



# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



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

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

### President's Perspective

*By Gary Grimes*



The Midweek Bass Anglers haven't fished Roosevelt Lake in February for over 4 years, so it was certainly nice to fish one of Arizona's largest reservoirs when it wasn't scorching hot. The lake has risen considerably since our last time there due to the plentiful winter moisture our state has enjoyed. The new higher shorelines are full of grasses and brush, which should make for excellent fishing in the coming months. Unfortunately, the present heavy inflows of new water from both ends of the lake make for rather muddy water and much debris floating throughout the lake, but the water is certainly welcome.

Several conditions made the

fishing difficult; cool, muddy, and rising water; post full moon, post front, and rain. The fish were probably as mixed up about what to do as were most of the anglers. I doubt that any of our other lakes would have been an improvement at this time of the year, give the amount of runoff all lakes are receiving. Congratulations to the team of Larry White and Norm Haas for a well executed yet narrow victory with a winning weight of 10.88 lbs. Second through fourth places were the teams of Root & Stanton, Cunningham & Ojala and Asmus & Scheide, all within 1.6 ounces of each other, the equivalent of a large shot of whiskey.

You may have seen several new faces on the water. Welcome to the club Kenny Cartledge, John Schramer, Greg Gerbig, Chad Cole, Ron Pikul, Mike Bloxam, and Amos Davis, glad to have you aboard.

Next month the Midweek Bass Anglers make our annual trip to Lake Havasu for two awesome days on one of the state's premier fisheries. Hope to see you there.



**Lake Roosevelt  
Report**  
**February 15, 2017**  
*By Terry Tassin*

### Team Larry White & Norm Haas Come Away With 1st Place Win

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Larry White & Norm Haas** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 10.88 lbs.

**Larry White:** Had a really fun day with Norm Haas at Lake Roosevelt. Starting 26th boat out and getting to where I wanted to start, I was amazed it had become a boat parking lot. Looking at Norm I said we would go to spot number 2. Oops, boats there also. So, on to spot 3 and Yea no boats or

## HAPPY ST. PATRICK'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"**



**1st Place Overall  
Norm Haas & Larry White**

biting fish either. So off to my late morning spot where Norm caught two quick fish and our largest of the day. After 361

casts I was finally able to help him out. I continued to cast a white medium crankbait and got on a roll. We caught and culled a number of times using a balance beam.

Boaters you are in for a great day on the water with Norm when you are drawn with him. Thanks to everyone that told me to look for the "tall" guy.

**Norm Haas:** Thanks to the MBA board members and the tournament director for hosting another great event, with a special thank you to the weigh-in crew for all the hard work they do.

The day started out slow but, I was lucky to catch the first two fish north of the dam cove entrance on Wacky rigged

worms in shallow water with the largest fish being just over 3 lbs. The bite slowed down shortly after that and we changed locations a few times without much success. In the afternoon Larry suggested that we return to the area that I had caught fish in the early morning. Soon after returning it turned into the "Larry and his crank-bait fishing show" and I was happy to be his net boy. Larry was catching one after another allowing us to start culling fish soon afterwards. The fish were all in the two pound range and we were able to gain an ounce here and there which ended up giving us the half pound winning difference. I have been exceptionally lucky since joining the club last year, not

## Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 1 March** 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 Havasu** on **14-15 March 2017**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.



## The Rules By Gary Grimes

It's always exciting when we can put 30 plus boats on the water for any tournament; more anglers mean more competition which means bigger prize pots. Our club has been experiencing good solid growth since it began, and this year is no exception. Unfortunately one of the downsides of more anglers and boats is that more oversight is required regarding rules. In just the first two tournaments of the year, I have heard the following: (1) a boat fishing a slip at Bartlett Lake, (2) unsafe boating resulting in injury at Bartlett Lake, (3) a boat fishing on the ramp at Roosevelt Lake and (4) a boat returning well past his scheduled stop time at Roosevelt Lake.

I have fished other local tournament circuits and understand that sometimes it is difficult to know the rules because of the poor job of communication on the Tournament Director's part, but that is absolutely not the case in Midweek. We go to great lengths to make sure everyone understands the restrictions at our lakes, and our tournament rules are readily available for all to see and understand.

The board has spent years developing a special set of skills. If you are a rule-breaker, we will find you, and you will be disqualified from a tournament. Regarding off-limits at most of our lakes, if it is man-made and you can dock-it, walk-it, or launch from it, you cannot fish within 100 feet. Do us all a favor: Know the rules, Follow the rules.

only in meeting a lot of great people, but to have been paired up in every tournament with extremely good fisherman and Larry was no exception. The tournament day was the first time meeting and fishing with Larry. He made it fun and it was like fishing with a good buddy. I learned a lot that day and appreciate him showing me some different techniques. Speaking of buddies, a big thanks has go out to MBA member Jeff Stone for getting me back into the fishing hobby and teaching this old dog a few new tricks.

**Roger Root & Jason Stanton Sew-Up 2nd Overall**

In **Second Place** the team of **Root & Stanton** weighed five bass for a total weight of 10.34 lbs.

**Jason Stanton & Roger Root:** (Setting the stage) It is noon, I had missed my only



**2nd Place  
Jason Stanton & Roger Root**

two bites all morning. My boater (Roger Root) and I felt like we were on a sight seeing trip of the lake, going everywhere. On our way to a "hot spot", I asked my Girl Friend Franny Gonzalez for a little help from up above. I had prayed 5 times today for it already. She replied that she, her sister and mother, all put in a request.

Upon arriving at the spot in about 4 to 7 feet of water; warm water almost 62 degrees and about 2 feet of visibility. On my second cast with a reaction bait, I nailed a 2 pounder, then another on the next cast; both times I immediately responded with "Thank you Jesus, may I have

another?" Well long story short in the next 90 minutes I landed 13 bass averaging about 2 pounds each and my boater landed another 6 in the same weight class. We also each lost a 3 pounder, but we could not complain on His quick response to my request. God is amazing all the time!

**Vic Cunningham & Paul Ojala Crank In 3rd Place Finish**

Team **Victor Cunningham & Paul Ojala** weighed five bass for 10.32 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Victor Cunningham:** As we know, Lake Roosevelt is taking on a new look these past few

**Help Wanted**

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 for at least 12 months, 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](mailto:gary@bestexpression.com)

**OUTBOARD MOTORS  
SALES- PARTS- SERVICE**



"By golly, she's right. Here it is right here." Whatchmacallit Washer"



**3rd Place**  
**Paul Ojala & Vic Cunningham**

weeks as far as conditions. Past history showed us that this time of year was nothing short of awesome. But Mother Nature had other surprises in store for us. Dirty, muddy, cold, windy, post cold front conditions! I even saw some of our warriors in SHORTS! My wife and I pre-fished this lake for the last 3 weeks, and only showed 4 fish total for our efforts, grrr, I mean brrr. We fished from the Salt end, which looked like the color of my jig this time of year, (reddish brown), and went to the Tonto end, where I can't ever catch a fish and found it with that Roosevelt stain we all like. But as usual, we only caught 1 guppy. This past weekend, the lake finally showed some signs of cooperating.

Tournament day saw me flipping several trees with a 4 1/2" green pumpkin zoom brush hog dipped in chartreuse, and I was starting to convince myself I might

have a little something going. Throwing a white/chartreuse spinner bait (dang I hate throwing those things), white/chartreuse bladed swim jig, and flipping my brush hog for 3 hours without any takers, made me think "Ok basses, I know you are here somewhere!". Falling into a stage of frustration, I heard a splash next to the boat and found my partner Paul Ojala, fighting a fish that grabbed his green/blue, clear skirted spinner bait, right at the boat! WOW, just the morale lift we needed. It's amazing what a green fish can do to a person's outlook on life. A few casts later Paul put another one in the boat with a swim bait/willow leaf under spin combo. This told me that the fish were not on the bottom but suspended in the water column. Finally it was my turn so I put our number 3 fish in the boat and it was over 3 lbs on my home made white/chartreuse chatter bait. Then number 4 bass came on the same bait as number 3.

Now it is Noon and still only 4 fish in the boat. The wind turned our area muddier and the bite stopped. I knew the bite was tough from hearing the other competitors at the pre-launch meeting, so we decided to stay where we were. I saw other boats leave the area, only to return later, which showed me that they didn't find anything else. The muddier water convinced us to put the trolling motor on high and cover water the last 30 minutes of the event. Shortly after, we caught #5 and #6 on

the same bait as #3 and #4. We culled with #6 and headed to the weigh-in.

I want to congratulate the other anglers who fished hard against the tough conditions we were given. I also want to thank my co-angler Paul Ojala for getting us fish #1 and #2. Thanks again for the Midweek crew for putting on a great event. You guys rocked it. Till Havasu, FISH ON!

### **Team Gary Asmus & Ed Scheide Spinner Bait One Area to 4th Overall Finish**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Gary Asmus & Ed Scheide** weighed five fish for a total weight of 10.23 lbs.

**Gary Asmus:** Getting drawn with Ed Scheide, one of our newer members, was a good draw for a tough day on Roosevelt. He could catch fish and net the ones I caught. I knew where I was going to start on tournament day, but what I didn't know was half the club's heavy hitters would be in there also. Thanks to a 7th place boat start I decided to start near a place where I had pre-fished.

It was a slow bite but we stuck with it throwing a chartreuse and white spinnerbait. We caught 6 fish not moving more than a hundred yards all day. Ed was a great draw; I hope to draw him again soon.

**Ed Scheide:** I fished with Gary Asmus for the first time



**4th Place**  
**Ed Scheide & Gary Asmus**

and hope not the last. We started our day going to a spot that Gary said was holding fish and boy was he right. Gary suggested the spinner bait for our lure of choice and he was right again, but the bite was tough. Gary caught the first 3 fish and I caught the next 2 for our limit, all on a spinner bait. It was a nice day on the lake with a great fisherman

**Clinton Bell & Doug Cunningham Finish in the Money With 5th Place**

A five fish limit weighing 9.78 lbs was enough to earn **Clinton Bell & Doug Cunningham** the **5th Place** money. Clinton's 3.25 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.

No fishing report was received prior to newsletter print time.

**Askam & Pikul Overcome**

**Mechanical Problems Finishing in 6th Place**

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 9.01 lbs was enough to earn **Jerry Askam & Ron Pikul** the **6th Place** money.

**Jerry Askam:** I had the pleasure of fishing with Ron Pikul who rejoined the club after a couple of years absence to open new businesses in the Prescott area.

We caught our first three fish on crankbaits in mid-lake areas where we had much better luck in pre-fish. Since we couldn't find our pre-fish bite, at 1 o'clock we decided to join the Midweek Bass party already in progress in the back of Sally Mae cove which included about 10 other boats. We had found in pre-fish, as did many others, that the shallow warmer water was holding a lot of active fish. We



**6th Place**  
**Jerry Askam & Ron Pikul**

were able to hook-up 3 more fish on spinnerbaits in Sally Mae. At one point Ron somehow dropped his rod which hit the deck and then went overboard. He was able to save it just as it started to sink. On the next cast he hooked up our big fish, a 3.20 pound largemouth. I guess the rod and reel just needed a little lake water to be effective.

I had a continuous engine warning alarm come on as we were coming in on Tuesday after pre-fishing. I would like to thank John Hawkins, Gary Grimes, and Gary Asmus for taking a look to try and determine the problem at a time they were getting their own boats ready for launch. The willingness to help others is one of the things that makes our club so great.

**Gary Senft & Mike Bloxam Take 7th Place**

A five fish limit weighing 8.88



**5th Place**  
**Clinton Bell & Doug Cunningham**

lbs was enough to earn **Gary Senft & Mike Bloxam** the **7th Place** money.

**Gary Senft:** Congrats to all the winners. With 22 feet of muddy, cold water that just came into Roosevelt I knew this was going to be a very tough tournament. I took a chance and went up the lake to fish the dirty water since I didn't get to pre-fish this past week. Mike and I caught a couple of good fish up there on spinner baits, and then we worked our way back down. We only had 5 bites. Four came in the boat and one fell off at the boat while I was swinging it in. Spinner baits were responsible for 2 of the fish we caught, a Chatter Bait one fish, and one on a watermelon brush hog. Many thanks to the weigh-in team, you guys do a very good job. This is no doubt the best club in Arizona. I also want to thank my team partner Mike Bloxam for fishing hard to the very end.



**7th Place**  
**Gary Senft & Mike Bloxam**

**Mike Bloxam:** First congratulations to Larry White and Norm Haas on their win in a field of 32 boats in tough conditions.

I am a new club member and had the fortunate pleasure to be paired with Gary Senft. Though the conditions were tough Gary and I worked well as a team. Based on our pre-fish we both had an idea on areas to fish and basic baits to throw. We combined that information and concentrated on main lake points and rock banks in the early morning throwing spinner baits and chatter baits looking to pick up an early strike. As the day progressed and the wind picked up we moved to other areas of the lake where calmer waters could be found and eventually settled in the Salome cove (Sally Mae) to complete our day. The fish we caught were on rocky points flipping Spinner baits and Chatter Baits in 3 - 6 feet of water. It was a great day and a real pleasure to have the opportunity to fish with Gary. Special Thanks to Midweek for a great tournament.

**Allen Wacker & Tom Atherton Crank Smallie For 1st Place Big Fish Prize**

**Tom Atherton:** Allen Wacker caught our "Big Fish" which turned out to be a 3.58 pound smallmouth on the first place he stopped the boat early in the morning. He caught it on an orange craw crank bait on his third cast of the morning,

on the south side shoreline. I will quote Allen, "It went all downhill from there".



**Tom Atherton & Allen Wacker**  
**3.58 lb Big Bass of the**  
**Tournament**



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

The Midweek Bass club was founded as an organization for anglers to learn and share bass fishing experiences. Over the years the original goal has been met and the camaraderie among members has produced many lifelong friendships. The original goals of sharing and learning bass fishing remain the corner stone of the club.

As our club has grown so have our payouts to members for placing and winning during tournaments. Recently, we have been receiving a number of tournament entry applicants wanting to fish certain tournaments but not join the club. These people do not want to

join the club and participate in the full meaning of being a club member; they just have their eyes on the payouts and fishing certain lakes they know well and in some cases using our tournament as a pre-fish for another big money event the following weekend. For our Roosevelt tournament there were three different attempts to sign up and fish Roosevelt by nonmembers. Two of them did not want to join the club. The other fisherman said he would join because the entry fee and membership cost was cheaper than what he pays for other tournament entry fees at other clubs and fishing circuits. When he was told he could join but the drawing had already taken place and he would not be able to fish Roosevelt but could fish Havasu in March, he told me he was only interested in fishing Roosevelt and would not be joining the club.

In my mine and Terry's all he wanted to do was try to rip off the pot. This has become a constant problem we deal with almost every month; non-members trying to fish with us. This situation is also aided when we send out a request for Boaters or Co Anglers to help us keep everyone paired and fishing. The board remains committed to not leaving any member "on the shore" and to making sure we have two anglers in each boat. This commitment sometimes leads to pairing changes for each tournament. When you have 60 anglers entered in the tournament unforeseen things happen to a certain percentage of them; boats breakdown, unforeseen medical issues come up, family emergencies, etc, etc. Again, the board does not want a Co Angler to not be able to fish because his boater is sick, or a boater having to fish alone (Solo) because no Co Angler is available. The club and the board have given the Tournament Director the authority to fill pairing vacancies as they occur. For all tournaments in 2015 and 2016 we have left only one angler "on shore" and that was because the boater dropped out at the last minute. Remember, when one guy drops out it can often cause two or three other changes in the line-up.

I have had several comments about the number of emails on changes sent out to show changes. When a change is made we feel it is important to let the anglers affected and all club members know of the change in order to keep

the transparency of who's fishing with whom. Remember you may be the member next tournament we are trying to help so please be patient.

**NEW SUBJECT:** Due to the problems we had last year with the main Lake Havasu Marina in the channel the board has put the marina off limits for the next Havasu tournament. Entering the marina is grounds for potentially being DQ'd so please stay out.

**Photo Scrapbook - Lake Roosevelt - February 15, 2017**



**THE BOYS**



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

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**TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

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Tom Savage

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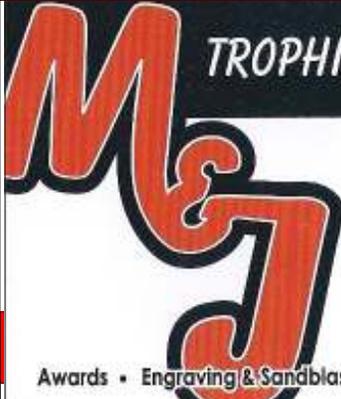
Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>

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

**Victor Cunningham (B)**

**Otto Gal (B)**

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



**John Balzic**  
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Individuals wishing to purchase a club shirt or cap can order directly from our provider - **M & J Trophies & Apparel**, 10802 N. 43rd Ave, Glendale, Arizona. See their ad above.

**Midweek Bass Anglers 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)

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

**Sean Ballard  
Otto Gal  
Joe Kane  
Lew Southard**

