



# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MAY 2016

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

## President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



The last time the Midweek Bass Anglers fished Alamo Lake in April 2013, the top three weights were just over 10 lbs, with the winning weight being a mere 10.55 lbs. Well it certainly looks like the bass have done well in our absence, as the winning weight this month was 17.55 lbs, produced by the winning team of Tom Alauria and Richie Rojas. Great job guys! The lake's water level is around 5 percent, and the only functional ramp is a rather primitive but hard-packed dirt ramp by the Ranger station, which made for a slow launch. However, we were able to safely launch and retrieve 25 boats with minimal damage before safe light.

The weather was expected to be around 100 degrees for our tournament, but we were pleasantly surprised with a rare May afternoon thunderstorm on Tuesday that lasted for a couple of hours and caused all the feeder washes to come alive with flash floods, but also caused some concerns and delays for anglers travelling to the lake from Phoenix on Tuesday afternoon. The storm dropped the warm temperatures about 15 degrees, which was perfectly timed for the Midweek Bass barbeque on Tuesday evening. Gary Asmus christened the new club-size barbeque grill, serving about 50 juicy brats and burgers to a capacity crowd of hungry anglers who devoured the tasty offerings. As usual, many stepped forward to assist with the setup and teardown, help that is greatly appreciated.

The board certainly appreciates all of the help provided by the members that make for a great tournament; we couldn't do it without you guys. Larry White, who is sponsored by Accu-Cull, has donated 3 sets of BASS approved clip-on culling tags, to be awarded to the boater with lowest five-fish weight. Congratulations to Jerry

Askam for being May's winner. Next month we begin our tournament short summer hours, safelight until 11 AM. We will be fishing Bartlett in June, Saguaro in July, and Bartlett again in August, quick enough and close enough to still feed the fishing itch while yet enduring the hot Arizona summers. Hope to see you there.



## Lake Alamo Report

May 18, 2016  
By Terry Tassin

## Team Tom Alauria & Richie Rojas Boat The Big One And 1st Place Win At Alamo

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Alauria & Rojas** weighed the winning creel of five bass

## Monthly Breakfast Meeting

Deer Valley Airport  
Restaurant

702 W. Deer Valley Rd  
Phoenix, AZ

1st Wednesday of Each  
Month 8:00 A.M.

# HAPPY ARMED FORCES DAY



## "We Practice Catch and Release"

weighing 17.41 lbs. Of course, thanks to Tom Alauria, one of those five bass weighed 4.30 lbs which was good enough to also earn the team the prize for **1st Place Big Bass.**



**1st Place**  
**Richie Rojas & Tom Alauria**

**Next Meeting**  
**Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 1 June** starting at 8:00 AM, at **Deer Valley Airport Restaurant** (just one mile north of I-101 at the intersection of 7th Ave & Deer Valley Road). We hope you will come early and have breakfast together.

The next club point tournament will be at **Lake Bartlett** on **15 June 2016**. Club launch headquarters, weigh-in location, and tournament hours will be announced.

**Tom Alauria:** Wow, what a week! Another great turnout and tournament for this club. I showed up at the lake on Saturday which gave me an opportunity to spend a couple days pre-fishing. I've been coming to Alamo Lake for over 40 years and I learned a long time ago that when the fishing gets tough it's time to go flip. Richie Rojas and I worked two areas of the lake. We started off fishing the trees in 14 feet of water. We found the fish suspended on the trunks of the trees. We flipped Chigger Craws and the fish hit them on the fall. Our big fish was the second fish caught and we had our limit by 8 o'clock. We then went looking for bigger fish. We fished the brush near the Cholla ramp in 3 to 6 feet of water. We flipped Senkos weightless. My reels were spooled with high visibility 30 pound braid and 16 pound leaders. I found that if you didn't watch the line you missed half the bites. Richie and I had a great time. Richie you are a good stick and I'm happy we could fish together again.

**Team Rick Brown & Rusty Murdock Grind Out A Limit And Finish 2nd Overall**

In **Second Place** the team of **Rick Brown & Rusty Murdock** weighed five bass for a total weight of 15.34 lbs.

**Rick Brown:** I always enjoy fishing Alamo Lake. It would be nice to get some more water into the lake, but as long as the



**2nd Place**  
**Rick Brown & Rusty Murdock**

fish bite, that's what matters. While pre-fishing on Tuesday, I got plenty of bites, from 3 feet to 15 feet of water, mostly around trees and sticks. The only thing I didn't know is the quality of the fish as I chose to fish "hook-less" in hope that they would still bite the next day. On tournament day Rusty Murdock and I tried a couple spots along the bank with no luck then we headed for the

**Fishing related websites**

You can now register for tournaments online at [www.midweekbassaz.com](http://www.midweekbassaz.com).

Looking for a new/used boat? [www.bassboatcentral.com](http://www.bassboatcentral.com)

Looking for tackle, boat parts, or just useful information about fishing? [www.bbcboards.net](http://www.bbcboards.net)

trees to start flipping. It was not long before we had a really small limit in the boat, except for a 3 pounder that Rusty caught. After a couple of hours and slowly upgrading we decided to move and see if we could find some bigger fish. We headed to some shallow water only to get herded out by Gary Asmus and Terry Tassin. Gary was screaming about some invisible DNC (Do Not Cross) line, all in good fun - sorta! I did manage to catch a 3.5 pounder on the way out. We decided to head back to our other spot around some friendly fisherman, LOL! We just kept catching and grinding it out until some bigger fish moved in. Eventually we had all 3 pounders in the boat.

I had a great time fishing with Rusty. Thanks to Gary Asmus for his hospitality in putting Bell and I up in his new trailer. Congrats to team Alauria and Rojas for a great bag.

### Gary Asmus & Terry Tassin Flip And Pitch to 3rd Place Overall

Team Gary Asmus & Terry Tassin weighed five bass for 15.07 pounds and took home

#### Tournament Statistics

Fifty men fished 9 hours each, bringing 120 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 252.23 pounds with a 5.05 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 2.10 lbs. All but one fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

**Third Place** honors. Gary Asmus' 4.02 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.

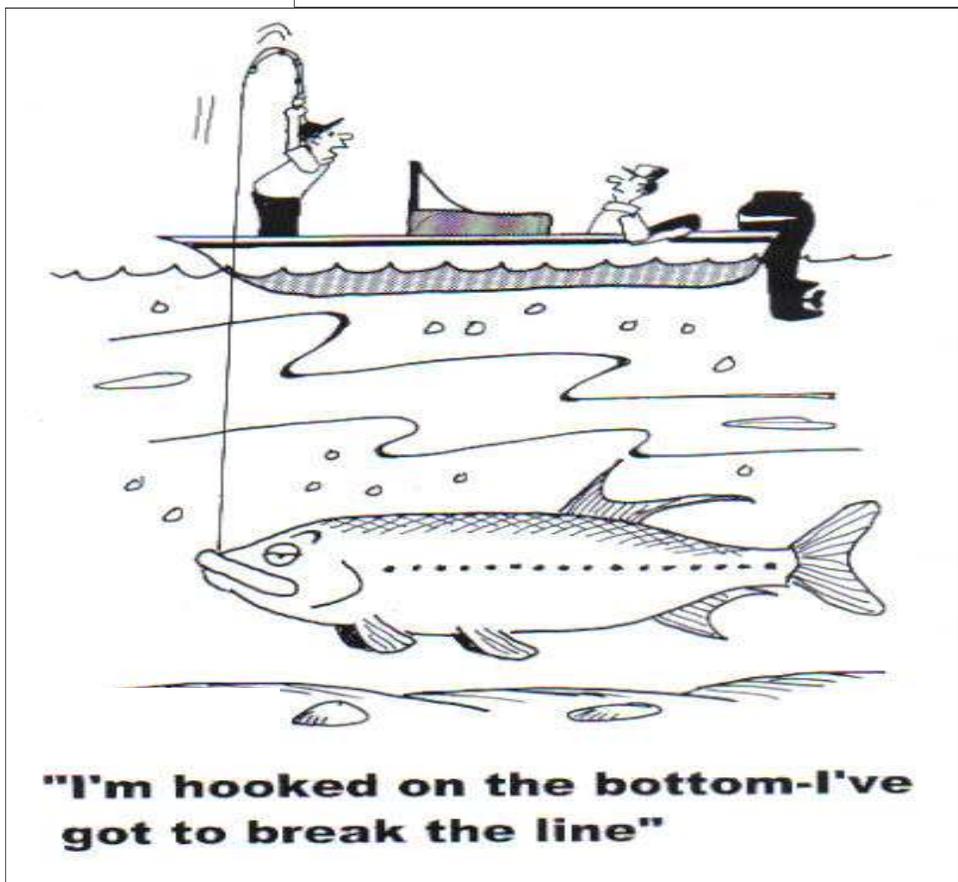
**Gary Asmus:** What fun; I drew Terry Tassin for the first time. He's not as crusty in a confined area (my boat) and I had a great time with him. We prefished various areas of the lake and caught fish most places, but the river was going to be my first choice for fishing on tournament day even though Gary Martlage had some great video of raging waters headed to the lake as a result of the Tuesday rain storm. The bite for us was green craws on 65 lb

braid line and hitting the base of a tree and then putting the bass in the boat. Pretty simple right!

**Terry Tassin:** Fishing with Gary Asmus was a lesson in "stick-to-itiveness". We found the bite while prefishing on Tuesday and stuck to it all day long on tournament day. Gary laid out a trail on his graph on Tuesday so



**3rd Place  
Terry Tassin & Gary Asmus**



when we “kicked” as the second boat out on tournament day he had a chart that led him straight to the honey hole at high speed.

We fished in one to five feet of water in the larger trees. As Gary said, putting a green craw lure tight against the larger tree trunks in the shady spot at the base of the tree was the ticket to success. It sounds easy, however, it took a lot of flipping and pitching to catch the fish we put in the boat. Luckily Gary is in good physical shape and could stand the grind all day of standing on the boat's bow, running the trolling motor, and pitching a green craw to the base of every single tree in the upper end of the lake.

However, the same could not be said for me. After the first hour of the day my back was killing me and my feet felt like they were standing on hot coals. This caused me to stand and flip as much as possible and then sitting down and trying to pitch my lure to the sweet spot at the base of trees until I felt strong enough to stand again – tough way to fish but it works when you have the right fishing partner.

For all the co-anglers out there, if you fish with Gary I



**2nd Place Big Bass  
Gary Asmus - 4.02 lbs**

hope you like country western music – luckily I do. I had a great time fishing with Gary Asmus and hope to draw him again sometime.

### **Team Roger Root & Ernie Arvizu Lock Down 4th Place Overall Finish**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Roger Root & Ernie Arvizu** weighed five fish for a total weight of 13.46 lbs

**Ernie Arvizu:** Roger and I started our morning at the river tree stumps. First boat out was pretty cool but still didn't get there first; Gary and Terry beat us by a foot. We were the only two boats there for awhile and eventually some boaters joined us as time went on.

I began with a chrome blade and white skirt spinnerbait. My second cast along side a tree stump and I hook a bass but lost it by the boat. Quietly said a few words and moved on.

Another bait I used was a green pumpkin Chigger Craw, dipped in orange spike-dye. I



### **The Rules By Gary Grimes**

Just a reminder, this past February we changed the goon fish rule, here it is again: “During a tournament, if a team catches a goon fish so large as to not reasonably be expected to survive in the live-well all day long, or such fish is so large that it will affect the survivability of the bass if it is kept in the live-well all day long, then that fish may be weighed on the lake during the tournament and released. The weighing of the large goon-fish must be done by a team that is also fishing the Midweek tournament, but it has to be a team other than the team that caught the fish. A photograph is also recommended. After a weight is verified by both teams, write the weight down and release the fish. At the weigh-in, tell the Tournament Director what species you caught, how big it was, and who verified its weight. In the event that this happens to more than one boat during a tournament, if the weights of the two fish are within 10% of each other, then a tie will be declared (this is done because of using two separate scales) and the contestants involved will split the purse.”

Also, for the newer members, please use the club issued black weigh-in bags for bringing your fish to the scales. This is done in order to minimize the time in line at the scale, and to help return all the fish safely to the water to be caught again.



**4th Place**  
**Ernie Arvizu & Roger Root**

tied on a green pumpkin Senko and it hooked a bass as it was falling by a tree stump. It was a three pound plus bass and I was hoping it would keep us in the game. These were my go to baits all day and that's the end of my story.

Thanks Roger for a great few days at Alamo. I would also like to thank Sean and Todd for the helping hand towing Roger and I back to the launching area. Roger was able to get boat started and right back to fishing.

### **Team David Baca & Paul Ojala Fish Shallow For 5th Place**

A five fish limit weighing 13.26 lbs was enough to earn **David Baca & Paul Ojala** the **5th**

**Place** money.

**David Baca:** Fishing was great and we had a lot of fun if you don't count loosing a lot of good fish because of the rough paint finish on some old weed less jig heads cutting my line. All of our fish came off of trees and brush in 8 to 12 feet of water in the upper end of the lake. I caught all of my fish on a 4 inch Aaron Martens zipper worm and a pumpkin colored Yamamoto spider jig on a 3/8 ounce weed less football head. The fish wanted the bait moving or swimming and when you could find a large submerged branch close to the bottom, as soon as the bait would come over the top of the branch, it would get slammed. I had a great time fishing with Paul Ojala and he also caught a lot of good fish.



**5th Place**  
**David Baca & Paul Ojala**

The bite started about sun up and just kept getting better as the day wore on.

### **Team Grimes & Spreitzer "Use The Force" For 6th Place**

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 12.32 lbs was enough to earn **Gary Grimes & Luke Spreitzer** the **6th Place** prize.

**Gary Grimes:** I had a great time fishing with Luke Spreitzer at Alamo, who apparently is well liked by many, as they kept encouraging him for the "force to be with him." Well, the force was apparently strong enough for us to squeak out a 6<sup>th</sup> place position. All of our fish were caught on Texas rigged plastics while fishing the brush and trees. Luke is a pleasure to fish with, and certainly a good fisherman, as I am pretty sure he caught more fish than I during the three days we fished together. I am glad I was able to contribute when it mattered on tournament day.

**Luke Spreitzer:** Gary and I prefished for two days and boy did we most definitely need both of those days to really hone-in on where and how we would target fish for the tournament. We really had only one bite to target all day and we were fishing in about 14 feet of water up in the river side of the lake. We would pitch out darker colored brush hogs and chigger craws up near the bases of trees. It was a grind all day doing the same thing, and we probably caught



**6th Place  
Gary Grimes & Luke Spreitzer**

around 5 fish each on tournament day. Our big fish for the day, which was close to 3 lbs, came in the last hour of fishing after we moved out to even deeper trees in about 20 feet of water and caught him tossing our baits up at the bases of the trees and letting them free fall to the bottom. Overall we had an awesome time and got to fish in a manner that neither of us had done before and I know I learned a lot.



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

The Alamo Tournament is an excellent example of why Midweek Bass Anglers is the largest bass club in the state.

This club was founded on the principles of enjoying bass fishing and sharing bass fishing knowledge with others so that all of us can become better bass fishermen. At Alamo these principles were shown over and over.

Alamo is a small lake with many areas that a boat cannot access which makes it even smaller. During the tournament, on several occasions, I witnessed several boats within virtually arms length of each other all fishing the same area. The members in each boat were actually cheering on each other when one would catch a fish and kibitzing back and forth during practice and tournament day. In other clubs if you're within casting distance you are way to close.

The evening before the tournament 50 plus members gathered for a BBQ and comradeship. The food was great, the weather nice and cool and the respect shown by each of our members to each other was outstanding. The main topic of many separate conversations was "this is what I was doing to catch bass today".

Tournament day brought the club to one of our biggest challenges; launch and recovery from a ramp that can only be described as totally inadequate and virtually a one boat at a time launch and recovery. There were so many people helping during the launch and recovery all I can say is thanks to all of you. In

the normal world tempers would have been raised and words of disgust shouted. In MBA there was not one angry word between any of our members that I am aware of. Also just as important we had no damaged boats or trailers.

I received from the park rangers a statement that they "wish all clubs and fishermen were as well behaved and courteous as our club". Well done everyone!

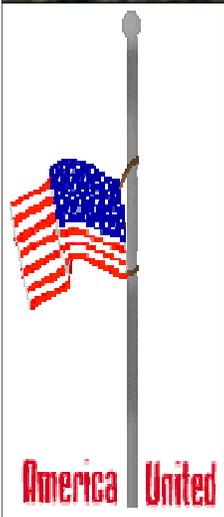
Without mentioning names this tournament had another first. Two of our members paid the entry fee and covered the Co-Angler fee for two members who have had some bad financial luck. In both cases the Boaters were not very close friends to the Co's they helped. They did it because they knew the Co's loved to fish and they thought it would cheer them up, they were right.

I rarely comment on the member I fished with unless we were in the money. This month I fished with Ingo Moura. To describe Ingo you have to use the words: gentleman, courteous, fun, good stick, sense of humor, considerate of your equipment, and a pleasure to have in your boat. If you're a boater and draw Ingo in the future all I can say is there is not a better Co in the club. Ingo I hope I draw you again soon!

Finally, as we hit the hot weather start thinking of what you have to do to not get in trouble on the lake. Hydrate,

sun screen, refresh yourself on sun related First Aid procedures, big hat to reflect the sun, how to keep your fish alive, placing ice in your live well and the rest of actions one has to do when fishing in Arizona that most bass fishermen never experience. Also when fishing in hot weather people tend to not pay as close attention and accidents happen. Make sure your First Aid kit on your boat is up to date and items that are out dated are replaced.

# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Alamo - May 18, 2016



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

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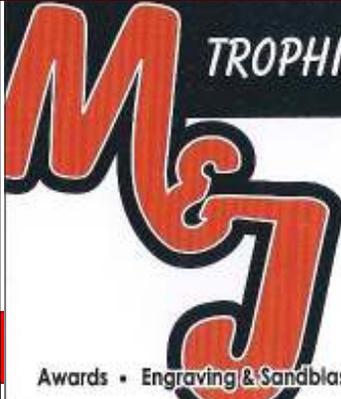
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - John Reichard

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

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

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Virgil Ezell (CO)  
Randy Gray (B)**

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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 June**

Doug Cunningham

Virgil Ezell

Gary Grimes

Ray Krug

Tony Medina

Jake Morrison

