

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MAY 2018 EDITION

13 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



Congratulations to John Hilland and Jeff Mason on their win at Roosevelt Lake for the May Midweek Bass tournament. Twenty-nine boats battled it out from the Tonto end to the Salt, and all spots between. Many teams caught multiple limits of fish, but as is the case many times, you need a nice kicker fish to get into the money. Several nice kicker fish were brought to the scales, including a 5 plus pound monster smallmouth, and Jeff Mason's 5 lb Pot winning 7.18 pounder.

Roosevelt Lake is really starting to fish well and produce some quality fish. I believe we are beginning to see and catch some of the

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

several million Florida strain largemouths that were stocked by AZGFD starting in 2015. The stockings combined with the new habitat should continue to help the lake improve.

Several guys from Midweek joined with the AZGFD on May 10-11 to help build more habitats, finishing over 100 Georgia cubes during the two days. They should be installed soon. Gary Senft recently produced a video of his interview with the AZGFD about their work to improve Roosevelt Lake. You can view it at either YouTube - Fishing with Gary Senft, or you can also view it at www.midweekbassaz.com in The Blog.

The first summer tournament for JML Fishing that was scheduled at Saguaro Lake next week was cancelled by the AZGFD due to water quality problems. The golden algae has returned. The staff of Midweek Bass is already busy in anticipation of these restrictions so expect to see some changes to our tournament schedule for the rest of the year. Our only practical summer lake option is a rotation of Lake Pleasant and

Bartlett Lake, so here is your official heads up. Details will come later. In addition, we plan on moving our November tournament from Apache to either Alamo or Roosevelt. Summer time hours will be in effect for our next three tournaments; Safe Light to 11 AM.



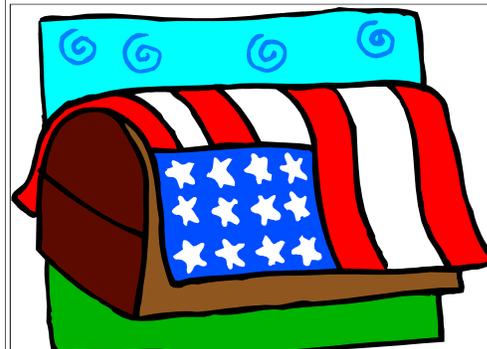
Tournament Report
Lake Roosevelt
 May 16, 2018

Team John Hilland & Jeff Mason Work Top Water For 1st Place Finish

Taking home 1st Place, Team John Hilland & Jeff Mason

Continued on page 2

Memorial Day 2018



"We Practice Catch and Release"

brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 16.70 lbs. Thanks to Jeff's 7.18 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors and the **5 lb Pot** prize.

Jeff Mason: I remember Gary Grimes writing a recent article in Bass Bites on how it was not so bad being a non-boater and all of the advantages you got being one. Fishing Roosevelt with John Hilland was my first time as a non-boater and it was a very enjoyable experience for me as John and I had a great time. I have to give John kudos for being a real trooper fishing a week after Achilles surgery and trying to maneuver around in the boat with a cumbersome boot on. We pre-fished Tuesday and caught some topwater fish across from Windy Hill. I had a point in the Salt end down from Grapevine

**Next Meeting
Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 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 is scheduled for **Lake Canyon (this may change) on 20 June 2018**. Club launch headquarters, tournament hours, and weigh-in location will be announced.



**1st Place Overall
John Hilland & Jeff Mason**

that I wanted to start with on Wednesday and I knew as Boat Number 5 we could get there before anyone else. We stayed around that point for about an hour and left there with 4 fish in the live well - 2 nice keepers and 2 little keepers. I caught our biggest, close to 4 lbs, on a crankbait and John caught a 2 plus on a drop shot rig.

Our next stop was inside Salome Cove where we caught our 5th fish and culled one on topwater lures. We went to the area across from Windy Hill where we had success on Tuesday and caught a nice 2 plus on the same topwater bait, a KVD Sexy Dog walking bait. We missed 4 fish in this area but just kept our heads down and kept fishing hard and throwing the topwater. We kept going down the bank into a big cove and caught the 7.18 pounder on the same bait. My congratulations to the guys that finished with 11-13 pound

bags because the only difference between them and us was we were lucky enough to catch a big one. Had fun with John and hope we get to fish together again some time.

John Hilland: I would like to say thank you to everyone involved in putting on a great tournament once again. I had the pleasure and luck of being paired with Jeff Mason who is usually a boater - his knowledge of the lake and being able to run the front of the boat while I am temporarily on one leg was a huge help. We drove up early Tuesday morning with the idea of putting together a game plan for Wednesday; mostly we just eliminated areas to start. Tournament morning, we were Boat 5 which allowed us to get to our starting point ahead of the crowd. At our starting spot Jeff caught one of our larger keepers on a crank bait and I had one on a drop shot. We



Jeff Mason with 1st Place Big Bass - 7.18 lbs

moved down the lake a bit and started to throw top water baits moving fast, this was the ticket for us. We had a limit of nice fish in the boat by 8:00 and started to try and cull what we could. Jeff had a few blow-up on his bait but just couldn't get them to hook-up, one of which would have really helped our bag. Frustrations aside, we continued with the same lures. Jeff had a solid hit and I reached for the net moving forward when this thing jumped and we both got a glimpse of a BIG fish. Knowing that he had a few come loose, we both were praying this thing stayed hooked. Jeff looked at my net and I thought we might need resuscitation equipment (it's a small net). However, it all worked out and I was able to fit this 7.18 pounder in the net with no shock paddles just high fives. Thanks to Jeff for being accommodating with my boat and bum leg, hope to do it again sometime soon. See everyone next month.

Gary Grimes & Allen Wacker Take 2nd Overall With Carolina Rig

In **Second Place** the team of **Gary Grimes & Allen Wacker** weighed five bass for a total weight of 13.89 lbs.

Gary Grimes: I had a great time fishing with Alan Wacker at Roosevelt Lake. People might think we were really

Membership

As of May 18, 2018 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **98** dues paid active members.



**2nd Place
Allen Wacker & Gary Grimes**

"wackin" the fish in order to finish in second, but the truth is we only had 3 fish at 1 PM. Neither plan A nor B produced what we had hoped in the morning, so we spent the rest of the day looking for fish. We caught our 4th fish - a 4 plus pounder - at 1 PM on a C-rig in about 3 feet of water.

With the tournament end just minutes away, Alan Wacker got bit on a jig in about 20 feet of water for our 5th and final fish, a solid 3 plus pounds. Just goes to show that it ain't over till it's over. Congrats to John Hilland and Jeff Mason on the win and an awesome big fish of the year – so far.

Team Ridgway & Vaughan Work Mid-Lake Islands For 3rd Place Finish

Team **Vern Ridgway & Floyd Vaughan** weighed five bass for 13.26 pounds and took home

Third Place honors. Floyd's 5.56 lb bass also took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors for the team.

Vern Ridgway: Congrats to the first place team of John and Jeff; take a bow gentleman! Thanks to the weigh-in crew and all those who made this another smooth event.

So now three days of pre-fishing was completed, and on tournament day we decided to fish the islands in mid-lake. We had our limit by mid-morning, and did some looking for some bass with "big shoulders". Later we came back to the starting point where Floyd showed me his "big fish jig". Shortly after that his "big fish" was breaking surface trying to shake that magic jig so we netted her and Floyd said "She's a good 4 plus pounder".

We lost some good fish that



"My goodness Dick-let him have the fish."



**3rd Place Overall & 2nd Pl Big Bass
Floyd Vaughan & Vern Ridgway**

may have helped us on a walking bait, and one serious blow-up on Floyd's Rio Rico that send waves against the side of the boat and probably was a missed opportunity to hook "Jaws". The presentations that put fish in the boat were jerk baits, top water lures, jigs, and a Carolina rig.

Mr. Floyd Vaughan and I teamed up well and were able to scratch out a limit with 5 good fish and some minor cull-

Tournament Statistics

Fifty-seven men fished 9 hours each, bringing 138 bass to the scales for a total weight of 306.80 pounds with a 5.38 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 2.22 lbs. All fish but four were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

ups with Floyd sticking our 5.56 lb. kicker fish. Let me also add, in addition to being a darn good stick, Floyd missed his calling as a stand-up comedian; he has a great sense of humor.

Team Prather & Brackey Overcome Mechanical Problems To Finish 4th Overall

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Greg Prather & Warren Brackey** weighed five fish for a total weight of 13.07 lbs.

Greg Prather: First of all I'd like to take a minute to thank the Board for all the time and effort they put in so we can show up and fish. That means a lot to me. I am proud to say I am a member of Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona! Thanks for another excellent event.

Well, I don't know where to start. I got my boat back from the mechanic Monday night. So I called Warren Brackey, and we agreed to meet at the lake Tuesday morning. We got on the water with the boat still not running very well. Both warning horns were going off. So Warren fished near the boat ramp and I went into town to get some oil to see if that might be the problem. No such luck. So we "limped boat" to the Salt River end of the lake where we got some good bites. Then we worked our way back to the Boat ramp.

We got off the water early so I could go into town and talk to

the mechanic. Ha! They were closed Tuesday and Wednesday. So Wednesday we just did the same thing - we went back into the Salt River. We went to our most distant spot first and worked our way back to the launch area.

We tried several different top water and reaction baits and could not get a bite. The bass had the shad penned up against the shore and the shad were going back-and-forth along the bank. So we started throwing our magic Senkos right up tight to the bank. We caught a limit on Senkos and then wound up going to jigs and culled a few fish. We caught a bunch of fish, lost a few that would've helped, but all in all we had a great day fishing.

Thanks Warren. I had a good time and again thanks to all the members that helped. See y'all next month who knows where.

Warren Brackey: Congratulations to John Hilland and Jeff Mason on a great win, and to all who placed in this event. Also, mega-kudos to the weigh-in team for another great job!

Greg Prather and I talked about the upcoming tournament briefly after the monthly club meeting. He let me know that his motor was having problems, but he was hopeful all would be corrected by the week of our tourney. He was able to get the motor back together and tested on Monday the 14th and all systems were a go to pre-fish Tuesday.

We put in Tuesday at Badger ramp and Greg quickly determined his motor problems persisted. After ensuring we would be able to get around well enough at lower RPM's without doing further harm, Greg decided to take it slow and head to the Salt River end to search for signs of bass life. By now it was mid-morning so we passed on topwater. We tried spinner baits, A-rigs and jerk baits with no takers. That's when Greg decided to slow it down and he got the bite we were looking for on a Senko. We then gradually worked our way back toward Windy Hill with similar reaction to our Senkos along the way. Speaking of signs of life, we also spotted a giant water turtle that had to be two feet in diameter and weigh fifteen pounds if it was an ounce!

Greg looked for a mechanic in town on Tuesday afternoon; but surprise-surprise, no one was on duty. On tournament day we pushed on as before and headed to our start point in the Salt River end. We threw top water baits for about half an hour, then Greg picked up his secret Senko and BOOM, he started catching fish right away. We had an okay limit in the boat by 7AM. By 11:30 we had worked our way back across from our launch point, culled three or four fish and had put together a pretty respectable bag. We lost three fish along the way, one early and two later in the day that could have moved us up a place. At the end, we caught a lot of nice fish and had a really great time

doing it.

I had a lot of fun fishing with Greg Prather. We traded hunting and fishing stories and talked about our kids and grand kids for hours. He's a great guy, an extremely accomplished and versatile angler, and I learned a lot from him. In particular, I truly admired how he focused on the task at hand through all the adversity. It would be a pleasure to get paired with Greg again anytime.

Tom Alauria & Butch Dangelo Get Lucky In The PM And Finish 5th

A five fish limit weighing 12.86 lbs was enough to earn the **5th Place** money for Team **Tom Alauria & Butch Dangelo**.

Tom Alauria: I would like to thank the club for putting on another good tournament. I would also like to congratulate



**5th Place
Tom Alauria & Butch Dangelo**

the team of Hilland and Mason for catching that monster bass.

I had the pleasure of fishing with Butch Dangelo and I had a great time fishing with him. We were able to pre-fish Monday and Tuesday and found good fish in the Tonto arm. When we went back on Wednesday those fish had disappeared. We then decided to go to the Salt end of the lake where the water wasn't as clear. We had a limit by 7:30 but they were all small. We culled small fish all morning but our big break came at 1 o'clock in the afternoon when I stuck a 5.56 pounder. A few minutes later I stuck a 3 pound smallie and those two fish made my day.

Team Senft & Milkint Perfect Pairing Leads To 6th Place Win

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 12.75 lbs was enough to earn **Gary Senft & John Milkint** the **6th Place** honors

John Milkint: Under tough catching conditions, congratulations are extended to Hilland and Mason on winning 1st Place Overall, the 5 lb Pot, and 1st Place Big Fish. Nice trifecta. Guess who is going to have lots of income tax for 2018.

Now to how, as co-angler with Mr. Gary Senft, a great day was had on the water. Gary will cover the important stuff but I would like to add that we started out with topwater first thing in the morning and I actually caught my first topwater fish since joining

Midweek Bass. I do have to add that bass was eventually culled, leaving me with still having a goal of actually weighing in a top water catch. The important thing was the coaching I received from Gary as far as alternating the retrieve from fast to actually doing nothing. Any member getting the draw to fish with Gary might consider doing some topwater; however, I digress.

We fished the main lake from Windy Hill to the dam area, using mainly drop shot rigs. We had catching action all day with various colors of Robo Worms. Most of my bass came on the Bluegill color. We eventually culled all 5 of our original livewell fish and had several smaller bass along the way. As we all know it's more fun to catch fish than not catch fish, and we certainly experienced that part of the equation. The weather was



6th Place
Gary Senft & John Milkint

close to perfect and Gary was the perfect partner.

Gary Senft: John Milkint and I were looking forward to the top water bite I had working on Tuesday, but it didn't last very long. John caught the first fish on top water then I had several misses. We were by Windy Hill on the north side. On Tuesday my clients had a real good time catching top water fish. The fish are there one day gone the next day. So I went to Texas rig worms and drop shot and the fishing started and kept going the rest of the day. We had a lot of fun catching fish every where we went. We even started culling catfish. We caught 4 on drop shot. We just didn't get that big bite we needed. Thanks John for a great day of fishing and having fun. Morning dawn and bold bluegill were the best colors.

One-eyed Boater Leads Team Amos Davis & Bob Jolley To 7th Place Finish

In **Seventh Place** the team of **Amos Davis & Bob Jolley** finished with 12.49 lbs for their five bass.

Amos Davis: First congratulations to John and Jeff for winning the tournament. Secondly I want to thank Bob Jolley for his help during the tournament. I have an eye issue that I will be taking care of in the near future but it bothered me during the tournament. Finally, thanks to Mike Bloxam and Larry White for driving and parking my truck.



7th Place
Amos Davis & Bob Jolley

Bob Jolley and I caught our fish in the Rabbit Island area using Zoom Brush Hogs and Ned Rigs. I also caught my personal best smallmouth bass in Arizona at 4.67 pounds! How about them smallies folks.

Bob Jolley: Amos Davis and I were going to meet at 5:30 AM to pre-fish on Tuesday but he called me Monday night to tell me he had gone to the eye doctor and he had to wear an eye patch and he couldn't drive in the dark so we didn't get on the lake until 8:30. Amos has to wear the eye patch until he gets an out patient procedure done, hopefully next week, to correct the problem.

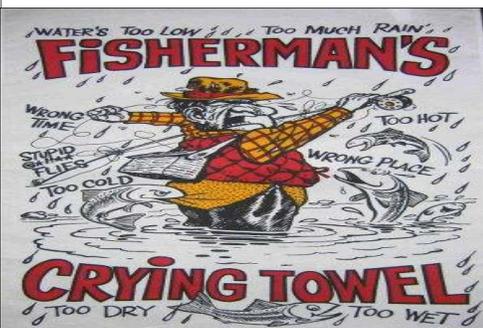
We pre-fished in the Windy Hill area and north of the dam. We started too late for the top water bite and caught most of our fish with crank baits, Ned Rigs, Brush Hogs, Carolina Rigs, flick shaking and drop shots. When we first started

fishing Amos had a little problem with his depth perception and casting distance but he soon got on target and we had a good day of practice with approximately a 10 lb. bag of fish.

On Wednesday tournament day we caught four bass on top water in the first 45 minutes and then the bite died. We then went to the spots we had pre-fished on Tuesday. It was a tough bite, especially for me, but Amos got the hot hand and caught four of our largest fish, including a beautiful 4.67 lb. smallmouth. It was good to see that size of smallmouth coming out of Roosevelt. I finally came to life and culled our fifth fish on Windy Hill with only ten minutes remaining in the tournament. All of our weigh-in fish were caught on a Brush Hog.

This was my first time fishing with Amos. He is a very experienced fisherman and very accommodating which made it easy for me as a co-angler. We had a great time, I learned a few things and we managed to win a few bucks to boot. I hope we get paired up again; I can't wait to see how he does with two good eyes.

Thanks to the weigh-in team who did another great job and to all those that help make MBA a super club to belong.



Weighing-In

By Gary Martlage
Tmx Director

Roosevelt is in the record books! I believe the tournament went well, and everyone seemed to catch good quality fish. Roosevelt seems to be on her way back, and we hope to have many more successful tournaments there. Special thanks to all of you for agreeing to move our launch site to Ringtail ramp (thanks for the suggestion Larry White), as the wind, as predicted, did come up. I believe it was a good move, considering the welfare of our fishermen.

Our next tournament is in process to being moved to BARTLETT, because of the concern of the golden algae problem on the lower Salt River chain of lakes. As discussed at last month's meeting, our concern is of releasing fish in an area that the toxin seems to be prevalent; we as a club want to be pro-active in protecting our fisheries. Game and Fish will probably suspend tournaments on the Salt River chain (except Roosevelt), until the situation improves. It is not official yet, but the board will let you know, as soon as permits have been transferred.

We are entering our "modified" tournament summer season. For you new members, we try to get off the water earlier, to avoid the extreme summer heat. This is good for the fishermen, and also better for the fish we carry around in the livewell. Making the tournaments closer to the Metro area is also better for travel to the closer lakes. We will probably move our Saguaro tournaments coming up to Pleasant, if the suspension of the Salt River chain lakes is put into effect. I know Terry Tassin is eager to keep you well informed, via email, as to our upcoming change of events.

You might have noticed a new face at the weigh scales this month, Gary Grimes wanted to try his hand at the scales, and he did an awesome job. I do this to keep a member ready on the sidelines to step in, should I not be attending the tournament. I think between Sean and Gary, we have the position well covered. Again, thanks to all you volunteers that help us run the tournament. Without you, we would not be able to put on a tournament that will compete with any other circuit in the state.

Let's all say a small prayer for our suffering lakes, and hope to get them back to being the fisheries to which we are accustomed. See you all at BARTLETT (hopefully) next month.

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Roosevelt - May 16, 2018



Photo Scrapbook - Lake Roosevelt - May 16, 2018



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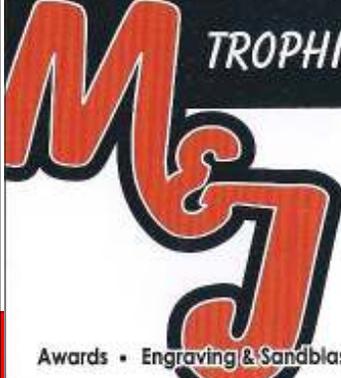
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Midweek Bass Anglers
Since the Last Newsletter**

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**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday
Born in June**

**Steve Bowlin
Warren Brackey
Craig Coy
Doug Cunningham
Rob Evans
Gary Grimes
Tony Medina**



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2018
Tournament Schedule**

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