

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



APRIL 2021 EDITION
16 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

After a long day on the water and the drive home, and after camping for 3 days in a campground with no water, which means no showers, the first thing I did when I got home was to hop in the shower. My first step into the shower felt like I was stepping on one of the boats from Deadliest Catch in rough water. Everything was moving. I have fished in a lot of conditions, but I think that might have been the windiest afternoon on the water I have ever fished. There were times that I swear we had 50 mph gusts blowing in our faces. It was rough. So glad we decided to stop at 2PM instead of 3PM. I am thankful we had no incidents on the water due to the windy conditions. This also reinforces why we strive to avoid having solos on the water.

Another great turn-out at Roosevelt Lake for Midweek Bass' fourth tournament of the year. When the dust settled and my phone stopped ringing with changes, we ended up with 37 boats. As most of you know, our TD - Gary Martlage was unable to attend, so I filled in. My substitution gave me a greater appreciation for the amount of work he has to do. Adjusting the pairings due to withdrawals begins within days of the final pairings, and doesn't end until the day of the tournament. The weigh-in may seem simple, but you have to remember that someone needs to check and bring the equipment, set it all up, make sure he has a staff ready to go, and collect and dispense side-pot monies. I beseech thee, my brethren, Gary Martlage is worthy of our greatest thanks

and appreciation. Thanks also to the weigh-in team. Floyd Vaughan had been stepping up of late, directing traffic at the launch. He also was the caretaker of all the weigh-in equipment, and filled in on the bump tank. John Hilland did a great job on the scales as our Weigh Master and Tom Alauria was faithful as always on the whiteboard. Greg Utton was diligent in photographing every team after weighing their fish. Joe Michels filled in as the results recorder, carefully listing everyone's weights on the official sheet. You guys are great, thank you.

Fishing was quite good, and seemed good anywhere on the lake. We had 37 boats, and 37 limits of fish. Congratulations to Steve Grier and Joe Matt on the win with a nice bag of 17.17 lbs, anchored by a 6.09 lb giant. Well done boys!

Next month we return once again to Roosevelt Lake for our 5th tournament. Weather should be a little warmer, but hopefully we don't have the darn wind. It was good to see everyone and hope to see y'all again next month. Stay healthy.



Tournament Report Lake Roosevelt April 21, 2021

After looking at the results sheet for this tournament I have to say I cannot remember the last time (if ever) when all the teams entered in the event limited out. That being said lets see how the teams caught their limits.

Happy Mom's Day



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.

"We Practice Catch and Release"



1st PI Steve Grier & Joe Matt

**Team Steve Grier & Joe Matt
Weigh 6.09 Pounder Win
1st Place Team
1st Place Big Fish And 5lb Pot**

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Steve Grier & Joe Matt** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 17.17 lbs. Thanks to Steve's 6.09 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Bass** honors and the **5 Pound Pot**.

Steve Grier: A big shout-out to the weigh-in crew for another job well done, as always. Joe Matt and I pre-fished Tuesday and found some areas where we got a few bites.

We started tournament day at the one pre-fish spot we liked the best and spent the first half hour throwing topwater, crankbaits and spinnerbaits without a bite. I picked up my flipping stick and shortly after caught our first fish of the day a beautiful 6 lb bass. We added a

Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2021 scheduled for **Wednesday, 5 May** 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 19 May 2021**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 2 PM**.

couple of small fish and then another nice fish flipping about 50 feet from the first big one; this one was 5 lbs. We caught one more 1 lb fish and had a 14 lb limit by 7:00 AM. It was pretty surreal, but really exciting. We spent the rest of the day flipping several areas trying to cull the small fish. We probably culled 8 or 10 times by one or two ounces hoping we'd have enough weight to get the job done. We spent the last hour at the island in front of the launch ramp and culled two more on a Carolina rig. Ironically, we had enough weight at 7:00 AM to win the tournament, but I obsessed all day trying to add weight. I wasn't convinced when we had 17 lbs that we had enough weight or a big enough fish to win either one. We were flipping Senkos, brush hogs and chigger craws and fished several areas in the Salt near Pinto Point.

Joe Matt: First off I'd like to thank all the volunteers for making this event possible. Also a big thanks to Steve Grier for everything he did for me in the boat to ensure I had a good time.

Well, the weather man predicted wind and we got wind. Lucky the winds held off in the morning when Steve hooked the big fish pitching. But as the day went on so did the wind. We caught most of the fish on Senkos and one on a spinner bait.

**Lester Rapp Jr & Shawn Byrne
Work Dam Area And Finish
2nd Overall**

In **2nd Place** Team Rapp & Byrne weighed five bass for a total weight of 13.19 lbs.

Shawn Byrne: Lester Rapp and I went up Monday morning to pre-fish. We started out where Lester won Roosevelt back before the beavers ruined his spot. We stayed in that area for a couple of hours with only two fish; one on topwater and one on a jig. We fished all over the Tonto end that day and caught lots of fish using topwater, jerk bait, crankbait, jigs, and drop shot. The only problem was most of our fish were only about 8 to 10 inches long.

On Tuesday morning, we decided we would fish the Salt end of the lake and on the flats. We went pretty far back (every good spot was taken) and fished the treetops; we threw poppers, buzz baits, and jerk baits. We were in about 15 to 20 feet of water and working every tree. We were throwing really good casts between alleys and ended up upgrading all our fish to the pound to two-pound range. We started to see a pattern form. They were tight to the tree and a long cast would draw a hit as soon as the lure hit the water or within the first few feet. We also noticed we found bigger fish. We ended our day in Salome Cove fishing trees again but this time flipping. Lester worked a Texas rig, and I worked the drop shot. We both pulled good fish off the trees and they were in the 2-3lb range.

On game day, we decided to not hit any of our previous spots. We felt to even have a chance at beating



2nd Place Shawn Byrne & Lester Rapp

Steve Grier we needed even bigger fish. We spied a spot near the dam that had clear water and noticed bigger fish. We took a chance and worked in this area and ended up staying here trying to avoid the wind the best we could all day. We missed two early bites and I lost a good one halfway to the boat (yes that good fish I lost had to have been that 20-pounder but that's another fish story). It was about 7:30AM or 8:00 when Lester got our next bite on a topwater, and it was a nice fish. He ended up getting our two next biggest fish right after that fish came into the boat. We caught two one-pounders on topwater and I ended up replacing them later in the day drop-shotting a Morning Dawn Roboworm.

I would like to note that each angler I have had the pleasure of fishing with has taught me something by my paying attention to how they are fishing. I was hammering the same colors that caught us a lot of fish the last two days. Lester changed baits constantly to a different color to see if it produced more bites. I never saw him work that same bait if we went back over a spot that we didn't get a bite but I would do so knowing it worked before. If it was not for his persistence to find what they were going to bite on we would not have had those 3 big fish. We also complemented each other as we fished and didn't compete by doing the same thing.

A shout out and big thank you to the Midweek Team for putting all of these tournaments together and I look forward to chasing big bass with everyone in May.

Team Roger Root & Gary Asmus Work Flats For 3rd Place Finish

Team **Root & Asmus** weighed five bass for 12.94 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Gary Asmus: Fishing with Roger was a great

Membership

As of April 23, 2021 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **123** active members.



3rd Place Roger Root & Gary Asmus

draw. We met up Monday to prefish because neither of us likes to prefish the day before the hunt. We headed to the Salt end of the lake caught a few bass, and then stopped mid lake to fish some points where we caught several 1 1/2 pounders. We left that water about 10 AM or so to go to Goose Flats. Roger started drop shotting in 15 feet of water. I used jigs but when Roger had me up 4 to 1 for fish catching I changed up rigs.

The day of the tournament started on some points using that drop shot thing and by 8 AM or so we had a small limit of 10 or so fish. Then off to the flats where we caught some really nice small mouths. It was a very much fun day with Roger even in 3 foot waves. We never saw any club members the whole day.

Team Prather & Johnstonbaugh Take 4th Place Fishing Tullies

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Greg Prather & Pat Johnstonbaugh** weighed five bass for 12.22 pounds and took home **Fourth Place** honors.

Greg Prather: As always, the first thing I would like to do is thank the board and the weigh-in team for their time and effort to make each tournament flawless. Thank you gentlemen.

Pat Johnstonbaugh and I were able to pre-fish Sunday. We fished from the Salt River to just past the dam. Caught a lot of small fish, and had a good day.

Wednesday we decided to start on the opposite side of the lake from the take off location. We were throwing flukes, Ricos, bladed jigs, spinner baits, regular jigs and drop shots. Caught some nice fish on the Rico first thing in the morning, Pat caught some on the fluke and the bladed jig. We had a limit within the first hour and a half. We tried some of the spots we fished on Sunday, and even a couple of new spots. We were able to cull several times during the day to increase our weight.

I really enjoyed fishing with Pat. He's a good guy and easy to get along with. We had a good time and I hope to fish with him again someday. Again, thanks to the crew.



4th Place Greg Prather & Pat Johnstonbaugh

Pat Johnstonbaugh: Congrats to Steve and Joe for their big win. Catching a 5 pounder and a 6 pounder on the same outing had to be a lot of fun! Greg and I started out in a mid lake cove and got a limit quick using a popper, soft jerkbait, chatterbait and a jig. Bluegill color was working well. Even a dropshot caught a nice one. We fished mostly shallow - approx 10 feet or less. Greg caught our biggest fish and proved to be a model boater. I really enjoyed fishing with him and riding in that awesome boat. Thanks to our staff for putting on a safe and successful event. We all appreciate your efforts. Did anyone else think it was kind of windy?

Phil Brewer & Mike Bloxam Work Chatter Bait and Senko To Finish 5th

A five fish bag weighing 11.81 lbs was enough to earn Team **Brewer & Bloxam** the **5th Place** money.

Phil Brewer: First, congratulations to Steve and Joe on the win.

We started in the Porter Springs area and caught a small top water limit in about 30 minutes. I switched to a chatterbait and had a 3.5 lber attack it while it was suspended in mid-air from a tree limb. We stayed on the chatterbait and Senko bite the rest of the day. We mainly fished coves on the Salt end and the south side of the lake. We culled and upgraded until the 'hurricane' moved

Tournament Statistics

Seventy-four contestants fished 9.5 hours each, bringing 185 bass to the scales for a total weight of 367.57 pounds with a 4.97 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.99 lbs. All fish were released alive back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



5th Place Mike Bloxam & Phil Brewer

in. Special thanks to my co-angler, Mike Bloxam. I really enjoyed fishing with him. A great guy.

Team Gary Senft & Jeff Utton Flip 10" Worms For 6th Place

Team **Gary Senft & Jeff Utton** weighed five bass for 11.59 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

Gary Senft: First congratulations to Steve and Joe for that nice bag of fish. I fished with Jeff Utton for the first time. We pre fished Tuesday and had a game plan with hopes of catching a couple of good fish. We started with a buzz bait and frog but didn't have any luck with those. So we went with flipping Senko's in the trees rigged Texas and wacky styles. This worked good along with brush hogs and Zoom trick worms. We were catching a lot of fish all day but not any big ones. I told Jeff I needed a couple of bigger fish so I put on a 10 inch purple worm. That's when I caught a 3.77 and a 3 pounder. The weight-in team did a good job with all the boats we had. It was a very good day catching a lot of fish with Jeff.

Jeff Utton: First off I wish to thank Midweek Bass and the tournament crew for putting on a fun event. A big congratulation goes out to Steve and Joe for their first place finish.

This is my first tournament with Midweek this year and I was lucky to get paired with Gary Senft. We prefished Tuesday and caught fish just about everywhere we went, mainly focusing on Senkos, both Wacky and Texas rigged, with our largest fish coming from the Salt River.

Tournament morning the plan was to hit some main lake spots we found Tuesday then head up river when the wind hit. We had five fish relatively early on Senkos but had issues culling until about noon when we were up river and Gary decided to throw a larger ribbon tail worm. Within 5 minutes on three back to back casts he culled 3 fish with the largest being our 3.77 lber. Then, just before battling the wind to get back to the ramp we



6th Place Gary Senft & Jeff Utton

managed to cull one more time.

The Salt was definitely the place to be in the afternoon. We had a gust of wind every so often but other than that the only way we knew the weather was bad was the fact that Four Peaks gradually disappeared from view.

Thanks again to Gary for being an excellent teammate and teaching me some new techniques.

Team Gary Grimes & Joe Michels Fish T-rig And Spinners To Finish 7th Overall

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

Gary Grimes: I spent the day fishing with Jo Michels. As with our pre-fishing, we caught plenty of fish everywhere we went. But like pre-fishing, the challenge was finding the bigger fish. Our fish were caught on either a spinnerbait or Texas rig. The spinnerbait seemed to produce better in the shallows, and the Texas rig worked better deeper. We had a great time together, but like most, making accurate casts in 25-30 mph winds was tough. Joe is a great fisherman and a super guy to spend the day with. I hope to fish with him again soon.

Joe Michels: I drew Gary Grimes, and I had a three-day master class in Texas Rig fishing. His impossible to copy technique produces at least three to five times more bites than I could achieve. I've been fishing for over 30 years, and getting out-produced at that rate was hard to take. Did I mention Gary is a fantastic fishing psychoanalysis as well? The good news for me is that Midweek is a team event.

We worked hard at finding fish in our two days of pre-fishing. We searched all areas of the lake, looking for locations that were either spawning coves or routes in and out of spawning areas. By concentrating on the seasonal pattern, we located fish in several locations. More importantly, we eliminated areas as well. We fished

in the middle of the lake in both the Tonto and Salt ends of the lake. We had a strong strategy for tournament day that was only partially interrupted by the nasty wind event.

Tournament day we started shallow in spawning areas with Texas Rigs and spinnerbaits. We had our limit fast with three fish over 2 lbs and had culled a few small fish. Knowing we needed to catch bigger fish, we started working spawning routes with Texas Rigged craws and creature baits. Gary was constantly triggering bass to strike, and we improved our weight from under 10 lbs to over 11 lbs. Later in the day, just as the wind picked up, I boated another fish over 2 lbs that culled, and that was it. We never had the opportunity to fish our Senko pattern in the afternoon because of the ridiculous wind. That was a strong pattern we found but needed calm or a slight breeze to make it work.

We caught over thirty fish, from water 1 foot to about 20 feet deep, depending on the tactic we were using. As I remember, the better fish we caught were both shallow and about 10-12 feet.

Team Steve Wells & Ingo Moura Share Stories Win 8th Place

In **8th Place** Team **Wells & Moura** weighed five bass for a total weight of 11.10 lbs.

Ingo Moura: We All love Rosy, but she's not the same with the club not having a BBQ, playing poker and just grouping together. I hope we can get back to all that soon, it truly is half the fun. Thanks to all the weigh-in crew and volunteers that run the club. You are all a well oiled machine and you are much appreciated.

I paired up with Steve Wells for the 2nd time at Roosevelt, but this time was much more memorable. Steve pre-fished with his buddy Mike on Monday and with me on Tuesday. Of course we bumped into his buddy Mike on tournament day because they share the same waters..lol. We found a good top water bite on pre-fish, But not so great on game day. I missed my first bite and lost one really good one. Steve did really well Monday and Tuesday but he couldn't buy a decent bite most of the



8th Place Steve Wells & Ingo Moura

day Wednesday not to mention we had a tough time keeping the boat in position once the wind came up. We had our limit by 8:30 am and slowly culled fish throughout the day. We felt we had 3 good fish but needed a kicker or to cull the other two 'rats' we had. We just fell out of the zone and ran out of time. Fish were hitting everything - topwater and plastics on Tuesday, and all the fish we weighed-in were caught on a Texas Rig Craw, and Rico shad pattern. I really did enjoy this trip; I caught a lot of fish the past two days, and heard the life story of Steve Wells. Additionally, all the fishing, Vietnam and logging stories he could tell were especially interesting. It's always an honor to fish with a Vet and hear those stories. I know our club is full of veterans and I thank all of you for your service. Fish On!

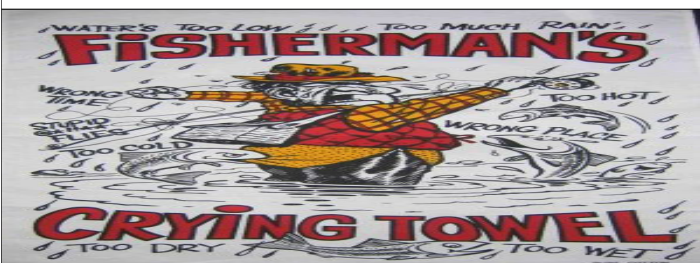
Team Alauria & Cooley Weigh-in Catfish For Goon Fish Prize

Team **Tom Alauria & Bob Cooley** weigh-in a 3.56 lb Catfish and win the \$100 **Goon Fish** prize.

Bob Cooley: So Tom Alauria and I run to our first spot where we found our fish during pre-fishing. Tom is throwing to the bank; I'm throwing out fishing the deeper brush. I shake my brush hog off the branch and let it make its way to the base of the tree and let it sit. Thump, set the hook and I tell Tom it's a good fish. Tom grabs the net, we're both saying "It's got some weight and this will give us a good start to the day". We see that it's a catfish, we both say "S%&t" and that doesn't help. But wait...it's a Goon Fish worth 100 bucks. It's better than a treble hook in your finger!



Goon Fish Prize - Tom Alauria & Bob Cooley



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

DRIVER'S CODE

THAT'S THE SKILLFUL

EYES ON THE ROAD

BOTH HANDS ON THE WHEEL

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 Roosevelt - April 21, 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**

**James Malone (BCO)
Terry Robertson (CO)**

Please meet and welcome our new members.



Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in May

Tom Alauria

Andrew Bell

Phil Brewer

Jim Buchanan

Shawn Byrne

Butch Dangelo

Andy Goettl

Steve Grier

John Hawkins

Joe Matt

Rusty Murdock

Ray Riley

Steve Rubenstein

Terry Tassin

Keith Weidert

Don Worcester



**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