



# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MARCH 2016

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

## President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



The guys of Midweek had a great time at Lake Havasu, though I think most wished the fishing were a bit better. Some of the guys camped and enjoyed the beautiful scenery and weather, while others enjoyed a bit more civilized accommodations either at a local hotel or with a house rental. Many of us enjoyed a spectacular fish fry at our rental house on Monday evening; I think I counted over 30 guys in attendance. Gary Martlage, acting as head chef, had two deep fryers going while he cooked up fresh Mahi-Mahi and deep fried tater tots, not a flake remained after our guys devoured his spectacular offering. It was a great time together.

While lots of fish were caught at Havasu, and even some nice largemouth, I think we can all agree that the catch rates are not as high as they were 5 years ago. I had a discussion with the local guys at the tackle store. I shared that we had been coming to Havasu in March for the past six years, and our guys had grown accustomed to easily catching limits of smallmouth daily. I asked them if we were possibly too early, or maybe too late, or is it something we were doing wrong, just exactly what was going on that was causing a significant reduction in the amount of smallmouth beds. They told us that this is the new normal for Lake Havasu. They firmly believe that the smallmouth population has been severely over-harvested during the spawn the last few years, which has led us to our current situation. For the Midweek Anglers, fishing Havasu in March has always been a no-brainer, a non-discussion item; we could always count on a great time and lots of fish catching. I think next year we will have a little more discussion as to returning to Havasu in March, maybe its time to try the fall.

during the tournament; while we have every right to fish the waters located inside the marina, the mediation of conflicts that arise between anglers and marina residents is not something the board wishes to engage in while enjoying ourselves at Lake Havasu. As far as I am concerned, our guys were simply scapegoats for a problem that has been going on every year. Like I tell my son, if he keeps getting into fights going to a particular bar, then the simple solution is to avoid that bar.

Our next tournament should be another great time for the Midweek gang at Apache Lake in April complete with a barbeque on Tuesday night, and I confirmed with Rusty Murdock that his wife would be bringing a

## Happy April Fools Day!



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

Regarding our decision to place the marina off limits

## “We Practice Catch and Release”

side dish again, yippee! Apache is my favorite lake, it is truly one of Arizona's gems, the fishing should be excellent, and the camping even better. See you there.



**Lake Havasu Report**  
March 15-16, 2016  
By Terry Tassin

A little of this and a little of that might best describe the lures that caught fish at this tournament. Dropshot, jigs, cranks, Senko's, etc, were all put to good use to make this event a fun, fish catching experience.

The tournament started off at 6:20 AM with boats heading up river, down river and all points in between! The weather was great, except on Day 2 when the wind got a little rough, with

**Next Meeting  
Next Tournament**

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

water temps around 64 degrees in most of the lake and the fish were caught from dam to dam.

All teams weighed fish at this tournament, and all but two fish were released back into the lake to live and fight again another day.

Now let's hear from our winners.

**Team Sean Ballard & Howard Thomas Spot Beds For 1st Place Win At Havasu**

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Ballard & Thomas** weighed the winning two day creel of ten bass weighing 28.71 lbs. Thanks to Howard's 8.46 lb striped bass the team also won **Goon Fish** honors.

**Sean Ballard:** I just want to say thanks to the tournament crew for getting the weigh-in done so efficiently and to apologize to Jack for my grouchy attitude on day two - it was uncalled for. As you all know I got paired with 'BIG FISH' Howard and he didn't disappoint by catching an 8.46 pound Striper on his first cast on day one. Most of you all know I'm a river rat when it comes to Havasu. I took my wife up the river with me in prefish just to show her how beautiful it is up there and she caught her personal best 2.84 lb small mouth bass (not bad considering she just got her fishing license for the first time this year).

On day one Howard and I ran



**1st Place  
Howard Thomas & Sean Ballard**

the river and only managed to catch 13 lbs up there on a combo of Keitech and bed fishing baits. Day 2 my thoughts were to get a limit as fast as I could so we went under the bridge in the channel and we managed to catch around 13 lbs there. During this time I was able to get Howard's hook back that he had left in a fish during practice. After that we headed south to an area where we had found some bed fish during practice. There we managed to up grade a 3 plus pound large mouth using the swivel headed jig that Mr. Steele made at the Hwy 188 Tackle Store. I won this jig at the club's award banquet and if you don't have any of these you need some, the bait stands straight up when it drops in the bed. We then drop shotted a 3 plus smallie to round out our day. Can't wait until next year; I love that lake!

**Howard Thomas:** Another great 2 days on the water.



**Goon Fish Pot Winners  
Howard Thomas & Sean Ballard  
and \$100 Friend**

What a lesson I got from Sean Ballard on bed fishing. This man has moves like Mohammed Ali. As he approaches a bed the fish usually swims off at which time he drops his bait on the bed as he passes by, going maybe 20 to 30 feet past the bed with an open spool and quickly turning around, dropping the power pole anchor and clicking the reel bail shut and preparing for some action. The fish already thinks he is not interested by now and quickly swallows the bait.

Sean goes around the lake on the trolling motor and acts like a kid in a candy store taking what he wants. The only fish I caught was the goon fish striper. So just for the record you other teams were beat single handedly by Ballard. Amazing!

It was great to be with you on your birthday Sean. I'm glad you only have a birthday once

**Membership**

As of March 18, 2016 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 95 active members.

a year because I couldn't take a beating like this every tournament.

My only claim to fame on this one was I kept up my image that you members have so graciously bestowed on me of "Big fish Howie". An 8 lb striper caught on my first cast on Tuesday was my only fish; I was never to catch another fish in this tournament.

I must say I learned a heck of a lot about netting. I told Sean that this was the most fun I have had in a tournament without catching fish. All this couldn't happen to a nicer guy especially on his birthday. What a great birthday present. One fish was caught on a spinner bait, one on a drop shot and the rest on a bed bait.

**Team Lou Hirlemann & Mike Holloway Finish 2nd Overall**



**2nd Place  
Mike Holloway & Lou Hirlemann**



**"That's what I get for spilling a whole bottle of bass attractor on me"**

In **Second Place** the team of **Lou Hirlemann & Mike Holloway** weighed ten bass for a total two day weight of 28.68 lbs. Lou's 5.52 lb bass was good enough to provide a **1st Place Big Fish** payoff for the team. The **5 lb Option Pot** was also taken with this bass.

**Lou Hirlemann:** I had a good time at Havasu, but I think that had more to do with making a new friend, Mike Holloway, a fish fry, shooting pool, and almost stepping on a rattlesnake. Fishing was not great. We caught all our fish off beds and I got lucky finding a few big ones.

I used our website online sign up for this tournament and thought it was great. I'm now looking forward to camping, playing cards, and eating BBQ at Apache in April.

### **Bell & Bosket Fish Off-Color Water For 3rd Place Overall Finish**

Team **Clinton Bell & Randy Bosket** weighed nine bass for 28.41 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Clinton Bell:** First I want to thank Gary Martlage and the

#### **FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)**

Co-Angler FAQ: There is a new addition to the FAQ page located at [www.midweekbassaz.com](http://www.midweekbassaz.com) that covers most of what a co-angler needs to know when fishing one of Midweek's Tournaments.

people that put on the fish fry - Very Good! – Congrats too Sean Ballard on back-to-back win's; Good Fishing!

Our team's plan was to stay in the upper end of the lake and fish the off colored water with spinner baits, crank baits and flipping the reed beds and if we did come across a bed fish we would try it. The plan worked well on Tuesday and we caught fish with all four patterns. Wednesday we had the fish on two different times that would have won the tournament for us. We just didn't put them in the boat and that 5th fish would have made the difference, guess that's fishing. Randy Bosket is easy to fish with and a very interesting person and I hope to draw him again. All in all it was a good trip.

**Randy Bosket:** Well, what can I say? It was an amazingly close race! We went into Day 2 with a slight lead and couldn't get that fifth fish! I caught it but it measured 12 inches so we had to put it back! My partner, Clinton Bell, also had one on early that got caught in the weeds and got off and I had another one on that looked like a 6 to 7 pounder that twisted off at the boat; heart breaking. We fished mostly the main lake up to the river in the coves and threw everything but the kitchen sink at them. Spinnerbaits, Rattle-Traps, drop shot, pitching and flipping, you name it. We caught a couple on beds but most came from the points and lake banks.



**3rd Place  
Clinton Bell & Randy Bosket**

This was only my third tournament with the club and my first time fishing Lake Havasu and I had a great time! Thanks goes out to my partner Clinton, he is a great fisherman and all around great guy! Also, my thanks go out to Larry White for setting up "Casa de Larry" that took in a bunch of us wayward lads. The front and back yard had up to six boats parked out there and looked like a boat dealership.

### **Team Prather & Wampach Lock Down 4th Overall Finish**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Greg Prather & Nick Wampach** weighed ten fish for a total weight of 28.00 lbs.

**Nick Wampach:** Havasu was epic this year fishing with Greg. We put a game plan together in pre-fish and dialed in the



**4th Place**  
**Greg Prather & Nick Wampach**

bite. We caught all our fish sight fishing plus a few reaction fish. We concentrated our fishing efforts on the California side of the lake. Baits of choice were white jigs, and drop shots rigged with Bed Bait 2 worms. Reaction baits consisted of spinnerbaits, jerkbaits, swimbaits, and under spins. Just want to thank everyone who helped out with this tournament and the fish fry.

**Vern Ridgway & Tom Savage Drop Shot For 5th Place**

A ten fish limit weighing 26.02 lbs was enough to earn **Vern Ridgway & Tom Savage** the **5th Place** money.

**Tom Savage:** Congratulations to Sean and Howard for their first place win. Vern and I caught our fish in three cuts that are down river on the Arizona side not far from the main lake area. Vern caught our first fish each day on a jerk

bait on a rocky point as we entered the cut. All the rest of our fish were caught on drop shot, morning dawn, and MM purple worms. We didn't have a bunch of beds marked, we just went fishing. We did end up catching some of our fish off of a bed. In fact our biggest fish Tuesday was caught on a bed; a beautiful 4.55 lb large mouth. We also caught several nice size largemouth bass off of habitat in the back of the cuts.



**5th Place**  
**Vern Ridgway & Tom Savage**

I had one of the best times fishing that I've ever had. Vern is a great guy and a very good angler. I look forward to fishing with him again.

**Team Rojas and Reichard Celebrate Spring Break Finishing in 6th Place**

Bringing eight fish to the scales

weighing 25.25 lbs was enough to earn **Richie Rojas & John Reichard** the **6th Place** prize. John Reichard's 5.35 lb bass also earned the team **2nd Place Big Bass** money.

**Richie Rojas:** John Reichard and I had a great time fishing this event despite the very rough and wet ride getting back to the ramp on Day 2. On Day 1 we caught most of our fish in the reeds near the Indian Casino using Senko's pitched into the reeds. Other than that it was a tough day.

Day 2 saw a great early weather morning. We ran across the lake to the California side looking for a cove I just knew there were beds holding fish. When we got to the right area we could not find the cove. After looking



**6th Place**  
**John Reichard & Richie Rojas**

around for awhile we discovered a construction crew had worked overnight on the bank in our cove and removed with a backhoe all of the concrete dock we were going to fish. Now our cove was all muddy and impossible to see into the water.

We moved around and later John said he thought he was hung-up on an obstruction. He tugged hard on the line and suddenly the line tugged back. The fight was on! So after a short battle, John brought aboard a beautiful largemouth bass weighing 5.35 lbs which he had caught drop-shotting a Robo Worm in Morning Dawn/Chartreuse tail color in 17 feet of water. It turned out to be a great fishing day after all.



## **Weighing-In**

**By Jack Hughes  
Tmx Director**

To return from a day of pre-fishing and have a Ranger ask you on the dock are you with Midweek, and when I said yes he then asked if I knew where he could find Jack Hughes. When I told him I was Jack he said we need to talk. When he told me why we needed to talk my first statement was "Are you sure it's Midweek because we have never had a problem". During the next five hours I got a finite education on water rights from the Ranger, the Havasu Police Dept, and I learned why the marina people were upset.

In summary, the Federal Government controls all major waterways within the United

States including rivers that run through multi states. The states can and do exercise control on which states can take water from rivers and lakes by agreements and most agreements were signed over 100 years ago. The Lower Colorado River is policed by the National Forest Service, State of CA Fish and Game, AZ Game and Fish, Border Patrol, and many local Police Departments

In 2014 the Forest Service and Department of Agriculture established a new regulation for fishing marina's after testing several ideas for over a year. Basically it is the 100 foot rule - no fishing within 100 feet of slips, docks, fueling stations, except for residents living on boats in the marina and they may only fish from the docks. To get this restriction on rivers, such as the Colorado, all a marina operator has to do is notify the local Forest Service office or the Department of Agriculture they are placing their marina under the Federal rules and the Forest Service or Department of Agriculture can only approve it and not reject it. The key is the water way must be entirely or partially controlled by the Federal Government.

The way the marina is built at Havasu there is not anywhere you can fish in the marina that is more than a 100 feet from slips, docks etc, therefore the complete marina is off limits. That was the bad news; the good news is the operator can withdraw his 100 foot

exclusion anytime.

The Havasu marina operator has told me he is a bass fisherman and does not want to put the marina off limits but this year the situation had gotten out of control, including fishermen, marina renters, and residents. It is his hope placing it under the 100 foot rule to all for a period of time until tempers cool, he can then open it back up to all. My belief is there is a lot of lake out there and not being able to fish the marina is not the end of the world. Beside it may make my co-angler happier if I spent the hour fishing with him instead of spending that hour the next morning on the phone with the authorities.

The fishing was good at Havasu; the weather got bad. From the people I talked to they really enjoyed it. The bed fishing was okay on Tuesday for most of the day and Wednesday with the wind it got almost non-existent but some as usual always manage to get five fish.

I had a great time fishing with Tanner Cormier our only 18 year old member and that makes him the youngest club member. For me, having Tanner in my boat was like a trip back to when I was young and I am sure when my grandson turns 18 he will get a membership to Midweek for one of his birthday presents. If you ever get a chance to fish with Tanner it will be a good day for you!

# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Havasu - March 15-16, 2016



For those who had a problem spotting the fish, this is what a bed looks like.



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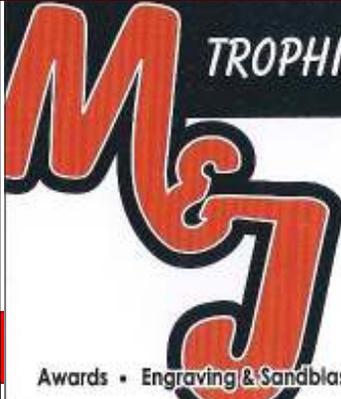
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - John Reichard

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

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

**Dennis Hardy (B/CO)  
Paul Ojala (B/CO)  
Ron Rudzinski (B/CO)**

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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.

**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**

**Born in April**

- Paul Archer
- Gary Asmus
- Spencer Hand
- Hal Hensey
- Lou Hirlemann
- Jack Hughes
- Bill Page
- Dave Winston



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2016  
Tournament Schedule**

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