



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JUNE 2021 EDITION
16 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

Twenty-six boats weathered the sweltering June heat for the Midweek Bass Anglers 6th tournament of the year. This tournament also marked the beginning of our modified summer series. We fish from safelight until 11am, and each boat has a three fish limit. The shortened hours are to minimize our exposure to the heat, while the three fish limit is designed to reduce the potential of fish mortality. You may have noticed that we appear to be starting a bit later than safe light the last few tournaments and you are correct. We have determined that it is extremely helpful to finish our pre-tournament meeting just as the eastern sky begins to show signs of sunrise. Even a little bit of light helps with both the speed and safety of the morning launch. Over the years, the majority of mishaps at our tournaments occur during the morning launch, and primarily because of the darkness. The trade-off is that we begin a few minutes past safe-light.

Lake Pleasant was a fun tournament. Each of the 26 teams presented a limit of fish for weighing, and the majority of the fish were healthy 2 lb. chunks. Congratulations to the team of Greg Prather and Mike Adamson, whose 3 fish bag of 8.91 lbs. secured the victory. Welcome to all the new members who fished with us, hope you guys enjoyed yourselves. Let us know if you have any questions about how we do things. Regarding the resuming of monthly meetings, there is still no sign of the Deer Valley Restaurant re-opening. In addition, while Arizona and more specific Phoenix seems to be relaxing

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.

restrictions in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19, it might yet be a while before any restaurant is ready to host a breakfast group of 50 people. We will continue to monitor the situation and will keep you informed. Next month we fish Lake Pleasant once again and I hope to see you out there catching even more and bigger fish than we did this tournament.



Tournament Report Lake Pleasant June 16, 2021

Another hot day in paradise! It was "a bit" warm but it was still bearable. Let's hear from our winners on how they caught their fish at Lake Pleasant this month.

Team Greg Prather & Mike Adamson Win 1st Place Team

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Greg Prather & Mike Adamson** brought to the scales the winning creel of three bass weighing 8.91 lbs.



"We Practice Catch and Release"

Greg Prather: Another tournament in the books from a well oiled weigh-in machine. Thanks to all the Board members and weigh-in crew for their selfless commitment to the club's success. It makes me proud to say I'm a member of Midweek Bass.

I had the pleasure of helping Fish and Game stock Canyon Lake with 20,000 Florida strain bass last Wednesday. It was an opportunity to get my wife and eldest grandson on the water.

As far as the tournament, I was fortunate to draw Mike Adamson again. He's a good guy and fun to fish with. I really enjoyed the day.

I pre-fished Sunday with Gary Martlage and had a good day. Caught fish on top water in the morning and switched to drop shot for the rest of the day.

On tournament day we tried top water first thing in the morning with no takers. We switched to drop shot immediately and started catching fish. Our best fish came on red Roboworms in 20 to 35 feet. We stayed in the main lake all day and managed to cull several times to increase our weight. We didn't catch a lot of fish but the ones we did catch were nice. I'm so glad we stopped fishing at 11 am. I think I would have melted had we gone to 3 pm. :)

Thanks again for another flawless event.

Mike Adamson: I always enjoy fishing with Greg and this tournament was another great time. We didn't catch a lot of fish but after a few initial dinks we were able to cull up almost every time. We started with top water early but that didn't produce any fish. Plan B was drop shot and so that's what we did the remainder of the morning. Sitting in 20 feet of water we cast out to deeper water as that's where the bigger fish were coming from. With 10 minutes left in the tournament Greg was able to cull up about a half pound and that gave us the edge. Congrats to all the other winners as it was a tight finish.

Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2021 scheduled for **Wednesday, 7 July** 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 21 July 2021**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.



1st Place Adamson & Prather

Steve Grier & Doug Moore Work Humps Finish 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Grier & Moore** weighed three bass for a total weight of 8.78 lbs. Thanks to Steve's 4.48 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Bass** honors

Doug Moore: As always, thanks to all who make these events happen - organizers, weigh-in crew, transport and Jeff Mabry swimming around trying to save fish. Not to be forgotten, congrats to Greg and Mike for their victory. I had the pleasure of drawing Steve Grier as my boater, an excellent fisherman and fine gentleman and Steve really knows Pleasant. We were able to pre-fish a couple of days and eliminated some spots. Steve already had a plan, so we went north fishing humps and Steve got two right off the bat on topwater lures. That bite died quickly and I picked up a 3rd fish on a drop shot (Desert Craw Roboworm) so we had a limit by about 6:30. After that, it was a bit of a grind picking up a fish here and there not gaining much weight. Then Steve got the 4 lber with a Carolina rig baby brush hog. I was able to pick up a 2 lber for our final upgrade a little later on that same Carolina rig. As usual a great day on the lake and I am looking forward to next month.

Steve Grier: Congrats to Greg and Mike on the win, I enjoyed the 'last bag to weigh in' drama. Good job guys! Great job by the weigh-in crew as always, especially in the heat. Shout out to Jeff Mabry and others for saving many distressed fish so they can fight another day. That's a big deal. Doug Moore and I pre-fished Monday and Tuesday spending most of our time on main lake structure, points and humps. We found fish in 20 to 35 feet and identified 5 areas to fish in the tournament; some areas with multiple spots. We started with topwater fishing over a submerged hump and caught 2 fish in about 5 minutes, one a little over 2 lbs that we ended up weighing in. That was it, we fished topwater for 30



2nd Place Moore & Grier



3rd Place Riley & Vaughan

minutes and never got another bite. We fished structure for the rest of the day in 20 - 35 feet with drop shot and Carolina rigs. We caught fish on both but more fish and better fish on the Carolina rig. The big fish came about mid-morning in 35 feet on a Carolina rig baby brush hog 'electric shad' with the tail dyed chartreuse. I had a good time fishing with Doug, he's a good fisherman and a lot of fun to hang with.

**Team Ray Riley & Floyd Vaughan
Fish Deep For 3rd Place Finish**

Team **Ray Riley & Floyd Vaughan** weighed three bass for 8.73 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Ray Riley: Congratulations go out to Greg Prather and Mike Adamson, for winning first place, with a hefty 8.91 pound bag. This was a fun tournament, and one to be enthused about. All 26 boats weighed in a 3 fish limit, in a shortened summer hours tournament, and well over 50% of the boats weighed in over 6 pounds. Needless to say Lake Pleasant is doing well and the bass were nice and healthy. Thanks to everyone on the weigh-in crew for everything they do, and all the volunteers who month after month continue to make our club tournaments possible.

Floyd Vaughan and I started fishing by some hazard markers in deep water, the graphs were showing a few fish at 40 plus feet deep, we were hoping not to have to fish that deep all day, but as it turned out, all of our weigh-in fish, were caught in the deep water. We mixed our baits up several times going between drop shot, Carolina rig and Ned rig. Seems like green Pumpkin and a red worm color worked best. We were culling fish

by 7:30 but only by ounces not pounds. Long casts and dragging slowly down hill were the ticket. Patience, Patience and more Patience was needed.

If you are lucky and get to fish with Floyd, you will be in for a treat, and if you ever raced or rode dirt bikes in the Arizona desert you will have many old memories triggered.

**Dave Brakefield & Andrew Bell
Work Main Lake Points
Take 4th Place**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **David Brakefield & Andrew Bell** weighed three bass for 8.41 pounds and took home **Fourth Place** honors.

David Brakefield: First congratulations to Greg and Mike for pulling out a tight win. Great job guys. Next, thanks to Andrew Bell for being a great partner. His knowledge of the lake put us in the right places to fish so we were able to give first, second and third place finishers a run for their money. At Andy's suggestion we fished where the fish were hanging out. We must have caught close to 30 bass between us, most of which were quality fish. I fished mostly drop shot setups but I will sometimes have a tag line as short as 2 inches and work it like a jig or even drag it like a Texas rig. Some fishermen don't like drop shot but it catches fish. I started fishing a Zoom Bruised Banana worm last month at Roosevelt and did very well. I went to Bass Pro and bought all they had on the shelf (so you don't need to go look for them). I started using them here at Pleasant and the bass were eating them up. We fished the main lake points close to deep water, 30 feet, nothing complicated. Just a note, since I live at 7000 feet altitude, fishing in very hot weather is a real pleasure for a change and I am really looking forward to doing it again next month. The weigh-in team did an awesome job; so did the board of directors and the traffic control team at the ramp and the guy's that ran the fish back to the lake. Thanks to you all for being a great club.

Membership

As of June 18, 2021 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **130** active members.



4th Place Andrew Bell & Dave Brakefield

Andrew Bell: My boater, Dave Brakefield, was able to prefish before the tournament but I had to work and fortunately he located some quality fish on Tuesday.

We were the 2nd to last boat out in the morning and to our surprise there was only one boat on the spot Dave wanted to start on and it left shortly after we started fishing next to them. We pretty much stayed around the Honeymoon/Jackass area all day just rotating from point to point. We started off throwing walking baits for about half an hour with no bites or rises or anything and decided to switch to plastics. Right away we started catching fish on drop shot with 4 inch straight tail worms. I caught a few smaller fish on a Carolina rig with a watermelon red brush hog but nothing that helped us. The biggest bass we had my partner caught off the starting point on the 2nd pass through the area. At about 9 o'clock I tossed out the idea to go across the bay to a big point that no one had been on all morning, so we picked up the trolling motor and moved and this turned out to be the best decision we made all day. Right away Dave hooked a nice 2.75 lb bass and while my partner was fighting her to the boat I noticed another bass just as big was chasing her up. After we netted that fish we caught two smaller fish on that point and decided to move to the next point and let that other big girl hopefully calm down. Just as we had hoped when we came back to that point 20 minutes later on the first cast Dave hooks a good one again and yet again there's another good one chasing her up about the same size. We tried for an hour with no luck to get her or any other big girls down there to bite so we moved over next

Tournament Statistics

Fifty-two contestants fished 6.5 hours each, bringing 78 bass to the scales for a total weight of 168.24 pounds with a 3.24 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 2.16 lbs. All but one fish were released alive back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

to the marina on a big long reef and proceeded to catch several fish with one that we had to balance beam to check but just never could upgrade what we had already.

All in all it was a great day and it was a pleasure fishing with Dave Brakefield and hanging out with all the MBA boys.

Ron Pikul & Doug Cunningham Work Main Lake Islands To Finish 5th

A three fish bag weighing 8.30 lbs was enough to earn Team **Pikul & Cunningham** the **5th Place** money.

Ron Pikul: Congrats to top 4 teams. I always enjoy fishing with Doug Cunningham. Doug and I found fish all day, working main lake islands and points. Drop shooting was the technique of choice, and the best fish came late in the morning around 10:30 am with a color change in lures.

Doug Cunningham: So I had the luck of fishing with my buddy Ron Pikul. He was actually the individual that got me into the club about 15 years ago. We were boat number 23 and knew it was going to be a short day so we decided to stay on the main lake. That was the right move. Ron had caught the first seven fish before I even got a bite. I switched to a similar color, watermelon green, and caught 3 within the hour. The bite really slowed down between 7 and 9:30am. I decided to change my bait to an oxblood red flake Robo worm. I was very glad I did when we started culling getting some nice size bass. It was funny, the last 5 minutes we decided to reel in and head to the weigh-in when I hooked into what I thought was a monster. It was about 30 yards out when it jumped and I was freaking out. I thought it was a 5 pounder for sure; it certainly fought like one. However, it was only 3lbs but what a fun fight. All in all, considering how hot it was, I probably had one of my best times fishing at Pleasant in a long time.



5th Place Pikul & Cunningham

Team Jeff Mabry & Tom Savage Use Drop Shot & C-Rig To Win 6th Place

Team **Jeff Mabry & Tom Savage** weighed three bass for 8.12 pounds and took home **6th Place**. Tom's 3.69 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors for the team.

Tom Savage: Congratulations to Greg and Mike for the win. I had the pleasure of fishing the tournament with Jeff Mabry. Jeff is a great angler and knows Lake Pleasant very well. Jeff used a drop shot, and I used a Carolina rig. The Second Big Fish of the tournament a 3.69 pounder was the first fish in the boat, and it was caught on a C rig. We had a limit by 5:30. We upgraded a few times, then spent the rest of the day throwing back fish that wouldn't help increase our weight. It was very nice to see that there was only one dead fish weighed.

Jeff Mabry: I had the pleasure of fishing with Tom Savage again this month. I believe this is the second time we were able to fish together. I haven't been out much this year, but every time I have been able to go I have been catching a couple of good fish.

I didn't prefish for this tournament, but have been fairly successful on Pleasant this time of year, so I had a game plan. I started in an area that has been typically active in the morning in the past. The goal was to try and get a good goon fish on a dipper. That didn't pan out as I was only able to catch one small white bass and a small striper. That same area has some nice structure so while there we started dragging the bottom. Our first large mouth Tom caught on a C-rig and that fish turned out to be 2nd Place Big Fish for the tournament. I nearly messed up and didn't weigh it for big fish, but the crack weigh in crew weighed it and it paid off. I think we filled our limit in that area and then moved on to other areas. We caught fish all day other than a couple of slow times including the last hour where we went extra deep and didn't catch anything. We had our 3 fish we weighed in among the first 5 fish we caught. We caught lots of fish, but just couldn't get the big bites to upgrade. Tom really showed me how well the C-rig could work on Pleasant and just kept catching fish on it all morning.

Thanks to the weigh crew for a quick weigh in. I also noticed the club is getting better at fish care. I went to the ramp to take care of fish and only had to fizz 6 bass to get them to swim off. There were only two fish that did not make it to the weigh in; not bad for Pleasant this time of year.

Team Bill Briggs & Tom Atherton Fish Worms Finish 7th Overall

In **7th Place** Team **Briggs & Atherton** weighed three bass for a total weight of 7.89 lbs.

Tom Atherton: Congratulations to the winners,



7th Place Atherton & Briggs

and thanks to the weigh-in team, and the shuttle drivers. We started out fishing points and shoreline in Humbug Cove. Bill's first fish of the day ended up being our biggest fish. We caught most of our fish drop shooting red or green worms in 14 to 20 feet of water. Definitely a very warm day but still a lot of fun.

Team Vern Ridgway & Jim Clisch Weigh-in Catfish For Goon Fish Prize

Vern Ridgway: Jim Clisch put our 3.56 lb catfish in the boat. It was caught up river off a point in 25 feet of water at about 10:00 am on a Hairs Ear Nymph, green pumpkin in color.



Goon Fish Prize - Ridgway & Clisch



Weighing-In By Gary Martlage

It sure was nice to get back in the swing of fishing, as I have been absent the last two tournaments. I still am impressed how members do not hesitate to volunteer to complete the weigh-in. A big thank you again to the regulars that are part of the team. Special thanks to Warren Brackey (white board), Floyd Vaughan (bump tank), and Rusty Murdock (transportation), who filled in to make the tournament machine work.

Lake Pleasant seemed to be a great fit for our summer tournaments. It is close to home for the majority of the club members, plus the fishing seems to have vastly improved from prior years. Our choices for summer tournaments are limited, since the golden algae has decimated some of our favorite lakes. Until the lakes improve, it is nice to know that we have a local lake to fall back on. I personally am excited to go back to Pleasant next month, as I know there is a great chance to catch that 5 plus pounder anytime!

Another thought about pairings;. I work hard to make sure that all members have a boat or a partner to fish tournaments they choose to enter. PLEASE notify me as soon as possible, if you have to back out of the contest. Also, if you enter as a boater, make sure your boat is in proper working order, and meets the standards in our club. I urge any boater that will fish as a co-angler, sign up to "fish as needed". This will give me more options after the initial pairings are released. I have used "fish as needed" boaters in the past, and it really helps me re-pair contestants, should the need arise.

I am looking forward to seeing you all next month, July 21, at Lake Pleasant.



Bass Stocking Program By Gary Martlage

On June 9th, a group of Midweek Bass volunteers took to the local lakes to help AZG&F distribute over 60,000 fingerlings of Texas strain bass in Apache, Saguaro, and Canyon lakes.

The volunteers and their lakes:

APACHE - the 3 G's (Grimes, Volpe, Martlage), Tom Savage, and Ray Riley.

SAGUARO - Don Blume, Steve Rubenstein.

CANYON - Greg Prather, Phil Brewer.

It was a very interesting event, distributing these small fingerlings at different parts of the lake. Tom and Ray, and Gary Volpe spent their time mostly up river from 3 Mile Rock to the dam. Grimes and I (Martlage) distributed our loads mid-lake, around Turtle Island. We looked for weed beds, and tuelles, hoping the little fellows would find cover to survive. All in all, over 60,000 fingerlings were released; 30K in Apache, 15K in Saguaro and Canyon. AZG&F is hoping for at least a 2% survival rate, but said studies have shown up to 10% is possible.

Thank you to all the volunteers; let's hope better days are ahead!

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

**TO DO HIS
THINKING**

**DEPENDS ON
YOU**

**WHEN HE'S
BEEN DRINKING**

**THE ONE WHO
DRIVES**

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 Pleasant - June 16, 2021



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2021 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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Gary Grimes 623-203-7436

SECRETARY

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TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Gary Martlage 602-616-1001

VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Savage 602-432-8589

TREASURER

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

Welcome to New and Returning
Midweek Bass Anglers
Since the Last Newsletter

Norm Haas (CO)
Jeff Mabry (B)
Hobby Nelson (B)
Abe Romero (B)

Please meet and welcome our new members.



Midweek Bass Anglers 2021 Tournament Schedule

Best **Wishes** and **Happy** Birthday

Born in July

Ricky Boehm
Todd Gentner
Terry Johnson
Lance Kuhler
Gary Martlage
Greg Prather
Jack Shearer



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