



# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



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

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

### President's Perspective

*By Gary Grimes*



Having lived in Phoenix for most of my life, I have always looked forward to the summer monsoons, especially for the temperate relief they bring from June's sweltering heat. Unfortunately for us fisherman, while not lasting usually more than an hour, our monsoons can turn a normally calm desert lake into a ferocious combination of gale force winds, nonstop rolling waves, and a sky full of lighting. For sure this can turn bass fishing into Arizona's own "Deadliest Catch". Fortunately for Midweek Bass, we did not have one of those nights during our July tournament at Bartlett Lake. In fact, we enjoyed one of the most comfortable and pleasant

nights on the water that I can remember.

The lake is the fullest it has been in a long time, which means only a few short steps from the top of the ramp down to the water's edge. Twenty-seven teams took a gamble on the weather and won. The pre-tournament safety meeting went remarkably quickly, as did the launch, which allowed us to start 30 minutes early. Bartlett always has a good afternoon bite, as proven by the number of teams who easily caught their limits within an hour of start. As always with Bartlett, the problem is never catching numbers, the problem is finding the bigger fish, and our tournament was no exception. The biggest fish caught, 2.88 lbs., was caught by Otto Gal, who was expertly guided by his boater, Rusty Murdock. The big winner of the night was the team of Sean Ballard and Warren Brackey, whose total weight of 10.57 lbs. secured their victory.

tournaments are definitely more challenging for older guys, primarily because our vision and balance is not what it once was. I thought that fishing at night might produce bigger bags of fish, but our average weights were very similar to the weights from last year's June daytime tournament. In addition, we were also fortunate regarding the weather this year, but fishing nights in either July or August is always risky because of the monsoons. I appreciate you guys who showed up for the tournament, but it is questionable at best to be repeated next year.

See everyone next month at the meeting, or again at Bartlett. That is assuming Jack is able to acquire us a permit

## Take A Kid Fishing This Month!



**Monthly Breakfast  
Meeting**  
**Deer Valley Airport  
Restaurant**  
**702 W. Deer Valley Rd  
Phoenix, AZ**  
**1st Wednesday of Each  
Month 8:00 A.M.**

This tournament was our first night tournament in over 5 years, even though we really only fished during a couple of hours of darkness. A few observations from this tournament; nighttime

**"We Practice Catch and Release"**

on such short notice, since Lake Saguario will not be hosting any tournaments until at least September at the earliest.



**Lake Bartlett  
Night Report  
July 19, 2017  
By Terry Tassin**

Fifty-four men fished a total of 6.5 hours each, bringing 134 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 197.79 pounds with a 3.66 pound average total catch per man. The average weight of a bass caught was 1.48 pounds. All fish but ten (five of which were due to a non-functioning livewell) were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

**Team Sean Ballard &  
Warren Brackey Squeak**

**Out 1st Place Win**

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Sean Ballard & Warren Brackey** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 10.57 lbs. Sean's 2.67 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.

**Sean Ballard:** Well another tournament in the books. Thanks to the weigh in crew for getting us through fast, and great job to the other guys that were able to break the 10 pound limit, it is really tough to do that at Bartlett.

I prefished with my partner Warren Brackey on Saturday night and found fish with cranks, TRD Ned Rigs, flick shake, Carolina rigs, and jigs. The bite was wide open and I knew we could get a limit with what ever we used. The week before the tournament I got a phone call from Floyd Vaughan

asking me to fish with him on Monday. We went way up the river and Floyd caught some ok fish on jigs but nothing too exciting until it was almost dark when the crank bait bite turned on and we caught a bunch of fish.

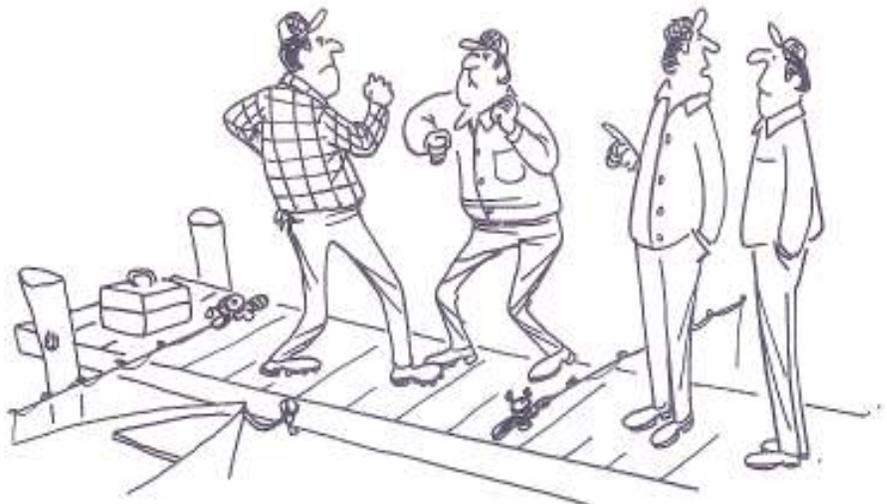
For Wednesday tournament day I had the day off so I got to the lake early and put in at Yellow Cliffs and went looking for the bigger fish and it was very hot temperature wise (not the fishing, only caught a few little ones) but I eliminated a lot of water. I told Warren Brackey we were going to fish the nursery (I call it that because I catch a lot of small fish there) but sometimes momma is hanging out.

We started out throwing crank baits and caught a few small fish that didn't even get put in the live well so I picked up my jig and worked it and I got it

**Next Meeting  
Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 2 August** 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 Bartlett (permit pending)** on **16 August 2017**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.



**“The fellow on the left favors the Smoke Red Metal Flake Auger Tail Jelly Worm, while the fellow on the right objects, feeling that the Electric Grape Squirm Worm Sidewinder is more productive.”**



**1st Place Overall  
Warren Brackey & Sean Ballard**

stuck and when I popped it loose MOMMA hit it for our big fish of the day. We proceeded down the bank and caught another fish over 2 lbs, but the wind picked up and I told Warren we were going to use the wind to our advantage, so we drove the big motor into the wind and now we had the wind pushing us instead of fighting it and we managed to pick up another 2 fish in the 2 lb range - all on jigs. We then moved into the river and culled up our 2 smallest fish - 1.25 and 1.75 pounders - with 2 more fish close to 2 lbs and when I was releasing them I made a comment to Warren that there would be a lot of teams that would kill for these fish we were letting go. All in all it was a fun night of fishing with a great partner, Warren Brackey, and I am looking forward to fishing with him again.

**Warren Brackey:** It was my pleasure fishing with and

getting to know Sean Ballard. Of course, his reputation as one of our club's top anglers is well known. So, getting paired with Sean to fish Bartlett Lake, where a few ounces often makes the difference, was a golden opportunity for me to see how it is done first hand.

Congratulations to all who placed in this event. If there's one thing I've learned in my thirteen months as a club member it's that Bartlett Lake can be a very tough lake to get a bite, especially a good bite. This was my fourth event at Bartlett. In those four tournaments only two of my fish got to the scales. As luck would have it, one of those fish was in our creel last Wednesday night.

In the first 90 minutes, Sean put on a jig fishing clinic. His first hook-up came quickly, a 2.67 pounder and our big fish.

A phrase I would hear Sean repeat often that night immediately following a hook-up was, "GET THE NET!" I was quick enough to get the net on our big fish and maybe a couple others thereafter, but most often Sean had the fish jacked over the gunnel and in the boat before I even touched the net. I like to think of this as part of our winning strategy. I think Sean may have called it something else! I followed Sean's lead and threw a hula grub or a crank bait throughout the night with some smaller offerings mixed in here and there to save on the old rotator cuff. We both caught a lot of fish on the North end, before the No Wake buoys, and had a good limit in the boat by around 6 PM, including my nearly two pounder. Sean culled two more fish before it was all said and done. The last cull, a 1.78 for a 1.74 pounder came on a crank bait around

## **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)

the small island north of the No Wake buoys. It was a very memorable night of fishing on Bartlett Lake.

Sean was fun to fish with, he's a very personable, easy-going guy, and a very confident and accomplished angler. I learned a great deal fishing with him and it would be my good fortune to be paired with him again.

### **Team Allen Wacker & Randy Gray Mix It Up For 2nd Overall**

In **Second Place** the team of **Wacker & Gray** weighed five bass for a total weight of 10.41 lbs.

**Randy Gray:** I was lucky enough to draw Allen Wacker for the Bartlett tournament. Allen is a great guy, really knows the lake, and was dialed in on areas to fish. I was thankful in that regard as I have not been on Bartlett for a while.

Our most constant bite was drop shot and Allen was really on it. I worked my go to stuff - jigs, Texas rigs, and Westy's. Unless there is really a hot bite I like to break it up a bit. This time it worked; it seemed that for a while the fish wanted drop shot and then would only go for jigs and back and forth. The jig bite did pull our better fish. I was throwing a half ounce green and brown Booyah jig with a baby brush hog for a trailer. Allen did comment 'what was I thinking' but you know - it worked. When it got dark I



**2nd Place**  
**Randy Gray & Allen Wacker**

went to 4 inch black and chartreuse power worms and then black Westy worms. Between those and Allen's drop shot we were able to cull-up to our final limit. I would go on about where we were but I will let Allen do that as this was his call and the right ones.

### **Team Jeff Mabry & Jason Stanton Fish Close For 3rd Place Finish**

Team **Jeff Mabry & Jason Stanton** weighed five bass for 10.09 pounds and took home **3rd Place** honors.

**Jeff Mabry:** Jason Stanton and I pre-fished on Sunday night, but got off the water before the storm hit, so we were off by 9:00. During the day we found a pretty good crank bait bite and realized we could also catch them on the bottom. We caught a couple of good ones for Bartlett so I

figured we would probably be okay. I haven't been fishing Bartlett much this summer and all of my spots are 40 plus feet deep, so it is like a new lake for me even with my past summer success.

We started the day with the crank bait and I was able to get two fish, but nothing any good. The crank bite wasn't as good as Sunday, but with the breeze we had, I kept throwing it hoping for a good bite. Jason filled out our limit from the back of the boat throwing mainly dropshot rigs. Our limit was tiny but about a half hour before dark we went to a spot that has been producing for a buddy of mine and I had a good one there on Sunday. Soon after getting there I was able to catch our first 2.25 pound fish on a Shakey Head in around 20 feet of water. It was nearly dark and Jason saw some small fish busting shallow and told me to throw my buzz bait around there. I threw it for a bit with one short strike, but when I went over a community point I tossed it up shallow and it just disappeared with some weight and this was our second 2.25 pound fish. It was now dark so I went back to the area I caught the first good one and caught our third 2.25 pound fish giving us around 9.5 lbs. We only had one more bite the rest of the night and never left the area. Our last fish was 1.75 pounder and got us to just over 10 pounds.

I am pretty sure all the fish we weighed all came on the Shakey Head with a green



**3rd Place**  
**Jason Stanton & Jeff Mabry**

pumpkin Power Hawg and one on a buzz bait. All of the fish weighed came out of one area of the lake close to the launch area. Jason was a fun guy to spend a couple of days on the lake with and has a passion for fishing and fishes hard. Jason was a great guy to get paired up with. He has some interesting ideas and tricks and I gave one a try during a slow period and got 2 bites on my next three casts. It is always nice to learn something from a co-angler!

**Jason Stanton:** First off, I would like to thank my partner Jeff for basically catching all our weighable fish. Secondly, Midweek and the weigh-in team for putting up with those horrible bugs all night. Now for the real reason you are reading this. We caught our fish on the main lake, mostly around 15 to 25 feet deep. We used a variety of tactics that included; Dropshot, Texas Rig craw, and

cranks (all three depths). I even witnessed 3 or 4 bass (including a 2.28 pounder) caught on a buzzbait. I was beginning to get nervous when we still didn't have a limit around 6 PM, but Jeff assured me the bigger fish bite after dark and he was absolutely correct. He caught 3 fish over 2 lbs in an hour around sundown. I had told Jeff, I always thank Jesus and ask for another with every catch. Well when we finally managed a limit, I thanked Jesus and asked for some bigger ones. Of course he gladly obliged. Again thanks to my partner and his extensive knowledge of this lake. I would love to give more details but we are probably going back next month and I could use another check. Unfortunately, I forgot my GoPro camera on the way out the door so I didn't get any footage, maybe next time.

### **One Dead Fish Does Not Hurt Team Nelson & Olivier's 4th Place Finish**

Team **Hobby Nelson & Scott Olivier** weighed five bass for 9.59 pounds and took home **4th Place** honors. Scott's 3.97 Catfish also added \$100 **Goon Fish** prize to their winnings.

**Scott Olivier:** I fished this tournament with Hobby Nelson. Neither of us had prefished so we decided to just figure it out as we went along. We stopped along a bank that Hobby had fished before and fairly quickly put a limit in the boat on drop shot rigs. We



**4th Place**  
**Hobby Nelson & Scott Olivier**

kept on moving and happened upon a hot spot. We quickly culled those first 5 fish for a nice limit using drop shot and shaky head jigs. We didn't weigh them but I figured we were around 10 lbs; a great start for Bartlett.

Around 10 PM I hooked into a nice fish on a shaky head and thought - this is the one that is going to win it. Unfortunately, I had never caught a catfish before and after an excited minute or so we were disappointed to see it wasn't the giant bass we were hoping for. The Catfish ended up getting us an extra \$100 for goon fish though so we'll take it.

We spent the rest of the evening trying to upgrade but weren't able to do so until right before weigh-in when we made a small upgrade. Catching the fish early with the water temps so high the hardest part was just keeping the fish alive and

fresh. I've always wanted to fish with Hobby and I am glad I finally got the chance to do so. Hopefully I draw him again in the future.

### **Team Gary Grimes & Spencer Hand Cull Many Minis For 5th Place**

Team **Gary Grimes & Spencer Hand** weighed five bass for 9.49 pounds and took home **5th Place** honors.

**Gary Grimes:** Spencer Hand and I had pre-fished a couple of times and had caught decent enough fish to help us determine a game plan for the tournament. As is usually the case, our spots did not produce on tournament day, forcing us to make real time adjustments to locate better fish (better than 1 pound that is). Fortunately for us Spencer brought his A-game and provided several quality culls for us in the dark. Thanks to the weigh-in team for a great job.

**Spencer Hand:** Gary Grimes put us on fish at every spot we went. We had prefished for two days so we had a pretty good game plan going in. Our limit was in the livewell by 5:30 PM but two of the fish were pretty small. In fact, a lot of the fish we caught were pretty small!

We caught most of our fish on jigs and crankbaits. After dark, things really turned on for me. Our game plan was thrown out and we switched up tactics. I put on a Texas Rig with a Chigger Craw and Gary and I

culled out at least three times. Gary pulled in our biggest fish so we came out with a pretty good weight.

### **Team Gary Senft & Mark Royal Fish Every Thing For 6th Place**

A five fish limit weighing 8.85 lbs was enough to earn **Gary Senft & Mark Royal 6th Place** honors.

**Gary Senft:** I've fished with Mark Royal a number of times; they have all been good. I changed my original plans to run way up the river where I found some big fish two weeks ago. All we caught were small fish. We wasted a couple of hours doing that. We had to work our way back hitting every point and island. We caught fish on a variety of baits. The drop shot, the Texas rig, jigs, brush hogs, and almost one on a crank bait. Congrats to all the winners. It



**6th Place  
Gary Senft & Mark Royal**

looked like every one had a good time except for finding those big fish.

**Mark Royal:** This is the fourth time I have fished with Gary and what a pleasure to fish with a guy with so many tips and knowledge of spots to fish. We fished the river first, and then hopped around from the no-wake buoy line before the river to Rattlesnake cove. We fished with Texas rigged brush hogs, crankbaits, jigs, and drop-shot. Most of our fish were caught drop-shotting with morning dawn Robo worms. The larger fish were caught beyond a depth of 5 feet, any shallower than that yielded some very small bass or bluegill. I have never done well hooking fish with a weedless rig on a drop shot. Gary changed that for me this trip by showing me the proper way to rig a worm weedless. Thanks Gary!

### **Team Rusty Murdock & Otto Gal Worm Way To 1st Place Big Bass**

Team **Rusty Murdock & Otto Gal** weighed five bass for 7.67 pounds which included a 2.88 lb bass that was good enough for the **1st Place Big Bass** prize.

**Otto Gal & Rusty Murdock:** We are aboard boat number 27 to head out and it took us 25 minutes to get to our spot because the boat can only go 35 miles an hour. We figured that the spot would be taken because it was up in the river, however, when we got there



**1st Place Big Bass  
Rusty Murdock & Otto Gal**

nobody was there. We started fishing at Echo Bay on the outside point, throwing baby bass crank baits and finesse worms. We caught fish right away, then moved back to secondary points but only caught small fish 10 inches or smaller; we didn't keep them. We fished in and out of Echo Bay with no success trying drop shot, deep crank baits, Senko's and whacky rig 4 inch worms. From there we moved to Ship Rock and fished all of the steep banks on the west side of the river with Texas rig 10 inch worms and jigs; this got a few bites but nothing into the boat. Now it is about 8:00 and dark.

We then kept going south until just before Bass Flat where I (Otto) decided to throw a black spinner bait and Rusty got several bites but couldn't get the fish to the boat. After the fact, I figured out the reason they didn't hook up was

because I didn't have on a trailer hook. Meantime, Rusty was throwing a 10 inch Texas rig worm and had several bites and caught one fish estimated about 2 pounds. It worked for him so I tied on an 8 inch curly tail blue fleck Berkley powder worm and on the first cast caught the 2.88 pound large mouth (tournament Big Fish). We kept fishing around this area where there were lots of bites but no luck putting them in the boat until 9:30 and we decided to head back to the ramp.

Since this is my (Otto's) first article for the Bass Bites, I hope this is informative. I want to thank Rusty for being a good partner and showing me an enjoyable time.



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

The club has been informed that Saguaro Lake will remain closed to tournament fishing through the end of August. AZG&F and USFS are extremely worried about the potential for a major largemouth fish kill and are doing everything they can to prevent it from happening. In my discussions with both agencies it was very clear to me that they think conditions remain perfect for a major fish kill and both agencies said everyone associated with the lake management including SRP are doing everything they can to prevent it from happening.

As many of you know at our Bartlett evening tournament we had, for our club, a large number of fish that died and some anglers reported it was obvious a lot of the fish were under stress from the moment they were caught. On Thursday morning there was a large number of dead fish in the vicinity of the launch ramp. It appears these were fish released from our tournament. AZG&F has sent a biologist to the lake to determine what caused the kill. Additionally, I reported the number of fish we weighed that had died which was a large number for our club. AZG&F does not know at this time the reason for the kill but has several ideas including: lake chemistry has changed due to rapid filling of the lake, natural increase in arsenic, high water temp and the potential of a Golden Algae bloom. AZG&F does NOT blame the club for the fish kill that happen during our tournament. There is the potential depending on biologist finding's that Bartlett may be closed for a short while for tournament fishing.

The club at this time does NOT have a permit for our August tournament due to the continued closure of Saguaro. To further complicate the matter most of the personnel in USFS involved in issuing permits are deployed on firefighting duties. The board will meet on Tuesday to look at all of our options, which are not many, on where to fish the August tournament. The board of MBA is working very close with AZG&F and USFS and in

our opinion they are doing everything they can to protect tournament fishing for the future. They are NOT against tournament fishing as some clubs and individuals have accused them.

The board's recommendation for 2018 tournament fishing sites will be released this month and every member will have a chance to vote for where they want to fish each month next year. We must apply for our 2018 permits by September 30, 2107. For all new members we tally the votes and then determine winning locations and apply for permits at those locations. If a permit is not available for some reason we then go to the alternate for each month. The board does not arbitrarily select our fishing locations; the members do so by voting.

## Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett July 19, 2017



The start.



The Finish.

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

**Board of Directors**

**PRESIDENT**

Gary Grimes 623-203-7436

**SECRETARY**

Terry Tassin 623-931-1546

**TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

Jack Hughes 480-510-7779

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Tom Savage 602-432-8589

**TREASURER**

John Reichard 623-512-0238

**Committee / Chairmen**

**PROGRAMS**

Tom Savage

**TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE** Jack Hughes-Chairman

Gary Grimes, Terry Tassin, Tom Savage, John Reichard

**RAFFLE Chairman**- George Cobasky

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Terry Tassin

**ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

Tom Savage

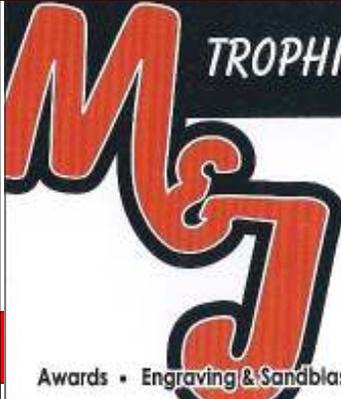
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - John Reichard

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

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

**No New Members  
This Month**

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



**John Balzic**  
Owner  
10802 N. 43RD AVE #2  
GLENDALE, AZ 85304  
P 602-548-4200  
F 602-548-4204  
john@mandjtrophies.com  
www.mandjtrophies.com

Awards • Engraving & Sandblasting • Screenprinting • Embroidery

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.

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



- Chad Cole
- Matt Lemanski
- Jeff Mabry
- Hobby Nelson
- Paul Ojala
- John Reichard
- Dwayne Steel



**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	Canyon
18-October	Roosevelt
14-15 November	Apache (1.5 Days)