

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



AUGUST 2016

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

### President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



The Midweek Bass Anglers launched a field of 24 boats at Bartlett Lake, bright and early at 5:20 AM, on Wednesday, August 17, for what is hopefully the last time we see the scorching heat this year. The moments before the pre-tournament meeting were abuzz with the chatter of eager anglers awaiting the final instructions before the launch. The lake seemed especially quiet today, not the usual hoard of wake-boats that we usually see at Saguaro Lake, only fishermen today.

Fishing was especially tough for most of the guys, with only 10 of the 24 boats in attendance bringing in a five-fish-limit. Congratulations to Floyd Vaughan and Jim

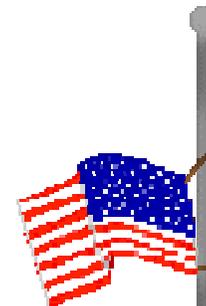
Buchanan for their winning weight of 7.87 lbs. The weigh-in team did a super job, especially considering it was about 100+ degrees at weigh-in. Spencer Hand did a great job in his first appearance on the bump tank, hope to see him there again. No heat related casualties, no one fell and hurt themselves, all boats worked, no parking lot accidents, only a couple of dead fish, all in all a pretty good day.

Next month's tournament brings us to Tonto Basin's Roosevelt Lake. September also marks the return of longer fishing hours; we will be fishing from safe-light until 2:00 PM. It will likely still be hot, so prepare accordingly. I for one cannot wait until the end of 100 degrees, hopefully Roosevelt does not disappoint. Hope you can make it, until then, tight lines.

Taking home **1st Place Team Floyd Vaughan & Jim Buchanan** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 7.87 lbs. Thanks to **Floyd Vaughan**, one of those five bass weighed 2.19 lbs which was good enough to also earn the team the prize for **2nd Place Big Bass**.

**Floyd Vaughan:** First I'd like to thank my co angler Jim Buchanan; he is a gentleman and a fine fisherman. We caught all our fish using jigs, Carolina Rigs, and drop shot. All the fish were caught main lake in different areas. The only common denominator was they were in 10 to 12 feet of water on flats. We had no bites on

### National Day of Remembrance 9-11-2001



America United

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



### Lake Bartlett Report

August 17, 2016  
By Terry Tassin

**Team Floyd Vaughan &  
Jim Buchanan Scratch  
Bottom And Win  
1st Place**

**"We Practice Catch and Release"**



**1st Place  
Floyd Vaughan &  
Jim Buchanan**

steep walls or shorelines. We started by throwing buzz baits but had no takers. All in all we just had good bites and great luck - this was a good thing because I knew Gary Senft and Rick Brown would be a tough team along with the rest of our

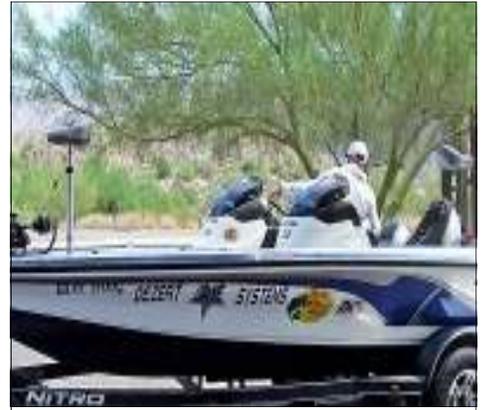
club members. Thanks to everybody.

**Jim Buchanan:** This was a great tournament and my partner Floyd Vaughan was outstanding. We fished all over the lake, beginning at the Yellow Cliffs and finished up across from the dam. We fished with drop shot and Texas rigs. We fished in 12 feet of water; colors were Pumpkin Baby Paca Craw and Morning Dawn. The weather was great in the morning. We had a slight breeze and it was overcast. From 9:30 until 11:00 it was hot and sticky. Floyd caught our big fish - way to go Floyd.

### **Team Senft & Brown Fish Slowly For 2nd Overall Finish**

In **Second Place** the team of **Gary Senft & Rick Brown** weighed five bass for a total weight of 7.48 lbs.

**Gary Senft:** It started out a nice morning with low pressure, then the clouds left, and high pressure started rising fast. This caused the bite to shut down. Then to really top things off when we got to the first spot Mr. Rick Brown picks up a crank bait and starts fishing. I asked what are you doing, you are supposed to be fishing the Carolina rig. He started telling me he is going to change to other ways of fishing, because every one in the club is using his rig. I told him to pick up the rig and start fishing and change with the next boater or swim back to the ramp. He then caught a nice



**2nd Place  
Gary Senft & Rick Brown**

fish on the crank and that was it.

We fished from the main ramp to the Yellow Cliffs and then back. This was my worst trip in the last three weeks, because of the pressure system. I tried a lot of different baits and colors all day. I fished from two feet to 30 feet and it was around the 15 foot depth that most of the fish came out of. I used Texas rig brush hogs watermelon red also jigs with a half ounce weight. Texas rig worms in red crawler color, morning dawn, and Salt River craw also worked. I had to slow way down to get them to eat. I threw a top water lure for awhile early and lost a little 3 pounder. Mr. Rick didn't let me forget that all day. We did have a lot of fun cussing at the fish for not biting our baits.

**Rick Brown:** Another great draw for me. Gary Senft puts his time in at Bartlett and knows the lake as well as anyone. We didn't catch the numbers we were hoping for, but enough to put together a decent bag. I caught my first fish of the day on a crankbait, and the rest on

### **Next Meeting Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 7 September** starting at 8:00 AM, at **Deer Valley Airport Restaurant** (just one mile north of I-101 at the intersection of 7th Ave & Deer Valley Road). We hope you will come early and have breakfast together.

The next club point tournament will be at **Lake Roosevelt** on **21 September 2016**. Club launch headquarters, weigh-in location, and tournament hours will be announced.

a Carolina rig. Gary kept us moving, and after about four spots we had our limit. My back was getting pretty tired from carrying Senft all morning, putting together our bag of fish and watching him loose our BIG one! However, being the Pro that he is, he finally got his stuff together. Gary started catching and culling some nicer fish and I couldn't get a bite. I guess he got tired of netting my little fish, and me reminding him about "the one that got away". I had a great time fishing with Gary. I hope to do it again soon! Congrats to Floyd and Jim for a fine bag on a tough fishing day.



**3rd Place  
Jerry Askam & Jeff Stone**

**Team Jerry Askam & Jeff Stone Bag Biggest Bass And Take 3rd Place Overall**

Team **Jerry Askam & Jeff Stone** weighed five bass for 6.69 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors. Thanks to **Jerry's** 2.36 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors.

**Jerry Askam:** I had the pleasure to fish with and get to

**Tournament Statistics**

Forty-eight men fished 5.5 hours each, bringing 87 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 106.56 pounds with a 2.22 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.22 lbs. All but two fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

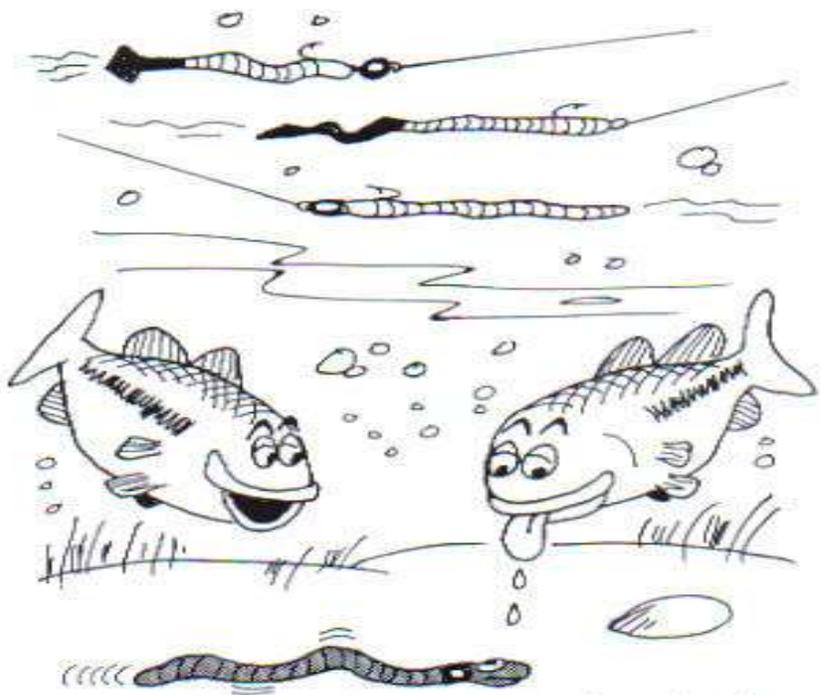
know our newest member Jeff Stone. Jeff is a good guy, good fisherman, and a great addition to the club.

Like everyone else we had a difficult time finding a workable bite. We tried about everything we had without much success. We only caught 6 fish, 4 on drop shots, 1 on a flick shake, and I was able to get our 1<sup>st</sup> Place Big Bass on a Zoom Fat Albert grub fished on a darter head off a mid-lake rocky point. We spent most of the morning fishing mid-lake areas and finished down by the dam where we filled our limit.

Congrats to Floyd and Jim for winning on a very tough fishing day.

**Team Martlage & Milkint Fish One Small Area For 4th Place Overall Finish**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Gary Martlage & John Milkint** weighed five fish for a total weight of 6.67 lbs



**"...it is, it is, a real worm"**



**4th Place**  
**Gary Martlage &**  
**John Milkint**

**Gary Martlage:** Bartlett showed it's ugly face again! It seems since all the water from Horseshoe Lake was dumped into Bartlett, the fishing has been spotty, at best. Fishing with John Milkint was special. I have known John, since I joined the club 4 years ago, and finally got to fish with him.

We went to the river, fishing a small stretch of bank, looking for a quick limit. I had pre-fished the area on Saturday, and it was the only spot I had found activity. The plan did not work out too well, as it took us until 9 AM, before our limit was secured. Drop-shotting, and MOJO fishing was the fare of the day, except for one on topwater in the early morning. Wish I could report a stellar day of catching, but the fishing time with John was

outstanding! I just wish we had more time to spend on the water, and I am looking for a repeat very soon with the MOJO king!

**John Milkint:** Who would have thought that 6.67 pounds of Bass would have netted 4th place among some of the best bass fishermen in Arizona. That indicates how difficult the fishing was at Bartlett. Getting bites was a struggle and congratulations go to the two teams that garnered over 7 pounds.

Gary Martlage and I fished approximately 100 yards of shoreline for the entire tournament and it resulted in a limit of fish. No secret here, but patience and traditional dropshot techniques by Gary made it happen.

I was using a MOJO rig and would have added more to our partnership if I knew how to tie a proper knot between my braid and leader. It was the first time I fished with Gary and not only did he have patience with the dropshot, but also his co-angler. It was a great day on the water and I hope to have the privilege of drawing Gary in future tournaments.

### **Team Tony Medina & George Cobasky Fish Main Lake And Take 5th Place**

A five fish limit weighing 6.57 lbs was enough to earn **Tony Medina & George Cobasky** the **5th Place** money.

**Tony Medina:** Bringing in 5 fish to the scales weighing 6.57 lbs. was enough to earn George Cobasky and me 5th place.

We pretty much stayed on the main lake most of the morning. We caught our fish using jigs, Carolina rigs, Texas rigs, and drop shots.

After three trips of pre-fishing, I found the main lake to be the most productive area; unfortunately the fishing was very slow on tournament day.

I'd like to thank Hal Hensey for helping put up the glow sticks on the ramp. I'd also like to congratulate all the other winners on a tough day of fishing.

Here's hoping our next tournament at Roosevelt will be more productive and produce a 5 lb. Pot winner.

**George Cobasky:** My first fish was in a cove working a Berkley Rib Snake on a Carolina rig. I like throwing at brush piles close to the shore and the fish hit the bait immediately after water entry.

After running and gunning for a while we stopped at a spot we had caught fish while pre-fishing. In this area we picked up our next four fish, however, the rest of the day was all down hill. As always it's a lot of fun just listening to the fishing comments made by our anglers after each tournament. We as a group have a lot of fun.

## Team Jeff Mason & Tom Savage Limit In River For 6th Place

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 6.28 lbs was enough to earn **Jeff Mason & Tom Savage** the **6th Place** prize.

**Jeff Mason:** Tom Savage and I were paired up again (last time at Alamo) and once again I really enjoyed fishing with him. We pre-fished Friday and did not have a very good day, catching only 3 fish, but we were still looking forward to fishing together and having a better day. We fished from the Marina to the river and back to the Marina stopping at the usual places I fish. We had only one fish when we went into the river, but came out with our limit catching most of the fish on a drop shot. We lost a couple of fish that would have helped, but Tom connected with our biggest fish (1.97) on a Carolina Rig and we culled a couple of fish to complete our day. Tough days at Bartlett!

**Tom Savage:** Congratulations to Floyd and Big Fish Jim Buchanan for their 1st Place win. It was tough just to put 5 fish in the boat. I was excited to hear that I'd been paired to fish with Jeff Mason for the 2nd time this year. Jeff's an excellent angler and I have learned something new each time that I have fished with him. Jeff and I pre-fished Friday before the tournament and were only able to put 3 small fish in the boat, so we knew that it was going to be a tough tournament. On

Wednesday, Jeff said he had 5 places that he wanted to fish. I think we fished all 5 and a few more, picking up a fish at just about each spot. We were able to cull twice. We caught our fish on a drop shot with red crawlers, MM Robo Worms, and Carolina rigs with green pumpkin chigger craws. We spent most of our time in the main lake area but we did catch 2 up river near the island. I want to say thanks to Rusty Murdoch for providing a chair for me to use during the weigh-in.



### Money Matters

By John Reichard  
Treasurer

Greetings from your treasurer: I'm in California for my 60 year class reunion. I hope you all had a great day on the water and I also hope everyone stayed healthy.

Since no one caught a 5 lb bass the 5 lb Pot will be a big one next month at Roosevelt around \$1000.

See you at our next meeting.



### Weighing-In

By Jack Hughes  
Tmx Director

With quality fishing starting to return to Roosevelt there are more clubs than usual wanting to fish it in 2017. A number of them are from outside of the Phoenix area. Tonto National Forest, Roosevelt District,

threw the club a real curve ball last Friday. I had a call from them informing me that August 31, 2016 is the date for permit call-in's for the 2017 season. This is two months earlier than normal. Adding to our problem of the early date there was no way we could poll the club members to see what dates they wanted to fish Apache and Roosevelt in 2017. With less than two weeks before we are required to submit our dates the board decided we would select the months for Roosevelt and Apache. I want to emphasize we had no clue the early request date was coming. I briefed this information at the morning safety briefing for the Bartlett tournament. Upon returning home after the tournament I was informed that Mesa District also has a 1 September date for submittal for tournament dates for 2017.

We have always taken great pride that our members vote to determine our schedule. This year due to the Federal government's short notice on obtaining permits submittal dates we have to make a change. We will NOT be asking all members to vote on the rest of the schedule next month since Roosevelt and Mesa district cover 9 of our 11 fishing months. Alamo will be one of the lakes we will look closely at but water forecasts suggest strongly we will not be fishing Alamo in 2017. The board is pursuing the possibility of adding Lake Pleasant to our 2017 schedule.

I want to emphasize again we had no indication we would have to submit two months ahead of the normal schedule.

Tonto National Forest has three new rules that will take effect in 2017.

Rule 1: Only one permit will be issued for each day which will include the full 24 hours of the day. They will no longer issue a permit for day time fishing then another for a night tournament.

Rule 2: On Bartlett and Saguaro the number of boats per tournament will be reduced from 100 boats to a maximum of sixty.

Rule 3: Apache Lake - Burnt Coral ramp, will be restricted to only 30 boats per tournament for launching.

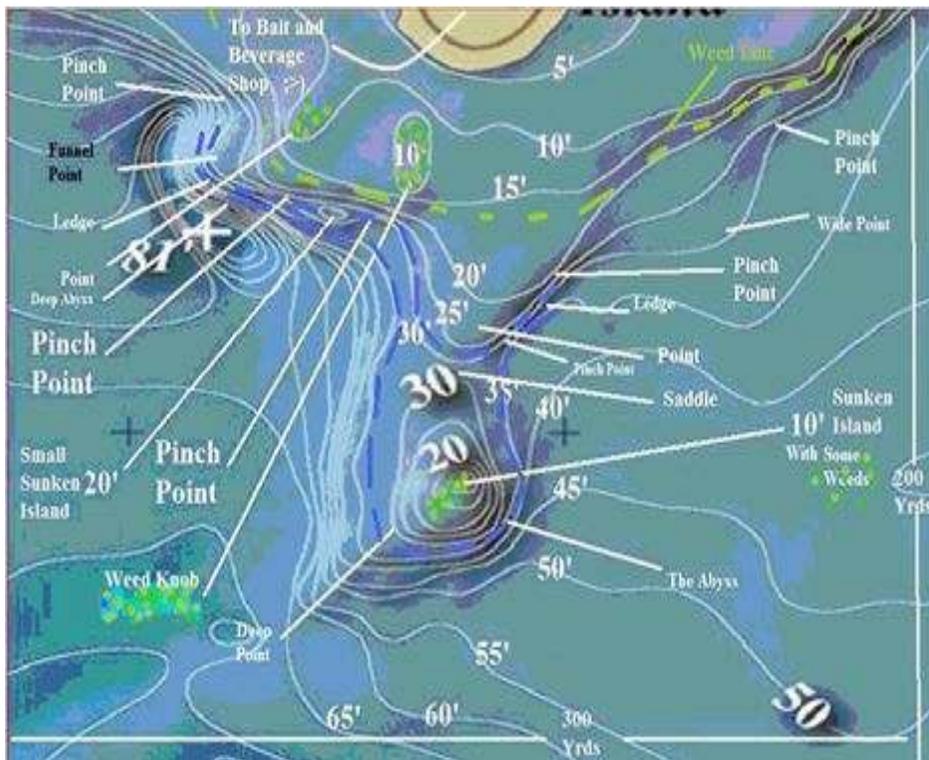
In addition to the new rules we will incur an increase in the cost of permits and the fee for each member fishing. This should NOT have an effect on our current tournament entry fees.

New Subject: The club has obtained an excellent **Wilderness First Aid Kit** that will allow us to provide first aid to all members for almost any emergency until we can get them to trained professionals.

## MAKING A POINT

By Rich Ziert

This map is real and represents a clear water lake in South West Wisconsin. While it may be far away from where you fish, it also represents many key features



needed to catch fish anywhere.

You guys and gals reading this probably know much of this already. However, maybe it has not been presented as it is here – all in one place. Take it and run with it – make the most you can out of it.

And so we begin: It's a partly cloudy day/late afternoon, with the "clear" water flow coming out of the top left corner (North West) of the diagram and exiting to the bottom right (South East), can you pick the best possible seasonal spots to investigate? Have fun!

It depends on: Various forms of shade and water dynamics you deal with at the time you are on the water.

The lake bottom contours surrounding and/or leading to particular parts of some weed beds, weedy knobs, drop offs

where and when, "Pinch Points" can speed up and slow down water making them structure of another nature.

The time of year and day.

Past weather for 3 days.

Water clarity, stained water is another form of shadow.

Water flow, direction and speed - fishing a lake like a river? Things that block or partially block the flow of water as well as things that slow down and speed up water flow.

Available food source - what does that food source eat? This is a tuff; most fishermen don't want to take the time to research this.

Predator prey relationships, the "Nitch", of all creatures great and small. How that nitch compliments one another to

the knowledge of the fisherman's advantage, another item that requires further/deeper investigation by the fisherman.

What the "shady side" can mean? The shady side can mean the angle of the Sun as it hits or is blocked by underwater obstructions – weeds rock piles – tree roots.

It can mean depth and time of day, as well as heavy chop on the surface or cloud cover.

It can mean the particular fish species you are after or even fish of the same species reaction to circumstances in their environment and others of the same species reaction to completely different circumstances ("different" even in the same lake that you fish) - and how their eyesight reacts to penetrating light.

All the items mentioned here will come into play. They represent figurative and practical pathways to success.

Also think about metabolism and stabilization. Fish want as much stabilization as they can find under "the circumstances" of where and when they have to be in order to survive.

Cold water slows fish metabolism, but a particular layer of cold or warm water that doesn't fluctuate severely over the day or night can be a good home for fish. Season to season, this generally means with seasonally cold weather approaching, and with no other source of stabilized water

interjecting itself into the picture (incoming water from streams – what it means and where it comes from, atmospheric weather and what it means to fish and how deep it can go, etc. in a particular area of shoreline or welling up from the bottom as underwater "springs anywhere") to fish somewhat/marginally deeper than you would in Summer months.

Colder along with Deeper, in turn, additionally restricts fish reaction time. In order to give fish what their metabolism can handle, slower presentations of somewhat bigger baits are better for these times. The colder the water, the slower the presentation – stop the bait for longer periods of time. The more shade in the water, the bigger/somewhat brighter the bait should be.

Also think about the source of plankton - when it blooms and how it reacts to water flow and sunlight; "naturally" sinking during brighter times and rising in the water column at darker times. Again, cold water will make the plankton movement slower and less exaggerated higher or lower in the water column. Water flow only effects this as that flow changes.

Prey fish follow that flow and rise/fall of plankton in order to stay in touch with their food source. Bigger predators (Bass, etc.) will know this genetically as well as with their experience and also follow the prey fish accordingly.

Find more of these key items in

relative close proximity to one another, up down or sideways in a particular area, at a particular time and you will have the makings of a Honey Hole.

Then and only then can we decide what bait and bait color(s) will be best suited for our approach and more specifically, the angle/direction/manipulation of our approach.

Remember, even knowing all this and putting it together properly, it's the individual fisherman, his/her expertise and familiarity with his/her equipment as well as boat control, that will win the day.



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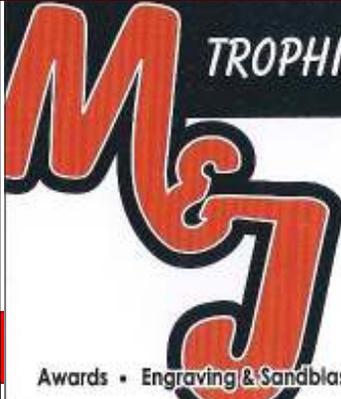
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - John Reichard

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

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

**Jeffrey Stone (CO/B)**

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



- Mike Adamson
- Brad Baker
- Deb Cunningham
- Norm Haas
- Bob Jolley
- Bernie Kowalski
- Jeff Mason
- Bill McGonigle Jr
- Bruce Nelson
- Ron Rudzinski
- Ed Scheide
- Howard Thomas
- Gene Turner

**Midweek Bass Anglers 2016  
Tournament Schedule**

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