



# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



**JULY 2021 EDITION**  
16 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

**CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005**  
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



### President's Perspective

*By Gary Grimes*

The 7<sup>th</sup> tournament of the year found the Midweek Bass Anglers at Lake Pleasant. Summer restrictions were still in place, which means a 3 fish limit and fishing only until 11AM. In spite of the shortened time and lower limits, we still had some impressive bags for what is considered by many to be one of the tougher lakes on our schedule. Congratulations to the team of Allen Wacker and Warren Brackey on the win with 11.11lbs. Well done gentlemen! Summertime fishing is the most challenging time of the year to keep fish alive on the boat. I made a huge mistake during the morning that eliminated our chances of finishing in the money. I knew fish care was going to be a challenge, so I had a gallon water bottle with a mixture of water and the additive G-juice in order to help the fish. I had filled my livewell half-full prior to takeoff, and we soon had 3 fish in the boat. We checked the fish often, they were struggling to maintain upright, but were lively. We put some weighted clips on them and they seemed to be fine. About 9AM I decided to fill the livewell the rest of the way, as a way to introduce fresh oxygenated water. Unfortunately I forgot to turn my aerator back on. We checked the fish less than an hour later and they were completely dead. Talk about a shi##y feeling. Well, I knew we couldn't cull the fish, as they were dead, so we decided just to continue to fish and have fun. We later went on to catch a 3.4 and 2.95. Woulda, coulda, shoulda. Summertime water temps approach 90 degrees, so it doesn't take long to lose a fish.

With the Covid restrictions that have cancelled our monthly meetings this past year, it seems to me that some of our communication has fallen off. The meetings are a good place to share tips and techniques, but we haven't been able to do that. My partner at Pleasant, Terry Batson, reminded me that we have a bunch of information available on our website, [www.midweekbassaz.com](http://www.midweekbassaz.com). In our blog, you can find a video from the Texas Dept of Wildlife about baritoma and how to fizz a fish. There is also useful information about boat and trailer care, reel care and how to properly select a Personal Floatation Device (PFD). If you can't find what you are looking for on our website, simply ask Google your question and the answer is likely to be provided.

David Sapyta lost a rod & reel setup at Lake Pleasant; I believe it was in the ramp area. If anyone picked it up, please contact David. Next month is our last of the summer tournaments, at Bartlett Lake. Safelight until 11AM, 3 fish limit. Hope to see you there.

## Purple Heart Day 08 - 07 - 2021



**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.**

**“We Practice Catch and Release”**



## Tournament Report Lake Pleasant July 21, 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 Allen Wacker & Warren Brackey Win 1st Place Team and 2nd Big Fish

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Allen Wacker & Warren Brackey** brought to the scales the winning creel of three bass weighing 11.11 lbs. Warren's 4.54 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors for the team.

**Warren Brackey:** Lake Pleasant in the middle of summer is a tough bass fishing challenge. Spending a few hours pre-fishing can be very helpful if conditions remain relatively stable, and if those wily creatures we love to chase stay put and wake up hungry tournament morning. Not too much to ask for, right? After that, all you need is a huge measure of fishing luck! This was certainly the case for Allen Wacker and me in this tournament.

I only knew of Allen from seeing him at club events and knew he was doing well in the year to date standings. This was the first time we were paired together and I was really looking forward to it. Allen wanted to pre-fish the Monday before the tournament. I was able to fish the lake the Friday before with my brother and Allen fished it with a buddy on Saturday. Our so-so results gave us a lot of good ideas about where not to go and what not to do.

We fished several of Allen's secret spots on Monday. Allen caught a good drop shot fish in the first spot we stopped, so we took note, reeled up and moved on. About mid-morning we headed to Coles' Bay. We

### Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2021 scheduled for **Wednesday, 4 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) [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 Bartlett on 18 August 2021**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.



**1st Place Warren Brackey & Allen Wacker**

pulled up outside on the right side as you head in and started fishing points, drop shooting in 20 to 25 feet. Allen was fishing a purple Punisher and I had on a 7 inch Baitball, Fat straight tail Robo Worm. As we continued to the next point, the depth changed abruptly to 35 to 40 feet. Seconds later a good fish slammed my worm. We got the fish near the boat, it looked to be a three pounder or better, and there was another fish the same size swimming along side! That fish came unbuttoned without doing much damage to my setup, so I pitched it back into the same pocket. As soon as it hit bottom my worm was slammed again. It was another 3 plus! It was time to move on once again. We now had a good plan for Wednesday morning.

On tournament day we stopped at the first spot we fished on Monday. About thirty minutes and one dink later we made our way to our spot in Coles' Bay. About 45 minutes of fishing later we had two fish in the live well, but they were not the ones we hoped would be there. Just before 7 AM my dropshot bumped against something, I lifted it up slightly and WHAM!! Our limit fish, a 3 plus, was soon in the net. Now the question was, were there others around? Zero bites and an hour later, there was no action so we moved off our spot. We fished the shoreline southward for about 45 minutes and caught some smaller fish. Then another boat moved into our area on the opposite side of the bay. That is when Allen decided we should move back on our spot. That move is what led us to the most amazing sequence of events I have ever experienced in my four years fishing with Midweek Bass. About 8:45 Allen steered back across our point, much like we did on Monday. He kept giving me the depth as the back graph was off to conserve power. "We're at 25 feet, 35 feet, now 42 feet," he reported. As soon as we hit that pocket, another good fish nailed my Roboworm. It was another 3.25 pounder! "It was like Déjà Vu all over again!" After getting that fish in the well and re-rigging we had drifted off our spot about 20 yards or so. I cast back into the pocket, bounced my drop shot a couple times and BOOM, another 3.25 pounder engulfed my worm! It was truly an unbelievable sequence, and the best part, it was

about to get even better. After securing our third 3 plus fish in the live well, I cast back into that pocket, bounced my drop shot a couple times and WHAM; another big fish was on and taking drag. Clearly our best fish of the day, a 4.54 pounder, was soon in the boat. We culled one of the 3.25 pounders and fished the area for another hour or more before heading to the weigh-in. What an amazing morning on Lake Pleasant, one I will recall and retell to those who are willing to listen for many years.

I had a great time fishing and getting to know Allen better. He's a great guy, a great fisherman and a very experienced tournament angler. It would be my good fortune to be paired with him again anytime.

Congrats to all who placed and caught a big fish in this event. It was a hard fought competition with a good number of nice bass caught. Kudos to our club staff and stellar weigh-in team for putting on another great tournament. Well done, guys. Looking forward to seeing you all next month at Lake Bartlett.

## Steve Grier & Rick Harang Drop Shot Deep and Finish 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Grier & Harang** weighed three bass for a total weight of 10.94 lbs. Thanks to Steve's 4.80 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Bass** honors

**Steve Grier:** Congrats to Allan and Warren, that was a heck of a bag. Shout out to the weigh-in crew for a job well done as always. Rick Harang and I spent a couple days pre-fishing and identified 10 spots where we got good bites and might be able to catch bigger fish. We went to the first spot and threw topwater for 15 minutes without a bite. We pulled out the drop shot rods and started fishing the structure in 25-40 feet. Within 5 minutes we had our first fish in the boat and it was 3.5 lbs. Over the next couple of hours, we caught about 10-12 fish including a 2.9 and a 4.8 pounder. The big fish was caught in about 40 feet and struggled from the beginning. It had the hook deep in it's throat so we cut the line. We put on belly weights, then fished it and added oxygen. In spite of our efforts, it was dead within an hour. Sometimes it happens but I hate having a fish die, especially a big one. And in this case, it had significant ramifications at the weigh-in. The bite quit on our spot after 7:30 so we fished several of the other spots on our list and caught a few fish, a couple over 2 lbs but nothing that would help. It was clearly a morning bite for us. We fished main lake points from the north end to the 10-lane ramp area in 25-40 feet. We caught our fish on dropshot 5150 worms (morning dawn) and C-rig (BBH electric shad). The big fish came on my C-rig.

### Membership

As of July 23, 2021 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **131** active members.



**2nd Place Harang & Grier**

## Team Larry White & Tom Savage Fish Deep For 3rd Place Finish

Team **Larry White & Tom Savage** weighed three bass for 9.52 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Congrats to Allen and Warren on the win. I prefished Tuesday and found two different patterns. One caught a lot of small fish, the other nice fish. Problem was the second pattern had much fewer bites. I called Tom, and guys, what a great partner to draw, and explained the options to him. His response was "Let's go for the win!" After losing, missing or breaking off a number of fish, we started catching them on DS using 5150 worms. We caught our fish much shallower than most others did. Our fish came in the river. Thanks Tom for a fun day!



**3rd Place Larry White & Tom Savage**

## Bill Ryan & Joe Michels Work Main Lake Points

## Take 4th Place

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Bill Ryan & Joe Michels** weighed three bass for 9.15 pounds and took home **Fourth Place** honors.

**Joe Michels:** Neither Bill nor I have had much time on Lake Pleasant in the past few years, so we decided to use what worked last month as a starting point for our pre-fish on Tuesday. Given that the water is dropping dramatically, it was evident that exact spots from last month were very different now. We had to figure out where the fish moved. We also concentrated on areas that were typical summer locations, bluffs, long points, humps, and steep banks.

Topwater worked well on Tuesday because the clouds were thick and lasted well after Sun Rise. We had many topwater hits that clued us into trying topwater on tournament day. When that slowed, we switched to drop-shot and old school Wired Worms and started to pick up fish. We found one area with a unique structure holding fish; our biggest fish was just under two pounds on Tuesday. Our thought process was to start on our best spot and hope for the best.

Bill worked a Rico, and within the first 20 minutes, he landed a three-pound fish. That was our first fish and a great way to start the tournament. We only caught one more topwater fish the rest of the morning due to the lack of cloud cover. We continued to work in the area with a large population of fish with plastics and soon had a limit that included a two and half-pounder.

Sometimes random luck is needed to do well in a tournament, and that happened to me. I was fishing a J-rig swim tail Senko and threw right to a small bluff; a three and a half-pounder ate the bait as it hit the water. That fish was up feeding in shallow water, and I unknowingly cast right to it. Luck, I'll take that any day.

We had our weight by 7 am and knew that we were in toad hunting mode with no place to hunt. We did catch another ten fish the rest of the morning and threw several fish over two pounds back but could not upgrade our weight.

Thanks to all that help with the tournament including Mr. Terry Tassin for all his work behind the scenes.

**Bill Ryan:** I was fortunate enough to be paired with Joe Michels for the Lake Pleasant tournament. We pre-fished the lake the day before and established a

### Tournament Statistics

Forty-six contestants fished 6 hours each, bringing 67 bass to the scales for a total weight of 142.58 pounds with a 3.10 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 2.13 lbs. All but six fish were released alive back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



**4th Place Michels & Ryan**

pattern of topwater, drop shot, and Wired Worms. Joe had a good read of the lake and was essential in establishing our patterns. On the day of the tournament we caught fish on all our established patterns and had a limit by 7:30 am and were then able to cull some smaller fish. We fished mostly main lake points. Towards the end of the morning we were releasing 2 pound fish without being able to cull. A great day on the lake.

## Jeff Mason & Keith Weidert Work Main Lake Finish 5th

A three fish bag weighing 9.04 lbs was enough to earn Team **Mason & Weidert** the **5th Place** money.



**5th Place Mason & Weidert**

**Jeff Mason:** Congrats to Allen and Warren in winning on another tough day on Lake Pleasant, and great job to the 2nd through 4th Place teams. Another great job to the weigh-in guys! One of the things I like the most about Midweek Bass is it's policy of a random drawing pairing up boaters and non boaters. Working

together and sharing techniques and information trying to produce the best weight possible for your team really brings you together after a day of fishing. I've always felt the learning goes both ways between the boater and non boater. Keith and I started and stayed in the main lake all day and just moved from one side to the other side fishing points and rocky banks in 10 - 30 feet of water. I caught our first 5 keepers on a drop shot in the first 2 1/2 hours and had maybe 6 lbs with no big fish. Keith was having a tough morning until he caught his first keeper at around 8:45, a beautiful 3 1/2 pounder on a flick shake worm. What did you catch that on? About an hour later he caught another 3 1/2 pounder on another flick shake worm! Thanks for showing me how to fish the flick shake worm Keith and making me a believer.

Yes, I did place an order with Tackle Warehouse when I got home.

## Team James Duel & Otto Gal Fish Main Lake Islands To Win 6th Place

Team **James Duel & Otto Gal** weighed three bass for 7.12 pounds and took home **6th Place**.

**James Duel:** When it's hot we all appreciate the weigh-in crew getting us in and out quickly. Thank you guys. Congratulations to Warren and Allen on their first place win and Steve Grier's boat for big fish.

My co-angler Otto Gal could not meet me to prefish. However, my neighbor Dave Sapyta and I went out twice and he put me on some good spots that I used on Wednesday.

Otto and I started fishing shallow and quit that after 40 minutes of catching no fish. We switched to drop shotting and Otto pulled in our first fish that made it to the scales. We moved out to the islands in the main lake and caught the other two bass using Robo Worms ox blood color with red flake. All fish were caught deep in 25 to 35 feet..



**6th Place James Duel & Otto Gal**



## Weighing-In By Gary Martlage Tournament Director

Our second trip to Lake Pleasant turned out to be fantastic for some, and mediocre for most. Getting through these summer contests are grueling at best. Our 3 fish limit seems to be working, as not as many fish are presented to the scales, hopefully reducing the bass mortality rate.

However, we need to take a class on how to "fizz" the bass. Apparently, many floaters were left at the ramp after the tournament. Thankfully, a concerned volunteer (James Duel) reported back to me he went down and rescued the fish. Thanks Jim!

Bottom line is if the fish are sideways in your livewell, they will float upon release. Please try to needle your fish BEFORE you bring them to the scales. If you are not sure how to do it, ask and a member will help you. I will send out information on needling fish in our next Info Gram next month.

Again, I have to say our crack weigh-in team did an excellent job. John Hilland, Floyd Vaughan, Gary Grimes, Warren Brackey, and Tom Savage, you guys are the best. Special thanks to Joe Michels for stepping up to provide shuttle service. We are always looking for volunteers to help run the club functions, come see me if you want to help.

See you all at Bartlett next month; be healthy and safe until then.

## Nine Lines To Make You Smile

1. My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't.
2. I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.
3. Some people are alive only because it's illegal to kill them.
4. I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.
5. Don't take life too seriously; No one gets out alive.
6. You're just jealous because the voices only talk to me
7. Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.
8. Earth is the insane asylum for the universe.
9. I'm not a complete idiot -- Some parts are just missing.

Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends! Life is too short and friends are too few!

## MORAL OF THE STORY

A redneck with a bucket full of live fish was approached recently by a game warden in Central Mississippi as he started to drive his boat away from a lake. The game warden asked the man: "May I see your fishing license please?" "Naw, sir," replied the redneck. "I don't need none of them thar papers. These here are my pet fish." "Pet fish?" "Yep. Once a week, I bring these here fish o'mine down to the lake and let 'em swim 'round for awhile. Then when I whistle, they swim right back into my net and I take 'em home. "What a line of baloney you're under arrest." The redneck said: "It's the truth, Mr. Gov'ment Man. I'll show ya! We do this all the time!!" "WE do, now, do WE?" smirked the warden. "PROVE it!" The redneck released the fish into the lake and stood and waited. After a few minutes, the warden said: "Well?" "Well, WHUT?" said the redneck. The warden asked: "When are you going to call them back?" "Call who back?" "The FISH," replied the warden! "What fish?" asked the redneck.

### MORAL OF THE STORY IS:

We may not be as smart as some city slickers, but we ain't as dumb as some government employees. You can say what you want about the South, but you never hear of anyone retiring and moving north.

### AND THAT'S HOW THE FIGHT STARTED!

My girl friend and I were sitting at a table at her high school reunion, and she kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table.

I asked her, "Do you know him?"

"Yes", she sighed, "He's my old boyfriend, I understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn't been sober since."

"My God!" I said, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?" And then the fight started....

## 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**

**AND SO WAS  
HE.**

**THE MOON WAS  
FULL**

**DRIVER IN TREE**

**CAR IN DITCH**

## 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 - July 21, 2021



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

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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**

**Doug Cunningham (CO)  
Kevin Flinn (CO)**

Please meet and welcome our latest members.



**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**

**Born in August**

- Dale Bayless
- Gene Kochert
- Matt Lemanski
- Jeff Mabry
- James Neinast
- Hobby Nelson
- Paul Ojala
- Jim Pfeiffer



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2021  
Tournament Schedule**

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