

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



APRIL 2017 EDITION

12 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



I'm on vacation and gone fishing. I will be back next week.

Happy Mothers Day!



Monthly Breakfast Meeting

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



Lake Saguario Report March 19, 2017 By Terry Tassin

Team David Baca & Howard Thomas Harvest One Spot For 1st Place

Taking home 1st Place, Team David Baca & Howard Thomas brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 23.45 lbs.

Howard Thomas & David Baca: Another great day in paradise is in the books and what a day that was. I've never seen anything like it. I was like a lot of the anglers around us. I'm standing right next to a man who is on fire with his pig-and-jig and it seemed like every time he caught a fish it was bigger than the last. In Washington, DC we try to get all the Pork out but in Dave's boat we put it in big time. It must have been a sad day when Uncle Josh's Pork quit making the pork trailers.

Anyway, for me it was a perfect day for net training school. Dave had an uncanny way of catching his fish by casting out, letting it drop to the bottom and then scooting the

bait along by twitching his reel handle. It was actually more fun to watch this guy than to fish. I sat in the back with the net over my shoulder and told him "Just keep up the good work King David; call me when you need me. If you like I can run out and pick-up a coffee and donut for you or get a newspaper for you to relax and read", as I estimated we had 20 lbs by 7:30 AM. I really enjoyed all the stories about night fishing and all the huge fish these guys catch.

In practice we only caught one fish but it was a nice one up the river so that's where we planned to start but somehow on tournament day, on the way there, Dave was passing one of his favorite big fish night spots and he said he had a hunch to stop there first and try it and within 5 minutes he put a 5

20 MAY ARMED FORCES DAY



"We Practice Catch and Release"



**1st Place Overall
David Baca & Howard Thomas**

pounder in the boat so we stayed there and continued to fill the livewell. So how did we catch 23 lbs of bass - brown pig and jig at the back of the lake. Dave had to run off to another tournament the next day so I'm writing this for both

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 3 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 Apache** on **24 May 2017**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 2 PM**.

of us. All said it was a "beautiful day in the neighborhood" as spoken by the famous Mister Rogers.

Jeff Mabry & Ingo Moura Follow 'Secret' Advice To 2nd Overall Finish

In **Second Place** the team of **Mabry & Moura** weighed five bass for a total weight of 20.01 lbs.

Ingo Moura: I would like to first start out by saying Thanks to the entire Midweek Bass Anglers Staff and Volunteers, you all give time from your lives to keep things working and I'm certain we all appreciate that.

Congrats to the winning Team David Baca & Howard Thomas and everyone else that was in the money.

This is my second year with the club and my first time near the money. I am ecstatic to take 2nd Place out of so many good sticks, I can hardly even write this article, because my allergies are fogging up my reading glasses...LOL. This whole thing means a lot; you are all a bunch of great guys and worth waking up at 2 in the morning or sleeping on the dirt just to fish with you all, I really truly love this club and the people that it's made up of. I want to also thank my fiancée Lisa for her support; she has never tried to stop me from pursuing my hobbies which basically are fishing, hunting, and golfing.

Due to unforeseen



**2nd Place
Jeff Mabry & Ingo Moura**

circumstances a few last minute pairing changes were made on the fishing teams, I was paired up with Jeff Mabry a day and a half before the tournament.

We first spoke on the phone Tuesday. Neither one of us had pre fished or even fished Saguaro in some time, but we shared a few ideas. Jeff did have a buddy on the lake that



"Some bass lure this is - I drank three bottles and haven't caught one bass"

day and with great secrecy he gave us a "hint" on what we could do. I can still hear the excitement in Jeff's voice and could tell he was an experienced angler and I felt this guy was going to give it his all - which he did. We met up on tournament day. Right away I felt like we had been friends for a very long time, kind of a jokester, loves trash talking to his friends, all in good fun of course and he kept the whole day entertaining.

The first thing we did was run over to Butcher Jones Cove area; I was throwing a top water Rico, and Jeff was throwing a Skinny Dipper, some reaction jerk baits, and a spinnerbait. We were fishing as fast as we could and realized later that wasn't the ticket and probably a good reason as to why we had that cove to ourselves.

Our first move after 30 - 40 minutes we ran around the corner pass Shiprock and pretty much the entire tournament was going on there right before our eyes. I believe we were in the second leg of the river and we started throwing spinners in the reeds. Almost everyone else around us were standing still, probably drop shotting. Really, that was our plan when the sun was up. Anyway, we saw a few boats hooking up, so we backed off the tules, found water 8-15 feet deep with a little grass and told ourselves we have got to slow way down which was really hard for the both of us to do. So basically we were waiting on post spawners to

cruise through the area.

At this point I want to remind Jeff that I caught the first fish and the last fish of the day, but Jeff really stole the show. Although I caught a few 2.5 - 3 pounders, he caught a 5.5 pounder and several more fish throughout the day; the more he caught the more he liked to talk. But I took in everything he was saying. I have always learned something from my boaters, but Jeff gave me lots of advice and even a little constructive criticism and I'm certain I improved my skills because of it.

We had our limit by 10:30 and culled several fish after that. We mainly threw wacky rig style worms. I caught mine mostly on Green Senkos and drop shot Morning Dawn with chartreuse tip. Jeff also used a wacky rigged green worm, "the

Big Secret" that I finally switched to in order to get the last fish for a good upgrade around 1:15 PM. We had Clinton Bell & Scott Oliver fishing in the same area. It seemed like they possibly could have a good bag as well but we knew they needed another 1 or 2 good ones. I was really rooting for you guys for 2nd place, knowing we had a good chance for 1st place.

Lots of laughs, great times. See you all on the water next month at Apache.

Team Jeff Mason & Tom Atherton Fish Kick Area To Finish In 3rd Place

Team **Jeff Mason & Tom Atherton** weighed five bass for 17.48 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors. Atherton's 9.35 lb bass took

Come On Guys - Step-up Help Wanted - Club Treasurer

The club will be in need of a Treasurer at the end of the year when John Reichard steps down. We recently migrated all of our financial data to QuickBooks Online to make it easier to access and enter information.

This will be John Reichard's last year serving as club Treasurer for the Midweek Bass Anglers. In preparation for his departure, we are looking for someone to assume the responsibilities of Treasurer when he leaves, but more importantly we would like to bring this person aboard early this year so that John can provide some training and oversight. As Treasurer you would be required to provide an accounting of the club's income and expenses, as well as deposit monies and issue checks. This position does require a vote and approval by the club in November, but your approval is very likely with the support of the board behind you. The term of Treasurer is two years, and any applicant must be an active member, as well as being active in the majority of the club's activities, whether meetings or tournaments. Interested? Let me know. Gary Grimes, President.

gary@bestexpression.com



3rd Place
Jeff Mason & Tom Atherton

2nd Place Big Fish honors.

Jeff Mason: Congrats to David and Howard, nice bag! Fishing started out pretty slow for Tom and I and slowed down even more after having only caught one fish on a crankbait until we pulled up on the buoy line near ramp 2 at around 11:15 AM. I had caught some nice last minute fish there in the past and decided to try it a little earlier since we were having no luck at the other spots we fished in the morning.

I caught a 2 pounder on a drop shot on my first cast, and Tom added 2 more 2 pounders on a drop shot in the next half hour for a total of 4 fish in the livewell. I remember looking at my watch a little before noon and said to Tom that we should be able to catch our fifth fish in the next 2 1/2 hours and weigh in maybe 10 or 11 lbs. An hour went by and no bites and I started doubting my decision to stay when Tom said he had a

nice one on. BIG MAMMA was hooked and the fight was on! Tom did an outstanding job of fighting this GIANT and keeping it hooked, adjusting his drag twice during the fight. We finally managed to get the fish in the net, OMG it's a "FREAKING MONSTER" I think I said. Pretty exciting, biggest fish I have ever landed in a tournament in 30 years of fishing tournaments. GREAT JOB TOM ATHERTON! Congrats to Tony Medina for catching a little bit bigger monster, two 9 pounders in the same tournament at Saguaro, not too shabby! Tom and I had a great time fishing together and hope to hook up again in the future.

Tom Atherton: I had a great day fishing with Jeff. He had several spots he wanted to fish, so we started out on the north end of the lake throwing crank baits. Jeff caught our first fish early in the morning; all I was catching was grass. We fished several other spots, throwing crank baits, drop shots, Texas rigs, swimbaits, jerk baits, and frogs, with not a bite. We then went to the area outside the buoy line by the second ramp. Jeff gets our second fish of the day on his first cast on a drop shot. I picked up our 3rd and 4th shortly after that, then it got slow. Without having a bite in over an hour, we were thinking about moving then the "big one" hit my drop shot, she didn't hit hard at first then ran like a freight train after I set the hook and she was taking out drag which I thought was set pretty good for a big one. She

took me under the boat, as I tightened up the drag, still pulling hard and I tightened it up 2 more times before finally slowing her down. She went under the boat again still pulling out line; however, I was finally able to bring her in where Jeff had been waiting patiently with the net.

I would like to thank Jeff Mason for putting me on the spot and for his netting skills, where I was able to catch my new personal best largemouth. She bit a red worm on a drop shot in about 17 feet of water.

Team Sean Ballard & Greg Gerbig Flick Shake To 4th Overall Finish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Sean Ballard & Greg Gerbig** weighed five fish for a total weight of 14.69 lbs.

Greg Gerbig: I am new to Midweek Bass Anglers and have had a lot of fun so far. I have learned a lot, and met many interesting people. Sean Ballard and I pre fished the Sunday before the tournament and located active fish in the flats near the reeds. We started there for the tournament. Almost immediately, the bass started busting shad at the surface right in front of us. We tried jerk baits and top water with no success. Sean put on a swim bait and caught a 3 1/2 pounder. I quickly tied on a swimbait and hooked a fish but it broke off. Sean caught our biggest fish at this location on a flick shake. It is an



4th Place
Sean Ballard & Greg Gerbig

interesting story on how he caught it and I will let Sean tell that story. Sean took us to four or five places where we caught fish on each place. I also caught all of my fish on a flick shake. Sean is as competitive as anyone, but he took the time to tow in a stranded jet skier; pretty cool. I enjoyed fishing with Sean, and hope to fish with him again in future tournaments!

Sean Ballard: Wow, there were some big fish caught. Congrats to Tony Medina and Tom Atherton for catching two great looking fish. That 9.60 pounder will be hard to beat for lunger of the year, and for the 2nd year in a row to have the biggest fish come out of Tony's boat is impressive.

OK, this is the story about the one that got away...ALMOST. Greg and I found a spot on Sunday that was holding fish first thing in the morning, with

them actively feeding on shad in the reeds. So first thing in the morning we headed to the spot. Being boat 32 I didn't think we would be able to get to that spot, but when we came around the corner and saw it open we started there. We had a good crankbait bite on Sunday, but they didn't want it on Wednesday so I went through my progression of baits and managed to get a 3.70 lb bass on a Keitech swim bait throwing it through the busting bass, but that only lasted about 30 minutes before they stopped busting. So I tied on my Flick Shake and started dragging it and managed to get a good bite but when I set the hook the line broke about 6" below the leader knot, so I retied it and continued to fish it. We managed to get another small fish, then I got another good bump on the Flick Shake, set the hook and the line held and we were off to the races as this fish had shoulders. I used the trolling motor to chase this fish as he was heading to deep water and I was sure it was a cat because he never jumped. Once we got him into the net I was relieved it was not only a big bass, but a bass that had my earlier hook and 7 feet of leader hanging out of its mouth - talk about a BONUS. Greg quickly started tying on a flick shake and asked me about the hook I was using so I took the one I just got back and gave it to him and he used it the rest of the day catching 5 fish off that rig. We caught 10 fish all day and managed to cull up only .25 to .50 pounds at a time, but it was enough to get

us into 4th place.

Being able to teach a new member a new technique and have him put fish into the boat is very rewarding and I hope Greg builds on the advice I gave him over the two days of fishing we did together. Thanks go to all of the weigh-in crew for all they do.

Team Clinton Bell & Scott Olivier 5th Place

A five fish limit weighing 14.53 lbs was enough to earn **Clinton Bell & Scott Olivier** the **5th Place** money.

Scott Olivier: I fished with Clinton Bell this tournament.

Clinton was great to fish with but the fishing was pretty boring. We started off with Clinton catching a nice one early on a spinner bait. After that we moved out to the flats and spent the rest of the day



5th Place
Clinton Bell & Scott Olivier

there watching Jeff and Ingo catch fish. We managed a couple of nice ones and a 5 lber on drop shot to sneak into the money.

Team Savage & Adamson Ride Carolina Rigs To 6th Place Finish

Team **Tom Savage & Mike Adamson** weighed five bass for 14.18 pounds and took home **Sixth Place** honors. Mike Adamson's 10.30 lb Carp won **Goon Fish** prize.

Tom Savage: Congratulations to David Baca aka Fish Whisperer and Howard Thomas. What a nice bag of fish. I also want to say, I think ending the tournament at 2:00 PM was a good idea.

I was lucky enough to get paired with Mike Adamson. Mike is a good angler and a lot of fun to have in the boat; and he doesn't take up much room



6th Place
Mike Adamson & Tom Savage

in the boat. He only had enough lures and tackle to put in the dry storage locker behind his boat seat – it sure made it easier to move around in the boat.

We caught all our fish on Carolina rigs in about six feet of water except for the Carp goon fish. Mike caught that on a dropshot rig. Our first fish came with both of us saying “I got one” at the same time – we had a double hook-up. I was able to get mine in first. It was obvious that Mike's was going to take awhile, so with one hand holding his rod he nets my fish with the other. About twenty minutes later I got to net his ten pound plus Carp. We caught all but one of our fish in the area past Shiprock just before you hit Burro Beach.

Mike Adamson: Tom Savage and I didn't catch many fish at this tournament but they were all quality fish. I caught the Carp goon fish first thing in the morning on a drop shot. After fighting this 10 pound ‘tank’ for over 10 minutes we determined it wasn't going to be a bass but knew it should pay out \$100 Goon Fish money. The fish was netted, weighed, witnessed by Jack Hughes who was in a nearby boat and released. As for the bass we caught, we fished the flats past Shiprock for most of the day. Tom would catch - I would net. The fish were all caught on a Carolina rig tipped with a green craw. The last fish of the day came to our livewell on our way in to the ramp when we stopped on a main lake point that the wind was

blowing into and a 3 1/2 pounder decided she wanted to go for a boat ride. This last extra pound cull-up put us in the money.

Team Lou Hirlemann & Paul Ojala Squeak Out 7th Overall Finish

Taking home **7th Place**, Team **Lou Hirlemann & Paul Ojala** weighed five fish for a total weight of 13.69 lbs.



7th Place
Lou Hirlemann & Paul Ojala

Lou Hirlemann: No great stories from this tournament. I made a friend in Paul Ojala on a slow day of fishing. We caught one on a buzzbait, one guarding fry, and 4 dragging a Rick (Carolina) rig. Looking forward to reading about the sixes and nines caught. Way to go guys catching big fish.

Tony Medina & Mark Durben Weigh One Bass For 1st Place Big Fish

Beating out the second place big bass by a very small weight margin, **Tony Medina's** 9.60 pound bass ends up being the heaviest bass of this tournament - and of the year to date.



Tony Medina: Our team of Tony Medina and Mark Durben won the first place big fish prize with a 9.60 lb lunker. I caught the big fish on a jig in 20 feet of water on my second cast of the tournament. The fish hit the jig and started running with it until I turned her around and brought her to the boat. Mark was ready with the net, but the fish dove under the net and went under the boat. I thought we were going to lose her, but I was able to turn her again and get another chance to net the fish. Mark was able to get her in the net on the second pass. Boy was I relieved, we rarely get an opportunity at a fish of that size especially in a tournament. As I lipped the fish, I saw the jig was just skin hooked on the inside of the mouth. We were very lucky to get her in the boat. With this bass we also won the 5 lb pot. Not bad for a 10th place finish on one fish. We all struggled to try to get a limit. I had found some nice bed fish during my

pre-fishing, but most of the beds we found were empty on tournament day. We only weighed four fish and didn't have the ones we were counting on.

Congratulations to all the winners for weighing some awesome bags of bass on a tough fishing day and thanks to the weigh-in crew for another great job. I hope to see everybody at Apache for another fun filled event.



Weighing-In

By Jack Hughes
Tmx Director

With our club President off to Mexico to fish with his Mexican bass club I am positive he is telling them that even a 9.35 bass is not a guaranteed winner in our five pound pot. He did manage a text to the board saying he forgot about Bass Bites and would I write something for him so here are his and my articles combined into one.

With the quality of anglers in our club it was no surprise that at Saguaro more large fish over five pounds were caught then any time in the clubs history, and if we researched it in-depth, more over four pound fish were also caught. Just think would you have felt safe weighing a 9.35 lb largemouth to win the five pound pot. I would have, but that was only good for the second largest fish caught, the largest was

9.60. What is even more satisfying was they were caught during a daytime tournament.

When I filed the after tournament report with the USDA I was immediately contacted by both AZG&F and the Forest Service wanting to know more details and if they were bed fish and if all of them survived. I told them to my knowledge none were bed fish but they could have been because the water clarity was very stained in parts of the lake but all of the over five pound fish survived and were released to grow bigger for future tournaments. The only negative of the tournament was the five fish under 2 lbs that died in live wells and it appears they died due to low oxygen in the live wells from using lake water on automatic refill that did not have proper oxygen levels. This is a constant problem at Saguaro and in the future members have to be prepared for this to happen and work to prevent it.

Kudos go to AZG&F and Tonto National Forest for their management of Saguaro Lake and their goal to keep quality fishing in all of Arizona lakes and rivers. For 2017 they made several changes to tournament fishing to help insure that goal and your club fully supported the changes. For those of you who are not aware of it Andy Clark, Deputy Director of AZ Warm Water fishing lakes started the original long term fishing plan for Saguaro almost 20 years ago and what he put in place

then has been tweaked a few times but the basic plan is still in effect. Andy's current goal is to make all bass fishing in Arizona as good as or better than Saguaro with proper management. When I was talking with Andy about our Saguaro tournament results he thanked me and all the members for our continued support with man hours and donations to AZG&F and that Midweek Bass is making a difference in helping improve bass fishing. He added with our donations they will be purchasing more Florida strained bass for Roosevelt stocking.

AZG&F has posted on their web site a request for comments on developing a revised Tonto Forests Plan at the Tonto National Forest lakes. This effort is fully supported by the Forest Service and your letter/email to them will have a definite effect on future fishing and camping. I submitted a comment on the need for electricity at Roosevelt camp sites to improve the attendance at Roosevelt in the summer time and to look at allowing the use of generators all night until electricity is installed all year. I believe both will improve attendance, generate more funds for the Forest Service and help in the long run making Roosevelt a key bass fishing location not to mention help the economy of Tonto Basin local businesses. It is a win-win for everyone. Please take the time to send a comment. All comments are due by May 22, 2017. The web

site is: tontoplan@fs.fed.us or mail your recommendation to Tonto National Forest ATTN: Tonto Revised Plan, 2324 E. McDowell Rd, Phoenix AZ 85006. This is your chance to make a difference again.

Our Saguaro tournament had a lot of changes to the pairings caused by many reasons and all were legitimate. First we had three solo boaters and we were able to go out and get three co-anglers to fill the boats. Then we had a series of family emergencies, a member in the hospital, sickness, and boat failures. I just want to thank all the members who came forward and contacted me saying they were willing to fill a blank spot.

Midweek's reputation for being an excellent club has spread far beyond the Phoenix area and we now have active fishing members from Tucson, Happy Jack, Tonto Basin, Prescott Valley, Queen Creek, Dewey, and not to mention our winter visitors from out-of-state. There is only one reason a member will drive from those locations to fish with our club and that is the quality of the club and its members. They all have choices to fish with other clubs but chose ours because of our reputation and because of how the club is run and most of all how the members treat each other. If you were to ask which is the best bass club to join to learn bass fishing at a Mesa Bass Pro fishing seminar they constantly answer Midweek Bass Anglers and if you would ask AZG&F their answer is always "Midweek is the gold standard in the state for bass fishing" and they would recommend MBA because we

are not only an excellent club to fish with but are the most active in supporting the future of bass fishing in the state.

NOTE: As I was writing this article I received two phone calls, one from AZG&F and the other from Roosevelt Office of TNF. Both said the same thing; as of today the status of Roosevelt and Apache have changed from suspected Quagga Muscles to confirmed Quagga muscles and both lakes now fall under the state law for Quagga Muscles. TNF has attached to our permits the requirement to brief each tournament contestant on the state law covering Quagga Muscles. THE ABSENCE OF SIGNS SAYING THIS IS A CONFIRMED QUAGGA MUSCLE LAKE AND STATE LAW APPLIES DOES NOT RELEASE YOU OF THE RESPONSIBILITY ON HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR BOAT AND PULL THE DRAIN PLUGS.

Next month is Apache and the fishing should be just as good or better as it was at Saguaro this month. Apache tournaments are the favorite for a large number of our members. Also the club will provide a BBQ on Tuesday evening before the tournament. The club will provide everything except your choice of drinks. As usual the odds are very high that a poker game will take place after the BBQ. For the new members, Apache is always a great tournament with everything a bass

fisherman needs: great fishing, excellent camaraderie, outstanding free food and some of the best scenery in the state. I hope to see you there. Jack

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Saguaro April 19, 2017



Would you believe this was the 2nd Place Big Bass! 9.35 lbs



See I told you so, a 9.60 pounder.

I know there is a 9.60 in there somewhere!



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2017 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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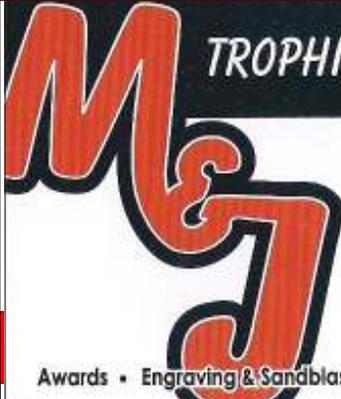
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Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>

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

No new members this month

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Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in May



- Tom Alauria
- Jim Buchanan
- Butch Dangelo
- John Hawkins
- Rusty Murdock
- Brett Perow
- Ray Riley
- Terry Tassin



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2017
Tournament Schedule**

18 January	Bartlett
15 February	Roosevelt
14-15 March	Havasu (1.5 Days)
19 April	Saguaro
17 May	Apache
21 June	Pleasant
19 July	Bartlett (Night)
16 August	Saguaro
20 September	Canyon
18-October	Roosevelt
14-15 November	Apache (1.5 Days)