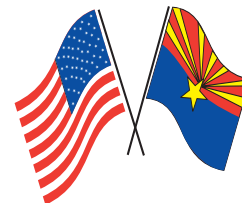


# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



**MAY 2021 EDITION**  
**16 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN**

**CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005**  
**EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN**



### President's Perspective

*By Gary Grimes*

What a great turnout for the Midweek Bass May bass tournament at Roosevelt Lake. Thirty-four (34) boats fished from safelight until 2PM, and all teams presented a limit of fish for weighing. The fishing was outstanding, with many teams reporting catching 30-40 fish. Congratulations to John Hilland and Steve Rubenstein on the win with an impressive bag of 16.92 lbs., with a 5.88 big fish kicker. Thank you to the guys on the weigh-in team, you guys did a super job. I would also like to tip my hat to John Hilland, who essentially ran the weigh-in. John did a great job of keeping the team on track and moving the line as quickly as possible in spite of the wind, which caused delays in the scale locking in the weights.

A large number of the guys stayed at the Roosevelt Resort, I would guess at least 25 guys. The rooms are clean and large, large enough to handle extra cots if needed. The beds are soft and new. The AC is cold, although a bit loud. There is lots of shade created by the mature mulberry trees that surround the property. There is a large pond in the back, filled with bass and catfish, and surrounded by geese and ducks. I really appreciate the shade in the front. After returning from the lake after a day's fishing, you can back up your rig directly in front of your room, plug into the convenient power outlets, and work on tackle on your boat in the shade of the trees. Lots of anglers means lots of socializing, which I enjoy. Our guys are super, and it's nice to have an afternoon cold beer and talk fishing and strategy. Ray

Riley, Jim Duel, David Sapyta and I tried a new to us restaurant, Guayo's on the Trail, just minutes from the hotel heading towards Globe. They serve old school Mexican food, tacos, enchiladas and burritos, and ice-cold beer. Reasonable prices and super-hot plates. Highly recommended. We also tried the new restaurant at the Marina. Nice new facility, both indoor and outdoor seating, a full bar, really good food and friendly, flirtatious servers.

Roosevelt Lake ends our springtime fishing, and next month we move to the valley of the sun for three summertime tournaments, all from safelight until 11AM, with a three fish limit. We will fish Lake Pleasant both June and July and Bartlett in August. Lake Pleasant has been fishing well of late, with quality fish being caught. Not sure of their Covid protocols, if any, and will let you know as soon as possible. Present plans are to launch from the Pleasant Harbor area. Remember that they offer military discounts on the entrance fee to the park. Hope to see you all soon.



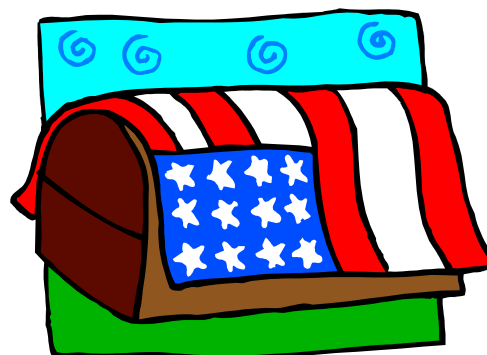
### Tournament Report Lake Roosevelt May 19, 2021

All teams weighed fish at this tournament, and all but two fish were released back into the lake to live and fight again another day. Now let's hear from our winners.

**CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**  
**WATCH FOR FUTURE INFORMATION**

**Monthly Breakfast Meeting**  
**Deer Valley Airport Restaurant**  
**702 W. Deer Valley Rd**  
**Phoenix, AZ**  
**1st Wednesday of Each**  
**Month 8:00 A.M.**

## Memorial Day 2021



**“We Practice Catch and Release”**

## Team John Hilland & Steve Rubenstein Weigh 5.88 Pounder Win 1st Place Team 1st Place Big Fish And 5lb Pot

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **John Hilland & Steve Rubenstein** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 16.92 lbs. Thanks to John's 5.88 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Bass** honors and the **5 Pound Pot**. This was Steve's first ever tournament win!

**John Hilland:** I had the absolute pleasure of being paired with Steve Rubenstein this month; what a great guy and a really good stick. Steve and I were able to prefish Tuesday and made our way around the lake from end to end. We found fish at each spot but not the bigger ones we wanted. About 10 AM we hit a spot with some clear water and we were able to see a number of decent fish roaming around that were active and ready to play and decided this would be an outstanding starting spot on tournament day.

Wednesday morning we were able to get to our first spot with nobody else around. We started with top water lures and had no takers, Steve threw some plastics and bam he was catching fish. I grabbed my jig rod and we were in business. We had a nice limit in the boat by 7:45.

I had broken off my jig and threw out a Neko rig while retying my jig. I looked down and my Neko rod was moving on the deck so I dropped everything and set the hook. This was our big fish of the day and turned out to be the big bass of the tourney.

We fished mostly Neko Rigs and jigs on points with access to deeper water for our bag. What a nice feeling to be throwing back 3 pounders because they won't help.

Thanks to my partner for being such a great guy and a huge help with everything. Also thank you to the



**1st PI John Hilland & Steve Rubenstein**

crew at Midweek for putting on a well run and organized tournament. Hope to see everyone next month at Lake Pleasant.

**Steve Rubenstein:** Well this was my first tournament win! Many thanks to John Hilland who was a great boater. He was a super accommodating partner and always made sure I had a casting lane. Most importantly, he consistently put us on fish.

We started out on mid-lake banks with mixed rock and trees. We started catching fish on many different lures. I caught fish on a Ned rig, and put a 2.8 lber in the boat. John caught fish as well on jigs and Ned rigs. By 8 AM we had a limit. Then John nailed the big one - a 5.88 lber - on a Ned rig. All day long we kept catching fish and we were culling 2.5 lbers. We did not move much and kept going over our area and we caught fish all day long. I also want to thank our weigh team (MY first time). They made sure that I learned the ropes. Since I have been in the club everyone has been great. It is great to have a different partner each month. I get to learn new methods all the time. Being from Northern California most of my bass fishing has been spotted bass. Thanks to you Midweek Bass club members, I have been learning largemouth techniques. Again, thanks John. See everyone next month.

## Joe Denson & Gary Asmus Work Salt End Of Lake And Finish 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Denson & Asmus** weighed five bass for a total weight of 16.51 lbs.

**Joe Denson:** First I would like to thank the Midweek group. Gary and I started out at School House Point, top water fishing for about 20 minutes and didn't catch anything so we moved just outside the point. There I threw a top water Rico and caught a 5.28 pounder. Gary Asmus and I needed that fish to get our morale flowing and so then we were "Off to the Races." A little bit later we didn't catch any more topwater fish so we just started

## Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2021 scheduled for **Wednesday, 2 June** 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 Pleasant** on **16 June 2021**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.





**2nd Place Joe Denson & Gary Asmus**

throwing green pumpkin Senko's. We caught a few more fish and started upgrading. About an hour later Gary caught a 4-pounder and got it within ten feet of the boat and it came unbuttoned; we were pretty disappointed but we just put our heads down and kept fishing. So eventually we crossed the lake to the North side and found a point and started fishing green pumpkin Senko's and started catching some good fish. Then I hooked into a 4.5 pounder and didn't know my line had a nick in it and it broke off so we kept on fishing and we just kept upgrading. Gary and I had a lot of fun and we caught some really nice fish. The joke of the day: "Hook sets are free".

**Gary Asmus:** It was a great day with the first cast from my partner Joe Denson catching our big fish on a top water Rico and the bass really choked it. The rest of the day we were throwing plastics and caught over 40 fish with each of us breaking off several 3.5 to 4.5 lb fish. It could have been a 23 lb. day for us if we had been more careful.

**Team Steve Grier & Warren Brackey Flip To 3rd Place Finish**

Team **Steve Grier & Warren Brackey** weighed five bass for 15.23 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Warren Brackey:** Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona all bag five fish limits in back-to-back events at Roosevelt Lake. What's even more impressive, 44 of the 71 limits recorded were over 10 pounds! Guess it would be safe to say Roosevelt Lake bass fishing has been on fire.

It was another well organized and well run MBA

**Membership**

As of May 21, 2021 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **124** active members.

event put on by our hard working bass club staff. Thank you for all you do to make our events possible. Major kudos to our stellar weigh-in crew, our club photographer and our member volunteers for all their help getting the bass we love to chase back to the lake to fight another day.

Congratulations to John and Steve for their Big Fish, the 5 lb pot and a well-deserved victory. Talk about running the table, well done guys! Congrats to all those who placed or caught big fish in this event. Hope to see everyone who competed at next month's event at Lake Pleasant.

It was my good fortune to be paired with my buddy Steve Grier for this event. Steve and I were paired at Bartlett Lake a couple years ago and had a great time sharing our favorite fish stories and finishing in 4th Place was pretty fun too! Steve is a great competitor, and a very accomplished tournament fisherman, so it was no surprise to me that he took top honors at last month's Roosevelt tournament.

Steve and I were able to pre-fish Monday and Tuesday for this one. Steve decided to check out the Campaign Bay Area to search for signs of life where he had found fish four weeks earlier. The lake level was down nearly 3 feet from last month, so we looked for 8-10 foot deep areas near where Steve's fish had been in April. After an hour or so Steve found what he was looking for and some larger fish were still in the area.

We fished the main lake for the next day and a half catching fish on nearly everything we tried, topwater, jigs, Senkos, drop shots, spinner baits, you name it, and the fish were biting it. We just weren't finding bigger fish. Steve's plan for game day was to find our fish pitching and flipping the Salt end of the lake.

Tournament day we were on a concentration of fish right away, putting a small limit in the boat by 6:30 AM fishing Texas-rigged craws and Senkos. That was our pattern. Six hours later we had culled 10 or 11 fish and we had just over 15 pounds in the live well. With our best fish at 3.23 pounds we knew we didn't have the kicker we would likely need, but we had one heck of a good average! It was a truly memorable day on the water!

Thank you Steve for putting up with this gimpy



**3rd Place Warren Brackey & Steve Grier**

old, slow to the net, deaf guy. Enjoyed sharing (and occasionally hearing) more fish stories, getting to know Steve better, and especially enjoyed watching a true expert pitch and flip the way it should be done. Already looking forward to our next time on the water, it would be a pleasure to be paired with you again anytime.

**Steve Grier:** Congrats to John and Steve on a great win. Shout out to the weigh in crew for the outstanding job as always. We pre-fished 2 days all over the Salt end and main lake and some in the Tonto. We caught fish almost everywhere on everything, primarily topwater and jigs, and had about 11 lbs each day. I was pretty sure 11 lbs wasn't going to be enough. We took some time one prefish day to follow a whim. I knew the fish I caught last month were gone. The water had dropped about 3 ft and they moved out. I was curious to see if we could figure out where they went. We scouted areas that weren't too far from where we were last month. We got a few bites in one area that we shook off and decided to roll the dice and go back there on tournament day.

Turns out on game day there were a lot of fish there. We had an 8 lb limit early and culled our first fish at 6:20. We spent the rest of the day in the area and probably culled a dozen times until we had a limit of 3 lb fish, just couldn't get the kicker we needed. We caught all our fish flipping rage craws, chigger craws and Senkos in black/blue fleck and black/red fleck. We had a fantastic day and I enjoyed the heck out of fishing with Warren. He is a great guy and a great fisherman.

## Old Navy Guys Ryan & Batson Take 4th Place

Taking home **4th Place**, Team Bill Ryan & Terry Batson weighed five bass for 14.63 pounds and took home **Fourth Place** honors.

**Terry Batson:** I want to begin with congratulating the winning team of John Hilland and Steve Rubenstein, as well as thanking the tournament organizers and weigh-in team for a great job.

Bill Ryan and I are both new to the club, and neither of us was able to pre-fish. We met the evening before at the campground and tried to put a plan together. We decided to start at Schoolhouse Point, but someone else beat us there. So, we set up a few hundred yards to the right in a small cut. Bill caught several on a weightless Senko, and I got what turned out to be our big fish at 4.5

### Tournament Statistics

Sixty-eight contestants fished 8.5 hours each, bringing 170 bass to the scales for a total weight of 410.93 pounds with a 4.97 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 2.42 lbs. All but two fish were released alive back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



### 4th Place Terry Batson & William Ryan

lbs. on a Texas Rig Brush Hog. Even though I caught a nice one, I noticed he was having better luck on the Senko, so I eventually started throwing that as well. Between us, we had our limit by 7:30 in that general area. From there we hopped around to a few other points and coves on both sides of the lake around Schoolhouse. We were able to cull throughout the day, mostly on the Senko bite. Bill also caught about a 4 pounder on a Spinnerbait when it got a little windy. We ended up with a nice bag, but never got that kicker fish to put us over the top. All-in-all, not bad for a couple of new guys.

I just want to close by saying Bill was great to fish with, and everyone I have met in the club has been fantastic. I am very happy to have been so welcomed into this bass fishing family.

**Bill Ryan:** I was paired with Terry Batson, which was great. We immediately had a connection as both of us are "old Navy guys". We fished east of School House Point and we had a limit by 7:30. Terry caught his big fish, almost a 5 pounder, on a Texas rig brush hog while I caught most of my fish in the morning on a weightless Senko. After 7:30 we began to cull. When it got windy we switched to spinner baits and crank baits and were able to cull more fish.

We were not able to catch a bigger kicker fish which is what we were really looking for. Terry was a great partner and his knowledge of the lake put us over the top.

## Greg Prather & Rick Harang Work Texas Rigs and Senko To Finish 5th

A five fish bag weighing 14.60 lbs was enough to earn Team **Prather & Harang** the **5th Place** money.

**Richard Harang:** First off, congrats to first and second place teams John/Steve, Joe/Gary for real nice limits. It was a busy day for the weigh-in crew with another "all teams limiting-out" tournament. Good job crew. I got lucky and drew Greg Prather for this one. We





### 5th Place Rick Harang & Greg Prather

had never met and weren't able to get together for a pre-fish day but we had a great time fishing together during the tournament.

Greg started us off with a nice 2 plus pound fish on a Rico and I followed up with a small fish on a Whopper Plopper. The Plopper turned out to not catch the whoppers it is supposed to catch. We had a limit in about 30 minutes. We moved to a nearby point and quickly culled out 4 of them on plastics. It seemed like we went back and forth looking for fish all day. We guessed we caught about 20 fish each. My best bait was a Texas rigged creature bait and a Texas rigged 5 inch Senko. I think Greg's was a drop shot Senko and a C-rigged creature bait. We didn't leave that area until about 11:00 but we weren't able to cull from any other location. Our final limit came from about a 500 yard stretch between two points. We spent most of the day in that small area. I had a great time fishing with Greg and hope to fish with him again. We missed 4th place by .03 of an ounce; just shows how important each cull turns out to be.

### Team Kenny Myers & Andrew Bell Fish Senkos To 6th Place

Team **Kenny Myers & Andrew Bell** weighed five bass for 14.32 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

**Andrew Bell:** We started off throwing top water Ricos, Spooks and buzzbaits in Vineyard Cove and we had a small limit within the 1st hour or so. We then made a move over to Sheriff's Cove and right away I hooked up to a good 4 lb fish on a jig and lost it right at the boat. I shook off the loss and kept fishing and shortly after I caught our biggest fish of the day, a 3.92 pounder, on a Senko. We ended up catching our 2 biggest fish out of that cove on Senkos and really caught our key tournament fish there. After we fished through the cove thoroughly we moved over to Sally Mae and by this time we had already caught 30 plus fish and we needed a 2.40 pounder to cull our smallest fish. We culled once in Sally Mae and moved right next door to Connors Ledge and I culled the last fish we culled on a Rico. We caught around



### 6th Place Andrew Bell & Kenny Myers

40 to 50 fish for the day and culled several times and had a really fun day.

My boater Kenny Meyers was a great captain and partner and I would love to be paired with him again sometime. Congrats to John Hilland and Steve Rubenstein on the win and almost 6 lb big bass.

### Team Lester Rapp Jr & Don Worcester Fish Dam Area Finish 7th Overall

In **7th Place** Team **Rapp Jr & Worcester** weighed five bass for a total weight of 13.87 lbs.

**Don Worcester & Lester Rapp Jr:** We would like to thank all of the crew that ran the tournament, another great job guys.

We fished around the dam area where we pitched Brush Hogs and Senkos into the flooded brush (that's where Lester caught his 3.80 lber). We also caught some fish on poppers, crankbaits, and drop shot Robo Worms Morning Dawn. I have to thank Lester for being patient with me after getting hung up so much....LOL.

Finally, congrats to John Hilland and his partner Steve Rubenstein. Lester and I are both looking forward to Lake Pleasant in June.

### Team Neil Burns & Mark Durben Flip Trees in Tonto Win 8th Place

In **8th Place** Team **Burns & Durben** weighed five bass for a total weight of 13.74 lbs.

**Neil Burns:** Mark Durben and I started with top water lures in Sallie Mae. I guess we missed that bite because after an hour we left with no fish. Our big fish was caught flipping the trees way up in Tonto Creek on a green pumpkin creature bait. Thank goodness for braided line because that stuff up there is a mess. The rest of our fish were caught on jigs and Senkos. Looking at the



**8th Place Neil Burns & Mark Durben**

results it seems that everyone had a good day. Congratulations to John and Steve for the win.

### **Team Roger Root & James Duel Weigh-in Catfish Win Goon Fish Prize**

Team **Roger Root & James Duel** weigh-in a 8.92 lb Catfish and win the \$100 **Goon Fish** prize.

**James Duel:** What is a goon fish? My thought is a fish that I wasn't trying to catch; however I did. Roger Root and I had moved into the Salt end of the lake after an hour of bank fishing with less than spectacular results. Roger was flipping and I was working the "peanut" in a lot of brush. I had to work it slow or get hung up. Crank slow, hit something and stop, let it float, continue cranking, have something take it then set the hook. Well something took it with the swirl the size of a wash tub. I thought to my self we're going to want this one. It didn't take long to figure out it was a catfish. Thanks go to the Grier boat for taking the time out from their tournament day to weight and verify the catch. The peanut lure is a crappie lure by Arkie sold at Walmart for \$2.36. I change the hook to gold Eagle Claw number 8. That lure pulled in a bluegill and a 3 lb plus bass on tournament day in addition to the cat.



### **Weighing-In By Gary Martlage**

Congratulations to the whole club at Roosevelt. Reports I received indicate all went smoothly, and there were no mishaps. Not attending the event because of an "off limits" for another circuit I am fishing, I'm sure missing all the guys and fishing with you. I WILL be at Pleasant next month, and hope to get acquainted with the masses. As always, I really appreciate the weight team, and extend thanks to all of you that stepped up to make our tournaments happen. Since I'm thanking the weigh team, a special THANKS to our secretary Terry Tassin goes out

to him. Without him, we wouldn't get the results, letters, Bass Bites, etc, that we have all become accustomed to receiving on a monthly basis.

The COVID situation seems to be getting under control; the mask mandate at the tournaments will soon become optional. Please discuss the situation with your partner and respect his wishes concerning wearing masks.

One other thing to mention is the 5 lb Pot and Big Fish payouts will change at Pleasant beginning with the June tournament. If the biggest fish weighed is 5 lbs or over, and is the largest fish of the tournament, the team will receive \$1,000 (\$500 if fishing solo). The 2nd place Big Fish will receive 1st place Big Fish money, and the 3rd place Big Fish will receive 2nd place money. The board discussed this when we initiated the change to the 5 lb pot months ago, and also discussed changing to a different payout, should the payments seem to get lopsided. I hope everyone agrees. See you all at Lake Pleasant in June.

### **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 about 100 feet apart, containing a line of a 4 line couplet obligatory advertising *Burma Shave*, a popular shaving cream. Here are some of the actual signs - read from the bottom up:

**Burma Shave**

**BUT ITS HARD TO PLAY**

**A HARP SOUNDS NICE**

**LOOK EACH WAY**

**AT INTERSECTIONS**

with white signs, feet apart, containing line couplet obligatory advertising *Burma Shave*, a shaving cream. Here are some of the actual signs from the



# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Roosevelt - May 19, 2021



TEAM	BIG FISH	GT	#	TEAM	BIG FISH	GT
ELI / CRIFE	3.25	11.35	21	RIDGWAY / WHITE	3.17	9.86
Y / BLOXAM	9.11		22	" / "		
I / BRACKEY	3.23	15.23	23	GOEHL / ROBERSON		11.20
D / JOLLEY		10.63	24	SOUTHARD / GAL		11.33
I / SAPHIA	3.61	12.41	25	MELCHER / THIEL	3.28	12.08
I / DUEL	3.92	12.47	26	SENF / WEIDERT		13.10
I / BATSON	4.51	14.63	27	GESSWEIN / ANDREWS		9.52
I / MABRY	3.59	12.57	28	KUNLER / COOLEY	2.90	9.53
I / RILEY		7.87	29	DENSON / ASMUS	5.28	15.57
I / JOHNSONBAUGH	3.63	13.04	30	MASON / CLISEN	3.62	12.18
A / MATT	3.97	9.44	31	MYERS / BELL	3.92	14.32
E / MALONE		11.56	32	RAPP / WORCESTER	3.80	13.87
E / HOFFERAN	2.77	13.71	33	PIKILL / WACKER		12.75
S / BRIGGS		11.25	34	FRATHER / HARANG	3.42	14.60
R / MICHELS	3.38	11.41	35	BURNS / DURBEN	5.77	13.74
ND / RUBENSTAM	5.88	16.92	36			
N / MOORE	3.51	12.47	37			
OCK / ROJAS		1.45	38			
LI / CONVEY		8.65	39			
DER / AHERN	3.73	12.93	40			



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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**

**Chris Mabry (CO)**

**Please meet and welcome our new members.**



**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**

**Born in June**

Warren Brackey

Casey Brown

James Clish

Gary Grimes

Jim Guin

Tony Medina



**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**