



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MARCH 2022 EDITION
17 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective *By Gary Grimes*

Another spring tournament at Alamo Lake, one of Arizona's real gems for bass fishing. We had 40 boats early in the week, but settled at 37 once the tournament began. Quite a few new guys in the club, welcome gentlemen, glad to have you aboard. Tough fishing for the most part, seems we are just days away from a full-blown spawn. As is the usual case, someone always seems to be in the right place, at the right time, throwing the right bait in just the right way, and catching the right fish. Congrats to new member Manny Madrid and partner John Schramer on the win. They had a solid bag anchored with two 5 pounders for a total of 18.77 lbs. Well done gentlemen.

Tuesday night we held a barbeque at the group use area. Parking was a bit tight due to the high turnout, I counted at least 60 guys in attendance. Super special thanks to Greg Prather for running the grill, and for enduring the blowing wind, smoke and heat. The food was awesome. Thanks to all the guys who helped with the cleanup after, it is much appreciated. After the barbeque, we had another co-angler drop from the tournament due to illness. This left us with 2 solos, which Gary Martlage didn't

want given that high winds were expected in the afternoon. He and I filled our personal fuel bottles with ice and beverage and began our quest to find these two guys and pair them together. We had no idea where they were, so we began our drive throughout the various campgrounds. Our journey brought us to several camps of Midweek anglers, who were able to recharge our fuel bottles after a few moments of jovial conversation. One after another after another until we found Ernie M, located in a campground where I have never been; Campground D. Ernie agreed to pair, so we had our problem solved and made our way back home. By the time we returned to our camp, most were asleep, but we could now rest with the comfort that everyone was safely paired for the tourney. Another great tournament for Midweek Bass.

Next month brings us to Lake Havasu, and I remind you that we are fishing on the second Wednesday, April 13th, due to Easter weekend. It will be great to fish for smallmouth bass once again; fun time for sure. Hope to see

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**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.

Happy St. Patrick's Day



"We Practice Catch and Release"

you all there.



**Tournament Report
Lake Alamo
March 16, 2022**

**Team Manny Madrid &
John Schramer Win 1st Place Overall
and 1st Place Big Bass**

Taking home **1st Place Overall**, **Team Manny Madrid & John Schramer** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 18.77 lbs. Thanks to Manny's 5.43 lb. bass the team also took home the **1st Place Big Bass** honors.

Manny Madrid: First, I would like to thank Lew Southard for the invitation to fish Midweek Bass Anglers Club. Secondly, thank you to all of the tournament staff; everything ran smoothly and I'm excited to fish the future events.

In this tournament John Schramer and I were paired together. Although we weren't able to pre-fish together, I was able to get to the lake midday on Tuesday and tried to figure something out for the next day.

We started in the river throwing a half-ounce Green Pumpkin chatter bait paired with an Arizona Custom Baits Flip Bait and jigs. We knew the bite was shallow, so we positioned the boat parallel to the bank and only a few feet away. Doing this kept our baits where we

Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2022 normally scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 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 Havasu** on **13 April 2022**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.



1st Place Madrid & Schramer

thought the fish were throughout our retrieves. Our first hours were spent doing this and we were able to catch a handful of fish. I happened to be the lucky one that morning and caught both of our 5 pounders as well as a 3 pounder on the chatter bait. John finished our limit off with two fish just under two pounds throwing a green pumpkin jig. We then made a move to the other side of the lake. We were still fishing in the trees, trying to duplicate our pattern from the morning. Fishing was much slower at this point but we were still getting a few bites here and there. Throwing the same chatter bait from the morning, I was soon to cull one of our smaller fish with another 3 pounder. The rest of the day was spent bouncing around the lake. We continued to catch fish on jigs, spinner baits, Texas rigs, and chatter baits. Once the wind came the bite became nonexistent for us, so we called it a day a little early.

Again, I want to thank all of the staff members and all the participants. Everyone was very friendly.

**Small Lures Do The Trick For
Team Colby & Byrne 2nd Place Overall**

In **2nd Place** Team **Bryan Colby & Shawn Byrne** weighed five bass for a total weight of 14.83 lbs.



2nd Place Colby & Byrne

Bryan Colby & Shawn Byrne: I (Bryan) have been fishing the club since August and never fished tournaments of any kind before. Absolutely love the group and club, and really appreciate all the work and effort that goes into organizing these events.

Got two fish Tuesday for a few hours to find a bite for the tournament on Wednesday. Fished all over the lake and only found them in a few spots but all were very shallow. We caught them good in practice throwing Texas rigs but on tournament day we chose to fish super shallow and went with 3/8 oz jigs. Caught a few early on buzz baits and dropshot but culled them all with fish we caught later in the day. All keeper fish were caught in less than two feet of water on natural and dark small compact jigs. The more action to the trailer the better. Wind seemed to help the bite as we fished the same spot for hours and it seemed to keep reloading with keeper bass.

Can't wait to see you all at Havasu.

Membership

As of March 18, 2022 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **147** active members.

Steve Grier & Norm Haas Crank Small Baits Win 3rd Place

Team **Grier & Haas** weighed five bass for 13.52 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Steve Grier: Congrats to Manny and John, that was a great bag of bass. Another great job by the weigh-in crew and photographer extraordinaire Gary Martlage.

A week and a half before the tournament I fished Alamo with my son Kyle. On the second day he caught a 12 lb limit in an hour in the morning throwing a small crank bait shallow. We decided to fish the MBC tournament last Saturday and those fish were not still there. We left that area after 3 hours of hard fishing with 1 small keeper. I pre-fished alone on Tuesday and checked the area we fished Saturday and got 4 bites. Looked at a lot of other water and got a bite here and there but nothing special.

On game day I decided to go to the area Kyle and I had fished. Norm Haas and I pulled up on our first spot and I threw the same small crank bait like the one Kyle had used (Lucky Craft Bevy Crank 1.75 inches, 3/16 oz). On my first cast I hooked a toad that I was completely unprepared for (reasons not important). She got me into a tree and broke off. I stood on the boat for a couple minutes just staring in a shocked 'what just happened' moment. I started fishing a different crank bait and about 10 minutes later Norm picked up the net and fished something out of the water, and hands me my original crank bait that had broken off. The fishing gods work in mysterious ways.

Over the next 4 to 5 hours all the fish we weighed in were caught on that crank bait, until I lost it for good. We caught about 25 fish for the day. Norm caught fish on flick shake and a

Tournament Statistics

Seventy-six contestants fished 9 hours each, bringing 166 bass to the scales for a total weight of 275.22 pounds with a 3.62 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.66 lbs. All fish were released alive back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



3rd Place Grier & Haas

small Rapala crank bait. I also caught fish on a small Lucky Craft square bill. We were fishing an area with several rocky points with brush and trees around them. We concentrated on less than 5 feet of water and caught fish as shallow as 1 foot. We had a good day and it was a lot of fun. Norm is a great guy and a good fisherman and I enjoyed our day together on the water.

Norm Haas: We started off the day in the sticks. Steve's first cast hooked a monster toad but, unfortunately fishing in the sticks means that chances for getting a fish wrapped up in the trees is much higher and unfortunately that happened, and the line broke. It was a bad way to start the day but gave us hope that the big ones were in there. Thankfully, Steve's boat also serves as a 4x4 as we went where bass boats are not supposed to go but we thought that's where the big ones might be hiding. We caught more than 2 dozen bass throwing crank baits all day with Steve catching the majority of them and I was glad to be the netter. I had a great day on the lake, I learned some new tricks and had a great day of conversation. Thank you to Steve, the weight crew, and the group that served up the great Tuesday night dinner.

**Team Clinton Bell & Mike Bloxam
Work Very Shallow Water For 4th PI**

Taking home **4th Place**, **Team Clinton Bell & Mike Bloxam** weighed five fish for a total weight of 11.22 pounds.

Clinton Bell: Alamo is always one of the lakes I look forward to this time of the year. This time it wasn't fishing as well for me as some of the other events I have fished at this time of year. Pre-fish produced a few bites which were all shallow crank baits, spinner baits & flipping shallow brush. My starting spot didn't produce so after two passes with no results we moved to my 2nd spot. The first fish was a little over 4 lbs. The bass were very shallow, and paralleling the bank in about 3-5 feet was the most productive presentation. Mike Bloxam and I both lost quality fish that would have really helped our finish but that's fishing. Small square bill crank baits in shad patterns produced all of the fish we weighed-in. I really enjoyed fishing with Mike and we had a good day.



4th Place C. Bell & Bloxam

**Team Lew Southard & James Neinast
Win 5th Place**

A five fish bag weighing 10.41 lbs was enough to earn Team **Southard & Neinast** the **5th Place** money.



5th Place - Southard & Neinst



7th Place Duel & Grimes

**Team Briggs & Weidert
6th Place**

Team **Bill Briggs & Keith Weidert** weighed five bass for 9.44 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

Team James Duel & Gary Grimes Use Spinner Baits Effectively For 7th Place

Team **Duel & Grimes** weighed four bass for 9.36 pounds and took home **7th Place** honors. Thanks to James' 5.64 lb bass the team also won the **5 lb Pot** prize.

James Duel: Monday morning Gary Grimes and I went out to develop a plan. Since he knew the lake better than I did I asked him to show me his plan. He piloted us up river in search of big fish. We caught 3 fish that day and lost a couple. Tuesday was a repeat - 3 fish in the boat and we lost a couple.

On Game Day Gary ran the boat up toward the river. Over the next 4 hours Gary put 1 in the boat and I moved the boat out toward the dam end of the lake where I drop shotted our smallest fish. We then returned to the river end where I pulled out our 5.64 fish. Later Gary finished with our 4th bass. Slow fishing for us; I caught 5 fish in 4 days.

5+lb Bass: I can only blame Gary Grimes for me catching the big fish. Fifteen minutes prior to the catch Gary asked me why I was using a night time spinner bait? My answer was I thought the colors were black and blue. After switching to a white skirted silver Colorado



6th Place Weidert & Briggs

bladed spinner bait, I had a 5.64 lb bass on. It came out of 3 or 4 feet of water 20 feet from the boat. It was netted less than 20 seconds after the cast. Thanks, Gary, for the quick netting and the advice. Congratulations to the winners that was an impressive bag. And as always, it was a very well-run tournament.



8th Place Beaty & Asmus

Team Beaty & Asmus Flip Way To 8th Place

Taking home **8th Place Overall**, **Team Joe Beaty & Gary Asmus** brought to the scales a creel of four bass weighing 9.31 lbs. Thanks to Joe's 4.58 lb. bass the team also took home the **2nd Place Big Bass** honors.

Joe Beaty: First off thank you guys for putting on a great time. Everyone I met was friendly and the cookout was awesome. This was my second tournament with the club. We made a game plan to go to the river end and flip trees. I caught one about 1.5 lbs. and then caught the 4.58 pounder on a watermelon brush hog flipping tight to cover and another about 2 lbs. The bite was really slow for us. A club member came by cranking and busted 3 small ones on a small point we had just been dropshotting on so I switched and caught

another fish but the last one (our 5th fish) never showed up. I had a great time fishing with Gary Asmus.

Gary Asmus: Joe and I started pre-fishing on Tuesday on the North end of the lake pitching plastics. The second pitch by Joe gave us a starting spot for Wednesday when he brought in a 4 pounder. We moved around to the other side with the same results. We figured we should get at least 5 bites on Wednesday, but we got 4 one of which was the 2nd Place Big Bass. It was great fishing with Joe who is a relatively new member of the club.



Weighing-In By Gary Martlage Tournament Director

Another successful weigh-in by the crew! It got off to a slow start, as a lot of boats were trying to get off the ramp in 30 mile an hour wind. Robert Cooley stepped up to help record the weights, as Tom Savage was not with us this month. Terry Tassin commented on his perfect writing, and sent thanks. The regular crew stepped in to produce a smooth weigh-in, in spite of the wind, as it is difficult to get the scales to lock in heavy wind conditions. Special thanks to Randy Howell for volunteering to shuttle fish to the dock. It sure would be nice if MORE co-anglers would step up and help?

The start of the tournament went great as everyone went single file by the start boat. Congrats to all; let's try to remember this as we travel to HAVASU next month.

Happy April Fools Day!



Photo Scrapbook - Lake Alamo - March 16, 2022



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**

**Keith Lawrence (CO)
Manny Madrid (B)**

Please meet and greet our new members.



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

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



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2022
Tournament Schedule**

- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| 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 |