

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



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

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

### President's Perspective

*By Gary Grimes*



For those who were able, thanks for attending the recent awards banquet.

This was undoubtedly one of the best yet. The food was great, the room was spacious, and the company quite cordial. Clinton Bell received his well deserved award for Angler of the Year, congratulations Mr. Bell. Thus marks the end of one year, and now begins the start of another. I remember as a kid in grade school, back when you were required to write the date on every piece of homework, thinking about how far away the year 2000 was, and how really old I would be in 2000. Well, we are now 18 years into the new century, crazy!

A new tournament director

was appointed to start the 2018 season - Gary Martlage. Gary has been serving the club for the past three years as the scale master at our tournaments, so this was an easy transition for him. The rest of the board remains unchanged. Gary Grimes - Pres, Tom Savage - VP, Terry Tassin - Secretary, and John Reichard - Treasurer.

It was great to see 33 boats in attendance for the first tournament of the year. What was quite surprising to me, though, was that we had 5 teams record weights over 10 lbs, which is quite an anomaly for Bartlett. Amos Davis caught and presented the big fish of the tournament at 4.03 pounds; congrats Amos.

I have been looking forward to our spring schedule since we created it last August; February at Roosevelt, March at Havasu, April at Alamo, and May at Apache. Several of us will be camping at these lakes in the days prior to the tournament. If you haven't joined us for camping, it is almost as much fun as the fishing. Consider this an invitation to join us. We will likely have a barbecue at both Alamo and Apache, not yet

sure about Roosevelt. Boston's again possibly?

As we begin the year, please familiarize yourself with the tournament rules as to avoid any awkward moments. Boaters, please take advantage of the nice weather to make sure your boat is compliant with local laws and is serviceable for the waters. If you haven't yet tried paying your tournament registration on-line, give it a try this year. It really makes it much easier on the board having early registration (but maybe not four months early). Also, remember to contact Gary Martlage with any tournament matters.

I am looking forward to another great year of fishing with you all, see you on the water.

**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”**



**Tournament Report  
Lake Bartlett  
January 17, 2018  
By Terry Tassin**

The first tournament of the year is history now. Lake Bartlett proved to be a fun nut to crack for some of our members and proved to be a small bass bonanza for others. The weather was great. Water temperatures were fairly stable with 54 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 fish.

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

**Next Meeting  
Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 7 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 21 February 2018**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

**Team Vern Ridgway & Rudy Gonzales Start Season With Big Win at Bartlett**

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Vern Ridgway & Rudy Gonzales** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 11.91 lbs.

**Vern Ridgway:** I had the pleasure of drawing Rudy Gonzales for the derby. We went to the lake Tuesday and did some poking around to get an idea of what the game plan would be; it wasn't long and we had a fair idea where and what we'd do on tournament day.

As Boat 11 we knew we'd still have some good water up river, so off we went. But it was not like practice. Even though we only stuck one fish on practice day, it was tough going with Rudy sticking the first 3 fish on a Senko, not large but keepers.

We caught 2 more bass, one on a jig, and one on a plastic craw to get our limit. I then told Rudy lets go fishing for "big fish", but he politely told me he'd been fishing for "big fish" all morning (Rudy has a great sense of humor).

We left the river mid morning sometime, and went to the Yellow Cliffs where we spent the rest of the day. I lost my favorite craw bait, Rudy put a Texas rig plastic craw on and we culled up 3 times which helped our cause big time. I was concerned about our fish because they DID NOT like live well life at all; we headed in to



**1st Place Overall  
Vern Ridgway & Rudy Gonzales**

the scales early and weighed them and they all swam away. A great day with a great partner.

**Rudy Gonzales:** Vern wrote up our main combined report and I just have a few things to add. First off, I'd like to thank



**The Rules  
By Gary Grimes**

I am not sure how many of you are aware of this, but Midweek has no encroachment rule. The lack of a rule is not meant to encourage encroachment, but rather that we count on our anglers to show each other common courtesy and allow them to fish their water. Some of our lakes fish smaller (Saguaro), some fish bigger (Havasu), some fish micro-small (like Apache Lake during a golden algae bloom where all the catchable fish are in the river). Lakes that fish small are more likely to force guys to fish closer, so get used to it.

Vern Ridgway for a great time out fishing and teaching me a few new tricks to catch bass. Also I want to thank the Midweek crew for putting in all the hard work so we can just show up and fish. Vern wrote up such a good article, I can't add much aside for my thanks! So, thanks everyone, and see you all at Roosevelt next month!

### Neil Burns & Tom Atherton 2nd Overall

In **Second Place** the team of **Neil Burns & Tom Atherton** weighed five bass for a total weight of 11.10 lbs.

**Tom Atherton:** Congratulations to the winners! I had a great day fishing with Neil. He was unable to pre-fish for this event, but he had some spots located he wanted to check out. We fished 3 or 4 spots as we worked our way towards the river without a bite while throwing jigs and spinner baits. By then the sun was out and Neil found a jig bite where he caught 4 bass in about 10 minutes on a rocky beach in about 15 feet of water. We moved to several other rocky beaches, catching, and culling about a dozen more fish. All of our fish but one were caught on jigs, and one on the drop shot in 8- 25 feet of water.

### Hilland & Pikul Crank In 3rd Place Finish

#### Membership

As of January 19, 2018 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 84 dues paid active members.



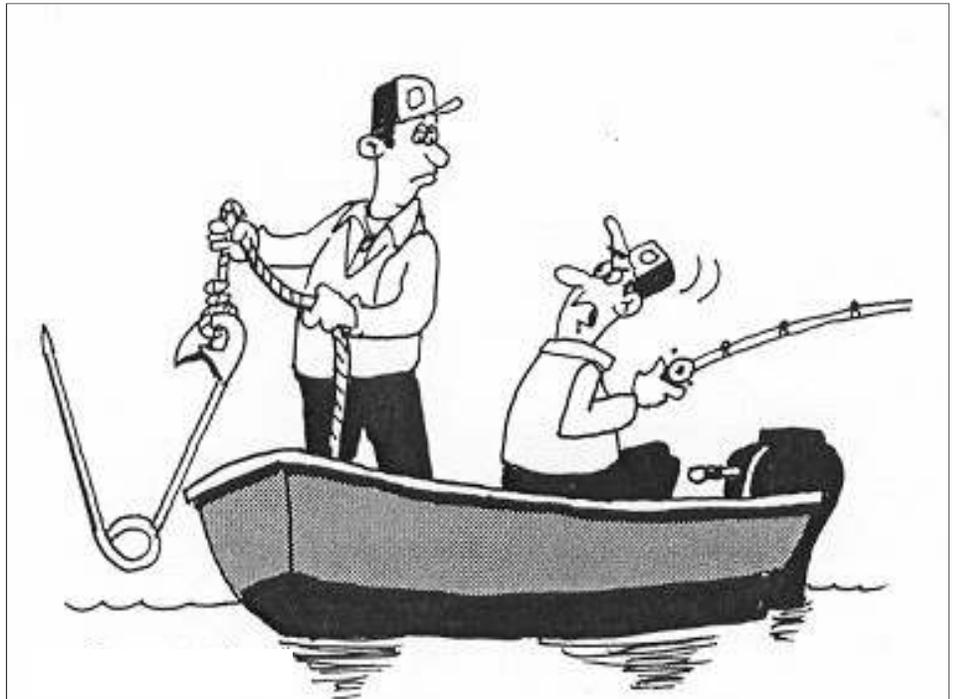
**2nd Place**  
**Neil Burns & Tom Atherton**

Team **John Hilland & Ron Pikul** weighed five bass for 10.83 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**John Hilland:** First, I'd like to

say congrats to Vern and Rudy on their win, and to the club for putting on a great first tournament of 2018. I was paired up with Ron Pikul - what a great guy, and the dude can fish! Seeing that the lake water level has dropped so much we wanted to get a few days of pre-fishing in and come up with a plan on new spots. Ron and I were able to make it out Friday prior to the tournament and really couldn't put anything together other than the typical Bartlett bass that everyone was catching - and maybe a color or two that worked better than others.

Tournament day found us going out Boat #29 and it looked to us that everyone was heading to the main lake and river areas. We decided, with the wind that was blowing, to



"Fred-why don't you break down and buy an anchor?"



**3rd Place  
Ron Pikul & John Hilland**

head across the lake to some points and throw crank baits which Ron had success using in previous years. That was big for us as we were able to put bass in the boat right away giving us a limit before 10 AM. The wind seemed to die down after a bit so we moved to the main lake to the rocky points and picked up a few on drop shot. With a tip from my son and a friend that had fished Monday we moved into the river and threw jigs along with Senkos tipped with a tail spin.

**Tournament Statistics**

Sixty-four men fished 8 hours each, bringing 148 bass to the scales for a total weight of 236.05 pounds with a 3.69 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.59 lbs. All fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

This allowed us to cull a few times and come up with a good bag. It was an awesome day on the lake and I am really looking forward to next month at Roosevelt.

**Ron Pikul:** Congrats and thanks to my Boater John Hilland - a great guy. I believe our success was in part due to pre-fishing as neither of us had been to Bartlett since the lake level was dropped.

We were able to locate areas in the lake that showed concentrations of fish. With that said, even a blind squirrel occasionally finds a nut! A little windy in the morning, but who is going to complain when everyone east of Mississippi is shoveling snow.

We caught our early morning fish by throwing crank baits on the dam side of the lake and had a limit by 9 AM; we then spent the rest of day on the other end in the river jig fishing hoping to cull a few bigger fish.

**Team Richie Rojas & Mike Adamson Ride Carolina Rigs and Jigs to 4th Overall Finish**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Richie Rojas & Mike Adamson** weighed five fish for a total weight of 10.31 lbs. Mike Adamson's 3.70 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.

**Richie Rojas:** First of all, I want to congratulate the winners Vern and Rudy. I also want to thank Larry White for

stopping to help us when my big motor shut down. Fishing wasn't all that great but we managed to catch fish all day. Jigs and drop shot worked for us. Now for you boaters that draw Mike Adamson. He is great to fish with and he takes care of the fish, helps with culling and most of all catches the big fish. Thanks weigh-in team you did a great job again.

**Mike Adamson:** My first time fishing with Richie Rojas and I had a great day of fishing and laughs. We had our limit early so that makes the day a little easier just having to cull. We didn't really find any solid pattern as we got fish on jigs, Carolina rigs and drop shot. The constant was they all were on steeper rock walls. I caught the biggest fish, which came after 2 PM on the south shore line towards the river buoys, using a drop shot and Aaron's Magic Robo Worm. Richie and I picked up a 3.70 pound and 2 pound bass in this one spot.



**4th Place  
Richie Rojas & Mike Adamson**

## Jeff Mason & Rick Harang Finish in the Money For 5th Place

A five fish limit weighing 10.13 lbs was enough to earn **Jeff Mason & Rick Harang** the **5th Place** money.

**Jeff Mason:** Congrats to Vern and Rudy on their 1st Place finish! I was paired up with Midweek Bass first timer Rick Harang. We caught our two biggest fish of the day on a spinnerbait in the first half hour of the tournament which really helped us keep plugging away the rest of the day. We caught those two fish on a flat up towards the river past the 2nd boat ramp. We filled out our limit and upgraded on a drop shot. We caught another nice one later in the day on a spinnerbait. I enjoyed the day fishing with Rick and look forward to being paired up with him again.

**Rick Harang:** Thanks to Jeff



**5th Place**  
**Jeff Mason & Rick Harang**

for a successful day at Bartlett. I learned a couple of things that day which is my objective so, mission accomplished. I am looking forward to meeting more Midweek Bass Anglers as I become more involved in club activities.

## Wacker & Gentner Fish One Point To Finish In 6th Place

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 9.88 lbs was enough to earn **Allen Wacker & Todd Gentner** the **6th Place** money.

**Todd Gentner:** What a tournament! Weather and the fishing were absolutely perfect. Short and sweet; Allen Wacker and my self hit a few main lake points picking up a few dinks first thing in the morning. We then migrated up the river to a couple of additional points, where we ended up pulling all our weight off one particular point. We basically caught all our fish on jigs and chigger craws. We moved around a bit and continued to pick up dinks in all depths and structures. Thanks again to Allen for an enjoyable day on the water.

## Team Schattenberg & Panaitescu Finish in 7th Place

A five fish limit weighing 8.91 lbs was enough to earn **Sam Schattenberg & Rob Panaitescu** the **5th Place** money.

**Sam Schattenberg:** I fished with a terrific partner, Rob Panaitescu. He is one of the

nicest guys I've had the pleasure to meet. Rob is very new to bass fishing and had a rough start to the day, but I was able to teach him views and techniques throughout the day and he was very attentive and learned FAST. He started correcting his techniques and even caught our big fish – a 3.29 pounder – on a Robo Worm in the river on a drop shot.

Rob and I caught about 20 fish but had a lot of 'short bites'. I caught a two pounder on a crank bait Shad rap on main lake rocky points and lost one more fish. All the rest of our fish we caught on drop shots. I noticed Rob was waiting before he set the hook and I told him he might have better luck if he set the hook immediately. He caught on quick and kept up with me all day. All of our fish came next to the river buoys and main lake structure. The colors of worms we used were – Margarita Mutilator, Morning



**7th Place**  
**Rob Panaitescu & Sam Schattenberg**

Dawn, Pink, and Brown & Red Flake. The people who run this club do a fantastic job. I am ready to fish Roosevelt next month!

**Rob Panaitescu:** Sam Schattenberg and I had a blast! Unfortunately, I started off badly. I was dealing with reel and line issues, while Sam landed our first fish within 5 minutes. After several more minutes we decided to move up river where we got on more fish. I pulled out a 3.29 lb bass on a drop shot, using a Robo Worm - Morning Dawn - with a curly tail dipped in chartreuse. Overall, Sam and I had a great time pulling in around 20 fish; unfortunately we only weighed in 8.91 lbs for 7th place. Not bad for my first tournament.

### **Team Amos Davis & Logan Shirk Take 1st Place Big Bass Prize**

**Amos Davis:** First I want to congratulate Vern and Rudy on their win. Great Job guys!

I caught the big bass (4.03 lbs) of the tournament on a Ned Rig in 25 feet of water. Logan Shirk and I were fishing parallel to the buoy line across from the Yellow Cliffs. We had caught only very small fish up to that point. On the first cast I caught a good pound and half bass. The very next cast my Ned Rig hit the bottom and I felt weight, set the hook, and after a few anxious moments my partner netted the big bass of the day. We spent the rest of the day culling small fish. I had a great day fishing with our club's new member Logan.



**Amos Davis & Logan Shirk  
4.03 lb 1st PI Big Bass**



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

Greetings from your Treasurer:

I hope you all had a great day on the water at Bartlett. Since the 5lb Pot was not won it will rollover to next month at Roosevelt. The pot will be worth about \$1300. That should have everyone in the pot licking their chops.

From my Conservation Chairman hat we sent a check to AZGF this month in the amount of \$341.59 for bass stocking.

In 2014 we donated \$1870 for bass stocking, 2015 was \$1072, 2016 was \$581.55, and 2017 was \$1603 for a total of \$5126.55. We also held a December tournament and donated the proceeds for the

cement ball habitat forms. In addition to our individual donations we were awarded \$33,584 by the Friends of Reservoirs foundation. This grant money was all donated to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, to be used to restore habitat in Arizona's desert lakes.

I would like to challenge each of our members to donate monthly during 2018. Let's have a big year!



### **Weighing-In By Gary Martlage Tmx Director**

The 1st tournament of the year is in the books! Congratulations to the money winners, and better luck next time to the teams (like myself) at the bottom of the standings.

Lake Bartlett is a unique fishing event. Because we do not have a minimum size limit on the fish, most of the time a 5 fish sack is close to 100% by the anglers. Because of the close weights, an extra careful procedure is followed during weigh -in. I want to mention why I try to go through certain procedures to give the teams a correct weight to record.

First of all, before I receive the fish to weigh, I will reset the scales to "00", using the mesh bag to weigh the fish in. Since more than one bag is used, the actual weight of bags can differ during the transfer of each weigh period, also, the bags do transfer fish slime as they are

being used. By re-setting the scale each time, a very accurate weight is obtained. Next, I will drain water from the bag, until the water drips to bubbles. Then I will shake the bag 3 TIMES, to eliminate as much water as possible, and then weigh the bag. The scale reads to 0.00 (hundredths) of a pound. I will wait for the scale to settle, and then lock on, for the proper and most accurate reading.

Hopefully, this will insure a consistent reading for all teams. Did you know less than half a teaspoon of water weighs 0.01 lb? This is why your weigh-in team is proficient and accurate in giving the purest weight possible!

Another point I would like to bring your attention to is future tournament starts. We are now providing a strobe light for the start boat. This should give teams a focal point during pre-launch. If you are in the first flight, you can align yourself with the start boat. Please find the numbered boat in front of you, and FOLLOW HIM! Not rocket science! Second flight boaters, get far away from the start boat, as you will have plenty of time to align yourself for take-off once the first flight is gone.

One last point, if you are in the first flight launch your boat, and get on the water! With the coming months of safe light, we want to start on time. I will wait for a boater, and assist a boater, if he has launching problems, but will NOT hold up the rest of the tournament for late launchers. Please launch at your convenience, but launch on time!

I hope we will have a successful and injury free 2018! Lets all do what we do best.....have fun, and catch fish!

## Photo Scrapbook - Bartlett Lake - January 17, 2018



**Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2018 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen**

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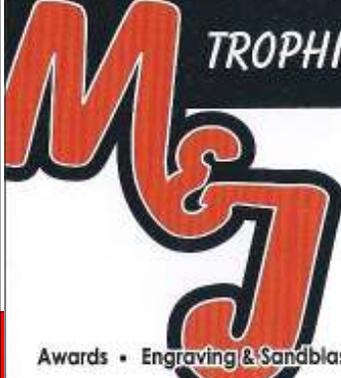
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - John Reichard

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

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

**Phil Brewer (CO)  
Dale Byrum (B)  
Rick Harang (CO)  
Rob Panaitescu (CO)  
Logan Shirk (CO)  
Doyle Wofford (B)  
(CO/B)**

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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 February**

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

