

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



APRIL 2018 EDITION
13 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



What a great time for the Midweek Bass Anglers at Alamo Lake for our April 2018 tournament. The fishing was excellent, as demonstrated by the full limits of bass caught by all teams. Of course the weather changed on tournament day. The breezy winds producing active fish during prefish turned to bluebird skies and minimal wind, which created a significant change in the fishing, but everyone still caught fish. Congratulations to Roger Root and Tom Savage on the victory.

It was great hanging out with everyone at the Cholla campground. It's always nice to know another beer is just a

campsite away. Huge thanks to Greg Prather and Gary Martlage on an outstanding job at the barbeque. Poor Greg fought heat and smoke for 2 hours as he carefully cooked 100 brats and 60 burgers. Rudy Gonzales became the club's official bean man, great job. Thanks to all the others who helped, you guys are great. Our fishing tournament poker tournament was graciously hosted by Doyle Wofford at his camp with John Hilland, who also provided us with an outdoor big screen TV where we were able to watch the DBacks game during our card tournament. Congrats to Doyle and Luke Spreitzer on the win at the card game. Winner-Winner!! Time for another drink!!

Looking forward to seeing you all at Roosevelt Lake in May. You will all be on your own for food as there is no BBQ this time.

Roger Root & Tom Savage brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 16.35 lbs.

Tom Savage: What a great time to be at Alamo Lake. I really enjoyed camping and just hanging out with my friends. I want to say thanks to Jack Hughes for the great meals and the use of his trailer for hanging out. Thanks to all who helped put on that great barbecue. I was originally going to fish as a boater, but we had so many solo boaters I decided to fish as a co-angler. I was very excited to be paired with Roger Root. I had wanted to fish with Roger for a long time. I knew he was a good angler and I knew that I could learn a lot from him. Well, I wasn't disappointed. He's not

Continued on page 2

May 19, 2018

HAPPY ARMED FORCES DAY



Monthly Breakfast Meeting

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



Tournament Report
Lake Alamo
April 18, 2018

**Team Roger Root & Tom
Savage Pre-fishing Pays
Off With 1st Place Finish**

Taking home 1st Place, Team

"We Practice Catch and Release"



**1st Place Overall
Roger Root & Tom Savage**

only a great angler; he's a lot of fun being with.

Now here's the fishing report. On Monday, we went all over the lake, catching fish just about everywhere we went. We really didn't have a pattern that we felt good about until

**Next Meeting
Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 2 May** 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 Roosevelt** on **16 May 2018**. Club launch headquarters, tournament hours, and weigh-in location will be announced.

late in the after noon when Roger decided to try some rocky banks before we ended the day. Roger threw a jig four times and had four fish. As we moved down the bank, he caught fish more often than not. We decided to look for more terrain like the rocky banks. We caught fish at each spot with the same conditions, a lot of small fish but just enough nice fish to say we had a good pattern. On tournament day we stayed with that pattern. We threw jigs all day catching a lot of little fish and just enough bigger fish to get the win. Thanks Roger, I had a great time and I look forward to fishing with you again.

Lou Hirlemann & Tom Atherton Take 2nd Overall With Spinnerbaits

In **Second Place** the team of **Lou Hirlemann & Tom Atherton** weighed five bass for a total weight of 15.61 lbs.

Tom Atherton: First, congratulations to Roger, and Tom for the win! I had a great time fishing with Lou. After pre-fishing with him we really did not have a plan for tournament day. We started out in an area across from the ramp, fishing the banks and points, within the first hour we were culling fish. Things slowed down a lot for us midday, but we kept on moving and finding the fish that would bite. Almost all of our fish were caught on chartreuse and white spinner baits, throwing them into the stick ups in 3 to 12 feet of water.



**2nd Place
Lou Hirlemann & Tom Atherton**

Some of our bigger fish however, came by drop shooting Robo Worms, off of the rocky shoreline and points. We stayed hard at it and caught two fish that allowed us to cull a couple of 2.60 and 2.69 pounders with 10 minutes to go!

Lou Hirlemann: Another great run tournament, thanks



**Community Service
By Gary Grimes**

**Roosevelt Lake Habitat
Build in May**

The AZGFD is looking for volunteers to help with a habitat build at Roosevelt Lake on May 11 and 12. Start time is 8 AM on Friday and 7 AM on Saturday. The location is the Windy Hill Amphitheater parking lot. Cordless drills and saws-alls are helpful. If you can show up, please let me know. Gary Grimes at **623-203-7436**.

to all. Tom Atherton was great to fish with and we shared ideas and places to fish for a great finish. We caught most of our fish on spinnerbaits in just a couple of spots that we fished several times. Our areas were in the middle of the lake, on the main lake. Thanks again and see you at Roosevelt.

Team Burns & Bell Work Main Lake Points For 3rd Place Finish

Team **Neil Burns & Clinton Bell** weighed five bass for 15.24 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Clinton Bell: Congratulations to Roger and Tom on the win - Good Job! I chose to go as a co-angler this tournament after looking at all the good

fishermen going solo after the original draw and I was lucky enough to be paired with Neil Burns. We didn't talk a lot about a game plan prior to practice. I fished in my boat Tuesday and he fished in his and we both went different ways; at the end of the day we put our info together and had somewhat of a plan.

We fished the big trees in the upper end of the lake until around noon. We boated a lot of fish pitching watermelon and green pumpkin hula grubs and brush hogs but they were all little buck bass and the larger females were hard to come by. By noon we had about 7 - 8 pounds. That's when we moved to main lake points and in the last 1-1/2 hours we

culled all but one fish on the same baits we fished all day. Thanks Neil for a great day.

Team Gary Grimes & Rudy Gonzales Fish Middle of Lake Trees For 4th Overall Finish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Gary Grimes & Rudy Gonzales** weighed five fish for a total weight of 14.53 lbs.

Gary Grimes: I had the pleasure of spending two days on the water with Rudy Gonzales. He is quite a good angler, and really kicked my butt and humbled me with his spinnerbait during prefish. Like most of the teams, the lack of wind on tournament day caused us to make some



**3rd Place
Neil Burns & Clinton Bell**



“One good thing about this tackle box is you can get in it if it rains.”

Membership

As of April 20, 2018 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 96 dues paid active members.



**4th Place
Gary Grimes & Rudy Gonzales**

adjustments on the water. We primarily threw Senkos out in the big trees in the center of the lake. Lots of fish, lots of fun. Glad to see Alamo back on the schedule.

Rudy Gonzales: Congrats to Roger and Tom for the win, good job guys! And congrats to the rest of the fellas that got into the money, cha-ching! Thanks to the Midweek crew for putting on another great tournament. Had a great time at the BBQ, Martlage the beans were awesome, Greg

Tournament Statistics

Fifty-four men fished 9.5 hours each, bringing 135 bass to the scales for a total weight of 283.36 pounds with a 5.25 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 2.10 lbs. All fish but five were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

the brats and burgers were awesome. Poker was great; I became a bit concerned when the hard liquor shots were coming around the table.

I had the "honor" to fish with the president, not Trump, but Gary Grimes, lol. Gary had fished Monday before I came up and had found a good pattern on spinner baits in the wind. So Tuesday when we pre-fished, being windy first thing, we started out with the spinner baits. We first fished a few spots near the dam in the submerged brush catching a couple small fish. We then moved up near the river fishing the submerged brush then landing a couple better sized fish. We moved to spots up the river where the large trees were hiding some good quality

sized fish on spinner baits. We decided that was going to be our start on tourney day. Come tournament day, we shot straight to our spot and started throwing the spinners. The wind was calm compared to the previous day and it appeared the spinner bite was off. We tried multiple other presentations ultimately finding the good sized fish biting on Senkos. Just about every tree we pulled up on had either a couple small fish or one good one at or near the bottom. We used multiple colors from green pumpkin, brown, to almost black 5" and 6". Once the wind picked up Gary landed a few more on spinners and swim-jigs. It was cool when there was about 15 minutes left in the day, we decided to hit one more lone tree on the way to

Must Have Equipment By Gary Grimes

Rudy Gonzales and I were fishing on Tuesday way down in the river when some shore anglers starting hollering at us in need of a jump start for their pickup truck. Well, there was not much I could do since they were on



the land and I was on the water. Then it dawned on me that I had a portable jump starter on my boat, which I have never used. I handed it off to them and it successfully started their truck on the first try. They quickly loaded their belongings and were on their way. Wednesday during the tournament, after hours of not running the big motor, pumping water through the livewell, and running large display graphs, we finally went to start the big motor and guess what, battery wouldn't start the motor. Well, I grabbed my handy portable jump starter and sure enough my big motor fired right up. This was the first trip that I have used it, and I would highly recommend it. I purchased mine on Amazon. Here is the product info: GOOLOO 800A Peak 18000mAh Car Jump Starter with USB Quick Charge 3.0 (Up to 7.0L Gas or 5.5L Diesel Engine), 12V Portable Power Pack Auto Battery Booster Phone Charger Built-in LED Light. Certainly a life saver for us and the family stuck on the shore.

the ramp, just a few casts and Gary lands our last cull and that was it! It was a great trip and I can't wait for Roosevelt next month. See you guys there!

**David Baca & Otto Gal
Fish Make Adjustments
Finish 5th**

A five fish limit weighing 13.79 lbs was enough to earn the **5th Place** money for Team **David Baca & Otto Gal**.

David Baca: First of all I would like to congratulate Roger Root and Tom savage for an awesome job at Alamo and thank all that put together another fun event.

I had a great day of fishing with Otto Gal who caught most of his fish with a Senko while I threw mostly a spinner bait I modified with belly weight to get to the bottom of large trees in about 14 to 18 feet of water. During pre-fish the quality fish were close to the surface of



**5th Place
David Baca & Otto Gal**

trees on Monday and to the middle of them on Tuesday. After the front blew in they moved to the very bottom of the tree trunks and were very difficult to catch. We had to make 15 or 20 casts to get our bait just right at the bottom and if we could place them at the very bottom of the trunk on the shaded side, we could get a quality bite. After catching about 50 dinks we finally got our biggest fish about 10 AM and as we continued that pattern we were able to cull all the dinks and a couple of 2 pounders.

Otto Gal: Dave Baca is one of the most knowledgeable and patient fisherman I have fished with in recent memory. He would throw a spinner bait almost all day mixing it up some time with a jig. All his bigger fish came from standing trees and isolated stumps. For me it was a Senko Texas ringed with weight in the fat end. To get the bigger ones to bite it had to get to the bottom. I missed a couple nice fish because the bite was very light or just pressure.

**Team Pikul &
Cunningham "Fish
Special" and Win
6th Place**

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 13.74 lbs was enough to earn **Ron Pikul & Doug Cunningham** the **6th Place** honors

Doug Cunningham: I had the pleasure getting drawn with Ron Pikul this month and had



**6th Place
Doug Cunningham & Ron Pikul**

a blast. I was lucky to pre-fish with him Monday to figure some things out and I am glad I did. We came to the conclusion to, "Stay out of the River." So that's what we did, we fished the main lake.

The morning bite was awesome; we fished right on the banks flipping Senkos and beavers that were watermelon and green pumpkin in color. We had our limit and 3 fish over 3 lbs by 7:30 AM. Mid-day things really slowed down. About 1:30 we found a point in about 20 feet of water and started jigging with my green pumpkin special. We must have caught about 15 fish on that point but no big fish, it was a blast though. We probably culled two bass. All in all it was a beautiful day on the lake. I lost two really nice ones that should had put us up closer to that magic #1 spot but I'm not letting it get to me, Right Ron!



7th Place
Joe Bonucci & Robert Plante

Ron Pikul: Had a great time at Alamo fishing with Doug Cunningham. Our morning fish came on one specific point. We caught our three biggest fish before 10 AM on Senkos, didn't catch much else or upgrade until about 1 PM on a point near the launch where we caught and upgraded a few times on jigs. As always the barbecue was Top Notch with good friends and good food, thanks to all who prepared and dished it out.

Team Joe Bonucci & Robert Plante Fish Rocky Points and Capture 7th Place

In **Seventh Place** the team of **Joe Bonucci & Robert Plante** finished with 13.68 lbs for their five bass.

Joe Bonucci: I fished with Midweek's newest member Robert Plante. He's excited about being an active member

and looks forward to becoming a proficient bass angler by learning from more skillful anglers. We had a chance to pre-fish the weekend prior to the tournament which began the rat-race.

On tournament day we fished the south end and mid-lake on rocky points. The small fish couldn't stand my Rico popper and hit it with aggression. We limited early in the day - culled the first five by mid-day - and got lucky in the afternoon by running into some bigger fish with my jig. Congratulations to the first place team.

1st Place Big Bass Weighed-In by Ridgway & Brackey

Vern Ridgway: I was teamed with very accomplished fisherman Warren Brackey for the Alamo event. We pre-fished for 2 days prior to the event and covered most areas of the lake looking for some



Vern Ridgway & Warren Brackey
4.34 lb 1st PI Big Bass

quality bites.

No luck catching any big fish, so we made the decision to go "east" into the nastiest stuff we could find; the bite was tuff and we had to cover lots of water. Tougher yet was the "jungle" we were dealing with and it took its toll on boat, tackle and men.

We dumped 3 big fish that we could not turn towards the boat that were really big (perhaps bigger) before we managed to land "the big fish". She was caught at about 12:30 in 5 feet of water near an old tree stump where she ate a 4 inch "Yum Critter" bait on a 1/4 oz "dirty jig".

Congrats to Roger and Tom on their 1st Place victory, and congrats to the outstanding chow prepared by chef Gary and company.

Warren Brackey: Congrats to Roger and Tom for their win and to all who placed in this event. Great job guys!

It was a fun event with lots of laughs and good food at the cookout. Thanks to our club staff, the volunteers at the MBA Buffet and Grille, and ramp shuttle service for all your hard work. Also, as always, thanks to our weigh-in crew, another job well done by all!

It was my good fortune to be paired with Vern Ridgway. We met at the April meeting and talked briefly about pre-fish plans and strategy. Vern just said, "Make sure to bring your pitching and flipping stick". I nodded knowingly and gave a

thumbs-up. I had zero experience pitching and flipping.

On tournament day we headed for the thick brush where Vern had some good bites on Monday. We threw top water, spinner baits, and swim baits, even a drop-shot or two where opportunities presented, but we mostly pitched and flipped in the trees and brush all morning. Vern is a great guy and I learned a lot fishing with him. He can pitch with the best; every cast was precision. When the fishing got tough, Vern never lost his focus.

By just after noon we only had three small fish in the well, and had swung and missed on two or three good tugs. Vern started to work a large submerged tree when his hard work paid off. Next thing I heard was, NET! Vern kept the pressure on the bass, got her out from under the tree, then she surfaced trying to shake the jig. She was big. I somehow got the net to the side as Vern drug her through some thick brush and into the net. Way to go, Vern! Wait, he wasn't done. We moved to the root-side of that tree and caught two or three more fish.

Thanks for the 'flipping' lesson Vern. It was a fun day, a great event, and it would be a pleasure being paired to fish with Vern again anytime.

2nd Place Big Bass & Goon Fish Prize.

Howard Thomas: Well another great day in paradise;



**2nd Big Bass & Goon Fish
Richie Rojas & Howard Thomas**

especially if you get to fish with Rich Rojas. If nothing else was learned I will be the perfect non-boater because of Richie. At least that's what Richie says and he is like the Master Sergeant of fisherman. Sometimes it almost felt like I had my wife with me. All kidding aside, Rich has been fishing a long time and probably forgotten more fishing 'stuff' than I know. At our age we're probably both forgetting more than we know. At the cook out I heard Gary Grimes call we members over 70, the "Geritol Gang". In a few more years maybe Ranger or other makers will start making boats with handicap ramps. Can you just imagine a non-boater that comes with diapers, hearing aids, false teeth, toupee, and oxygen machine? You can change out 5 drop shot set-ups quicker than a diaper. The oxygen machine on the other hand could help keep the fish in the livewell healthy on hot days, so there are some advantages.

The diaper could also be used to chum for catfish. All kidding aside I always enjoy fishing with Richie Rojas. He was the very first member I fished with when I joined the club and I was truly a rookie he had to put up with. It was on Roosevelt Lake and I remember it like it was yesterday. He must have gone home after that day and took Tylenol for a week and maybe even smoked some weed to calm down. God Bless you for being such a great pal and fishing buddy and for being so understanding.

Now you want to know how and where we caught our fish, correct? We went straight to the other side of the lake from the launch ramp and started fishing a cove. Being the start boat we were last out but still managed to get a good spot to fish and within 15 minutes we had the second big fish of the day in our livewell. All day we threw Senkos in the bushes where ever we went in watermelon #194 color and culled a few but never enough to win. Thank you Lord for a great day on the water. Hope to see all you guys next tournament.

Happy Mom's Day





Weighing-In

By Gary Martlage
Tmx Director

Another one for the record books! Alamo Lake was great for the winners, and still very good for the bottom half. Reports of 30 fish per boat were common, but just hard to find the larger fish. The BBQ Tuesday night was awesome, thanks to the cooking crew led by Greg Prather. I would have to agree the overall tournament was a success!

Everyone did great at launching and retrieving their boats with no apparent injuries, except one. Before the scales opened, Tom Alauria caused quite a commotion, getting "bucked off" a bronco boat in the parking lot! All I could think of was the words of George Straight. - *"But I'll be lookin' for 8 when they pull that gate...And I hope that judge ain't blind!"*

I'm happy to report Tom is OK, and he beat the count.

Roosevelt Lake will be the next event; as you know by now the tournament has been moved from Apache. We have no official reports on Apache, but might have some additional information at our next general meeting on the condition of the fishery.

I would still like to point out if anyone is not able to fish the tournament, after the pairings, **PLEASE CONTACT ME!** Do not contact any other board members (Terry Tassin) as I will take care of the re-pairings. Other board members have many other important things to do. I only have one job and that is to get everyone paired, so there will not be anyone left on shore before the tournament. Alamo was a big challenge, as we moved quite a few people around. It just will work out much better if a limited number of people are involved.

You might have noticed a new weigh master on the scales this tournament. Sean Ballard is cutting his teeth on the procedures and I congratulate him on a job well done. Again, procedures are in place to give you the most accurate weight possible and Sean did great! Looking forward to him helping us out in the future.

Let's see a huge turnout at **Roosevelt**, and lots of fish being caught.

FISHING vs SEX....A REAL PRIMER 19 REASONS TO READ ON

#19 - No matter how much whiskey you've had, you can still Fish.

#18 - You don't have to hide your Fishing magazines.

#17 - It is perfectly acceptable to pay a professional to Fish with you once in a while.

#16 - The Ten Commandments don't say anything against Fishing.

#15 - If your partner takes pictures or videotapes of you Fishing, you don't have to worry about them showing up on the Internet if you become famous.

#14 - Your Fishing partner doesn't get upset about people you fished with long ago.

#13 - It's perfectly respectable to Fish with a total stranger.

#12 - When you see a really good Fishing person, you don't have to feel guilty about imagining the two of you Fishing together.

#11 - If your regular Fishing partner isn't available, he/she won't object if you Fish with someone else.

#10 - Nobody will ever tell you that you will go blind if you Fish by yourself.

#9 - When dealing with a Fishing pro, you never have to wonder if they are really an undercover cop.

#8 - You don't have to go to a sleazy shop in a seedy neighborhood to buy Fishing stuff.

#7 - You can have a Fishing calendar on your wall at the office, tell Fishing jokes, and invite coworkers to Fish with you without getting sued for Fishing harassment.

#6 - There are no Fishing-transmitted diseases.

#5 - If you want to watch Fishing on television, it does not cost extra, like when you have to subscribe to the Playboy channel.

#4 - Nobody expects you to Fish with the same partner for the rest of your life.

#3 - Nobody expects you to give up Fishing if your partner loses interest in it.

#2 - You don't have to be a newlywed to plan a vacation primarily to enjoy your favorite activity.

#1 - Your Fishing partner will never say, "Not again? We just Fished last week! Is Fishing all you ever think about?"

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Alamo - April 18, 2018



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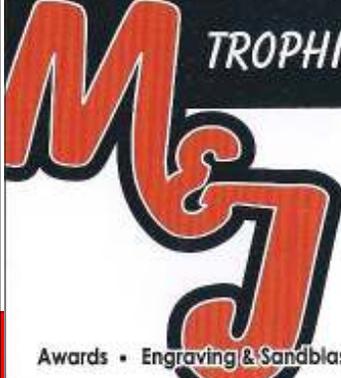
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Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>

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

**Robert Plante (CO)
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Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in May

Tom Alauria

Phil Brewer

Jim Buchanan

Butch Dangelo

John Hawkins

Rusty Murdock

Ray Riley

Sam Schattenberg

Logan Shirk

Terry Tassin



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2018
Tournament Schedule**

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