

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



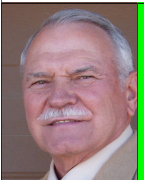
JANUARY 2023 EDITION  
18 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005  
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



### President's Perspective *By Floyd Vaughan*

I would like to say it was good to see everyone at the first tournament of 2023. Great turnout! Thirty full teams of new and existing members. It was great to see so many returning members from last year, and good seeing new faces. Congratulations to all who placed, especially to Laron Porter and Terry Johnson. A nice 5 fish limit bag weighing in at 11.82 pounds on a challenging day, the only one of the tournament. I also want a shoutout to last year's big fish champion, Andy Geottl, starting the year leading again with a 6.85 pounder. Thank you to all the new board members and the weigh-in team for helping out. This year will definitely be a learning experience. I hope to see you all next month at Bartlett Lake.....home of the big ones!



### Tournament Report Lake Pleasant January 18, 2023 By Terry Tassin

The first club point's tournament of the year 2023 turned out to be a great day after two days of rainy conditions —warm but not too warm. So, how did the guys find their fish?

**Monthly Breakfast Meeting**  
Denny's Restaurant  
2525 W. Deer Valley Road  
Phoenix, AZ  
1st Wednesday of Each Month  
Meeting Starts at 8:00 A.M.

Read the rest of this newsletter for the details.

### Team Laron Porter & Terry Johnson Begin Season With 1st Place Overall and 2nd Place Big Bass Wins

Taking home **1st Place Overall**, **Team Laron Porter & Terry Johnson** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 11.82 lbs. Thanks to Terry's 2.64 lb. bass the team also took home 2nd Place Big Bass honors.

**Terry Johnson:** I had the pleasure of drawing boater Laron Porter for this tournament. He took very good care of an old man! He also found fish during prefish and took us right to them, way back in the No Wake Zone of Humbug Bay. Muddy water and tons of shad. A few minutes after we pulled into the back of a cove, I yelled "Fish On!" It turned out to be our big fish of the day. At 2.67 pounder, it was good one by Un-Pleasant standards, but as it turned out it was far from the tournament Big Fish of the Day. Laron netted it like a Pro, and we were

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## "We Practice Catch and Release"



**1st Place Overall - Porter & Johnson**

quickly back in action. A few more casts and I was again calling for the net. This bass was a shade smaller (but fought harder!), and it was tongue hooked. I was totally impressed by how carefully Laron unhooked it, to reduce the chance of a bleed out. And with that bass, my friends, I was done for the day. I just did not know it yet.

I continued working my Megabass S-7 Squarebill (shad pattern) and a bunch more baits off and on all day long. But no more love for me. Fortunately, as we repeatedly worked

## Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our first club meeting for 2023 scheduled for **Wednesday, 1 February** starting at 8:00 AM, at **Denny's Restaurant 2525 W. Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, AZ**. We hope you will come early (6:30 to 8 AM) have breakfast together and turn-in entry forms if necessary.

The next club points tournament is scheduled for **Lake Bartlett on 15 February 2023**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

from the back of the cove out into Humbug proper and back again, Laron kept catching bass, both black and white. Most were caught on deeper diving crankbaits but one was a jerkbait keeper. Our fish all came from 25 ft up to 3-5 ft, along rocky banks and mostly with immediate access to deeper water. Two of Laron's keepers came from the same spot, but an hour or two apart. We culled twice, the second time dumping that very lively tongue-hooked, non-bleeding bass of mine. The only mistake we made was not keeping a 2.5 lb white bass that Laron caught, for Goon Fish. We thought surely someone would catch a big striper or catfish. Wrong! But we also didn't want that white to somehow mess up our "real" fish or dirty Laron's livewells.

We threw a lot of different baits throughout the day, but for us it was totally a crankbait day. It was my first ride on a Vexus and that boat was everything it was cracked up to be. My favorite thing was the great rod tubes for a co-angler's sticks. Wow! Greatly reduces the chances for a wayward treble hook to find the Co's seat. And what a stable ride, which was good because at 2:39 we (Laron) noticed the time! Laron stayed at No Wake speed all the way to the front of Humbug and then we shot back to the 3:00 weigh-in for our flight with a few minutes to spare. Well done, Laron.

Many thanks to Laron and to the guys who worked the launch, scales and trailering. Thanks to Gary Grimes for encouragement and for hauling our fish back to the lake. Thanks to Greg Utton for the photography effort which I am looking forward to seeing. And, thanks to the Girl Scout who sold me 4 boxes of Thin Mints – for my wife. It felt great to fish Midweek again. Especially with a Boater who was so kind and gracious in coping with my increasingly Old Man frailties. Oh, to be young again!

**Laron Porter:** Terry Johnson's words are very kind. I had a wonderful day fishing with Terry. My first Midweek tournament memory will never be forgotten. It turns out Terry knew and worked with my amazing Uncle who died of cancer a few years back. Terry shared some wonderful stories about him with me. A BIG thanks for all the hard work in making Midweek Bass a success! I look forward to future events.

## Drop Shot Is Magic For Team Goettl & Fraczek 2nd Place Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Andy Goettl & Sebastian Fraczek** weighed two bass for a total weight of 7.37 lbs. Thanks to Andy's 6.85 lb bass they also won the **5 lb honors**.

**Andy Goettl:** Although we took second place there really isn't much to write up. We headed straight for Cole's Bay and tried reaction baits all morning with no results. I moved around a bit but not a whole lot. About 3 hours into the day Sebastian barely knew he had a Drop Shot bite and managed to land a small fish. I put 40 gallons of water into the live-well to store our six-inch bass and hoped that at least something would happen in the next few hours or it was going to be a long day. About 1PM we had enough of the donkeys in Coles and decided to try a few main lake spots.

We pulled up on a known spot and I tied on a Spro DD Little John and gave it a toss. I hit



**2nd Place Fraczek & Goettl—6.85 lbs.**

### Membership

As of January 21, 2023 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **103** active members.

a rock or two and the crankbait just stopped. Honestly, I thought I had a snag. The day had been so long and frustrating that my concentration had waned at least an hour before. I yanked a couple of times and reeled up some slack to try the snap trick, when I felt the head shake. I said, "Crap, I think that's a fish!" As I started to reel the fish in, it rolled off the boat about 15 yards out and we thought maybe four pounds at best. It wasn't until Sabastian scooped her into the net and laid her on the deck, that I realized just how big she was.

Two fish for second place. Better lucky than good I guess.

## Gary Martlage & Keith Weidert Dropshot 20 to 50 Foot Depths For 3rd Place

Team **Martlage & Weidert** weighed four bass for 7.00 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Gary Martlage:** I had the pleasure to fish with Keith Weidert, for the first time since he joined the club two years ago. Keith is a consummate gentleman, off and on the water. We did get a chance to pre-fish on Monday, but after 4.5 hours of steady rain, decided to save our energy for Wednesday.

On tournament day we stayed in the main lake, fishing the underwater humps, hoping for a better bite than it produced. We got "lucky" having 6 bites all day, and landing 4 fish. I did lose a small fish at the boat, but we came back to the exact spot 30 minutes later, and we still believe Keith caught the same fish in the exact same spot it was lost! Not much else to report, as we drop shotted 4.5 inch worms all day in 20-50 ft of water to get our bites; can't

### Tournament Statistics

Sixty contestants fished 8 hours each, bringing 35 bass to the scales for a total weight of 69.43 pounds with a 1.56 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.98 lbs. All fish but one were released alive back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



**3rd Place Weidert & Martlage**

believe it was enough to take 3<sup>rd</sup> place, but we'll take it!

**Keith Weidert:** Great job by the weigh-in crew as always. Gary Martlage and I pre-fished the Monday before the tournament. What a COLD and WET day to fish, we crazy few.

On tournament day, all four of our fish were caught on drop shot. It was the only method that was working for us, and they were all caught in different spots around the lake. Our big fish was caught by Gary just a few minutes from our start buoy in the first 45 minutes on a hump that Gary likes to fish. We then moved over to the islands before entering into Jackass Cove. There we each caught nice ones that got us into the money. Thanks, Gary, for showing me the ropes at Pleasant.

### **Team Duel & Utton Work Drop Shot For 4th Place**

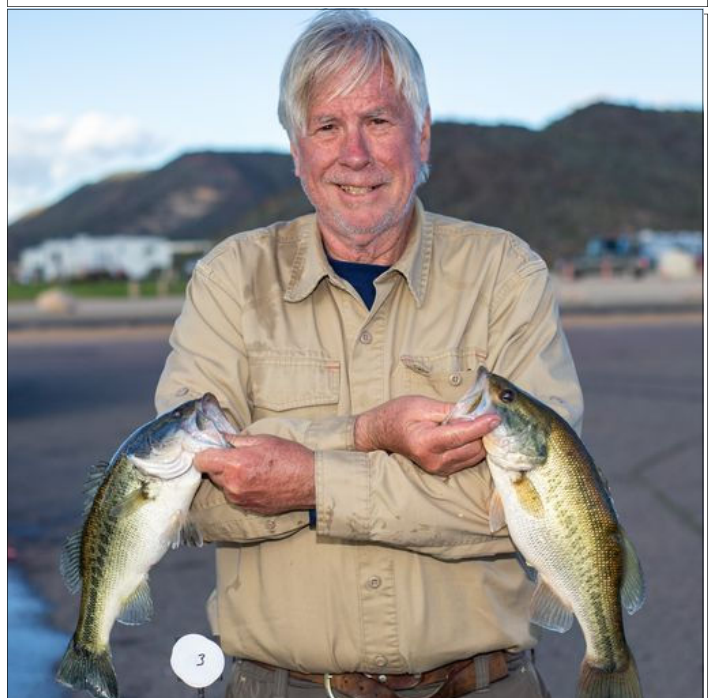
Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Jim Duel & Greg Utton** weighed two fish for a total weight of 4.99 pounds.

**Jim Duel:** Congratulations to Laron and Terry for their big win, with nearly 4 and a half pounds ahead of anyone else. That's a great way to have your first tournament with Midweek

Bass. Andrew and Sebastian congratulations on Big Fish and breaking into the 5-lb pot. Thanks to the weigh-in crew all most of us had to do was fish. Well done!

Greg Utton could not prefish with me. I went out with Dave Sapyta on Friday and as we were leaving Dave talked with a kayaker who gave up a spot where he had caught a 3 pounder. Dave talks to everybody. I went out on Tuesday and eliminated some water and caught nothing as I had done on Friday.

So it's game day and all I knew was where not to go. I decided to go where the kayaker had told Dave about which was by the Dam at the Do Not Enter area far side toward the main lake. I positioned the boat close enough to the bank and the last buoy that we could hit them with a drop shot. The first fish came in at 8:10 on a purple worm with a silver shine to it. Greg and I punished that point for another hour and nothing. We left and went to other spots that had given up fish before but not today. Around 1 PM I told Greg that we may as well go back where we had started. We got there and there was a pretty Nitro sitting EXACTLY where I wanted to be. We poked around the bay for a little while hoping they would leave. They didn't so we did. I took us around the do not enter area and fished off the dam always watching that Nitro. Low and



**4th Place Duel & Utton**

behold 10 minutes later they moved and so did we. We picked up our 2nd fish not even 20 feet from where the first one had come from at 2:10 using dark green worms with metal flake. I think the bag of worms had a Yellow Front tag on it. Thanks Greg I enjoyed the conversation and



**5th Place - Flores & Prather**

hope to fish with you again.

### **Greg Prather & Eliseo Flores Take 5th Place**

A three fish bag weighing 4.97 lbs was enough to earn Team **Prather & Flores** the **5th Place** money.

No fishing and catching report provided by the team.

### **Team Brian Presmyk & Randy Howell Work Ned Rig For 6th Place**

Team **Presmyk & Howell** weighed three bass for 4.54 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

**Brian Presmyk:** I wish I had some really good information to share with the club, but I don't. I met up with Randy Howell the morning of the tournament to talk a little bit about my game plan. Randy informed me that he did a



**6th Place Presmyk & Howell**

little pre-fishing, but was unsuccessful. I let Randy know I had a few spots and it was going to be a grind.

At our first spot I got bit, but I missed it. Our second spot produced our first fish. Our third spot produced our second fish. We hit a few other spots, but we blanked, so we decided to head back where we picked up our first fish. We ended up with our third and final fish. Everything was caught on a Ned rig in 10 feet of water. Morning Dawn was the color they wanted. Thanks again to everyone who keeps this club running. This is the best club I've ever fished!

### **Team Mark Hedstrom & James Clisch Drop Shot For 7th Place**

Team **Hedstrom & Clisch** weighed one bass for 3.83 pounds and took home **7th Place** honors.

**Mark Hedstrom:** Jim Clisch found our larger fish while pre-fishing in the northern coves in 1 to 8 feet of water using underspins. We also caught a big one in practice. The key was finding the shad and that is where the largemouth were. We also caught some in practice in 30 ft of water on drop shots in Humbug, but they didn't pan out during the tournament.



7th Place Clisch & Hedstrom



### Editor's Log by Ferry Fassin

Over the past 18 years, it has been an honor and privilege 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 outgoing Board of Directors and staff, thank you and we wish you all some great fishing and catching in the years ahead.

### A Little Humor

\* All eyes were on the radiant bride as her father escorted her down the aisle. They reached the altar and the waiting groom. The bride kissed her father and placed something in his hand. The guests in the front pews responded with ripples of laughter. Even the priest smiled broadly. As her father gave her away in marriage, the bride gave him back his credit card.

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\* Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.

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\* Three friends from the local congregation were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?" Artie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man." Eugene said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives." Al said, "I'd like them to say, 'Look, he's moving!'"

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\* Mr. Smith climbs to the top of Mt. Sinai to get close enough to talk to God. Looking up, he asks the Lord. "God, what does a million years mean to you?" The Lord says, "A minute." Smith asks, "And what does a million dollars mean to you?" The Lord says, "A penny." Smith asks, "Can I have a penny?" The Lord says, "In a minute."

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\* John was on his deathbed and gasped pitifully, "Give me one last request, dear," he said. "Of course, John," his wife said softly. "Six months after I die," John said, "I want you to marry Bob." "But I thought you hated Bob," she said. With his last breath John said, "I do!"

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\* A man goes to see the Rabbi. "Rabbi, something terrible is happening and I have to talk to you about it." The Rabbi asked, "What's wrong?" The man says, "My wife is going to poison me." The Rabbi, very surprised by this, asks, "How can that be?" The man then says, "I'm telling you, I'm certain she's going to poison me. What should I do?" The Rabbi then says, "Tell you what. Let me talk to her, I'll see what I can find out and I'll let you know." A week later the Rabbi calls the man. He says, "I spoke to your wife on the phone for three hours. You want my advice?" The man said, "Yes" and the Rabbi said, "Take the poison."

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I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

# Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2023 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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### **SECRETARY**

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### **TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

Steve Grier 623-826-5540

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

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### **TREASURER**

Don Worcester 630-567-3038

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Greg Utton

### **ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

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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**

- Devin Brown (B)**
- Dan Gallagher (CO)**
- Mark Hedstrom (B)**
- Eric Hively (B)**
- Steve Minich (B)**
- Joseph Najor (CO)**
- Paul Padrnos (B)**
- Laron Porter (B)**
- Stephen Silversher (CO)**
- Mitchell Vitkovich (B)**

**Please meet and greet our new members.**



## **Midweek Bass Anglers 2023 Tournament Schedule**

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

- Mike Bloxam**
- Bill Briggs**
- Joseph Najor**
- Rick Brown**
- Carlo Giunta**
- Steve Simer**
- Jeff Stone**



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|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>18 January</b>     | <b>Pleasant</b>            |
| <b>15 February</b>    | <b>Bartlett</b>            |
| <b>15 March</b>       | <b>Havasu</b>              |
| <b>19 April</b>       | <b>Alamo</b>               |
| <b>17 May</b>         | <b>Roosevelt</b>           |
| <b>21 June</b>        | <b>Bartlett</b>            |
| <b>19 July</b>        | <b>Pleasant</b>            |
| <b>16 August</b>      | <b>Bartlett</b>            |
| <b>20 September</b>   | <b>Roosevelt</b>           |
| <b>18 October</b>     | <b>Alamo</b>               |
| <b>14-15 November</b> | <b>Roosevelt or Apache</b> |