of 9.96 lbs and a tie for **Third Place** honors.

**Fred Krumsiek:** Jake Morrison and I caught our first keeper fish on the main lake just before the mouth of the river. I lost a good fish on a Buzzbait. We fished the cliffs with no luck. We then fished a cove that we had pre-fished the

week before, but we targeted the opposite shore this time and we boated three good keepers, one of them being our biggest fish weighing almost 3 pounds. Jake caught the bass – our biggest- using a jig. The other two keepers were caught drop shotting. We then went to the area of the dam, a spot we fished last week, but with no luck. We went to the other side of the dam and caught our last keeper. Jake (using a jig) caught 3 of the five we weighed in.



*3rd Place Tie  
Jake Morrison & Fred Krumsiek*

**Jake Morrison:** Fred and I started out the morning fishing just east of the launch throwing top water Rico’s and buzz baits. We managed one decent fish but decided we needed to move up the lake as we were not getting a whole lot of interest in our offerings. We took the trek up to the Echo Bay area where we again tossed top water lures. Fred hooked into what would have

been our big fish of the day on his buzz bait but it came off right at the boat. What a heartbreaker. We stayed at it though and managed several smaller fish and boated another keeper on a prop bait. After catching several of the typical Bartlett dinks on drop shot rigs and a Rico in this area, we again decided it was time to move.

We headed over to the Yellow Cliffs where Fred continued to drop shot and I picked up my jig. We didn’t see much action at the cliffs and kept moving until we ended up near Alder Point. We decided to fish a wind blown bank there and that turned out to be a great idea. Right off the bat, Fred caught another keeper on his drop shot. We managed to cull 3 of our smallest fish in this area as well as catch our biggest fish of the day on a Missouri craw colored jig.

We decided to make one last run down by the dam as time was starting to work against us. We continued to drop shot and throw jigs against the bank near Bootleg Cove. We were able to cull one more time before it was time to head in. This was Fred’s first time fishing with Midweek and I had a blast fishing with him. He is a great guy and a super fisherman and I look forward to fishing with him again in the future. See you all at the next one!

### **Team Nelson & Golden Take 5th Place**

A five fish limit weighing 9.93 lbs was enough to earn **Team Hobby Nelson & Chuck Golden 5th Place** money.



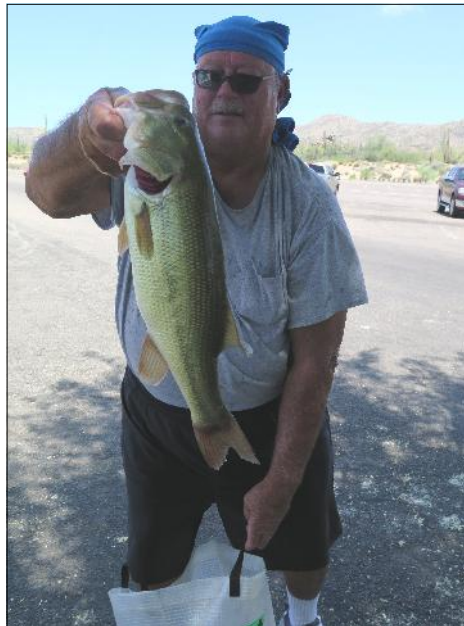
**5th Place  
Chuck Golden & Hobby Nelson**

**Chuck Golden:** Hobby and I started throwing top water lures first thing on a reef in the main lake. We had a limit in about 10 minutes, but they were all dinks. After about an hour or so of catching those inky, stinky, dinky fish, we put down the top water and started throwing Chigger Craws. Hobby rigged his Texas rig style and I was throwing a Carolina rig. We were targeting chunk rock banks and points and began catching bigger fish. We were catching them right off the bank for the most part. We did catch some of the fish dragging our rigs over rocky humps nearer the deeper water on the points. We caught quite a few fish during the day, but they were all about the same size, like they were clones or something.

I had a great time with Hobby. He's a good guy to fish with.

### **Team Allen Wacker Chugs Ghost To 2nd Place Big Bass**

**Allen Wacker:** I wound up fishing solo for this event because my partner Nick Gage had vehicle problems on the way to the lake. Luckily I was able to make a cell phone call to Tom Savage and Terry Tassin who were already way out by the no-wake buoys waiting for the kick-off of the tournament. They came back to the ramp and Tom met me on the ramp and launched me and parked my truck and then re-boarded Terry's boat, and then headed back out for the start of the tournament. He also pulled my boat out of the water at the end of the tournament. Thanks guys!



**2nd Place Big Fish  
Allen Wacker**

I fished four spots and ran a circuit on them all morning. I found my best fish just past the Yellow Cliffs on humps in Cat Bay. While there I lost a 2 1/2 pounder on a Rio Rico in the Ghost pattern and a short time later caught the 2<sup>nd</sup> place big bass – 3.77 pounds – on that same Rio Rico. I managed to put several more fish in the boat using a jig in that same area.



### **Money Matters By John Reichard Treasurer**

I had a great time on the water with Clinton Bell. I would fish with him again anytime. The thrill of the day was fishing in the middle of the lake with top water lures and lots of fish hitting those lures. Clinton was catching fish with jigs and spooks. I caught my fish on dropshot, spook and skinny dipper lures.

The 5 lb Pot will roll over to next month on Saguario where the pot should be worth about \$480.

AZ Game & Fish stocking program donations from the club in 2014 were \$1385 and 2015 to date \$665. These numbers do not include members who sent checks directly to Game & Fish which were about \$500. Keep up the good work.

See you all at the August 5th meeting.



## Weighing-In

By Jack Hughes  
Tournament Director

### Something to think about:

Why does the club push so hard not to have Solo anglers during a tournament? The prime reason is the safety of our tournament anglers. During the past two years we have averaged a minimum of three emergencies per year or over 30% of our tournaments per year we encounter an emergency. Most emergencies thankfully are resolved at the lake with common first aid but not all of them.

When I discuss this with some members they say that's because we have more older members and their thinking is WRONG. The emergencies are spread over all age groups within the club and they vary from heat exhaustion, to imbedded hooks, falling on the boat or ramp requiring medical attention and numerous other emergencies including an allergic reaction. In all of these cases there were two people in the boat and one of them took over to get help and provide aid.

Fishing in Arizona also adds to our potential problems, especially in the summer time. Heat related emergencies are not uncommon. Dehydration, heat stroke, heat exhaustion, sun stroke (which is different from heat stroke), burns from touching hot metal and we

even had one case of hyperthermia.

I know everyone thinks it cannot happen to them and some have the attitude of I have been fishing solo for years it cannot happen to me. Solo fishermen come in two types in my opinion, those who are experiencing an emergency and those who will have an emergency. Our club is proof it can happen to you. We are all amateur fishermen fishing in a club tournament for fun. If you fish solo you only have half of the opportunity of the team who have two lines in the water. It is the same as letting the team guys fish eight hours while you fish only 4, their odds are much better at winning than yours. An excellent example was Alan Wacker who, through no fault of his own, fished solo at Bartlett. His bag weight was excellent for fishing alone and it was obvious he was on the fish. If he had had a partner and the partner could have added to his weight, they would have been in the money - there are no guarantees but his odds would have been much better.

Next time we end up with 4 – 6 solo's and we ask the solo boaters if they want to switch consider the above and you may find - as a lot of our boaters have - fishing as a Co-Angler is a great experience. It will also remind you the next time on the water what your Co-Angler is experiencing in the back of the boat and how to make his fishing with you even better.

**2016 Schedule:** You will soon receive an electronic ballot for the 2016 Schedule, voting will be done electronically. The ballot will give you a choice for each month we fish and you can list only one lake per month. Lakes will be listed in alphabetical order. Alamo Lake will be listed for several different months. The board has decided to list Alamo based on current conditions. We do not know what the lake conditions will be next year. If the board sees very low water conditions and/or unsafe launching conditions we will change to a different location. The other two major changes are we have added two locations for voting, Martinez in January, and Havasu for a second tournament in 2016 in November. Members of the board are trying to provide as much flexibility for the members to decide as possible.

**Congratulations to all who fished Lake Bartlett:** Congratulate yourselves! No incidents related to the heat of any of our fishermen and only one fish that died on a day when it was 107 degrees. In my book that was very commendable with 25 boats and 24 Co-Anglers.



**Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2015 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen**

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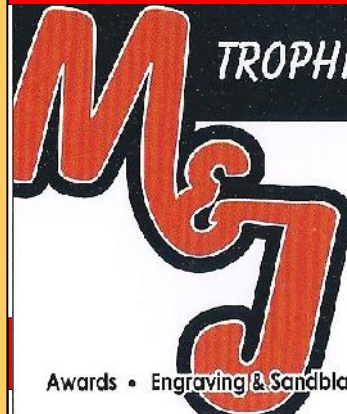
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - John Reichard

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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Individuals wishing to purchase a club shirt or cap can order directly from our provider - **M & J Trophies & Apparel**, 10802 N. 43rd Ave, Glendale, Arizona. See their ad above.

**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**

**Born in August**

**John Reichard**

**Hobby Nelson**

**Ken Schueman**

**Steve Russell**

**Dwayne Steel**



**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>