

**MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS
OF ARIZONA INC**

B a s s B i t e s

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



**AUGUST 2022 EDITION
17 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN**

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



**President's
Perspective**
By Gary Grimes

It was a very difficult day of fishing for the 30 boats who battled it out at Lake Pleasant for our August tournament. Thirty boats fished from safe-light until 11AM, battling it out in the summer heat, searching for 3 quality largemouth bass. Most teams caught limits, but not all. For those who caught fish, the common key seemed to be 40 feet depth. Congratulations to the team of Greg Utton and Tom Alauria on the victory with a 3 fish bag totaling 8.69lbs., anchored by a 4.60lb. beauty.

A few notes from the tournament.

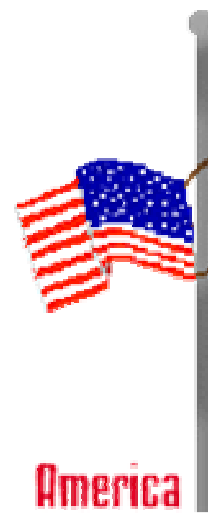
* During a tournament, if a team catches a goon fish so large as to not reasonably be expected to survive in the live-well all day long, or such fish is so large that it will affect the survivability of the bass if it is kept in the live-well all day long, then that fish may be weighed on the lake during the tournament and released. The weighing of the large goon-fish must be done by a team that is also fishing the Midweek Tournament, but it has to be a team other than the team that caught the fish. A photograph is

also recommended. After a weight is verified by both teams, write the weight down and release the fish. At the weigh-in, tell the Tournament Director what you caught, how big it was, and who verified its weight. In the event that this happens to more than one boat during a tournament, if the weights of the two fish are within 10% of each other, then a tie will be declared (this is done because of using two separate scales). This is a rule we have been following for a couple of years now.

* You must notify the tournament director if you are not weighing fish. Either because you leave the tournament early, or you finish the tournament with no fish. Let us know so we don't waste time looking for you.

Continued on page 2

***National Day of
Remembrance
9-11-2001***



America United

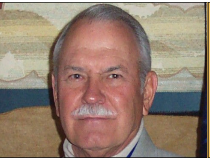
**Monthly Breakfast Meeting
Denny's Restaurant
2525 W. Deer Valley Road
Phoenix, AZ
1st Wednesday of Each Month
Meeting Starts at 8:00 A.M.**

"We Practice Catch and Release"

* If you are selected to be the start boat, you must wait for the tournament director's approval before beginning the launch.

* Learn how to fizz fish.

I appreciate all the help during the tournament, you guys always step up when needed. August concludes our summer series of tournaments, so next month we are back to a 5 fish limit. Next month we are fishing Lake Roosevelt, launching out of Windy Hill. I hope to see you all on the water.



Tournament Reports **Lake Pleasant** August 17, 2022

Team Greg Utton & Tom Alauria Dominate At Lake Pleasant

Taking home **1st Place Overall**, **Team Utton & Alauria** brought to the scales the winning creel of three bass weighing 8.69lbs. Thanks to Tom's 4.60lb. bass the team also took home the **1st Place Big Bass** honors.

Greg Utton: Another well-run, hot summer, tournament is in the books. As part of the weigh-in team, it still amazes me at how well run, and efficiently, the whole process is handled. Kudos to the tournament team.

This is the first time I've gotten to fish

Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 7 September** 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 Roosevelt** on **21 September 2022**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 1 PM**.

with Tom and it really worked out well. Hopefully, we'll get to do it again some time.

Tom has been fishing Lake Pleasant for over 50 years and knows the lake. With that background, we decided to have Tom run the front of the boat. We went to Tom's cove and spent the whole day there. We knew there were fish there and there was no point spending time looking for fish all over the lake.

Drop shot worked for Tom right away. He caught two nice sized fish and then hooked his 4.60lb. big fish. We were using light tackle and had to play the fish carefully from 40 feet deep. This of course caused lots of stress. Tom was shaking like a leaf by the time we got it in the boat. That gave us three fish and I later added another for a nice upgrade.

All fish were caught in 40 feet using drop shot and Robo worms. It was a long, hot grind, but it paid off.

Tom Alauria: Another good turnout at a lake that most fishermen hate. I had the pleasure of fishing with Greg Utton for this tournament. Greg asked me to run the front of his boat figuring that I knew the lake better than he. The only day we could practice was on Tuesday. We fished 3 hours and caught 2 small fish.

For the tournament I suggested that we



1st Place Tom Alauria & Greg Utton

start in a cove that I was pretty sure held good fish. I caught two 2 pounders the first hour and an hour later I stuck the big girl. Greg then caught a good one and we culled. We never left the cove which is located near the 1702 sign.

All of our fish were caught in 40 feet using drop shot. I was using 8lb braid and 8lb leader and 6-inch MM3 Robo worms.

Team Grimes & Haas Fish Drop Shot And Jigs For 2nd Place Overall

In **2nd Place**, Team **Gary Grimes & Norm Haas** weighed three bass for a total weight of 7.45lbs. Thanks to Gary's 3.02lb. bass the team also took home the **2nd Place Big Bass** honors.

Gary Grimes: Norm Haas and I spent the majority of our day with our baits in 40 plus feet of water. It is difficult to fish efficiently at that depth, as it is hard to locate good structure. I like to fish a jig or C-rig at that depth, if for no other reason than I can more easily feel and interpret the bottom structure, like smooth sand or bumpy riprap. I also find it helpful to graph an area before dropping a line. After all, you will not get bit if there are no fish present. We caught about 7 fish all day, with our biggest 3 in the boat by 730AM. Norm fished drop shot and I fished a jig. I am thankful for Norm's skills at fizzing fish and keeping our fish alive and happy all day.

Norm Haas: Congratulations to Tom and Greg for their win. Thank you to weigh-in crew, tournament director and dock director Floyd Vaughan for running such a smooth operation. Very special thanks go out to my boater and current President Gary Grimes. He spent a lot of time explaining how to read all the graphs and how to target the larger fish.

We were fishing in what seemed like the middle of the lake most of the day. I was lucky to catch our first fish on a drop-shot which ended up being one of our 3 keepers. The rest of the day was all Gary including our 2nd Place big fish - I was happy to be the net boy. Everything we caught was deep and needed to be "fizzed", I got plenty of practice allowing us to cull multiple times returning healthy fish back

into the lake to catch another day.

Phil Brewer & Shawn Byrne Win 3rd Place Drop Shotting Deep Water

Team **Brewer & Byrne** weighed three bass for 5.80 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Phil Brewer: First, congrats to Greg and Tom on the win. Great jobs guys. Next, thanks to the weigh-in team for a job well done, and a special thanks to my co-angler, Shawn Byrne, for kicking butt on the top water bite all morning.

We started on a spot close to the marina with no success. We then moved to a spot where I caught some fish during pre-fishing. Shawn caught several on top water boils and I stuck to drop shotting 35 to 40 feet and caught our bigger fish. For the tough conditions, it was a pretty good day overall.

Shawn Byrne: Had a great day with Phil Brewer and getting to know him. Phil found a few productive spots over the weekend and one produced for us all day. We were fishing islands and long points. We were lucky enough to get a few fish on clear and bone colored walking baits and poppers before the sun fully came up.

Other than that all of our other fish came out of 30-40ft of water with oxblood Robo worm drop shot in the trees and around submerged islands.

Thank you everyone who make these tournaments happen. I really enjoy Midweek and I try to actively recruit more anglers to join. Good luck to Phil for angler of the year!

Team Gary Martlage & John Reyes Work Hard Take 4th Place

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Gary Martlage & John Reyes** weighed three fish for a total

Tournament Statistics

(Three fish limit) Fifty-nine contestants fished 5.5 hours each, bringing 63 bass to the scales for a total weight of 95.79 pounds with a 1.59 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.52 lbs. All but five fish were released alive back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

weight of 5.65 pounds.

Gary Martlage: I had the opportunity to fish with a new member in the club, John Reyes. John is a "working man", so we couldn't get on the water until tournament day. I fished Friday, and Monday, knowing the lake would be tough come derby day. I found a few fish in 30-40 feet of water, with nothing standing out enough to change up the plan come tournament day. I met John at Wild Horse West for a rendezvous to load up the boat and go to the lake, hoping to at least have a burger after the tournament. John brought his usual co-angler gear; 6 rods and tackle. I think he was amazed that I only had 2 rods out; drop shot, and an ice jig, which I used for maybe 2 minutes of the day. We caught our fish on the dropper, off of main lake points and humps in 35-50 feet of water.

We stuck to the plan, even though we didn't have a fish in the boat until 9AM. We ended up culling 1 fish all day. John stuck a 3lbr with only 30 minutes to go; you would have thought he caught a world record. What a great guy who will be a future asset to the club. John, I appreciated fishing with you today and hope to draw you in the future, you're a hell of a guy!



4th Place Gary Martlage & John Reyes

Charles Mackintosh & Ray Riley Win 5th Place

Taking home **5th Place**, Team **Charles Mackintosh & Ray Riley** weighed three fish for a total weight of 5.54 pounds.

Charles Mackintosh: Congratulations to Greg Utton and Tom Alauria on their 1st Place finish! I had the pleasure of fishing with Ray Riley for this tournament. We caught a couple of fish on our 1st day of practice and followed that by getting skunked on our second day. Luckily a couple of guys from our club pointed us in the right direction, deep water.

For our third day of practice, we focused on structure in 40 feet of water and caught four fish on drop shots and jigs. Some areas showed many fish on the graph but few were in the mood to bite. Knowing how tough the bite was I downsized my drop shot leader to 6lb test. For tournament day we spent the day visiting 8 to 10 areas of structure at 40 feet in the main lake. From 7 to 8:30AM we generated four drop shot bites converting three of them to fish in the livewell. In the waning minutes of the tournament, I broke off our 5th and final bite. "Ray, thanks for not pushing me in the lake". The break off disappointment was softened by an unexpected finish in the money. Drop shot bait used was a 4.25-inch 5150 curly tail in Gary's favorite color. Thanks to the tournament crew for another smooth event. It is a pleasure to fish in this club and I am thankful for all I have learned from club members.

Ray Riley: First off, congratulations to the team of Greg Utton and Tom Alauria for a nice bag and also the big fish on a very tough tournament day. Also, a word of congratulation goes out to Gary Grimes and Norm Hass, along with all the other winners. As everyone who was on the water knows, it was a brutal tournament but as always, a couple of teams managed to overcome the handicaps and bring in a nice bag like Greg and Tom. I was just lucky to fish with Charles Mackintosh who had it dialed in and planned out, thanks Charles. Any co-angler who happens to be paired with him will be a lucky guy.

After trying everything in the tool chest it

came down to Drop Shots, and more Drop Shots. I felt awful for Charles, who lost a big one with a few minutes to go. Half way to the net the line broke above the hook so we never got a look at that fish. A fun and exciting tournament

(PS)...we had a pre-fish day with zero fish, so 3 fish caught during the tournament was a much better day.

Team Nick Teschler & Rick Harang Take 6th Place

Team **Teschler & Harang** weighed three bass for 4.89 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

Nick Teschler & Rick Harang: Rick and I started by running up river early AM where I have been seeing a lot of bait and catching some good fish. We could see the fish but couldn't get them to eat. That was the story for us until about 9AM. We went to all my summer spots but nothing until mid-morning; once 9AM hit they got hungry.

We fished in 35-50 feet with drop shots and caught all of our fish on the Arizona Custom Baits 6-inch worm in the Punisher color. Most of our fish were on submerged islands and points. It was a slow day to start but



7th Place David Sapyta & David Brakefield

the end had more excitement for us. We never found the big ones but I did have one we never saw break me off, but that's fishing. The fish are definitely a lot more mysterious at Pleasant than they were last year. It was a fun day with Rick and we are now 2 for 2 in the money fishing together.

David Brakefield & David Sapyta Win 7th Place Fishing Deep Points

Taking home **7th Place**, Team **Nick Teschler & Rick Harang** weighed three fish for a total weight of 4.89 pounds.

David Brakefield & David Sapyta: Congratulations to the winners and thanks to the weigh-in crew; great job to all of the volunteers of the club.

I had the pleasure of fishing with David Sapyta, the drop shot wizard. I told David I had one point in the lake where I always catch fish, so we started there. I dropped the trolling motor in the water and was untangling my rods from the run when David yelled "fish-on". I netted the small fish for him and put it in the livewell. I had made a cast or two myself when he yelled again "fish-on". I also netted it. Another 30 minutes went by when he again yelled "fish-on", we had not moved more than 20 feet from where we started. We fished the rest of the day in that spot and in all my other secret spots without another bite. I need to get some more secret spots. We had a great time and I look forward to fishing with David again.

A Little Humor

What did the mother turkey say to her disobedient children?
If your father could see you now, he'd turn over in his gravy!

FISHERMAN'S HOROSCOPE

Virgo (Aug 23-Sep 22) - The Lure

You have mastered the art of thinking like a fish. In fact, you're apt to fall for anything...hook, line and sinker.



Weighing-In By Gary Martlage

I want to again thank all the help we received at the tournament weigh-in. Big Dave Convery again shuttled anglers down the long trip to the dock. One other angler helped out (didn't catch his name) but that surely was the highlight of the weigh-in. Gary Grimes brought an extra pop-up awning and what a difference. These are mandatory for use in the future derbies.

I know anglers were a little upset about the start of the tournament, as Savage held the boats back in a more orderly fashion. This is a SAFETY ISSUE, and I congratulate him for doing so. A few extra minutes is better than having a boat collision at the start of the tournament. A life isn't worth the risk. Thanks again, Tom.

It is imperative that anglers take care of your fish, including getting them back to the water after being weighed. There were a few issues, but I think most of the fish were returned to be caught another day. I sure am enjoying being the Director, with all the help that I receive. I do believe the new crew stepping up for next year are on schedule for a smooth transition so we can keep the club running as the BEST CLUB IN ARIZONA!

One last thing, I do end up with things left at the weigh-in, and some angler out there is missing a very nice new Bass Pro Shops weigh bag. It was left at the BARTLETT tournament, and I was remiss in not mentioning it at the pre-derby meeting. If it is yours, please call me and I will get it to you next time I see you.

Let's have a great time next month at Lake Roosevelt; hope to see you all there.

Patriot Day 9-11-2022

Special Thank You

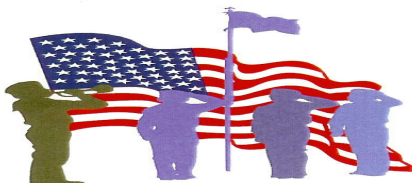


Photo Scrapbook - Lake Pleasant - August 17, 2022



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2022 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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Tom Savage

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

**Welcome to New
Midweek Bass Anglers
Since the Last Newsletter**

None

Please meet and greet our new members.



Best Wishes and Happy Birthday
Born in September

Mike Adamson

Don Blume

Pete Gesswein

Norm Haas

John Hilland

Randy Howell

Bob Jolley

Jeff Mason

Bruce Nelson

Lester Rapp Jr.

Ron Rudzinski

Howard Thomas

Gene Turner

Doyle Wofford



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2022
Tournament Schedule**

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