

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



NOVEMBER 2015

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



Starting in January of 2016, Tom Savage will be joining the board as Midweek's Vice

President. Tom's level-headed, easy going approach will make him a great addition to the board. Tom has been faithfully assisting at the weigh-ins for over two years and is always willing to lend a hand when a need arises. His passion for fishing and dedication to Midweek will be a benefit to us all. Tom replaces Lou Hirlemann, who leaves the board after 4 faithful years of service. Thank you for all the help Lou, you will be missed.

Over the past few years, the board has been updating the tournament rules in an attempt to improve the competition experience for the members of Midweek. Many of these changes were unanimously agreed upon during monthly meetings throughout the year, so the tournament rules were simply updated to reflect those decisions. For example, fishing a tournament solo puts you at a disadvantage in so many ways, so we have changed our tournament draw procedure so as to not have any person fish as a solo boater more than once per calendar year. In addition, we have given the tournament director permission to seek partners for unpaired contestants after the monthly draw, and tournament director Jack Hughes works diligently

each month to see that this happens.

In order to speed up the weigh-in, we now allow ties at our tournaments. This was done to eliminate the need to weigh every team's big fish. Hopefully the last half of this year you noticed an improvement in the speed of the weigh-ins. This change is courtesy of Gary Martlage, who not only recommended allowing ties, but in addition suggested a simple change in the weigh-in sequence that has significantly reduced our line wait times. Looking to the future, maybe someday we will be able to enjoy a cold beer while

Continued on page 2

MIDWEEK BASS HALL OF FAME

2015 Tournament Season Winners!

Angler of the Year - Rick Brown

1st Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Gary Martlage

2nd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Richie Rojas

3rd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Bryan Steele

1st Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - Chuck Golden

2nd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - Jim Buchanan

3rd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - Tom Savage

Lunker of the Year - Rick Brown (9.16 lbs)

June 2015 - Lake Saguaro

Happy Thanksgiving!



"We Practice Catch and Release"

watching the weigh-in, instead of waiting until it's over.

Last week Terry Tassin sent out the official notice of this year's annual banquet, which will be held at the Elk's Lodge on 32nd St. on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 starting at 6:00PM (check your email). For the first hour, you can grab a drink from the bar and socialize with the other anglers, as well as check out all the great prizes that will be won at the end of the evening. Food will be served at 7:00PM, and I have full confidence it will be every bit as good as last year. Lou Hirlemann and I have been busy gathering lots of great stuff for this year's cash raffle, including Shimano rods and reels, custom tackle, professional fishing nets, super insulated ice chests, camp chairs, and many cash prizes.

We will also be giving the ladies a raffle ticket just for attending so they can win cash prizes as well. Hope to see you there.



Tournament Report
Lake Saguaro
November 18, 2015
By Terry Tassin

Rick Brown Nails Down Angler Of The Year Title.

Drop shots were put to extended use by those who caught fish. The final club points tournament of this year started off at 6:35AM with boats heading up river, down river and all points in between in a light fog. The tournament

weather was great but cool with water temps around 64 degrees in most of the lake, but decent size fish were hard to come by. All fish were released back into the lake to live and fight again another day.

Now lets hear from our winners.

Team Lou Hirlemann & Rick Brown Wrap Up 2015 Season In Big Way

Taking home **1st Place**, Team Lou Hirlemann & Rick Brown caught the winning creel of five bass weighing 18.89 lbs. Rick's 7.58 lb bass earned the team **1st Place Big Bass** honors and an additional \$240 for the **5 lb Pot** prize.

Rick Brown: Well what can I

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 2 December** 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 first 2016 club point tournament is scheduled for **Lake Bartlett on 20 January 2016**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.



say other than the fishing gods blessed me again with another great fish, tournament, and partner. I had a blast fishing with my friend Lou Hirlemann. Lou and I have been with Midweek Bass a long time, and we have only fished together a couple of times, so this was an extra bonus. Lou and I did some prefishing on Tuesday. We caught one great fish in 40 feet of water, and three little fish in 8 feet of water. However we did have some good followers behind Lou's swim bait in the shallow water.



**1st Place Overall & 1st PI BF
Rick Brown & Lou Hirlemann**

For the tournament, we contemplated running shallow grass in the morning, but thankfully we decided to just go "deep". With help from

Membership

As of November 20, 2015 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 108 active members.

Lou's map, he put us right where we wanted to be. It was probably my third cast and I had our first fish. Within the hour, we had four fish, all in the 2+lb range. After thoroughly working this spot for the next few hours, we only managed one more fish, about 6 inches long at about 11 o'clock. Time to move!

After a couple of more deep spots with no luck, we decided to go shallow. As most everyone knows this made Lou REALLY excited, its swim bait time! First cove, in about 5 ft of water, Lou was calling for the net. To the net came 3 lbs of grass and a 4 lb fish, our best of the day so far and it replaced our 6" fish. We hit several grass beds with no other takers.

With about 20 minutes left we headed back to the launch area. With 10 minutes left in the tournament I cast up to the bank in about 3 ft of water and I must have dropped my bait right on her. I didn't even feel the bite; I just saw my line moving and some heavy pressure. I love the feel of setting the hook on a big fish, instant adrenaline rush. Having a big fish hooked up in shallow water will always make me nervous; you never know what is down there to get you hung-up on. I choose to be more aggressive getting them to boat in these conditions.

After some fish acrobats (make your heart stop), I was horsing her pretty good to the boat. One of the problems with this method is that the fish may

still have some fight left and freak out at the boat, and that is what happened this time. Thankfully, Lou was quick to react. She tried to dive under the net, but Lou adjusted and scooped her up. While he was lifting the net to boat she jumped and almost completely cleared the top of the net (heart stopped again) but again Lou was on top of it.



**1st Place Big Fish - 7.58 lbs &
5lb Prize
Rick Brown**

As most of you already know,

NOTICE!

**Changes to Club Bylaws &
Tournament Rules
for 2016**

All proposed changes were voted on and approved at the 4 November meeting. All changes will become effective on January 1, 2016. Copies of the approved revised bylaws and tournament rules will be provided to all members by email.

this fish was caught on a Carolina rig with a Craw lure. I was REALLY excited to complete what was already a great day and a great year with Midweek Bass.

I would like to thank Lou and all my other partners for a great year of fishing and getting me the AOY title. Thanks to the Board Members and Crew that make it all happen, you guys do a great job.

Lou Hirlemann: What a great way to start our tournament day, we met at 4:45....wrong! I call Rick and he is still home. We meet at the lake and he is on time. Now if you could see his face as all the boats are passing us, I think he was starting to get nervous that some one would be on our spot. He said he was not thinking about AOY but when he caught a bass on his third cast he starting breathing a little better. When he put our 3rd good fish in the boat at 7:02 he was almost floating - no bad jokes about floating in a boat please. I know Rick wrote

about his catches so I will let his story stand as he told it. It was cool that I could pass the AOY to a friend with my "guide service". Congratulations Rick, well done.

Team Ballard & Milkint Fish Deep & Shallow For 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** the team of **Sean Ballard & John Milkint** weighed five bass for a total weight of 8.34 lbs.



**2nd Place
Sean Ballard & John Milkint**

along the way, but my contribution was zilch, nada, nothing.

As far as technique, think drop shot all the way. I threw almost as many casts as Sean, my arms and shoulders are still aching, but with no results. Same boat, similar technique, but no fish. My role became a cheer leader and that's about all I can add to this information. Yes, I did try different color drop shot worms, but they were obviously not what the bass required. Sean did ask me if he was doing something wrong with the boat placement that caused this futile effort on my part. After serious thought and contemplation I had to say it was all me and nothing to do with the boat. Thank goodness this is a team club. We had a good day on the water, as you can tell by our finish.

My compliments go to Lou and Rick for 18.89 pounds on a lousy bite. What a fantastic result they had.

Team Tom Alauria & Bill McGonigle Jr Work Shallows - Finish In 3rd Place

Team **Alauria & McGonigle** weighed five bass for 7.96 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Tom Alauria: First of all I'd like to congratulate everybody who was able to catch fish; especially Lou and Rick. What they did was amazing considering the conditions we had to fish under. Bill

Tournament Statistics

Fifty-six men fished 8.5 hours each, bringing 82 bass to the scales for a total weight of 130.24 pounds with a 2.32 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.59 lbs. All fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

John Milkint: As many participants are aware it was a difficult bite for most of us. As a co-angler I experienced that slow bite, not having one bite all day. I would have been on the bottom of the weigh in if not for Sean Ballard, who had the magic touch all day long. Not only did Sean catch a limit, he also culled 5 or 6 additional fish, getting us to the 2nd place weight. I did net a fish or 2

McGonigle Jr. and I had just as tough of a time as everybody else. We weighed 5 fish and they all came on orange crusher worms on a drop shot. All of the fish we caught were in shallow water and seemed to be in the grass. I had a great time fishing with Bill. We went to grade school and high school together so we talked all day about our families and the old neighborhood.

Team John Hawkins & Bob Jolley Fish Snags For 4th Place

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Hawkins & Jolley** weighed five fish for a total weight of 7.74 lbs.

Bob Jolley: John Hawkins and I pre-fished at Bartlett on Friday prior to the tournament. John put us on the fish and we had a good day of fishing and a good plan for Wednesday. When we came off the lake we saw a barrier which said the ramp would be closed because of low water. John had already fished Bartlett four times in the previous two weeks and because of the weather forecast we decided not to pre-fish at Saguaro. So we didn't have a plan on where to start and we were the number one boat out. John said this was the first time he had ever been the first boat out so he decided to head for the south bank leading to the snags.

When boat number one was called to start the tournament John's motor would not start and by the time he got it going we were already behind the pack before we got underway. No one was on the bank we wanted to fish so we only lost a few minutes of fishing. We threw spinner baits, top water and jigs along this bank with no takers. When we got to the Snags we got out our drop shot rods and spent the majority of the tournament in that area. Morning Dawn was our primary drop shot worm and we caught a total of ten fish for the day. I had one large fish break me off and John had a nice one get off or we would have finished higher in the standings, but not even close to Hirlemann's and



The Rules By Gary Grimes

A question regarding culling came up at our recent Saguaro Lake tournament. The question arose because one of the teams returned to the launch area with time to spare and decided to fish. So here are some questions and answers.

Are you allowed to fish the launch area?

Yes you are allowed to fish the launch area, as long as you are at least 100 feet from any public ramp or dock; this is a Tonto National Forest imposed restriction on our permit. Our tournament rules have no additional restrictions.

Are you allowed to cull within the launch area?

Culling has a few restrictions, and it's important to know them. As you know, each team in our tournament is allowed to present up to 5 (five) bass at the weigh-in.

1. Any culling of fish must be done before the end of the tournament (see rules). This comes into play specifically if you discover you mistakenly have 6 fish in your live-well, and it is past the stop time of the tournament. You are not allowed to cull the accidental 6th fish after the tournament stop time, and unfortunately your catch for the day will be disqualified.
2. During a tournament, no more than 6 bass are allowed in the boat at any time (see rules). You must cull the 6th fish immediately.
3. You cannot cull a dead fish; the dead fish must remain as a part of your team's catch (see rules).
4. You cannot cull within 100 feet of the launch ramp (see rules). So yes, you are allowed to cull within the no-wake buoys, but you must be 100 feet from the ramp.

Brown's top performance.



4th Place
Bob Jolley & John Hawkins

John and I had the pleasure of watching Rick Brown catch the big fish of the day and sew up the tournament win. We were fishing close to them, in an area between the two ramps, with nine minutes to go in the tournament when Rick hooked into the 7.58 pounder that jumped out of the water and put up a good fight before Lou was able to get it in the net. Congratulations to Lou and Rick for their overwhelming victory.

I really enjoyed fishing with John who is a very accomplished fisherman and he knows where to find the fish. John was a lot of fun to fish with and I look forward to teaming up

with him again.

Kudos to the weigh-in team who did another fast and efficient weigh-in and the hot dogs were a great way to finish off a fun day and a great year of fishing. Thanks guys!

Team Mason & Hensey Drop Shot Their Way To 5th Place Overall Finish

Taking home **5th Place**, Team **Jeff Mason & Hal Hensey** weighed five fish for a total weight of 7.71 lbs. Thanks to **Jeff's** 3.83 lb bass they also took home **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.



5th Place & 2nd PI BF
Hal Hensey & Jeff Mason

Jeff Mason: Congrats to Lou and Rick on a great day, what a BAG! Enjoyed the day on the water with Hal Hensey although we didn't get many bites. We fished hard all day and managed to put a limit in

the boat; 4 of them on a drop shot, red crawler and morning dawn with a chartreuse tail.

We bounced around all day, trying all my old spots with not much success. The Second Place Big Fish (3.83 lbs) came on a drop shot on a main lake point in about 15 feet of water at 9:00 AM. I had a lot of fun fishing in my 4th year with the club, and look forward to fishing again next year.

Congrats to Rick Brown for winning Angler Of the Year; he fished with me once, and I'm sure that was the tournament that put him over the top, NOT!

Team Mike Shaw & Steve Simer Enjoy Day In The Sun And Win 6th Place

In **6th Place** the team of **Mike Shaw & Steve Simer** weighed five bass for a total weight of 7.47 lbs.

Steve Simer: I was lucky enough to be drawn with Mike Shaw for his first tournament back after a tough health situation this past year. Club members will be happy to know Mike is back and healthy. Mike is very knowledgeable on Saguaro and his knowledge really helped us to the 6th place finish.

He fished hard all day and took me to some of his favorite Saguaro spots. We found a few fish shallow near grass while prefishing spinner baits, so on tournament day we started doing that on the main

lake and put a couple of bass in the boat early. Mike then found some drop shot fish in 20-35 feet of water on the main lake. As you all know, the bite was tough, but throughout the day we were able to cull out our smallest bass a few times, but just not with a big enough fish to move up the leader board.

Late in the day I swung and missed on a jig fish, threw back in, got him to bite again. It felt like a good one (enough at least to propel us into 2nd), but he came unbuttoned.

I really enjoyed fishing with Mike Shaw. He is a great guy. Any co-angler that gets him in the draw will have a great time on the water.



6th Place
Steve Simer & Mike Shaw

Mike Shaw: For those of you who have not drawn Steve Simer as your co-angler you have missed a great opportunity. I have fished with a

lot of partners during tournaments and you couldn't have a better draw.

Steve prefished Bartlett and found a good pattern with spinnerbaits so I decided we should see if it would apply to Saguaro. We prefished together on Monday and battled the wind, cold weather and dual cold fronts passing through. We were able to catch a limit under these conditions so I decided that's how we would start the tournament only I threw a DD crankbait to his spinner in the back. After Steve boated two I put the crank away for good and picked up my spinner.

It was a tough day as the fish had already moved deep and post cold front conditions always make things difficult. Thanks to Steve's skill and patience, I was able to focus on my areas and keep us on fish most of the day. Once the sun got high the dropshot was king fishing deep. All our fish came from the back lake.

In summary, fishing with people like Steve and those who greeted me at the ramp is what makes the Midweek Bass Anglers such a great club.

Team Martlage & Golden Collect Goon Fish Prize

Gary Martlage: Nothing special to write about the Goon Fish, except it was the only legitimate bite I had all day! I will personally say this tournament was the most mentally exhausting tournament I have had all year. Congrats to the

winners for figuring out a bite, and to **Rick Brown** for **AOY** honors!



Goon Fish Pot Winners
Chuck Golden & Gary Martlage



Weighing-In By Jack Hughes, Tmx Director

Another year has passed along with 11 tournaments. This past year brought a lot of challenges especially matching boaters with co-anglers. For the first time in four years we left an angler on shore because we just could not find a boater for him. I hope that is the last time for at least the next four years we leave an angler on the beach.

I have had a lot of calls about why we fished Saguaro and it seemed everyone had a different opinion on where we should have fished. I have already had a number of calls about Bartlett in January since

USFS announced it will be low water conditions until February at Bartlett. It seems everyone has a different idea on where we should fish. The board is not going to make a decision at this time since it is two months away and a lot can change. In addition there are many factors that go into which lake we fish: can we get a permit, insurance, safety of members and their equipment and a dozen or two other considerations. The board will make a decision in plenty of time if we are unable to fish Bartlett on where we will fish and let all members know but for now we are planning on fishing Bartlett.

As many of you are aware the USFS is not giving any consideration to anglers who by pass their barricades to launch their boats. They have issued a number of tickets including to at least one club. The fine for a club who violates the barricades is \$2000.00 and it is the Tournament Director who is fined. I can assure you that I am not about to donate household money to the USFS for any potential violation no matter how hard some members try to convince me to go around the rules. This club fishes by the rules!

In this day of our country needing a strong military, sacrifices have to be made by those who serve. The bugler has blown the call for *Boots and Saddles* for club member SFC Andy Goettl, AZANG, who has been called up for a one year tour in Kosovo on short notice. It looks like Andy will miss Christmas with his family. Andy's wife has to be an

outstanding military wife. Andy told me she just looked at him and said "this is what we do". I told Andy he would not be forgotten while he was gone by the club and that if his family needed any help to let me or the club know and he will not have to worry because we will do what we can for them. Andy is already registered for our November 2016 tournament at Canyon Lake and is planning on fishing it then. Best of luck Andy and hurry home safely.

I want to take this time to thank all of the members of the weigh in team, for the outstanding job they did in 2015 especially Gary Martlage, Nick Wampach, Tom Savage, John Milkint, and Terry Tassin. More thanks go to all of you who volunteered to help with the BBQ's and clean up after each tournament.

Finally, I want to say thank you to Lou Hirlemann who is giving up the Vice President position and his position on the board. I have learned a lot from Lou and it has been a real pleasure to work with him the last four years. You will be missed!



Treasure Chest
By John Reichard, Treasurer

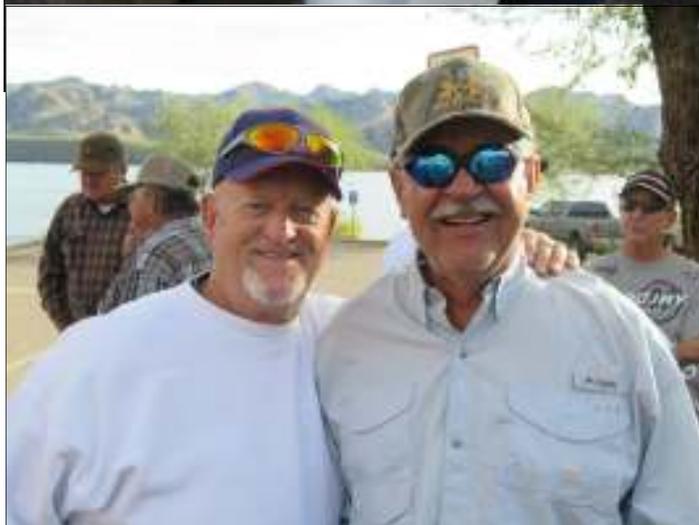
Congratulations to Lou and Rick on their Big Fish & tournament win! So 2015 is over for the club and we move on to 2016. We all had a fun year on the water and I look forward to big things next year, including a great Awards Banquet on January 13th. The 5 lb pot will start anew in January so remember that when you are planning your tournament entry fees. See you all at the December club meeting!

Editors Thanksgiving Log

November is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving. The tradition of the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving is steeped in myth and legend. Few people realize that the Pilgrims did not celebrate Thanksgiving, though some of their descendants later made a "Forefather's Day" that usually occurred on December 21 or 22. Several Presidents, including George Washington, made one-time Thanksgiving holidays. In 1827, Mrs. Sarah Josepha Hale began lobbying Presidents for the instatement of Thanksgiving as a national holiday, but her lobbying was unsuccessful until 1863 when Abraham Lincoln finally made it a national holiday with his 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation. Now Thanksgiving is the fourth Thursday of November. This was set by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 and was approved by Congress in 1941, who changed it from Abraham Lincoln's designation as the last Thursday in November, which could occasionally end up being the fifth Thursday and hence too close to Christmas for businesses.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving, please remember our troops who are serving in defense of our country in many overseas locations.

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Saguaro - November 18, 2015



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

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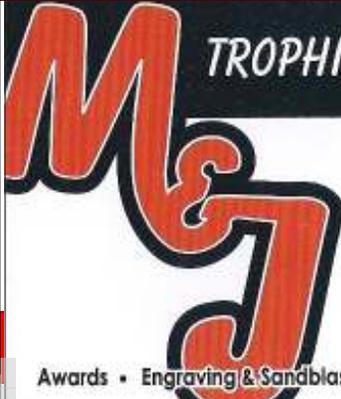
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Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>

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

Ray Krug (CO)

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Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

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Richie Rojas

Gordon Drake

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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	Bartlett
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