

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MAY 2022 EDITION  
17 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005  
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



### President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

Our fifth tournament of the year brought us to Roosevelt Lake, where 39 teams toughed it out for 9 hours on a hot, windless day. I was surprised to see the lake was still quite high, hopefully we will receive some much-needed rain this summer to keep it that way. Summer is definitely upon us; I burned my butt on a hot lid latch on my boat. Can't wait until June. Reminder, June begins our modified summer schedule. We will be fishing safe light until 11 AM and will have a **three fish limit**. Lakes Pleasant and Bartlett are scheduled for June and July. However, we are still researching the viability of Lake Saguaro in August because of more golden algae and another fish kill. Will let you know soon. It was so good to see Neil Burns again, he hasn't fished in a couple of years. The dude still has his Mojo. Congrats to Neil and partner Jim Clisch on the win with a healthy bag of 14.48 lbs. Congrats also to Jack Hughes and Don Worcester on the big fish, a 6.78 lb behemoth.

Thanks to all who helped at the weigh-in,

and thanks for your patience while it is going on. All of the weigh-in crew participate in the tournament, and come in early to get set up. This limits the extravagance of our equipment. No tanks for the fish, too much of a hassle. You hand the fish to us in order to weigh them, we hand them right back so you can release them. Because of this the health of the fish are your responsibility. Please do not release dead or dying fish as it reflects poorly on our stewardship as anglers. We will always have an ice chest for dead fish, so someone can make a nice meal out of them. You will also notice we require you to use one of our bags for presenting your fish for weighing, and ask you to bring your own bag so we can give them back to you after weighing. We have found that using our bags limits the number of people in line at any one time. It is much better to leave your fish in your live wells as long as possible prior to weighing, as the water quality is much better

Continued on page 2

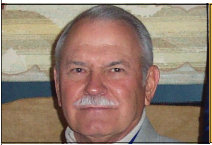
### New Meeting Location

Well, we have finally gotten back to holding "face to face" general meetings. Our 2nd general meeting will be on 1 June 2022, the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month. We are now meeting for breakfast meetings 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 memberships and tournament entries 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.

**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.**

**"We Practice Catch and Release"**

and minimizes the number of dead fish. Summer months are when we have the greatest number of dead fish. Be extra cautious the next four months with your tournament fish. This is also the time of the year when fizzing your fish should become a common practice as many will be caught in deep water. Make sure your live well is working, and use chemical additives and/or ice - whatever it takes. A couple of other items, the morning meeting is mandatory, and if you leave the lake without weighing fish, please let us know. See you at Pleasant.



### Tournament Report Lake Roosevelt May 18, 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.

### Team Neil Burns & James Clisch Win 1st Place Overall and 1st Place Big Bass

Taking home **1st Place Overall**, Team Neil Burns & James Clisch brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 14.48 lbs. Thanks to Neil's 6.13 lb. bass the team also took home the **1st Place Big Bass** honors.

### Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 1 June** 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 Pleasant** on **15 June 2022**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.



*1st Place Clisch & Burns*

**Neil Burns & James Clisch:** It's been a while since I've fished a Midweek event, so it was nice to see old friends and meet some new members. I was able to pre-fish Friday and Saturday and kind of settled on an area around School House. I met my partner, James Clisch, on Monday and we fished the Tonto end without much success, so that made our decision to start in the Salt end of the lake easier on tournament day.

By nine o'clock Wednesday we only had 3 fish, 2 that we would eventually weigh and 1 very small one. They were caught on an A-rig and a wacky-rigged worm. We needed some wind on our bank, so we moved, filled out our limit with a couple of smaller fish and as soon as the wind came up we headed back. We caught 2 nice fish, including our big fish about 11:30 on a Lucky Strike square-bill crankbait, shad colored, in about 8 feet of water. Jim switched to a square-bill and caught our last upgrade about 1:15, which was great for us, not so great for Phil and Spencer. So, sorry but not too sorry about that boys.

I had a great day fishing with Jim, really nice guy, good fisherman, and a pleasure to share a boat with.

Just a final note from Jim Clisch. Neil has to be the nicest, easy-going person I have ever fished with during a tournament. He has pretty much covered the catching part of the tournament, however, he failed to mention that after catching our biggest bass of the day (6.13 lbs.) on the next cast he caught our smallest fish of the day which was about 6 inches long!

## Team Brewer & Hand Fish A-rigs For 2nd Place Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Phil Brewer & Spencer Hand** weighed five bass for a total weight of 14.38 lbs.

**Spencer Hand:** First I would like to thank Phillip Brewer for a great day. We started off with a little top water with no luck at all. Phil started throwing an A-rig and landed a few. I switched over to a white spinner bait and landed my first 3 Pounder; then another and another. Then we caught two more on the same spinner bait. Phil has the pictures to prove it. The next 3 pounder snapped the wire on my lure. Phil loaned me another and I caught several more bass. No wind reaction fishing. That was a little weird. I did land a 2.83 pounder on a drop shot. Phil is a great guy and I hope to draw him and his Gambler again.

**Phil Brewer:** I would like to thank the weigh-in team for another job well done, and for the catering crew who prepared the post tournament hot dogs!

My co-angler, Spencer Hand and I had a great day. We started out in the Tonto end, behind the islands, on some shaded walls throwing A-Rigs and spinner baits. We then moved to a submerged hump in twenty feet of



**2nd Place Hand & Brewer**

### Membership

As of May 22, 2022 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **149** active members.

water still using the rig and spinner baits, which completed our limit by 8 AM. We pretty much stayed in that spot all day and had over twenty keepers.

Spencer had an incredible catch by landing two fish at the same time on the spinner bait, which had no trailer hook. The hook had gone through one fish's mouth and hooked another fish. I have the pictures to prove it. Pretty cool.

Many thanks to Spencer, great guy and a great stick.

## Randy Gray & Dale Bayless Win 3rd Place

Team **Gray & Bayless** weighed five bass for 13.73 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Randy Gray:** First congrats to Neil and James for a job well done and condolences for not winning the 5lb pot while having a 6-pounder in the livewell (nice job Jack Hughes), I know you guys were counting the money. To the weigh-in team once again awesome job. What were we up to pitching into the brush up in the Salt River? I told Dale the bite did not start until 7 and at 7:03 we got our first fish. From then on, we just slowly ground them out. Pumpkinseed Power worms and Orange Crusher worms were my go-to tools, Texas rigged. If we could have just hit one more 3-pounder, but heck, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place that's as good as I've done in a long while.

**Dale Bayless:** Thank you to the Tournament Director and the staff and the weigh in crew; as usual awesome job.

I had the privilege of fishing with Randy Gray; a local. When you fish with a local you are

### Tournament Statistics

Seventy-eight contestants fished 9 hours each, bringing 166 bass to the scales for a total weight of 295.98 pounds with a 3.79 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.78lbs. All fish but one were released alive back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



**3rd Place Bayless & Gray**

in for a treat and I had high hopes. We pre-fished with the goal of finding a Plan B. We did not find one, so it was all or nothing on Wednesday. We fished up in the Salt River in heavy brush in 6 - 8 feet of water. We flipped and pitched all day. We caught a lot of fish from 2 - 2.5 lbs. and ended up culling an ounce at a time, all day. We did get a 3.54 and a 3.62 in the boat which really helped and yes, I broke off on the kicker with 12 lb test line. That "TINK" sound has got to be the worst. Any way What an experience to fish with Randy Gray; a super nice guy and super knowledgeable and has been fishing competitively a long time. I used a watermelon candy double tail hula grub with one tail dipped in Chartreuse. When I ran out it was a watermelon candy baby brush hog also with one tail dipped; all were Texas rigged.

### **Team Kuhler & Schramer Work A-rigs For 4th Place**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Lance Kuhler & John Schramer** weighed five fish for a total weight of 12.88 pounds.

**John Schramer:** First of all, I'd like to say congratulations to Neil and James for the well-deserved win. I would also have to say it was a pleasure meeting Lance and fishing with him. He is a great all-around guy with a lot of drive to win. When I talked to him before the tournament, he had explained the plan he laid out for the day. The plan would include him throwing the A-rig and me following up with either a crank bait or chatter bait. He said he had thrown the A-rig just a week before with



**4th Place Kuhler & Schramer**

great success.

We ended up getting a small limit by 11 AM and I could tell he was getting discouraged. I explained to him never to second guess yourself and stick with the plan; that's when the magic started to happen. He caught the first good one - a nice smallmouth. He told me to start throwing the other A-rig he had hooked up and I ended up catching two on the same cast. We each caught a few more to end up with a decent limit. All the better fish were caught on the A-rig with either white or silver Keitech's targeting the shore with softball size rocks and submerged trees in around 10-20 feet of water.

### **Team Steve Grier & Gary Asmus Win 5th Place Up The Salt**

A five fish bag weighing 12.27 lbs was enough to earn Team **Grier & Asmus** the **5th Place** money.

**Gary Asmus:** It was a fun day fishing with Steve Grier. We started in the Salt end of the lake where Steve and Clinton Bell had done very well the past two weeks. As it turned out, the flipping bite would be the ticket for us tossing into heavy cover.

**Steve Grier:** Congrats to Neil and James; nice job guys! Thanks for another good job by the weigh-in, camera, and hot dog crew.

We pre-fished Monday and Tuesday. We got a few bites in an area I have been fishing up the Salt in the river. We fished a lot of coves and points with no luck. We had about 8 bites on Monday and 3 on Tuesday.



**5th Place - Grier & Asmus**

On tournament day we rolled the dice and went to the river hoping we could put together 5 good bites. It started slow, we fished our first area for about 2 hours and caught 1 fish. We moved to a second area where we got a few more bites. I picked up a good fish out of a tree and we had 3 others on that we couldn't get out of the trees. We moved to a third area about 10 o'clock with only 2 fish in the livewell. We found more fish in this area. Most of them were small but Gary caught the 4 lber and we finally got a limit at 11:30. We culled one more fish to add another pound.

It was a tough day but we stuck with our plan and managed to get enough good bites to finish in the money. We caught all our fish flipping and fishing Texas rigs with Senkos colors black/blue, shad, goby and craws black/blue, and green pumpkin.

### **Team Hughes & Worcester Drop Shot And Senko For 6th Place**

Team **Jack Hughes & Don Worcester** weighed five bass for 12.11 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors. Thanks to Jack's 6.73 pound bass they also won the 5 lb Pot.

**Don Worcester:** Well, the day started out slow, so we kept on moving around. Jack Hughes caught his first fish and it was a cookie cutter size of what is found in this lake. Then as we moved off a point, Jack got a hit. He said this is a good one! I thought, ok, they always feel big when you get bit. So, I went and got the net ready, like a good co-angler does. Then I

saw the fish. Holy cow, it was HUGE! I was thinking to myself "don't screw this net job up". That fish was taking drag and heading under the boat. I watched as it came near the boat, dipped the net and brought it aboard. YESSS! I think everyone on the lake heard us shouting. That was the biggest bass of the tournament. Jack caught two more small fish and I was lucky enough to get one small one. Jack caught another bass with about 10 minutes left and we culled. Drop shots and Senkos were the choice of the day on main lake points. I must say that Jack was a great boater and I learned a lot from him.

**Jack Hughes:** First I want to thank Gary Grimes for 11 excellent years as the club President and Gary Martlage for being the Tournament Director the last three years.

I was fishing with Don Worcester, and there is not a better co-angler to have in your boat. Practice day we found fish in the morning and in the afternoon used our electronics to search the Tonto end for more fish. Entering Glendale Cove, we marked a lot of fish and decided to see if they were biting and then I hooked a huge fish. We saw her once and she was positively bigger than our 6:73 lber with which we won the 5 lb pot. She was located with electronics, and hooked using a weightless Senko and MH rod with 40 lb. braid line. Even though we got her to the boat I had almost no control over the fish as it turned and ran at the boat and she cut off the 40 lb braided line on the prop. That evening we determined the fish were only hitting Senko's, spinner baits and



**6th Place Worcester & Hughes**

occasionally a drop shot so we decided we would go with that the next day.

Tournament day started slow and we had only one fish even though we were marking fish everywhere and we decided to head for Glendale Cove. Using our electronics, we detected a lot of fish and side scan showed a big fish in the trees so I circled away from the trees thinking about the fish we lost yesterday. I threw a weightless Senko at the base of the tree wondering if it was the big fish or a carp. On the fall she took the Senko and the fight was on. Don was ready with the net and after he saw the fish and it dived under the boat, Don kept telling me over and over "DON'T BREAK HIM OFF". The second time we got him to the boat Don netted him and it was all joy on the boat.

Going in to the ramp Don said let's fish we have 15 minutes. I told him I never catch fish the last 15 minutes but listening to him we fished and I caught a fish on a Senko that upgraded us another pound and a half. Like I said before, Don is a great guy to have in your boat!

### **Team Bob Jolley & Gary Senft Drop Shot Shallow For 7th Place**

Team **Jolley & Senft** weighed five bass for 11.95 pounds and took home **7th Place** honors.

**Bob Jolley & Gary Senft:** We pre-fished on Friday before the tournament and caught several fish in the main lake but none with any size. We also spent part of that day filming a couple of Roosevelt videos. You can watch



**7th Place Jolley & Senft**

those videos on Gary's web site, - **fishingwithgarysenft.com**

On tournament day we fished in the Salt and caught several fish, but unfortunately, lost a couple of nice ones. I think I lost as many fish as I caught; it was one of those days. Gary caught most of our keepers and our big fish which weighed 3.85 pounds and put us in the money. We caught our fish on drop shots, Texas rigged worms, Texas rigged Brush Hogs, top water, swim baits and spinner baits. Our fish were caught in the 5 to 16 foot depth range.

Gary was going for his third straight first place win at Roosevelt, all in a two-week span, but came up a little short at this tournament. We had a great time and it's always a lot of fun fishing with the Midweek Bass Anglers who are a great group of guys.

Thanks to the weigh-in team for another superb job and thanks for the hot dogs and chips which really hit the spot.

### **Team Martlage & Riley Work A-rigs, Drop Shots, Spinner Baits For 8th Place**

Taking home **8th Place**, Team **Gary Martlage & Ray Riley** weighed five fish for a total weight of 11.88 pounds.

**Gary Martlage:** Fishing with Ray Riley has always been on my wish lists at Midweek Bass, and it finally happened. We had three days of enjoyment on Roosevelt; talking to Ray about all his early stories growing up in Phoenix made the time go quickly. Tournament day we fished A-rigs, Drop Shot, and Spinner baits to put 30 plus bass in the boat. Ray caught his first two fish ever on the A-Rig, and I caught two bass on one cast with the same type A-rig. We fished the Salt end of the lake, concentrating on individual trees at the end of long underwater points on the west side of the lake. We were one kicker fish away from scoring big, as all our fish were clones in the 2.5lb range. Great day of catching and a greater day of making memories with my pal - "Doghouse Ray"!

**Ray Riley:** What a fun tournament.



**8th Place Martlage & Riley**

Congratulations go out to 1st Place, Neil Burns and James Clisch, for their nice bag. Also, a nice big bass (6.73) for Jack Hughes, tops for the year so far. Thanks also go out to all the volunteers who make the tournaments run smooth and efficiently.

I had the good fortune to fish with Gary Martlage and he put us on fish instantly. We were culling early and continued culling through-out the tournament. We fished areas I had never fished before, but will in the future. After our disastrous pre-fishing results, tournament day was going to be a mystery, luckily things turned around and the bite was on. A-rigs, Drop Shot, and top water were the answer. If you are the lucky co-angler who gets drawn to fish with Gary, thank your lucky stars, because you are in for a treat. Special thanks to Roger Root for his hospitality.

### **Team Grimes & Turner Win Goon Fish Prize**

**Gene Turner:** Although during the day Gary Grimes and I could only catch small bass, the GOON fishing was different. We caught a 5.50 lb Carp that was caught while using a MM-III curly tail drop shot worm and was caught back in a cove across from Windy Hill. Along with the Carp I caught a Catfish and Gary caught a Catfish and Bluegill. One Carp, Two Catfish and a Bluegill made it a good GOON FISH DAY!

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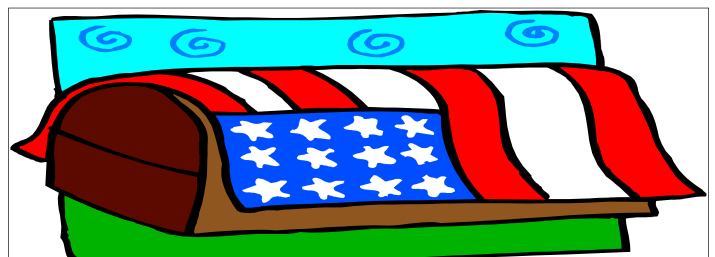
### **Weighing-In By Gary Martlage Tournament Director**

What a great turnout and fishing day for Midweek Bass! Thirty-nine boats (78 members) is right at the top of the club's participation ever! Thanks to all the weigh team members, as we had plenty of volunteers to fill in positions (missed you Alauria!) to make the event run smoothly. Jack Hughes weighed in a nice bass to contend for fish of the year. There were other nice bags brought to the scale; I do believe it was one of our better events to date.

As tournament director, I want to emphasize the importance of contacting me as soon as possible if you have issues of not being able to attend. With the increasing number of participants attending, it is important that BOATERS sign up with the intent of bringing a boat in top working order. Also, CO-ANGLERS need to commit to our cost sharing program by paying your boater the required fee to fish. It is costing more every month to operate these rigs; the least one can do is pay their boater the proper fee to fish. If you can't afford to fish, don't sign up!

Lake Pleasant is next on our schedule, with temperatures reaching 100 plus degrees by weigh-in. Please be prepared to take extra care with your catch by using ice and Hydrogen Peroxide, or a livewell additive to insure the fish survival. We will discuss this event at our next breakfast meeting, so try to attend. Get your entries in online (preferred), or mail-in as soon as possible if you plan to attend; contact me by cell or text should you need to drop out. See you all next month.

# **Memorial Day 2022**



# Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2022 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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### **TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE** Gary Martlage - Chairman

Gary Grimes, Terry Tassin, Tom Savage, Don Worcester

### **ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

Tom Savage

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

**Welcome to New  
Midweek Bass Anglers  
Since the Last Newsletter**

**Doug Davidson (CO)**  
**Bill Campbell (CO)**  
**Scott Thelander (CO)**

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



## **Midweek Bass Anglers 2022 Tournament Schedule**

<b>19 January</b>	<b>Pleasant</b>
<b>16 February</b>	<b>Bartlett</b>
<b>16 March</b>	<b>Alamo</b>
<b>13 April</b>	<b>Havasu</b>
<b>18 May</b>	<b>Roosevelt</b>
<b>15 June</b>	<b>Pleasant</b>
<b>20 July</b>	<b>Bartlett</b>
<b>17 August</b>	<b>Saguaro</b>
<b>21 September</b>	<b>Roosevelt</b>
<b>19 October</b>	<b>Alamo</b>
<b>16-17 November</b>	<b>Apache</b>

**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**

**Born in June**

**Warren Brackey**  
**James Clisch**  
**Gary Grimes**  
**Jim Guin**  
**John Hayes**  
**Tony Medina**

