



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MARCH 2021 EDITION
16 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective *By Gary Grimes*

The Midweek Bass Anglers completed their third tournament of the year, which was held in the swift moving waters of the lower Colorado River at Lake Martinez. The field was comprised of 28 boats, with the largest sack of fish being caught by Neil Burns and James Neinast. Congratulations boys! I also wish to thank those who decided to bring their boat in order to get everyone on the water. Unfortunately I was not able to attend as I was returning from a trip to Lake Baccharac in Mexico. That would be a great place for a tournament, though the drive is a bit long.

Next month we return to Roosevelt Lake for the first of back to back tournaments at a lake most are very familiar with. We will be launching out of the Windy Hill area so stay tuned for details as usable ramps are changing as the water drops. Covid protocols are still in place, so bring your mask and observe safe distancing, even if you have had your vaccine. I think we can finally start to see the end of the tunnel of this Covid madness. Thank God. Because of Covid, we will not have a barbeque, so each is on his own in that regard. Hopefully we see some easing of the social distancing rules as we move into fall. Register for the tournament online and register early. See you soon.



Tournament Report Lake Martinez March 17, 2021

All but two teams weighed fish at this tournament, and all but one fish were released back into the lake to live and fight again another day. Now let's hear from our winners.

Team Neil Burns & James Neinast Weigh 6.22 Ibs Win 1st Place Team, 1st Place Big Fish And 5 lb Pot

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Neil Burns & James Neinast** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 17.81 lbs. Thanks to Neil's 6.22 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Bass** honors and the **5 Pound Pot**.

Neil Burns: Another great Midweek tournament; kudos to the Tournament Director and weigh-in team - it is a seamless operation.

I arrived on Sunday afternoon and the next 2 days and nights were a little too windy and cold for my liking. I also find sleeping in the bed of my pickup to be a lot more uncomfortable than it was 15 years ago, but we had a nice camp with great guys which made it more enjoyable. My partner, Jim Neinast wasn't going to be able to meet me until early Wednesday, so Monday I

**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.



MARCH 29TH
VIETNAM VETERANS DAY



"We Practice Catch and Release"



1st Pl Jim Neinast & Neil Burns

fished Ferguson Lake with little success. Tuesday I fished south with the same results so I wasn't real optimistic about our chances for the tournament.

On Wednesday morning we decided to start on a little back water area south of Fishers Landing; it was a good decision. Within 15 minutes I caught a 6 pounder and a 4 pounder on a chatterbait with bluegill colored trailer. Of course it wasn't going to be that easy. At 11:30 I finally caught another good fish on a Texas rigged green pumpkin worm. At 2:00 we still only had 3 fish so we decided to go back to Ferguson Lake and fish the stumps in front of the rod and gun club. I had gotten bit each day prefishing and was hoping he might still be there. We had both pitched to that stump several times and I was getting ready to move on when I felt Jim set the hook on another nice fish. Time was running out so we motored over to another stump with no luck. I was strapping down my gear when I heard Jim set the hook on our 5th fish. Those last 2 fish were the key, both on a brown brush hog. We only had 7 minutes to get back to Fisher's - WOW good job partner!

Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2021 scheduled for **Wednesday, 7 April** 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 Roosevelt** on **21 April 2021**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.



Neil Burns 1st Place Big Bass 6.22 lbs

Briggs & Lemanski Work Face Lake And Finish 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Bill Briggs & Matt Lemanski** weighed five bass for a total weight of 15.58 lbs.

Matt Lemanski: Our day started out extremely slow; my partner Bill Briggs and I honestly didn't know what to expect with the weather changing quite a bit. My boater stuck to his guns and was sure there were big fish in the area. After about 11:30 with no fish in the boat, we decided to fish some points in the same area that he was successful in a few days before. That's when I noticed a fish on a bed in maybe 3 feet of water pretty close to the reeds. I decided to pitch a green pumpkin red flake craw and caught our first keeper after about 4-5 flips. That's when we decided that the rest of the day we would fish closer to the reeds and look for beds. I ended up catching our 3 bigger fish. Luckily on most of the ones we did find we were able to entice them to bite.

Bill Briggs: Once again blessed by the good Lord. I have got to give credit to my partner Matt Lemanski. He wanted to find bedding fish but after a couple days prefishing I was convinced that they were off the shore a short distance. We had several bites that way prefishing.

Early on tournament day it was slow fishing with Matt catching a smaller bass on his lipless crank. After a few other boats left the area we decided to stay for better or worse in Face Lake. I was still convinced that as the water warmed we would start catching some bass. Then Matt saw a fish on a bed so we camped on it until Matt



2nd Place Matt Lemanski & Bill Briggs

caught both the male and the big female. The problem was that he could see the fish and beds but I couldn't. So he caught most of our bag. I will invest in better glasses very soon. Matt was fun to fish with and obviously knows how to catch bass. Most of my bites came on a Texas rigged power worm or craw. A big thank you to everyone who puts these tournaments together and the weigh team. Please keep pairing me up with someone who can show me how to fish.

Team Kurt Crawford & Doug Moore Used Waning Minutes For 3rd Place Finish

Team **Crawford & Moore** weighed five bass for 14.57 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors. Doug's 4.68 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors for the team.

Doug Moore: I had the good fortune to fish with Kurt Crawford who knows Martinez well. We started the day in one of the coves fishing just off the bank and Kurt had a couple bites on a tube but neither fish stayed on the hook. We then started fishing the tulles and cane areas and picked up two bass, one on Kurt's tube and one on a brush hog. Kurt lost a couple more in the tangle of the heavy stuff so we headed back to Fisher's Landing with an hour and a half to go with only the two fish. We had practiced in there the day before so we tried a couple spots where we had found fish around the docks and what do you know, we got lucky. Kurt got two on his tube and I got the big one on a drop shot/morning dawn worm with ten minutes to spare. As always, thanks to the crew for a great job and I am really looking forward to Roosevelt next month.

Membership

As of March 19, 2021 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **118** dues paid active members.

Team Brock & Duel Take 4th Place Fishing Tulles

Taking home **4th Place**, Team Lannes Brock & James Duel weighed five bass for 14.36 pounds and took home **Fourth Place** honors.

Jim Duel: Congratulations to Neil and James for the big fish and first place win. As always from a contestant's point of view the weigh-in crew did a great job getting everyone processed and the fish back to the water.

I was fortunate to draw Lannes Brock. We prefished on Monday upriver as far as Island Lake and caught 9 or 10 fish for the day. On Wednesday we traveled down river on the Arizona side. I could not get a fish in the boat all day. It was a long day of a fish here and a fish there. We went in places that were more suitable for canoe travel having at times to physically pull the bamboo to turn the boat. Once we came through the tunnels there would be another small lake to fish. We saw one other boat all day while fishing and that boat was not from Midweek Bass. I got in some netting practice and got to watch a man that is an expert on this impoundment of water who determinedly fished all day without stopping. Thanks Lannes for my days on the water with you.

David Brakefield & Joe Matt Work Near Start And Finish 5th

A five fish bag weighing 13.86 lbs was enough to earn Team **Brakefield & Matt** the **5th Place** money.

David Brakefield: First, congrats to Neil & James, Bill & Matt, Kurt & Doug and Lannes & James all of which placed ahead of Joe Matt and me. Joe was a great partner and this was the second time we fished together this year.

On tournament day we were close to the start boat so I had two plans on where to start depending on



5th Place Joe Matt & David Brakefield

where the other boats went. As it turned out we went back into Fishers Landing where we caught four keepers close to the entrance where there was fresh water coming in off the river. I was using a dropshot setup with either green Punkin or a morning dawn worm using a short tagline most of the time. We then went into Fence Lake where we were able to cull three fish. While there we saw some 'TOADS' and they're still there. With two hours left we decided to go back to Fishers where I had to drive right past the entrance into Face Lake, I almost turned around and went into it; hindsight. I enjoy fishing Martinez and the many lakes that branch off the river. It gives you a different perspective and broadens your horizons on fishing besides just sitting on a lake with deep water. It can be a challenge to fish something besides what you're used to fishing.

Joe Matt: It was a beautiful day on the lake. First I would like to thank everyone for their help in setting up the tournament and all the volunteers. Also kudos to my partner David Brakefield for all he did to put us on the fish.

We started out right where we launched in the morning and picked up four fish. Then we hit some backwater areas and picked up a small one. We spent the rest of afternoon looking to cull our small fish. Finally David hooked one and we were able to cull the little one. Most fish came on drop shots.

Team Clinton Bell & Mark Durben 6th Place

Team **Clinton Bell & Mark Durben** weighed five bass for 13.51 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

No report on how their fish were caught.

Team Jim Guin & David Sapyta Fish Flick Shake To Finish 7th Overall

In **7th Place** Team **Guin & Sapyta** weighed five bass for a total weight of 11.99 lbs.

Jim Guin: I had the pleasure to fish with David Sapyta. We had a strong prefish on Tuesday getting bites on flipping creature baits and the flick shake. Tournament day was way slower with me catching a spinner bait fish and flipped one. David went to work with his flick shake and finished out our limit. Overall I had a great couple days on the water with David and once again the guys running Midweek Bass did an outstanding job.

David Sapyta: Welcome Jim Guin to Midweek Bass. My thanks are extended to the weigh-in crew for a job well done. Jim Guin and I came in seventh and I am really happy with that. Went up river to places I have never been. I caught my fish on a flick shake green pumpkin. Martinez Lake did us justice. Thanks Terry for keeping us well informed.



6th Place Mark Durben & Clinton Bell



7th Place Jim Guin & David Sapyta

Tournament Statistics

Fifty-six contestants fished 8 hours each, bringing 88 bass to the scales for a total weight of 214.71 pounds with a 3.83 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 2.44 lbs. All fish were released alive back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

Hughes & Jimenez Weigh-in Small Striper For Goon Fish Prize

Team **Jack Hughes & Ronnie Jimenez** weigh-in 0.53 lb

Striped Bass thanks to Jack and win the \$100 **Goon Fish** prize.



Goon Fish Prize Jack Hughes & Ronnie Jimenez



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

Well that is another tournament in the Books. Martinez did not turn out to be the anticipated fish extravaganza that it was hoped to be, but I do believe that everyone had a good time, as always. I personally was a little disappointed in the fishery this year, as the hype fizzled to only a few fish caught by yours truly. Well, that's fishing.

As always, the weigh in crew did an excellent job getting the fish weighed, and back into the contestants hands so they could be put back into the lake to fight another day. Special thanks to Floyd Vaughan for helping guys launch their boats during the predawn activities, as it went very smoothly, and we were all launched with a good 20 minutes to spare. It sure helps that the boat owner drives his equipment and positions it on the ramp. I don't think there was one incident to report. I also noticed that all contestants were wearing their life jackets, as we all know about the tragic accident that happened a few weeks ago, at Bartlett. We need to stay focused on this issue, along with the Covid issue. Hopefully, we will be back to normal soon; at least I'm looking forward to a cookout as soon as possible.

Be safe out there, and see you all at Roosevelt next month.

Spring Tactics

Take plenty of rods, reels along

In spring, it's always a good idea to plan on covering water and throwing a lot of different lures until you find the two or three baits that work better than others. Many fishermen keep about 10 rigs on front deck – with as many different types of bait tied on - that make sense for the weather and water conditions that I've got in front of me. In most lakes, fish aren't really settled into one pattern yet so you've got to figure on giving them a big menu and making a lot of casts. If you try your favorite one or two baits and don't catch anything, it might not be because the fish aren't there, but because they want something else. I might start out at the mouth of a cove or feeder creek with one lure, change up six or seven times and wind up in the backend throwing something completely different. That's spring fishing!

Quotes

We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere. --Tim McGraw

"In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him." -
- Dereke Bruce, Taipei, Taiwan

"The average dog is a nicer person than the average person." -- Andrew A. Rooney

"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion." -- Unknown

"If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man." -- Mark Twain

"Things that upset a terrier may pass virtually unnoticed by a Great Dane." -- Smiley Blanton

Did You Know? April Fools' Day

April Fool's holiday set fun! No one where the started, but it celebrated in world wide.



Day is a up just for really knows tradition seems to be various ways

It has been the beginning of the Gregorian Calendar and the fact that the new year was moved to January 1st. During that time it took long periods of time to get the message out to all of the people that the calendar had been changed, so in some cases it was years before people were informed. There were some that refused to accept the new calendar and continued to celebrate the new year on April 1st. These people were labeled "fools" by the general population. They were sometimes ridiculed by their neighbors and were sent on "fools' errands" or were simply made fun of.

Some believe that Mother Nature is said to "fool" the human race with the beginnings of spring's strange weather. During this time we could have showers one minute and sunshine the next.

Whether either of these are the reason or not, it is still a day of good humor and fun from Scotland to Spain. It is now recognized as a prank-playing day from "kick me" signs to "your shoe's untied" comments to your family and friends. When the prank has been pulled the prankster then yells "April Fool!" Some people take to extravagant planning and preparations to "fool" their loved ones. It should be remembered that all of these pranks should be done in innocence and all in fun! Take the time to laugh! Life is too short to take things so seriously!



Remember these?

For those who never saw the Burma Shave signs, here is a quick lesson in our history of the 1930s and '40s. Before the Interstates, when everyone drove the old two lane roads, *Burma Shave* signs would be posted all over the countryside in farmer's fields. They were small red signs with white letters. Five signs, about 100 feet apart, each containing 1 line of a 4 line couplet and the obligatory 5th sign advertising Burma Shave, a popular shaving cream. Here are some of the actual signs - read from the bottom up:

Burma Shave

**IN THE CAR IS
YOU**

**THE BEST
SAFETY
DEVICE**

**NO MATTER
HOW NEW**

**NO MATTER
THE PRICE**

Sound Off

Let us hear from you. The newsletter is your vehicle for communicating and sharing with other club members.

Many of you have things to say, opinions to share concerning fishing.

Contact the Editor who would be delighted to hear from you.

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Martinez - March 17, 2021



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2021 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**

**Jim Guin (B)
Lewis Wilbur (CO)**

Please meet and welcome our new members.



Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in April

- Gary Asmus
- David Baca
- Terry Batson
- Spencer Hand
- Jack Hughes
- Pat Johnstonbaugh
- Bill Ryan
- Nick Teschler
- Gary Volpe



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2021
Tournament Schedule**

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