



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MARCH 2017 EDITION
12 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



Warm spring days arrived just in time to heat the waters of Lake Havasu and activate both the largemouth and smallmouth bass for the Midweek Bass Anglers annual March tournament. Quality fish were caught in both species, including a five pound plus in each, but the team of Rojas and Atherton caught the biggest fish of the tournament on day two, a 5.33 lb largemouth – nice catch. The team of Ballard and Bosket, leading the field with total weight on day one, caught another solid bag on day two to secure a solid first place victory at Lake Havasu. Thanks to all who made this event a success: Jack Hughes with all the preparations to ensure all anglers were on the

water, Gary Martlage, Spencer Hand, Tom Savage, John Milkint, Johnny Hawkins, and Terry Tassin for doing such a great job at the weigh-in. Without all the guys who help, these tournaments simply would not be possible. This was also the first tournament of the year that we had dead fish, 5 of them, but with the rule change made last year the penalty is now .25 lbs per fish so the weight deduction is not quite as severe as last year with a .50 lb penalty.

Seems like we cannot make it through a Lake Havasu tournament without some major mechanical problems, and this year was no exception. Here is a short list of what some experienced: broken axle, flat tires (2), battery failures (2), charging problems, engine overheating, broken trolling motor, truck starter failure, and to top it off one of our guys mistakenly filled his diesel truck with gasoline (ouch!). The way I see it the problems just create opportunities for guys to help one another out and build the relationships that make our club great.

Next month we will be fishing Saguaro Lake. The weather

should be great and I expect lots of big fish to be caught. In May we will be fishing Apache Lake, complete with the infamous Midweek Barbeque on the Tuesday night before the tournament. Hope to see you all there.



**Lake Havasu
Report**
March 14-15, 2017
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

Happy Easter!



**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"

each day of this day and a half event at 6:30 AM with boats heading up river, down river and all points in between! The tournament weather was great with water temps around 63 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 five fish were released back into the lake to live and fight again another day.

Now let's hear from our winners.

Team Sean Ballard & Randy Bosket Beat Up Lake For 1st Place Win

Taking home **1st Place**, Team

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 5 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 Saguaro** on **19 April 2017**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

Sean Ballard & Randy Bosket brought to the scales the winning creel of ten bass weighing 33.54 lbs.

Sean Ballard: Wow, what a great few days of fishing. Let's start this out with a HUGE THANKS to Randy Bosket for driving down to Parker, Arizona to pick me and my boat up so we could get in some pre-fishing on Monday due to my truck not starting again, and he also let me drive his new Tundra while mine was getting fixed.

I got to the lake on Saturday and fished with my wife both Saturday and Sunday and I explored from Cattail to the Bill Williams river on Saturday and didn't find what I wanted so we headed north on Sunday and I almost got to Laughlin, Nevada before deciding that north wasn't what I was looking for either.

Monday I decided to go and beat-up some of the London Bridge area and I also wanted to show Randy how I bed fish and some of my techniques. We found exactly what I was looking for - a lot of 2.5 - 4 pound smallies. So we made a plan as to what fish we wanted to catch first and by 9:00 we had a limit of 16.40 lbs and then the magic happened. The wind stopped and I could see beds in 20 feet of water holding better fish and we managed to cull 3 of the fish with 3 pound plus bass and at 9:30 we had 17.79 lbs. So I decided to go find a big fish. That didn't happen so we made a decision to find enough fish for

Hot Tip Of The Month By Gary Grimes

I know most of you guys are do-it-yourselfers when it comes to your boats and trailers. I have found a website that is a great resource for all things related to boats, motor, trailers, batteries and trolling motors;

<http://www.bbcboards.net/>

This website is a blog style site, similar to the old azbasszone. Scroll down to see all the subjects, if you find something of interest then click on it to open up hundreds of discussions of various subjects with a lot of expert advice. You are almost certain to find a forum specifically for your brand of boat, where other boat owners share stories and fixes. Check it out.

Wednesday and that paid off.

Wednesday we headed back into the same area as Tuesday and we had a crowd join us but we managed a limit of 15.27 lbs at 8:55 AM. We culled a few more times and came in with 15.75 lbs. All fish came off beds using tubes, Keitechs, and Gulp Minnows. The weigh-in crew did another great job getting us weighed and the bass back in the water quickly.

Randy Bosket: I was fortunate enough to be paired up with Sean Ballard for this tournament and he really knows how to fish this lake! We had a successful pre-fish day and were able to identify many different beds to fish the



1st Place Overall
Sean Ballard & Randy Bosket

next day. Sean is very good at this bed fishing method and taught me a lot during pre-fishing. On the morning of the first day of the tournament we raced over to the canal area and started reeling them in. We had our limit by 9:00 and spent the rest of the day culling. I have never fished in a disco-tech before but now I know what it would be like. We literally caught fish 10 feet from boat loads of college students on spring break who were dancing, drinking, and seeing which boat could play the loudest music! It was weird, but kind of fun, and the eye candy wasn't too bad either! JK (not). Day two we did the exact same thing and had our limit even earlier in the day. We primarily bed fished but did try a few other methods without much success. I had a great time fishing with Sean and look forward to fishing with him in the future. I also want to thank Larry White for setting-up lodging again for a bunch of

the members.

Lou Hirlemann & Warren Brackey Run The Lake To 2nd Overall

In **Second Place** the team of **Hirlemann & Brackey** weighed ten bass for a total weight of 32.19 lbs.

Warren Brackey: First, congratulations to Sean and Randy on their well deserved first place finish.

I had the good fortune of being paired with Lou Hirlemann. Lou's experience and knowledge of how to locate and approach bedded fish at Lake Havasu was apparent right away. He's a master at spotting bedded fish from a long way off, and having that two foot high platform on the front of his Lund was a clear advantage. Plus, Lou is a true

team player. We both had baits on the same beds at the same time many times during the event.

We fished mid-lake where the water clarity was better, down river, well past Cattail on the Arizona side on day one. Then, further north in coves with habitats and brush piles on day two, that's where the bigger largemouth were taking up residence. We pitched everything we had at these fish on both days, but all my fish came on a drop shot, using a 4.5 inch Roboworm, in Bold Bluegill with a chartreuse curly tail. We had a limit of nice smallies by 9:45 on day one, with a better fish coming in around 10:00. Unfortunately that was our last cull fish of the day.

The pressure was on with several great teams bunched

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 for at least 12 months, as well as being active in the majority of the club's activities, whether meetings or tournaments. Interested? Let me know. Gary Grimes, President.
gary@bestexpression.com

behind the leaders. We knew we needed some good largemouths in the well to have a chance at moving up. Lou found them, and it was game on! Our last two largemouths improved our bag by nearly 3 lbs; both were on the same bed and pushed 4.5 pounds each. Lou caught the first one around 11:00 AM. We left that area and Lou decided to sneak back 30 minutes later. We couldn't see the fish, but we both threw our lures on the bed. A few little shakes later and BOOM, the bigger female took my Roboworm! What an amazing finish - a lot of high-fives and backslapping going on at the end.

I had great fun fishing with Lou and I hope we get paired together again sometime. I learned a great deal and was thrilled with our second place finish, and was very happy with our day two total of 18.05 pounds!



2nd Place
Warren Brackey & Lou Hirlemann

Lou Hirlemann: Thanks to the guys running the tournament, two days means twice as much work. I got lucky with a great partner, Warren Brackey. Each day we caught 6 fish, or I should say he caught 4 each day including our big one on Wednesday. Luckily I'm good with the net. Conditions changed for us Tuesday and we caught all smallmouths; Wednesday we weighed 4 largemouths and 1 smallie. I wish we all would have caught more fish but I was happy to see some little smallmouth on beds because last year I did not see any small fish and that is a bad sign. Looking forward to Saguaro and Big Swimbaits, see you there.

Team Rick Brown & John Milkint Over Come Mechanical Problems To Finish In 3rd Place

Team **Rick Brown & John Milkint** weighed ten bass for 28.78 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

John Milkint: Monday was a day for hunting. Rick Brown and I traveled all areas of the lake searching for bedding smallmouth that would give us an opportunity on Tuesday to get some quick fish in the livewell. The plan worked to perfection with 5 in the livewell by 8 AM on Day one of the tournament. We continued on and upgraded 2 or 3 of the fish for a nice weight. It was at this point that Rick began to have motor problems with the oil sensor shutting the boat down with anything more than an idle



3rd Place
Rick Brown & John Milkint

speed. We were really concerned about making it to the weigh in on time since we were far south from the launch ramp. At this point, several club members stopped by to see if they could assist in any way as we were idling up the Lake. There are some really great members in Midweek Bass that are willing to help each other out. Special acknowledgment goes to Neal Burns, Lou Hirlemann, and Johnny Hawkins. Rick did get the boat on plane one last time to get us to the ramp area before the 3 o'clock weigh in. About two hours were wasted in planning time for the second tournament day and searching for additional beds.

Wednesday started out OK with the boat responding to the takeoff in a normal manner. We boated a couple of fish at our first stop and then the boat would not respond. Once again, we had nothing but idle speed for the rest of the

morning. We were forced to idle through the canal which had at that point been picked pretty clean of the bedding bass. Rick did pick up a smallmouth in the canal giving us three bass at this point. We motored past the ramp area and decided to fish the tules until time to idle back to the ramp. That gave us about 45 minutes of fishing time to pick up two more bass to at least weigh in a limit. As fortune would have it, we were able to put two more in the boat just fishing. It proved to be enough weight to keep us in third place.

I was fortunate enough to draw Rick Brown for this tournament. In addition to being a joy to fish with, his sharp vision and bed fishing ability are second to none. Most of the bed fish were caught with a small white tube bait and the small Gulp Minnow many of the guys use. Congratulations to team Sean Ballard and Randy Bosket for "holding serve" (a tennis term) on day two, not an easy task. Also, congrats to team Lou Hirlemann and Warren Brackey for having a banner second tournament day moving them into second place.

The club really lucked out on the weather in Lake Havasu with mild temperatures and light winds. March has not always been that kind to Midweek Bass at Havasu.

Team Kenny Cartledge & Mike Bloxam Crank To 4th Overall Finish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Kenny Cartledge & Mike**

Bloxam weighed ten fish for a total weight of 28.57 lbs.

Kenny Cartledge: Mike Bloxam and I caught our fish in large coves on beds mainly in small cuts using hula grubs and white or chartreuse tube baits. My bigger fish came from a red ear sunfish colored crank bait on shore lines that dropped off into 15 feet of water quickly and they were caught early in the morning. Unfortunately the fish Mike caught didn't make the size limit and he lost a few good ones, but he is an awesome angler to fish with and such a nice and positive person to be with on the water. Anyone would be lucky to have Mike in their boat!

What an amazing trip!

Mike Bloxam: Congratulations to Sean Ballard and Randy Bosket putting up great numbers in winning first place. Good show guys.

Well the two new guys fishing their 3rd tournament with the club put together a good game plan during the pre-fish and executed it during the tournament. Our fish were caught on crank baits and we marked bed fish using hula grubs, worms and tubes. We fished mainly main lake coves on the California side across from the launch to well past the lighthouse. My partner, Kenny Cartledge, put on an amazing show sweet-talking finicky fish off the bed and taking four good sized fish on a crank bait. For me it was the first time I fished Havasu and it



4th Place
Mike Bloxam & Kenny Cartledge

was a great experience. Fishing with Kenny was a real pleasure and he can find fish. I look forward to teaming up with Kenny again in the future.

Finally, a big thanks to Midweek Bass for putting on such a well run and terrific tournament; thanks gentlemen.

Vern Ridgway & Mike Seibly Share Burritos For Breakfast And 5th Place

A ten fish limit weighing 27.79 lbs was enough to earn **Vern Ridgway & Mike Seibly** the **5th Place** money.

Vern Ridgway: I fished with Mike Seibly. Day one was a struggle with an electrical problem in the boat; we did a lot of float fishing, caught bass on the main lake coves with cranks, blades and Senkos. The fish were in shallow water, but we did manage to scratch out a fair limit.

Day two, we went to another main lake cove and had our limit by 8:00 AM, the 5.03 pounder came on a Senko in about 5 feet of water (just guessing, it was stained in the back of this cove) then we moved to another cove. Mike spotted this large Smallie, and teased him into biting on his 'Michigan' bait that I've never seen done before. We had spotted a big fish the day before but could not find her on day two. Mike was a great co-angler to fish with and I am very glad to have drawn him. We threw cranks, blades, jerk baits, drop shots, and Senko's to catch the fish.

Mike Seibly: I consider myself a lucky guy getting paired up with Vern Ridgway for this tournament. He's a great guy and even better than that he is a great fisherman. Vern had spent pre-fishing time on the water and already had a basic plan. Monday we checked a few new areas and saw that

the fish were moving up and made a few adjustments to our attack plan.

Monday morning after a couple of hours on the water I made a joke that I wished he had a couple of breakfast burritos in the boat. Next thing I knew he was handing me a burrito. Tuesday and Wednesday when he picked me up at the Super 8 he would have a coffee and a breakfast burrito for me. Is that a great partner or what?

Tuesday morning we headed south. Since I had never been to Havasu that's all I can tell that it was south and we worked different coves on both sides of the river. It was not long and we knew we were in trouble - our trolling motor was dead. Now our plan went south too. So we tried to drift the best we could along the bank. I have to admit I did a really good job at netting Vern's fish. I couldn't keep my fish on. I lost two on a spinner bait, and stuck a fish three times and he got off three times. Vern threw in his lure and finally got her in the boat. When I finally started to hang on to the fish and get them in the boat, their weight wouldn't help us out. Some how we manage to get five fish and ended up in 7th place on Tuesday. We threw everything at them on Tuesday but most were caught on Senko's.

Vern went out bought a new battery charger Tuesday night so we thought we were in the clear for Wednesday. Wrong! After 15 minutes of fishing we had a dead trolling motor

again. Vern had just bought new batteries but one must have had a short. So all we could do is to try to set up a drift pattern. "Drive By Bed Fishing". My luck had changed and I caught two good fish first thing. Now it was Vern's turn on the net. We spotted the big fish in a deep bed as we were coming out of a deep cut and almost drifted right over her without seeing her. Without the trolling motor Vern had the only chance to try to get the bass and he took a few tries but she finally made it into the live well. Then we each ended up catching one more fish. Our belief was we did a better job fishing Wednesday because we were forced to slow down and fish not having the trolling motor. I believe every fish was caught on a Senko. It didn't really matter what color and I threw mine weightless and Vern had a weight on his rig. You just had to find a fish to put it in front of him. So we were pretty pleased to move up from 7th place to 5th place on the second and final tournament day.

Richie Rojas & Tom Atherton Fish Main Lake For 1st Place Big Fish And Goon Fish Prize

Tom Atherton: I had a great time fishing with Richie; in practice I landed a 6.5 lb largemouth on a rattle trap in about 6 feet of water on a rocky point. On Tuesday we fished the main lake where we threw everything at them, but they would only bite our drop shots. I think we were able to



**5th Place
Mike Seibly & Vern Ridgway**



**Richie Rojas & Tom Atherton
5.33 lb Big Bass of the
Tournament**

cull 3 or 4 smaller fish. On Wednesday we fished a couple of different spots in the main lake, picking up a couple of bed fish; again all they wanted were drop shots. Sadly, the smallest fish we caught during the day died on us and of course we were forced to keep it. We caught 3



**Richie Rojas & Tom Atherton
18.26 lb Carp Goon Fish**

or 4 more fish but they were not big enough to cull out any of the smaller ones in the creel. Richie caught the big Goon Fish Carp on a jig and our 5.33 lb largemouth 1st Place Big Bass on a 'secret' lure.

Jerry Askam & Bob Jolley Finally Trick 5.04 Smallmouth To Take Second Big Fish Honors.

Bob Jolley: On Tuesday Jerry Askam took us to one of his waypoints for a bed fish and we found a smallmouth that we estimated to be around 4 pounds. We spent at least half an hour throwing several different lures but we couldn't entice her to bite and she continued to spook and swim away from the bed. So we decided to give up and planned to try her again first thing on Wednesday.

We went to the bed area on Wednesday before the sun was up and started casting in the direction we expected her to be. After a few minutes she took my bait (a reaper style finesse bait on a small jig head) and jumped when she was about half way to the boat and we were able to see how big this fish was. I got her close to the boat and she jumped again and the lure ended up at my feet. After a few minutes of depression Jerry said let's keep throwing at the bed. And a few minutes later she took my bait again and after a couple of acrobatic jumps Jerry got her in the net



**2nd Place Big Bass
Jerry Askam & Bob Jolley**

and we guessed her weight at around 5 lbs. Boy were we relieved, you don't get a lot of second chances with a big fish. We thought we had a good shot at the 5 lb pot but congratulations to Richie Rojas & Tom Atherton who beat us out by a few ounces.

As always we had a lot of fun fishing Havasu and my thanks go to Jerry for guiding us to his hot spots and to the weigh-in team who did another great job.





Weighing-In

By Jack Hughes
Tmx Director

Once in a while I receive a complaint about our weigh-in team and I want to set the record straight on how they operate and the checks and balances that are in place.

First, the weigh in procedures are covered in a club written procedure for each member of the weigh-in team. The Weigh Master controls all of the members of the team: bump tank, white board, official recorder, and photos. The only one who can over rule him is the Tournament Director (TD).

Bump Tank lets the Weigh Master know how many fish a contestant puts into the tank and if there are any violations including dead fish, or a fish not within length limits. The Weigh Master confirms his call and if there is a disagreement then the TD makes the final call. The Weigh Master zeros the scale with the wet bag before each team is weighed (bags of the same manufacture often are 1 to 2 ounces different). After each team is weighed we normally switch bags to speed up the weigh-in - we use multiple bags. After confirming how many fish are in the bump tank **ONLY THE WEIGH MASTER CALLS OUT THE BOAT NUMBER AND FISH COUNT, THE RECORDER REPEATS WHAT HE HEARD FOR CONFORMATION.** The recorder repeats the information back for accuracy

and it is then entered on the official form and the white board.

When the bag of fish is weighed the weigh master calls out the total weight. The weight called out is confirmed by the TD for accuracy and if there is a disagreement the TD directs a re-weigh. The TD and Weigh Master also listen to the recorder repeat what he heard and has entered.

The club owns two high quality scales and they are constantly checked against each other for accuracy before each tournament.

There are several reasons we rope off the weigh areas. One is reduction of noise, and then there is a tendency for too many people closing in on the scales and the weigh team is constantly moving back and forth between positions. Also if someone accidentally bumps the table the potential to change the scale zero is there.

When the final results are in Terry takes a picture of the whiteboard and later compares it to the official weigh-in sheet for accuracy. The weigh-in sheet is the official results document.

Occasionally a fisherman, while reading the scales upside down, thinks he was not given the weight the scale said. Most often I get a call an hour or so after the tournament. I must say I will always back our procedures and the weights called because of our checks and balances. However, **IF YOU THINK YOU GOT AN INCORRECT READING YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK FOR A RE-WEIGH.** In the past four

years the weights have been challenged four times each time the weight called out was accurate.

One other thing, the Weigh Master is not allowed to weigh his own fish. The TD always weighs the Weigh Masters fish.

I often hear "My boat scale weighed the fish heavier". Again, we have very high quality scales and I personally do not think a hand held boat scale can be as accurate as the club scale; close but not to the hundredth of an ounce. I am very proud of the professionalism our weigh team performs at each tournament and it wouldn't hurt for them to also hear it from the members.



Photo Scrapbook - Lake Havasu March 14-15, 2017



LOOK CAREFULLY, THIS IS WHAT WE FISHED FOR AT HAVASU!



TWO FISH - ONE BAIT



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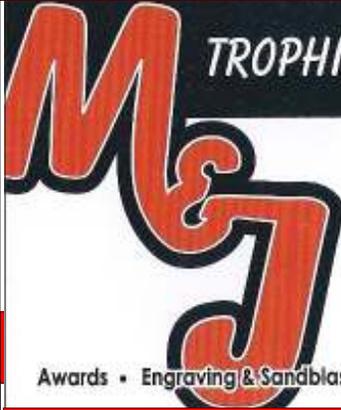
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Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>

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

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Chad Schimmel (B)**

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Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in April

Paul Archer

Gary Asmus

David Baca

Tom Debacko

Geoff Green

Spencer Hand

Hal Hensey

Lou Hirlemann

Jack Hughes

Dave Winston



**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
19 July	Bartlett (Night)
16 August	Saguaro
20 September	Canyon
18-October	Roosevelt
14-15 November	Apache (1.5 Days)