



**MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS
OF ARIZONA INC**

B a s s B i t e s

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JUNE 2022 EDITION

17 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



**President's
Perspective**

By Gary Grimes

The Midweek Bass Anglers sixth event of 2022 was held this month at Lake Pleasant. Thirty-three (33) boats gathered in the parking lot at 4:15 AM in anticipation of an early launch for 6 hours of competitive fishing. The weather was fairly comfortable for a mid-June day, and the water still felt relatively cool. June is the first month of our summer schedule, with shortened hours and a 3 fish limit, which help both the fish and the fishermen. Winning the event was the team of Lance Kuhler and Tom Savage, with a 3 fish weight of 8.57 lbs. Well done boys. Also, congrats to Jeff Stone on the big fish of the tournament, with a weight of 4.95 lbs. Oh, so close.

For years Lake Pleasant was the pariah on the schedule, limits were tough and small fish were common, but the last couple of years the lake has been consistently producing better bags of fish. Next month we visit Bartlett Lake, which has also seen an up tick in weights; I certainly hope it proves true for Midweek. I really appreciate all the guys who helped during

the tournament. Thanks to the guys on the weigh-in team, plus all the guys who pitch-in and help with both set-up and tear-down, your help is greatly appreciated, especially on the hot summer days. Thanks again for your participation and I look forward to seeing all at Bartlett next month.



**Tournament Report
Lake Pleasant
June 15, 2022**

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

**Team Lance Kuhler & Tom Savage
Take Win At Lake Pleasant**

Taking home **1st Place Overall**, Team **Kuhler & Savage** brought to the scales the winning creel of three bass weighing 8.57 lbs. Thanks to

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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.

Happy Independence Day



"We Practice Catch and Release"

Lance's 4.42 lb. bass the team also took home the **2nd Place Big Bass** honors.

Tom Savage: I don't think we could have had better weather for a tournament in the middle of June. I'm going to let my partner, Lance Kuhler, talk about how we caught our fish. I just want to say a few things about Lance. If there's someone out there that can't have a good time fishing with Lance, I don't want to know him. Lance put a lot of time and effort into this tournament, came up with a plan, stuck to it, and it paid off. Well done Lance! I look forward to fishing with you again.

Lance Kuhler: As I was driving to the lake on Wednesday morning, I had this overwhelming feeling of gratefulness. I was thinking about how much I enjoy the tournaments and how lucky I was to join this club and meet so many great people. So, thank you to all the guys that make this club work and thanks to new guys that have volunteered their time to keep it going in the future. One of these guys was my partner for this tournament, Tom Savage. He was the first guy to welcome me to the club and I had been hoping I would get to fish with him. We made the best of it.

We pre-fished Friday and caught a few fish but no big ones. I was confident Tom could catch our limit so that I could focus on catching one big one. This was our plan. I had a bunch of places that I wanted to fish but I had no early



1st Place Lance Kuhler & Tom Savage

morning bite fish and certainly didn't have a top water bite. We decided to hit the face of the dam really quickly and try to pick up a cheap fish and then go to Tom's "early" fish. We got a follower at the dam but no bites and set off for the point by the intake towers. It was occupied. We motored to Tom's spot and pulled into an area at the mouth of Coles Bay. We weren't there for more than 5 minutes and Tom got his first fish on the dropshot. I was fishing big jigs, a 12" Texas Rigged worm and an 8" Robo Fat Worm on a heavier drop shot rig. I only expected to get bit once or twice all day. Tom had a limit in the boat before sun-up. This was a huge pressure reliever because it freed me up to stay with our plan; Tom for the numbers and Lance for the weight. We fished a bunch of locations and Tom just kept catching fish, fizzing fish and I kept casting. Tom was steadily upgrading our fish and we were at about 5 ¾lbs. We thought 9lbs would win. I finally got bit and added a 2lb 3oz fish. Not the big one we needed but still an upgrade. We fished 1702 cove and got bit some but no upgrades.

With one hour left we headed for our last spot, the one that was occupied earlier in the morning. I always catch a fish here and we needed a good one. I stopped the boat and Tom was re-tying from our last stop. I was casting the huge drop shot Fat Worm as I was putting the trolling motor down. I think the boat was still moving when I got bit and told Tom to get the net. I knew it was a bigger fish because I

Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 July** 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 Bartlett** on **20 July 2022**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.

set the hook and the fish didn't even move. A minute or so later (Tom was still tangled up in the line he was re-tying) we had the 4 1/2lb kicker in the boat. We were pretty sure we were in contention for the win. We made a plan and we stuck with it -- all day. Tom caught 8 or 9 fish and I caught 2. All were caught on drop shot and mostly in the 20 to 25 ft range. I fought the urge to downsize all day watching Tom catch fish. I'm sure glad I didn't.

Team Mackintosh & Adamson Fish Drop Shot Rigs For 2nd Place Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Charles Mackintosh & Mike Adamson** weighed three bass for a total weight of 8.15lbs.

Charles Mackintosh: Congratulations to Lance and Tom on their win! Thanks to the crew for another smoothly executed tournament. I was fortunate to be paired for a 2nd time with my friend Mike Adamson. Based on our practice we decided to focus on cuts and points with deep water. Our rod selection was downsized to just drop shot and top water, though the top water rods could have been left at home. I started out cold and dumped a good one but Mike started out hot putting a 4.18 pounder in the boat. We caught a fair number of fish throughout the day but at the end we had a big, a small, and a puny fish in the livewell. Having spent the day in the north end of the lake we headed back to the ramp but had time for one last shot at a nearby cove. With about a minute to spare, Mike said "we need an upgrade now" just as I felt the bite and we were able to replace puny with a medium. Thanks to the MBA club for another fun day on the water.

Mike Adamson: I had the pleasure of fishing with Charles this year at Alamo so we knew we would make a good team and catch fish. The question was could we catch the big ones needed. We had a plan to fish the cuts in the banks, keeping the boat in 30 foot plus depth and throwing in towards the bank. Almost all of the fish were caught deep on drop shot with different colored worms. We lost the first big fish but were able to land our 4.18 next



2nd Place Mackintosh & Adamson

which put us half way to our total weight. We kept moving to different cuts in Humbug and were able to get our limit. Our main concern was not being able to cull our littlest fish. On Charles' last cast, he hooked a 2 plus in Honeymoon Cove and we were able to finally cull out our little fish. It was a great day on the water.

Jeff Stone & Carlo Giunta Win 3rd Place With Finesse

Team **Stone & Giunta** weighed three bass for 8.08 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors. Thanks to Jeff's 4.95 lb. bass the team also took home the **1st Place Big Bass** honors.

Carlo Giunta: Congratulations to the winners. This event was very close between the top three teams. Another job well done by the tournament crew. Thanks to my boater Jeff Stone for putting us on fish. I am still not familiar with the lakes here but I believe we started on the north end of the lake where I caught a few on Ned rigs and drop shots. I will let Jeff talk about his big fish and more.

Tournament Statistics

(Three fish limit) Sixty-six contestants fished 6 hours each, bringing 90 bass to the scales for a total weight of 169.74 pounds with a 2.57 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.89 lbs. All fish were released alive back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



3rd Place Stone & Giunta

Jeff Stone: It was a tough day at Pleasant. First, I'd like to congratulate 1st Place winners Lance and Tom, fine job gentlemen, and also to 2nd Place finishers Charles and Mike.

So, after pre-fishing on Monday and talking to a few of the other club members it appeared that it was going to be tough fishing for Carlo Giunta and I on tournament day. So, I told myself I need another game plan for Wednesday.

On tournament day we headed due north up the river to try to find some stained water. We started out in a cove with me fishing a finesse rod; after the fourth cast I hit my first fish. I now felt a little more confident for where I chose to fish. Working the closest bank, I threw my worm in between two trees and bam got hit again. I told Carlo "Get the net, this one feels good." Working the fish in to the boat it gave a big splash and we see it and hope it didn't get off the hook. Luckily enough I worked it right into the net. Carlo was yelling "SHE'S A MONSTER", (4.95 lbs.). We spent most of the morning in that cove just using a finesse worm trying to add weight. We culled out one small bass with a 2 plus pounder, but we just couldn't get rid of the small guy. We kept on catching 1.25 lb clones.

I had a great time fishing with Carlo and we gave each other 'grief' all day. I still can't believe I let a New Yorker wearing a Dallas Cowboys shirt on my boat, but he paid me so I guess I had to do it. It was great day fishing with him. See you all at Bartlett in July.



4th Place James Neinast & Ron Pikul

Team Ron Pikul & James Neinast Work DS Rigs Take 4th Place

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Pikul & Neinast** weighed three fish for a total weight of 7.72 pounds.

Ron Pikul: Congrats to winners. James Neinast and I agreed it's a usual summer deep water pattern in a crystal-clear lake and we decided to work main lake humps. Not a lot of fish were caught but the quality was good.

We attempted early to try a reaction bite since we saw some top water activity but soon changed to finesse fishing. We drop shotted the rest of the day with the bite being almost undetectable; just the unusual pressure.

Fortunately, we grabbed a nice fish 30 minutes before tourney end. I really enjoyed fishing with James; he's a great co-angler and I enjoyed fishing with him.

Team Gary Grimes & Joe Matt Win 5th Place On DS And Carolina Rigs

A three fish bag weighing 7.47 lbs was enough to earn Team **Grimes & Matt** the **5th Place** money.

Joe Matt: First off thanks to all the volunteers and everyone who made the tournament happen. Special thanks to my partner Gary Grimes for a great day. We started out slow in the morning picking up three dinks. Then we hit a lull for a few hours. Soon Gary put us back on a couple of fish. All were taken

either on drop shot or Carolina rig.

Gary Grimes: Joe Matt and I fished Lake Pleasant together. We only managed to prefish for 4 hours on the Tuesday before the event. We started on the islands leading into Humbug, then we proceeded into Humbug. We caught a few small fish, then decided to move. We moved and fished probably a dozen times, with absolutely no luck. With an hour to go, we moved up by the dam to an area I had fished in years past. I noticed a few marks on the graph at 30 feet, so, we decided to give it a whirl. Joe's first cast, boom, a two pounder. My first cast was a four pounder. My 3rd cast was a 1.5 lber. Joe was drop-shotting, I was throwing a C-rig. Those three fish became the fish we presented at weigh in.

Team Vaughan & Turner Fish Main Lake For 6th Place

Team **Floyd Vaughan & Gene Turner** weighed three bass for 7.02 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

Floyd Vaughan & Gene Turner: With most of the boaters headed north towards Humbug and Cole Cove, we made the decision to start at a point around Jackass Cove, where on a previous day, I had caught fish. It was a good plan as we caught fish drop shotting with darker colored worms.

As it began to get hotter, we left that area and worked some humps between Jackass and the Dam to no avail. With less than an hour to

go, we moved to some humps just west of the Marina. here is where Floyd, using a Carolina rig with a Craw, caught the biggest fish of the day for us.

There is of course more to the story as the net got caught in a fishing pole and Floyd using his "Superior" fishing skills landed it without a net. Although a shorter day of fishing, it was enjoyable and there was enough of a breeze to keep it a little cooler.

We also want to thank all of the volunteers for the smooth weigh-in and compliment the Officers and Board for all their hard work to make Midweek Bass Anglers the great organization that it is.

Team Allen Wacker & David Sapyta 7th Place

Team **Wacker & Sapyta** weighed three bass for 6.97 pounds and took home **7th Place** honors.

David Sapyta: Allen Wacker and I fished with Carolina rigs and drop shots all day. I caught mine on ox blood worms. Thanks weigh-in crew great job.

Team Alauria & Thiel Work Aqua Fria River For 8th Place

Taking home **8th Place**, Team **Tom Alauria & Dennis Thiel** weighed three fish for a total weight of 6.85 pounds. They also won the Goon Fish prize for their 3.28 lb Catfish.

Dennis Thiel: When I first joined the club



6h Place Turner & Vaughan



7th Place Sapyta & Wacker

in 2014 one of the first tournaments I fished was Lake Bartlett as a co-angler and I had the pleasure of drawing Tom Alauria. Fast forward 8 years later and I was lucky enough to draw Tom again.

Tom and I pre-fished Wednesday the 8th and hit several areas near the mouth of the Aqua Fria River that Tom has traditionally caught fish. It was a good day and we tried multiple techniques but the majority of our fish were caught early and on drop shot. So, we felt good that this pattern would hold up and since most of our fish were pretty good size, we would concentrate on the best areas with drop shot on the day of the tournament.

Tournament day we were boat-2 and got to our spot nice and early. Tom had 2 fish right off the bat - over 2 lbs. each. Soon after, Tom hooked another nice fish but unfortunately it made a big run under the boat and came loose. Four hours later we still had two fish in the live well. Tom razed me a little bit about not being able to catch fish on drop shot. I jokingly stated I was waiting for a bigger fish. It was a few minutes later and I yelled get the net! I had indeed landed our biggest fish and completed our 3 fish limit.

We fished a little shallower in the morning and moved out to 20 to 25 feet depth later in the day. We were in 25 feet of water when Tom was pulling on his line thinking at first, he was hung on a tree or the bottom. As it started to come up, he said "I think I have a fish." I grabbed the net and looked over the side and sure enough I saw in the depths one ugly



8th Place Dennis Thiel

catfish. I high-fived Tom and exclaimed that we may not place but at least we have a shot at Goon Fish. Well by the time the dust settled we had indeed snuck into 8th place and our goon fish held up. What a fun day! Big shout out to the weigh-in team for getting everyone in and out on a hot June day.

Tom Alauria: I want to thank the board for putting on a very pleasant tournament. No pun intended. I had a great time fishing with Dennis Thiel. We did pre-fish the previous week and I showed him a cove near the 1702 sign where I was sure we could catch quality fish. We decided to go there first and we spent most of the tournament there. We put two 2 lb. fish in the boat right away. We didn't catch a lot of fish but the ones we boated were all 2 plus pounders. The catfish was a total surprise because I thought that I was hung up. I started to hand line it and I realized that I had a fish, not a tree.



Weighing-In
By Gary Martlage
Tournament Director

Half way through our 2022 tournaments, it looks like a barn burner is brewing for Angler of the Year (AOY) honors. One thing about our events this year is that we have a lot of different winners. Being AOY takes a consistent top 10 finish throughout the year. Since we do have two throw-outs for points, the race is a lot tighter than it looks. Competition in the club is still friendly, but should heat up in the coming months.

Speaking of heat (what a Segway!) PLEASE if you are not weighing fish at the end of the tournament, SEND ME A TEXT message that you have vacated the area, or left early. I get nervous when the weigh team notifies me that a few boaters haven't checked-in. A simple text to my cell phone should solve the problem, and I won't have to wait to pop a cold one after the scales close. Again, thanks to the weigh team for all you do. Thanks to the volunteers that shuttle back and forth to the lake and help put away the equipment after the event. Also, well done to all you competitors that make my job as easy as can be.

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Roosevelt- May 18, 2022



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

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Tom Savage

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.



Midweek Bass Anglers 2022 Tournament Schedule

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday
Born in July

- Rickey Boehm
- Bill Campbell
- Todd Gentner
- Terry Johnson
- Lance Kuhler
- Keith Lawrence
- Gary Martlage
- Greg Prather
- Jack Shearer



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|-----------------------|------------------|
| 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 |