



# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## B a s s B i t e s

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



APRIL 2016

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

### President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



Every once in a while, one of our members will thank me about how well the club is running,

and how fun it is. I am certainly glad they are enjoying themselves, and I appreciate the thanks, but the truth be known the smooth running of our club has more to do with its members than with anything the board can do. I am not sure if it is because we are fortunate to have a great bunch of personalities, or maybe it is because our club is an older club, and therefore most of our guys have allowed age to tone down their attitudes. In any case, our guys are super.

Whenever the club needs help, like the barbeque for example, we have no less than

15 guys offer their help; all we have to do is ask. Guys bring food (Bernie & Rusty/Christine), other guys cook it (Asmus & Vaughn), guys help setup (Martlage, Malnar, Hawkins), and members help with cleanup (Hirlemann, Arvizu, Burns, Mason, and many others).

How about our weigh-in? This thing runs so smooth that our tournament director is able to stand back and help only if a situation arises. Why? Because a handful of guys have committed to being there every month, thanks to Wampach, Martlage, Milkint, and Savage. In addition, our guys are never in the dark as to what is going on at Midweek, our secretary, Terry Tassin, keeps everyone updated with all the current information through his endless supply of emails. Or how about Jack Hughes, our tournament director, he is so committed to getting everyone on the water that in the event of an unpaired co-angler, he will contact every one of our 100 members trying to find a boat, just to keep someone from being left onshore. Maybe your boater drops out the day before, you can be assured Jack will try and find you a partner.

Have you ever had a mechanical problem at the lake? You won't find a handier or more helping group of guys anywhere. Last year I ran across Hobby Nelson at Apache Lake trolling from the marina back to Burnt Corral, his lower unit had stopped working. I offered a hand and towed him back. Well, déjà vu, this year my battery died by the marina and I couldn't get it jumped, here comes Hobby to my rescue, towed me back to safety. Or how about John Hawkins helping one of our guys with motor problems. Someone runs out of water, out of gas, out of food, needs shelter from a nighttime storm, needs a part, needs a tool,

**Happy  
Mother's 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"**

needs a lure, needs line, needs instruction, needs help backing in, needs to be pulled out, you can be assured someone will step up and help. Drink too much at camp the night before a tournament? Someone certainly will help you get to your bedroll, and they will even catch your fish the next day, but don't count on them putting them in your live well. This list goes on and on.

I guess my point is simply this; we truly do have a great club. Not great in the sense that we are all super-fishermen ready to take the next step and advance to the Bassmaster Classic. Our club is great because our guys are so helping and caring, in a manly way of course, and makes every get together something to look forward to and something that is to be remembered. I think it is a proven fact that it is much

harder to make good friends as you get older in life, but Midweek Bass allows us all an opportunity to disprove the notion. So from the bottom of my heart, you guys are super and I consider myself blessed to be able to be a part of this group.



## Lake Apache Report

April 20, 2016  
By Terry Tassin

### Team Tony Medina & Spencer Hand Boat A Big One For 1st Place Win At Apache

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Medina & Hand** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 17.84 lbs. Of course, thanks to Spencer Hand, one of those five bass weighed 8.93 lbs which was good enough to also earn the team the prize for **1st Place Big Bass** and the **5 lb Pot**.



**1st Place**  
**Tony Medina & Spencer Hand**

**Tony Medina:** Our First Place team of Tony Medina and Spencer Hand had an 8.93 pounder in the first half hour of the tournament, caught by Spencer on a spinning rig with a spinner bait tied on. After we didn't get any more bites in the next half hour we moved on towards the dam side of the lake and worked our way back catching the rest of our limit by throwing drop shots and jigs. We ended up with 17.84 lbs. First place paid \$557. We also won the Big Fish prize of \$360, the 5 lb. Pot worth \$295, and for the side pot Tony got \$220 and Spencer got \$180. The good Lord gave me a winning hand when I drew Spencer Hand. He had the right Mojo to get the big one in the boat. Thanks again Spencer for a

### Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4 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 Alamo** on **18 May 2016**. Club launch headquarters, weigh-in location, and tournament hours will be announced.



**1st Place Big Fish**  
**Spencer Hand 8.93 lbs**

### Fishing related websites

You can now register for tournaments online at [www.midweekbassaz.com](http://www.midweekbassaz.com).

Looking for a new/used boat? [www.bassboatcentral.com](http://www.bassboatcentral.com)

Looking for tackle, boat parts, or just useful information about fishing? [www.bbcboards.net](http://www.bbcboards.net)

very enjoyable outing on beautiful Apache Lake. Kudos to the people who provided the great meal and special thanks to the weigh-in crew for another fine job.

**Spencer Hand:** Well another great day on Apache Lake; the most majestic lake in Arizona!

Beautiful weather and sunny days. Great BBQ on Tuesday evening. Thanks to the grilling team. Prefishing was great. Caught a few here and there and marked a few bed fish. We had a decent plan for tournament day but being 22nd in line at the start we were worried that someone would be on our spot. When we got there it was empty and I got my PB!

Thanks to Tony Medina for putting us on the fish and helping me with my personal best. What a great guy to fish with. The Big Bass was caught on Tony's first spot near the Marina. She hit a spinner bait with a trailer slow rolling it on the bottom. Tony was nervous about my drag being set to high but I was calm while I set it with a little less tension on it. When that big bass broke the surface she looked like a submarine breaching. Then I got nervous. The fight was short but glorious. We netted her and tossed her in the live well. Even though we tried hard, we couldn't cull her out during the day Ha Ha. I lost

that lucky lure on the next cast. Set it hard on a rock and that was the best hook set on Wednesday. When we got to the Weigh Station I told them I needed two bags. They did not believe me. Turns out we did. It felt great to win this tournament and it gives me the boost I need to keep on keeping on. I am really looking forward to Alamo next month.

Many of the bays and coves we went into were thick with Largemouth Bass. We spotted several that would press 5 pounds plus. We caught the rest of our fish in various coves on a variety of Drop Shot and Jerk Bait lures. One or two were caught on beds but most came out of open water. We fished the standard Oxblood and Morning Dawn worms in 6 inch size.

## Team Clinton Bell & Chuck Golden Finish 2nd Overall

In **Second Place** the team of **Clinton Bell & Chuck Golden** weighed five bass for a total weight of 15.05 lbs.

**Clinton Bell:** Tuesday morning I met my partner Chuck Golden at the ramp about 6:45 and we went in search of a few good bass on beds. We soon realized there was not a lot of fish on beds but we found a few. Tournament day, Wednesday morning, we headed to the areas we found most of our fish in on Tuesday with no results. After the sun hit the water we started to catch fish. We caught several fish on Carolina Rig's, Drop Shot setups, and sight fishing. We were lucky enough to get the



**"George, please-you're scaring the children"**

### Membership

As of April 21, 2016 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 98 active members.



**2nd Place**  
**Clinton Bell & Chuck Golden**

right bites. Chuck is a good fisherman with lots of experience and that made the day easy.

**Chuck Golden:** First of all I'd like to thank Clinton Bell for a wonderful couple of days at the lake. He is a great guy to fish with.

We caught our first four fish on beds that we had found the day before the tournament. We then went to an area where the day before we had caught fish on Carolina rigs. There we put the fifth fish in the boat (Carolina rig) and probably culled one caught on a drop shot. We then proceeded to spend a little over an hour on another bed without any success. We spent the rest of the day fishing the main lake

**FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)**

Co-Angler FAQ: There is a new addition to the FAQ page located at [www.midweekbassaz.com](http://www.midweekbassaz.com) that covers most of what a co-angler needs to know when fishing one of Midweek's Tournaments.

on a reef with Carolina rigs and drop shots. There we caught a couple to cull.

**Asmus & Adamson**  
**Finish 3rd Place Overall**

Team **Gary Asmus & Mike Adamson** weighed five bass for 14.43 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

No team fishing / catching report was provided.

**Team Baca & Gentner**  
**Lock Down**  
**4th Place Overall Finish**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **David Baca & Todd Gentner** weighed five fish for a total weight of 13.94 lbs. David Baca's 6.06 lb bass also earned the team **2nd Place Big Bass** money. Baca locked down **Goon Fish** honors with a 17.9 lb Carp.

**David Baca:** Here is how we caught our fish. During pre fish we found a decent jig and pig bite up by the dam on walls on the left side of the lake. We also found a similar bite through out the lake and back in the river. We caught a small limit by the dam pitching brown jigs with Uncle Josh Crawfish trailers. Todd managed to cull one with a bed fish from the back of a main lake cove and then we headed into the river close to the Roosevelt dam. We managed to cull a couple more fish and about 2 PM we noticed that water was being released causing current so we decided to make another pass on the rock wall by the road.



**4th Place**  
**David Baca & Todd Gentner**

After about the third cast I stuck the 6.06 pounder right on the very edge of the water next to a small rock. The fish immediately hit the jig and headed for the boat, went under it, and came flying into the air behind the big motor. Thanks to Todd for the awesome grab on its lip as I got it back on the right side of the boat because the jig was on its way to come loose. Most of the fish came very shallow and right on the edge of the bank. It was a pleasure having Todd as my co-angler and he did a great job especially since I lost the dip net early in the day.

**Todd Gentner:** I fished with David "Uncle Josh" Baca. This guy is the Guru when it comes to Jig and Pig Fishing. After a rough start to the tournament, we settled in fishing down the lake almost to the dam. We caught half a dozen fish on brown/ purple jigs and a few on swim baits - all clones with no size. Oh yeah, the Guru hooked into an 18 pound carp on that same bait. We then worked our way back to the north end of the lake in the

river, stopping off at a beach area where he had located bed fish a few days before. We picked both of those fish up just flipping a white jig. We proceeded to go up the river catching another half a dozen fish. Yes, still on that same bait. Well now its 2:00 PM with no real quality fish and the Guru wants to hit the same bank we have fished 3 times already? He mutters "Different water flow, different sun location". He proceeds to catch our kicker weighing 6.06 pounds and I lose a 3 plus at the boat. Lesson learned "Never give up".

### **Tom Alauria & Bernie Kowalski Drop Shot For 5th Place**

A five fish limit weighing 12.49 lbs was enough to earn **Tom Alauria & Bernie Kowalski** the **5th Place** money.

**Tom Alauria:** Midweek bass you've done it again. I had a great time. I also want to congratulate the first place winners. Spencer you caught a heck of a fish. I had the pleasure of fishing with Bernie Kowalski and we had a great time. Bernie wasn't able to show up at the lake until Tuesday night but I was there since Saturday and I had a pretty good idea of what to do on tournament day. All of our fish came on either drop shot or Carolina rigs. The first three fish we caught came off of beds but we culled all three of those fish later on in the day. The key for us was to find riprap and boulders.



**5th Place**  
**Bernie Kowalski & Tom Alauria**

**Bernie Kowalski:** WOW what a day for me (Bernie). I was excited to have Tom as my boater and I wasn't disappointed. I had not fished since last May due to health problems. The plan was to use mostly drop-shot and chigger craws and that worked well. At our first spot I caught one in about 10 minutes but it was too small to keep but I had high hopes for the rest of the day.

Tom remembered some beds he had found and we headed there. Sure enough, they were still there and Tom started his attack. Using a small neon plastic worm and a lot of patience he bagged 3 nice ones from two different beds. I had never seen bed fishing before and it was fun to watch. I couldn't tell who was more frustrated, Tom or the fish, but Tom won out. Later he told me the real secret to catching them on the bed was to talk dirty to them.

The rest of the windy day was spent at 6 other spots and fish were caught on chigger craws and drop-shot rigs. Tom tried some spinner baits and top

water lures without success. The whole day was pretty much grinding it out. We finished the day fishing near the ramp and caught two more keepers. Overall a great day with a great partner.

### **Team Martlage & Turner Celebrate April Fishing Finishing in 6th Place**

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 12.19 lbs was enough to earn **Gary Martlage & Gene Turner** the **6th Place** prize.



**6th Place**  
**Gene Turner & Gary Martlage**

**Gary Martlage:** Fishing was great, but catching was tough. Gene Turner and I only caught 5 fish on tournament day; one off of a bed, 3 on drop shot, and one on a C-rig. The camaraderie with Gene and the club this past weekend will be one for the archives. Special thanks to the guys that provided the cookout and all the help with the weigh-in. Hope to see you all at Alamo.

### **Hobby Nelson & Mark Durben Fish Beds For**

## 7th Place Overall Finish

Team **Hobby Nelson & Mark Durben** weighed five bass for 11.88 pounds and took home **7th Place** honors.



**7th Place  
Hobby Nelson & Mark Durben**

**Hobby Nelson:** Mark Durben and I had an enjoyable day on the water for our Apache tournament. Not much to share; we caught all of our fish off of beds in the area near the dam using drop shot rigs. On the way back to the weigh-in we spotted Gary Grimes having motor problems so we took them in tow and helped them back to the ramp. On the way home as we were bouncing along the Apache Trail we saw George Cobasky lose a trailer tire so we stopped and helped him out with that situation. What a day!



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

Greetings from your treasurer. For those of you who did not fish Apache the 5 lb Pot was won by Spencer Hand with the biggest

fish of the year so far. This opens up the pot to everyone at the next meeting when we start a new 5 lb Pot.

I would like to thank my boater partner Jerry Askam for two great days on the water. He showed me areas where I had never fished before and on Tuesday I put a nice big fish in the boat early. Tournament day was tough for us. We lost 5 fish at the boat including our biggest fish of the day but we still managed to weight a limit.

See you all at the May meeting



**Weighing-In**  
*By Jack Hughes  
Tmx Director*

Beverly and Dwayne Steel have sold the Hwy 188 Tackle Store. I want to thank both of them for their long time support of our club. Their support of our members covered many areas from discounts to all members on tackle, hosting of club BBQ's, a place to sleep and shower when fishing Roosevelt and Apache, boat repair and the list goes on and on. Bev and Dwayne have built a new house in Tonto Basin and plan to enjoy retirement. Dwayne will continue to make customized tackle just so he has something to do other than taking his grandson fishing every chance he gets.

Gary Grimes, Tom Savage and I met with the new owner

Tim Latour and his father Chet who will run the store on a day to day basis. There is good news and bad news that comes with the sale. The good news is that they have already expanded the store to include more tackle and fishing supplies. They also have a 24 hour emergency service for RV's and RV supplies at the store. Coming soon will be on-line ordering of fishing supplies and RV parts so that when you are fishing Roosevelt or Apache you will be assured they will have whatever you need at discount prices that Tim says will beat Cabela's or Bass Pro Shop prices. Store hours have been expanded to meet fishing hours and soon they will have 24 hour service for your needs at the store. Tim told us he intends to continue supporting our club in the same manner the Steel's did including hosting BBQ's and our end of year banquet. Next time you're up in Tonto Basin I recommend you stop in and meet Tim and Chet.

Terry Tassin and I can use a little help with the large number of members we have. Neither of us knows everyone's phone number or email address just off the top of our head, so when we get a text that says for example "did you get my entry form" and that is all, no name that sent it or anything else. If you text or email us please sign your name for quicker answers to your questions.

The clubs continued fight with Tonto National Forest Service (TNFS) over the new fee

structure and Golden Eagle pass virtual reduction has been elevated to the Director of USA Forest Service in Washington DC by Senator John McCain. His office has taken our concerns and backed us with what we feel is the illegal way it was handled and the reduction of the Golden Eagle pass. We have been especially concerned about the TNFS wanting to turn over the management to private contractors and that they do not have to follow TNFS rules and regulations. Senator McCain's Chief of Legislation has been in constant contact with us from Washington DC and I feel they are working the problem as well as we can expect. At this point with what we know I think we have a good chance of having changes made that are friendlier to the tax payers and within the current laws for use of our National Forest. I will keep you informed as we learn more.

Our next tournament is Alamo Lake and I would like to remind you if you have not made your reservations for camping you should do so as soon as possible. Also remember we will have a cook out at Alamo the night before the tournament for all members in camp area "C".

I would like to mention two members who this month I felt showed what it means to fish. Bernie Kowalski was back on the lake after a 14 month absence due to heart problems. Even though Bernie could not fish by doctor's

orders he continued to attend club meetings and support the club in many ways. Paul Archer had heart valve replacement surgery the day of our tournament. The day before he was on the lake fishing and the evening after his operation he was texting me to find out how the tournament went. Paul informed me on Thursday his operation has really kicked his butt and it may be a little longer than he thought before he is back fishing. Rumor is Paul is trying to figure out how to attach a trolling motor to his hospital bed so he can be back on the lake sooner.

Finally, I want to thank every member who chipped in and helped make the Apache tournament and BBQ such a great success. We had so many people help that everything just seemed to take half as long to accomplish as normal. Remember, this club is your club and is run by all volunteers and without those volunteers there would be no club.

**Photo Scrapbook - Lake Apache - April 20, 2016**



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

**Board of Directors**

**PRESIDENT**

Gary Grimes 623-203-7436

**SECRETARY**

Terry Tassin 623-931-1546

**TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

Jack Hughes 480-510-7779

**Committee / Chairmen**

**PROGRAMS**

Tom Savage

**TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE** Jack Hughes-Chairman

Gary Grimes, Terry Tassin, Tom Savage, John Reichard

**RAFFLE Chairman-** George Cobasky

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Tom Savage 602-432-8589

**TREASURER**

John Reichard 623-512-0238

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Terry Tassin

**ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

Tom Savage

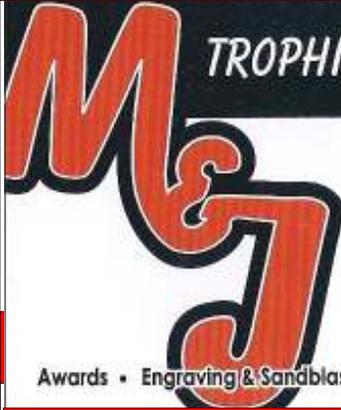
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - John Reichard

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

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

**David Baca (B)  
Matt Lemanski (CO)**

**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.

Alauria  
Buchanan  
Cunningham  
Hawkins  
Lindhorst  
Murdock  
Riley  
Tassin

**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**

**Born in May**

- Tom Alauria
- Jim Buchanan
- Deb Cunningham
- John Hawkins
- Troy Lindhorst
- Rusty Murdock
- Ray Riley
- Terry Tassin



**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