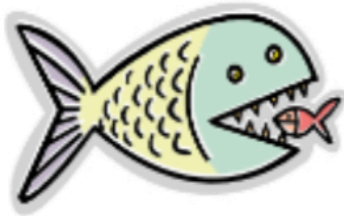


MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS Of Arizona



Bass Bites



FISHING WEDNESDAY - NOT WEEKENDS!

AUGUST 2023 EDITION
18 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

Club Established January 27, 2005
Editor: Greg Utton



President's Perspective *By Floyd Vaughan*

It was a very interesting/difficult day of fishing for the 33 boats who battled it out at Saguaro Lake for our August tournament. Thirty-Three boats fished from safe-light until 11AM, toughing it out in the summer heat, searching for three quality largemouth bass. Most teams caught limits, but not all. For those who caught fish, the common key seemed to be drop shotting. Congratulations to the team of Vern Ridgway and Keith Weidert on the victory with a 3 fish bag totaling 15.70 lbs., anchored by a 9.16 lb. Toooooad!

Lots of good fish showed up to the weigh in. The average bag weighed in was just over 9 lbs. The average fish weighed was 3.20 lbs. pounds!

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.

ANGLER'S REPORTS

Thanks to both Vern Ridgway and Keith Weidert (9.16 lbs.) and Nick Teschler and Nathan Fearnor (8.23 lbs.) big bass that boosted the average weight and of course, the team of Gary Martlage and Bob Cooley's (0.67 lbs.) bass kept us all very humble! Love you guys!

Looking forward to seeing all of us at Roosevelt Lake next month.



Secretary's Message Dale Bayless

I did not fish this month at Lake Saguaro; however, I was able to come to the weigh in. Talk about some monster fish! I put the facts on the website but just off the top, for a three fish limit there was nearly 300 pounds of fish brought to the scale. You all had 8 fish over five pounds in contention for the \$1000.00 5lb prize. I think 5 fish over 6 pounds, amazing. Everyone seemed to be in good shape despite the heat, a couple

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<http://www.midweekbassaz.com>

of guys were a little woozy but nothing significant. The parking lot operation seemed to go pretty smooth considering the layout of Saguaro's lot. Thanks to all of you contenders and the weigh in crew for making Saguaro a good experience. I am looking forward to fishing Roosevelt next month with everyone.

I also want to thank **Jim Duel** for taking photos this month at Saguaro. The photos are available for download at dropbox by clicking **here**.

Angler's Reports



I want to encourage everyone to get their photos taken after the weigh-in. It helps me in the Bass Bites and helps club members to recognize new faces. I need to be able to identify the boat number with the photo. That is the only way I can include the photos in the the articles.

Terry Tassin got sucked back in to helping me with the Bass Bites again. He is editing of all the inputs for me. Thanks Terry.

FIRST PLACE (15.5#) Vern Ridgway and Keith Weidert

VERN RIDGWAY: Another outstandingly run tournament by Midweek Bass management, with special hats off to the weight crew - you guys are great! Not to forget our editor-in-chief Mr. Greg Utton for his efforts.



Vern Ridgway and Keith Weidert

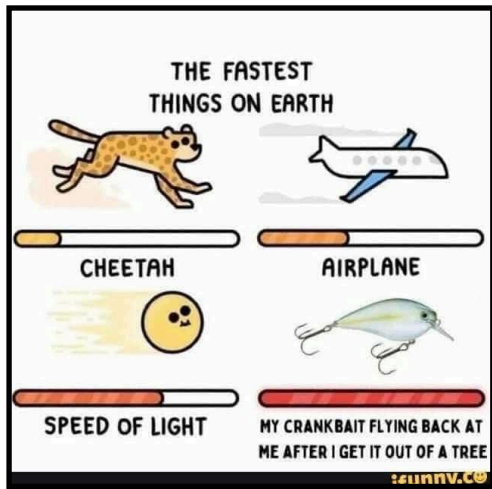
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	Jim Duel	480-790-8594
BASS BITES EDITOR		
	Greg Utton	
	BassBitesEditor@gmail.com	

The drawing for partners matched me up with the talented Mr. Keith Weidert. I was able to pre fish about three times before the tournament. Keith was able to join me on Monday before game time and we covered the lake, all parts from dam to dam. We soon had a "game plan" and fine-tuned it for the tourney. Conditions

changed by game time and we were scrambling to adjust to the changed conditions. Keith nailed a nice 4 plus to start the show on a little worm at our first stop near the mouth of the river. I soon caught a keeper about 2 hours into our first stop. We soon moved to area number 2 that was

school kids. The old girl went for a Texas rigged creature bait with a 1/4 oz. weight in green pumpkin.

Thanks to all the competitors who supported our event; see you all at Rosey next month.



SECOND PLACE (14.65#) Roger Williams and James Clisch

James Clisch: I had a great day on the lake with Roger. We started up the river and in about a 1/2-hour Roger hooked into a decent fish. Before I could get the net off the floor of the boat the fish tossed the lure. Darn!! About two hours after that he hooked into our big fish and wow was that exciting. After we got her in the live well, on the next cast...bam another nice fish off the vertical wall for Roger. He saved our day with those two bass. I was as useful as a bump on a log the whole day. There was a long dry spell then finally Roger scored on another fish drop shotting. Great times on the water with Roger. Super boat captain and really enjoyed the day and the company. This is a great club. I cannot say enough good things about the awesome boaters that I have had the privilege to fish with. Getting a check is just icing on the cake.

holding fish in practice, but they had moved on leaving no fish behind. We returned to spot one for another try, but only a small keeper was home, no luck. We had a small limit at this time.

So off to spot 3 at mid-lake where we spent the remaining hours pounding the shore with everything we had. I threw my lure into the shade under a ledge and looking down at the graph, I noticed we were in 60 feet of water. As I looked up, my line was heading for "deep water" as I set-up on a big bass, all I could feel was heavy weight as I "calmly" asked Keith for the net. She stayed down for what seemed like forever and when she did come up, she fought us from under the boat. Soon she came out and tried to jump (I think we were the ones that jumped because we had no idea how big she was until then). Keith was there to scoop her up with the net. We were as thrilled as a couple of

Roger Williams: Thank you so much everyone that helped make the tournament possible and did the weigh-in. Jim and I had a great time despite me being super tired. (I got home from Alaska at 12.30am the day of the tournament).

A few weeks before the tournament I went to Saguaro and caught a few decent fish on frogs

and deep cranks. The plan was to go to the river first thing and throw the frog around vegetation and go out later and crank. The first part of the plan was successful and we caught our big fish and a 5.6ish on the frog. We lost another one earlier and the bite seemed to stop completely around 7am.

The 2nd half of the plan was a complete bust. With just over an hour to go in the tournament, we still needed our third fish. Time to drop-shot. We moved around fairly quickly and landed two on drop shot, but they were much smaller fish. Still, we were extremely happy to complete our limit with 14.65 pounds. Another great day with Midweek Bass.

THIRD PLACE (14.40#)
Nick Teschler and Nathan Fearnø

We started out the morning with a plan but I didn't think we would be able to follow that plan

and tried some old stuff that didn't work out for us.

One of the spots I wanted to hit opened up and we went right over to it and the first fish of the day was an 8.23lb stud on a Crankbait. The very next cast I threw in the same spot and hooked up with one just as big if not bigger. Unfortunately the bass wrapped me in a tree and after a few minutes of trying to get it off, she popped off.

For the rest of the day we threw drop-shots in 15-30 ft. We probably caught close to 20 fish but they were all around 2.5lbs.

In the last 20 minutes I went to a spot that we had not been to and it was loaded. We caught around 4 fish and at the last cast of the day I caught a 3.2lber which culled a 2.6 and got us into 3rd place. It was a fun day, unfortunately didn't fish clean and it cost us the win.

2023 Tournament Schedule	
Jan 18	Lake Pleasant
Feb 15	Bartlett Lake
Mar 15	Havasu
Apr 19	Alamo
May 17	Roosevelt Lake
Jun 21*	Bartlett (3 fish limit)
Jul 19**	Pleasant (3 fish limit)
Aug 16**	Saguaro (3 fish limit)
Sep 20	Roosevelt
Oct 18	Alamo
Nov 14-15	Apache or Roosevelt

* SL to 2pm. **SL to 11am

FOURTH PLACE (14.40#)
Jake Domres and Andrew Bell

Andrew Bell: We caught our fish dragging drop shots and Texas rigs in 15 feet of water in the main lake. Nothing special about it, just typical summer time fishing. Where we were fishing, and timing, were the main factors at play that made the difference.

having boat 26. Of course the spots I wanted to hit were taken, so we went off the beaten path

FIFTH PLACE (13.44#) Don Blume and Otto Gal

Don Blume: Special thanks go to the Board of Directors and weigh in crew for always doing a wonderful job. "Great job" to all the winners. There was some impressive fish caught. Team Ridgeway and Weidert did a fantastic job; that 9.26 pounder is the fish of a lifetime.

Tournament day Don drew the 29th boat out, so we knew most main lake hot spots would be taken. For the last few weeks, I had been catching fish using Drop Shot on the walls. So, for our first fishing spot of the day, we went to the walls at the start of the Narrows. Our first fish came quickly and it was a 1 lb dink. A short time later the next fish was a nice 5 lber. Third fish was even better-our big fish of the day-a solid 5.60. We then caught the 4th fish a 3.10 and were culling by 9 AM. We were able to cull one more time and moved our small fish up to 3.20 pounds. All fish came on green pumpkin Zoom worms. We never left the Narrows all day.

All total, I think we caught 10 fish and had a great day. It was fun getting to know Otto Gal.

Otto Gal: For the first time in a long time I was not as well prepared for saguaro so I didn't help much or contribute to the final weight that we had. Thanks to Don's skills with the drop shot and the way he fished it and the place we fished. I have to give him all the credit.

We fished the first cove on the right after crossing the main lake and fished most all day

there. As it got hotter, we did go on the other side to fish the shady side. The important thing for me is that I learned something about drop shot from Don.

SIXTH PLACE (13.18#) Joe Michaels and Joe Denson

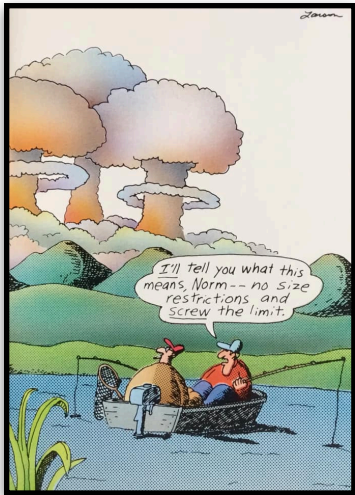


Joe Michaels and Joe Denson

Joe Denson: I'd like to start out by saying it was nice to show up and see what a great turnout we had at Saguaro Lake. When the pairings came out at the meeting that I paired up with Joe Michaels I was pretty happy about that. He had fished with me 2 years ago out of my boat and I had heard he just bought a brand-new boat so I was excited to fish out of his new boat.

Joe and I did a little pre-fishing where he did most of the pre-fishing. However, I did go with him and we did locate some fish on our first stop. We decided we were going to go just past Shiprock on the left-hand side and fish the bluff

walls. Within 15 minutes I was throwing a j-rig green pumpkin with black flake and hooked on to a 4.15 pounder. A few minutes later I threw back out and hooked into another one that was around 3.80. Within the hour we had three fish for a limit so we left that spot and decided to go



Courtesy: Bob Jolley

fish some walls up in the channel. We fished there for about a half hour with nothing biting so we went to our third spot which was Bagley Flats and we fished a couple of rock piles and Joe hooked into a bass. I caught another big fish we weighed and it was just over 5 lbs. so that gave us a pretty good limit. Joe caught another one that didn't cull so we moved on to the walls again to finish up the day and that was pretty much it for us.

Joe Michels: I dedicated a significant amount of time at Saguaro Lake in search of fish before the tournament. During practice sessions, I managed to reel in robust 3 to 5-pound fish along the walls within the early hours in the channel. Unfortunately, this bite started out slow and gradually decreased every time I ventured onto the lake. Although I was aware that fish were present, they seemed scattered and few in number. I was fortunate to team up with Joe Denson, who is one of the top anglers in our club. Joe and I engaged in pre-fishing,

successfully capturing numerous fish around the mid-lake channel breaks using jigs, j-rigs, and Carolina rigs. These fish were located in approximately 20 feet of water. During practice, we caught fish ranging from 2.5 to 5.5 pounds, although the quantity was not particularly high.

Joe's extensive network of fishing companions provided him with advice on where to find good fish along a bluff wall. On my final practice day, I received bites in that area but did not stay long. On the same day, I identified a boulder/rock pile on a channel break using my side scan, resulting in three bites within a span of 5 minutes. I moved away from that spot to attempt the walls in the main channel. However, I was unable to replicate the bites on the walls, despite witnessing a local angler catch and weigh a 7.4-pounder from my favorite wall stretch.

Come tournament day, we commenced on the bluff/wall area, where Joe made a promising start by landing a 3.8-pounder, followed shortly by a 4.1-pounder. Still early in the day, we transitioned to the main channel walls. After half an hour without any bites, we relocated back to the bluff, where

Joe reeled in a 3.6-pounder. It wasn't until later that I finally got my first bite, though I struggled to

hook the fish successfully. We then proceeded to the boulder pile on the channel break, where I managed to catch a 3.7-pounder, followed by a 2.25-pounder. Joe matched this with a 2-

NEW MEMBERS

John Zupet
Steve Ferguson
Andrew Bell

pounder and an impressive 5.4-pounder. Our combined total reached 13 pounds, leading us to revisit the primary challenge walls due to the cloudy and breezy conditions. Unfortunately, we remained bite less. During this time, we encountered a club member, who had recently lost a substantial fish. Despite the presence of quality fish in the area, they didn't bite what we were offering.

Fishing alongside Joe was a true pleasure due to his positive attitude, confidence, and extensive knowledge. Thanks to his guidance, I achieved my first payout as a boater. To be honest, we included Joe's catch in our overall weight, and I'm perfectly content with that outcome. It's not often that we release 3.7-pound fish, which happened to be my best catch of the day

SEVENTH PLACE (12.75#) **Mark Peiffer and Richard Harang**

Mark Peiffer: Great decision by the club to adapt and change the location of our August derby. Saguaro definitely showed up! I had a chance to pre-fish on Sunday. After a few hours

of fishing unproductive water, trying to flip and finesse, I got on a chatterbait bite in two areas. I had over 14 plus pounds and I left fish biting to "save" for the tournament. Well after finishing our duties as the start boat, we headed to our 1st "spot", hoping no one



would be there. Luckily, we had it to ourselves.

We quickly caught a keeper and got right on the juice and the chatterbait was hammered. It just stopped. After a second or two I felt the head shake and knew it was a good one. After Rick's skillful net job, we lifted a 6.16 into the boat. Rick chipped in with a fish on a C-rig and we culled once but our bite died by 8:30 AM. Practice kept the chatterbait in my hand too long (live & learn). All in all, we caught 6-7 fish and I had a great time fishing with Rick

Richard Harang: First off thanks to the crew operating the weigh in, especially in this heat, great job guys. Congrats to Vern and Keith for a nice limit and sweet big fish. Mark Peiffer and I had the great draw of last boat/start boat so when we got to the area Mark had done well in pre-fish, we were surprised no one was there. Guess that was a pretty good omen. Mark started off very quickly with a chatter bait and we had our weigh in weight by 7:30. I think most of our fish came within a 200-yard stretch. We tried some other areas throughout the morning without any luck. We saw a lot of other areas where several boats were close together but our area never really got pinched by anyone else. Had a great time fishing with Mark and hope to get the chance to do it again.

EIGHTH PLACE (12.38#) **Laron Porter and Joe Pettinato**

Joe Pettinato: Being new to the club and tournament fishing I still have some nervous jitters when getting into someone's boat for the

first time. Well, any anxiety I had was completely gone when Laron Porter welcomed me aboard. I immediately felt at ease.

Laron made the decision to go upriver since he had a couple of decent days there in practice. We both started with topwater. Laron threw a rat and I a whopper plover. After not getting a bite for forty minutes or so Laron switched to a frog and I picked up a wacky worm. Twenty minutes later I hear a big splash and Laron is hooked up with a 4.88. We get that fish into the boat and continue doing the same thing. Fifteen minutes later I hook up with a 4.50 that wanted to kiss the trolling motor. With a disaster averted we get it in the boat. We keep drifting along and come to a much wider pocket and we both reach for the drop-shot at the same time. I put a 2.50 in the box from that pocket and we had a limit by 7:15.

With 11.86 in the box, we concentrated on upgrading and luckily Laron jack-jawed a 3.50 after he picked up the frog again. After that things slowed down but we did catch a few rats. Total fish count was probably ten. This was my first ever tournament on Saguaro and I can't wait to do it again. This lake rocks, so let's hope it stays healthy. Lastly, I just want to thank Laron for making me feel at home. I am looking forward to fishing with him again. Thank you to MBA for running a great club.

Goon Fish



Laron Porter and Joe Pettinato

Jeff Mason and Bryan Colby

Jeff Mason: Third cast of the morning with a DT10 off a point on last turn to go up river. A fish knocked the heck out of the lure. I'm huffing and puffing, fighting this fish, thinking what a great start! My partner Bryan burst my bubble with the fish half way back to the boat by yelling out, **"that's a catfish!"**

Joe Michaels New YouTube Channel - Video from Saguaro

Click image to view video



FINAL RESULTS

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS PAIRINGS FOR SAGUARO					EVENT DATE 16 AUGUST 2023								
Team Names													
Final Place	Boat No	Boater	Co-Angler	Number Bass Weighed	Number Bass Alive	Biggest Bass Weight	Sub Total Weight (lbs/oz)	Goon Fish (lbs/oz) (Species)	Penalty Dead Fish (4 oz per [.25])	Final Total Weight (lbs/oz)	Event Place Points	34	\$\$\$ Boats Prizes
1	15	Vern Ridgway	Keith Weidert	3	3	9.16	15.70			15.70	150	1PL	\$820
2	28	Roger Williams	James Clisch	3	3	6.39	14.65			14.65	149	2PL	\$546
3	26	Nick Teschler	Nathan Fearnano	3	3	8.23	14.40	5.33 cat		14.40	148	3PL	\$342
4	33	Jake Domres	Andrew Bell	3	3	6.68	14.40			14.40	148	4PL	\$240
5	29	Don Blume	Otto Gal	3	2	5.6	13.69		0.25	13.44	146	5PL	\$204
6	23	Joe Michels	Joe Denson	3	3	5.41	13.18			13.18	145	6PL	\$170
7	34	Mark Peiffer	Richard Harang	3	3	6.16	12.75			12.75	144	7PL	\$154
8	20	Laron Porter	Joe Pettinato	3	1	4.62	12.88		0.50	12.38	143	8PL	\$136
9	11	Richie Rojas	Eliseo Flores	3	3	5.45	11.90			11.90	142		
10	9	David Brakefield	David Sapyta	3	3	3.95	11.31			11.31	141		
11	25	Andrew Goettl	Randy Howell	3	3	4.76	10.61			10.61	140		
12	17	Jeff Mason	Bryan Colby	3	3	4.95	10.31	7.31 cat		10.31	139	GF	100
13	4	Steve Grier	Peter Gesswein	3	3	4.62	9.69			9.69	138		
14	6	Allen Wacker	Doug Moore	3	3	3.6	9.01			9.01	137		
15	24	Gary Volpe	Ray Riley	3	3	6.12	8.77			8.77	136		
16	19	Manny Madrid	Jim Pardoe	3	3		8.61			8.61	135		
17	30	Larry White	Rick Brown	3	3	3.31	8.56			8.56	134		
18	22	Mitch Vitkovich	Tom Alauria	3	3	3.37	8.51			8.51	133		
19	7	Joe Beaty	Mike Adamson	3	3	3.19	8.30			8.30	132		
20	3	James Duel	Randy Gray	3	2	3.69	8.10		0.25	7.85	131		
21	18	John Schramer	Doyle Wofford	3	3	4.18	7.74			7.74	130		
22	10	Roger Root	Dennis Thiel	3	3	3.06	7.43			7.43	129		
23	1	Michael Edgar	Floyd Vaughan	3	3	3.18	6.96			6.96	128		
24	31	Kevin Russell	Scott Thelander	3	0		7.06		0.75	6.31	127		
25	21	Jeffrey Stone	Martin Bustamante	3	2	3.02	6.44		0.25	6.19	126		
26	5	John Hilland	Norm Haas	2	2	2.67	5.55			5.55	125		
27	27	Greg Prather	John Zupet	3	3	2.73	4.86			4.86	124		
28	12	Bill Briggs	Chris Mabry	3	3	2.67	4.84			4.84	123		
29	16	Lance Kuhler	Tom Atherton	1	1	4.52	4.52			4.52	122		
30	8	Brian Presmyk	Carlo Guinta	2	2	3.8	4.48			4.48	121		
31	13	David Convery	Douglas Cripe	3	3		4.43			4.43	120		
32	2	Gary Martlage	Bob Cooley	1	1		0.64			0.64	119		
33	14	Eric Hively	Gilberto Munoz	0	0					0.00	50		
33	32	Charles Mackintosh	ShawnByrne	0	0					0.00	50		
			GRAND TOTALS	90	82		290.28			288.28			\$4,518