



# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JANUARY 2022 EDITION  
17 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005  
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



### President's Perspective *By Gary Grimes*

I would like to say it was good to see everyone at the first tournament of the year, but I wasn't there. A lingering stomach flu kept me out of the event, but I look to be back next month. Great turnout! Was great to see so many returning members from last year, and good seeing faces we haven't seen in a while. Congratulations to all who placed, but especially to Gary Martlage and Gary Volpe. Nice bag of fish on a challenging day. Hope to see you all next month.



### Tournament Report Lake Pleasant January 19, 2022

The first club point's tournament of the year 2022 turned out to be a great day—warm but not too warm. So, how did the guys find their fish? Read the rest of this newsletter for the details.

**Team Gary Martlage & Gary Volpe  
Begin Season With  
1st Place Overall Win**

**CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER  
NOTICE - WATCH FOR EMAILS**

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

Taking home **1st Place Overall**, **Team Gary Martlage and Gary Volpe** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 9.95 lbs. Thanks to Gary Volpe's 3.77 lb. bass the team also took home 1st Place Big Bass honors.

**Gary Martlage:** I had the pleasure of fishing with Gary Volpe for the first event of the year. I met Gary last year at Apache Lake, during the Game and Fish restocking program. I offered a pre-fish to Gary, but he said he did not want to drive to Pleasant, and I confirmed that it was worthless since the bite had been tough the last few weeks. At the start of the tournament, I had two poles on my front deck; a drop shot rig, and a spoon. When we arrived at our starting spot, I shut off the motor, went to the front deck, retrieved the net from the storage, then put the trolling motor down. When I put the spot lock on, and reached down to pick up my rod, "Quick Draw" Volpe yelled for the net! After just two casts (I didn't even wet a line), I netted our big fish, a 3.77 pounder. Way to go Gary! We

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## "We Practice Catch and Release"



**1st Place Overall - Gary Martlage**

continued to fish the area, hoping for a few more, and left 3 hours later with only 4 fish. Finally picking up the 5th fish by 11am took the pressure off. We only caught 3 more to the end of the tournament for only 8 fish all day. Tough bite! Fish were caught on a 5.5-inch Robo curly tail with a chartreuse dip. We fished mainly from 30 - 65 feet main lake humps and reefs.

**Gary Volpe:** First I would like to thank all the volunteers who keep the club tournaments going and to Gary Martlage for putting us on fish during the tournament; I had a great time.

## Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2022 scheduled for **Wednesday, 2 February** 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) [has been cancelled](#) due to the Corona Virus situation. Pairings will be announced by email when completed.

The next club points tournament is scheduled for **Lake Bartlett** on **16 February 2022**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

For me; fishing Texas rigs and drop shot mostly was the ticket to finding fish. I tried crank baits with no luck and a Carolina rig did not provide any fish. Gary then took us to a great spot in 30-65 feet of water. I threw a Texas rigged 7" floating worm in a cut bank and when I took the slack out of the line it felt heavy so I set the hook. Lo and behold a fish was on the end of the line. It was a jumper not once but twice and it looked to have some size to it. I put my rod tip down in the water to keep it from jumping again and after a little play time got it to the boat. Luckily, I had a great net man waiting to net the 3.77 lb. big fish of the day.

After 4-5 hours in the same location, we managed to put 4 fish in the boat - two for me and two for Gary Martlage. We then took a ride to a different area where Gary Martlage caught fish number 5 and 6 but as luck would have it number 6 didn't cull.

Thanks to everyone again for a great day on the water and I am looking forward to doing it again.

## Wacky Worming Is Magic For Team Schramer & Byrne 2nd Place Overall

In **2nd Place Team John Schramer & Shawn Byrne** weighed five bass for a total weight of 9.44 lbs.



**2nd Place John Schramer & Shawn Byrne**

**John Schramer:** Lake Pleasant fishing was tough is an understatement. During practice I found a few spots that I thought would produce the fish we needed. I informed my co-angler that we were going to throw crank baits in the morning. After an hour of chunking and winding with no luck, I switched to a wacky rigged worm and focused on steep cliff areas around the mouth of the coves and islands looking for five good bites. Fortunately for us it worked and gave us the 2nd Place finish. It was a pleasure meeting Shawn Byrne and fishing with him.

**Donny Stevens & David Convery  
Work 30 Foot Depth For 3rd Place**

Team **Stevens & Convery** weighed four bass for 7.59 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors. **David's** 2.88 lb. bass won **2nd Place Big Bass** for the team.

**Donny Stevens:** First I'd like to start by saying it was good seeing everyone again and I would like to say thank you to all of the guys that run the weigh-in, super job as usual.

So, David Convery and I made the run up to Humbug and about half way in we saw a cove and decided to give it a try. With no pre-fishing and not having been on the lake for a while, it looked good enough to start. After fishing for a good stretch of time with no luck, I was dragging a drop shot in about 30 feet and felt just a rubber band bite. I set the hook on our first keeper then fished a long way down the bank with no further luck.

We moved spots and after a short time my partner says I got one and it feels good. It was a dandy! Our second fish and what turns out to be the 2nd big fish of the tournament. Fishing was tough as you all know so we moved to the main lake spots and I landed 2 more fish, 1 on a drop shot the other on a stick bait, in about 30 feet of water. All in all, it was a fun day in nice weather. Thanks to my partner David who is a good person and a great stick. Until next time tight lines.

**Membership**

As of January 21, 2022 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **142** active members.



**3rd Place Stevens & Convery**

**Team Hilland & Riley Work Drop Shot  
For 4th Place**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **John Hilland & Ray Riley** weighed five fish for a total weight of 7.38 pounds.

**John Hilland:** Congrats to both Gary's on the win at Pleasant on what turned out to be a tough fishing day. I had the pleasure of fishing with Ray Riley. We have fished together one other time oddly enough at Lake Pleasant. Ray was able to get out a few days prior to the tournament and said it was really tough, only 2-3 fish per day total. With a family outing preventing me from pre-fishing I went into the day hoping only for a little luck and a big prayer. We made a plan to run into the back of Castle Creek and throw some moving baits around for a few hours and then moved out to main lake

**Tournament Statistics**

Sixty-six contestants fished 8 hours each, bringing 76 bass to the scales for a total weight of 110.36 pounds with a 1.67 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.45 lbs. All fish were released alive back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

points with plastics. Once we were in the creek we fished around with no takers on spoons, A-rigs or cranks so Ray threw out a drop shot and picked up our first fish, a nice keeper. We fished around for about 2 hours and moved out to the main lake and started to fish a little deeper. We hit a few spots that have produced for me in the past and couldn't find any takers.

At about 10:30 we ran to a deep cut and started just dragging a drop shot real slow and that seemed to work. Ray had another 3 fish in the boat in about 25 minutes and I was the best net guy on the lake! A little while later I was able to contribute and finally put one in the boat. We did cull once or twice but it remained slow for the rest of the day. Our best luck came on a drop shot with a green 5150 worm in about 25-35 feet of water.

Thanks to Ray for doing the heavy lifting and being such a great CO. I loved the conversation and time on the lake. Hope to see everyone at Bartlett next month. Stay safe and healthy.

**Ray Riley:** Congratulations to the first-place winners and also for weighing the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Big Bass - Gary Martlage and Mr. Volpe; it was a nice bag in a difficult tournament. I was very fortunate to have a great boater who knew the lake very well. John Hilland put us on fish and was a great guide in locating and pin pointing areas where fish were holding. The bite

Finally found out why the fish weren't biting...



**4th Place Hilland & Riley**

was very slow and weak, almost unbearable. Hats off to everyone who limited out.

We threw everything in our bag, but it seemed to be a very slow drop shot bite. Finally we picked up our first fish around 9:30AM. There was a zero pattern working with no rhyme or reason, just one random fish here and there. It was strange not to see many suspended fish only bottom huggers. 5150 green pumpkin lures seemed to work best.

Thanks to the weigh-in crew for a speedy and thorough job keeping the line short. Also, thanks to the young man who offered to take our fish back to the lake, we had one or two that looked like they needed to be fizzed before they were released, and he offered to fizz both of them. Rough fishing but a great tournament.

### **Jeff Mason & Keith Weidert 5th Place**

A five fish bag weighing 7.17 lbs was enough to earn Team **Mason & Weidert** the **5th Place** money.

No fishing and catching report provided by the team.

## Team Steve Grier & Mark Durben Work Points To 6th Place

Team **Steve Grier & Mark Durben** weighed five bass for 6.62 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors. Steve's 1.47 lb. Striper won **Goon Fish** prize.

**Mark Durben:** It is always a good time to fish with Steve Grier as he not only always has a good game plan but a good attitude and sense of humor.

Pre-fishing revealed very little, but Steve determined that fishing points in 20-30 feet of water was our best bet. All of our fish came from those waters and they all came on drop shot with a red colored worm.

We tried numerous other things, all unsuccessfully. Steve caught three fish before I got one in the boat. We lost 2 fish a bit better than our two smallest ones, but couldn't find the bigger ones. Steve caught the Goon Fish on a drop shot as well.

**Steve Grier:** Congratulations to Gary & Gary for a heck of a bag and a nice win. Kudos again to the weigh-in crew for another smooth and efficient weigh-in, no fuss, no muss.

I spent the weekend pre-fishing alone to get reacquainted with Pleasant. Covered a lot of water, coves and main lake, shallow and deep, and only had a few bites. I fished Monday with Mark and he caught 2 small fish in about 20 feet and that was it. I decided to go back out on Tuesday by myself. I threw a deep crank bait for 2-1/2 hours and didn't get a bite. I put it down and picked up a drop shot and dropped into 20 feet on a steep point near deep water and immediately got a bite. I moved to another similar point nearby and dropped into 15-20 feet and immediately got another bite. I decided I had found a pattern and spent the next 4 hours checking similar areas and did not get another bite.

We decided on game day to start on the points where I got the bites Tuesday. We fished the 2 points for a couple hours and caught 3 fish. We moved to a hump where Mark caught a fish on Monday and picked up one there. We checked 3 or 4 other spots with similar structure but didn't get any bites. We went back to the



**6th Place Grier & Durben**

first points for another check and caught 2 there to fill out our limit and cull a smaller fish. We went to one more point that I had a bite on in practice and hooked 4 fish but none that helped us. We hooked 12 fish for the day and landed 7. We basically ran a milk run of 4 spots and fished some of them 3 times. Oddly, I hooked the first 5 fish and Mark hooked the last 7. I think the difference later in the day was Mark fishing extremely slow. An important lesson for me is to slow down when the bite is slow, especially this time of year. We caught all our fish on drop shot with 6" straight tail worms 5150 Bloodline and Robo Red Crawler. I had a great time fishing with Mark, he's a good fisherman and a pleasure to have on the boat.

## Team Bill Briggs & Dale Bayless Drop Shot For 7th Place

Team **Briggs & Bayless** weighed four bass for 5.53 pounds and took home **7th Place** honors.

**Dale Bayless:** I got to fish with Bill Briggs this tournament. We fished Monday through Wednesday so we had plenty of time on the water. We worked everything under the sun and we really wanted to find a crank bait bite but it never took off.

The day of the tournament we decided to

go to Honeymoon Cove to get the first bite. Shortly thereafter we buzzed over to Humbug and spent the entire day on two spots we found during practice. Bill caught all the fish and we just could not get that 5th bass. Drop shot was the main rig for us, followed by "Bill's very expensive jerk bait." To close out the day during the last hour of the tournament Bill plucked a nice one on a jig. We prepared for fishing in 25 to 40 feet of water but on game day the fish were working best for us in about 12 - 20 feet of water. The main color that worked for us was green pumpkin. Anyway, it was fun fishing with Bill and I learned some more new stuff which is what I like. Thank you to the staff for another successful Tournament.

### Team Hobby Nelson & Eliseo Flores Drop Shot For 8th Place

Team **Nelson & Flores** weighed five bass for 5.43 pounds and took home **8th Place** honors.

No fishing and catching report provided by the team.



**8th Place Hobby Nelson & Eliseo Flores**



**Weighing-In**  
By Gary Martlage  
Tournament Director

What a great start to 2022! A great bunch of

guys (33 boats) met for the first tournament at Lake Pleasant. Most of the event ran smoothly, with a great day of fishing (not catching!). Where else in the country can you go and fish a bass tournament in 70-degree temps, with light winds in January? Sometimes we just don't realize how lucky we are.

Thanks to the members that stepped up to transport the fishermen and fish to the release area. I apologize for not realizing the cabanas have been blocked off, and we had to move the weigh-in to the far parking lot. All said, the weigh-in went smoothly, considering the light load of fish brought to the scales. Remember, we do NOT have a size limit; a 10-inch fish can give you points for the tournament standings, so don't be afraid to weigh in the mini-hawgs.

One point to bring up since we have a lot of new members fishing; Midweek has a cost sharing program for each tournament. The Co-Angler is to pay the Boater a fee for the day. This is to help with operation of the boat (fuel, oil, insurance, wear / tear, etc.) bringing it to the tournament, and daily operation. The fee differs depending on the lake fished. The fee is due **BEFORE** the start of the tournament. Please make sure you pay this, as it is part of the fishing experience with Midweek Bass.

Again, I sure appreciate all the volunteers that step-up to make our weigh-in possible. Anyone that would like to commit to being part of the weigh team, give me a call.

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**Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2022 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen**

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

Welcome to New  
Midweek Bass Anglers  
Since the Last Newsletter

- John Hayes (CO)
- Wilson Gartin (B)
- Eliseo Flores (CO)
- Carlo Giunta (CO)
- Troy Lindhorst (B)
- John Schramer (B)
- Tim Smith (B)
- Joe Beaty (B)
- Jimmie Coleman (CO)
- Roger Williams (CO)
- Rodney Scates (CO)



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2022  
Tournament Schedule**

Please meet and greet our new members.

**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**  
**Born in February**

- Jon Andrews
- Mike Bloxam
- Bill Briggs
- Rick Brown
- Neil Burns
- Ronnie Jimenez
- Mark Sheldahl
- Steve Simer
- Jeff Stone



- |                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| 19 January     | Pleasant  |
| 16 February    | Bartlett  |
| 16 March       | Alamo     |
| 13 April       | Havasu    |
| 18 May         | Roosevelt |
| 15 June        | Pleasant  |
| 20 July        | Bartlett  |
| 17 August      | Saguaro   |
| 21 September   | Roosevelt |
| 19 October     | Alamo     |
| 16-17 November | Apache    |