

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



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

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



### Vice President's Corner

*By Tom Savage*

I am writing this article because our president and ambassador to Mexico had to leave very early this morning on a very important diplomatic mission in Mexico. We all wish you great success on your mission Gary, catch a big one!

We had twenty-nine boats show up for the tournament, but we all had to sit in our vehicles and wait because of heavy rain with thunder and lightning. Our weather man assured us that the cell would move on shortly. He was right; after about thirty minutes, the rain finally let up enough for us to have our prelaunch meeting. After the meeting, Floyd Vaughn got us started with a beautiful prayer; thanks Floyd. It turned out to be a beautiful day even though we were surrounded by heavy clouds. I'm happy to say no problems arose during the tournament. I want to remind everyone that you are responsible for your fish making it back to the lake to swim away. Please make sure your fish are ok before releasing them back into the lake.

Congratulations to Larry White and Joe Matt for an impressive win. Our next tournament is at one of my favorites - Lake Roosevelt. I want to let everyone know that the Roosevelt Lake resort is open for business. See y'all there.

### From the President

*By Gary Grimes*

I'm not submitting my normal article because I am putting away my wet boat from today's tournament so I

**CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER  
NOTICE - WATCH FOR EMAILS**

**Monthly Breakfast Meeting**  
**Deer Valley Airport Restaurant**  
**702 W. Deer Valley Rd**  
**Phoenix, AZ**  
**1st Wednesday of Each**

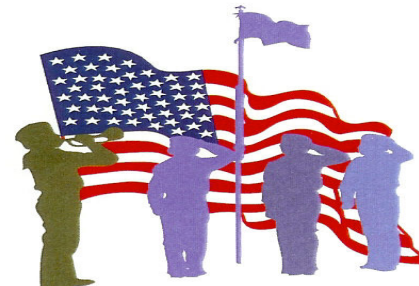
can repack for my trip in the morning to San Carlos, Mexico to do a little deep-sea fishing.

One takeaway from today's tournament that I would like to share is the importance of fish care. As most of you know, last month all my fish died at Lake Pleasant due to failure to switch on the recirc pump. The embarrassment of losing the day's catch caused somewhat of an awakening, and I was determined to not lose a single fish at Bartlett. Most of our tournament fish were caught in about 15 feet of water, and full of vigor when put into the live well. My partner for the day, Andrew Bell, kept a continuous and careful eye on the live well throughout the day. Within minutes of each catch, the fish would be floating upside down in the live well. I immediately fizzed each fish, and they gracefully sank to the bottom of the live well in an upright position, and happily travelled the lake with us while we searched for suitable replacements. Our fish easily swam away after today's weigh-in, but that was not the case for all fish.

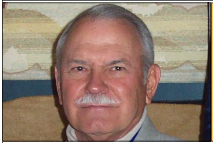
Three things I would like to leave with you. First, for co-anglers, check the fish on your boat every 30 minutes. It's much easier for you to check since the lids are on the back deck. Second, fizz your fish at the first sign of baritoma, fin weights are a half measure. And finally, after the weigh in, make sure your fish are able to swim away. Do not release dead or dying fish onto the launch ramp, doing so reflects poorly on the club. Your fish are your responsibility.

## Patriot Day 9-11-2020

### Special Thank You



## "We Practice Catch and Release"



## Tournament Report Lake Bartlett August 18, 2021

Another hot day in Arizona! In September we go back to a **5 fish limit** of bass for the cooler months. So, how did our winners catch their fish this tournament? Read on.

### Larry White & Joe Matt Win 1st Place Overall

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Larry White & Joe Matt** brought to the scales the winning creel of three bass weighing 9.37 lbs.

**Larry White:** I had the good luck of drawing Joe Matt for Bartlett. We prefished Monday and found a few spots holding some good fish.

On tournament day after a very strange beginning we headed toward the river and started our day. I started with reaction lures, Joe with a jig. After 15 minutes of fishing - Joe with 5 fish and myself with 2 - down deep I went. We had 2 one pound plus fish in the boat when Joe said "fish on"; this turned out to be our biggest fish. It was caught on a black Senko while drop shotting (DS). For the next hour we caught and culled on jigs, T-rigs and DS. I changed to a 5150 Ditch Digger using a Texas rig and caught our second big fish. We made slight culls using 5150 green pumpkin party curly tail worms and Ditch Diggers the rest of day, but never got another big bite.

**Joe Matt:** I would just like to thank all the volunteers and everyone who helped put this together. Extra thanks go to Larry White for all he did. I had a great time. The fish were caught on jigs and Senkos.

### Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2021 scheduled for **Wednesday, 1 September** 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 for next tournament will be announced by email when completed.

The next club points tournament is scheduled for **Lake Roosevelt** on **15 September 2021**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 1 PM**.



**1st Place Larry White & Joe Matt**

### Team Sean Ballard & Doug Moore Work C-Rigs For 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Sean Ballard & Doug Moore** weighed three bass for a total weight of 7.56 lbs.

**Doug Moore:** I had the pleasure of being paired with Sean Ballard for his first Midweek tournament of the



**2nd Place Ballard & Moore**

year and did it ever pay off. Even though I caught quite a few fish (drop shot, C-Rig, topwater fluke), I did not contribute 1 fish to the scale. Sean is a great stick and knows Bartlett well and after some pre-fishing he had a plan. We started on a point right by the launch ramp and went from there fishing points and humps. Sean's C-Rig brush hog combination paid off for him. Thanks as always to the crew, especially on a challenging weather day and congratulations to Larry and Joe on their win.

## Team Jeff Mason & Steve Rubenstein Grind Their Way To 3rd Place Finish

Team **Mason & Rubenstein** weighed three bass for 7.49 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Jeff Mason:** My partner, Steve Rubenstein and I pre fished Bartlett last Friday and had just about the same weight as in the tournament, 7.49 lbs. Steve caught a 2.75 pounder on a jig, and I caught one almost 3 lbs on a topwater. Steve prefished by himself on Monday and found some other spots. We started out Wednesday just past Rattlesnake Cove and caught one of our final 3 keepers on a topwater. We continued to fish on the same side of the lake to past the second ramp. We caught and culled some fish but no real good ones. We turned around and started to work our way back to the ramp. At 11:00 we stopped at a spot I had fished in the past before Rattlesnake. I told Steve we were going to stay here and hopefully get a couple of good bites. We culled 2 more times at that spot on a drop shot, lucky I guess. Thanks for the extra hour of fishing guys! I had a good time fishing with Steve and he was a great partner.

**Steve Rubenstein:** I had the pleasure of being paired with Jeff Mason and had a great time. Jeff and I prefished last Friday and found some nice fish. We caught fish on topwater, dropshot and jigs. We thought we found some good areas and hoped that they would hold up on tournament day.

Wednesday came and so did the storm at least for a while. We lucked out and it was nice the rest of the day. So we started in a cove where we found activity in practice and Jeff stuck a nice fish on topwater. Then he lost an even bigger fish. Fortunately, I caught a keeper on dropshot. The bite then dropped off and we moved several times, and only managed some small fish. Finally, towards the end of the day we caught our third decent fish. We stayed on that point and Jeff managed to catch a bigger fish on dropshot and then we managed to cull in the last half hour. To be honest we thought we only had around 6 lbs. However at the scales we had 7.49lbs. That was enough to come in third for the tournament.

### Membership

As of August 20, 2021 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **132** dues paid active members.



### 4th Place Weidert & Grier

I want to thank Jeff for being a great boater. He is a terrific stick and again I was able to learn from him. I have been very pleased with all my partners. I learn from all of them. This is a testament to the club and this format. Thanks to Gary Martlage for running great tournaments, as well as the weigh in crew and the board. Tight lines everyone.

## Team Grier & Weidert Work 20 Ft Area To Finish 4th Overall

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Steve Grier & Keith Weidert** weighed three fish for a total weight of 7.39 lbs.

**Steve Grier:** Congrats to Larry and Joe, job well done! Great job by the weigh-in crew as always. In pre-fish I had identified a few areas where I got decent bites, mostly on jigs. On Monday I fished shallow areas where the rising water had flooded vegetation. In a couple areas I got a good bite in a few casts and then left the areas. Keith Weidert and I fished on Tuesday and added a couple more areas of fish structure to our list.

On tournament day I decided to go to the shallow water areas first, really expecting to get 1 or 2 good fish from them. The fish I found on Monday were gone; we fished both areas thoroughly and caught 3 rats. Not sure if it was the storm in the morning but they vanished. We went to our first structure spot and Keith caught a 2.7 lber on a flick shake off a steep wall. The fish was suspended up shallow and hit the lure almost as soon as it hit the water. Nothing else worked for us so we went to the next area. I caught a 3.2 on a Texas rig chigger craw and Keith caught a 1.5 on a drop shot. The fish were at about 20 ft and we had to fizz them (no more dead fish for me). It was about 9:30 and that was it. We fished several more



**5th Place Rojas & Thiel**

areas with jigs, T-rig, C-rig, DS, flick shake and didn't get another good bite. I enjoyed fishing with Keith. He's a good guy and a good fisherman and he's got that flick shake thing figured out.

### **Richie Rojas & Dennis Thiel Drop Shot To Finish 5th**

A three fish bag weighing 7.37 lbs was enough to earn Team **Rojas & Thiel** the **5th Place** money. Dennis' 4.04 lb bass took **1st Place Big Fish** honors for the team.

**Dennis Thiel:** Congratulations to Larry White and Joe Matt on a great Bartlett bag! Due to the scattered showers over the past week it was difficult to get out and pre-fish. I did however get out between storms the Wednesday before the tournament and did well throwing jigs. Richie and I decided that in order to key in on bigger fish that would be our strategy. That plan did not last long.

On tournament day as we fished our first area and came up empty, I suggested we go back through one more time and I would throw a dropshot 5150 Sangria Sunset. There had to be some fish in that area. Lo and behold I pulled out a 2 lber and had another nice fish

#### **Tournament Statistics**

Fifty-seven contestants fished 4.5 hours each, bringing 84 bass to the scales for a total weight of 157.82 pounds with a 2.77 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.88 lbs. All fish but one were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

break off. The next spot was a steep boulder type area. It was not long before I set the hook and called for the net. That turned out to be big fish of the tournament and it came on the dropshot and not the jig I had been catching fish on the week before. We were only an hour and a half into the day and had 3 fish, but one was small. We felt confident we could upgrade but unfortunately that fish stayed with us until weigh in. Fortunately, that 4 lber was enough to propel us to 5<sup>th</sup> place in the tournament. This was my second time drawing Richie and as always, we had a great time.

### **Andrew Goettl & James Neinast Fish Jigs and Drop Shots And Finish In 6th Place**

Team **Goettl & Neinast** weighed three bass for 7.11 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

**Andrew Goettl:** So the day started out pretty interesting and wet. James and I had talked about what we thought was going to produce but neither of us had any opportunity to do any meaningful pre-fishing prior to the tournament. I started the day off with two topwater rods on the deck and by 9:00, I had half my rod locker emptied out and tackle all over the place.

We had a starting point, but we were sharing it with two other boats and we were not catching anything. We left our first spot and just started working each of our own places up and down the lake. We finally managed a couple of topwater fish, but combined they were 1 pound, so we figured that was not going to help our cause. James finally stuck our first quality fish on a drop-shot at about 8:30. Now we had two in the livewell but the one he



**6th Place Neinast & Goettl**



caught looked like a toad compared to the dinks we had tagged. We put this obvious Bubba in the "big side" and never looked at it until we weighed in. We gave up on the shallow fish and concentrated on jigs and drop-shot the rest of the morning. We ended up catching a bunch of fish for the remainder of the day and began the Bartlett custom of upgrading by ounces for the rest of the day. One after another we balanced-beamed, estimated and tossed fish overboard until we finally had at least a 2.5 pound average on the "small side" tank. Things were shaping up because we had that MONSTER on the "big side". In our defense, we put that fish in the livewell when we had two half pounders in the boat, so yeah, we overestimated it by a lot. Imagine our disappointment when loading fish into the weigh bag we could hardly tell any of our fish apart. Ha ha ha.

Jimmy and I had a great day, and although it started out a little rough, you could not have asked for a more pleasant day. It was a good day of fishing too, we just needed a kicker. Great meeting you Jimmy, you are welcome in my boat anytime.

## Team Gary Grimes & Andrew Bell Fish Mid-Depths Finish 7th Overall

In **7th Place** Team Gary Grimes & Andrew Bell weighed three bass for a total weight of 7.09 lbs.

**Andrew bell:** Well I was lucky enough to draw our president, Mr. Gary Grimes as my boater and he was very optimistic going into the tournament day. Gary and I had gotten out before Wednesday for pre-fishing and we found the better fish to be in 15 to 20 feet on underwater

structure close to deep water, typical summer pattern. Well the storm the morning of game day threw everyone for a loop but we put our heads down and tried to stick with our original game plan and grind it out and it payed off.

Our starting spot didn't produce any fish so we moved across the lake and I got the skunk out with a small keeper on a jig but we didn't catch any more fish there so we moved down the bank. At the next spot Gary quickly hooked up with our biggest fish of the day, a 2.92 lber, on a jig off a reef in about 15 feet on a steep bank, but again we caught no more fish off that spot. We fished around stepping stones and Gary caught our third keeper for our limit, a small fish that we needed to cull along with our first keeper. We moved back to the spot where Gary caught our big fish and I threw a 20 foot deep diving crankbait across the reef while Gary retied. On the 2nd cast I hooked up our 2nd best fish, a 2.65, and culled up over a pound and a half. We fished on with no bites and moved to right next to the start ramp as it was almost time to go in. With the wind blowing up on the bank I continued throwing a shallow 10 foot diving crankbait and with less then 50 yards of bank left before we were going to call it for the day I hooked up our 3rd best fish and quickly culled up about a pound with less then 5 minutes left of fishing.

All in all I had a fun trip and enjoyed fishing with our president, he's a great guy and I like the way he thinks when fishing as he and I thought very similarly the whole day. Thanks to the weigh in crew and everyone who stuck it out and fished even after the crazy storm. Until the next event tight lines everyone.



**7th Place Andrew Bell & Gary Grimes**

### Goon Fish Prize



**Lance Kuhler & Chris Mabry**

## Lance Kuhler & Chris Mabry Blow Everyone Away With 41 lb Flathead Catfish For Goon Fish Prize

**Lance Kuhler:** As usual the MBA volunteer team did a great job. I am always amazed at how smoothly these tournaments run and how helpful everyone is. It is truly a pleasure to fish with the MBA.

My partner Chris Mabry caught a 3 lb 3 oz bass very early in the morning and we culled up all day. We were fishing a main lake area immediately across from the boat ramp and keyed in on 15 to 35 feet deep humps and points. About mid-morning I had committed to fishing a swim jig for the last hour prior to weigh-in hoping to catch another kicker bass. On my third or fourth cast I got thumped and set the hook. It felt just like a bass. I told my partner to get the net immediately. It didn't take more than a few seconds to realize I hadn't hooked a bass. Ten or so minutes later, we landed a 41 pound Flathead catfish for the Goon Fish prize.



### Weighing-In By Gary Martlage

Anglers of MBA, Bartlett was our last tournament this season using a 3 fish limit. Hopefully, we did help the fish population by not carrying around 5 fish in our livewells during these hot summer events. Even so, we need to keep a watch on our fish, as a tournament progresses. There were too many fish floating from the ramp at the end of the tournament! Thanks to STEVE GRIER (with a little help), the fish were retrieved, FIZZED, and released to fight another day. Guys, we need to fizz these fish before presenting them to the weigh-in. Please re-check your fish in the livewell, while you are waiting to load your boat at the ramp, and fizz the ones that are upside down in your livewell. Remember, the fin weights might help the fish in the livewell, but they still might need to be fizzed before releasing them in the lake. If you need help doing this, ask a member at the ramp to assist; they will be more than happy to help.

As always, THANKS to the weigh-in team, you did another stellar job. Looking forward to seeing you all at ROOSEVELT next month.

### Club Apparel

Individuals wishing to purchase a club shirt, jersey, or cap can order directly from our president.

### 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 MORE  
STEER**

**LET'S HAVE  
LESS BULL**

**TO HER  
RECKLESS  
DEAR**

**CAUTIOUS  
RIDER**

### 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.

Contact the Editor who would be delighted to hear from you.



# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett - August 18, 2021





**Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2020 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**

**Doug Haney (CO)  
Kevin Finn (CO)**

Please meet and welcome our new members.



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

**Mike Adamson**

**Pete Gesswein**

**John Hilland**

**Bob Jolley**

**Jeff Mason**

**Bruce Nelson**

**Lester Rapp Jr**

**Ron Rudzinski**

**Howard Thomas**

**Gene Turner**

**Doyle Wofford**



**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> |