

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



**AUGUST 2017 EDITION**  
*12 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN*

*CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005*  
**EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN**

### President's Perspective

*By Gary Grimes*



We are officially into the last days of summer; to me that means that the number of hot days ahead is less than the number of hot days behind. Finally! The board certainly tries its best to craft a summertime schedule that works, but let's face it, summertime fishing is tough. Most times it is at least 90 degrees when the tournament starts, and certainly well over 100 by the time it's completed. When it became apparent that Tonto Nation Forest (TNF) was shutting down Saguaro Lake in August to tournament fishing because of the Golden Algae, we discussed options. One of the more interesting proposals put forward was for Alamo Lake, which though fun to fish,

made little practical sense. Do we really want to drive 3 hours to fish a 6 hour tournament? Lake Pleasant maybe? Well, Pleasant has a lot of haters in our club. Fortunately Jack Hughes' diligence was successful and we were able to swap permits from Saguaro to Bartlett. Summertime fishing really is a grind, mainly because of the heat and storms. Because of this we have scheduled lakes that border the city (Bartlett, Saguaro and Canyon). Each of these lakes has its drawbacks, but the bonus of fishing local is that you can sleep on your own bed the night before.

It is great to see Alamo Lake is maintaining good water levels, so much so that we will see it on the spring schedule next year, in April. I am certain this will be a big event for the club. Everyone loves Alamo, such a great fishery, and a quality campground as well. We will likely do a big BBQ the Tuesday evening before the Wednesday tournament. I know many are excited to see Alamo's return to our schedule. We will fish the border town lakes (Bartlett, Canyon, Saguaro) in January, July, August and September and will fish the overnight, camping

lakes (Havasu, Alamo, Apache and Roosevelt) in February, March, April, May, October and November.

Terry Tassin (Secretary), John Reichard (Treasurer), and Tom Savage (VP) have all agreed to seek another two-year term on the board. These guys do a great job serving the members of Midweek in all that they do. John Reichard is prepared to hand over the reigns as Treasurer if someone is willing to take over, but will serve if needed. What a guy! Our tournament director, Jack Hughes, has already begun preparations to acquire the tournament permits for next year.

### **Patriot Day** **11 September**



**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"**

As we look forward to fall, the cooler weather will mean better camping and fishing. We will visit Roosevelt Lake in October for a single day tournament. Just a reminder that we have been asked to help the AZGFD with the installation of habitat at Roosevelt on October 2-4, let me know if you can participate. Take your boat and pre-fish while you are there. In November we will fish Apache Lake for a day-and-a-half tournament to finish up the year. The weather should be ideal for camping and the fishing should be great.

**Survey Results** – We recently conducted a survey of club members regarding general tournament scheduling principles; here are the results. Forty-one (41) active fishing members responded out of 116 club members.

1. Would you participate in a spring tournament at Martinez Lake? Yes 33 - No 9.

2. Would you participate in a fall tournament at Lake Havasu? Yes 34 - No 8.

3. Would you like to see Lake Pleasant included on the schedule? Yes 29 - No 13.

4. Would you like to see night tournaments continue on the schedule? Yes 19 - No 23.

5..Thoughts on multi-day tournaments:

\* Keep present format of two per year – Yes 33.

\* Have only one multi-day tournament per year – Yes 3.

\*.No multi-day tournaments per year – Yes 6.

Before you get too excited, these results will impact our 2019 schedule, where I expect to see Martinez in February, both Canyon and Pleasant lakes in the summer, and Havasu in the fall. I am already looking forward to it.



**Lake Bartlett Report**  
**August 16, 2017**  
*By Terry Tassin*

## Team Clinton Bell & Tom Atherton Work Main Lake For 1st Place Win

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Clinton Bell & Tom Atherton** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 8.14 lbs.

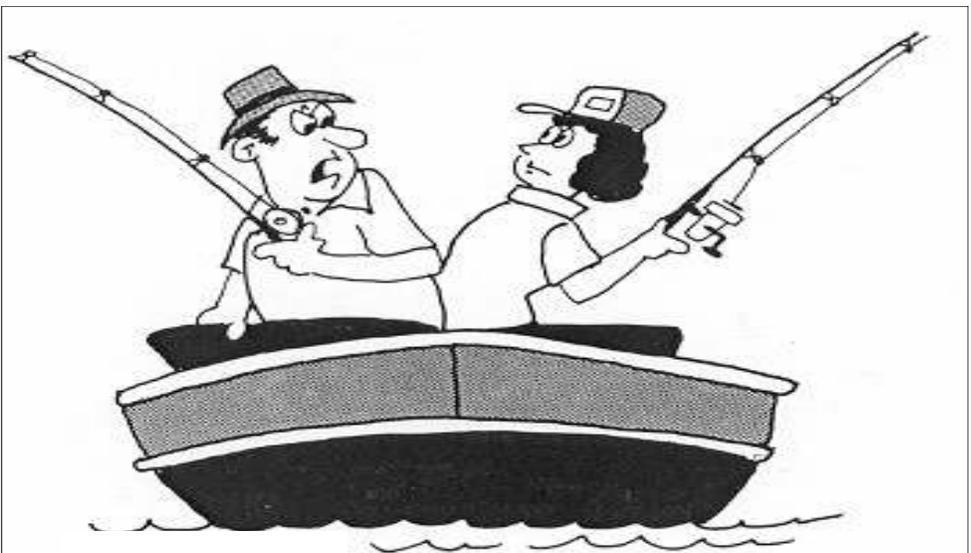
**Tom Atherton:** I had the pleasure of pre-fishing with Clinton Bell on Tuesday when we went up river checking out several spots, trying to come up with a game plan for Wednesday.

On tournament day we were boat 19, but as we passed the start boat Clinton went to take off and the boat died. So there we sat, dead in the water, watching the end of the second flight go by. Once the water calmed down Clinton was able to take the motor cover off and replace a blown fuse. After that, at our 1st

### Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 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 is planned for **Canyon Lake** on **20 September 2017**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 1 PM**.



**"The fish only bite twice a day here: Once before we get here, and again after we leave"**



**1st Place Overall**  
**Clinton Bell & Tom Atherton**

fishing stop, we were able to catch 2 or 3 of our biggest fish of the day throwing buzz baits and Whopper Poppers. We never went up the river but fished main lake beaches and points. In between changing fuses in the boat a few more times, we were able to cull-out a few of our smaller fish by throwing jigs, square bill cranks, and dropshots. I think all of our fish came in less than 10 feet of water.

**Clinton Bell:** First I want to say thanks to my partner Tom for fishing as hard as he does. When you have picked up the trolling motor and put your rods away and are ready to head to the weigh in and he says "HOLD ON let me reel this fish in first," you know you had a good partner for the day.

Tuesday practice gave us a good idea on where to start and top water seem to be the best bite. The fish were very

shallow in the backs of little pockets and a buzz bait and square bill crank bait produced our best fish. Tom up-graded our 2 smallest fish drop shotting a Morning Dawn Robo Worm - imagine that. We didn't catch as many fish as Tuesday's practice but it was enough to get the job done.

### **Team Askam & Gonzales** **Celebrate Gonzales'** **1st Tourney With** **2nd Place Overall**

In **Second Place** the team of **Jerry Askam & Rudy Gonzales** weighed five bass for a total weight of 7.87 lbs.

**Jerry Askam:** I was paired with new club member Rudy Gonzales for the Bartlett tourney. This is the 3rd or 4th time I have fished with a new club member for their first club tourney and/or their first bass

tourney period; coincidentally we have always done pretty well in the final standings. Rudy is a good guy, fun to fish with, and excellent at backing a trailer (a great skill for a co-angler).

We pre-fished last Friday. It was cloudy most of the morning and we probably caught 35-40 fish. We had a limit in the 1st 10 minutes. With the predicted clear skies I knew it was probably going to be tougher on tourney day and it turned out even tougher than I thought.

On tournament day we didn't get bit in our start water. Rudy put our first fish, and his first ever tourney fish, in the boat on a Rico near the shoreline. I later caught our biggest bass (2.25 lbs) on a Rio Rico out of a cove pocket. We filled out our initial limit with 3 drop shot fish. After getting our limit we

### **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. Interested? Let me know.

Gary Grimes, President.

[gary@bestexpression.com](mailto:gary@bestexpression.com)



**2nd Place**  
**Jerry Askam & Rudy Gonzales**

returned to our start area where we had caught some good fish (by Bartlett standards) late in the morning on our pre-fish day with top water lures. As we pulled up on the spot lo and behold we saw several boils in progress.

The fish weren't of the quality of those on our pre-fish day but did allow us to upgrade and cull our drop shot fish. I assumed fishing was probably tough for everyone but there are always a couple of teams that find the bite even when it's tough. I thought we would probably be in the middle of the pack and we were very surprised when we came in second. Congrats to Clinton and Tom for their 1<sup>st</sup> Place finish and thanks to the weigh team for a great job as usual.

**Rudy Gonzales:** This was my first tournament since I started bass fishing two years ago. Jerry and I knew the bite would be tough due to the clear

sunny day. We covered a lot of water in multiple spots during pre-fishing and on tournament day. The early morning fish were caught on top water using poppers and walking baits in natural colors. The rest of our fish were put in the boat on drop shot rigs using Robo Worms in Oxblood color in 10 – 20 feet of water.

I really would like to thank my boater Jerry Askam for a great day on the water. Also, thanks to Midweek Bass for the great tournament. Now on to getting ready for Canyon next month.

### **Team Jack Hughes & Tony Medina Lose 'Big' One But Still Finish In 3rd Place**

Team **Hughes & Medina** weighed five bass for 7.22 pounds and took home **3rd Place** honors.

**Jack Hughes:** I drew Tony



**3rd Place**  
**Tony Medina & Jack Hughes**

Medina as my co-angler and as luck would have it we had never fished together before. I fished three days with Tony and he came fully prepared each day with fishing suggestions, records where he has caught bigger fish over the years and most of all a true teammate with a real competitive desire of wanting to do very well. I can honestly say in all the years I have been fishing with MBA I have never had a better co-angler in my boat. Tony thanks for a great experience!

**Tony Medina:** The team of Jack Hughes and Tony Medina finished in third place with a 7.22 pound limit. It was a new experience for me for it has been over 12 years of being a Midweek Bass member and I finally got to fish as a non-boater.

This tournament was run and gun meets grind it out. After two days of pre-fishing Jack and I had found some decent fish. We started the tournament outside the marina area where I caught our first fish on a jig. We then moved towards the dam area where we caught our limit drop shotting Morning Dawn Chartreuse worms. Our last keeper fish was boated at 10:45. Jack lost a two pounder at the boat that would have put us over the top.

Jack and I had a good time and we gave it our best effort. We came close to winning it all, but we did manage to finish in the money. Looking forward to Canyon and showing up

with my new trailer.

### Team Davis & Stone Flick Shake Way To 4th Place Finish

Team **Amos Davis & Jeff Stone** weighed five bass for 7.09 pounds and took home **4th Place** honors.

**Amos Davis:** Congratulations to the winning team of Clinton Bell and Tom Atherton on their win. I drew a great partner - Jeff Stone. We were not able to pre-fish but both of us had an opportunity to pre-fish separately. We did manage to discuss fishing strategies prior to the tournament. We fished an area by the Yellow Cliffs most of the day. My partner's arm is probably sore today because he was catching fish almost every cast early in the morning; small fish but we hung in there and continued to catch fish. Later we made a move up the lake to a small cove and were able to cull our existing



**4th Place**  
**Jeff Stone & Amos Davis**

limit. Our baits that were used were Flick Shake Worms and a 4 inch Yamamoto Senko.

### Team Steve Bowlin & Ron Pikul Fish On Top For 5th Place

Team **Bowlin & Pikul** weighed five bass for 6.92 pounds and took home **5th Place** honors. Steve's 2.74 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.



**5th Place**  
**Steve Bowlin & Ron Pikul**

**Ron Pikul:** Steve Bowlin and I were the last boat out, so not wanting to travel far and miss any early morning top water action we stopped at one of the first islands north of the launch. We caught several fish on top water lures and stuck with that pattern until the sun was high in the sky. Steve caught our big fish, in the back of a cove, fishing a top water lure again and although we caught fish on other lures, we never upgraded a cullable fish after that.



**6th Place**  
**Mark Royal & Lew Southard**

### Team Lew Southard & Mark Royal Drop Shot Shallow For 6th Place

A five fish limit weighing 6.90 lbs was enough to earn **Lew Southard & Mark Royal** the **6th Place** honors.

**Mark Royal:** I had a great time fishing with Lew Southard – so much experience and knowledge. We both tried top water and other reaction baits early to no avail and turned pretty quickly to drop-shotting. Morning Dawn Robo Worms with a Chartreuse Tail is what we used all day. Lew caught the bigger fish early in the morning in 5 feet of water close to a drop off. Most of our fishing was done mid-lake in 10 to 20 feet of water.

### Team Randy Bosket & Paul Archer Go Up River And Find 1st Place Big Bass



**Randy Bosket & Paul Archer  
3.21 lb Big Bass of the Tournament**

**Randy Bosket:** I caught what turned out to be the big bass (3.21 lbs) of the tournament around 9:30 AM on a topwater Rico near the only island that is still visible up river past the no-wake buoys. I noticed a small area of shade near a boulder on the island that extended out no more than 12 inches from the shore and dropped it right in there and he hit it hard! Total reaction strike! That bass must have been in no more than two feet of water and close to the shore. As I was fighting him in he got caught behind an underwater boulder for a minute but I was able to haul him out of there and into the net expertly tended by my partner Paul Archer.



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

**Conservation Update:** For all members planning on helping with the habitat project at Lake

Roosevelt 2 - 4 October, I have been successful in negotiating with Tonto National Forest officials free camping for those volunteers at Roosevelt Lake. The only requirement is I must provide to TNF by September 29, 2017 the names of those wanting to camp. If you are planning on helping with the habitat placement at Roosevelt Lake and want to camp please let me know so I can make sure you are on the list for free camping at Roosevelt.

**My Thanks:** With the recent changes we had to make on which lake we were fishing our recent tournaments due to lake closures, I want to thank all the members for their patience and understanding of what was happening. Hopefully we will be able to fish the remaining schedule with minimal disruption.

**Dead Fish:** In July I reported in the Bass Bites we had 35-40 dead fish floating in the area of the weigh-in fish release point the next morning. AZG&F sent a team to determine the cause.

August 16th I was informed by AZG&F so many bass dying was caused by water with a lack of oxygen. A survey of Bartlett Lake shows that below 25 feet the oxygen levels WILL NOT sustain fish. Additionally, the difference in oxygen levels, the water temperature between 25 feet and the surface, plus the stress of fish being caught, leads to a "perfect storm" for fish not surviving when caught in deep water. Automatic live well

water exchanges are very often changing water with good oxygen levels for water that has poor oxygen levels. This is something we will have to live with at all of the lower Salt River lakes until probably October. About the only thing we can do is keep a very close eye on our live wells and be prepared to supplement the oxygen in our boat livewells.



**Bits & Pieces**  
By Terry Tassin

Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers have in common?

A. All were invented by women.

Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

A. Honey

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase...'Goodnight, sleep tight'.

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's Father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett August 16, 2017



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

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Tom Savage

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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**

**Rudy Gonzales (CO)**  
**Sam Schattenberg (B)**  
**Greg Utton (B)**  
**Dustin Wilhite (CO)**

**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 September**

Mike Adamson  
Deb Cunningham  
Norm Haas  
Mike Halleck  
John Hilland  
Bob Jolley  
Jeff Mason  
Richard Mladick  
Bruce Nelson  
Ron Rudzinski  
Ed Scheide  
Howard Thomas  
Gene Turner



**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 [Canx]
19 July	Bartlett (Night)
16 August	Bartlett
20 September	Saguaro
18-October	Roosevelt
14-15 November	Apache (1.5 Days)