



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



NOVEMBER 2016

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



I fished Canyon Lake four times, including the tournament, and have to testify that they were the four toughest days of fishing in my life. I actually caught more goon fish during that time than bass; one 5 lb. walleye and several yellow bass. Enough of my whining. Canyon Lake marks the last tournament of 2016 for the Midweek Bass Anglers. When the tournament was over, since I was in no hurry to pull my boat through rush hour traffic, I hung around a little later after the tournament, chatting it up with several of

our guys in the parking lot. It's so great to just hang out after a tournament, enjoy a cold beer, and unwind from the tournament.

I have been a member of Midweek since 2009, and still get excited about each and every tournament, and always look forward to hanging out with our guys. We just surpassed 120 members, a first for our club, and this year we averaged almost 30 boats per event. We certainly have a diverse group of characters, which is why I am convinced that our club is the absolute best in the state. Our format of draw-team forces us to fish with someone else each tournament. For the most part, I have fished with someone different in each of the

tournaments, so for me I have fished with at least 60 different guys while in the club. That's 60 guys I have gotten to become friends with, and improved my fishing skills from. Now granted, from time to time we get some rather odd ducks pass through the club, and if nothing else they become my example of what not to say or do. But for the most part, our guys are awesome and I am grateful to have gotten to know them.

We have some very talented anglers in our club as well. Some of our guys have been fishing our lakes for decades, and know these lakes like the

Continued on page 2

MIDWEEK BASS HALL OF FAME

2016 Tournament Season Winners!

Angler of the Year - Rick Brown

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

2nd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Sean Ballard

3rd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Jeff Mason

1st Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - - Tom Savage

2nd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - - Tom Atherton

3rd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - - Spencer Hand

Lunker of the Year - Spencer Hand (8.93 lbs)

April 2016 - Lake Apache

Happy Thanksgiving!



"We Practice Catch and Release"

back of their hand. I just love it when they share their knowledge a bit of underwater lake structure that I didn't know about, and listen to them share the story of the time when they caught a toad on that spot. Or when they show me a new lure that is not locally available, or they customize a certain way, or their retrieve is something different. I can honestly say that I have gathered a new nugget of fishing knowledge at every tournament. For you newer co-anglers, you will not find a quicker way to improve your skills as a bass angler than fishing in Midweek.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your participation this past year, you are one of the reasons our club functions so smoothly. As this year winds down, consider how fortunate we are to still be able

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 7 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 2017 club point tournament is scheduled for **Lake Bartlett on 18 January 2017**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

to regularly participate in a sport we likely began as a child. I wish you all the best and look forward to a great 2017.



**Tournament Report
Canyon Lake
November 16, 2016
By Terry Tassin**

Rick Brown Skips Final Tournament Of The Year And Still Nails Down Angler Of The Year Title.

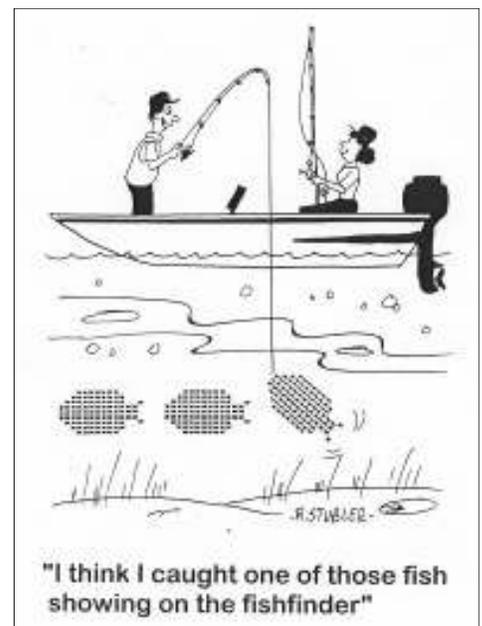
Drop shots and jigs were put to extended use by those who caught fish. The final club points tournament of this year started off at 6:35AM with boats heading up river, down river and all points in between. The tournament weather was great but cool with water temps around 65 degrees in most of the lake, but decent size fish were hard to come by; in fact any bass was 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 David Baca & Todd Gentner Wrap Up 2016 Season In Big Way

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Dave Baca & Todd Gentner** caught the winning creel of five bass weighing 22.13 lbs. Dave's 6.56 lb bass earned the team **1st Place Big Bass** honors and an additional \$270 for the **5 lb Pot** prize.

Dave Baca: First of all I want to thank Todd Gentner, my co-angler, for taking the time and being up late the night before to get his boat ready and bringing it to the tournament after we had mechanical problems with mine the day before. He also did a great job with a drop shot rig to add to our weight. Our plan after pre-fishing was to head to some spots we found fish on in the lower river and I would throw my jig and pig and he would drop shot to help fill a limit with smaller fish. That plan worked better than I expected as his "smaller fish" were three to four pounds. Within about five minutes after arriving at our first spot, our big fish of six and a half pounds hammered my jig and Todd got a four on his drop shot. Within a couple of hours Todd boated two more nice fish there and after we moved to another area about a half mile away I got another six and a half on the jig and pig. All of our fish were very shallow in the rocks mostly from one to three feet deep. The weather was great, and we shared our area





**1st Place Overall & 1st PI BF
David Baca & Todd Gentner**

with a couple of bighorn rams most of the morning. We also got to see up close a three or four pound largemouth trying to eat my jig off a limb it was stuck on in eighteen inches of water right under the boat. It was so interested in that jig that it did not even know we were there right above him. The jigs I use are my own ties and are poured and painted by Lou Hirlemann. Thanks Lou. I am working on having them hand tied and done by some local special needs people here in Prescott Valley that could use the extra money. Therefore, if any one is interested, I can fill some of the requests for purchasing these jigs. I will have more details on this in a few weeks.

Todd Gentner: Wow, what a

Membership

As of November 18, 2016 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 122 active members.

grind that tournament was. I was paired with David Baca for the second time, and again I learned a wealth of knowledge. After being towed in with boat troubles during pre-fish, we felt we had established a pattern. So I raced into town and picked up my boat, and we were back in the game. We spent all day way up the river. We went back to back, our big fish coming off a jig and pig (yep - the pork kind) weighing 6.56. Then while David adjusted his lure, I caught a 4.8 on a drop shot (Margarita Manipulator). So within the first 10 minutes of the tourney we had a solid 11 plus pounds in the boat. Then reality set in and fishing slowed down. We picked up a couple more drop shot fish and another 6 plus pounder later in the day. But we had only five bites all day, and those were the only fish we caught. Nerve racking, thinking everybody was catching fish and culling while we stressed about upgrading. The moon and stars were aligned and we ended up okay. I want to give a shout out to the club as a whole; what a great group of guys. The camaraderie and support for one another speaks volumes.

Team Martlage & Stanton Spoon Way To 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** the team of **Gary Martlage & Jason Stanton** weighed five bass for a total weight of 12.57 lbs.

Gary Martlage: It was a pleasure to fish with new club member Jason Stanton. He

was very energetic, and asked many questions about the club. It was refreshing to see such enthusiasm in a new member, especially since we had a long, not so productive day in which to talk. He was eager to learn, and I hope he continues to participate in club activities.

Our day was simple; I told Jason we would be spooning all day! Except for a few casts with a Sammy early in the morning, we did not put down our spinning rods all day. Our bite was with a Rapala Jigging Spoon. Most of our bites came from a 40 foot drop into 60 feet. We culled 4 or 5 fish during the day. The 10 pound Flathead catfish came from 56 feet of water on the spoon. We were dismayed when he showed his ugly head, as he fought like a bass, and I was hoping to see a BIG dark line on the side of the fish! We had a great time on the water; just wish the bite was better for us, and the majority of the club.

As the season closes out for 2016, I would like to thank all my co-anglers this year for

NOTICE!

Changes to Club Bylaws & Tournament Rules for 2017

All proposed changes were voted on and approved at the 2 November meeting. All changes will become effective on January 1, 2017. Copies of the approved revised bylaws and tournament rules will be provided to all members by email.



2nd Place
Jason Stanton & Gary Martlage

some unforgettable moments on the water. I have fished a long time, and have to say I have created some very fond memories with the members of MBA. We have a STELLAR club; let's keep it going in 2017!

Jason Stanton: As this was my very first boat tournament ever and I had not fished Canyon from a boat in over 2 years, I would like to thank my boater Gary Martlage for a lot of reasons. He told me on Tuesday we would be spooning for bass. I have

Tournament Statistics

Fifty-eight men fished 8.5 hours each, bringing 61 bass to the scales for a total weight of 97.83 pounds with a 1.69 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.60 lbs. All fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

never caught a bass deeper than 20 feet, so when we pulled up and the graph said 40 to 60 feet, I was a little out of my comfort zone. Luckily, I had a great teacher who had mastered his technique and was kind enough to share it. We got to a bend in the river and focused on the breaks or depth changes. We dropped our lines and began "jigging" for bites. Our first bite was a 1 pound white bass that we put in the live well for the Goon Fish. Moments later Gary started a small feeding frenzy landing a couple of decent keepers. I followed it with a 3 lb bass and he added another couple of keepers to make our limit. We actually caught 8 total bass including my 4 lber. Gary then hooked into what seemed like a monster. He was fighting just like any trophy bass would for about 5 to 10 minutes. Then I saw the fish and let Gary know he had a good flathead on. We were both surprised and a little disappointed with this fish. We had another boater nearby verify and watch as we weighed the fish to be exactly 10 lbs and was then released. Gary added another Bass that allowed us to cull a small 1 lb bass. Then just like it started the bite was over. We had solid action for almost 90 minutes in a 100 yard section of the river. Then we tried a few other spots but no luck. We were definitely in the right place at the right time, and thanks to Gary we were using the right technique. I had a blast in my first tournament from a boat and am excited to see what 2017 brings.



3rd Place
Tom Atherton & Fred Krumsiek

Team Tom Atherton & Fred Krumsiek Work Shallow And Take 3rd Place

Team **Atherton & Krumsiek** weighed five bass for 8.01 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Tom Atherton: Fred Krumsiek and I started the morning fishing in an area over by the bridge. I caught our first fish there on a dark colored spinner bait; that fish was a little over two pounds and came out of about six feet of water. We then fished other points around the main lake where Fred caught a 4.24 pounder on a Senko. The bite was tough so we headed up the river and managed to catch 3 more smaller fish; 1 on a drop shot, and 2 on a spinner bait. We went back to the main lake area and graphed some fish deep in 65 feet of water. I dropped a spoon on them and hooked

one which turned out to be a yellow bass. I had a great time fishing with Fred. We fished hard to catch those 5 fish!

Team Gary Senft & Kyle Campbell Mix Things Up For 4th Place

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Senft & Campbell** weighed five fish for a total weight of 7.12 lbs.

Gary Senft: As my traveling partner Bob Jolly and I were riding up to Canyon Lake together we were joking we should have gone to Lake Bartlett; at least we would catch some fish.

My team partner Kyle Campbell and I pre-fished but it was very tough. Kyle and I had to really mix things up to catch fish. We didn't have a problem catching little fish on a jerk bait at all. So we started flipping into the grass and weeds. Kyle

caught the first big one then I caught the next one deep on a Texas rig brush hog. Kyle caught our last good one on a spoon. I did catch a couple on drop shot rigs. We caught a total of 15 bass. Thanks Kyle for making this a good day on the water - you are a good stick. You guys that are on the weight-in team do a really good job.

Kyle Campbell: First I want to say fishing with Gary was great! We worked well together and had a great time on an overall tough day. We both did our own pre-fishing and landed on the idea of punching the grass and jerk baiting near it would be the best idea. At first light we started across from the marina where I landed about a 2 pound bass punching the grass with a 1oz Tungsten and shad style bait. We moved down towards the camping area and Gary pulled in 2 more fish out of the grass using a small jerk bait. We then moved to a hump in



4th Place
Gary Senft & Kyle Campbell

the main lake where we graphed a lot of fish and picked one more up on a brush hog. Around noon we went into the river and started to fish patches of reeds. We then caught 10 or 12 small fish but nothing worth while. At the end of the day we fished the camping area again where I



The Rules By Gary Grimes

Two items I would like to discuss in this edition of the rules:

Encroachment – our rules have no provision regarding encroachment. Our rules do state, however, that anglers are to follow “high standards of sportsmanship and courtesy.” This simply means that you should try not to do something that offends another member, which means of course that you have to stop and consider where they are fishing, what their trajectory is, and allow them a reasonable opportunity to continue. Nobody likes being cut off. That being said, when you are fishing a spot, do not expect any type of ownership zone of the water you are fishing, as we have no encroachment rule. You have the right to fish the spot you are on, but not the right to expect to own water you are not presently fishing, even if that spot is only 200 yards down the bank. Sportsmanship and courtesy are like common knowledge, it may be common to you, but do not think it is common to others. Work it out please. When in doubt, deferring to the other angler is always a safe move.

Property damage – From time to time, someone causes damage to another's property during one of our tournaments. Our rules state that the person who causes the damage is responsible for making good on the repairs. If damage occurs, please attempt to work out the problem in a fair manner between yourselves.

hooked into our biggest fish while throwing into a boil of shad and bass.

Team Jolley & Coplan Chatter Bait Way To 5th Place Overall Finish

Taking home **5th Place**, Team **Bob Jolley & Doug Coplan** weighed five fish for a total weight of 6.38 lbs.

Bob Jolley: I didn't get an opportunity to pre-fish with Doug and I was kind of glad because Doug didn't get a bite when he pre-fished on Tuesday. I had pre-fished with Gary Senft on the previous Friday and we only caught two small fish each. So going into the tournament Doug and I were unsure on where to start and what to use. We thought we would start in either the bridge area or the grass on the east side of the main lake. Sitting in the boat before take off we both said let's go for the grass.

When we got to the cove on the east end I started throwing a top water bait and had two blowups but the fish would just knock the bait out of the water, but it did tell us there were fish in that area. Doug started with a jig but couldn't get bit so the both of us started throwing chatter baits. Doug hooked our first fish with his custom chatter bait and I soon followed up catching a dink not much bigger than my chatter bait, but we had two fish in the boat and we had most of the day left to add to our small bag. After we left the cove we spent several hours fishing all over the main lake without another bite.



**5th Place
Bob Jolley & Doug Coplan**

With a couple of hours left we headed back to the cove where we had started the day and I caught our third fish on a drop shot and soon after Doug landed our biggest bass (2.02 lb.) of the day on his chatter bait.

Now we had four in the boat and we were feeling a little better about the day and we decided to fish the last hour in an adjoining cove. With 45 minutes left in the tournament I hooked our fifth fish on a drop shot (morning dawn of course) and with thirty minutes left we decided to fish our way back to the ramp following the buoy line fishing in the grass. Doug switched to a Carolina rig with a chigger craw and as soon as he threw it out 'bang' he caught our sixth fish which thankfully culled out the dink.

As most of us found out it was another tough day on Canyon. We scratched for every bite and we were fortunate to finish

in the money. I had a great time fishing with Doug and learned some new techniques which is one of the great benefits of fishing with the Midweek Bass Anglers. Another great benefit is making new friends and having a great time on the water which I did with Doug and I hope we hook up again as partners.

Thanks to the weigh-in team for another great job and thanks for the hot dogs which really hit the spot. And a special thanks to Terry Tassin for helping me inch the trailer out of my parking spot where I was blocked in by a couple of 'bozos' who, of course, were not from our club.

Team Geoffrey Green & Tony Medina Enjoy Day In The Sun And Win 6th Place

In **6th Place** the team of **Geoffrey Green & Tony Medina** weighed four bass for a total weight of 5.43 lbs. Thanks to **Geoffrey's** 4.82 lb bass they also took home **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.

Tony Medina: The team of Tony Medina & Geoffrey Green took home 6th place honors with a 'whopping' limit of 5.43 lbs, which included our 4.82 lb Second Place Big Fish which Geoffrey caught at mid-morning on a dropshot and a red worm.

We started our day down by the first bridge area which seemed to be a popular choice



**6th Place & 2nd Pl Big Bass
Geoffrey Green & Tony Medina**

for most of the field. We started the morning throwing top water lures and reaction baits but to no avail, so we moved around that lower basin area eventually fishing by the dam, where Geoff caught his big fish on a dropshot. It took us a couple of hours to finally catch a fish, but it was a super fish on a really tough day. The fish put up a good fight, Geoff realized right away he was a big fish and wisely backed off his drag to try to wear him down and it worked just fine as he was able to bring it up right to the waiting net, and the hi-fives began.

We fished the rest of the day running up the lake throwing every thing we had in the boat. I was able to pick up four 'rats' to show for our day's efforts. I threw the first one back because I thought it was too small, but after the other three I caught were about the same size I kept them all. I caught my

fish on a small crankbait.

I really enjoyed fishing with Geoff; it was his first Midweek tournament. He's a good fisherman and we had some great conversations. I am looking forward to drawing him again.

Overall, it was a pretty good day. Congratulations to all the winners, especially Dave Baca and Todd Gentner with their amazing 22.13 lb bag on such a tough day.

Geoffrey Green: My first attendance at an MBA meeting was the November meeting where I met a lot of nice friendly and welcoming people. I also signed up for my first tournament with the group and was co-angler with Tony Medina who was also at the meeting. We met each other after being paired for the November tournament and discussed pre-fishing strategies. Although Canyon Lake would not be at the top of my list for any fishing event, I did go on several fishing trips before the tournament date. During pre-fishing trips I spent most of my time off points in the main lake and on structure up the river where I caught several fish on drop shot and jerk baits.

When Tony and I started in the tournament we headed down to the bridge area and started casting jerk baits and other assorted surface lures. As the sun rose in the sky there were fish breaking the surface all around us, most seemed small but there were several large fish mixed in. However, we

caught nothing on surface oriented lures which was extremely frustrating. We then moved closer to the dam area and I switched to drop-shotting (DS) as the fish breaking the surface subsided – and we still didn't catch much anyway!

We fished the south shore as we trolled eastward to the dam barrier arriving at the barrier at around 10 AM. At the east end we spent some time casting near the barrier. Just as we were discussing moving locations I had an extremely light hit on my drop-shot red bottom hopper worm in about 30 feet of water. When I fish DS I use a technique where I vibrate the bait at high speed and then let it rest – it's at the resting time when I catch almost all fish on DS. This time was no different; as I set up for the next vibration it felt stuck on the bottom and almost immediately pulled back on the bait after I set the hook. FISH ON! He put up a pretty good fight and I knew he was a nice fish because in my experience larger fish strike the bait with less force than smaller fish. The first sight of him was about 6 feet under the surface and confirmed my thoughts that he was a nice size fish. Tony was ready with the net and after several runs by the bass, with me adjusting the drag, the fish was ready to be brought in. We got him in the boat and into the livewell without delay and started looking for his friends. While the fishing was tough it was a nice day.



Weighing-In

By Jack Hughes,
Tmx Director

The end of another tournament fishing season concluded with the closure of scales at Canyon Lake. In my judgment it was another A+ year and proof again that someone always finds quality fish on any given day.

Having served 21 years in the military I have enjoyed some great teams. I can honestly say Midweek Bass Anglers has to be right up there as one of the finest groups I have ever been associated with. When you consider our difference in backgrounds, careers, education, ages, fishing skills and individual likes and dislikes and that we all get along that in itself is amazing. I have witnessed on many occasions two fishermen in our camps of different back grounds and ages coaching each other on how to win and catch fish. Egos are left at home, except maybe at the poker table.

When a member or someone in his family is ill, MBA members respond as if it is one of their family members. Since MBA has grown as a family why am I not surprised.

I would like to thank every member who participated in each tournament for your help, sportsmanship, and what each of you contributed to make our club the best in the state. This year we had a significant growth in membership and we managed, with a lot of help, to only leave one member "on the

shore" who wanted to fish.

The weigh-in team of Gary Martlage, Spencer Hand, John Milkint, Tom Savage, Nick Wampach and of course Terry Tassin performed magnificently this year. The team did not have one complaint registered against any of them during the entire year, **WELL DONE GUYS!** A special thanks goes to Sean Ballard who always seems to be my fill-in for every task when I need someone from weighing fish to helping launch boats. If I missed anyone who helped out I apologize.

The list of contributors who helped on BBQ's was also very long. First, on my list is our president Gary Grimes who always works hard at every BBQ. Others that stand out, but not all, are Greg Prather, Gary Asmus, Lou Hirlemann, Gary Martlage and of course Rusty and Christine Murdock who always go way beyond all others for our Apache BBQ.

I want to thank you all for your behavior towards the occasional person on the lake who does not like tournament fishermen or is obnoxious on the ramp. For ignoring the skiers who can only ski in your favorite fishing area or the guy with the Wave Runner who insists on circling your boat all day long.

This past year we experienced more than usual medical emergencies. I want to thank all of you who have stepped up to provide quality first aid and helped a fellow member who was experiencing a problem. In

most cases the first aid provided left little for the first responders to do when they arrived. I also want to thank Tom Alauria and John Hawkins who wanted to make sure they could help a fellow member if needed and attended the Red Cross Training course.

Finally, in my opinion, the Board of Directors is as good as any in the state. I give great credit to them for developing policies, procedures and budgets and excellent communications with all members that have resulted in our growth and recognition as an excellent bass club who also supports the future of fishing in Arizona.



Editor's Thanksgiving Log

by Terry Tassin

November is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving. The tradition of the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving is steeped in myth and legend.

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 - Canyon Lake - November 16, 2016

Ahhhh it's good to be catching bass.



Photo by Sean



There she goes!



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2017 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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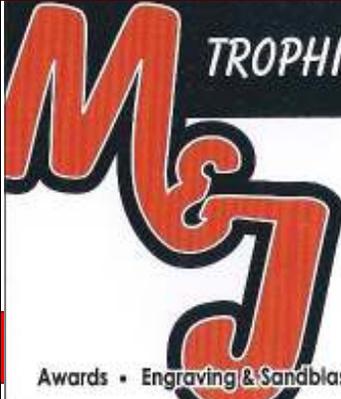
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Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>

Welcome to New Midweek Bass Anglers Members Since the Last Newsletter

- Ron Bailey (CO)**
- Geoffrey Green (CO)**
- Ryan Keilholtz (CO)**
- Jason Stanton (CO)**

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Individuals wishing to purchase a club shirt or cap can order directly from our provider - **M & J Trophies & Apparel**, 10802 N. 43rd Ave, Glendale, Arizona. See their ad above.

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday
Born in December

- Mike Aguayo**
- Wayne Allen**
- Bill Blakeman**
- David Brakefield**
- Gordon Drake**
- Lionel Frailey**
- Don Hegenderfer**
- Mike Holloway**
- Richie Rojas**
- Chris Sabia**
- Steven Wells**



**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) |