

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JUNE 2016

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



As you read this month's Bass Bites, know that I am fishing in a wonderfully refreshing 70 degrees at Red Lake, Ontario, Canada with a handful of guys from the club; John Milkint, Jack Hughes, Ray Riley and Tom Savage, along with mine and Jack's grandsons. It's good to get a break from the heat in June, as summer is certainly a grind. In Arizona, its all about the heat, and how to survive through it. As fishermen, we don't let the heat stop us, but we definitely change how we do things to avoid overexposure.

Tournament fishing in the summertime heat causes us to prepare more carefully. Many of the simple things we take for granted the rest of year simply

cannot be ignored in the summertime. To help matters, Midweek stops all of its summertime tournaments at 11 AM, which gives us 6 good hours of fishing while yet avoiding the hottest part of the day. It is paramount to stay hydrated, so we drink lots of water the night before, and continue while on the water; there is nothing worse than heat exhaustion. We also try and stay cool and comfortable as best we can. Thankfully there are a lot of great choices available for comfortable SPF clothing to help keep the baking sun off our skin. But no matter how well dressed you are, nothing quite feels as good as dunking your hat in the lake and letting cool water drip down your steaming head. We tend to change spots on the water more often, another attempt to cool our bodies, as we let the air rush across the bow of our boat as we seek the next stop for the day. Then there are the hot seats, there is nothing quite as shocking as hopping into the boat driver's seat around 11:00 AM and feeling the burning hot vinyl scald the back of your legs - so we bring towels. Many of our live wells struggle to keep fish healthy, so we bring ice for the live well, or we turn on our oxygenators. Summertime is

also the reason the club started controlling the weigh bags, in order to minimize the time the fish have to remain in the bags while waiting to be weighed. Remember, they are much better off in your live well.

And finally, at least for me, in the summertime, I keep an ice chest in my truck with a couple of ice cold beers for after the scales close, for I have found nothing more thirst quenching than a frosty cold one after a tournament. In addition, don't underestimate your ride home. Last year I had the unpleasant experience of having a tread separation on the way home from Saguaro Lake at around noon in August. So making sure your vehicles are in good shape will save you a ton of

JULY 4TH INDEPENDENCE DAY



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"

grief. For those "Golden Anglers" who are reading this, be smart, know your bodies and don't push the limits, we are certainly counting on your dues for at least the next couple of years. So as we grind through yet another summer, take solace in the fact that it will soon be over. If it is too hot, you can always think of me. Picture me sitting in a boat on the cool waters of a small Canadian lake, about 2000 miles north and east of Phoenix. I certainly am wearing long pants, and probably have a jacket as well, as it is likely cool with a chance of rain. If you are reading this in the early morning or late evening, I am on the hunt for a trophy walleye. If this is a midday reading, then I am probably in the boat with one of the guys I mentioned earlier, and we are slaughtering small to medium size walleyes with jigs and crawlers. Life is good.

See you at Saguaro Lake.



Lake Bartlett Report

June 15, 2016
By Terry Tassin

Team Roger Root & Tim Logsdon Go Up River And Win 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Roger Root** and **Tim Logsdon** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 10.07 lbs. Thanks to **Tim Logsdon**, one of those five bass weighed 2.99 lbs which was good enough to also earn the team the prize for **2nd Place Big Bass**.

Tim Logsdon: Most of our fish were caught in the upper end of the lake. My partner Roger Root was the consistent angler catching the majority of the fish. He was flipping a green

pumpkin jig into light cover and stick-ups. Roger thanks his partner for catching the largest fish. It was caught in the first 45 minutes on a slow rolled spinner bait with a white skirt and gold/silver willow blades. Thanks to the Midweek Bass Anglers for a well run tourney.

Team Senft & Kowalski Limit Early For 2nd Overall Finish

In **Second Place** the team of **Gary Senft** and **Bernie Kowalski** weighed five bass for a total weight of 9.73 lbs.

Gary Senft: It's always fun to fish with Midweek Bass club because it is very well run. My co-angler was Bernie K. As always the boater doesn't know what to expect because I don't fish all the tournaments with

MBA MEMBERS - FOR YOUR INFORMATION

For the 6 July meeting only – send all U.S. Mail tournament entry forms and fees to the Club Secretary – Terry Tassin – not to Jack Hughes the Tournament Director. Hughes will be out of state. You can also process your tournament entry form through the club website (www.midweekbassaz.com/) using PayPal and the Secretary will get your entry if you submit your online entry form before 9 PM on Tuesday night 5 July.

If you are planning to fish the July tournament and cannot make it to the meeting to turn-in your entry form and fee, it will help if you enter the tournament using our online entry form and pay the entry fee using PayPal. Also, for U.S. Mail entries, send your entry form and fee check to reach the Secretary no later than the day before the meeting and please plan for very slow mail delivery. The Secretary's mailing address is:

Terry Tassin
4333 W. Echo Lane
Glendale, AZ 85302

Do not send to Jack Hughes' address which is on the top of the entry form - Jack will be out of town! If you send to Jack's address your entry will not be picked up and brought to the 6 July meeting for processing.

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 July** 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 Saguaro** on **20 July 2016**. Club launch headquarters, weigh-in location, and tournament hours will be announced.



**2nd Place
Gary Senft & Bernie Kowalski**

this club. Someday I will when I retire. Bernie and I started in the river and fished for a couple of hours; we caught a lot of small fish. We then left the river and went back to the main lake and started fishing all the spots I like to fish. Fishing was a little tougher than last week and we really had to work for our fish. I showed Bernie how to jig fish and he caught on fast. He caught one of our final keepers which was good because it helped increase our final

Tournament Statistics

Sixty-four men fished 6 hours each, bringing 154 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 223.56 pounds with a 3.49 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.45 lbs. All but three fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

weight. We also used spinnerbaits to catch some of the fish. Green pumpkin jigs and white spinnerbaits were what we used all day. We had to go through about 25 fish to get our final weight. I hope Bernie learned some things about fishing and culling fish. It was a lot of fun fishing with you Bernie.

Bernie Kowalski: WOW what day! Beautiful weather, great partner and teacher, caught a lot of fish and came in with the third biggest fish. We started the day way up river. Started with spinners (War Eagle) and did well during the first hour. Then we switched to jigs and Texas rigs. It was my first time fishing with a Texas rig but thanks to Gary's guidance I was able to catch some bass. Then about 9 AM the bass went to lunch.

We went back to the main lake and I switched to a drop shot rig but only one bite. If you ever get to fish with Gary leave your ego home and learn. Can't wait for next tournament to try what I learned. I want to thank Gary Grimes and staff for the hot dog lunch – very timely.

Team Larry White & Todd Gentner Empty Tackle Box For 3rd Place Overall Win

Team **Larry White** and **Todd Gentner** weighed five bass for 9.48 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors. Todd Gentner's 3.14 lb bass took **1st Place Big Fish** honors adding \$384 to their tournament



**1st Place Big Bass
Todd Gentner - 3.14 lbs**

winnings.

Larry White: What a day it was! I had to go to the Chiropractor today to get my back adjusted. I had to carry a lot of weight yesterday, tying on lures, casting them and netting all of Todd Gentner's fish. The big one he caught on a





**3rd Place
Todd Gentner & Larry White**

dropshot rig (DS) with a Robo MMII worm. We caught the majority of our bass just into the river entrance. We did cull a few fish from other main lake areas on DS. Our fish came on a variety of baits during the day. DS produced the majority of fish.

Fishing with Todd was a lot of good quality fun. He is a very good angler and I would enjoy fishing with him again. We even had a rare treat from Mother Nature. We watched for a long time a pair of very young foxes playing kid games in the rocks.

All in all it was a very good day. Thanks Todd for such a good time

Todd Gentner: Thanks again to Larry for an entertaining day on the lake. After passing all Larry's spots because fishermen were on them we proceeded up the river just shy of ship rock. We caught a few

fish on spinnerbaits just pounding the stick ups, then threw drop shots on steep walls where the big fish was caught. We caught a bunch of fish on every thing we threw: Carolina rigs, Texas rigged craws, drop shops, spinnerbaits, and jigs. I think we did more trash talking and laughing than actual fishing. I made a good friend in the process.

**Team Gary Martlage & Spencer Hand Limit
Early For 4th Place
Overall Finish**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Gary Martlage** and **Spencer Hand** weighed five fish for a total weight of 8.84 lbs

Gary Martlage: Well, what to do on Bartlett Lake in June, with the water rising a foot a day, for the last week? Spencer Hand and I decided to fish the main lake in the shallows to try a topwater bite. We had a limit of fish by 5:45 AM throwing a Sammy and following up with a shallow crankbait. Of course, after another hour with no bites, the topwater action had definitely stopped.

Switching to jigs and drop shots the rest of the day, we did manage to cull up slightly. We probably caught 25 fish for the day, but were not able to get the size we were after! Spencer is a great guy to fish with, and I wish him well, since it is the second time we have been paired this year. Any boater should welcome



**4th Place
Spencer Hand & Gary Martlage**

Spencer in their boat as he is a good stick, and a pleasure to have as a partner!

Thanks G2 (Gary Grimes) for the hotdogs and libations after the tournament!

Spencer Hand: A great day at Bartlett Lake. I drew Gary Martlage for the tournament and we had a fun day with a fourth place finish. We started straight across from the dock with top water lures along a rocky shoreline before the sun came up and picked up a few keepers. A random mixture of square bill and drop shot baits picked up a few more bass. We headed up the lake toward the river and were culling by 7 AM. A lot of fish were boated on tournament day but we just couldn't pick up any big fish.

**Team Mason & Brown
Adjust For Rising Water
Take 5th Place**

A five fish limit weighing 8.51 lbs was enough to earn **Jeff Mason** and **Rick Brown** the **5th Place** money.

Jeff Mason: Congrats to Roger and Tom for the 1st Place win under tough conditions.

This was the third time I have drawn Rick Brown and we have always had a great time fishing together. I had pre-fished four times during the two weeks before the tournament and found the fishing changed every trip due to the raising water. While pre-fishing I had found a topwater bite early in the morning but only managed one fish on topwater on tournament day. Rick got us started and caught fish during the day on his Carolina Rig. I caught a nice fish (2.70) on a spinnerbait, and missed a good one on it, and also caught some fish on a drop shot. We caught most of our fish around



5th Place
Rick Brown & Jeff Mason

the second ramp, the Yellow cliffs, and Bartlett Flats.

Rick Brown: I had a great time fishing with Jeff as always. Jeff had pre-fished a few days and it seemed like we wouldn't have a problem putting 5 fish in the boat.

I started out throwing a large DD Crankbait in hopes of catching bigger fish. It was not long before I had one on, unfortunately, it wasn't much bigger than my bait. We caught a few more, made a couple moves, and continued to slowly upgrade. It was Jeff's decision to go run a stretch of windy bank with spinnerbaits that made the difference.

On Jeff's first cast he caught our big fish weighing 2.7 lbs. It was a few casts later and Jeff had another one on about the same size, but halfway back to the boat the fish jumped and threw the bait. It was a good day; small fish, but still fun to catch. I caught a couple fish on DD crankbait, a spinner bait, and a few on a Carolina Rig. Jeff caught several on dropshot, topwater, and our big one on a spinnerbait.

Team Richie Rojas & Tom Atherton Cover The Lake For 6th Place

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 8.32 lbs was enough to earn **Richie Rojas** and **Tom Atherton** the **6th Place** prize.

Tom Atherton: I had a great time fishing with Richie, we caught fish all over the lake,



6th Place
Tom Atherton & Richie Rojas

some were on rocky points, and others were caught on the flats. I fished mostly drop shot in Morning Dawn, and Green Pumpkin plus crankbaits in shad patterns. We caught our limit early and just started looking for bigger fish through out the day. With about 25 minutes to go Richie suggested we start heading in but, I reminded him we were in the second flight and could we try one more spot by the Yellow Cliffs; this is where Richie got our biggest fish!

7th Place Won By Team Ballard & Ojala

Taking home **7th Place**, Team **Sean Ballard** and **Paul Ojala** weighed five fish for a total weight of 8.22 lbs

Sean Ballard: I would like to start by saying Paul Ojala is a great crank bait fisherman. The first 4 fish in the boat were caught on his crank bait. We



**7th Place
Sean Ballard & Paul Ojala**

fished main lake points with cranks, jigs, drop shot and flick shake. Paul's biggest fish was caught on a spot I found while fishing with my wife where we caught 5 fish, so I was hopping they would still be there and luckily enough at least one was still there on tournament day. We did manage to get a limit around 9 AM and finally culled one more right at the end of the day with the flick shake which was enough to put us into 7th place.

Team Tassin & Golden Win Goon Fish Prize

Terry Tassin: There we were at 30,000 feet with no engine and no parachute! What to do? We decided to go fishing and wound up catching the largest catfish of the day (sorry Team Hawkins & Scheide) which put the team of Tassin and Golden in the money. If you can't catch big bass don't give up hope of finishing in the money, you

might find a Goon Fish.

If you did not know, a Goon Fish is any fish not a large or small mouth bass caught using the normal tournament tackle and equipment.

While we did not deliberately try to catch a catfish Chuck had a great time when he hooked-up with his catfish and had a big fight on his hands on a light action rod and Chigger Craw bait. After he called for the net because he thought he had a huge bass on the line, I patiently ("Hurry Chuck, get that fish up here where I can net him - come on hurry up.") waited with the net for Chuck to get the fish up so we could see him and I could net him. Half way through the fight we decided it was not a bass but a catfish but then it dawned on us both that we might get our entry fees back by winning the Goon Fish prize. Sure enough Chuck's 3.77 lb Catfish turned

out to be the heaviest Goon Fish weighed for the tournament and we were in the money.

Chuck and I had a great time fishing as a team and putting lots of small bass in the boat and one good sized Catfish. I would fish with Chuck again any time either for fun fishing or a tournament. Thanks for a fun day Chuck.



Weighing-In
By Jack Hughes
Tmx Director

The 2016 fishing season is half over and next month we will start the process for where we will fish in 2017. Where we fish is decided by the members not the club management. The club Board of Directors will list the lakes by month and then the members vote for where they want to fish. Traditionally we get about half of the members to vote which in my opinion is very poor.

In late September the USDA will ask for our proposed dates for 2017. Failure to submit a request on time places you at the end of the line and in 2015 no permits were accepted after Nov 1, 2015 for the 2016 season. The MBA Tournament Director submits the request to the various agencies which issue permits for the dates we would like to fish. Normally we are advised within 45 days if our dates will be approved. Then for the next 60-90 days a lot of paperwork is sent back



**Goon Fish Pot Winners
Chuck Golden & Terry Tassin
\$100 Catfish Not Shown**

and forth with the various agencies, insurance is purchased to cover us for the approved lakes, and payment for 2017 permits is made to the various agencies. Normally in late December we receive our permits.

On all US Forestry managed lakes only one club per day will be issued a permit to fish. It does not make a difference if the permit is for 6 boats or a 100 boats, only one permit. On state managed lakes the same restrictions do not exist. Lakes like Saguaro and Apache have been attracting bass clubs from outside of the Phoenix area and as far away as New Mexico and California. Since our club fishes on Wednesday only twice in the past four years have we had competition for the same date we wanted to fish and in both cases we were issued the permit. I want all members to understand it is not automatic that we will receive the dates we want.

Another restriction which we will have to face is the restriction on the number of boats allowed in a tournament from certain launch areas. Due to weekend pleasure boaters, who have every right to use the lake, and the number of limited parking places some lakes already have restrictions like Burnt Coral only - 30 boats per tournament no matter which day you fish on. On other lakes like Saguaro there have been proposals to limit the number of boats per tournament to 50 boats or less. As far as I know as of now this will not take place in 2017, however twice

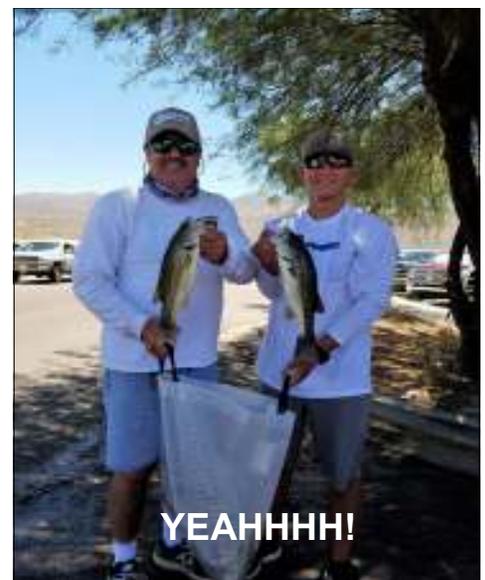
this year Saguaro has been closed to additional boats because of reaching the Forest Service maximum number allowed on the lake.

Now is the time to talk to your friends in the club about where and when to fish. For example we fished Canyon for the first time this year and as of now I have heard so many opinions on the lake I do not have a clue if the club wants to fish it or not again. I do know I have received a lot of complaints because we fish Bartlett and Saguaro for over half of our tournaments. I keep reminding the members it was not the Board that selected the lakes but the members. Also as our president said at the last club meeting Martinez will be an option this year again. After last year's vote I had four members who wanted to know why we were not fishing Martinez and I told them the votes were not there and believe it or not none of the four voted at all.

Lake Pleasant, as of this writing, has not taken the steps to reduce their fees and insurance requirements to receive a permit. Roughly, for a permit to fish a Forest Service lake it cost us less than \$200. To fish Pleasant it would cost us about \$1400 for the permit and special insurance. Some clubs have elected to fish it without a permit, others like us have decided not to fish Pleasant because the fees are outrageous and unacceptable and we will not knowingly violate the law. There is action being taken to reduce the fees. However, this has been in

process since October 2015 and still has not been completed. We just do not know as of now what the cost of fishing Pleasant in 2017 would be. Will it be reduced or not? If it is not reduced by the time we vote don't look for Lake Pleasant on the proposed list of lakes.

Two things I do know and that is we have a large number of new members who have not gone through this process with us before and their vote counts just as much as the guy who has been in the club for years. The second thing is this club is made up of members who want to catch bass when they go to a lake. This is your club and where we fish is decided by the members. You also have to remember that we are submitting permit requests up to 15 months in advance in some cases of when we want to fish, so don't call me and ask what the water conditions are going to be because the only answer you will get from me is "if there's water it will be wet". Take some time this year and look at the list then vote!



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2016 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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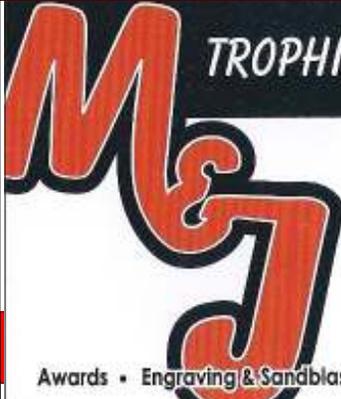
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Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>

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

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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.

**Midweek Bass Anglers 2016
Tournament Schedule**

20 January	Canyon
17 February	Saguaro
15-16 March	Havasu (1.5 Days)
20 April	Apache
18 May	Alamo
15 June	Bartlett
20 July	Saguaro
17 August	Bartlett
21 September	Roosevelt
18-19 October	Apache (1.5 Days)
16 November	Canyon

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in July

- Ricky Boehm
- Todd Gentner
- Gary Martlage
- Scott Olivier
- Greg Prather
- Jack Shearer
- Nick Wampach

