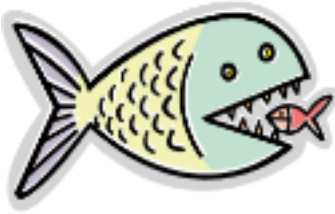


# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS

Of Arizona



# Bass Bites



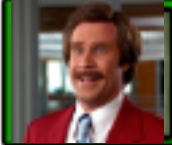
FISHING WEDNESDAY - NOT WEEKENDS!

March 2023 EDITION

18 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

Club Established January 27, 2005

EDITOR: GREG UTTON



## President's Perspective

By Floyd Vaughan

Another spring tournament at Alamo Lake, the new Alamo Lake, one of Arizona's real gems for bass fishing, even 35 feet higher than our last spring tournament. We had a total of 26 boats once the tournament began. Tough fishing for the most part. 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 Lew Southard and Richie Rojas for an exceptional bag of fish! With a total weight of 16.32 lbs. Well done gentlemen.

Tuesday night we held a barbecue at the group use area. I counted at least 50 guys in attendance. Super special thanks to Greg Prather for running the grill, and for enduring the wind, smoke, and heat. The food was awesome. Thanks to David Convery, Bob Cooley, Rick Brown, and the guys who helped with the set up and clean up! Thanks to everybody who brought cookies.

A special shout out to James Duel, who helped in many ways this weekend!

Next month brings us to Roosevelt Lake. Hope to see you all there.

Our next club meeting for 2023 is scheduled for **Wednesday, 3 May 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 Roosevelt Lake on 17 May, 2023. Club launch and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are Safe Light to 3 PM.



## Editor's Comments

I want to thank Jim Duel for taking the tournament photos. All photos are available for download on [Drop Box](#)

### 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE AND BIG FISH (4.77# Bass)

#### Lew Southard and Richie Rojas (16.32#)

**Lew Southard:** Richie and I started out in the coves on the left side of the lake toward the river. We entered the first cove and I caught two quick fish on a spinner bait, then nothing for about 90 minutes. We worked on down to about the last cove before the river. I started to drop shot a pink worm with the chartreuse tail and got one about 2lb. Then Richie got one on a crank bait.

Now we have four fish. I pitched the drop shot by a small bush and saw a big flash and my line take off with fish between 3-4 lb. Pitched up again close to the bank and the line was headed to the back of the boat. Both of those fish came out of water less than two feet deep. The last fish I caught was 4.77 pounds. About 10 minutes later, Richie caught our last fish on a Biffle Bug Fish (over 4lb). I Caught seven fish all day. After that, Richie never got another bite about 4 hours

### 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

#### Mitch Vitkovich and Dan Gallagher (13.48#)

**Mitch Vitkovich:** I fished this tournament with Dan Gallagher. Dan was unable to come up till Tuesday evening so I pre-fished Monday and Tuesday by myself. Monday was terrible. Three bites and no fish

**“We Practice Catch and Release”**

in the boat. I mostly fished shallow. Tuesday was much different. I was on the water by 5:30am and headed up-lake to Bufford Wash. The place was alive with everything. Birds, Shad, Carp, Donkeys and three Deer. I started halfway in with top water, then went to a senko, then to a spinnerbait, then to flipping, then to WTF. Why can't I catch a fish??????

I'm a little different when it comes to shad. When there



is a million shad on the surface and I throw my bait into them, my chance of catching a fish is one in a million. Now if the fish are boiling them that is a different thing altogether. So, at that point I decided to get away from all that activity and head to deep water.

When I say deep, I'm talking 40 feet. I was so far off the bank, I had a couple boats stop by and ask me if I was broken down. Thank you for checking. I started with a 1/2 oz BUG-I-JIG but with the wind it was a little tuff maintaining contact with the bottom. I switched to a 3/4 oz BUG-I-JIG and the bites started coming. I boated 12 fish off three different ledges. Nothing over three pounds, but several between two and three pounds. I felt much better about tournament day. I was off the water by one o'clock. When Dan got up there Tuesday evening, we talked a little strategy and then got to bed.

Wednesday was nothing like Tuesday for us. We didn't see a shad or the carp or the birds all day. We started deep but I wasn't graphing any fish deep like the day before, but I was graphing balls of shad in twenty to thirty feet. Those shad were on the shore in pre-fish. So, we decided to go back shallow. That turned out to be a great decision. I was throwing a 3/8 oz under-spin, with a 4.50 swim bait. Dan was throwing a spinnerbait. We culled our first fish at 7:30 am. We decided to go back through that stretch one more time and we culled another time at 7:45am.

Then we hit a dry spell. We didn't catch a fish till about 10:30am. We went out deep tried Jigs and Drop-shot with no bites. We then decided to go back to the shore and just work it the rest of the day. I switched from an under-spin and decided it was time for MISS RUBY to get in the game. Good decision, MISS RUBY on the

third cast hooked up with our big fish of the day. Only problem was after all the excitement, we realized Dan somehow cut himself and was bleeding pretty bad. We worked on him for a while and finally got the bleeding under control. We caught fish pretty steady until it was time to go in. Dan caught our last call fish, 2.22 pounds, at about 2:00pm. Great catch because that gave us all two pound plus bass in our bag. Great day and a lot of fun. Congratulations to LEW and RICHIE on their win and all the participants.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE

#### Brian Colby and Joe Denson (11.46#)

**Brian Colby:** Another great tournament with a group of great guys. We pre-fished for 3 hours on Tuesday and fished fast, everything from the dam to way up the river. We caught good fish pretty easy in the lake but couldn't find a bite in the river so decided to leave it alone on derby day. Wednesday started a litter slow with zero topwater action but quickly turning around catching on reaction baits. Think we were culling by 830. Joe was a great partner, he was knocking them silly on his spinnerbait and I was catching them on an under-spin. Fished a tournament at Roosevelt Saturday, bite was exactly the same. 30+ fish almost all on reaction.

**Joe Denson:** I met up with Brian in the group area Wednesday morning of the tournament and we kind of compared notes of what we did when we pre-fished on Tuesday so Wednesday morning we started down the lake and a cut off to the right. He was throwing a buzz bait and I was throwing a war eagle half ounce cotton candy spinnerbait. I managed to catch a couple and that's what I threw the rest of the day. Brian switched over to a chatter bait. He caught one on a chatter bait and caught two or three on an umbrella rig. That's basically how we caught our fish. We ended up catching about 30 fish so the spinnerbait bite was pretty



good for the day. Turned out to be a pretty great day.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Place and Goon Fish (2.57# Catfish)

**Eric Hively and Eliseo Flores (10.89)**

**Eric Hively:** I was paired up with Elisio Flores and while pre-fishing Tuesday we found a decent pattern fishing outside main points and shorelines with cranks and spinnerbaits. We caught the tiniest to fish "other" water all day looking for a second pattern but never felt confident with what else we found.

On Wednesday we started with what we had, today was a bit different and they were eating the crank bait Elisio was throwing much better than the spinnerbaits. We had a decent limit by 8:30 including a 3 pounder. The rest of the day we just kept running and gunning the outside stuff. We managed to upgrade a few more times including a 6 oz upgrade with a half hr to go which helped.

It was a fun tourney and a pleasure to get a chance to meet some of the guys at the bbq. This was only my second event with Midweek but look forward to fishing many more!

**Eliseo Flores:** Had the pleasure of fishing with Eric this month. It was a tough bite but we found a way. We pre-fished on Tuesday and felt like we had a pretty solid pattern on the out side points of coves; throwing spinner baits, crank baits and chatter baits. White was definitely the color. Luckily the pattern held up. The bigger fish came on a floating white crank in about an 8-10 depth beating up the sticks.

The fish weren't hitting the bait very hard, just kind of laying on it. Seemed like the fish were in all stages for spawning. I saw 1 bed fish in practice. Very small and some of the fish we caught were pretty beat up post spawn.

Wind was pretty tuff on those main points. Eric's boat control was a big part of our success, a great partner overall. I look forward to drawing him in the future



## 5<sup>th</sup> PLACE

**Manny Madrid and Tom Alauria (10.12#)**

**Tom Alauria:** First I want to congratulate Lou and Richie on an impressive win. I'm anxious to learn how you did it. I also want to thank the tournament director and crew. It's been many years since I've seen Alamo this full.

I fished as a co angler and had the pleasure of fishing with Manny Madrid. He was at Alamo the prior weekend and told me there was a good chatter bait bite. We fished on Tuesday and that bite was still productive. On Wednesday most all of our fish came on chatter baits and flipping. We caught a lot of fish but culled only twice.

## 6<sup>th</sup> PLACE

**Laron Porter and Dale Bayless (9.84#)**

**Dale Bayless:** I had the pleasure of fishing with Laron Porter. He is a very good fisherman and has a lot of experience. He recently fished at Alamo, so he had an idea of what to do and what to look for.

We started Tuesday with the idea of reaction baits and then to flipping when it got warmer and the fished treed up. We focused on mainly a square bill, a spinner bait, and flipping hogs, creatures, and craws; mainly in green pumpkin with black



flake and maybe some red in it. I only caught one on a 1.0 square bill shad color. The rest that I caught was on a war eagle spinner bait with small Colorado and a willow blade, kind of the sexy shad color. We caught some nice ones but they were spawned out. Once we had a double hook up and mine went into the bushes. I asked Laron to back the boat up a little and realized he was fighting a nice one also. We got both and that really helped.

Just about all our fish were in 1 – 10 feet. Laron lost a real nice 4 + pounder that we really would like to have had. I got to watch Laron do a lot of flipping, wow! He is one of the best and he answered some questions when I asked them. Awesome two days, hope to fish again with him.

### **7<sup>th</sup> PLACE**

**Brian Presmyk and Peter Gesswein (9.53#)**

**(No Report)**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> BIG ( 3.98# Bass )**

**Doyle Wofford and Allen Wacker**

**(No Report)**

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Robert Ast  
Victor Cunningham  
Dusty Mathis  
Kevin Presmyk  
Luke Spreitzer (returning member)  
Richard Wheeler

### **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

### **Words of Wisdom**

When the people fear the government, there is TYRANNY; when the government fears the people, there is LIBERTY.

-Thomas Jefferson



**Early to Bed  
Early to Rise  
Fish all Day  
Tell big LIES!**

**Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web site at:  
<http://www.midweekbassaz.com>**



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**Gonna Need  
a Bigger Boat!!**

**Roosevelt  
in April**





