



# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MARCH 2018 EDITION  
13 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005  
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

## President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



When you spend three days pre-fishing at Havasu during March, and are only able to catch one fish during the first day of a two-day tournament, you begin to wonder if it is time to turn in the man-card and sell the boat. That was my experience this year, but fortunately we were able to catch 14 lbs of smallmouth on day two. It was so bad on day one for us that when I finally hooked a fish, around 2 PM, my partner, Butch Dangelo, was so amazed that he forgot to grab the net. He recovered quickly enough, and his cat-like reflexes almost netted the fish - if only I had an 8 foot handle. Just one of those days. I guess that is why it's called fishing and not catching.

Midweek Bass Anglers have been holding their March tournament at Lake Havasu since 2010. The fishery is very different from what we are accustomed to on the Salt River chain of lakes, with its endless shoreline, hundreds of coves and cuts, and clear moving water. The most common fish in the lake are largemouth and smallmouth bass, striped bass, gizzard shad, catfish, and sunfish. The largest recorded fish caught are 5.8 lb. Redear sunfish, 6.28 lb. smallmouth bass, and a 10.52 lb. largemouth bass. White Sturgeon was stocked in the lake in 1968, but no one has ever hooked one.

The lake consists of 60 miles of waterway, with over 400 miles of beautiful shoreline. Butch and I encountered a mapping boat while fishing on Monday. Their plan is to map the contour and structure of the entire lake, including habitat. Not sure when it will be done but it will be an awesome fishing aid. The lake extends from Parker Dam in the south to Davis Dam in the north, which is past Laughlin. Gary Martlage and I travelled north on Saturday all the way to Topac, which is located at the I-40 bridge. It was a beautiful

drive, taking about an hour each way; however, we didn't catch any fish after going all that way.

The south end of the lake is home to the headwaters of the CAP canal (Central Arizona Project). Its purpose is to deliver drinking water to central and southern Arizona. The CAP began construction in 1973 and was declared complete in 1993. On the southeast side of the lake, the large, silver pipes traveling up the mountain are the 242 mile long Colorado River Aqueduct. Built during the depression as a water supply for southern California, it travels over 242 miles before terminating at Lake Mathews near Riverside, California. Also on the south end of the lake is

Continued on page 2

# HAPPY EASTER!



**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"

the Bill Williams River, whose water comes from Alamo Lake, which is located 40 miles to the east.

Also of note on the lake are many lighthouses. They were brought to my attention by Jim, a good friend of Gary Martlage who regularly attends our Havasu weigh-ins. These scaled down replicas are actual functioning navigational aides built to the specifications of famous lighthouses on the East Coast, West Coast, and Great Lakes. All of the lighthouses on the west side of Lake Havasu are replicas of famous lighthouses on the West Coast, while the east side consists of East Coast replicas. The lighthouses around the island are all replicas of lighthouses from the Great Lakes. As per the Coast Guard's navigational regulations, lighthouses on the west coast use a green beacon, while east coast

lighthouses use a red beacon. Lighthouses with a flashing amber beacon signify safe harbor lights for emergency use only.

While most of the time our eyes are focused in the water looking for a dark circle (bed) or a largemouth trying to hide underneath overhanging tree limbs, Havasu really is a spectacular lake offering quite amazing views and interesting landmarks.



**Tournament Report  
Lake Havasu  
March 20-21, 2018**

Just a reminder, when I am at a tournament I take photos of all our tournament teams with their catch. If you would like your photo taken with or without your fish, please stop by where I am set up and let me take your photo. You never know when it might show up in the newsletter or on our web site; I do like to run a photo of the winning teams inside their tournament write-up. Additionally, if you take photos during the fishing day, I would appreciate you sending them to me via email attachment so I can use them in the Bass Bites.

OK, here are the fishing and catching reports from the money winners this month.

**Team Lou Hirlemann &  
Allen Wacker Win the  
Gold**

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Lou Hirlemann & Allen Wacker** brought to the scales



**1st Place Overall  
Allen Wacker & Lou Hirlemann**

the winning creel of ten bass weighing 34.25 lbs.



**The Rules  
By Gary Grimes**

Every time our club fishes Lake Havasu, questions arise about the required boat safety equipment. What complicates this matter is that Lake Havasu falls under the jurisdiction of Arizona, California, and the USCG. What I have found is that with the exception of the pee bottle (California requirement), the requirements for Lake Havasu are the same as for any of our local desert lakes. You must have a fire extinguisher, a PFD for every person, a throw cushion (25 feet of rope not required), navigation lights for running at night, and one sound producing device (horn or whistle). While the Coast Guard does require a VDS (visual distress signal), after speaking with John Galbraith at the Tackle Master Store, he indicated that rule is not enforced at Havasu.

**Next Meeting  
Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4 April** 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 Alamo** on **18 April 2018**. Club launch headquarters, tournament hours, and weigh-in location will be announced.

**Lou Hirlemann:** I would like to thank the tournament committee for running a great tournament. It was fun fishing with Allen Wacker. I heard some great stories, learned some new spots and new tricks from him. We caught all our fish off of beds with 5 or 6 baits. Day 1 our first 3 stops had no fish on them so we kept moving and finally got things going and had our fish about 12:30 and started looking for fish for day 2. We found some beds that reloaded Wednesday and had our 5 bass by 9:30 AM. We culled a few times and the day was over. Congrats to all the big fish over 5 lbs brought in. I am really looking forward to Alamo next month, see you there.

**Rick Brown & Rusty Murdock Take 2nd Overall and 5 lb Option**

In **Second Place** the team of **Rick Brown & Rusty Murdock** weighed ten bass for a total weight of 33.64 lbs. Thanks to Rick's 5.91 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors and the **5 lb Pot** prize.

**Rick Brown:** I arrived at Lake Havasu on Sunday Morning and started my scouting. After a full day, I only found a few smallmouths and a couple nice largemouths. On Monday, Rusty Murdock and I continued the scouting efforts. We

marked a couple more fish; however, some of the smallmouths from Sunday were gone.

On tournament day my plan was to put the easier catching smallmouth in the boat first, and then go spend some time on the big largemouth. Well, my early morning plan didn't work out so well – the fish were gone. On about our 10th stop Rusty finally put our first fish in the boat. We started jumping in and out of coves and we spotted a smallmouth on a bed, a Giant! As I went by the fish, trolling motor on high, Rusty threw his bait on the bed and quickly caught that fish, a really nice 5 lb smallmouth. After moving about 100 times we finally put fish number 5 in the boat at 1 PM. Time to go for one of the big largemouth bass that we had marked on Monday. Since I don't have



**2nd Place  
Rick Brown & Rusty Murdock**

power poles we used an anchor out the back of the boat to keep us in position to work this largemouth. We threw everything at her for about 45 minutes until she finally took my bait. Then the fun began. When I set the hook she made



**"I told you it was the hottest plug out"**

**Membership**

As of March 23, 2018 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 94 dues paid active members.

a run straight for a habitat cage. I turned her away, but she made it to a tree instead and wrapped around a branch. Full panic now! Rusty got the anchor up quickly and I started moving toward the tree. I just kept pressure on her and thankfully she swam back out and right to Rusty with the net. That fish was 5.4 lbs, but was bested by Larry White's 5.72 for the day. A great day for us, however, I pretty much burnt all my spots. That night Lou Hirlemann and I were talking about fish. I was concerned that I didn't leave anything for day 2. Lou reminded me just to go where I usually find fish, and they might move up over night. That's exactly what happened, and Rusty got us a couple of fish in the boat right away. Then we caught pairs of smallmouth on two different beds that happened to be empty on Tuesday. We had our limit and culled twice by about 10 AM. We then again went to work on another big largemouth. After about 1 hour on this fish, I called out "last cast", she must have understood me and really wanted to go for a ride, she

finally ate it. We got her in the net pretty quick. She was bigger than I thought and we felt it had a good shot at big fish for the tournament. That turned out to be the case at 5.91 lbs.

All of our fish came from sight fishing with tubes, Gulp Minnow, and a Rusty Murdock special drop shot rig, also a dropshot with bluegill and bass imitation baits. Rusty was a great teammate, not only was he catching fish, but more important he kept positive when we were struggling early on when he could see I was getting a little frustrated. Thanks Rusty, we needed that.

Congrats to team Hirlemann and Wacker on wining the tournament, well deserved! Thanks to the weigh-in crew and board of directors for your extra time and effort.

### **Team Jerry Askam & Warren Brackey Clean Out Beds For 3rd Place Finish**

Team **Askam & Brackey** weighed ten bass for 28.03 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Jerry Askam:** Congrats to Lou and Allen for two great bags of fish. You can pass the "walleye boat" at the start but it's always pretty tough to pass Lou and his partner in the final standings at Havasu.

My partner Warren Brackey and I spent probably 99% of our time bed fishing. We tried small swimbaits and

chatterbaits but could find no takers. All of our fish were smallmouths and came off beds. We threw at some largemouths but they were not fully locked on and we could never hook one up. We fished areas on both sides of the lake from Site 6 to approximately Copper Canyon Cove. I like to say I did the heavy lifting for our team, i.e.: netting Warren's fish. Warren is an excellent sight fisherman and it was fun to watch him work a bed with a very effective bait I have never seen used before.

Thanks to Gary Martlage and the weigh-in crew for a job well done as usual.

**Warren Brackey:** First, congratulations to Lou Hirlemann and Alan Wacker on their first place finish and to all who placed in the event. Another great job by our weigh-in team who pulled double duty at this event, your efforts are always much



**3rd Place  
Warren Brackey & Jerry Askam**

### **Tournament Statistics**

Fifty men fished 15 hours each, bringing 188 bass to the scales for a total weight of 507.41 pounds with a 10.15 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 2.70 lbs. All fish but one were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

appreciated.

Also, thanks to everyone involved for putting on another great tournament at Lake Havasu. It was great weather, and great fellowship again with our club members. The "Fish Fry" at Gary's place was fantastic, and I appreciated the invite to attend.

As for the fishing, this was my first time being paired with Jerry Askam. We met for the first time when we both stopped for gas at the Zip gas station at the Vicksburg turnoff on the way to the lake. We drove separate vehicles as I was staying to fish Havasu through the week. We arrived early Sunday morning for two dedicated days of pre-fishing. We not only found plenty of fish to waypoint, we had a good time doing it. We even presented a few baits and caught a few smaller fish in preparation for Tuesday morning. Jerry is a great guy, an experienced tournament angler and was fun to fish with. I should also add that Jerry was very generous when deciding who would toss baits to the fish we found. Thank you Jerry!

We fished from Windsor basin all the way down to the Copper Canyon area focusing primarily on bed fish. My fish were caught drop shotting a 4" Robo Worm in bold bluegill, and on a Ned Rig bed bait I dreamed up the day before the tournament. Smallies could not leave this bait alone!

The most memorable fish of the event for me was our 3.95 pound smallie, the biggest of

the ten smallmouths we weighed. She was on a bed with the male in about five to six feet of water. We were having trouble directing her attention away from him. I pulled my Ned Rig through the bed a few times and on the third time through she turned on the bait and started after it. At this point the bait was well outside the bed. I paused the bait and she then paused her movements around the bed. I resumed reeling in the bait and she nearly came out of the water after it! On the next cast in the bed she nosed down on the bait right away, picked it up, and BOOM she was on!

Thanks again to my partner Jerry Askam for a fun tournament; it would be a pleasure to be paired with Jerry again anytime!

### **Team Paul Ojala & George Cobasky 4th Overall Finish**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Paul Ojala & George Cobasky** weighed eight fish for a total weight of 27.03 lbs. George's 5.73 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors for the team.

**Paul Ojala:** First off congrats to Rick Brown on the 5 lb pot and also to all the other top place teams.

I had the pleasure of fishing with George Cobasky. We started on Monday pre-fishing looking for beds and we found lots of empty ones. With the bed fishing looking grim we switched to cranks, jigs and

drop shotting. We thought we had a pretty good game plan as we were catching some good fish on realistic shad colored crankbaits. We started Tuesday morning running to a cove we had some good luck in the day before and boated 3 keepers and then the bite died off. We spent the rest of the day bouncing around without much luck and came up with a new plan for Wednesday since our original plan didn't pan out.

Wednesday morning started off with a very stressful start. We started getting ready to head to the lake and learned I somehow had locked my keys in the truck. So I had to call and wake up Gary Grimes and tell him we were possibly going to be late. After the locksmith arrived I was on my way and just as the start boat was blasting off we were just leaving the dock. George and I stumbled into a new to us cove and within minutes had our first fish and our next fish was in the



**4th Place  
George Cobasky & Paul Ojala**

boat within 20 more minutes. We finished out that cove with a good limit of fish including my personal best at 5.73 lbs and a couple of 4 pounders. We worked a couple of other spots and culled our smaller fish and it was odd to be culling 3.5 lb fish. We ended up with 8.05 pounds on day 1 and a great bag of 18.98 on day 2. All in all it was a great tournament and I couldn't have spent it with a better partner.

**George Cobasky:** First of all, I would like to say that it was my pleasure to fish with Paul Ojala. Paul is a young, intelligent, businessman that knows how to fish. After three days of fishing I bagged my only fish on the last day, Paul bagged fish all three days. On pre-fish day we located some very nice fish, some on beds but most were swimmers around fish habitats. The first tournament day we went to our first spot, we were the 12th boat out; his boat was so fast it passed all other boats going south. Paul's first fish was caught on a Strike King crank bait and his second fish that morning was caught on a jig. The last fish was caught on a Morning Sunrise drop shot. By the way, Paul must have bought out all of the Strike King crank baits at the fishing supply stores. If he lost one he would open up a hatch and get another. I can say one thing, that bait was the go to for him all three days.

The next day we missed our first cove, so we entered a cove I recognized. Paul trolled to the rock face and spotted a

bed fish in a small cut and that was the first fish of the day. His second fish of the day was a four pounder caught with his favorite crank bait. As we were leaving the cove we spotted a deep cut, so we entered the cove and at the very back of the cove Paul spotted our five-plus pounder. On his first cast with a drop shot he had the fish. The day before we had played with a nice bed fish and I told Paul you have a hot hand again, let's go and get that fish, he caught it - a nice four pounder. To all club members if you fish in his boat or he is your co-angler on your boat, you will enjoy his company and fishing skills.

### **Steve Bowlin & David Brakefield Fish Near Marina and Finish 5th**

A ten fish limit weighing 26.84 lbs was enough to earn the **5th Place** money for Team **Bowlin & Brakefield**.

**David Brakefield:** I fished with Steve Bowlin, a really good fisherman and a great guy. My only job was to net the fish he caught and I only knocked one off his line. That's because that darn fish just would not hold still; every time I got the net close she would just run off again, so I just gave her a good hard whack and sent her on her way back into the lake.

We went up the river the first day and caught some fish in the current and some on beds. The second day we stayed close to the marina and caught our bigger fish there, mostly on beds. You'll have to ask Steve



**5th Place**  
**Steve Bowlin & David Brakefield**

if you want more details, they were his fish. Looking forward to Alamo, hope there's some water left.

### **Team Rojas & Milkint "Just Fish" and Win 6th Place**

Bringing ten fish to the scales weighing 26.75 lbs was enough to earn **Richie Rojas & John Milkint** the **6th Place** honors

**Richie Rojas & John Milkint:** Richie is fishing the Lawman's Tournament this weekend at Lake Havasu and is still at Lake Havasu so I'll take a run at reporting for the both of us. Let us first congratulate the big guns - Hirlemann/Wacker for their first place finish and Brown/Murdock for the 5 lb Option sweepstakes. Great job!

Richie and I, as far as we know, did not take one of our fish off the beds. We spent the time fishing drop-offs and flats in mid-lake with the best results



**6th Place**  
**Richie Rojas & John Milkint**

coming from dropshot and Senkos presentations. Richie was using a purple Robo type worm on his dropshot and I was using a Senko with a Natural Shad Color worm. Both presentations worked to help us weigh in a limit each day.

Our heaviest fish came while Richie was flipping the weeds with a weighted worm. As everyone who fished knows it was a tough bite and there was very little culling done. In our case, we were just happy to weigh in 5 fish each day.

I was fortunate to draw Richie since he has fished quite a few times on Havasu and remembered those areas that have produced in the past. It was a great two days, beautiful weather (no gale force winds), and an excellent boater.

**Team Prather & Rudzinski Fish White Lures and Capture 7th Place**

**Greg Prather:** First I would like to thank the board for their time and dedication. I had a chance to pre-fish 4 day's this year. I found a lot of big fish early in the week that were gone come game day. Ron Rudzinski and I fished the main lake and some coves in the river. All of our fish came off beds where we used all white bait's, drop shot, jigs, and Senkos. I had the pleasure of fishing with Ron Rudzinski and we had a good time on the water. One thing made fishing a little tough; some of the fish we marked just wouldn't bite. Congratulations to all the winners. I look forward to fishing with all of you guys next month.

**Ron Rudzinski:** First, once again kudos to the weigh-in team. Greg and I spent Monday's practice checking on fish that Greg had located before and we tried to evaluate their mood. We decided to fish the main lake on Tuesday, because the wind was up a bit. Greg located a good fish at the

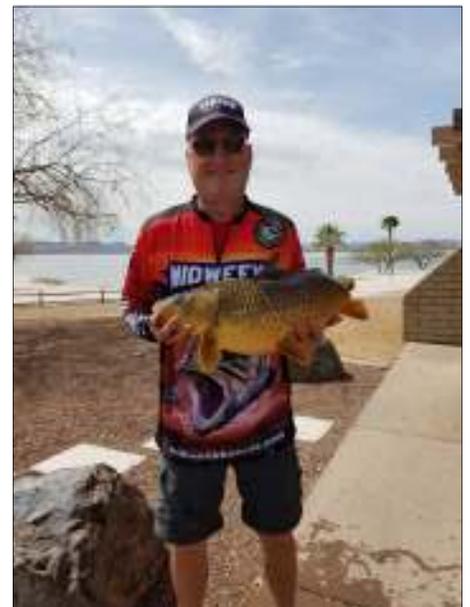
end of the island. We used white jigs on beds mostly. When we had a few fish in the live well and the wind died down, we moved to the river to finish our limit. On Wednesday, we headed up river and worked on several fish until we ran out of time with 4 in the live well. Some of these fish took the old dropshot. Greg was great to fish with and gave me the opportunity to catch half the fish. I know in bed fishing how hard that is since I'm a boater outside of Midweek Bass Club. If you draw Greg you'll have a great time and learn a few things too.

**Goon Fish Prize.**

No write-up was provided but here is a photo of the winning Goon Fish - a 17.19 pound Carp won by **Larry White** and **Jack Shearer**. They will split the \$100 Goon Fish prize.



**7th Place**  
**Greg Prather & Ron Rudzinski**



**Goon Fish Pot Winners**  
**Larry White & Jack Shearer**



## Weighing-In

By Gary Martlage  
Tmx Director

Well, it is in the record book! Another successful tournament at Havasu! Congratulations to the top winners, and good luck to those fishing the next tournament.

We had one of our larger numbers of attendees at this tournament; normally it is one of our least participated events during the year. A lot of factors enter into this. Long way to travel, rather expensive compared to other tournaments closer to town. The co-angler fee is high, but it still is a bargain to fish one of Arizona's premiere lakes without having to worry about towing of boats, equipment failure, gas and oil in the boats, etc.

I have one point to make about the tournament. We did have a team that did not make it to the weigh-in on the 2nd day, causing a DQ for their 2nd day catch. A motor was "toasted", which caused them not to reach the weigh-in before quitting time. The rules state - "Penalty of sixteen (16) ounces or 1.00 pound per minute up to fifteen (15) minutes will be charged to contestants who have not returned to the tournament director designated start/stop area by the official weigh-in time. Contestants will be disqualified after fifteen (15) minutes late for that day. Tournament Director's watch is the master time piece. All contestants must return to headquarters, with or without fish, or be disqualified. Late penalties will become effective at 'Official Time' plus one (1) minute."

It is a shame to have this happen, but it is part of the tournament rules. For "**BREAKDOWN OR EMERGENCY ON THE WATER** - one contestant may enter the boat of another contestant or tournament official with the catch of both contestants involved for the purpose of proceeding directly to the weigh-in. The other contestant may remain with the disabled boat. No late penalties will be assessed in this case."

In other words, you are allowed to have your fish transported by another contestant's boat,

but you must do this BEFORE quitting time. I try to keep my cell phone active during tournament hours. Please use my personal cell number (602-616-1001), as one contestant called my office instead of my personal phone! You can get anyone to help you; it does not need to be me, or a tournament official, to get to the weigh-in. However you MUST notify one of the tournament officials for any rule infractions, or protest. You have 30 minutes after the closing of the scales to do this.

Lake Alamo is **ON** for next month. Despite the recent water draw down, the board feels we will still be able to use the facilities, even with the dropping of the water. The lake will have time to settle, and fishing ought to be **FANTASTIC!** Plan on a great time, with a BBQ on Tuesday night.

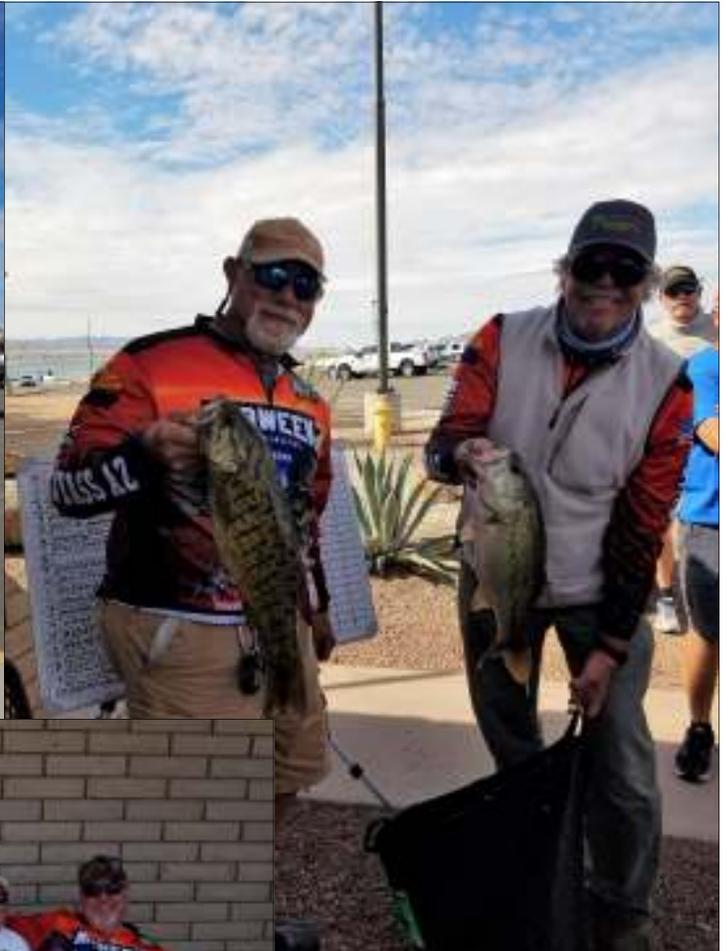
Lastly, Apache Lake is showing further signs of a fishery that has been drastically hurt, since last year's golden algae growth. I am looking into moving our May tournament to Roosevelt, as Apache needs the rest and Rosey is fishing great. I should have it put together by our April general meeting.

Again, thank you for all the volunteers to help the weigh team. We want to run a great weigh-in for the best club in Arizona. I appreciate all that help, and all who come up to me to see if there is anything they can do. Keep asking, as I am sure I will be able to find something for you to do.

The Word Of The Week is "Googan" (Urban Dictionary). We will not tolerate any Googans in our bass club!



# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Havasu - March 20-21, 2018



**Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2018 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen**

Board of Directors

**PRESIDENT**

Gary Grimes 623-203-7436

**SECRETARY**

Terry Tassin 623-931-1546

**TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

Gary Martlage 602-616-1001

Committee / Chairmen

**PROGRAMS**

Tom Savage

**TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE** Gary Martlage - Chairman

Gary Grimes, Terry Tassin, Tom Savage, John Reichard

**RAFFLE COMMITTEE** - - George Cobasky

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Tom Savage 602-432-8589

**TREASURER**

John Reichard 623-512-0238

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Terry Tassin

**ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

Tom Savage

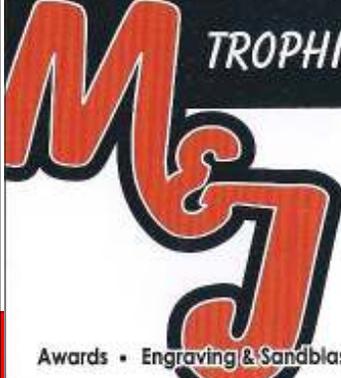
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - John Reichard

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

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

**Ward Bell (B)  
Dennis Dodd (B)  
John Hughes (CO)  
Paul Iverson (B)**

**Official Supplier of  
Midweek Bass Anglers Club Apparel**



**John Balzic**  
Owner  
10802 N. 43RD AVE #2  
GLENDALE, AZ 85304  
P 602-548-4200  
F 602-548-4204  
john@mandjtrophies.com  
www.mandjtrophies.com

Awards • Engraving & Sandblasting • Screenprinting • Embroidery

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 2018  
Tournament Schedule**

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

**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**

**Born in April**

- Gary Asmus
- David Baca
- Rudy Gonzales
- Spencer Hand
- Hal Hensey
- Lou Hirlemann
- Jack Hughes

