



# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



OCTOBER 2017 EDITION  
12 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005  
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

### President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



Twenty-seven teams participated in this month's tournament at Roosevelt Lake.

Though a little hot for October, the weather was still quite nice and a welcome reprieve from a long hot summer. Most teams had few problems catching lots of fish throughout the day, the challenge, however, was finding, catching, and boating the bigger fish. This was one of the most wide-open bites I have seen. Anglers reported catching fish on a variety of baits, including spinnerbaits, crankbaits, C-rigs, and Texas rigs. The fish were caught as shallow as 6 inches, and as deep as 20 feet. Every participating team presented a 5 fish limit at the weigh-in. Congratulations to new club member Rob Evans and his

partner Otto Gal who bested the field with an 11.89 lb. bag. Also congrats to Johnny Hawkins & Gene Turner whose 3.85 smallmouth was the big fish of the tournament.

We were missing several regular club members from this tournament who had travelled to Lake Mead to fish in the US Open. Midweek's own David Baca finished the three-day event in 10<sup>th</sup> place out of 208 boats. Dave beat several Bassmaster Elite anglers, and he even bested local legend Johnny Johnson. Other Midweek Anglers who fished as a Pro were Vern Ridgway (129), Steve Bowlin (185) and Hobby Nelson (188). Jeff Mabry (73) and Larry White (156) fished as co-anglers. Congratulations to all these guys for jobs well done.

*Boston's Lakeside Grill* at Roosevelt Lake hosted a beer and burger dinner for us the night before our tournament. Thirty-eight anglers took advantage of the opportunity to get together and enjoy an ice-cold beer while relaxing and catching up with the guys. A special thanks to *All Hours RV in Tonto Basin* who provided a mobile service call to the lake, during the tournament, to work

on a few of the member's RVs while we were out fishing. This is just a reminder that the Hwy 188 Tackle Store offers a discount on their already low prices to all Midweek members.

Our next tournament is the last of the year, and it should be a good one. The tournament will happen at scenic Apache Lake on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 14 & 15. It should be cool enough at night for campfires, so make sure to bring some wood. We will be hosting a burger and brat BBQ at the Burnt Corral Campground on Monday night, probably somewhere around 4:30 PM. This will also mark Jack Hughes' final event as tournament director, so be sure to thank him for his 6 years of dedicated service (he likes bourbon if you are so inclined). See you at the lake.

## NOVEMBER 11TH VETERANS DAY



**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"**



**Lake Roosevelt Report**  
**October 18, 2017**  
*By Terry Tassin*

**Team Rob Evans & Otto Gal Jig and Dropshot For 1st Place**

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Rob Evans & Otto Gal** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 11.89 lbs. Thanks to one of the team member's 3.32 lb bass the team also won **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.

**Rob Evans:** This was my first tournament with the club. Everyone was super nice and welcoming and it was appreciated. My partner Otto Gal said he would provide a detailed report on our day of fishing but I would like to say a

few words.

We started out on the Salt River end on the north side. We tried topwater and reaction baits but I only caught one on a spinnerbait. We switched to jigs and drop shot and started catching some decent fish. We had a limit by 8:00 AM and started culling around 8:30. We tried a couple more spots and only caught a few smaller fish. We tried a spot by the dam that Otto recommended and we each caught a couple of 3 pounders back to back. We were not able to cull and increase our bag over the next hour or so. The bite seemed to really slow down for us later in the afternoon. We tried a couple more spots with no luck and finished out the day.

It was great fishing with Otto and we really worked well as a team. I had a great time and I'm thankful for the day we had. Otto is a very good fisherman and has a lot of experience and knowledge. He's got quite a life story as well. Some of the funny stories he told were pretty entertaining! I hope I get a chance to fish with him again sometime. I had a great time and want to thank the club for their friendliness and hospitality!

**Otto Gal:** We started east of Windy Hill on a long sandbar that dropped into the river channel throwing Zara Spook, buzzbait, and Ricos. After ten minutes of that with no bites I went to my trusty crank and spinner baits. We started catching them on the spinner bait. No crank bait bite for me.



**1st Place Overall and 2nd Place Big Bass Rob Evans & Otto Gal**

When the sun came up the spinner bait bite died. Using jigs and drop shot rigs we filled out our limit.

Around 9 AM we went to a cove across from the dam. There, armed with drop shot rigs and jigs, we caught several small fish that were not any help. Next we went to the dam under the bridge and that is where we got the bigger fish on jigs and drop shots using Robo

**Next Meeting Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 1 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 Apache** on **14-15 November 2017**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **D1: Safe Light to 3 PM, D2: Safe Light to Noon**.

**Club Officers Elected for 2018**

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 2018:

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

Worms and Senko's. The last hour of the tournament we fished Windy Hill in the shade. I was glad when 3 PM rolled around so we could get off of the water. Rob Evans, my boater, is a real gentleman and a good fisherman.

### John Hawkins & Gene Turner Throw C-Rig And Finish 2nd Overall

In **Second Place** the team of **Hawkins & Turner** weighed five bass for a total weight of 11.52 lbs. Thanks to John's 3.85 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors.

**John Hawkins:** I would like to start by congratulating Rob Evans and Otto Gal for their win. I would also like to thank the club for the delicious burger and fries meal at Boston's Tuesday evening and the weigh-in crew for another fantastic job. Gene Turner was an outstanding co-angler with a great love of the sport.

We fished the north end of Goose Flats in the Tonto end of the lake. We used the Rick Brown special (Carolina rig) with a watermelon candy brush hog in 19 to 21 feet of water; we caught a lot of fish and had a ball. The fish were in the trees. The bite was very, very, soft and the Carolina rig didn't hang up as much as we thought it would. I hope to fish with Gene many more times in tournaments to come.

**Gene Turner:** In addition to what John said I would have to say that John taught me how to rig and present a Carolina



**2nd Place Overall and 1st Place Big Bass John Hawkins & Gene Turner**

rig to the fish and as a result it was my most productive fishing tournament to date. I learn new things each time I am on the water and being with someone with John's knowledge about fishing as well as his great sense of humor and of course catching many bass made it an

awesome experience.

### Team Clinton Bell & Rusty Murdock Fish On Bottom To Finish In 3rd Place

Team **Clinton Bell & Rusty Murdock** weighed five bass for 11.25 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Clinton Bell:** First I want to thank Gary Grimes for sharing some valuable information on water quality in the Salt River chain of lakes and how it affects fish. Like every one else I had hopes of going to Roosevelt and catching large numbers of fish in shallow water. We did accomplish this but the problem was after catching 25 fish on Tuesday we didn't have a fish over a one pound.

On Tuesday night we changed game plans and decided to go in the opposite direction on tournament day.





**3rd Place**  
**Rusty Murdock & Clinton Bell**

On our first stop after the first few casts, Rusty put our biggest fish in the boat and the rest of the day just kept getting better. I'm not sure how many fish we caught but the good ones were hooked in about 10-15 feet of water on Texas rigs, jigs, and Carolina rigs. It was another great day when we were allowed to go fishing.

### **Team Gary Senft & Rudy Gonzales Throw Reaction and Soft Lures For 4th Overall Finish**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Gary Senft & Rudy Gonzales** weighed five fish for a total weight of 10.23 lbs.

**Gary Senft:** It was nice to fish with a young man like Rudy Gonzales who loves fishing. I decided to start in the Salt end of the lake. We caught a number of small fish after an

hour of fishing so we decided to start working our way to the Tonto end of the lake. There were a number of guys fishing the Tonto, so we had to find a place to fit in. We were catching our fish on a number of baits while the sun was still low. We used small crank baits, spinnerbaits, worms, and brush hogs. We went shallow then out deeper through out the day.

As the day reached around noon we could tell the fish were moving up to shallow water feeding then moving back out to deeper water. We had to catch a lot of fish to cull the small ones out. We lost a couple of good fish that cost us overall points. We worked well together on this tournament to put this together and make it work. Rudy, I enjoyed fishing with you a lot. Thanks to the club staff for working so hard to make these tournaments happen.



**4th Place**  
**Gary Senft & Rudy Gonzales**

**Rudy Gonzales:** I would like to first thank Gary Senft; it was a pleasure fishing with him. I definitely learned a few new things, thanks again Gary! Would also like to thank everyone at Midweek Bass for what you do. We started off the morning with me doing some work on topwater while Gary tried several different soft plastics. We were fishing the trees in 10 feet of water or less. I missed a good topwater bite and Gary landed a few real small ones and a couple of keepers. We later moved to our second planned spot, it was already busy with a couple of boats when we got there, so we hit another spot. Got to 5 fish in the livewell but they were all small, 1 lb or so. We covered a ton of water and ultimately found them biting in pretty shallow water. Caught most of them on soft plastics, on the bottom. Gary caught one good one on a spinner bait. Overall a great day and another pretty good finish for me on my 3rd tournament. Can't wait for Apache!

### **Team Tony Medina & Howard Thomas Finish In 5th Place**

A five fish limit weighing 9.94 lbs was enough to earn **Tony Medina & Howard Thomas** the **5th Place** money.

**Tony Medina:** We prefished the day before the tournament in the lower lake area and found some nice fish on jigs and drop shot rigs. We didn't get on the water until after 7:00 AM on Tuesday and we



**5th Place**  
**Tony Medina & Howard Thomas**

tried to cover as much water as we could with the limited time we had to prefish. We ran all the way up past Windy Hill. After we quit fishing we had to make a decision on where we were going to fish in the tournament. We decided to fish the upper end being that we were launching out of Badger ramp at Windy Hill.

Tournament day we had a slow start but we slowly started catching fish on crank baits, jigs, drop shots, and soft plastics. We probably caught about 20 fish and lost a few. Congratulations to the other winners and thanks to the weigh team.

**Howard Thomas:** One more tournament and we're done until next year. Time sure flies when you are having fun.

Well I guess 5th place is better than last. Tony and I have

already decided that we will take that money and take our wives out for a special dinner treat at McDonalds. I mentioned Coco's but Tony thought that might be too extravagant. He needed some money left over to buy new style hooks like I fished. Tony said he would have done better if I gave him one of the hooks I was using. Sorry Tony you didn't ask soon enough and I thought you had pretty good stuff. Especially those super lucky Chocolate Chip cookies made by that special gal in your life - Lena. Don't stop baking Lena or Tony will stop catching. I don't know how Tony can stay so trim with a wife that can bake that well. Also when you fish with Tony you learn a lot of good fishing holes. He always is willing to point out where he caught all his 5 to 7 pounders over the years. I'm still waiting for those big bass to show up in our livewell. Tony, all kidding aside, you are an interesting man to fish with.

During practice we fished to the right of the ramp where we caught a 3-1/2 pounder in practice just pitching the stickups. Tony said "you are too shallow" and on the third cast I hooked up with a bass and he had to eat his words. From there we looked back on practice day and figured out that most of our fish were caught shallow around stickups or wood. That became our pattern on tournament day. We caught around 25 fish but nothing of any real size. Tony caught a couple on drop shot and the

rest were caught on green pumpkin Senko's. If I had to do it all over again I would give Tony that hook sooner and ask him bring milk to go with Lena's chocolate chip cookies. P.S...I was also warned that we were using his new boat trailer and I better be careful and not scratch it. All ended well and I had a good time fishing with Tony.

### **Team Paul Archer & Doug Cunningham** **Scratch Bottom To 6th Place Finish**

Team **Paul Archer & Doug Cunningham** weighed five bass for 9.81 pounds and took home **Sixth Place** honors.

**Paul Archer:** I fished with Doug Cunningham; a good guy to have in your boat. He knows how to fish, handle a net, catch fish, and launch and retrieve a boat. It sure made my day a lot easier even if I already knew how to handle a net. We were 24<sup>th</sup> boat out in the morning and ended up going out just before the start boat. I will figure it out one of these days.

We went to the Tonto end and stayed there all day long. We threw top water and crank baits. Doug caught the first fish and I netted. We gave up the top water effort and went to cranking. We loaded the live well with a 2 plus pound smallie and 4 largemouths. The largemouths weighed no more than 2 lbs. We went to work trying to cull them. There are a lot of little fish in Roosevelt; almost like Lake Bartlett. We



**6th Place**  
**Paul Archer & Doug Cunningham**

fished along rocky shore lines with noticeable rocks. We were slowly up grading and about noon we ended up in Methodist Cove and the bite picked up. The fish were in 1-2 feet of water and eating crawdads. We were throwing Shakey Heads and chatter baits. We up graded all of our fish and we also lost a lot of good fish by getting hung in the bushes or the fish just throwing the lure back at us.

At about 1:30 PM it got hot and we went looking for shade and a breeze. We ended under the bridge by the dam. Doug found a deep water bite in the shade of the bridge and we upgraded our last fish. Not a big upgrade but all in all it was a good day. Doug caught fish; I netted, and got a little schooling along the way. If you fish with Doug, listen to him, he has some good ideas. Like, "you want to get your foot off of

the trolling motor pedal?" I slowed down and caught more fish.

### **Brad Shoemaker & Ernie Modzelewski Weigh Biggest Catfish For Goon Fish Prize**

**Brad Shoemaker's** 4.39 pound Catfish ends up being the heaviest Goon Fish of this tournament and the team takes home the **Goon Fish Prize** of \$100.

**Ernie Modzelewski & Brad Shoemaker:** This is for the team. My boat captain was the best; a good fisherman, good conversationalist, good snag extractor, and a good listener. We caught fish in Brad's favorite spots and also in my favorite spots. The fish were along shallow points and weed infested bays. We fished across from Windy Hill, Rabbit Island, and Grapevine. The fish were tight to the brushes. Although we did not come in winners of the total weight or big fish (we gave our big fish an early release pass), Brad hooked and brought to the boat a 4.39 pound catfish (Brad was sure it was a huge bass until I got him in the net the second time). I had a great day and caught a lot of fish - mostly on green pumpkin double tail jigs without skirts and power craws. Brad is a new member and any one who gets a chance to fish with him will be a happy camper. I can't wait to go back to Roosevelt. The water was thick with smaller bass which will be 2 to 3 pounders next fall.



### **Weighing-In**

**By Jack Hughes**  
**Tmx Director**

The Roosevelt tournament pointed out two major very satisfying events for me. First every team weighed in five fish and that has not happened in a long time especially on Roosevelt Lake or for that matter on many of the other lakes we fished this year. Why I asked myself, and for me, I believe it is the great job and the plan in place from AZG&F's management of the lake while working hand-in-hand with the National Forest service. The man responsible that made Saguario so successful as an excellent largemouth bass lake is also the man in charge of the restocking and management plan both long range and short range of Roosevelt Lake; Andy Clark Director of Warm Water Fisheries in the state. We are only seeing the front end of what Roosevelt can be in three years but the results have been very impressive.

Andy did not do it by himself, he got a first rate team together within AZG&F for funds to restock the lakes but also with manpower to volunteer to make it all happen. Our club president, Gary Grimes, led the effort in making sure Midweek Bass provided manpower but also funding to insure all the work was not for nothing. The club response in working with AZG&F was outstanding in all phases and resulted in nothing but constant praise for the club from the AZG&F Department,

Tonto Basin Small Business leaders, and Tonto National Forest. All of the members have contributed in some way and I want to thank the entire club for their actions.

The second thing I thought of is look at the tournament winners list. A lot of long term members, new members, and a variety of fishing skills from very experienced to just really learning bass fishing exist in our club. However, for those out of the money many said to me it was a fun day fishing. Personally I fished with Bob Jolly and I can honestly say I cannot remember ever having that much fun fishing a tournament. We caught a lot of fish and lost a few and even managed to get totally confused with our culling system on which fish to cull next and this could not happen if we were not catching a lot of fish. It was a pure joy to laugh at ourselves for many hours on end. Thanks Bob for a great day on the lake!

Apache in November is always an excellent tournament and I want to encourage every member to attend. Monday night we will have our usual BBQ and I am sure one or more poker games will pop up. It will also - with great sadness on my part - be my last tournament as Tournament Director for Midweek Bass Anglers. The last five years have all gone way too quickly.

# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Roosevelt October 18, 2017



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

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

**Midweek Bass Anglers 2018  
Tournament Schedule**

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

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

**Rob Evans (B)**

**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 [Canx]
19 July	Bartlett (Night)
16 August	Bartlett
20 September	Saguaro
18-October	Roosevelt
14-15 November	Apache (1.5 Days)

**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**

**Born in November**



Randy Bosket  
George Cobasky  
Chris Johns  
Ernie Modzelewski  
Ingo Moura  
Dennis Thiel  
Greg Utton  
Floyd Vaughan

