



# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



OCTOBER 2016

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

### President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



The Midweek Bass Anglers launched an impressive field of 27 boats for a two-day tournament at Apache Lake this October. The anglers consisted of the young and not so young, and from novice to seasoned tournament angler. The teams were all randomly paired and likely fishing together in a tournament for the first time. The winning team, Hirlemann and Brown, brought an impressive sack of 22 lbs. to the scales on day 1, which provided them a solid lead which when combined with their day 2 weight secured them a well earned victory. They also had big fish of the tournament, a massive 8 pounder that also brought them another nice check for the Five-Pound Pot, which had

not been won in several months.

Burnt Corral campground served as the base of operations for our group from Sunday through Wednesday. Greg Prather served as the grill-master for the Monday night barbeque that fed 44 hungry souls, cooking 72 brats and 50 burgers, and Christine Murdock's salads and desserts were outstanding, as usual. Thanks also to Rusty Murdock for his help in coordinating and caring for all of Christine's tasty creations. Our annual Apache Lake Poker Tournament, normally held on Monday night, was delayed due to the absence of our tournament admin team of Durbin and Burns, but we did manage to have a game on Tuesday night. Thanks also to the weigh-in team, you guys do such a great job and I really appreciate your sacrifice.

The Apache Lake tournament is always a favorite of mine, as the camping provides the ideal opportunity to meet and talk with fellow club members, and I enjoy nothing more than hanging out with the guys while enjoying my favorite post-tournament beverage, talking about the bite, the baits, and

the big-ones either caught or got away at the boat. The season is almost over and the race for points for Angler of the Year is tight. Only one more tournament remains in 2016, which will be at Canyon Lake on November 16. Hope to see you all there.



**Lake Apache  
Report**  
October 20, 2016  
By Terry Tassin

**Team Lou Hirlemann &  
Rick Brown Buzz Big  
Bass For 1st Place**

# Happy Halloween



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

## "We Practice Catch and Release"



**1st Place  
Lou Hirlemann & Rick Brown**

Taking home **1st Place** Team **Lou Hirlemann & Rick Brown** weighed the winning creel of ten bass weighing 39.22 lbs. Thanks to **Lou Hirlemann**, one of those ten bass weighed 8.18 lbs which was good enough to also earn the team the prize for **1st Place Big Bass** and the **5 lb Pot** prize money.

**Next Meeting  
Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 2 November** starting at 8:00 AM, at **Deer Valley Airport Restaurant** (just one mile north of I-101 at the intersection of 7th Ave & Deer Valley Road). We hope you will come early and have breakfast together.

The next club point tournament will be at **Lake Canyon** on **16 November 2016**. Club launch headquarters, weigh-in location, and tournament hours will be announced.

**Rick Brown:** I was pleased to find out that I would be fishing my last tournament of the year with Lou Hirlemann. We haven't been able to fish with each other since the November tournament of last year, in which we also had a GREAT day.

This year Lou and I headed to our first spot at a blazing speed of 23 MPH. After just a few casts with his buzz bait, Lou put a nice 3.5 lb bass in boat. While Lou was dealing with his fish, I was calling for the net, another bass in the boat around 2.75 lbs. Great way to start! After about 45 minutes we moved to our next spot. Lou was throwing his buzz bait in the shallows and I was fishing my Carolina Rig a little deeper, and I started catching some more good fish. It was like 7:30AM and we had a nice limit around 14 lbs. At 9:30AM we had about 18 lbs. We decided to leave these fish alone with hopes to get them the next day. Now, let's just go catch a really BIG one! At 1:15PM, and YES he was throwing a buzz bait, Lou did the trick. That 8 lb bass hit him just a few feet from the boat. I couldn't believe what had just happened and couldn't believe that I had to also cull an over 3 lb bass. Lou is the Buzz Bait King! On Day 2, again just a few casts into it, Lou caught a nice 3 lb bass on a buzz bait. I caught one, not long after that, about 4 lbs on my Carolina Rig. We managed to get our limit at about 9:30AM and again with some really nice ones. Lou and I had a lot of fun and another GREAT

tournament; I can't wait to do it again.

Thanks to the board members and the weigh in crew. You guys do an awesome job! I will miss the next tournament, so good luck to everyone at Canyon.

**Lou Hirlemann:** Wow, I drew Rick Brown, that's great because he is one of the first friends I made when I joined the club 7 or 8 years ago. And he is really good at fishing. Rick wrote how our fishing day went so I'll just add to the legend of him with a Carolina rig. He not only caught 8 bass on Tuesday he caught 2 of them where the fish bit when he was netting fish for me. He does not even need to hold the rod, amazing stuff. When we were giving money to Martlage for the side pot we said we would split everything, and we did - even the poker winnings from Tuesday night. Thanks to the crew that run the tourney and all who cooked, brought food, chips, salads, deserts, and those who helped clean up that mess.

**Club Officers Elected  
for 2017**

The **Board of Directors** is pleased to announce the election of the following members as Officers of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Inc for the year 2017:

- President:** Gary Grimes
- Vice Pres:** Tom Savage
- Secretary:** Terry Tassin
- Treasurer:** John Reichard
- Tmx Director:** Jack Hughes

### Team Gary Martlage & Tom Atherton Fish Dam For 2nd Overall Finish

In **Second Place** the team of **Gary Martlage & Tom Atherton** weighed ten bass for a total weight of 31.83 lbs. Thanks to **Gary's** 7.11 lb bass the team also won **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.

**Gary Martlage:** It was a pleasure to fish with Tom Atherton at Apache. Being fairly new to the club, Tom and I enjoyed talking about our



**2nd Place  
Gary Martlage & Tom Atherton**

#### Tournament Statistics

Fifty-four men fished 15 hours each, bringing 210 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 495.17 pounds with a 9.17 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 2.36 lbs. All but two fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

personal life, professions, and fishing adventures. We had a lot of time to talk; as we only had 6 bites on Tuesday and 5 bites on Wednesday. Luck was with us though, as we boated every fish that bit! Jigs in deep water by the dam were the ticket on Tuesday with Steel Red Eye spinner baits on the second day since we had a nice breeze. I thought we were in the wrong part of the lake as we only saw 2-3 boats all day on Tuesday!

Day 2, Tom stuck a nice 5 pounder that put us in contention; but it would have taken a stellar effort to even get close to the Hirlemann / Brown team! Congrats to them for a fantastic two-day creel!

### Team Doug Coplan & Sean Kelly Punch Their Way To 3rd Place Overall

Team **Doug Coplan & Sean**



**"When they said this lure was dynamite, I thought...."**

**Kelly** weighed ten bass for 29.59 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors. This was Doug's first time fishing with Midweek Bass Anglers; what a way to start.

**Doug Coplan:** First of all I would like to thank you all for accepting me into your club. I like the atmosphere and camaraderie of the club. Everyone was pleasant, easy going and friendly.

I prefished on Monday because I had not been on Apache since last year. My go-to location at Apache is the river so I went there first and was not impressed at all with the dam authorities releasing water from Rosey, so I went to my 2nd plan which was flipping the green stuff. I found some grass in one of the main lake coves and caught a couple of fish on reaction baits. I left that and got out the flipper and headed to any green stuff that had water under it. Two pitches later I caught an 8.35 and a 2.56 – AWESOME! After that I

<b>NOTICE!</b>
<b>Changes to Club Bylaws &amp; Tournament Rules for 2017</b>
All previously proposed changes will be voted on at the 2 November meeting. All approved changes will become effective on January 1, 2017. A copy of the approved revised bylaws and tournament rules will be provided to all email members by January 1st.



**3rd Place**  
**Sean Kelly & Doug Coplan**

went to camp and hung out, met a couple of club members and got ready for Day 1 on Tuesday.

Day 1, Tuesday morning, my partner Sean Kelly and I headed to the same cove I had found on Monday with grass and noticed that the lake had risen. We caught a limit there by 8AM real shallow (frog and chatter bait). We then moved to my flipping stuff (green bushes next to deep water). I caught two small fish and realized that they had gone shallow with the rising water so we went to shallower green bushes and found them again. We weighed in almost 12 lbs with a 4.75 big fish that day.

Day 2 we went back to the same cove to check the water level and it had not moved much. Perfect. We went back to the same stuff as before, today the bass were bigger.

Sean caught an almost 3 pounder on a frog right away. We started flipping and pitching to every inch of every green patch we could before time ran out. Running and gunning. Sticking and moving. We went to one patch that has always produced for me and I got a 3 pounder on the first pass. We ran around and cycled through the same bushes again because there are not a lot of them shallow. We now have about 12-13 pounds and time is running out. We go back to the same cove where we had started but this time we start on the other end and creep in slow and easy trying not to spook them. On my third flip I hopped my slither rig, felt the tap, and set the hook on our biggest fish, 6.94 lbs. This was at 11:30AM. This culled a 1 lb smallie and put us at almost 18 lbs. That ended up being our last fish of the day. I had a great time with Sean and he got a good flipping lesson over those 2 days. Thank you again for accepting me into the club. I can not wait for Canyon next month. See you there.

**Sean Kelly:** I had the pleasure to have Doug Coplan as my boater, and I definitely learned a lot from him during the tournament. The technique that landed us the biggest and most fish was "punching". We made our way to any patch of green grass that we could find. Doug was using a green pumpkin chigger craw when he caught our 7 pounder. We were catching them anywhere from 3 feet of water to just inches. I surprisingly had success on a

white pad crusher frog in the mornings.

Now this was only my second tournament and the fishing we did was very different in comparison to my first event with Jerry Askam. Jerry and I took our time on rocky points and when I fished with Doug, it was fast and grassy-my weakness. I definitely felt like I got a guide trip on how to punch and it was worth it! Doug is an awesome person and great angler and we had a good time out there catching fish!

### **Team Root & Ballard Flick Shake For 4th Place Overall Finish**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Roger Root & Sean Ballard** weighed ten fish for a total weight of 29.29 lbs

**Sean Ballard:** I would like to start off saying what a fun two days of fishing and Roger Root is one hell of a guide. He had the bass figured out and exactly where to go and what to use well before we started the tournament; if they were not there we wouldn't spend much time on that spot.

Day 1 we started way up river and only spent 30 minutes before he said he didn't like this and we were gone. We stopped a few times on our way out and picked up two very small fish on cranks. Then we headed to our prime spot in the main lake and we caught three more and lost several nice fish. We moved to our secondary spot and finished



**4th Place**  
**Sean Ballard & Roger Root**

our limit and culled out one of our smaller fish. Then back to our starting spot where we stayed and we culled out the remaining small fish; before the day was up we were culling 2 - 2.5 pounders.

Day 2 we headed back to our primary spot and caught 3 more quality fish and 2 more on the secondary spot, then we finished the day off back at spot one where we culled up a few more times. All fish were caught in 15 - 25 feet of water using a flick shake rig slow dragged on the bottom. We caught over 30 fish in 2 days off these spots and lost several large fish as the bite was extremely soft; if you felt the bite it was a small fish, the bigger ones would just gum the bait and it felt like you were snagged just very heavy. Those large and small mouth fish are very strong and would make several long runs with the drag screaming - oh what a

blast that was. Oh and thanks to the club for another great BBQ.

### **Team Gary Senft & Howard Thomas Take 5th Place With What Else But Drop Shots**

A ten fish limit weighing 29.20 lbs was enough to earn **Gary Senft & Howard Thomas** the **5th Place** money.

**Gary Senft:** Starting the tournament on Tuesday was tuff for me not being on that lake for a couple of weeks. Went to the river, fished a lot of different baits, no bites for at least 2 or 3 hours. Started fishing the walls with drop shot and we caught two small fish. Left and fished the main lake and started catching nicer fish. I lost a few nice fish which I knew would hurt us when we weighted in.

We started the next day on the main lake catching nice fish. We then went to the beginning of the river and moved up river trying all kinds of baits. We caught most of our fish on plastic worms and jigs. Drop shot was the best bait along with Carolina rigs. Robo worms and power worms did most of the damage for us. Howard and I had a good time fishing together. Thanks to the weigh-in team for doing a good job.

**Howard Thomas:** By far the best on-the-water experience I've ever had. I got a chance to fish with a man that has 37 years experience on the water in Arizona. I now have a much

better feel for spotting fish on a graph and how to pick him off with a lure. It was so much fun, it was like an on the water seminar without having to go over to the Bass Pro Shops where Gary Senft runs the Tuesday night seminars. Again thank you Gary for all the help and information that you helped me understand.

Well as you all know our first day was not the best but the second day we took off like a bat out of hell. We actually went pretty much to the same spots on Day one that Gary thought would be good and they turned out fabulous the second day. We threw just about everything in the tackle box the first day because it was very slow and we were trying to make something happen. So the second day we started out with what was working the first day and we were sure we were on some bigger fish. We were using



**5th Place**  
**Howard Thomas & Gary Senft**

drop shot Robo worms and we also threw Carolina rigs with jigs and worms. We threw some crank baits, some swim baits, jigs and probably the best thing for us that day was the drop shot. If you ever get a chance to fish with Gary I would recommend it highly. He's very congenial, he will answer your questions without 200 people in the room and even though you don't have a ticket and get a chance to win a prize, you won't care, it's a great experience. Again, thank you Gary and I hope I get drawn with you for the final tournament of the year it was really a pleasure, thank you very much.

### Team Hobby Nelson & Spencer Hand Limit Early For 6th Place Finish

Bringing ten fish to the scales weighing 23.75 lbs was enough to earn **Nelson & Hand** the **6th Place** prize.

**Spencer Hand:** Well Apache Lake as always did not disappoint. Many fish were caught but not by me. I was amazed by Hobby Nelson's ability to catch fish and his knowledge of the lake. We had a small limit on Day 1, mostly just past the marina on Drop Shot and Chigger craws.

On Day 2 we had a small limit until around 11:00AM. Hobby got my netting skills honed in as we culled out every fish in the live well. I almost did not have time to fish. Just about every fish caught was on Drop Shot in the mid-lake area.



**6th Place  
Spencer Hand & Hobby  
Nelson**



### Money Matters By John Reichard Treasurer

Greetings from your treasurer.

Congratulations to Lou and Rick for their awesome win at Lake Apache. I would like to thank Jeff Mason for making my final tournament a great time for me. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the boaters who have taken me fishing over the last few years in Midweek Bass Angler tournaments. I've made some great friends had some great times. I will stay on as club treasurer for 2017 and hope to see you at the meetings. Remember the 5 lb Pot starts over at Canyon Lake so sign up for it no later than our November 2<sup>nd</sup> general meeting.

### A Little Light Hearted Humor

### HOW TO START A FIGHT WITH YOUR WIFE

One year, I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift. The next year, I didn't buy her a gift. When she asked me why, I replied, "Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!" And that's how the fight started.

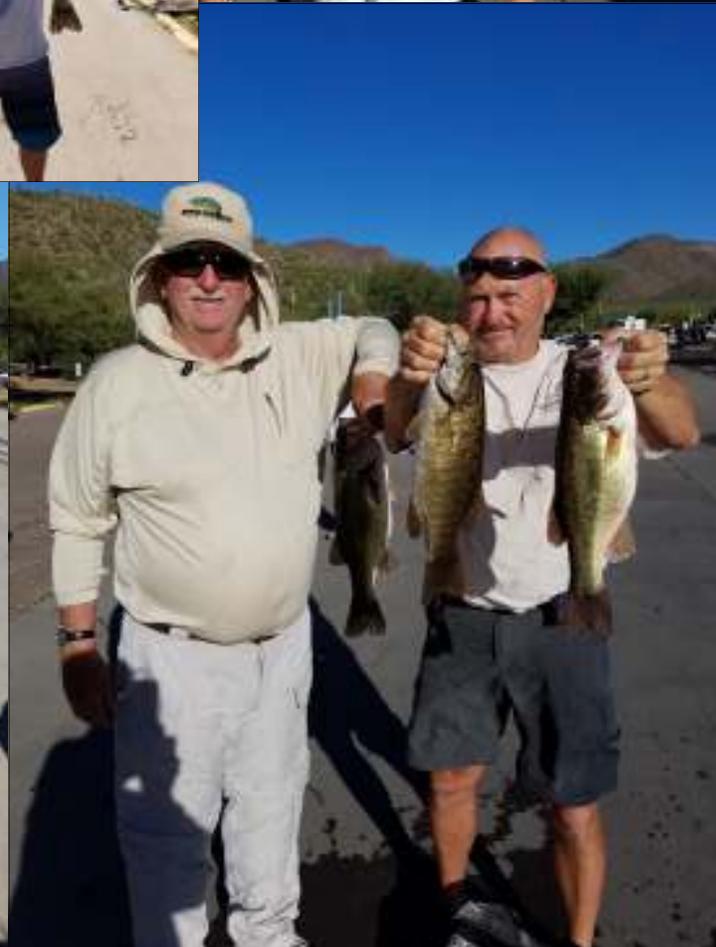
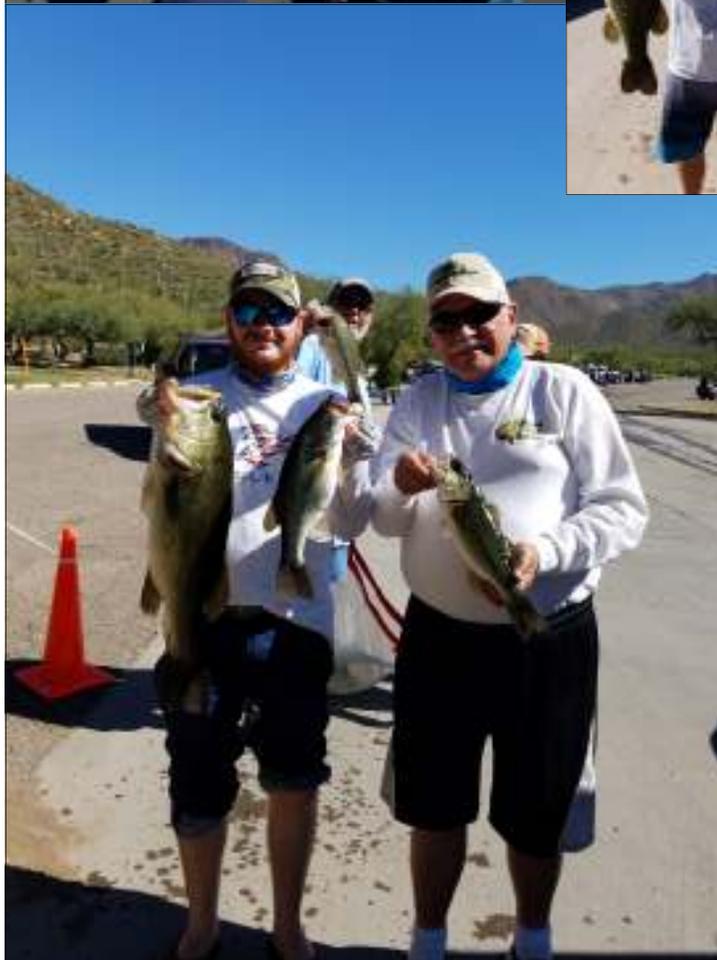
My wife was standing nude, looking in the bedroom mirror. She was not happy with what she saw and said to me, "I feel horrible; I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment." I replied, "Your eyesight's damn near perfect." And then the fight started.

I rear-ended a car this morning - the start of a REALLY bad day! The driver got out of the other car, and he was a Dwarf! He looked up at me and said "I am not happy!" So I said, "Well, which one are you then?" That's how the fight started.

My wife and I were watching Who Wants To Be A Millionaire while we were in bed. I turned to her and said, "Do you want to have sex?" "No", she answered. I then said, "Is that your final answer?" She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying, "Yes". So I said, "Then I'd like to phone a friend." And that's when the fight started.



# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Apache - October 18-19, 2016



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

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**SECRETARY**

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**TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

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Tom Savage 602-432-8589

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John Reichard 623-512-0238

**Committee / Chairmen**

**PROGRAMS**

Tom Savage

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Gary Grimes, Terry Tassin, Tom Savage, John Reichard

**RAFFLE Chairman-** George Cobasky

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Terry Tassin

**ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

Tom Savage

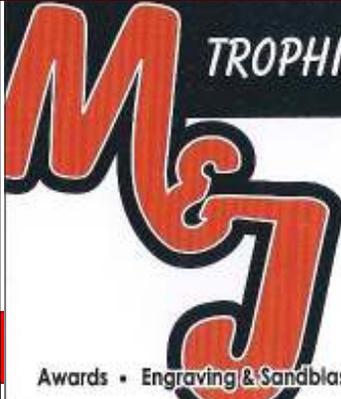
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - John Reichard

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

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

**Wayne Allen(B)  
Doug Coplan (B)  
Tom DeBacco (CO)  
Mike DeDoncker (CO)**

**Official Supplier of  
Midweek Bass Anglers Club Apparel**



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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 November**

- Randy Bosket
- Jason Christy
- George Cobasky
- Tim Logsdon
- Ernie Modzelewski
- Ingo Moura
- Mike Shaw
- Dennis Thiel
- Floyd Vaughan



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2016  
Tournament Schedule**

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