



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JULY 2016

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



The Midweek Bass Anglers fielded 29 boats at Saguaro Lake for their July tournament, fishing from safelight until 11 AM. Without question, this lake has the most difficult launch ramp when it is dark, but once again we put all boats in the water without any problems. We received a bit of a reprieve from the usually hot, muggy, July weather, in the form of a wonderful blanket of clouds that sheltered the anglers until about 10 AM, and then it got hot. The fishing was tough for most and the team of Grimes/Brackey barely edged the team of Alauria/Savage for a victory, with a winning weight of 14.11 lbs.

The guys on the weigh-in team did a great job as usual,

Monthly Breakfast Meeting

Deer Valley Airport
Restaurant

702 W. Deer Valley Rd
Phoenix, AZ

1st Wednesday of Each
Month 8:00 A.M.

weighing 29 bags of bass in remarkable time. Thanks to Sean Ballard, Gary Martlage, Jack Hughes, Tom Savage, George Cobasky, Terry Tassin, and John Hawkins for their hard work in the heat. I am sure I speak for all the club members in saying Thank You for all you guys do. I also want to recognize Jack Hughes who was alert enough to notice Terry Tassin suffering heat exhaustion, and caring enough to make sure the proper attention was given. Thanks also to all the guys who stayed around to help, to those who offered their assistance to quickly bring his body temperature down. A special note of thanks goes to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department for also offering aid. You guys are the best.

Next month's tournament will be held at Bartlett Lake, and once again summertime hours will be in effect, which is safelight until 11 AM. Roosevelt Lake is in September, and October once again brings us back to Apache Lake for a day-and-a-half tournament, complete with a Tuesday night barbeque at the lake. Hope to see you on the water and/or at our August 3rd meeting.



Lake Saguaro Report

July 20, 2016
By Terry Tassin

Team Gary Grimes And Warren Brackey Fish Close And Win 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place** Team **Gary Grimes & Warren Brackey** weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 14.11 lbs. Thanks to **Warren Brackey**, one of those five bass weighed 4.76 lbs which was good enough to also earn the team the prize for **2nd Place Big Bass**.

Gary Grimes: Warren Brackey, fishing only his second club

U.S. Coast Guard Established 1790



"We Practice Catch and Release"



**1st Place
Warren Brackey & Gary Grimes**

tournament and I spent the entirety of the tournament fishing in Saguaro's main lake. I believe every fish we caught came on drop shot, and they certainly liked his color (hologram shad) better than mine, as he put most of the fish in the boat. We found all of our fish in the grass, which made for slow, methodical fishing as

we slowly pulled our baits through the deep grass, gently tugging the bait whenever it would hang up (this is usually when we would get bit). Warren was great to fish with, and pretty lethal with a drop shot.

Warren Brackey: So how does someone fishing Saguaro Lake for the first time have a snowball's chance of doing well? A lot of fishing luck involved no doubt. But, the main reason was having the good fortune to be partnered with a knowledgeable, persistent and accomplished angler like Gary Grimes.

Gary and I took the time to pre-fish the week before and the week of the tournament. That extra time on the water was well spent and a big boost to my confidence. Gary was open to suggestions as we discussed our strategy on the water just before the start. We decided to fish near the buoy line around the boat launches, fishing in the grass or along the edges in 20-30 feet with drop-shot, jigs or Texas rigs.

Gary had a good fish throw his jig and had several bites on a skirted Texas rig worm, but no fish. Drop-shotting darker colored Robo Worms worked best. Gary caught two, 2 plus pound fish, pretty quickly, and then I caught two smaller fish. All my fish bit on a 4" Hologram Shad Robo Worm. We had our limit by 7:30 and culled three fish by 8:45 to improve to around 11.5 pounds! We then made a run up lake to search for bigger fish.

An hour or so later, Gary had caught one smaller fish and decided we should go back where we started. Around 10:15 in the buoy line off Ramp One we found our big fish, a beautiful 4.76 pounder bit my line! What a thrill, just an amazing way to finish with high fives and fist pumps to follow.

Thanks again Gary, it was a genuine pleasure to fish with you, hope we have a chance to do it again someday.

Team Alauria & Savage Fish The Snags For 2nd Overall Finish

In **Second Place** the team of **Tom Alauria & Tom Savage** weighed five bass for a total weight of 14.07 lbs.

Tom Alauria: I would like to start out by congratulating Gary and Warren. You guys had a good day. Tom Savage and I also had a good day except for the one dead fish we weighed,. We tried everything we could think of to try to keep that fish alive but no luck.

We were able to pre-fish on Monday and found our fish deep. On tournament day we went back to those spots. We fished along the grass line near the Snags and again found the fish in 20 to 25 feet of water. All of our fish came on Carolina rigs with Chigger Craws. At this point I have to hand it to Tom Savage, he had the magic hands. He was able to catch a majority of the fish even though we were using the same bait and same technique.

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 3 August** 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). We hope you will come early and have breakfast together.

The next club point tournament will be at **Lake Bartlett** on **17 August 2016**. Club launch headquarters, weigh-in location, and tournament hours will be announced.



**2nd Place
Tom Alauria & Tom Savage**

Tom Savage: Well I think we got lucky for a tournament in July. With the cloud cover and light breeze it was almost pleasant. But with our summer heat it's very important to stay hydrated and not over exert yourself. Terry I'm so glad you're OK.

Now, for the fishing report I first want say congratulations to Gary Grimes and Warren Brackey for their first place win. We all know it was a tough day on the lake. Bites were hard to come by.

Tournament Statistics

Fifty-eight men fished 6 hours each, bringing 104 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 184.60 pounds with a 3.18 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.78 lbs. All but three fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

The Saguaro tournament was a fun time for me. Monday before the tournament I got to pre-fish with my boater Tom Alauria and Johnny Hawkins. These are two of the best anglers I know. We had a lot of fun and caught some really nice fish. At the end of the day Tom had a plan for tournament day. We fished Carolina rigs on the edge of grass in 15 - 25 feet of water. We stuck with the plan even when the bite would shut down. It paid off. Thanks Tom for a great day on the water.

Team Jeff Mason & Rick Brown Limit Early And Take 3rd Place Overall

Team **Jeff Mason** and **Rick Brown** weighed five bass for 13.68 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Jeff Mason: Congrats to Gary and Warren for the win, good work guys. I was the lucky benefactor of a CLINIC put on by my partner Rick Brown. It is easy to see why Rick was Angler of the Year for the club last year. Rick got us started with our big fish of the day, a 3.99 beauty, caught behind Ship Rock on his Carolina Rig. Rick had our limit by 7:30 AM, including one 3 pounder with 3 pounds of grass attached to it!

Things slowed down until just before 11:00 AM when we returned to the ramp for the last 20 minutes of the tournament. Rick managed to cull two 1 1/2 pounders with two 2 1/2 pounders on his C-Rig. I threw my drop shot and

caught a few, but Rick ended up catching all of our keepers. Talk about the Luck of the draw!



**3rd Place
Rick Brown & Jeff Mason**

Rick Brown: I was very happy when I found out that I was going to be fishing with Jeff Mason again. Jeff spends his time on the water pre-fishing and always puts me on the fish.



The first spot we went to produced a nice 4 pounder. We had a decent limit pretty early then we couldn't get bit for a couple hours. At about 10:45 we moved to the launch area to finish up the tournament. There were several other boats with the same plan fishing the area. This time it paid off for us to be in the second flight. It was 11:05 when I caught a 2.5 pounder which replaced a 1 pounder, then a of couple casts later I caught another fish with the same result. I caught all of my fish on a Carolina rigged craw and most of them came out of the grass. This was back-to-back tournaments with Jeff and I fishing together, and it is always a pleasure. Thanks Jeff.

Team Olivier & Campbell 4th Place Overall Finish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Scott Olivier & Kyle Campbell** weighed five fish for a total weight of 11.92 lbs



**4th Place
Kyle Campbell & Scott Olivier**

Scott Olivier: No real secret to what Kyle Campbell and I did. We were the second to last boat out for the day so we just drove up the river until we found spots that were open and fished them. We tried to concentrate on steep rocky banks around 20 to 30 feet of water. We caught all of our fish on drop shot with orange crusher Robo Worms with our two biggest coming in about a foot of water right at the top of a steep rock bank. I really enjoyed fishing with Kyle and hope to draw him again.

Team Vern Ridgway & Bob Jolley Avoid The Crowd And Take 5th Place

A five fish limit weighing 10.34 lbs was enough to earn **Vern Ridgway & Bob Jolley** the **5th Place** money.

Vern Ridgway: My draw partner was Bob Jolly - a very good partner to have on the boat. We had a plan to work reaction fish but caught only one, by Bob of course. We then moved to where we had seen many fish on the sonar screen two days before, but so did a lot of other fisherman – crowded is not the word for the number of boats on “our” spot. Again Bob caught a good one on a drop shot in about 15 - 20 feet of water. I then put a "lure size" bass in the boat for number 3.

We moved again and again without a strike, as a last ditch effort we moved into the canyon and caught one more



**5th Place
Bob Jolley & Vern Ridgway**

good one on a worm and at that point we were pushing the clock and decided to call it a day. Bob is a great guy and knows how to use the stick.

Bob Jolley: Vern and I pre-fished on Monday and caught eight or nine fish with the biggest being only about two pounds. They were caught on a drop shot, crank bait, jerkbait and a Texas rigged worm. We couldn't develop a pattern so we knew it would be potluck on Wednesday but we didn't realize how tough it was going to be on tournament day.

Since we were the 26th boat to start the tournament we decided to stop on the humps just before the narrows. We threw a little of everything without any luck and then started to work our way up the narrows and finally managed a two pounder on a swim bait. We then headed for the main lake and didn't catch another fish for at least two hours. We

finally caught a 3 pounder and a 1 pound bass on drop shots. One hour before the tournament ended we only had three fish in the live well and we didn't feel very encouraged about our prospects for finishing in the money.

With less than an hour to go Vern threw a shaky head next to a rock by the cliffs and the fight was on. When I first saw the fish I thought it was 6 or 7 pounds but it didn't quite reach 5 lbs. It did weigh in at an impressive 4.70 lbs and was the fish that put us in the money. We worked hard for our fifth fish but it was not to be, however, we were very happy with 10.34 pounds with just four fish.

Vern is a very accomplished fisherman and I had a lot of fun fishing with him. He was very accommodating which made it easy for me as a co-angler. We fished well as a team, had a great time and managed to win a few bucks to boot and I hope we can get paired up again.

Congratulations to Team Grimes & Brackey for their win and thanks to the weigh-in team who did another terrific job.

Team Dwayne Steel & Ray Riley Fish Shallow For 6th Place

Bringing four fish to the scales weighing 10.22 lbs was enough to earn **Dwayne Steel and Ray Riley** the **6th Place** prize.



**6th Place
Dwayne Steele & Ray Riley**

Ray (Dwayne) Riley: I was the lucky co-angler to have Dwayne Steel as my boater. We started the morning throwing top water, and cranks, nothing! He switched to jigs and I went to drop shot and we both finally started to pick up a few decent bass at about the 15 foot depth. We stayed with this pattern for the rest of the morning managing to cull a few but could never get a big kicker bass to help out.

All of the bass we weighed in were cookie cutter size, approximately 2 pounds each. Nice weather during the early morning, but hotter than Blue Blazes! by 9 AM. Dwayne had ice and cold drinks to keep us hydrated - Dr Pepper and water worked well. Hopefully Dwayne will let me fish with him again if we are drawn together. I told him my middle name was the same as his first name and he made sure I spelled it right D W A Y N E.

Team Lew Southard & Deb Cunningham Win 1st Place Big Fish Prize With Deb's Big Bass

Lew Southard: Deb Cunningham and I took a chance and headed up the river first thing in the morning, hoping the water authority would be pumping water through the dam which would turn on a good bite. No such luck! A little water was moving but the bite we were hoping for did not pan out.

Deb caught both of the bass we brought to the scales and luckily one of those bass weighed 5.25 pounds. This one fish put us in the money by being the Biggest Bass of the tournament. Deb caught the beast fishing a drop shot with an Arizona Bait Company orange colored craw as the lure.



**1st Place Big Bass
Deb Cunningham- 5.25 lbs**

We did hook up with a couple of bass that would have made all the difference in the final standings; however, the fish would not stay on the hook long enough to get them into the boat.

A sad side note: Deb caught the 5.25 bass which would have won her the 5 lb Pot prize; however, she was not entered in the pot!

Team Sean Ballard & Bernie Kowalski Win Goon Fish Prize

Sean Ballard: Not much to say but it was a hell of a fight and the catfish was caught on a flick shake Zoom water melon red flake worm in 5 feet of water. See the photo below.



**Goon Fish Pot Winners
Sean Ballard & Bernie Kowalski -
\$100 Catfish 9.06 lbs**

Greetings from your Treasurer and I hope everyone had a great time at Saguaro this month. The shocker was no one entered in the 5 lb Pot caught a five pound bass. So, next month the five pound pot will be in the neighborhood of \$900. See you at the next general meeting on August 3rd.



Weighing-In By Jack Hughes Tmx Director

July is normally the month I remind everyone to check their first aid kits aboard their boats and replace outdated items. During the past year those first aid kits got used several times. As I quickly learned at Saguaro my first aid kit could not help me for the medical emergency we encountered this past tournament.

Living in the desert brings many challenges when fishing and during other outdoor activities especially in the summer. At our last tournament all the fun and camaraderie that usually happens after a tournament quickly dissipated when I realized that Terry Tassin was suffering from what I thought was heat exhaustion at the weigh-in table. Upon checking Terry I discovered his pulse was very weak and erratic, he could not stand on his own, he said all the trees were white and his eyes were not focusing. From previous training I knew that when one's sight starts turning white then

it was heat stroke not heat exhaustion and Terry was in serious trouble. I asked Ray Riley to call 911 but because of the distance from the lake it would take them a while to get there. The first aid provided to Terry worked and Terry was very lucky because a number of members around him immediately started applying first aid for heat stroke. We could not wait for the fire department to arrive. Yes, it was a time to panic, after all if something serious happen to Terry how would we ever replace him!

For those of you who do not know, heat stroke occurs when your body can no longer cool itself and your body temperature starts rising above 103 degrees and your normal body functions rapidly degrade. **HEAT STROKE IS LIFE THREATING** and can also cause long term pathophysiologic effects. After returning home I thought about what happened and that only a few members there really understood the seriousness and how to treat heat stroke. I then realized we really dodged a bullet because we had several people who knew what to do but more whom only watched and admitted they did not know what to do. My question to all you boaters and co-anglers would you have known what to do if it happened to your team mate away from the dock on the boat? My guess is at least 75% of you would not know how to help your teammate!

Heat stroke can happen to



Money Matters By John Reichard Treasurer

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Saguaro - July 20, 2016

anyone of any age and it is something the club should address on how to avoid and treat with our members and it is more than just hydrate. I am not sure how we will approach trying to prevent this problem but I am sure the club board will take appropriate action in educating our members so that we are better prepared as a club for future issues. One of my recommendations is that we encourage all boaters to carry at least three chemical ice packs on their boat for emergencies. These ice packs can be used in various situations beside heat related first aid. I talked to my doctor and he recommended a minimum of three because cooling the body very quickly is the key to survival.

Another question is how many people in the club have been trained to provide first aid either by the Red Cross or in my case while in the service? This information would be helpful for future emergencies when our next incident occurs. With well over a hundred members the odds are not in our favor that we will not have any other emergencies. The only question is what type of emergency and will we be equipped to handle it.



Slippery little critter aren't you!



My bass was way bigger than yours!
No it wasn't!



Cruising on the river with bird doing a fly-by.



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**Midweek Bass Anglers 2016
Tournament Schedule**

20 January	Canyon
17 February	Saguaro
15-16 March	Havasu (1.5 Days)
20 April	Apache
18 May	Alamo
15 June	Bartlett
20 July	Saguaro
17 August	Bartlett
21 September	Roosevelt
18-19 October	Apache (1.5 Days)
16 November	Canyon

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in August

Jerrith Foster
Matt Lemanski
Hobby Nelson
Paul Ojala
John Reichard
Dwayne Steel

