

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



**NOVEMBER 2017 EDITION**  
13 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

**CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005**  
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

## President's Perspective



The November tournament at Apache Lake was the last tournament that was directed by Jack Hughes. Jack and I both came onto the Midweek board at the same time, which was the beginning of 2012. Jack's dedication and determination meant that we never had to worry if the job was done and done right; he was a true professional. His care and compassion meant he was always considering the needs of others, many times to the detriment of himself. His fairness and firmness meant that he wasn't afraid of facing personnel issues when they

arose, but you knew it would be handled fairly. Also, he was one of the coolest and friendliest guys I have ever known. Jack will be missed as Tournament Director. Thanks for your service and Semper Fi; oh that's for Marines, I guess its Keep Em Flying for the Air Force.

The board of directors for next year will be Gary Grimes/president, Tom Savage/vice president, Terry Tassin/secretary, John Reichard/treasurer and Gary Martlage will be joining us as our new tournament director. We look forward to working together and having another great year. Tight lines and God speed.



**Tournament Report**  
**Apache Lake**  
November 14-15,  
2017

## Clinton Bell Nails Down First Time Angler Of The Year Title.

Another great fishing season is over and the last event of the year was one tough nut to crack when it came to putting numbers and decent size fish in the livewell. The final club points tournament of this year started off at 6:30 AM with boats heading up river, down

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## **MIDWEEK BASS HALL OF FAME** **2017 Tournament Season Winners!**

### **Angler of the Year - Clinton Bell**

1st Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Sean Ballard

2nd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Gary Grimes

3rd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - David Baca

1st Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - - Paul Ojala

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

3rd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - Howard Thomas

**Lunker of the Year - Tony Medina (9.60 lbs)**  
**April 2017 - Lake Saguaro**

# Happy Thanksgiving!



## "We Practice Catch and Release"

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 numbers and good 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 Roger Root & Butch Dangelo Wrap Up 2017 Season In Style**

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Roger Root & Butch Dangelo** caught the winning creel of eight bass weighing 12.88 lbs during two days of fishing.

**Roger Root:** Butch Dangelo and I pre-fished up the river by

flipping the canyon walls and this produced a five bass bonanza for us and made us think we had it figured out for tournament day. The problem turned out to be we could only put 3 fish in the boat from the same locations on tournament days.

On tournament Day 1 we fished Carolina Rigs with Chigger Craws by throwing the rigs across points located around the lake. Our total tally on Day 1 was Butch 4 fish and Roger 0. We finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> Place at the end of Day 1.

Day 2 we changed things up and fished a sand reef located in the river. Again we fished Carolina Rigs with Chigger Craws and this time we put a 3.37 pound Smallie in the livewell. Three additional smaller bass were caught and

that was it for our team.

I guess you could say we did well to end up with Butch catching 4 bass on Day 1 and Roger catching 4 on Day 2. My thanks to Butch for being a great co-angler and putting fish into the boat.

### **Team Bell & Evans Fish Flats For 2nd Overall**

In **2nd Place** the team of **Clinton Bell & Rob Evans** weighed seven bass for a total weight of 9.45 lbs during two days of fishing.

**Clinton Bell:** I want to congratulate Roger Root and Butch Dangelo on a very tough win. I especially want to thank my partner Rob Evans for a 110% effort which put us in a 2nd Place finish; if it wasn't for

## **Next Meeting Next Tournament**

Our final club meeting for 2017 is scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 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 2018 club point tournament is scheduled for **Lake Bartlett on 17 January 2018**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.



**Count ALL of your blessings. Happy Thanksgiving!!**

his fishing skills the outcome wouldn't be the same. We practiced the week before and picked up a few fish on spinnerbaits and looked at a lot of fishless water - which is a real shame because Apache is one of my favorite lakes. Rob went back the Wednesday before the tournament and checked out some new areas and picked up a few fish using a spinnerbait and Carolina Rig. Monday I practiced and found fish in the same areas.

We had a tournament game plan to try to make the spinnerbait work because it produced bigger fish but it never happened and that's when we went to the flats, put our heads down, put the Carolina rigs to work, and that's what we did for the next 13-1/2 long hours of a very grueling tournament. I also want to thank Tom Savage for sharing water with me and Rob; he is one cool guy; many times we fished within casting distance of each other and never a cross word was spoken. Thanks again.

### **Team David Baca & Gary Grimes Work C-Rigs And Take 3rd Place**

Team **David Baca & Gary Grimes** weighed four bass for 7.64 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors during two tough days of fishing. **Gary's** 3.78 lb bass also earned the

#### **Membership**

As of November 17, 2017 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 120 active members.

team **1st Place Big Bass** honors

**David Baca:** It was so tough fishing that you had to be lucky and bump into a bass with your lure. There was absolutely no skill involved. My favorite lure – a jig – did not work for me so I had to resort to other setups to find fish.

On Tuesday Gary Grimes and I put 3 fish in the boat. One of those bass was caught by Gary and wound-up being the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Big Bass of the tournament. Gary caught that one using a Carolina Rig with a Chigger Craw for a lure. I caught three bass using a Zoom Lizard.

We were not as lucky on Wednesday and we only put one fish in the livewell and we caught that one fish on a Rattle Trap crank bait. On and off big engine problems caused us to lose some fishing time but I doubt that it made a difference in our final score.

Right now I am at Lake Roosevelt with my son pre-fishing for a tournament this coming weekend (doing quite well thank you) and Gary Grimes is in Mexico catching some big bass. Neither of us could put anything together for this write-up so I asked Terry to put something together under my name. Good job Terry.

### **Team Jack Hughes & Otto Gal Dropshot For 4th Place**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team

**Jack Hughes & Otto Gal** weighed six fish for a total weight of 7.56 lbs during two days of fishing.

**Jack Hughes:** I fished with Otto Gal and we recognized the bite would be very tough. We decided to fish mostly deep and wait for the sun to shine hard on the steep banks. When the weather cooperated we started pitching drop shot worms into the shaded areas as we worked our way down the steep banks. I recorded on my graph the bottom areas of where we caught fish and most were caught at close to 20 feet or deeper with a rip rap bottom. That method worked for us on both days. The fishing was still slow but every now and then we were rewarded.

If you ever want to see Otto's eyes light up even more than when he catch's a 5 pound plus bass just ask him about serving in the 11th Airborne.

**Otto Gal:** We knew fishing would be tough. We went all the way up the river. Started throwing crank baits, spinnerbaits, chatter baits, jerk baits (soft and hard), and 30 minutes later it was obvious that a reaction bite was not happening. I threw jigs for a while - no good. Now we had an idea that 6 inch Robo and 4 inch Power Worms would be the way to go for the rest of the day. When the sun came up we fished all the shady pockets. That how we ended Tuesday. Wednesday we started fishing about a mile north of Burnt Corral. Big

mistake! Back up the river where we started Tuesday. This time I rigged up a split shot with a 4 inch power worm and a drop shot rig. Three bites 2 fish. I really enjoyed fishing with Jack; we have lots of things in common. Airborne Forever!

### **Team Jerry Askam & John Hilland Win 2nd Place Big Bass Prize**

Taking home **2nd Place Big Bass** honors, **Team Jerry Askam & John Hilland** weighed four fish for a total weight of 6.89 lbs during two days of fishing. **John's** 3.47 lb bass earned the team the **2nd Place Big Bass** honors.

**Team Jerry Askam and John Hilland:** First, let me congratulate Roger Root and Butch Dangelo on their win in very tough conditions and the Midweek Bass club for putting together another great tournament. Greg Prather slaved over the grill Monday night making sure nobody went hungry and Gary Grimes dealt a good poker game for the

#### **Tournament Statistics**

Thirty-seven men fished 15 hours each over a two day period, bringing 65 bass to the scales for a total weight of 94.76 pounds with a 2.56 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.46 lbs. All fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

nightcap.

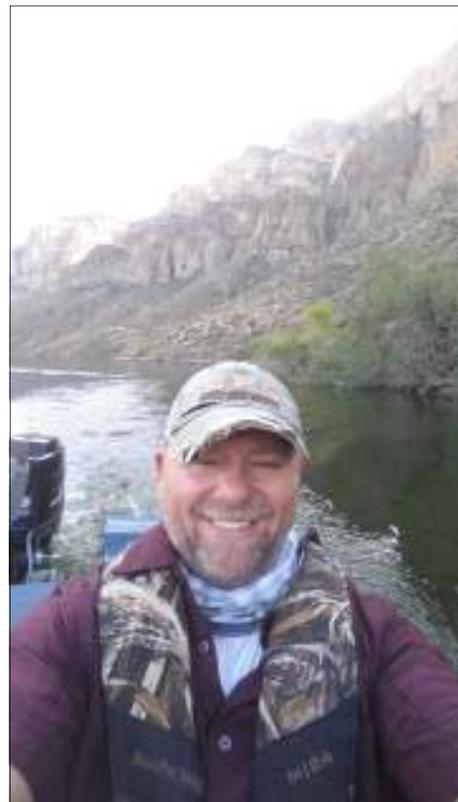
I was paired up with Jerry Askam as my boater; what a great guy! I was able to meet up with Jerry around noon on Monday and get a few hours of pre-fishing in prior to Tuesday tournament day; this produced nothing and we had no plan for the Day 1 tournament morning.

We started out the first day on a point in mid-lake that had been productive in the past for both of us. I started with a chatterbait and on the 3rd cast I hooked up and asked Jerry to get the net. He looked at me and laughed like I was joking, but he soon realized I really had a fish-on and grabbed the net to boat what would turn out to be the 2nd place big bass. We fished hard the rest of the day and only caught one more for our bag on Day 1. Day 2 took us to the same point and right off the bat Jerry had a nice fish on a crank bait. After that, once again we were only able to get one more fish for our bag. I had a great time fishing and chatting with Jerry and I hope we get to do it again sometime. John Hilland

### **Team Moura & Riley Catch 'Big Mouth Catfish' For Goon Fish Prize**

**Ingo Moura:** Finding enough words to help fill the Bass Bites newsletter, is tougher than the Apache Lake bite and I don't really need to mention that anymore.

As far as the spirit of the Club;



**Goon Fish Pot Winner  
Ingo Moura**

I can say we all had a pretty good time and really enjoyed the BBQ. We extend our thanks to all who participated. Thank you to all that help put these trips together. Thanks to the weigh-in team - although you didn't have to weigh many fish this tournament - LOL. Congrats to the big winners and all who placed, it has got to be your toughest wins to-date. I would be remiss if I did not offer many thanks to the guys that helped out with extra fuel for Ray's boat.

I probably don't have to tell you how much I enjoyed donating my money to the annual Poker game; I will get my payout one of these years. Congratulations to the gentleman that took the money. GOOD TIMES.

So, on the water, Ray and I decided to meet up Monday and prefish the lake. Tom Alauria and I took the Goon Fish prize away from Ray and Richie Rojas at Saguaro in September, so I promised I would try to win it for Ray and I this trip. Instead of actually pre-fishing we scouted the lake and really enjoyed the view and each other's company. Ray is kind and has no shortage of fish and other stories. We thought we had the lake figured out for Tuesday and marked areas where we found fish on the electronics. Tuesday tourney Day 1, didn't go as planned, however I managed a bass on a Norman Craw pattern Crank, that I call my Smallie Crank bait. Then nothing would bite for most of the rest of the day, so I put on a drop shot with a Robo Worm Oxblood color. Boom - I thought I caught a pig, and then I realized it wasn't swimming like one. However, as I looked into a big, open, mouth I yelled out "she's a pig". Quickly we realized I caught what Ray called a Big Mouth Catfish. I got the goon fish I promised I would try to get for you Ray buddy - money, money!

We blanked Wednesday. However, Ray and I enjoyed each others company and we were hoping our goon fish would be the largest at the weigh-in. We both appreciated the history of Apache Lake and its wildlife. I want to just say thanks Ray, your hospitality and your consideration for others is top notch.



**Goon Fish Pot Winner  
Ray Riley**

**Ray Riley:** Thanks to Ingo Moura, my co-angler, we were able to at least show up on the white board along with a single bass. Ingo was fishing a worm when the Catfish picked it up and would not let go. Congratulations go to everyone who weighed fish; Apache Lake seemed to be a very tough lake possibly due to the fish kill that has been going on for several months. Any boater who draws Ingo as his co-angler will be a lucky guy. He comes prepared and is helpful during the launch and retrieval and has a good knowledge of how to fish. We spent Monday afternoon running the shore line and marking areas that held fish. Tuesday and Wednesday we tried every marked area at least twice but were unable to entice any action even though the

areas were holding fish very deep 40 to 60 feet. Thanks to John Hawkins and Tom Alauria who were gracious enough to loan me some fuel because the marina did not open on Tuesday and we had traveled up and down the lake several times and my fuel gauge was showing 1/4 tank, a little to low for comfort not knowing where we were going to wind up Wednesday. Again congratulations to the winners and others who stayed to the end.



### **Weighing-In**

**By Jack Hughes,  
Tmx Director**

With the end of the Apache tournament my time as Tournament Director (TD) is coming to an end. I want to thank all of the members for their support and hope you all support Gary Martlage as much as you have supported me. Being the TD for the last five years has been a wonderful experience for me and I was sorry to have to give up the position due to other family matters and not having the time the Tournament Director's position requires. I will still be fishing every tournament with the club and will help the board in any way I can to improve the club or aid in solving problems.

I want to thank all of the board members both past and present who helped me learn what a TD is supposed to do and then supported me along the way. A very special thanks goes to three current board

members. Gary Grimes for being there with me for the last five years and who helped to make the bylaw changes so the club could become more efficient. Terry Tassin - Mr. Club Memory and Secretary Extraordinaire. I seriously doubt if we ever went more than three days in a row without him making all member's job easier! My last special thank you goes to Tom Savage who on more than one occasion was the voice of calmness and reason in the face of my desire to explode.

Here are my thoughts and opinion on the Apache tournament. I checked with three sources at AZG&F about the poor catch rates upon returning from Apache. Despite all of the talk of a major fish kill in Apache AZG&F has assured me there has NOT been any major fish kills in Apache. AZG&F checks the water biweekly and there are NOT any viruses active in Apache and there are no dead spots of oxygen. The fish count for Apache remains high especially the Large Mouth bass count. Their best guess on why the bite is way off is due to the tread fin shad. Salt River Project and the Arizona public have done such an excellent job of conserving water that all of the lakes on the Salt chain are nearly at maximum levels except for Roosevelt. The water in Apache is not moving down stream and the lake is in effect a very large pond. The deep water that normally cools off this time of year has not cooled due to many reasons including weather, and not adding water from Roosevelt to cool the deeper water in Apache. The

results are the tread fin shad will not leave the deep water and head for the coves until the water temp drops below 55 F. (The water temp on the surface at Roosevelt dam averaged 68.7 degrees during our tournament.) Until the water cools the shad will stay deep, below 40 feet, and the bass will stay down there with them. Andy Clark's words to me were "the lake is very healthy". Bass and shad do not read the calendar they react to conditions and the current conditions make bass fishing very tough.

My partner for Apache was Otto Gal and I want to share with our members a few facts about him. Otto is a refugee from Hungary. He literally escaped from Hungary when Russia sent its tanks into Hungary to put down attempts to overthrow the communist government and make the country a free democracy. He was the only member of his family to escape. Upon arriving in the USA he did not speak any English. He joined the US Army and then volunteered for Airborne duty and served five years as a U.S. Paratrooper. He volunteered for duty with the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne in Europe and served the majority of his five year career with them and the rest with the 101st Airborne Division. For those who are not aware the 11th Airborne had a one way mission into Russia to disrupt the flow of troops and equipment heading into Europe in the event of war with Russia. Otto made 69 parachute jumps while in the

service and achieved the rating of Senior Parachutist. His five years in the Army qualified him for US citizenship and he became a U.S. Citizen and moved to Arizona. He worked in the Arizona copper mines, met a lady in Tucson, whom he is still married to and learned to fish. So the next time you fish with Otto look at his tackle box and you will see one of his proudest achievements - his Senior Parachutist badge attached to the top of it.

## Things You Should Know

In English pubs, Ale is ordered by pints and quarts. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the Landlord would yell at them 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down.' It's where we get the phrase: 'Mind your P's and Q's.'

## Fishing Jokes

Two guys in a boat fishing and suckin' down beer when all of a sudden Bill says, "I think I'm going to divorce my wife - she hasn't spoken to me in over 6 Months."

Earl sips his beer and says, "You better think it over - women like that are hard to find."





## Editor's Log

by Terry Tassin

Again this year, it has been an honor and privilege to continue to serve you as editor and publisher of *Bass Bites*.

I am most pleased to count you among our readers. On behalf of the club's Board of Directors and staff, thank you and we wish you a **Very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!**

Welcome to the fun months of November and December. November brings the Thanksgiving holiday and that means great food. However, I really like the month of December. Not only is it a time when we finally leave the heat of the Arizona summer behind us, but it is also a time for gathering our families and loved ones around us for the holidays.

But, not all Arizonans can be home for Christmas. Some do not even have a home - or enough food to eat - or extra money for toys at Christmas. We should all remember those who cannot be home and enjoying the wonderful comforts of family and friends. Several ways we can do our part in remembering and helping others are listed below. During this season we can all do good deeds for our fellow man by taking part in one or more worthwhile giving programs.

Some holiday endeavors you might wish to consider are:

**.Arizona National Guard Emergency Relief Fund.** The AER Fund was established to provide emergency financial assistance to Arizona Army National Guard families in the form of loans or grants. Your contributions to the AERFund are tax deductible as gifts to a charitable organization. You will be sent a receipt for your donation. Send donations to: AER Fund, 5636 E. McDowell Road, P.O. Box 300, Phoenix, AZ 85008.

**.Toys for Tots.** An annual program sponsored by the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve. All toys must be new toys, unwrapped and still in

original boxes. There are many drop locations around the valley; however, my favorites are the various *Toys Are Us* locations around the valley because I can combine Christmas shopping with dropping off toys for the Toys For Tots program. Just for your information one of the hardest age groups to get toys for is the 9 to 12 year group. If you want to donate a toy and can't take it to a drop location, I would be glad to meet you and take the toy(s) off your hands to personally deliver it to the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve for you.

**Westside / St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance.** There has been a shortage of food out there this year. Buy an extra bag of groceries when you shop and deliver it to the Food Bank; volunteer to serve food; or send a check at your earliest convenience.

These are just a few of the ways to share the Christmas Spirit with those in need. There are many others as well. Pick one or two and if we all do our part, our community, our state, and our world will be a better place.

Fran and I wish you all the best this holiday season.

*Terry Tassin*



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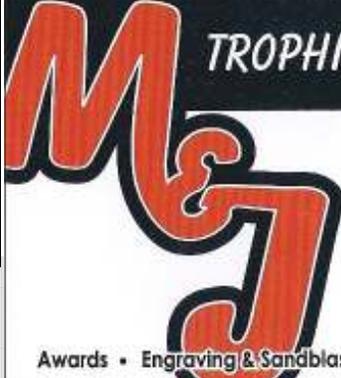
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**Born in December**

- Wayne Allen**
- Bill Blakeman**
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- Allen Clark**
- Amos Davis**
- Lionel Frailey**
- Don Hegenderfer**
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- Richie Rojas**
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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 2018  
Tournament Schedule**

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