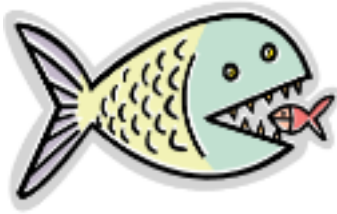


MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS Of Arizona



Bass Bites



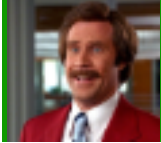
FISHING WEDNESDAY - NOT WEEKENDS!

February 2023 EDITION

18 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

Club Established January 27, 2005

EDITOR: GREG UTTON



President's Perspective

By Floyd Vaughn

Forty (40) boats sign up, and thirty six end up fishing....WOW, which leads me to thank Steve Grier and Robert Cooley for handling the late sign ups and last minute no-shows for the February 2022 Midweek Bass Tournament at Bartlett Lake. I also want to say thanks to everyone who showed up and accepted the challenges of the day. With the cold weather, ice on our boats, and snow on the surrounding mountains, we went fishing! February! water temps were in the low 50's, and in some places lower. Very interesting day of fishing. It was a challenge just to get 5 fish in the boat. The only thing harder, you might ask, would be getting 5 fish that weigh over a pound each. But someone always figures out a way to make it happen. Congratulations to the team of Joe Denson and Devin Brown on the win. Nice job gentlemen. No real problems to speak of during the tournament. It took a little longer to get all 36 boats in the water, but that's ok. The launch goes much faster and safer with even the faintest glow of morning light. Lots of new faces this month. Glad to see you all and we at Midweek hoped you enjoyed your day. A reminder, if you must leave early contact the tournament director or let another team know. If you do not have fish and are not weighing in, please let us know so we don't send the search team looking for you. During weigh-in, use the official club bag for weighing your fish and please bring your own bag for returning the fish to the lake. And finally, be safe on the water, be smart, keep your head on a swivel at all times and know what is going on around you. Next month we will move the tournament to Lake Havasu, one of the club favorites. This is a great fishery and hope to see as many members as possible.



Tournament Report Bartlett Lake February 15, 2023

The first snow tournament for the club. It turned out to be a cold snowy, memorable tournament to say the least.



Courtesy: Mike Adamson

As a side note, I won't be able to make the next several tournaments and we need someone to volunteer to take photos. A camera phone is fine.

Monthly Breakfast Meetings

First Wednesday of Month

Meeting 8:30 A.M.

Denny's Restaurant
2625 W Deer Valley Rd
Phoenix, Az.

Includes Monthly Raffle

“We Practice Catch and Release”

Team Brown and Denson Take 1st Place Overall and 2nd Place Big Bass (Boat 29)

Taking home 1st Place Overall, Team Walter Brown and Joe Denison brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 8.31 lbs. and a big bass of 2.52 lbs.



Devin Walter: I really enjoyed the draw tournament format and getting to know Joe.

Joe knew of an area that proved to hold fish. Our choices of bait were different. I (Devin) used a very short drop shot-wacky rigged with a 6" watermelon red worm. Joe used a custom made rig of his own. A bait he has created himself and has had success with in the past.

Joe caught our first and biggest fish at 11:50 am. That got us started. 12-15 more were caught throughout the day. A day where we had an icy morning followed by warm sunshine, then a little rain and even snow.

The trick was to fish slow; to let the fish take the bait. If ya swing early ya miss the bite.

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

The next club points tournament is scheduled for Havasu Lake on 15 February 2023. Club launch and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are Safe Light to 3 PM. Pre-launch meeting is scheduled for 6:15 AM.

Team Hedstrom & Butler 2nd Place Overall and Second Big Bass (Boat 35)

In 2nd Place Team Mark Hedstrom & Mark Butler weighed five bass for a total weight of 7.49 lbs with a big bass of 2.16 lbs.

Mike Butler: I had a good fortune to be paired with Mark Hedstrom. Mark had located a small area mid-lake. This proved to be our only productive spot. We started off with reaction baits with no luck and switched to Ned rig and drop Shotting. We had a limit by 10:00 am. The rest of the day was a grind with weather, cold, snow, and sleet all felt by a split torn in the back of my pants. At 3:05 on our 'last cast' call we managed to hook a fish to cull out our eight incher. This was my second club tournament, and I am impressed on how well run and friendly the people are. Thank you for the great experience.

Mark Hedstrom: I was originally assigned to myself as a boater and I am lucky that Mike Butler signed up and fished with me. I had found one spot in the mid-lake area that held good fish compared to most of the lake producing almost nothing. Anyway we got to our first spot and Mike had caught 2 decent fish by 8:30 am. We fished ned rigs and drop shots very slow and had our limit by 10 am. One of our fish was also caught on a jig. It was funny to see Mike split his pants and I thank God that he wasn't commando! Mike caught a fish on his last cast that helped us upgrade. I had a great time fishing with Mike and it was crazy to see my boat deck covered with snow. I am glad to have gotten back into bass club fishing and Midweek Bass club runs an awesome club. It was a well run tournament. Our fish were caught in 14 to 28ft....

Brain Colby (Solo) Takes Third Place (Boat 10)

Brian Colby fished solo and brought in five fish for 7.48 pounds just barely missing Second Place by ".01 lbs.". Brian also brought in the biggest "goon fish".

Brian Colby: Another well run tournament by the club, thanks to all of you that make tournament fishing fun.

At take off my plan was to go right but every boat went left so I followed completely abandoning my game plan. After a ways I decided on a previous spot I've done well and with in the first 30 minutes

I had 2. Both bites came in 12 to 15 ft but on the outside edge close to deep water in flooded brush. I tried to force the bite on the flats but nothing would bite. Took off up the lake further and tried to fish spots I've got a lot of history with but was all to no avail. So I decided to try and



duplicate the bites I had early on outside edges but in the flooded vegetation, it was game on from there. 9 total bites culling once. Arizona custom baits were the only thing I could get bit on. Did catch a bluegill and a 1lb bass on an ice jig but everything else came off a downsized Carolina rig with Arizona Custom Baits. See you all at the next one.

Team Blume and Mabry Take 4th Place (Boat 1)

Don Blume and Chris Mabry brought in five fish for a total weight of 7.12 lbs. They were just out of third place by about 6 oz.

Chris Mabry: Another day of fishing is in the books. Thanks to the weigh in crew and the tournament officials for a smooth running tournament. I had the pleasure of fishing with Don Blume and he was a great guy to be paired with. We pre-fished Monday through the rain and hail with Don catching the only one fish but we found a good spot for Wednesday. Tournament day we proceeded to a point across the lake towards the dam. Our first fish was caught on a drop shot worm in a bold bluegill color in about 20 to 25 feet of water. The next five fish were caught spooning cicada blade baits in 20 – 30 feet of water. We had our limit just before 9 AM and our only cull at 9:15 AM. After this the bite simply shut down and we tried a few other points and an island area we had pre-fished along with an area in the no wake zone but no fish were caught.

Don Blume; We pre-fished Monday. It was cold, wet with sleet and hail and only one small bass on an Ice Jig. We caught the fish on a point across from the marina by the dam. While pre-fishing we saw fish and shad on Livescope but could not get any more to bite

Tournament day Don drew the start boat, so there was no chance someone would beat us to our point. Don started throwing cranks and Chris the drop shot. Don was shocked and surprised when Chris said “Fish on” all within the first 10-20 minutes of the morning. Chris’ fish a 1.76 came on a Bold Blue Gill worm drop shooting across the rocky point in about 20 feet of water.

We continued to see fish in 27’ to 32’ of water with a lot of shad mixed in it. Don tried the Ice Jig, Kastmaster spoon but they would not bite. Don tried a Cicada style blade bait and “Fish on”. Fish two was about 1.50 lbs. Chris put on a blade bait and “fish on”, number three was in the boat. Don caught the next two on the blade bait and we had a limit by 8:58. Having a limit, the stress was gone and were pretty sure we would be in the money.

At 9:15, Don caught the 6th fish and we culled a fish. We stayed on the point mixing it up with blade baits, drop shot, cranks, and jerk baits but could not get anything to bite. We moved to 5 or 6 other points but the bite was over for us. It was a fun trip and Chris was a great partner to be teamed up with.

Team Brewer and Haas Take 5th Place (Boat 5)

Phil Brewer and Norm Haas brought in five fish for 6.77

Norm Haas: Congrats to Devin and Joe for their win and to the weigh in crew and photographer for all their efforts. This was the first time in Arizona that I fished in the snow, it actually was fun and a sight to see. Phil caught the first one fish in just a few minutes of starting and I caught one a short time later. Less than 30 minutes in and I thought we were off to a great start. Then Phil caught another and we continued on the spot for an hour or so with no results. Several hours passed without any more fish and I started to get worried but, then Phil caught another one. Then the start battery had issues but, it didn't keep us from fishing and we stayed on the trolling motor for the rest of the day, Phil picked up another one and

so did I, allowing me to cull my first smaller one. It turned out to be a great day on the lake for telling stories and catching a few fish. Special thanks goes out to Jim Duel for jumping in the cold water to pull and guide the boat onto the trailer.

Team Beaty and Hawkins Take 6th Place (Boat 25)

Team Beaty and Steve Hawkins brought in five bass that weighed in at 6.67 lbs. and took home 6th Place honors.



Joe Beaty: First off thanks to all the Midweek board members for putting on a great tournament. I went pre fishing on the Friday before the tournament and caught 5 fish and figured out a bite. I was partnered with John Hawkins but he got sick the week before and had to cancel. So I got paired up with Steven. We blasted off and got to spot 1 and caught 3 fish pretty fast. One was on a ned rig zman and one was on an Alabama rig, then we went to a spot Steven lost a good fish a couple weeks before. We got another on Alabama rig then we struggled like everyone else then went back to Steve's cove and picked up our fifth fish on a robo worm drop shot. Then I hooked another one and screwed around and lost it trying to swing it. Everything we fished I would consider mid-lake.

Team Prather and Adamson Take 7th Place (Boat 4)

Team Greg Prather and Mike Adamson brought five bass to the scales for 6.65 lbs. and took home 7th Place honors.

Mike Adamson: Nothing like a 60 mph trip across the water in 30 degree weather to get your day started. Greg Prather and I have

fished together in past tournaments and his fishing skills have definitely been the reason we have placed in the money. We spent most of the day in a cove by where we had caught fish on Friday when pre-fishing. As we all know in the winter months the key to catching fish is to fish



slow and then slow down more. That's what we did, throwing jigs with craws in 5-10 foot of water. The bite, well, wasn't a bite as it was just heavy. Some of the fish felt like dragging in a stick but then, the stick started to swim sideways. I have never seen this soft of a bite before. A person just wonders how many fish they really missed. Congratulations to the other winners for figuring out how to catch Bartlett bass in the winter.

Team Jackson and Vaughan Take 8th Place (Boat 9)

Team Robin Jackson and Floyd Vaughan brought five bass to the scales for 5.80 lbs. and took home 8th Place honors.



Floyd Vaughan: First of all, congratulations to Joe and Devin on a great win! I was able to fish with Robin Jackson who was wonderful, knowledgeable, and a very patient man. Patience is what led us to catch all our fish... that and a great spot. We fished within talking distance to

the first and second place winners, sometimes closer. We (meaning Robin) caught all our fish on a Carolina rig. It was a good day considering the rain and snow. Again thanks Robin for a great day on your boat

Team Teschler and Neinast Take 9th Place (Boat 38)

Nick Teschler and James Neinast brought a total of four fish to the scales for a total weight of 5.58 lbs.

Team Briggs and Johnson Take 12th Place (Boat 27)

Bill Briggs and Terry Johnson took 12th place bringing 4.68 lbs. To the scales. Terry has submitted a voluntary report to illustrate team results from tournament non-winners.

Terry Johnson: Bill Briggs and Terry Johnson, Boat #27. In my new career as an MBA Non-Boater, I had the good fortune of drawing Bill Briggs for Bartlett. Bill is as persistent an angler as you will find. He prefished extensively, but on most days struggled to find even a couple of fish. No fish on a few days. Froze his butt off and was chased off the lake by the wind too often. But he covered the lake, from muddy water upriver to clearer water at the dam. His daily phone updates were not encouraging, but they helped me decide what probably would not work for me on game day.

On Saturday, we turned around at the Starter Boat and tried a few places right near the launch ramp. We caught two Bartlett Keepers right away, on dropshot rigs with 4.8" worms. Felt very encouraging, after his prefishing. So, we spent a couple more hours thrashing water in that area, with finesse baits, crankbaits and occasionally a jig. We graphed fish but we couldn't entice them to bite or snag one (accidentally, of course). We finally moved to

similar spots within a half mile or so of the Start for most of the rest of the day. New water did not make a difference, nor did re-fishing earlier spots.



We only caught two more bass, same size roughly as the first two. One came on Bill's drop shot, I think, and I got the other one 30 minutes before weigh-in, off a favorite island on the NE side of the Main Lake. That final fish came on a Mitch Vitkovitch Bug-I-Jig with a Ned-rig stickbait. For those who have never tried one, that is a truly great jig (or Shakyhead, as you wish).

All day long, we knew we would need 5 fish, with a good kicker fish, to have any hope. So, we fished hard all the way to the end. We just couldn't produce. Minor main-lake points were definitely disappointing. Tough day for us. Honestly, if I am going to struggle like that I'd rather do it on Saguaro, where I think I have a better chance at a kicker. I don't mind a Go Big or Go Home day.

We really enjoyed the brief snow shower and especially the lack of wind.

Hats off to Bill for a great day on the water. We finished in 12th Place, which was a pleasant surprise. Also, major kudos to the Weigh-in Team, Steve Grier for directing the tournament, Gary Martlage for hauling fish down to the lake, Greg Utton for the photography and to everyone else who helped make the tournament a lot of fun. Hope to see everyone again in March, if I'm back from OH.

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

**Fishing is the 2nd
greatest thrill known to
man.**

Catching fish is the 1st.



2023 Tournament Schedule

January 18	Lake Pleasant
February 15	Bartlett Lake
March 15	Havasu
April 19	Alamo
May 17*	Roosevelt
June 21**	Bartlett (3 fish limit)
July 19**	Pleasant (3 fish limit)
August 16*	Bartlett (3 fish limit)
September 20	Roosevelt
October 18	Alamo
November 14-15	Apache or Roosevelt

* Safe light to 2pm

** Safe light to 11am

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