

**MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS
OF ARIZONA INC**

B a s s B i t e s

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JULY 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 fished their 7th tournament of the year this past week at Bartlett Lake. Thirty-one boats entered the field on a mild summer day seeking to hook 3 fish that were big enough to put them in the money. At this tournament, everyone truly had a chance, with less than 3 lbs. separating last place from the money. Lots of fish were caught, but as usual, getting the right 3 bites was a challenge. Congratulations to Vern Ridgway and Ray Riley, who won the tournament with a 4.76 lb. kicker fish.

As mentioned in my recent email, we have changed the August tournament from Saguaro Lake to Lake Pleasant. Details will be sent by Terry Tassin in a future email. This will be the final tournament of our summer series, so the bag limit will be 3 fish and the tournament will end at 11AM. September takes us back to Roosevelt Lake, from Safe Light – 1PM. Book your rooms now if you need one. October will find us at Alamo Lake, on October 19th, SL – 3PM. We have reserved the group

use area from Sunday through Wednesday morning. Just a reminder that anyone using the group use area is required to pay \$15 per day, preferably at the ranger station. Expect a barbeque, which will be my last as president of the club. JML Tournaments has the group site reserved right before us. I spoke with their owner, Lyle, and he said anyone who wants to use the group site on Saturday is welcome. The final tournament of the year will be a 2-day event back at Roosevelt Lake. Day 1 is Tuesday November 15, SL – 3PM; Day 2 Wednesday November 16, SL – 12PM.

Where does the time go? Looking forward to seeing you all at Lake Pleasant.

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Monthly Breakfast Meeting

Denny's Restaurant

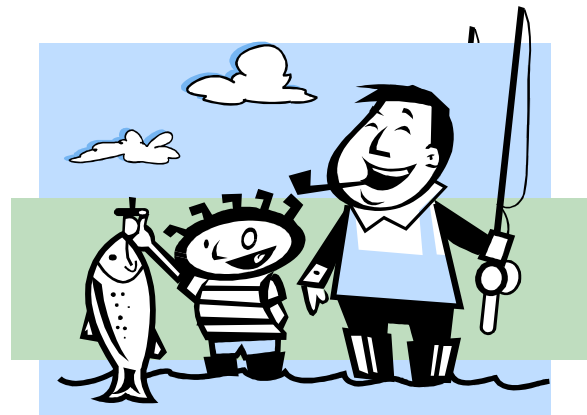
2525 W. Deer Valley Road

Phoenix, AZ

1st Wednesday of Each Month

Meeting Starts at 8:00 A.M.

**Take A Kid Fishing
This Month!**



“We Practice Catch and Release”



Tournament Report Lake Bartlett July 20, 2022

Hell hath no fury like a day on the lake in the middle of an Arizona summer! OK that's enough pontification from me for this newsletter, about how warm it was fishing this tournament. I didn't even fish. On to the "good stuff".

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

Team Vern Ridgway & Ray Riley Win Big At Lake Bartlett

Taking home **1st Place Overall**, **Team Ridgway & Riley** brought to the scales the winning creel of three bass weighing 7.70 lbs. Thanks to Vern's 4.76 lb. bass the team also took home the **1st Place Big Bass** honors.

Vern Ridgway & Ray Riley: A special thanks to the weigh-in crew and those that supported our angling efforts; the tournament went off as smoothly as the pros do it. I had the good luck of drawing the talented and humorous, fish catching Mr. Ray Riley.

For pre-fishing, we teamed up and scouted the lake for water clarity, depth of bait fish, and temperature and so forth. We found a couple of places holding fish, so that was going to be our plan for the tourney. Tournament day

Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 3 August** 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 Pleasant** on **17 August 2022**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.



1st Place Ray Riley & Vern Ridgway

found us at the 18th start spot in the line-up.

Off we went to stop number one at the Yellow Cliffs. Fishing was tough, but we scratched out a limit on Texas rigged worms and drop shots. Ray said he knew where old "snort" lived if we wanted to see if she was home and in a good mood or not. So off we went around the corner to the flats to see if the "lady of the house" was home, only to find 4 boats already looking for her. So, we "horned" right in on the action as well. Top water action was busting, but not on what I was throwing. Switched back to a Texas rig worm, a large worm on steroids, and about the second cast, something about pulled the rod out of my hands. I pulled back and she started coming to the boat; Ray said "net?!" but I couldn't tell yet, then she jumped and I said yes, we'd best net this one. Ray jumped into action and masterfully netted our 4.76 pound "lady of the flats."

We made two other stops, but only baby bass were playing. We threw top water, jigs, Texas rigged worms and drop shots. Thanks to the rest of the club members for dealing with the heat and coming out to play.

Team Briggs & Thelander Fish Drop Shot For 2nd Place Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Bill Briggs & Scott**

Thelander weighed three bass for a total weight of 6.25 lbs.

Bill Briggs: First I have to thank the Lord for letting me catch some nice fish at this lake - finally. Thank you, Terry Tassin, for all that you do. And, thanks to all members who make these tournaments happen.

I had a good practice Tuesday with Scott Thelander where we found fish in three different areas. Our primary area was only a couple hundred yards from where we launched off a little point where we caught a couple over two pounds in practice. As usual I had trouble getting bit while Scott caught our biggest bass on a dropshot. We did manage to fill our limit on that point, grinding it out. Then we moved on to our second area on Bartlett flats. I mostly fished a hula grub and a power worm Texas rigged dragging them off the flats into deeper water. It worked pretty well for me. But I did catch our second biggest fish on a jerk bait. Fishing with Scott was fun and I hope to get paired up again with him.

Funny story: On my way home, I stopped to fuel up at a Circle K on Carefree Hwy; it is one that I can get into pulling the boat behind the fifth wheel. As I was about to leave a cop pulls up beside me and motioned for me to roll down my window. I'm thinking "Aww heck what now". He says "I am going to have to seize your rig". After a pause he says "but just for the weekend," and laughs and tells me to have a nice day. That's the kind of police stop I can handle.

Jeff Stone & Pat Johnstonbaugh Win 3rd Place With Finesse

Team **Stone & Johnstonbaugh** weighed three bass for 6.02 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors. Thanks to Pat's 3.83 lb. bass the team also took home the **2nd Place Big Bass** honors.

Pat Johnstonbaugh: Congratulations Vern and Ray for a well-deserved win; big bass are hard to come by at Bartlett and that was a nice one! I had prefished on Sunday and caught over a dozen fish in a few hours using a jerk bait so I figured I would use the same on tournament

day.

Jeff and I started off on a mid-lake point and doubled up pretty early. I was throwing a shad-colored jerk bait while Jeff was finessing with dropshots and flick shakes. After landing a couple more fish we hit a dry spell. Were the cloudy skies hurting or helping? I know the excessive heat wasn't helping at all! Eventually we started catching again but it was clone after clone for most of the day as we fished deeper shorelines and points. I got several bites on a wacky Senko and a shaky head craw but most of my fish came on the jerk bait. In the last 30 minutes we decided to hit the flats across from the Yellow Cliffs but there were 3 boats there when we arrived so we went a little further up and hit the rocky shoreline. I was fortunate enough to hook a 3.8 lb bass with a brown Texas rigged worm in 10 feet of water. It felt like a slow drag as if I was pulling in a tree but then I noticed it started swimming sideways! Thanks to the weigh in crew and all of the Midweek staff for your hard work.

Jeff Stone: Tough, tough, day fishing. First, I'd like to congratulate Vern and Ray for finishing in First Place, and Bill and Scott for squeaking out Second. Congratulations gentlemen!

I had to change up my "fishing at Bartlett" game plan to catch bigger fish, so I told Pat Johnstonbaugh we were going to fish deep points. We had a double hook up at the first point. It's always a good feeling when you're a boater and both of you hit fish at the first stop. It gives your "Co" confidence that I may know what I'm doing.

Anyhow, we hit all of the points that I wanted to fish, and the results were all the same; clone, after clone, after clone. Nothing over a pound and a half.

It got close to about 10:30AM and Pat

Tournament Statistics

(Three fish limit) Sixty-two contestants fished 6 hours each, bringing 92 bass to the scales for a total weight of 145.25 pounds with a 2.34 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.58 lbs. All but three fish were released alive back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

suggested a flat area by the SB flats, but there were three boats already on it when we got there. I turned to him and said "Let's go do the Yellow Cliffs." Within five minutes - BAM - Pat got hit with the toad we needed. I'm sure glad those boats were on the flat so we didn't fish there.

Most of the day we finesse fished and caught a few on crank baits and jerk baits. I had a great time fishing with Pat. We got along great. We gave each other a little bit of grief here and there but it was great fishing with him and hopefully we can do it again soon.

Team Doyle Wofford & Chris Mabry Work Jigs Take 4th Place

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Doyle Wofford & Chris Mabry** weighed three fish for a total weight of 5.75 pounds.

Doyle Wofford: This month I was lucky enough to be paired with Chris Mabry. Chris was a pleasure to fish with and I hope to draw him again in the future. Chris and I pre-fished on Tuesday and caught most of our fish on main lake points. The biggest fish on Tuesday came off of a deep diving crank bait but the reaction bite ended for us right after the sun came up. We fished a bunch of different spots and thought we had a pretty good plan for Wednesday.

Tournament morning, we started near the hot spot we found on Tuesday but had to wait for a boat to clear the point. We caught a couple of fish with only one keeper on reaction baits. I quickly changed to a Chigger Craw jig that produced bites on Tuesday and stayed with that for most of the day. We had a small limit within about 40 minutes and once we were able to get to our point, I was lucky enough to land our largest fish of the day weighing in at a little over 2.5 pounds. Chris did a great job with the net. From there we were able to cull three or four times and to my surprise, we had enough weight for a fourth-place finish. Big thanks to everyone on the weigh-in team as well as everyone that works hard to make these tournaments happen.

Chris Mabry: I had the great pleasure of

fishing with Doyle Wofford on Tuesday and Wednesday. Fishing Tuesday allowed us to devise a game plan for tournament day. We followed our plan Wednesday fishing main lake points and rocky ledges. We had our limit before 7:30. The top water bite was very weak only producing one dink. The rest of the fish were caught on jigs and drop shot with Doyle catching the larger weigh-in fish using jigs. Doyle is an excellent fisherman and fun teammate.

Team John Hilland & Corey Garrison Share 5th Place Tie With Steve Grier & Corey Garrison

Three fish bags weighing 5.67 lbs each were enough to earn Teams **Hilland & Garrison** and **Grier & Convery** the shared **5th/6th Place** money.

John Hilland: First let me say congrats to the Big Dogs Vern and Ray on the win; two of my favorite guys. I had the pleasure of fishing with one of our newest members Corey Garrison, a great guy and angler. With my busy schedule we did not get a chance to prefish but Corey did get out which was a big help. We started out with top water without much



**5th Place - Steve Grier & David Convery
5th Place - John Hilland & Corey Garrison**

success. I switched over to plastics pretty quick and bam we had our first keeper. Once we had a small limit, we went out a little deeper throwing a little heavier jig trying to cull. Corey put on a jig with rattles and a Yamamoto Flapping Hog trailer and caught a good keeper that culled our small fish with about an hour left in the day. His combo was really getting hit hard on a slow drag in deep water. All of our fish came on drop shot and jigs in 15-50 feet of water pulling off of ledges. I'm out next month but hope to see everyone in September, good luck to everyone in August.

Steve Grier: Congrats to Vern and Ray, good bag on a tough day. Another good job by the weigh-in crew and everybody getting the fish released in a timely manner. We had 3 areas where we had decent bites or had seen a lot of fish in the area. We hit the first spot and got one bite in about 20 feet of water. It was a strong fish that I ended up breaking off on a C-rig. No more bites after an hour so we headed up lake. We fished in the river throwing Texas rigs to steep rocky banks. I was throwing a chigger craw and David Convery was using a brush hog. I caught several smaller fish and one decent keeper, but they weren't eating the brush hog. He switched to the chigger craw and started catching fish. A short time later he landed our 2.46 kicker. We made a of couple stops on the way back to the launch area, but no magic last minute game winner. David is a good fisherman and a pleasure to be with on the boat. He saved our bacon at this tournament. I look forward to fishing with him again.

Team Sean Ballard & Pete Gesswein Take 7th Place With Variety Of Lures

Team **Ballard & Gesswein** weighed three bass for 5.44 pounds and took home **7th Place** honors.

Sean Ballard: It's been a really long time since I've had to write an article for the Bass Bites. For those of you that I didn't get to say Hi to in the morning I started a new job and getting Wednesdays off is a lot harder. But the best part of my day was seeing everyone and being



7th Place Pete Gesswein & Sean Ballard

a part of the best group of guys and best run circuit in AZ.

Now for the goods. We caught fish all day from 1 to 20 feet on Zara Puppies, spinner baits, swim baits, jigs, and Carolina rigs. As the day got hotter, we went deeper. In the final hours we culled up two of our fish. Pete managed to catch most of the big ones and I caught quantity. We probably caught 30 fish all morning, just a fun day of fishing. See all you guys at Alamo in October!

Team Bryan Colby & Floyd Vaughan Earn 8th Place Finish

Taking home **8th Place**, Team **Bryan Colby & Floyd Vaughan** weighed three fish for a total weight of 5.29 pounds. They also won the Goon Fish prize for their 4.05 lb Catfish.

Floyd Vaughan: I'd like to thank Bryan Colby for taking me out in his boat. He showed a lot of different presentations to the fish we were after and we caught bass on top water, drop shot, J-rig, jigs, and C-rigs.

The Goon Fish (Catfish) was caught on a football head jig.



Weighing-In By Gary Martlage Tournament Director

Bartlett was a fun tournament, and everyone reported catching fish. However, with a 3 fish limit, and limited hours to fish, most competitors changed up their game plan to try and catch bigger bass. I personally fished areas that I hoped held bigger fish than catching the normal 20 plus small Bartlett bass. This didn't work out for our team but as always, some teams catch the right ones.

Congrats to the "old timer", and longtime team of Vern Ridgway and Ray Riley. They really did a fantastic job bringing the bigger bass to the scales.

Again, I cannot say enough about the weigh team; they get the job done. We also had plenty of volunteers for transportation (I hope to have them next month for Pleasant).

I apologize for the "early" start in the morning. I forgot to tell Bill Briggs to hold off the start until I came out to release the boats. By not telling him this, he just remembered that the Fact Sheet said the tournament was to start about 5:15 AM. At least I know someone is reading the Lake Fact Sheet.

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett - July 20, 2022



**"Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth."
- - George Washington**



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2022 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
Midweek Bass Anglers
Since the Last Newsletter**

**Brian Presmyk (B)
John Reyes (CO)**

Please meet and greet our new members.



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2022
Tournament Schedule**

**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday
Born in August**

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



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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 | Pleasant |
| 21 September | Roosevelt |
| 19 October | Alamo |
| 15-16 November | Roosevelt |