

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



**JANUARY 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 recently celebrated the club and member achievements of 2016 at the Elks Lodge for our annual banquet, with over 90 members and guests joining us for the occasion. It was a time for both socializing and celebration, and to stop and recognize those who help make our club run as smoothly as it does. The Elks Lodge hosted the event and provided a wonderful dinner of prime rib and chicken, as well as a steady stream of spirits that undoubtedly aided in setting the friendly tone for the evening.

The following Wednesday, January 18, we held our first tournament of 2017 at Bartlett

Lake, with a club record 38 boats in attendance. The date also coincided with Gary Senft's birthday and I can't think of a better way to celebrate than fishing. As usual for Bartlett, success on the water was hit or miss, but at least we had an absolutely beautiful day to work with. The top three weights were very close: 10.45 lbs, 10.37 lbs, and 10.32 lbs. Congratulations to the team of Grimes & Cunningham on a nice victory to start the year.

As usual, the weigh-in team of Martlage, Hand, Milkint, Savage and Tassin did a great job of recording the weight of each team's tournament limit. You guys do such a great job, thank you. Hot dogs were served at the end of the event, which allowed the group a quick recharge before the journey home through rush hour traffic. Next month the tournament is to be held at Roosevelt Lake on February 15, and I hope to see another large turnout.

The first tournament of the year is history now. Lake Bartlett proved to be a tough nut to crack for some of our members but proved to be a small bass bonanza for others. The weather was great and the day provided a lull between storm fronts. Water temperatures were fairly stable with 53 degree water in the main lake at the start of the tournament and 54 degree water near the Yellow Cliffs area. I believe it is safe to say that we offered just about all the lures you can think of to the finicky fish.

As I mentioned earlier, some people managed to find fish so lets read their catching reports.

### Team Gary Grimes & Deb Cunningham Start Season With Big Win at Bartlett



### 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  
January 18, 2017  
By Terry Tassin**

**"We Practice Catch and Release"**



**1st Place Overall & 1st PI BF  
Deb Cunningham & Gary Grimes**

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Gary Grimes & Deb Cunningham** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 10.45 lbs. Thanks to Gary's 3.28 lb bass the team also won **1st Place**

### Next Meeting Next Tournament

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

### Big Fish honors.

**Gary Grimes:** As is the case with most other anglers, catching a quality limit at Bartlett Lake is a challenge, but we found the right bites this time. I think it was more of a case of right place and right time than anything else. I was paired with Deb Cunningham, who is an awesome fisherman and a super co-angler. We caught most of our fish on the bottom using either jigs or a Carolina rig, in water that was about 20-25 feet deep. The exception to the jigs came in mid-morning, when I decided to throw a crankbait on a rock-pile while there was a slight breeze on the water; our big fish, 3.28 lbs, hit my lure in about 5 feet of water.

**Deb Cunningham:** Gary and I had a great day on the water. Fishing was tough, but we had good timing for the spots we hit. We caught fish on Jigs, Dropshot, Crankbaits and Carolina rig. We found fish in 25 to 30 feet of water. Dave Baca taught me how to throw a jig years ago and it still works today. Big thanks to Gary Grimes he's a great fisherman and guide.

### Richie Rojas & Todd Gentner Finish 2nd Overall

In **Second Place** the team of **Richie Rojas & Todd Gentner** weighed five bass for a total weight of 10.37 lbs. Todd Gentner's 2.65 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.

**T o d d   G e n t n e r :** Congratulations to Gary and Deb for the win and big fish



**2nd Place  
Todd Gentner & Richie Rojas**

prize. Not much to really elaborate on, we basically caught all our fish on the flats using Jigs. We had caught our first three bass before full sunrise. Our big fish came on a purple tube jig. Only boated 7 bass, so it's not like we killed them out there. Really enjoyed fishing with Richie and I was greatly impressed by his knowledge of the lake.



### The Rules By Gary Grimes

Guys, I cannot stress enough the need for each member to be familiar with the club's basic operating documents; i.e., the bylaws, tournament rules, tournament entry form, and tournament fact sheet. With the effort that Terry Tassin spends sending out information to everyone, we are all without excuse regarding the rules of operation of the club. If you have a question on interpretation, please contact me or any of the other board members for clarification.



**3rd Place**  
*Paul Ojala & Jeff Mason*

first three fish came on crank baits, the biggest fish of the day for us (2.49) was our second fish put into the livewell and that fish hit a DT14 crank bait. Fish four and five came on spinnerbaits with Paul catching our limit fish. We managed to cull with a two plus that hit a spinnerbait and a two pounder that swallowed a smoke sparkle jig at about 2:45 AM. Hope I get a chance to fish with Paul again.

**Team Tom Alauria & John Schramer Ride Carolina and Flick Shake Rigs to 4th Overall Finish**



**4th Place**  
*John Schramer & Tom Alauria*

**Mason & Ojala Crank In 3rd Place Finish**

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

**Jeff Mason:** Congratulations to Deb and Gary on their win under tough conditions. I enjoyed fishing with Paul Ojala and we worked well together to weigh in a good bag of fish for Bartlett. With the record number of boats on Bartlett we knew the lake would fish small. We did not fish past the Marina at one end and the Yellow Cliffs at the other end. We bounced around the middle part of the lake to about six or seven spots where the water was clearer and where I had caught fish pre-fishing. Our



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

**Membership**

As of January 20, 2017 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 99 active members.

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Tom Alauria & John Schramer** weighed five fish for a total weight of 9.67 lbs.

**Tom Alauria:** I want to congratulate the club on putting on another great tournament. Thirty-eight boats and there didn't appear to be any problems at all. I also want to congratulate Gary Grimes and Deb Cunningham for their 1<sup>st</sup> Place finish.

I had the opportunity and pleasure to fish with a new club member by the name of John Schramer. John is a boater and he knows Bartlett Lake very well. We were able to fish on Monday and found that everything from the Yellow Cliffs into the river looked like chocolate milk. We found some clear water and concentrated on points and underwater structure. John threw a Flick Shake, which he is very proficient at, and I threw a Carolina rig. We found our fish in 12 to 18 feet of water and were able to catch several limits.

### **Boehm & Adamson Finish in the Money For 5th Place**

A five fish limit weighing 9.24 lbs was enough to earn **Ricky Boehm & Mike Adamson** the **5th Place** money.

**Mike Adamson & Ricky Boehm:** It's good to have Ricky Boehm back in Midweek and we had a great day fishing. After throwing everything we could think of for the first 90

minutes we decided to fish the Sisters Islands. Sitting in 30-35 feet depth of water for the next six hours we threw jigs towards the bank and brought them back slowly, almost to the point of falling-asleep-slow. Within an hour we had our limit and then culled up the rest of day.



**5th Place  
Mike Adamson & Ricky Boehm**

What a great day of fishing considering the last few trips out has been much less productive. Thanks Midweek for another great tournament.

### **Bell & DeBacco Celebrate The First Tournament Of 2017 Finishing in 6th Place**

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 8.88 lbs was enough to earn **Clinton Bell & Tom DeBacco** the **6th Place** money.

While no 'catching' article was provided by the team here is



**6th Place  
Clinton Bell & Tom DeBacco**

their weigh-in photo.

### **Bosket & Brakefield Finish in 7th Place**

A five fish limit weighing 8.85 lbs was enough to earn **Randy Bosket & David Brakefield** the **5th Place** money.

**Randy Bosket:** I fished with Dave Brakefield and had fun fishing with him! We started the morning at Yellow Cliffs and on the first cast Dave had a nice one on but unfortunately it came unbuttoned at the boat! Right after that I brought in a small one on a drop shot (the usual one Morning Dawn) and then we didn't catch another fish until 11:00 AM.

We fished mostly mid-lake but we did run up river for a look and we thought the water looked too muddy so we turned around and headed back toward the main lake where we caught a few more.



**7th Place**  
**Randy Bosket & David Brakefield**

We were in the second flight of boats and had until 3:15 before we had to check-in so we hit a spot on the main lake area for the last 30 minutes. We were just discussing the times that we caught a fish in the last few minutes of previous tournaments when, at 2:58 PM, Dave caught our 5th fish!

We mostly used jigs and drop shot rigs but I did catch one on a slow-rolling spinnerbait. I had a good time and look forward to fishing with Dave again.

**Team David Baca & Tom Atherton Limit Early For 8th Overall Finish**

**David Baca:** First I want to congratulate Gary Grimes and Deb Cunningham for an awesome job with their win. That 3 plus pound bass is a monster of a trophy for Bartlett. It is the largest bass weighed at a tournament so far this year at Bartlett where almost 50 boats

fished last week and could not get one over 3 pounds.

I had a great day on the lake fishing with Tom Atherton, mostly in the middle lake toward the river. We only caught about 8 or 9 fish but the weather was great and Tom is a great guy to fish with. During pre-fish we found some fish in a few areas that were holding some decent Bartlett bass and discovered that our best bite would be on small brown or cinnamon colored double tail jigs, worked very slowly in 12 to 20 feet of water. One problem we had was we ran out of the small jigs and during the tournament we had to cut about an inch off the middle of the bigger ones and super glue them back together. This worked well and we wound up catching all of our fish on them except for 1 drop shot fish.

The bite started fairly well and we had a limit by about 8:30. By 11:00 AM our bite was over



**8th Place**  
**Tom Atherton & David Baca**

but it was replaced with some great warm weather which quickly thawed us out from the cold.



**Money Matters**  
*By John Reichard*  
**Treasurer**

Greetings from your treasurer: I hope you all had a great time on the water yesterday.

The 5 lb pot rolls over to next month since no one caught a 5 lb bass at the Bartlett tournament.

I would like to encourage all members to make a donation to AZ Game & Fish each month for their bass stocking program. There is a line item on your tournament entry form making it easy to do.



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

**TOURNAMENT RULES:** After four years of the same rules by the Forest Service on all lakes for tournament fishing, it has come to an end. For some unexplained reason we now have different rules in every Forest Service district. Some of the rules make absolutely no sense and are so vague they cannot be clearly defined. An example is no fishing within the perimeter of a marina. It sounds simple enough until you go to a lake and realize marina perimeters are not clearly marked or defined. The results are law enforcement can

determine what the boundaries are without them being posted.

Midweek Bass Anglers has met with each district and will continue to meet with them for clarification or restatement of the old national rules. In the mean time we will provide detailed rules for each lake that we fish.

**CRUISE:** As I announced at the banquet the club is planning its second annual cruise and we would like to form a committee, mostly of spouses, to determine which cruise we take. Sandy, my other half, and Laurie Grimes are already on the committee and would like to have others join them in selecting which cruise we will take. We have the same travel agent we had last year and she did an outstanding job for us. The cruise last year for 8 days was \$1100, each passenger was given a \$300 ships credit, and we had no gratuities at the end of the cruise. If you are interested please call either Sandy or Laurie at their home phone numbers as shown on the club roster.

**HIGHWAY 188:** Highway 188 Tackle Store in Tonto Basin continues to offer to club members a discount on all tackle including rods and reels. Stop in and take advantage of the price reductions for Midweek Bass members when we fish Roosevelt next month.

Finally, the Roosevelt tournament will be launched from Windy Hill due to dock and water considerations at Cholla.

## Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett January 18, 2017





**Photo Scrapbook - Bartlett Lake - January 18, 2017**

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

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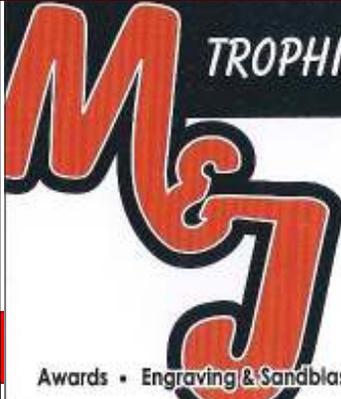
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - John Reichard

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

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

- Kenny Cartledge (CO)**
- Butch Dangelo (CO)**
- Mike Grisham (CO)**
- Mike Halleck (CO)**
- Steve Mawson (CO)**
- Brett Perow (CO)**
- John Schramer (CO/B)**
- Brendan Southwind (CO)**
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**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 February**

- Mike Bloxam**
- Rick Brown**
- Neil Burns**
- Jeff Meyer**
- Steve Simer**
- Jeffrey Stone**

