



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JANUARY 2016

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



The Midweek Bass Anglers' first tournament of 2016 was held January 20th at Canyon

Lake, which was the very first time our club has fished that particular lake. Most of the guys I had spoken with prior to the tournament had either never fished Canyon or it had been a very long time since they had. The lake is absolutely beautiful with its incredibly colored rugged stone mountains, dazzling sheer cliffs, and ancient saguaros. It's easy to miss the beauty when you are trying to grind out a five fish limit with fish that don't want to eat, but every stop on the lake provides a postcard quality photo image.

The bite was incredibly tough,

with most anglers only finding success while fishing 50 feet deep or more. On Monday I caught a five pound bass at 53 feet, a first for me at that depth. I ran into Lou Hirlemann during pre-fish, and he was dragging a Huddleston swimbait at 80 feet.

There were several really nice fish caught during the tournament, including a 7.40 lb monster caught by new member Tom Atherton, who was also fishing in his very first tournament. Way to go Tom!

I was recently reading an article in Bass Master Magazine and an angler was talking about fishing a lake in the south eastern part of the county, and how he caught his fish deep; but he was talking about 14 feet as being deep.

As usual, someone always figures out the right combination of location and presentation to put fish in the boat; congrats to Johnny Hawkins and George Cobasky on a great victory.

Our spring schedule should be a great one this year: Saguaro in February, Havasu in March, Apache in April, and Alamo in May. These are all great fisheries capable of producing

both quality and quantity bass, looking forward to seeing you all out there. It was nice to see 29 boats on the water to start the year, hope you all had a great time, and I will see many of you at the next meeting.

Deep fish: I recently attended a seminar at Bass Pro Shops, and local Phoenix angler Dean Kreuzer was discussing how to minimize the barotrauma problems associated with deep fish. He believes bringing your fish up slowly, and thereby allowing the fish to decompress himself on the way up to your boat will help minimize the problem. I tried the technique at Canyon, for all of my fish were caught in 50 plus feet of water, and I am sold. Though I did still have to fizz my fish, at least the air bladder was not inside the fish's mouth when I got him to the boat. I fizzed every one of my fish and all were very happy

Happy Valentines Day!



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"

and active afterwards. There is a short video at www.midweekbassaz.com, on our blog, which shows how to fizzle fish.



Canyon Lake Report

January 20, 2016

By Terry Tassin

Lures working for this tournament were flutter spoons, dropshot worms, spinner baits, and rattletraps.

They were all put to good use to make this event a fun, experience for the “select few” that caught fish.

OK enough of that. Lets hear from our winners who provided after action reports from the tournament.

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 3 February** 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 17 February 2016**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

Team John Hawkins & George Cobasky Start Season With Big Win at Canyon

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Hawkins & Cobasky** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 17.34 lbs.

John Hawkins: I first would like to thank the board of directors and weigh-in team for the best run tourney this year. I hope Tournament Director Jack Hughes didn't get injured too badly in his spill in the dark; he put a lot of time in pre-fishing to not get a chance to fish. I drew George Cobasky as my partner; what a great guy even though he made fun of my 'gay' spoon choice. He is a real fun guy in the boat and I enjoyed his company; he never made fun of my tiny boat knowing he has a 21 footer at home and 27 graphs – well almost 27. We pre-fished two Mondays before the tourney and did real well and luckily our pattern held up on tournament day. We used 4 1/2 and 5 1/2 inch flutter spoons in 40 to 45 feet of water on the flats. George caught the first fish and the last fish. I caught 2 beer cans a barricade sign and a couple trees not to mention fishing line. We missed a lot of hits as the bass were hitting the spoons on the fall. I learned a lot and hope to draw him again.

George Cobasky: First of all I enjoyed fishing with John, as always when fishing with other members of the club I learn different techniques to become a better fisherman. John has

years of experience and he shared his knowledge with me. Pre-fishing and tournament day we fished with a flutter spoon. This technique was the go to fishing lure all three days. Monday we had 6 nice fish by 9 AM, tournament day we did not change our strategy and John located the fish, in 45 to 50 feet on the sonar, hugging the bottom. During the day John would say fish-on and as co-angler I would put my pole down grab the net only to see part of a wooden sign or tree limb appear, its hard work being co-angler! I always enjoy fishing with the club, we have great club members and our club officers always try to make our tournament something to be proud of.

Tony Medina & Hal Hensey Finish 2nd Overall

In **Second Place** the team of **Tony Medina & Hal Hensey** weighed four bass for a total weight of 14.40 lbs.

Hal Hensey: With a cool morning start we tried for a reaction bite along the banks but didn't get any action. I tried a couple of variations with crank baits and added weight to get deeper, but still no action. My partner Tony Medina suggested a move to deeper water and I was for that because it was getting close to 9 o'clock and I thought this was going to be a long day. I didn't know anything about Canyon Lake other than looking at a map. Tony guided me to a point that cut back to some high cliffs and proceeded down the

shoreline for a good distance. The wall had many openings to cast into but didn't produce any fish. We moved out about twenty feet to drop shot and moved parallel with the wall and when we got closer to the point I got a bite. I was a little too anxious and set the hook which felt good but the fish had the worm and no hook. I reeled in and lost that one. The bite got me ready for the next fish and shortly I got another bite, but this time I gave it time to set up on the hook properly. The fish was a little over 2 lbs, but it was a fish in the boat.

I got another hit and caught a nice 3 1/2 pound bass. Shortly, I got another 3 1/2 pounder. About fifteen minutes later I felt a similar hit but I soon noticed a difference in weight. This one was 5.26 lbs and took quite a while to bring up. Tony told me to take my time because the fish were in 60 feet of water and they will need fizzing. This all happened within 1 1/2 hours and I was very happy to catch fish in January - for the first time. Tony took good care of the fish and we made it to the weigh-in with only 4 live fish because the rest of the day didn't produce our fifth fish.

It was a pleasure to fish with Tony, who is a good friend and who gave me some good tips on other lures and an excellent location to fish. Of course I caught all of them on Morning Dawn/chartreuse tail

Roboworms. What a way to start the year.

Tony Medina: I was lucky to draw Hal Hensey for this tournament. After two outings on my own of pre-fishing Canyon I had only caught three fish total, so I knew I was going to struggle on tournament day.

We started out with spoons and jigs but we were not getting any takers so we started moving around throwing dropshots and finally we found a spot that was holding fish. Hal had the magic touch as he caught four nice fish including a 5.26 pounder. Unfortunately he missed one that would have given us a five fish limit and might have given the first place guys a run for the money.

All of the fish came out of 50 to 60 feet of water and I had the honor of netting the four

fish and fizzing them. They all arrived at the scales still kicking. All of our fish came on Morning Dawn Robo Worms – of course!

Congratulations to John Hawkins and George Cobasky on their winning bag.

Hirlemann & Wampach Attribute Mountain Dew For 3rd Place Overall Finish

Team **Lou Hirlemann & Nick Wampach** weighed three bass for 13.11 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors. Nick's 5.67 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.

Nick Wampach: I had a great day fishing with Lou Hirlemann at Canyon Lake for the first tourney of the season. Pre-fishing was tough but we managed a few bites on game day.



"I don't care what it is! If he doesn't stop scaring the fish, I'm going to stick this fishing pole right up his alien butt."

Membership

As of January 22, 2016 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 83 active members.

We started on a community hump out in front of the marina. We were shortly joined by a few other club boats. We started with big baits like Huddleston and Deps and mag spoons with no success. Lou got creative and tied on a red rattletrap and then he drops it down and gets snagged and says "get ready with the net ". I couldn't believe how the fish hit it as soon as he ripped his bait away from the snag. Then I was ready with our first successful net job.

Our second fish - caught by Lou of course - came on a spinner bait. Once again I was ready with the net. The next time Lou's rod gets bent he says "net" and I am ready.

I can't believe what was on the other end of his line. He had snagged a \$100 Baitsmith swimbait and a \$20 Mag spoon and a \$20 custom line-through swimbait. This was a high light of the morning.

We went a while without another bite. We kept moving around to try to find a fish that would bite.

In the last hour we decided to make a run up-river. We checked a few spots with no success. It was getting close to crunch time and Lou pulled out a Mountain Dew. Lou said "here drink this, it with help with the fish catching". We pulled up to a rock pile in 50 plus feet of water. I dropped down a slab spoon and thought I got snagged - the snag started to move. I thought it was a cat fish because I saw

the color just under the water. To my surprise it was a 5 pound largemouth.

We only had three bites all day and it was a grind. Driving back to the ramp we hoped we had enough for a pay check.

The key to our success had to be the Mountain Dew!

Lou Hirlemann: I thought it was nice to fish a new lake, and had a good time fishing with Nick. I pre-fished Monday and Tuesday without a bite but for some reason that calms me. Maybe I figure no one else will tear it up and I get ready to try everything. I caught one on a red lipless crankbait and one on a spinnerbait. Nick caught our big fish on a spoon. Six of us camped Monday and 7 on Tuesday, and that was a blast as always. I wish fishing was better for everyone but that is fishing.

Team Steele & Thomas Ride Dropshot Rigs to 4th Overall Finish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Bryan Steele & Howard Thomas** weighed four fish for a total weight of 10.70 lbs.

Bryan Steele: Howard and I had a good time on a tough day! Four bites and four fish in the boat - 2 fish were on rock, 1 fish in the deep grass, and 1 on wood (habitat).

My partner Howard Thomas caught one fish near a rock spire (main lake) in 20 feet of water on a dropshot at about 1:30 PM, and then I set the

hook on a fish in about 35 feet that was near a big boulder - that was our big flurry of catching that ended the day!

Prior to that, I caught a fish in the Laguna area by a deep grass line in 18 feet of water around 11:30 PM. The first fish was the biggest and was caught at 10:30 AM on a habitat that was next to the ledge. I was using Hologram Shad 6-inch straight tail worms on a dropshot for my three fish.

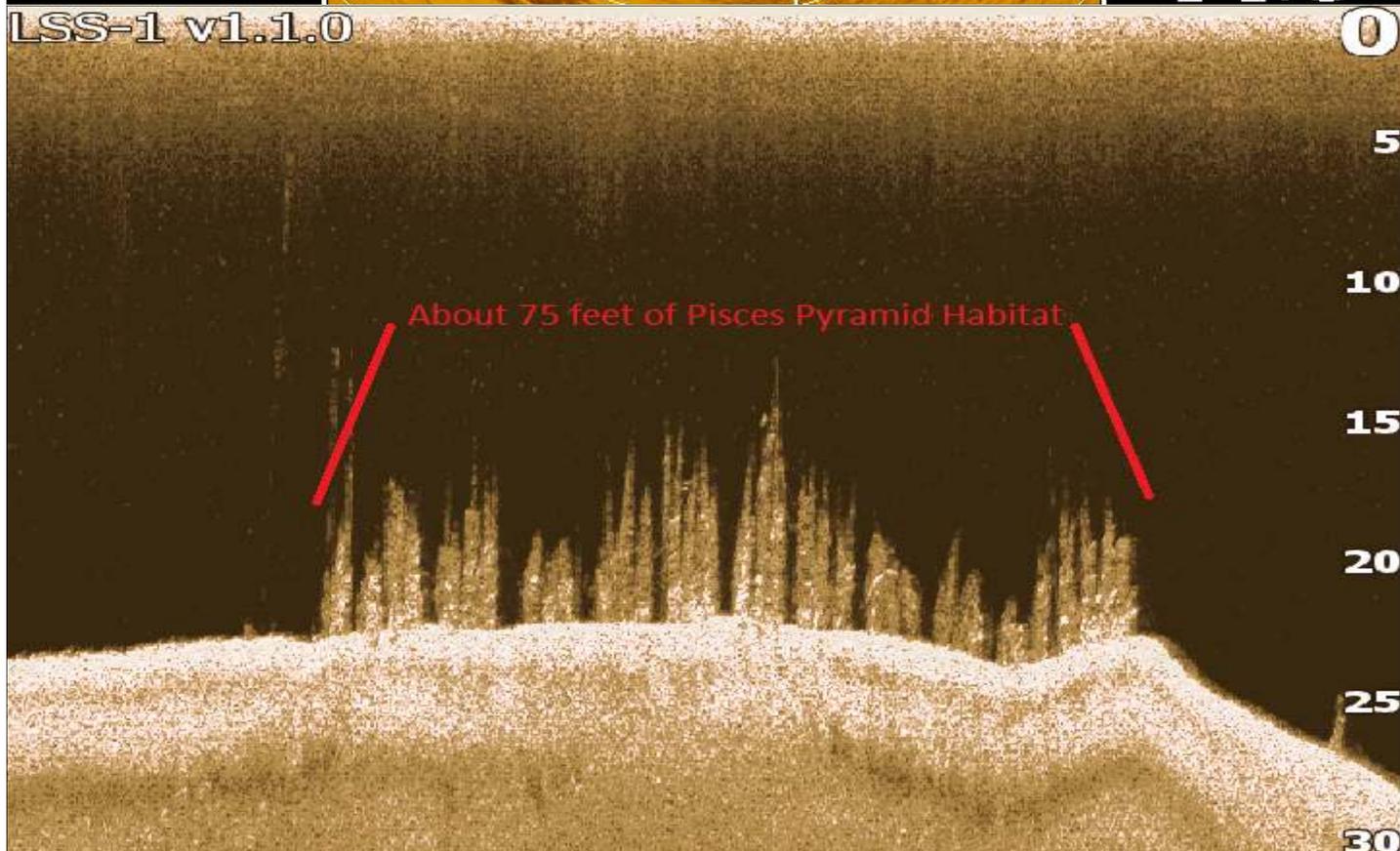
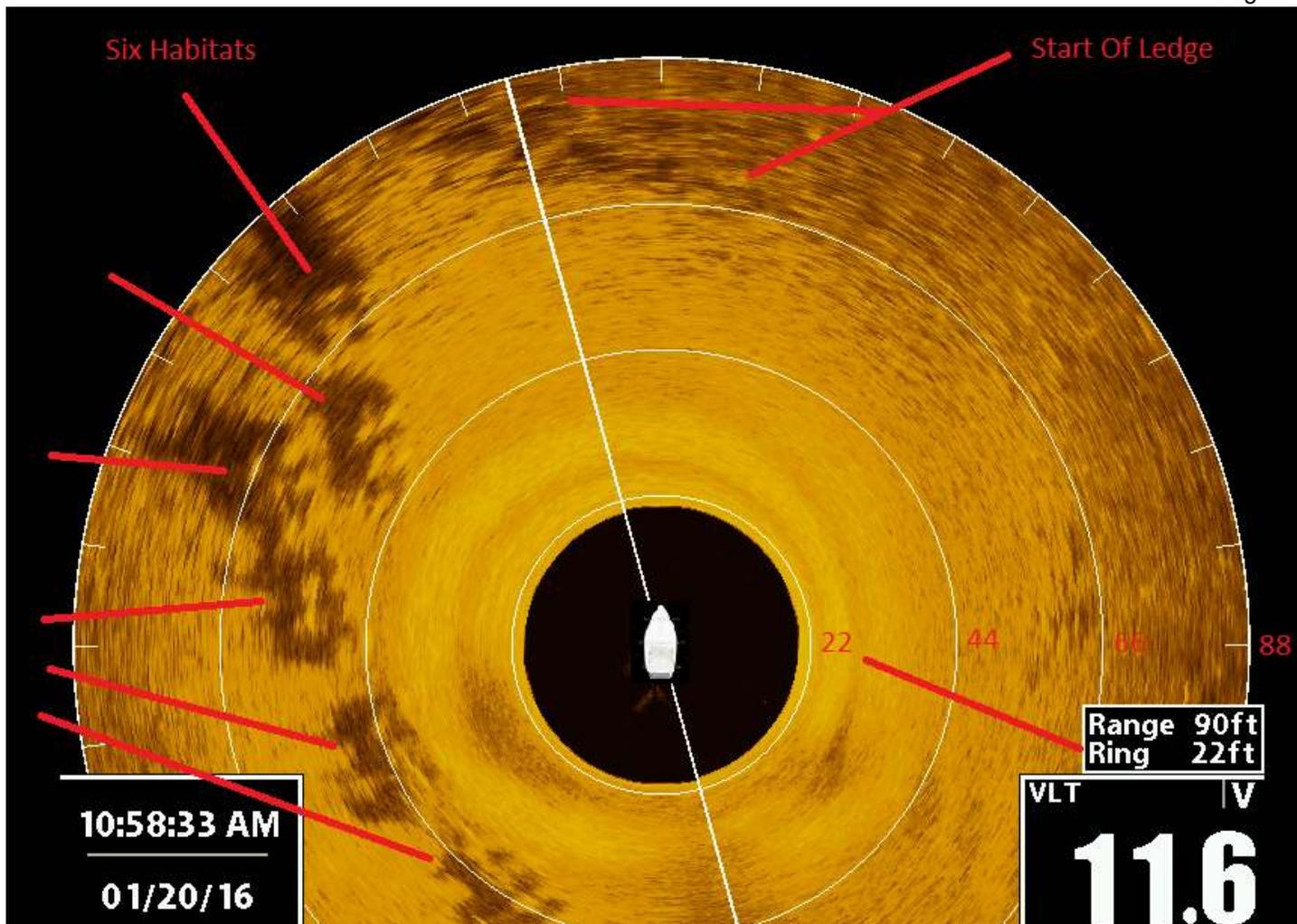
A lot of people ask me if I really need all of those graphs to fish. The answer is No. For me, it is fun figuring out how to integrate electronics into tournament fishing and trying to stay up with the new technology. The most fun piece of fishing electronics is the Humminbird bow 360.

If you will look at the photo on the top of the next page (Page 5) you will see an example screenshot of fishing underwater cover at Canyon Lake using the Humminbird 360 sonar unit.

The 360 helps you with offshore boat positioning and with every cast you make to the underwater cover (all the underwater junk you can't see from the surface):

Also on page 5 you will see an example screenshot of a Downscan image of a habitat row from Canyon.

Sidescan and Downscan are very useful for discovering the underwater cover when pre-fishing for a tournament.



Ballard & Brown Finish in the Money For 5th Place

A five fish limit weighing 10.66 lbs was enough to earn **Sean Ballard & Rick Brown** the **5th Place** money.

Sean Ballard: Well for starters during pre-fishing on Sunday we didn't catch any fish but we did locate a few areas that might hold fish. So Rick Brown and I talked about what we should do and came up with a plan and being 2nd boat out that would guarantee we got to the spot first. But, after the morning meeting where the tournament director said we couldn't fish within 100 feet of the sea wall in front of the marina, knowing that the hump in front of the sea wall was right at the 100 foot rule we decided that was not the best location to fish.

So we went to our second spot where Rick went to work and caught 2 fish on a Texas rig craw and Carolina rigged craw. After a while we headed to some of our other spots with no luck, until we hit a spot in the river where Rick caught our biggest fish on a Carolina rig and caught another on an Ice Jig.

By then I figured he was getting tired of catching fish so I decided to finally catch a fish with my Ice Jig, and then lost 2 more; that was the last fish caught. On a lake where neither one of us fish it was really nice to have a great stick like Rick in the boat to bounce

ideas off.

Root & Atherton Celebrate Atherton's First Tournament Finishing in 6th Place

Bringing three fish to the scales weighing 8.82 lbs was enough to earn **Roger Root & Tom Atherton** the **6th Place** money. Of course one of those three bass weighed 7.40 lbs which was good enough to also earn the team the prize for **1st Place Big Bass**.

Tom Atherton: Beginners luck? I have to give the credit to Roger. I had never fished Canyon before but he had some spots he wanted to check out. The second spot we fished was where I got the big one on a spoon, about 5 feet from the bottom in 55 feet of water not too far from the ramp. I had a great time fishing in my first tournament, being able to better my personal best by slightly over a pound, and winning big fish! I am looking forward to the next tournament and want to thank all that helped out this rookie!

Mary Royal & Troy Lindhorst Enjoy Troy's First Club Tournament Winning Goon Fish Prize

Mark Royal: The 26 pound flathead catfish was caught on a ¾ oz spinner bait being rolled just off the bottom early in the morning. Troy convinced me to haul the smelly cat into the boat and I am grateful as it turned out to be our only fish of the

tournament.



The VP Corner

By Tom Savage
Vice President

Congratulations to John Hawkins and George Cobasky for their 1st Place win.

When I reflect on the January 2016 Canyon Lake Tournament, my first thought will be, the toughest fishing I have ever seen. We had 29 boats and 10 boats did not weigh a fish. Eight boats weighed only one fish and only there were only 3 limits of 5 bass brought to the scales. It seemed as though, if you weren't fishing in 50 feet or deeper water, you weren't going to catch a fish.

Camping at Canyon Lake Monday and Tuesday nights before the tournament with Jack Hughes, Gary Grimes, Lou Hirlemann, Larry White, Neil Burns and Mike Adamson was a fun experience. Great campfire, great conversation and lots of fun!

The tough fishing conditions resulted in me learning new fishing techniques such as flutter spoons in 50 plus feet of water.

My partner, Tom Alauria and I caught two fish. Both fish were in 50 plus feet of water. When we got the fish in the boat they were very distressed. Tom immediately fished the fish and the fish were alive and healthy when we weighed them. I had

a great time fishing with Tom.

I will always remember the Tuesday night before the tournament when our Tournament Director, Jack Hughes slipped while getting out of my camper and fell hurting his shoulder. Jack decided he wouldn't fish but would participate in the pre-launch meeting. Before the meeting, Jack fell again, hitting his face on the ground. After the meeting Jack drove himself to town for medical attention. The diagnosis was a separated shoulder, a concussion, three cracked teeth, a facial fracture, multiple cuts and bruises. Is this guy tough or what? We all wish Jack a speedy recovery.

As difficult as the fishing was for me, and it was difficult, with fishing 5 days and catching only one fish, I still enjoyed every minute of it.



Weighing-In

By Jack Hughes
Tmx Director

I want to thank all 41 of you who called to check on my health after my accident at Canyon. I am doing well and will soon be back on the lake and getting ready for Saguaro. For the record I was released from the hospital with the following injuries "concussion, facial fracture, three broken teeth, separated shoulder, cracked rib and various cuts and bruises". As I told the doctor when he asked what happen "the bass at Canyon are the meanest and toughest in the state".

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Canyon January 20, 2016



1st Place
George Cobasky & John Hawkins



2nd Place
Hal Hensey & Tony Medina



Money Matters

By John Reichard
Treasurer

Greetings from your treasurer: What a beautiful day on the lake on Wednesday. I had a great time with Jeff Mason. The 5 lb Pot was won by Tom Atherton so next month the 5 lb pot starts over – don't forget to enter the pot when it starts. Congratulations to all four of the fishermen who caught fish over 5 lbs.

See you all at the February meeting.



3rd Place
Lou Hirlemann & Nick Wampach



4th Place
Howard Thomas & Bryan Steele

Photo Scrapbook - Canyon Lake - January 20, 2016



5th Place
Rick Brown & Sean Ballard



2nd Place Big Fish
Nick Wampach



6th Place
Roger Root & Tom Atherton



Goon Fish Pot Winners
Troy Lindhorst & Mark Royal
and \$270 Friend



Guess
Who



Come on fish, swim away!



The Weigh-In



Tom Atherton's
7.40 lb Big Bass of the Tournament

Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2016 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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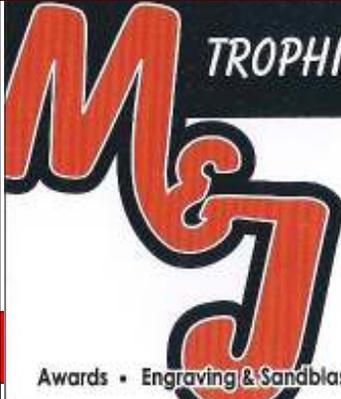
CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE - John Reichard

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

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

- Tom Atherton (CO)**
- Jerrith Foster (CO)**
- Todd Gentner (CO)**
- Joe Kane (CO)**
- Troy Lindhorst (CO)**
- Garland Potts (CO)**
- Chris Sabia (CO/B)**

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Midweek Bass Anglers Club Apparel**



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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.

**Midweek Bass Anglers 2016
Tournament Schedule**

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

**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday
Born in February**

- Don Johnson**
- Neil Burns**
- Steve Simer**
- Rick Brown**
- Chuck Golden**

