



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



APRIL 2022 EDITION
17 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective *By Gary Grimes*

Gentlemen, congrats to those who braved the elements at Lake Havasu this past week and caught fish. Well Done! It was unfortunate to travel such a distance only to have the fishing restricted due to high winds. Fortunately, the winds lay down on tournament day enough to be able to fish. Congrats to Jim Duel and John Schramer on the win; way to go guys.

After over 2 years, we are finally able to resume our monthly meetings, first Wednesday of the month at Denny's, I am sure Terry will have details somewhere in this letter. Thanks to all who helped with the weigh-in, you guys are great. Next month at Roosevelt Lake, I look forward to seeing you all.



Tournament Report Lake Havasu April 13, 2022

All 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.

GOOD NEWS, FACE TO FACE MEETINGS STARTING UP ONCE AGAIN

Monthly Breakfast Meeting
Denny's Restaurant
2525 W. Deer Valley Road
Phoenix, AZ
1st Wednesday of Each Month
Meeting Starts at 8:00 A.M.

Team James Duel & John Schramer Win 1st Place Overall and 1st Place Big Bass

Taking home **1st Place Overall**, Team James **Duel & John Schramer** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 18.03 lbs. Thanks to John's 5.68 lb. bass the team also took home the **1st Place Big Bass** honors.

James Duel: The weigh-in crew did their usual great job and I thank them. My co-angler John Schramer called me and arranged to prefish on Tuesday. However, Tuesday came and it was too windy to go out.

So here it is Wednesday and I had no real plan other than to go back where I had caught two fish on Monday. I drop shotted an oxblood Robo worm to no avail. John had us move over 40 feet and I pulled in our first fish. John suggested that we head to a ski bay based

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New Meeting Location

Well, we are finally getting back to holding "face to face" general meetings. Beginning with the 4 May 2022, 1st Wednesday of the month meeting, we will be gathering for a breakfast meeting at Denny's Restaurant, 2525 W. Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, AZ. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Tournament Director will be available from 7:00 AM to 8 AM to process new memberships and tournament entry forms and fees for the month. It is highly recommended, if you plan on fishing the monthly tournament, to get your entry form and fee to the Treasurer before the meeting. It is much easier to process tournament entries well before meeting day so we can announce the pairings at the meeting.

"We Practice Catch and Release"

on his success there the prior week. John piloted the boat and we ran the banks. At 9:50 John announced that he had a fish on. After we got it into the boat we found it weighed 5.68 pounds on a green jig. A couple of hours later John dragged up a 3 pounder and we had 3 fish. Around noon I hooked-up with a 2-pound small mouth. Two and half hours later we headed toward the weigh-in and fished a cove that John had success from the shore on Tuesday. I broke off a jig and retied a black and purple one. Two casts later I missed a fish and stood there in disbelief as I picked up the line, moved it, and had the fish on. That was our fifth and final fish. It was a pleasure fishing with John Schramer.

John Schramer: First of all, I'd like to say Havasu was a blast, one of my favorite lakes. Also, it was nice meeting Jim Duel and fishing with him just like everyone else I've fished with in the club. What a great bunch of guys.

I happened to get an opportunity to prefish a few weeks earlier and spent a few days on the water. We located a few sections of shoreline that gave us about 18 or so pounds of bass every day knowing that I half expected

Next Meeting - Next Tournament

ALERT ALERT ALERT

We are starting-up our face-to-face general meetings again beginning with the first Wednesday in May meeting!!

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4 May** starting at 8:00 AM, at **Denny's Restaurant, 2525 W. Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, AZ.** We hope you will come early (6:30 to 8 AM) and have breakfast together and turn-in entry forms.

The next club points tournament will be at **Lake Roosevelt on 18 May 2022.** Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 2 PM.**



1st Place Duel & Schramer

needing about 20 lbs. or so to win.

On tournament day I had planned on using only a few techniques to catch the fish I hoped were still there. The better fish were caught using a green pumpkin jig with a craw trailer in about 8-15 feet of water from the mouth of sheltered coves to about 3/4 of the way in focusing on fist size rocks or smaller. We did catch a few others on Hula grubs and drop shot and are thankful we got the right bites. Hopefully Havasu is in the lineup for next year and a few more members show up to fish it.

Team Brewer & Stone Crank 6 Pounder For 2nd Place Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Phil Brewer & Jeff Stone** weighed five bass for a total weight of 17.88 lbs. Thanks to Phil's 6.21 lb bass the team also won the 5 lb Pot.

Phil Brewer: Congratulations to James Duel and John Schramer on their win; great job guys. Also, kudos to the weigh-in team for another job well done.

Jeff Stone and I started on the California side of the lake deep cranking a steep rocky bank. The 6-pounder came about 30 minutes into our day. GREAT START! After trying another spot with no success, we moved to the

David Brakefield & Carlo Giunta Work Main Island Win 3rd Place

Team **Brakefield & Giunta** weighed five bass for 17.44 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors. They also won 2nd Place Big Bass.

David Brakefield: First, congratulations to James and John for their well-deserved win. I can hardly wait for the Bass Bites issue to come out so I can find out how they did it. As always, the weigh-in team needs to be recognized for the great job they always do, and not to be left out, our board of directors; thanks guys you've done well.

I fished with Carlo Giunta again this tournament; a great guy and we worked well together. Our fish were all caught around the island and in the canal, nothing complicated. We were second to the last boat out so I just ran to the first open cove on the back side of the island. Nothing there so I went to the next one, not spending a lot of time in either place. I was using a drop shot set-up with about a 3-inch tagline. I like to use it that way because I think it resembles a jig's action but does not get hung up as bad for me. On my first cast into the third cove we entered I hung my 5-pounder. Carlo was a great hand with the net and we got the bass into the boat. There were some reeds in the back of that same cove and I worked my way back into them. I pitched as far back into them as I could and hung my 4-pounder. Nine pounds in 15 minutes, life is great. Nothing more for a long while so we worked our way into the canal. I caught a short fish on a jerk bait. Up near the bridge Carlo saw a nice fish cruising the docks. We were just fixing to leave when I hung it. That made 3 but it took a while to get them into the boat. Further up the canal we

Tournament Statistics

Fifty-four contestants fished 9 hours each, bringing 123 bass to the scales for a total weight of 344.25 pounds with a 6.38 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 2.80 lbs. All fish but one were released alive back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



2nd Place Brewer & Stone

south side of the big island where we finished out our limit by 9:30 with smallies on jigs in 15-30 feet of water. We spent the rest of the day down lake, where we culled another five fish throwing Osprey swimbaits and drop shotting. Jeff and I had a good day and I really enjoyed fishing with him, plus the weather was spectacular.

Jeff Stone: What a beautiful day on the water on tournament day.

First off, I would like to congratulate James Duel and John Schramer for their 1st Place finish. I would also like to thank Phil Brewer for an awesome day of fishing. Nothing better than starting the day off with a 6.21 pounder as your first fish of the day. Then, as the day went on, we started filling up the live well with some bass beauties.

The finesse bite worked out best for us as we busted out a second-place finish. I had a great time fishing with Phil and really enjoyed the day. Thanks again.

Membership

As of April 17, 2022 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **147** active members.



3rd Place Brakefield & Giunta

were talking to some non-tournament guys fishing in a pontoon boat using shiners. They told us they were catching smallmouth a little further up near the end of the canal; they were right and we put two nice smallies in the boat (we used plastic worms). We caught several 'shorts' throughout the day and culled once. Nothing complicated, no skill, just luck. Great day, no high winds like the day before and we are fishing Roosevelt next month! What more could you ask for.

Carlo Giunta: I was fortunate enough to have David as my boater for the second time this season and it was all him this tournament. Unfortunately, I did not catch any fish but my sighting of fish by the bridge in the channel did help land two of his keeper fish. I believe all but one were caught on drop shots but I will refer to David's write up for the details. Thanks to all the guys in the club that have made me feel welcome and comfortable. As the new guy from New York, I am not familiar with the Arizona waters yet but I am learning a lot from my boaters. Thanks again.

Team Vaughan & Matt Work Senkos For 4th Place



4th Place Vaughan & Matt

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Floyd Vaughan & Joe Matt** weighed five fish for a total weight of 16.65 pounds.

Joe Matt: I would like to start with a big thanks to my partner Floyd Vaughan and all the volunteers who make this all happen. It was my first time on Lake Havasu and it is a beautiful lake. We caught all our fish early in the morning fishing Senkos.

Team Jim Guin & Shawn Byrne Win 5th Place

A five fish bag weighing 16.62 lbs was enough to earn Team **Guin & Byrne** the **5th Place** money.

Jim Guin: I would like to thank the club for a great tournament. The weigh in staff were great as usual.

I drew Shawn Byrne and we had a great day together. We started out deep cranking Spro crankbaits on flats that held grass and structure. We put a limit in the boat culling once before we headed off to our next spot. We proceeded to cull small amounts all day on various spots and techniques with Shawn getting our best 2 culls on a dropshot. We caught around 20 fish for the day to end up with

our final weight of 16.62 lbs.

Shawn Byrne: It was an unforgettable day fishing with Jim Guin. He had a lot of knowledge of the lake and for my first time on the lake he shared a great deal with me. His strategy was to deep crank around and over structure, which I was skeptical of at first. Then he started landing quality fish and all that skepticism went right out the window. I mostly tried to do something different with a drop shot, jigs, jerk bait, and even some buzz baits. The only thing that did produce for me was the drop shot.

"The one that got away". The big bass we were looking for; Jim had it on and I did not leave Jim much room as I came in with the net. He swung his pole over me to bring the fish to the net. As he did that the fish jumped and tossed the lure right out of his mouth. It was painful to watch. I learned a valuable lesson; give more room, so the angler can land the fish. Thank you to the Midweek team for putting these events together and a big shout out to the weigh-in team!

Team Martlage & Sapyta Drop Shot For 6th Place

Team **Gary Martlage & David Sapyta** weighed five bass for 16.27 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

David Sapyta: What a great lake to fish on, Havasu is at the top of my list. I caught my fish on a drop shot and had a great day on the lake with Gary Martlage. Thanks weigh-in team for another great job of getting it done. I hope we fish here again.

Gary Martlage: Who would've thought that a 16 lb bag of fish would finish 6th place in a 27-boat tournament! This just shows the great competition of the members of Midweek. Congrats to the winners James Duel and John Schramer for their 18 lb sack. I believe this is Duel's first win? Couldn't happen to a nicer guy.

David Sapyta was my team member for Havasu; what a great guy to fish with. Now down to fishing. On Monday, we went to the Bill Williams River, and worked our way back,



6th Place Martlage & Sapyta

looking in various spots that historically hold smallmouth beds. A full day of fishing, and NOTHING! Tournament day, David and I didn't burn 2 gallons of gas, as we fished the underwater point in front of Windsor Beach. Catching was steady, as we culled maybe 6 plus times, trying to get that kicker. We drop shotted mostly, with Oxblood Red Flake 5.5 inch and 7-inch worms. Even though we couldn't find the big fish we needed, it was an epic day catching fish with a great partner.

Team Ron Pikul & Don Worcester Drop Shot Points For 7th Place

Team **Duel & Grimes** weighed four bass for 15.90 pounds and took home **7th Place** honors.

Don Worcester: To start with, congrats to James and John on their 1st Place win. Thanks to the guys helping on the ramp in the morning and the weigh-in crew.

It was a great day for me. I had a great partner, caught fish and NO WIND! We started out fishing shallow. When we had zero fish and zero bites by 10 am, we decided to go looking deep. We started fishing secondary and main lake points and SHAZAM! We got bit! We tried various moving baits and finally settled on drop shots; that was the key for us. The bite did

change as the day went along, we had to change bait colors, dark, light, long, short. We raced back to the ramp and had about 10 minutes to spare, so we went to the fish attractors near the ramp. Now I had always heard stories about how somebody always catches that last minute fish, well it happened to Ron. He caught a fish on a drop shot, big enough to cull.

Ron Pikul: Congrats to all the teams. After crazy wind on Monday and Tuesday, Wednesday turned out to be a better day. It was a slow start for us with no fish in the morning until 10 AM. A decision to make a move to main lake points proved to be the ticket for us; fighting big waves from ski boats was our only issue. My partner – Don Worchester - and I culled fish right until the end of the day. Great partner and a good day.



6h Place Don Worchester & Ron Pikul

CAUTION
FISHING AND HUNTING
STORIES IN PROGRESS
PROTECTIVE BOOTS
MAY BE REQUIRED



Weighing-In
By Gary Martlage
Tournament Director

Another epic tournament is in the books. For those of you that missed this one, you should make plans to make next year's event. The weather cooperated for the derby, and once again, the competitors showed their skills in catching a lot of quality fish. The weigh team performed flawlessly once again; got to take my hat off to the team. Tom A, Floyd V, John H, even Steve Grier and Don Worchester got their initiation on the way things work. Special thanks to David Sapyta for helping out; not only with the team, but got our fish unloaded and safely back to the lake. It's always nice to know that all I have to do is ask for help from anyone, and the club members step up.

One thing that I did notice, and will change in the future, is our pairing program assigned at least 3 teams that had previously fished together this season, and we are only 4 tournaments into the season. I want to ask ALL teams to contact me if you have previously fished with your assigned partner in the current season. Midweek Bass wants to promote only fishing with a new partner, even though the rules state that you can fish together twice during the season. We have plenty of boaters now, and there is no reason not to address this issue. In the future, please contact me right away after pairings are made, and we will make adjustments. Midweek wants to promote getting to know different members; both co-anglers and boaters alike will learn different techniques from each other.

Hope everyone had a Happy Easter. Don't forget to sign up early, and see you all at Roosevelt next month.

Happy Mom's Day



Photo Scrapbook - Lake Havasu - April 13, 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**

None

Please meet and greet our new members.



Best Wishes and Happy Birthday
Born in May

- Tom Alauria
- Andrew Bell
- Phil Brewer
- Jim Buchanan
- Shawn Byrne
- Butch Dangelo
- Devin Finn
- Andrew Goettl
- Steve Grier
- John Hawkins
- Troy Lindhorst
- Joe Matt
- Charles Murdock
- Ray Riley
- Steve Rubenstein
- Terry Tassin
- Keith Weidert
- Lewis Wilbur
- Don Worcester



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