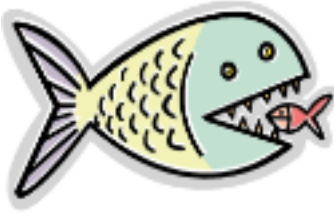


# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS Of Arizona



# Bass Bites



FISHING WEDNESDAY - NOT WEEKENDS!

May 2023 EDITION

18 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

Club Established January 27, 2005

EDITOR: GREG UTTON



## President's Perspective

By Floyd Vaughan

ALGIE...SMALGIE!

Welcome to Bartlett Lake! Ha! Yes, another June tournament took place on Bartlett Lake. Algae seemed to be the topic, but we all got on the lake and caught limits. The weather was nice, sunny with a slight breeze in the late morning.

First, congratulations to Mitch Vitkovich & Joe Denson for their victory and big fish of 3.95 pounds! Good job boys!

Just wanted to say thanks to all the members for their participation and good sportsmanship.

I look forward to the next club meeting at Denny's on July 5th.

Looks like Pleasant is up for next month. Hope to see everybody there!



## Editor's Comments

I want to thank all the winners for getting their inputs to me as quickly as you did. It really helps.

[Click here for the tournament photos.](#)

Here are a couple of ways to keep fish alive longer when the weather get hotter from Gary Senft.

1 Freeze a few pop bottles and add one to your live well every hour of the tournament.

2. Buy a bottle of hydrogen peroxide and put some in a small spray bottle. Add a few sprays to the water every half hour to keep your fish alive longer. Or use the lid of the bottle and add one of those each hour to your live well. These tips will keep your fish alive better in the tournaments.

## 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”**

# ANGLER'S REPORTS

**1ST PLACE (8.08#)**

**AND 1ST BIG FISH (3.95#)**

## MITCH VITKOVICH AND JOE DENSON

**Mitch Vitkovich:** This is why I like fishing Midweek. It was a fun day for me. Not because winning the tournament but because the new people I meet and had a chance to get to know.

I went up Tuesday to spend the night, so I didn't have to get up so early and to get a good night rest. If I would have stayed at home, I would have been out in the pit, pouring baits and over thinking this tournament. I'm sure you all know what I'm talking about.

Anyways when I got to the lake, I thought there would be other guys doing the same as me but the only person to show up was Paul Padrnos. Great meeting you Paul. We started talking fishing and the next thing I know it's 10:00pm and time for bed. Beautiful sleeping weather, nice and cool. Seems like I barely closed my eyes, and my partner Joe Denson was there waking me up. Joe and I talked a little, got his stuff loaded in the boat and got on the water.



We hit our first spot where we both started with

top water baits. Even though in my three days of pre-fish not catching top water bass I still had to try. Joe was the first one to smarten up and he switched to a J-RIG where he put our first two bass in the boat. It was in this cove where we encountered our first grass patch. I told Joe these little grass patches would hold better fish.

By this time, I had switched to a BUG-I-JIG. ½ ounce green pumpkin, chartreuse eyes with a compact trailer. First cast to the grass and I landed my first fish. Joe and I talked and we both said that whatever has caused it, the bite has changed. Maybe because the lake had dropped, moon phase. We didn't know, but something was different.

Our second stop was a place in the last two weeks where I caught a least a hundred fish, but guess what, yes, your right not one bite. Next was Joe's spot where he had been catching a bunch, yes, again your right not one bite. Again, we talked and decided we would hit the upper end of the Yellow Cliffs. I told Joe, look at that grass patch in front of us. There should be a good one in there. I had first cast at it and BUG-I-JIG went in and two-pound bass came out with a jig in his mouth. Finally, we have three fish in the boat with one being over two pounds. From there we just started fishing points and grass. We hit another point over in Alder cove and caught another two-pound bass. At this point we had three two-pound bass in the LiveWell but we looked at each other and said we need a KICKER.

Ten o'clock and I say to Joe, I have one more spot I would like to try. First cast I get hit and miss it. Second cast I get hit again and the fish breaks me off. After a few choice words and a pep talk from Joe I tied another BUG-I-JIG on and we make our way towards the back of the cove where there is another big grass patch waiting. Again, I had first cast and again BUG-I-JIG goes in and our big fish of the day brings it out. Joe nets it and we start whopping and hollering. At that point we thought we had a chance to win.

We caught nineteen bass on the day on Joe's J-RIG and my BUG-I-JIGS. Fishing with Joe was awesome. He is very knowledgeable on what he is doing and for what he has gone through with his hand I totally understand. I went through the same thing. We both had our right hand injured five years ago. It took nine surgeries to get him healed. It took three surgeries to get me healed. Joe, kudos to you for making it back. It amazes me to meet someone for the first time and

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

find out you have something in common.

Also, CONGRATULATIONS to all the other winners.

**Joe Denson:** I would like to start out by saying I really enjoy fishing midweek. The people are all great.

I met up with my partner Mitch and we really hit it off. My partner Mitch wanted to topwater on our first spot so that's what we did, it was unsuccessful so we switched over to rubber. He used a Carolina brush hog and I used a J Rig. I caught two fish on my J-Rig on our first spot and Mitch caught one.

So we moved to our second spot, Rattlesnake Point and did not catch anything there. We headed to our third spot down on Cats Bay and didn't catch anything there. Then we went to Alder Creek and caught a few there. On our final stop with 20 minutes to go, Mitch caught almost a 4-pounder on his jig green pumpkin. That would be our day.

**2ND PLACE (7.75 #)**

**AND 2ND BIG FISH (3.22#)**

**JOHN HILLAND AND CARLO GIUNTA**

**Carlo Giunta:** Thanks to all involved in getting the tournament together and running smoothly. Had one of my best days so far in a year and a half in the club thanks to my boater John Hilland who put us on fish just about every spot we fished. Thanks John and congratulations to all the winners.



**John Hilland:** Another great Midweek tournament in the books, thanks to all the guys who keep it running smooth. Congrats to Mitch and Joe on a great 3 fish bag, nice job boys!

I had the absolute pleasure of fishing with Carlo Giunta this month. We headed out on Tuesday to pre-fish with not to much of a clue on what to do. I picked a bank and we started with top water (buzz bait and whopper plover). We had a few blow ups and a couple of small fish for our efforts. The rest of the day we jumped around to different spots throwing jigs, ned rigs and other plastics with a little success. Made a plan for Wednesday and got off the lake around noon.

Tournament day we headed to the same bank we had the top water bite and threw the same stuff. Within a few cast Carlo was calling for the net with a nice little keeper. We continued down the bank and into a little cut. I had a roll on my buzz bait and hooked up with our best fish of the day, 3.22 pounds. As soon as the sun came over the hill the top water bite was gone but we had a limit in the live well and felt pretty good.

We spent the rest of the day hopping around the lake from the river to the dam, we caught fish at about every stop, just no big ones to help what we had. With about an hour left we were throwing around some boulders and Carlo caught our next good fish, 2.75 pounds on a hula grub. We caught most of our fish on steep banks in about 15-25 feet on jigs, hula grubs and ned rigs. I had blast giving my crazy New Yorker co-angler a hard time and just cutting up. Look forward to fishing with him again.

On a side note, thanks to the board for having cold water for the anglers at the weigh in. Hope to see everyone next month.

**3RD PLACE (6.50#)**

**ROGER WILLIAMS (Solo)**

**Roger Williams:** Let me start by saying my co-angler was the worst. Not only did he stiff me on the gas money, but he didn't net any of my fish! Seriously though, Han Solo and I had a good time.

I hadn't been to Bartlett in a while, but last year I had good luck near Yellow cliffs with cranks and top-water, so that is where I started. After almost 2 hours without even a bump, I dug into the rod locker and grabbed my drop-shot rod and finally caught a one pounder. I kept switching back to cranks and jerk baits, but

drops-hot was the only thing I got bit on. I moved into the river where I caught my big fish using a drop-shot against a cliff.

The river was slow, however, so I moved back to the main lake. I kept covering shoreline with cranks and throwing a drops-shot when I had good marks on the Lowrance. At 10.45am, I still had two small fish along with the 3.17 pounder in the live wells. I was on the main lake and decided I needed a quick change.

I changed to a craw color crank and started working a rocky point. Almost immediately I got hooked up, but it was smaller than what I already had. It's nearly 11am and I am trying to stay calm. I continued throwing the crank and caught 3 more fish, culling both of the small fish. It was now 11:05am and I rushed back to the boat ramp. I kicked myself for not switching cranks earlier as I noticed tons of craw pieces in my live well during weigh in. A good and challenging day. Covering a lot of water was a big key to my success.

#### 4TH PLACE (6.36#)

#### TOM ALAURIA AND ALLEN WACKER

**Tom Alauria:** When I heard that Joe and Mitch got paired I suspected that would be the team to beat and I wasn't wrong. Congratulations guys.

Allen and I were at Bartlett 3 days before the tournament and we found a great morning bite. We found that most of the better fish were off points in 15 to 20 ft. and they were hitting jigs.



We started in the No Wake area across from the north ramp and our plan was to put 3 fish in the well right away and then head for the river. We culled 3 times before we left and the two biggest fish were 1.84lbs. When we got to the river there were two

boats there. We fished the edge of the point and Allen hooks one over 3lbs. All of our fish came on jigs, Carolina rigs and watermelon lizards.

Allen is a ball to fish with and we had a great time.

#### 5TH PLACE (6.12#)

#### RAYMOND BATES AND SPENCER HAND

**Spencer Hand:** Ray and I made a long run up river first thing in the morning. I'm still amazed at how far we could go. No algae bloom where we went so I was hopeful.

Ray got our big fish and I hooked one that was a good cull. Ray hooked most of his on jigs, and I got mine on a White Spinnerbait.

Ray is a great guy and great fisherman. His Phoenix boat was awesome. Happy to finally place in the top 5.

#### 6TH PLACE (5.77#)

#### STEVE GRIER AND DOUG MOORE

**Doug Moore:** I had the good fortune to draw Steve Grier as my boater. Always a learning experience with Steve, and a great day on the water. I was not able to pre-fish but Steve did and had a plan. We started on a point near the no wake buoys in the river end and began catching fish immediately. I was throwing a 4" craw on a jig head and Steve used a small jig. Our 4th fish turned out to be our biggest of the day, which Steve got on that jig. We moved back to the main lake and fished various points and humps but only managed one more upgrade as we continually hooked up. Just couldn't find that kicker. I caught fish on the craw (purple w/red flake), drop shot and a big jig - bigger bait, bigger fish, right? Not so much as Steve out fished me all day with that small jig.



As always, a big shout out to all who help make things run so smoothly and congrats to Mitch and Joe on their win.

**Steve Grier:** Congratulations to Mitch and Joe, that was a great bag! Shout out to the weigh-in and photography crew for a great job, a very smooth weigh-in.

In practice on Monday, we found a spot in the river where there was a quantity of fish and where we got a couple good bites. We started there first thing and had a limit in 10 minutes. We were able to cull a couple and at 5:30 we had the limit that we ended up with at weighing-in. The three pound fish that was there on Monday didn't cooperate on Wednesday. We spent the rest of the day hitting areas all over the lake looking for that one better bite but never found it. We caught 25-30 fish on the day. All our fish came on drop shot and jigs in 20ft of water.

Doug is a good fisherman and a pleasure to be on the boat with. We had a really good time, looking forward to doing it again!

### 7TH PLACE (5.65#)

### VERN RIDGWAY AND JAMES CLISCH

Congratulations to the winners and hats off to the weigh crew for another outstanding job, and the administration folks as well.



We fished the flats for a couple of fish, yellow cliffs for a couple more and just ran here and there picking up fish; The bite was great with lots of clone fish weighing about a pound and a half, but none with "shoulders".

We threw jigs, Texas rigs, crank baits and top water. I'm guessing we caught about 50 or more fish.

A great day fishing with the fine gentleman James Clisch; Bass wishes to you all!

## 2023 Board of Directors & Committee Chairman

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## 2023 Tournament Schedule

Jan 18	Lake Pleasant
Feb 15	Bartlett Lake
Mar 15	Havasu
Apr 19	Alamo
May 17	Roosevelt Lake
Jun 21*	Bartlett (3 fish limit)
Jul 19**	Pleasant (3 fish limit)
Aug 16**	Bartlett (3 fish limit)
Sep 20	Roosevelt
Oct 18	Alamo
Nov 14-15	Apache or Roosevelt

\* SL to 2pm.

\*\*SL to 11am

## NEW MEMBERS

**Bob Woodruff**

