



# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JULY 2018 EDITION

13 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

### President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



As I was idling around the launch area at the end of yesterday's tournament, putting rods away that failed to produce a single fish all day (Logan caught our only two), Neil Burns and I were talking when a husband/wife/girlfriend pulled alongside of us and asked about our group of anglers and what we were up to. We proceeded to give them the highlights of the group we know as Midweek Bass Anglers. Coincidentally, last night, Matt Shura called me and asked me if I would be interested in presenting information about our club at Bass Pro Shop in late August where they are hosting a seminar about tournament fishing in general. Different

spokesmen for the valley's various tournament circuits will talk about how their group works.

So what information would be important to share with a group of prospective club members? I thought of three main topics that I think would cover most of the information someone might need to know when making a decision on what group to fish with; structure, education, and camaraderie.

**Structure:** We fish once a month, always on the third Wednesday. We also have a monthly breakfast business meeting, non-mandatory, always on the first Wednesday of the month. We also use a Draw Team - Shared Weight format that partners one boater with one co-angler through a random draw. \$50 entry fee, plus the co-angler has to contribute somewhere between \$50 and \$100 to his boater/partner for expense sharing. We pay pretty deep, one in four. All of the monies collected are used directly for the members. We are an independent club, meaning no affiliation with any parent organization, which means no dues and no mandatory community service obligations.

Our schedule varies from year to year, but as a general rule we try and fish close-in during the summer and winter (Pleasant, Saguaro, Bartlett), and travel during the spring and fall (Alamo, Roosevelt, Havasu).

**Education:** Since you are fishing with someone different each month, there is always something new to learn. You might be paired with someone who fishes a new bait you haven't seen; or maybe he simply fishes it differently than you. Maybe you are having an issue with your boat that you are uncertain about, it is likely other boaters will have an answer. There is always something to learn.

**Camaraderie:** We are the state's largest bass club, averaging well over 100 members per year for the past

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.**

## "We Practice Catch and Release"

7 years. We have some of the friendliest guys, most willing to offer the shirt off their back if needed. Some of my best friends are guys that I have met during my time in the club.

Is Midweek for everyone? Certainly not. But I think if someone is looking for an opportunity to fish with like-minded guys and has Wednesdays off, you won't find a better club with which to fish.



**Tournament Report  
Lake Pleasant  
July 18, 2018**

A great draw, nice weather (for July), a knowledgeable partner that did his and my home work – thanks Roger Root - equals a fun day and a decent bag of fish. A little of this and a little of that might best describe the lures contestants used to catch fish at this tournament.

**Next Meeting  
Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 1 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 is scheduled for **Lake Bartlett on 15 August 2018**. Club launch headquarters, tournament hours, and weigh-in location will be announced.

Dropshot, jigs, cranks, etc, were all put to good use to make this event a fun, fish catching experience. But, how did the money winners find their fish? Read on to find out.

**Team John Hilland & Luke Spreitzer Find Ledge Fish For 1st Place**

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **John Hilland & Luke Spreitzer** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 12.53 lbs. Thanks to John's 3.76 lb bass the team also won **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.

**John Hilland:** Thank you to Midweek and everyone who works so hard to put on such great tournaments each month. I had the pleasure of fishing with Luke Spreitzer this month; he's a really good stick and quality young man. Luke and I were able to get out prefishing twice before the tournament and we put in quite a bit of time trying different areas, techniques, and baits. We were able to get a nice pattern of fish in deeper water with larger worms on drop shot that held up through tournament day. Most of the fish came out of 20 - 50 feet of water which made for a difficult task in keeping them alive and tested our fizzing skills; 5 fish and 5 still alive whew! The biggest challenge of the day was not throwing into boils and keeping with the plan we had. I must also admit I was not the best partner in the world when Luke had a mishap and attached a large top water bait to the front of his pants with all



**1st Place Overall  
Luke Spreitzer & John Hilland**

three sets of treble hooks. He looked at me and said I'm going to need some help here, I just said that's not going to happen partner...LOL! See you all next month.

**Luke Spreitzer:** I had a blast fishing with John Hilland; he's a great angler and an even better guy. John and I prefished twice together and found a pattern of fish holding off of ledges in about 20 to 40 feet of water. We found them both days prefishing so we had a good idea that they would be there tournament day. After the morning start we looked to pick up a good kicker fish on topwater. We caught a few largemouth throwing waking baits and also a few stripers just for fun. After about 30 – 45 minutes we preceded to the bank in the Agua Fria River which had been productive while prefishing. We picked up most of our fish drop shooting green and brown Robo Worms. We would throw up into shallow

water and start dragging deep until we were fishing in 30 plus feet of water. We also went to Jackass Cove where we caught a few small ones and then Fireman Cove to try to pick up fish we found prefishing but we had no luck there. Overall we had a great day together. Thanks John, and thanks to Midweek Bass for putting on such a great tournament. Tight lines everyone!

**Sean Ballard & Lou Hirlemann Fishing Main Lake Take 2nd Overall**

In **Second Place** the team of **Sean Ballard & Lou Hirlemann** weighed five bass for a total weight of 10.80 lbs.

**Sean Ballard:** Hi Guys this is my first *Bass Bites* input for this year - I know right! Crazy, seems like I was doing this a lot last year. I was lucky enough to get drawn with Lou Hirlemann. We practiced only half-a-day on Sunday and the bite was so good that Lou took a nap, LOL. However, I was able to eliminate a lot of water.

For tournament day we concentrated on main lake and secondary points in 1 - 20 feet of water. We had our limit by 8:30 AM and Lou used his buzz bait almost all day catching our biggest two fish with it, but he really had to

**Membership**

As of July 20, 2018 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **106** dues paid active members.



**2nd Place  
Lou Hirlemann & Sean Ballard**

work hard for them. I used a combo of a Spook Jr., drop shot, and flick shake. We ran the banks fast all day so I had to get good at power fishing the flick shake only fishing it for 3 - 5 feet then recasting it as far out in front of the boat as I could. I managed to catch 15 - 20 fish doing this so it wasn't a slow boring presentation. We culled 5 fish during the day to manage the limit we had. Great job to John Hilland and Luke Spreitzer for 12.53 lbs, that's a great weight at Pleasant, and the awesome weigh-in crew got us through the weigh-in process really quickly.

**Lou Hirlemann:** Wow, what a warm day on the lake, until 9:30, then I think it cooled down about 20 degrees. So you want to guess when I got my first bite of the day – that's right, around 9:30. I was surprised Sean never told me to shut-up; I was a horrible co angler. Lets move, go faster, why are we here, get closer to shore, this is still not close

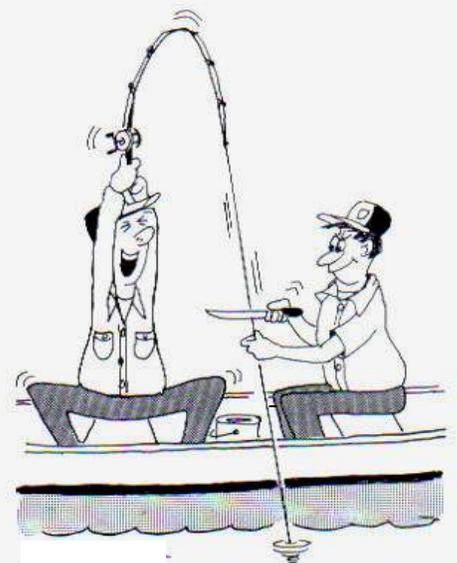
enough to the bank, but I knew he would catch fish with that (stupid) flick shake thing. So I threw a buzzbait almost all day. I threw a dropshot 2 times, I broke off on the second cast and took that as a sign and did not retie. Sean caught a bunch of fish and I only got 3 or 4 all day, but 2 that we really needed.

Looking around the crowd at the weigh-in I saw a lot of faces that I recognized but could not remember names - getting old I guess. If I don't say good morning or hello please help me by introducing yourself.

**Team Gary Martlage & Bob Jolley Drop Shot Deep To 3rd Place Finish**

Team **Martlage & Jolley** weighed five bass for 10.04 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Gary Martlage:** I had the



**"Wow another one. Did you bring your fillet knife, Rich?"**



**3rd Place**  
**Gary Martlage & Bob Jolley**

pleasure of fishing with Bob Jolley at Lake Pleasant. Bob and I have fished together a few times over the years, and I was excited to have him in my boat again.

After pre-fishing once on Monday, I talked Bob out of fishing the Tuesday before the tournament. I was expecting to fish for just 5 bites after the pre-fish. Well, I was wrong! We just went "fishing", starting out in the main lake (Jackass Cove), and catching 3 fish on topwater in the first 30 minutes

### Tournament Statistics

Fifty men fished 6 hours each, bringing 106 bass to the scales for a total weight of 152.57 pounds with a 3.05 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.43 lbs. All fish but three were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

of the tournament. The topwater bite shut off, so we went deep with a drop shot rig. Paralleling the 35 - 45 foot areas off the islands proved to be the ticket using 4 inch Robo worms and 3/16 weights. We probably caught 30 fish losing one at the boat that probably would have put us over the top. That 4 pounder came unglued about 20 feet from the boat. As we watched the fish float on top we almost got the net under her, as she flipped and headed for the bottom.

Bob and I had a wonderful time together, talking about past times, and netting fish all day. I am really looking forward to fishing with Bob in the near future.

**Bob Jolley:** Deep bite leads to 10.04 lbs and a Third Place finish for Team Martlage & Jolley.

Gary pre-fished on Monday and said it would be a tough bite on Wednesday. For me it was a tough bite, but for Gary he was hotter than the air temperature and he caught more fish than I could count. I think I spent more time landing his fish than fishing myself but it was a lot of fun and Gary had a ball catching all those fish which accounted for our finishing in the money.

We started the morning fishing shallow with walking baits and we had three in the boat in the first half hour. The top water bite didn't last long so Gary put us on the main lake in deep water where we caught fish all the way down to the 50 foot

range. We had five fish in the boat by 6:30 and Gary culled all of them at least three times. We stayed in the same area for most of the day and all of the fish we weighed-in were caught on a drop shot.

I enjoyed fishing with Gary who was very accommodating which made it easy to be his co-angler. This is the second time I've fished with Gary and both times we finished in the money so I hope we can pair up again in the near future.

Congratulations to John Hilland and Luke Spreitzer for their win and many thanks to John Reichard for his shuttle service and the weigh-in team for the record breaking time they set for the weigh-in process.

### Team Clinton Bell & Mark Royal Fish Islands Finish 4th Overall

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Clinton Bell & Mark Royal** weighed five fish for a total weight of 9.87 lbs.

**Mark Royal & Clinton Bell:** It was a great pleasure to fish with Clinton – my first time and something that I hoped would happen one day. Like everyone else we could have had all the stripers we wanted. After catching a couple we both went 'down under' with drop shot and shaky head rigs.

The morning started off with a 2 pound fish on a drop shot off an island and then a couple of smaller fish. I caught the first three and then it was all



**4th Place**  
**Mark Royal & Clinton Bell**

Clinton; he was catching fish on Carolina rigged brush hogs and a shaky head. Watermelon was the color of choice. The bigger fish were caught in about 15 feet of water on either the Carolina rig or shaky head. Our last fish of the day was caught on a drop shot with a Kut Tail green pumpkin worm off a point. We fished islands in the main lake and points.

**Rusty Murdock & John Montoya Find Fish Early And Finish 5th**

A five fish limit weighing 9.71 lbs was enough to earn **Team Rusty Murdock & John Montoya** the **5th Place** money.

**Rusty Murdock:** I would like to say congratulations to the first place winners; Lake Pleasant can be a tough lake to fish. We got our fish on drop shot rigs and surprisingly we couldn't get anything on top water not even stripers. We fished points next to deep water in the main lake. It was a beautiful morning and I

had a great time thanks to John Montoya, my partner for the tournament. We drop shotted MM3 Robo Worms between 25 and 40 feet deep.



**5th Place**  
**John Montoya & Rusty Murdock**

**John Montoya:** We caught our fish on drop shots and Carolina rigs in 25 – 40 feet of water and most of them were caught within the first two hours of the tournament. Tight Lines and thank you Midweek Bass Anglers for all you do.

**Drop Shots On Cliff Walls Work For Team Tom Alauria & Allen Wacker 6th Place Win**

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 8.18 lbs was enough to earn **Tom Alauria & Allen Wacker** the **6th Place** honors

**Tom Alauria & Allen Wacker:** Congratulations to everyone who were able to catch fish. This wasn't an easy tournament. Even though I live



**6th Place**  
**Allen Wacker & Tom Alauria**

only 15 minutes away I rarely fish Pleasant. I spent a few days prefishing for this tournament; but only one day with my partner Allen Wacker. He was a great partner and we laughed all day and had a great time. What we found is that the fish were scattered all over the place. We looked for cliff walls that dropped to 30 or 40 feet. The fish we found were suspended on the walls and hit our drop shot rigs on hologram, shad, and bold blue gill colors, on the fall of the bait.

**Team Roger Root & Terry Tassin Crank and Drop Shot For 7th Place Finish**

In **Seventh Place** the team of **Roger Root & Terry Tassin** finished with 7.95 lbs for their five bass.

**Terry Tassin:** Another fun day with Roger Root. It seems like every time I fish with Roger I have a great time. Our day



**7th Place  
Roger Root & Terry Tassin**

started with Roger giving me a tutorial on fishing a small crank bait – chartreuse and shad color – and putting our first 5 or 6 bass into the boat. Guess I was throwing too large of a crank bait and even when I down-sized lures it just would not work for me.

We fished in the river on two 100 yard rocky banks throwing cranks, jigs, and drop shot rigs throughout the day. I started picking up some bass on a drop shot and stuck with that rig all day using Morning Dawn Robo Worms and a Lemonade drop shot worm I had purchased at Lake Havasu in March. We both caught quite a number of bass, probably around 20 plus, during the day and I wrapped up our day with one of our best bass 20 minutes before the end of the tournament – we had to push it to get back to the buoy line before the cutoff time. A fun day and I would fish with Roger any time.

### **Team David Baca & Hal Hensey Catch 'Big Mouth Catfish' For Goon Fish Prize**

**David Baca:** First of all, I want to congratulate John Hilland and Luke Spreitzer on an awesome job with their 12 pound plus bag of bass at Lake Pleasant. I also want to congratulate everyone else who caught over 2 lbs which was pretty good also. I want to thank all those that did another excellent job putting together a great tournament, and my partner Hal Hensey that really did a good job of netting my big catfish that was caught on a brown Yamamoto jig. That catfish hit it pretty hard and did not fight like a catfish, so we were very interested in getting that huge bass in the net “for a while”. I remember seeing Hal out of the corner of my right eye and he would have made every Crane bird in Lake Pleasant jealous because of how patient and poised he was



**Goon Fish Pot Winners  
Hal Hensey & David Baca**

with that net waiting for the catch. Excellent job Hal!

Now as far as the goon fish secrets, first of all it takes one to catch one and this is my third goon fish win of the year. I will admit that my bass fishing has taken on a slump worse than the D-Backs in May, but I am getting pretty good at this goon fishing thing. On Roosevelt we culled 7 goon fish before we got our first bass in the boat, but we wound up winning the goon fish. On Alamo I got a 1.90 catfish that took that one. I plan on winning several more of these goon fish things before the year is over and my goal is to be the goon fish angler of the year. Once that has been accomplished then I will reveal the rest of my secrets in that category. One small tip is that they really like jig and pig but this one came on plastics so sometimes variety may be needed.

### **Team Robert Panaitescu & Greg Utton Take 1st Place Big Bass Prize**

**Robert Panaitescu:** I caught the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Big Bass up against the cliffs on a stick worm made by Bruiser Baits. It was definitely a reaction strike. It swallowed the worm just as it entered the water. I tossed it in the right place, at the right time. Greg Utton and I had a great time. He is a great partner. I would definitely love the opportunity to fish with him again. Sorry I have no photo of me with the bass but at least I got a photo of the fish.



**Robert Panaitescu with 1st Place Big Bass - 3.86 lbs**



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

Greetings from your Treasurer. It was a pleasure to once again shuttle you all to your trailers and down the ramp to release your fish after weighing-in. I hope you had a great day of fishing. Since no one caught a 5 lb fish the 5 lb Pot will rollover to next month. The 5 lb Pot should be worth around \$850 next month. Good luck to you fishermen who are in the pot.



**Weighing-In**  
*By Gary Martlage*  
*Tournament Director*

Another one in the books! Lake Pleasant was good to some of us and not so good to others. Fishing in July and August is a problem for the club, as we can

only get in a few hours before the heat raises its ugly head in the afternoon. The summer tournaments create a challenge because we know the tournament has to be close; it would be ridiculous to hold an event 2 - 3 hours away for just 6 hours of fishing

I would like to commend the guys that constantly volunteer to help with the weigh-in. The weights were down this tournament, but we still weighed in 25 teams in "record" time". We get a steady flow of fish to weigh using the club bags, and the fish seem to do better in the livewells than in bags while standing in line.

This brings me to a point of criticism. When fishing a lake such as Pleasant, a lot of fish are caught in deeper water. This makes the fish swell and they have a tough time trying to get down after release. Several reports of teams putting fish back in to the water and not making sure they are swimming off, were relayed to me. Guys, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR FISH HAVE A CHANCE OF SURVIVAL! Make sure the fish you release swim off to have a chance to be caught another day. I will have to take the blame since I did not remind you of this during the pre-tournament safety meeting. Maybe another volunteer is needed to check the ramp after the tournament for floating fish?

Let's have a great turnout at Lake Bartlett next month with a volunteer fish fizzer!

**FUNNY STORIES**

I was standing in a 6 item express lane at the store quietly fuming. Completely ignoring the sign, the woman ahead of me had slipped into the check-out line pushing a cart piled high with groceries. Imagine my delight when the cashier beckoned the woman to come forward looked into the cart and asked sweetly, "So which six items would you like to buy?" (Wouldn't it be great if that happened more often?)

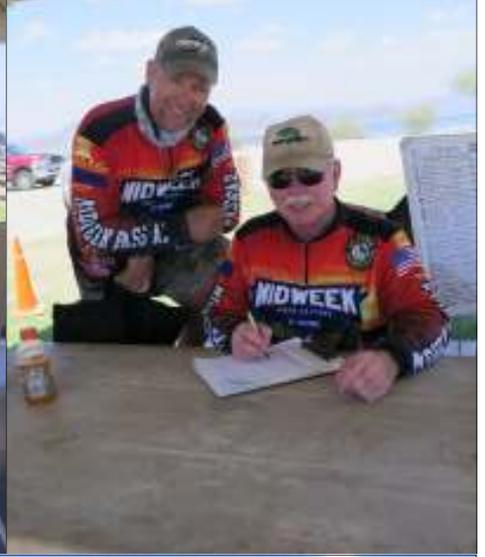
Because they had no reservations at a busy restaurant, my elderly neighbor and his wife were told there would be a 45 minute wait for a table. "Young man, we're both 90 years old," the husband said. "We may not have 45 minutes." They were seated immediately.

The reason Politicians try so hard to get re-elected is that they would "hate" to have to make a living under the laws they have just passed.

I decided to stop calling the bathroom the "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now.

# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Pleasant - July 18, 2018



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

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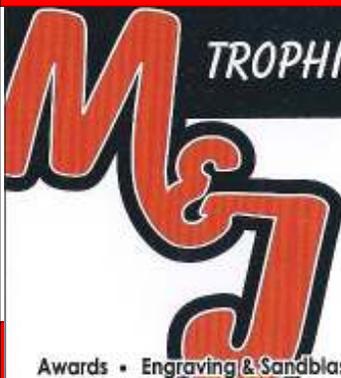
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - John Reichard

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

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

**Dennis Beverage (CO)**  
**Gary Blaustein Jr. (CO)**  
**Shane Edgar (B)**  
**Levi Wittrock (CO)**

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**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**

**Born in August**

**Dennis Beverage**  
**Matt Lemanski**  
**Hobby Nelson**  
**Paul Ojala**  
**John Reichard**



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2018  
Tournament Schedule**

<b>17 January</b>	<b>Bartlett</b>
<b>21 February</b>	<b>Roosevelt</b>
<b>20-21 March</b>	<b>Havasu (1.5 Days)</b>
<b>18 April</b>	<b>Alamo</b>
<b>16 May</b>	<b>Roosevelt</b>
<b>20 June</b>	<b>Bartlett</b>
<b>18 July</b>	<b>Pleasant</b>
<b>15 August</b>	<b>Bartlett</b>
<b>19 September</b>	<b>Pleasant</b>
<b>17 October</b>	<b>Roosevelt</b>
<b>21 November</b>	<b>Alamo (1.5 Days)</b>