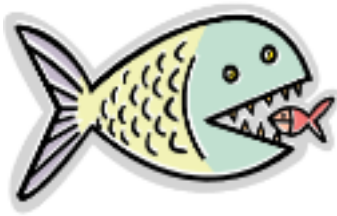


# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS Of Arizona



# Bass Bites



FISHING WEDNESDAY - NOT WEEKENDS!

March 2023 EDITION

18 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

Club Established January 27, 2005

EDITOR: GREG UTTON



## President's Perspective

By Floyd Vaughan

Gentlemen, What can I say... Lake Havasu , high winds, rain, destroyed wheel hubs, and let not forget those lower units. I myself, lost a lower unit here. The fishing was all over the place. Almost everybody had a big fish to weigh. Congrats to Sean Ballard (the self-proclaimed "Havasu Master") and Doug Haney (Where did the fish go?) on their win; way to go (17.32 Pounds). Congratulations to the second place team of Mark Peiffer and Joe Michaels (17.29 pounds)... A very close finish. The combined weight of the five biggest fish caught was over 23 pounds. Thanks to all board members and weigh in team for your help and hard work.

A special thanks for all the club members who made the long trip and participated in this tournament!

Our next club meeting for 2023 is scheduled for **Wednesday, 5 April 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 Alamo Lake on 19 April 2023. Club launch and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are Safe Light to 3 PM.



## Editor's Comments

A couple of comments for this month's Bass Bites. First, the photos from this tournament did not include normal boat number tag. Although I recognize many of the faces, it is impossible for me to identify all the winners. Therefore, winner photos are not included in the text. I am adding the photos at the end of the newsletter.

Secondly, as I have explained previously, I am not able to participate in tournaments in the immediate future. It would be helpful if someone would step up and volunteer to be the photographer in my absence. All that is necessary is a cell phone and to prepare the boat number labels prior to the tournament. The labels are used on the bag stand and show up in each photo so we know who is in the photo. Please contact me to make arrangements.

This month's featured photograph comes from **Mark Peiffer.**



**"We Practice Catch and Release"**

## 1st Place

### Sean Ballard & Doug Haney

(17.32 # - Boat 23)

**Sean Ballard:** What can I say, Havasu is my happy place. I practiced from the Bill William and all fish caught and weighed were found on Sunday.

I got the pleasure of fishing with Doug Haney and he put our last cull in the boat at 2:45 and it was .60 of a pound cull which was just good enough for the win. Our first and last fish had boats sitting on the spot, when we got to them and some how, they were not in other people's boats when we got the chance to give them a boat ride. What we used....it's no secret what bait I use for Havasu small mouth.. Berkley Gulp Minnow...aka. small mouth crack! With the wind and rain all you could do is throw on a bed and slow drag until you felt the rocks and just wiggle the bait and then hold on. Most fish would grab it and run off the bed. I also broke my net on the first fish so we had to hand net the fish all day. JUST ANOTHER GREAT DAY AT LAKE HAVASU!

**Doug Haney:** We had a fantastic fishing day, Sean is a fish catching machine. He is a great partner. We caught all are fish on beds I was using a holographic 4" flat worm dipped in the chartreuse die 2" up on the bate. We had our limit by 8:30. We probably culled 20 pounds of fish that day. It was best day of fishing I've had since I moved to Arizona.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Place a 1<sup>st</sup> Big Bass (5.24#)

### Mark Peiffer / Joe Michels

( 17.29# - Boat 28)

**Joe Michael's:** Congratulations to the winning team of Ballard and Haney for their impressive victory over us by a mere three one-hundredths of a pound! Although it's never fun to lose, we can appreciate a well-fought battle.

During the competition, I had to think on my feet when Mark hooked a big one, but thanks to my quick reflexes, we were able to boat the toads. (Notice, if I can't catch them, I brag on my netting skills.) Mark, on the other hand, demonstrated his masterful skills by catching four out of the five fish in our sack. It was a true pleasure to witness his expertise in action.

As someone who has fished for many years, I have seen many new innovations come and go. One such

innovation is A-Rig fishing, which I learned is incredibly effective for catching big fish. It's something I look forward to exploring further in the future.

We were only able to catch one small mouth on a bed, and the rest were either on deep beds that we couldn't see or were pre-spawn fish. We found them in coves, particularly on inside points about halfway back. We also had success fishing overhanging trees in coves with steep banks. Mark would expertly cast his line towards a tree, and if the fish didn't bite, he would move on to the next one. We had a similar experience with inside point, if the fish didn't take the bait on the first try, we would move on.

While Mark covered the key water, I tried everything in my power to catch fish in the deeper water, using reaction baits, Senkos, and pitching baits. Unfortunately, nothing seemed to work. It was a frustrating experience, and I found it odd that I couldn't catch a single fish from the habitat.

In the end, we caught a total of six fish, all of which made it into the boat. I want to extend my gratitude to all the club volunteers who made this tournament possible. Without their hard work and dedication, we wouldn't be able to enjoy these events.

**Mark Peiffer:** Thank you to my co-angler, Joe Nichols. Joe was great to bounce ideas off of and it turned out to be a solid strategy. We fished some skinnier pockets, with multiple secondary points in the river. We were able to junk fish a limit relatively quickly using a swim bait, spinner bait, jerk bait and flipping some trees. We had only one bed fish and our biggest bites came on an A-Rig, mainly secondary points with some depth on them.

Thanks to the starting boat & weigh in teams for a smooth tournament.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

### Richie Rojas & Keith Weidert

(16.30# -Boat 35)

**Keith Weidert:** Richie Rojas and I really struggled to catch fish in our 2 days of pre-fishing. But Richie was saving his best places to fish for the tournament. We started fishing off the beach at Windsor Park. At around 8:30 we finally got our

first bite, a large mouth four pounder, that hit on a drop shot rig in 6 to 8 feet of water. Richie then took us to the canal to look for beds. We spotted 4 or 5 beds and got another bite on two of them, both on flick-shake.

We then moved to a nice cove on the Arizona side maybe a 1/2 mile from the canal no wake buoys. Richie hooked one by some reeds on a drop shot rig and maneuvered it out of a habitat for us to net. Then I got another nice four pounder on a flick-shake rig. Richie then corralled our 5th fish, a small mouth, at around 1:30. Five nice fish to weigh in.

Thanks to the weigh in crew for a smoothly run end to the tournament.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Place

**Ron Pikul & Mitch Vitkovich**

**(15.19# - Boat 31)**

**Mitch Vitkovich:** Ron and I were able to get out and pre-fish on Monday and Tuesday which turned out to be beneficial. On Monday we found an area that was holding some bed fish so we started there first thing tournament morning. We boated two fish in the first twenty minutes, and the first one was our big fish of the day. After that we hit a wall until about 1:00pm. We made a move to another area where we found some beds on Monday and we were able to finish out or limit.

With an hour to go we just started running bank and were able to cull a couple times. All fish were caught drop-shotting off beds. A lot of fun for me and as always, when fishing with a new angler, pay attention, you will learn something new. Thanks, Ron for a fun time.

**5th Place 1s Big Bass (4.59#)**

**Greg Prather & David Convery**

**(15.06# - Boat 27)**

**Greg Prather:** Well it turned out to be another interesting week at Havasu. Thanks to the board and all the way in team for doing a great job.

I finally drew my buddy David Convery. we went up Monday and got to fish for a few hours. To my surprise there was not a lot of fish on beds. We drove all the way up by the dam.....still no beds. Then coming back through the canal, we got one in on a bed. Then it got windy and we called it a day.

Tuesday, we went the other way. and went up in the river a little way and found all the sand bars. We found some fish in the river on beds, but they weren't ready to go yet. We fished our way back on the Arizona side, then went to Ski Coves on the California side mostly, looking around trying to find beds. Most of the beds we found Tuesday we're empty.

Wednesday morning with not a very good game plan in mind, we went in the canal to try and pick up a few we saw beds Tuesday. of course being boat number 27 there were already boats on all of them. that's when I discovered my trolling motor wasn't working again. If you guys remember my trolling motor broke last year, a thousand dollar repair for the power steering. So David ran the big motor and I stood on the bow and looked for beds as we idled. I found one on a bed and had trouble controlling the boat so we just beached the boat and got our first fish. Then we figured out that the spot lock worked if you didn't touch the button. So we pulled up on point, set the spot lock and started drop-shotting. Dave got a nice fish off the point. Then we decided to go back up in the river and see if we could catch some of the fish we saw on bed Tuesday. With all the wind and rain, the water was really murky in the cove we were fishing in the river. So we started throwing a spinner bait and I caught a little one. Then it picked up from there. Most the good fish came on a spinner bait or drop shot. we managed to cull a few times and finished up a lot better off than we thought first thing that morning. I had a great time fishing with Dave. Good to see everybody and hope to see everybody next month at Alamo.

### 6th Place

**Mark Hedstrom & Scott Thelander**

**(14.85# - Boat 22)**

**(NO REPORT REC'D)**

### 7th Place

**Laron Porter & Allen Wacker**

**(14.58# - Boat 29)**

**(NO REPORT REC'D)**

## 8th Place

**Gary Martlage & Mike Adamson**

**(14.19# - Boat 21)**

**Gary Martlage:** I had the pleasure of fishing with Mike Adamson at Havasu. We got to pre-fish Monday and Tuesday but did not have much luck. We decided to head for the canal and pick up a small limit of small mouth, then search for a kicker largemouth. The plan was going alright, until my waypoints for the beds suddenly disappeared, due to the rain collecting on my front graph! Still having the points on the console, we worked as a team should, with Mike directing me to the spots. We only had 3 fish at 2:30pm. I told Mike we needed to make a change! We crossed the lake to the CA side and I pulled up to a tule stretch I had done well in the past. Lucky for me, our next 2 fish were there, as I was the net man for both! Mike and I had a fun day, even as the fishing was unexpectedly slow for Havasu this time of the year. We caught our fish on beds with drop-shot, white / chartreuse robots; Mike caught our last 2 flipping a jig behind me as I worked the edge of the tulle line with a senkos.

**Mike Adamson:** Fishing with Gary Martlage is always fun and in the 3 days I learned a lot about the Havasu waters. We spent Monday and Tuesday when the weather was decent, finding and marking beds on the graph, knowing that come Wednesday visually finding the beds would be a challenge.

On tournament day, we picked up two fish from the beds we had marked with drop shots. The next couple came from the docks and rocky banks. Then with only a few hours to spare we picked up two in the tules flipping senkos and brush hogs. Even though it was rainy and windy the temperature was comfortable. I'm looking forward to fishing Havasu again next year.

### NEW MEMBERS

**Michael Bidak  
Larry Collins  
Rod Wistrom**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Big Bass (4.47#)**

**Vern Ridgeway and Mike Seibly**

**Vern Ridgeway:** Vern Ridgeway and Mike Seibly teamed up and put together a fair limit to include 2nd Big Bass; the fish came from an overhanging tree down river near "Split Tail Cove". She hit a brown and purple jig,.

Congrats to the winners and hats off to a great weigh-in team.

### 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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<http://www.midweekbassaz.com>**

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