



# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



**FEBRUARY 2018 EDITION**  
**13 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN**

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

### President's Perspective

*By Gary Grimes*



The Arizona desert is well known for its blistering summertime heat, but make no mistake about it; the desert can also get bone-chilling cold as well. This was certainly the case at the Midweek Bass club's latest tournament at Roosevelt Lake. Thirty-one (31) teams braved the pre-dawn freezing temperatures in an attempt to locate five quality bass. Congratulations to Gary Senft & Mark Royal for the biggest bag of bass (13.62 lbs) and the victory. Second place went to Vern Ridgway & Butch Dangelo close behind at 13.53 lbs, which difference is the equivalent of three tablespoons of water.

Boston's Lake House Grill

again hosted a pre-tournament dinner. 35-40 anglers came out for free burgers and wings, ice cold refreshments, and a general good time of hanging out.

The fishing was surprisingly good with almost all teams catching at least a limit of fish. Many teams caught multiple limits during the day. You may have noticed that we paid 8 places for 31 teams, which is an increase to more of a one-in-four payout. Congrats to all the winners, great job.

The weather should warm up next month, as Midweek travels to Havasu for one of the club's favorite tournaments of the year. Havasu is one of the state's premier fisheries, home to both largemouth and smallmouth bass. The five pound pot was not won at Roosevelt, so again it rolls over and should be well over \$1400. I hope to see you there.

to get better for fishing. Even though the weather was bad for a couple of days of pre-fishing it did allow we early arrivers to have some quality time together waiting for the tournament day.

Here are the fishing and catching reports from the money winners.

### Team Gary Senft & Mark Royal Found Gold in the Salt

Taking home **1st Place**, Team Gary Senft & Mark Royal brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 13.62 lbs.

**Gary Senft:** I just want to say thanks to all the guys who sent me congrats. Mark and I

Continued on page 2

### Monthly Breakfast Meeting

Deer Valley Airport  
Restaurant

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



**Tournament Report  
Lake Roosevelt**  
February 21, 2018  
*By Terry Tassin*

Good food, good friends, and good times - and oh did I mention good food while sitting in camp waiting for the weather

Happy St. Patrick's Day



**"We Practice Catch and Release"**



**1st Place Overall**  
**Mark Royal & Gary Senft**

prefished on Tuesday together and we only caught small fish. I decided to fish the Salt River end of the lake because we didn't do well on the Tonto end. We started on a spot I had done very well on in the past, and then moved to some other spots. I fished a good tournament and didn't lose any

good fish. We fished a lot of different baits. Drop shot, Texas rigged brush hogs, chigger craws, jigs with hula grubs 301 color and Spinner baits. We fished very slow because the fish didn't want to chase anything for us. The front that came through changed every thing. It was nice to fish with Mark again. A special thanks to the weight-in team for doing a good job.

**Mark Royal:** Once again I got to fish with Gary Senft, always a pleasure and a great learning experience. We stayed on the Salt River end of the lake and bounced back and forth from the south to north side. We fished the stick-ups and rocky banks with Texas rigged craw imitations, brush hogs and drop-shotting a Kut Tail worm. The Texas rig setup caught the biggest fish. Gary has drawn me twice already this year. So, Gary, looks like you are on your own for the rest of the year.



**2nd Place**  
**Butch Dangelo & Vern Ridgway**

was game time.

I found fish in both clear and stained water, but opted to go east with the stained water because the water temp was a couple of "clicks" warmer. We pulled up on a spot near the starting point between Grapevine and Schoolhouse and started cranking fish right away. We stayed in the same

### **Next Meeting** **Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 7 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 **20-21 March 2018**. Club launch headquarters, tournament hours, and weigh-in location will be announced.

### **Vern Ridgway & Butch Dangelo Harvest Grapevine for 2nd Overall**

In **Second Place** the team of **Vern Ridgway & Butch Dangelo** weighed five bass for a total weight of 13.53 lbs. Thanks to Vern's 4.41 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors.

**Vern Ridgway:** I had the pleasure of drawing Butch Dangelo for our Roosevelt tourney. We went out as Boat 20; finally after two days of brutal pre-fishing conditions, it



### **The Rules** *By Gary Grimes*

One of the popular techniques at Lake Havasu will be sight fishing. This means that you can see fish you are attempting to catch, usually because the fish is locked on a bed. A couple of rules to remind you of:

1. All "sight" fish must be hooked inside the mouth. If you can see the fish it is to be considered a "sight" fish.
2. The use of viewing tubes during tournament hours is prohibited.

general area most of the day. Butch lost a good jig fish right from the start that would have made us healthy, but he soon donated to the live well a solid 2 pounder on a "Ned Rig"....yes, the "turd bait", but it's a real fish catching bait. Butch caught about three to my one fish on it. I guess I need to go down to the bait store again.

One of our two largest bass came on a Senko (green pumpkin/purple) the largest bass ate a "Bartlett jig", green pumpkin, laced with a "Yum Dad" for a trailer in about 5 feet of water. We also caught fish on jerk baits and creature baits.

Butch was a great team partner and helped out our cause a bunch.

**Butch Dangelo:** I have to thank Vern again for a great day. I didn't have a chance to prefish with Vern but he obviously had a good spot picked out. My first cast was a jig fish that did not make it into the boat. I used a fat baby craw on a jig head. From then on we caught fish all day. Vern said we needed a big fish and he landed the two biggest ones in our livewell.

**Fred Krumsiek & Phil Brewer Drop Shot Grapevine Area and Pull in 3rd Place Finish**



**3rd Place  
Phil Brewer & Fred Krumsiek**

Team **Fred Krumsiek & Phil Brewer** weighed five bass for 12.33 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors. Phil's 3.71 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors for the team.

**Phil Brewer and Fred Krumsiek:** Let me start by saying we drop shotted all day. We started across from Windy Hill on a spot Fred found while pre-fishing. We caught several keepers then moved to the Grapevine area where Fred caught the 3.71 pound 2<sup>nd</sup>

Place Big Bass and we had a limit by 9:00 AM. We then moved to the Vineyard Cove area, where we caught several more keepers and I broke off a fish that I was never able to turn toward the boat. We later returned to our start water and culled several times. We caught 20-25 fish during the day using Oxblood/Red Flake worms and Berkley power worms in 20 to 30 feet.

**Team Ray Riley & Ron Pikul Fish "Ron's Marker Buoy" to 4th Overall Finish**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Ray Riley & Ron Pikul** weighed five fish for a total weight of 11.82 lbs.

**Ray Riley:** Congratulations to Gary Senft and Mark Royal for a great win. Also congratulations to all the winners and big fish guys. I was lucky enough to get drawn with Ron Pikul as my co-angler. We started out on the south east end of the lake first and started fishing a random hazard marker that soon became – "Ron's marker". After



**Membership**  
As of February 23, 2018 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 90 dues paid active members.

only a few casts and four nice fish in the boat, the bite died. We came back to "Ron's marker" after letting it reload and picked up another nice fish. This bite soon died again so we went to spot #2 and picked up an over 3 pound kicker fish and we were able to cull 2 other early fish. Dark jigs and drop shots were the lures we used. Cold, windy, but fun and Ron can handle the trolling motor as well as I can, maybe better, no for sure better.

If anyone found a Bass Pro rain jacket floating around Windy Hill area let me know; mine blew out of the boat Tuesday while pre-fishing and coming back to the dock. Thanks to Richie Rojas for taking me out to look for it Tuesday, but to no avail. Thanks again Richie. Camping at the Windy Hill, Coyote camp grounds was great with good guys, fish stores and a big camp fire.

**Ron Pikul:** Hats Off to all winning teams! 13 plus pounds in February is a great accomplishment. Again pre-fishing was key to our small



**4th Place  
Ron Pikul & Ray Riley**

success. Boater Ray Riley and I found a mixed bag of patterns that put fish in the boat early.

One spot in particular, a point east of Windy Hill, put 4 bass in the boat in the first hour or two of fishing with some missed bites after that on a Jig.

We moved toward Windy Hill's north side where we upgraded a few fish on drop shots. Ray caught our big fish there. We caught fish through out the day on these patterns making the cold weather more tolerable. I had a great time as always and Ray is an easy going guy and partner and I greatly enjoyed the day on the water with him.

### **Tony Medina & Warren Brackey Eat Cookies to 5th Place Finish**

A five fish limit weighing 11.58 lbs was enough to earn **Tony Medina & Warren Brackey** the **5th Place** money.

**Tony Medina:** We began our pre-fishing the day before the tournament at Indian Point and moved all the way up to School House catching fish at different spots along the way, we even got to see a beaver.

On tournament day we were having a hard time deciding where we would start fishing. We were Boat 7 going out and when I saw most of the boats ahead of us going up into the salt we joined the group.

It turned into a good move. We found a good spot to start. I caught our 3.53 pounder on one of my first casts with my jig and we ended up with about 8 fish in that area then we moved around and found another eight or nine more that culled out our smaller ones.

I had a good time fishing with Warren. He was a good partner and we enjoyed fishing together. I'm looking forward to fishing with him again.

Congratulations to Gary Senft and Mark Royal for the 1st place win. Also, another great job was done by the weight-in crew.

**Warren Brackey:** Congrats to Gary Senft and Mark Royal and to all who placed in this event. Also, many thanks to our weigh-in team for all you do, another job well done!

It was a challenging tournament, and the cold front made it even more challenging for everyone. It was my good fortune to be paired with Tony Medina. It was our first time

### **Tournament Statistics**

Sixty-one men fished 8 hours each, bringing 149 bass to the scales for a total weight of 283.15 pounds with a 4.64 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.90 lbs. All fish but one were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



**5th Place**  
**Tony Medina & Warren Brackey**

fishing together, but I knew from his past performances catching the Lunker of the Year, that he was a great jig fisherman and a very experienced tournament angler. I was pleasantly surprised to learn one of Tony's secret weapons first hand – his wife Lena's chocolate chip cookies. Wow, they alone were worth the price of admission and were off-the-chart delicious.

Tony's second secret weapon was Preparation. We talked several times about strategy starting in the parking lot after the monthly meeting. Tony pre-fished the Salt River end of the lake the Friday before the event while I was down with the flu so couldn't make the trip. We were able to pre-fish together on Tuesday, concentrating on the Tonto Basin end of the lake. This was only my second time fishing Roosevelt Lake, so spending a few hours pre-fishing the day before really helped my confidence level. We

only caught about eight fish all day, including Tony's 3 pounder, but we learned they were feeding and interested in what we were offering. We went into a narrow cut and Tony pointed out a couple of fish swimming together near the surface. The water was more stained in the Tonto end, so it was hard to tell if they were bass. I threw a jig out in front of where they seemed to be headed, bounced it a few times and BOOM, one was on it! I think Tony knew we were going to fish the tournament at the other end of the lake, so setting a few hooks on Tuesday was OK.

Tony applied his third secret weapon on tournament day – Time Management. Translation, keep moving until you find fish. At the start, the first five boats ahead bee lined it for the Salt River end. We followed, making a quick stop before the right turn around Windy Hill. Our first fish (a dink) came there, hitting my crank bait. After a few minutes we moved around to the right, and drop-shotted several of Tony's favorite spots along the North side of Windy Hill without much luck. We then headed further into the Salt River end, opposite Grapevine. Our biggest fish, a 3.5 pounder came around 8 AM. Tony cast his jig into some stick-ups in about two feet of water, his report came shortly there after – Fish on! Fish on! We caught our best fish working this pattern in 2 to 5 feet of water and we had a limit by around 9:30 and were then able to cull two fish by

about 10:30. We spent the rest of the day moving a lot, fishing jigs, drop shots, Carolina rigs, et al. We even headed to the dam for a bit looking for a better fish, and then headed back across from Windy Hill to finish our day. We caught several more fish, just didn't find anything bigger than what we already had in the live well.

It was a fun tournament and I learned lots fishing with Tony. He's a great guy to fish with and a serious competitor. Like us all, Tony loves to chase bass. He enjoys the sport and truly appreciates the lakes we are so privileged to fish. There was never a dull moment out there. It would be a pleasure to be paired with Tony again anytime, not to mention sampling those amazing chocolate chip cookies again!

### **Grapevine Area Provides Shoemaker & Evans 6th Place Finish**

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 11.40 lbs was enough to earn **Brad Shoemaker & Rob Evans** the **6th Place** money.

**Brad Shoemaker and Rob Evans:** Congratulations to the winners, Gary Senft & Mark Royal, as well as all the other teams who placed. I was fortunate to be paired up as a co-angler with Brad Shoemaker. We pre-fished the Sunday before the tournament and it was pretty slow for us, catching only one fish. Brad was able to go back to the lake and fish on Tuesday and he got a better feel for what we should



**6th Place  
Brad Shoemaker & Rob Evans**

try to do on tournament day. We fished the Grapevine area in the Salt end all day. We caught fish on crank baits, chatter baits, Senkos and jigs. Our fish were all caught between 5-20 feet deep. We had a limit by around 9:00 AM and we were able to cull and upgrade throughout the day. Brad is a really cool, down to earth, guy and we had a great time fishing. Thanks to the weigh-in team and all the guys who worked to make this a great tournament.

**Team Joe Bonucci & Rick Brown Scratch Mud Finish in 7th Place**

A five fish limit weighing 11.25 lbs was enough to earn **Joe Bonucci & Rick Brown** the **5th Place** money.

**Rick Brown:** I had the privilege of fishing with one of our new members Joe Bonucci. It was nice to talk with Joe and find out that he is an

experienced bass fisherman. Joe had a plan and pretty much put us right on the fish. We started throwing cranks and then mixed in Jigs and Carolina Rigs. It wasn't long before we had a limit and started culling. We had our 11 lbs by 11:30 AM, but just couldn't manage to catch that elusive kicker fish after that.



**7th Place  
Rick Brown & Joe Bonucci**

Fish were caught on cranks, jigs and Carolina rigs. Congrats to Gary Senft and Mark Royal for the well deserved win for a couple of great guys. Congrats to Vern and Butch for a great bag as well and 1<sup>st</sup> Place Big Fish, and thanks for keeping it under 5 lbs so that I can win it at Havasu.

**Team Jeff Mason & Lou Hirlemann Drop Shot and Jig for 8th Place Finish**

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 11.06 lbs was enough to earn **Jeff Mason & Lou Hirlemann** the **8th Place** money.

**Jeff Mason:** I had a great time fishing with Lou Hirlemann. Lou caught our first three fish, all of which we ended up culling later in the day. We bounced around to several spots in the Salt end of the lake and I finally caught my first fish on a jig a little after 11 AM. We moved a short distance down the lake towards Windy Hill and culled three times. Around 1:00 PM we moved back to the point where we had caught our fish earlier and Lou caught our biggest fish a 2.84 lb bass on a jig. We ended up culling two more fish using drop shots. Let me just say I had a fun day!



**8th Place  
Lou Hirlemann & Jeff Mason**

**CAUTION**  
FISHING AND HUNTING  
STORIES IN PROGRESS  
PROTECTIVE BOOTS  
MAY BE REQUIRED



## Weighing-In

By Gary Martlage  
Tmx Director

Another tournament in the books. Despite the 26 degree launch temperature, the weather cooperated Wednesday for a fun and productive day at Roosevelt. Congrats to our "Top Guns", Gary Senft & Mark Royal. I believe Gary finally scored his first 1<sup>st</sup> Place win with Midweek Bass Anglers; retirement must be good.

A couple of side notes for the tournament. We had a small issue at the ramp launching in the morning. It seems that there was an issue in getting a boat launched, which held up others in line. Guys, I do not want to (and you don't either) move the pre-launch safety meetings earlier in order to get everyone launched on time, and in a safe manner. We should have plenty of time to get 35 boats launched and on their way by safe light.

I would suggest the Boater position his own equipment for launch, as he knows best how to operate his own truck and boat. Please boat owners, you should be ready to launch when you are in the launch line and you should back your own equipment down to the waters edge for your co-Angler to back in the rest of the way when you are ready. Get out of your vehicle, enter your boat, then your co-angler can back you 12 feet into the water. I've been backing boats in to the water a long time, but when I

jump into a strange vehicle, with it being dark outside, even I can have an issue backing down a boat and making sure I know how to turn on and off the truck's headlights. The quickest and safest way to get launched on time is for the boat owner taking care of his own equipment by backing down his own boat. Don't forget to wear a life jacket while the big engine is running.

Another note of importance, the co-angler MUST pay his boater the designated co-angler share of operating expenses at the pre-tournament meeting, if he wants to fish the tournament. There have been problems in the past, when the Board of Directors had to entertain comments from the masses concerning payments to fish tournaments. We are not bill collectors. We want to run a smooth and quality tournament for all members. The club has set cost sharing amounts for fishing different lakes, and as a co-angler, you are responsible to PAY the boater to fish. It costs a lot of money to pull rigs to these lakes, pre-fish, and tournament gas and oil - don't embarrass yourself by not paying your fair share.

Lastly, we will be looking into the coming tournaments (Alamo, Apache) as far as fishability of the lakes. As soon as we receive any information regarding these two lakes, we will pass it along. Again, we want to put on a quality tournament for our members, and make memories doing so. Let's make 2018 a great year of fishing. Hope to see all of you at HAVASU!



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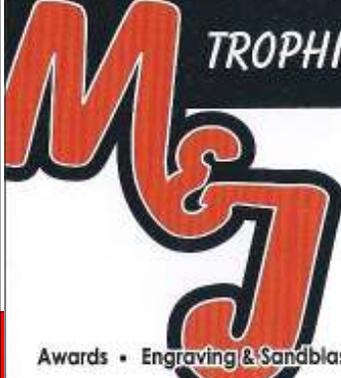
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**Welcome to New  
Midweek Bass Anglers  
Since the Last Newsletter**

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**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 March**

Sean Ballard  
Otto Gal  
Lew Southard  
Luke Spreitzer

