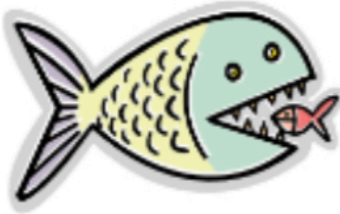


# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS Of Arizona



## Bass Bites



FISHING WEDNESDAY - NOT WEEKENDS!

SEPTEMBER 2023 EDITION  
18 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

Club Established January 27, 2005  
Editor: Greg Utton



### President's Perspective

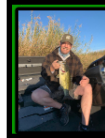
*By Floyd Vaughan*

It was a very interesting/difficult day of fishing for the 29 boats who battled it out at Roosevelt Lake for our September tournament. The club fished from safe light until 2 PM, searching for 5 quality largemouth bass. Most teams caught limits, but not all. For those who caught fish, the common key seemed to be **throwing everything** at them. Congratulations to the team of Laron Porter and Bob Cooley on the victory with a 5 fish bag totaling 16.23 lbs., anchored by a 3.82-pound big bass. The big bass of the tournament, brought in by Michael Edgar and James Neinast was a 6.49-pound lunker, which carried them to a third-place finish overall and won for them the 5 lb Pot prize money.

While talking with a club member he brought up this interesting opinion. "With a very wet winter and a longer than normal hot summer the fishing

has been very inconsistent". Very interesting. Well, I let you make up your own thoughts/excuses on the matter.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Alamo Lake next month.



### Secretary's Message

Dale Bayless

Not only another tournament in the books but from what I keep hearing from the guys is "what a great tournament; Midweek is a great club". That is good to hear. We have our moments running the club but you guys are making the club by your participation, honesty, loyalty and general attitude of wanting to contribute. While I stood at the Pre-launch meeting, I just noticed guys laughing, talking and a feeling of anticipation to get on the water. The vibe was awesome. Like I said, "you guys make the club". Our weigh in crew gets mentioned every tournament but not their names. I just want to make them known again. Steve Grier - Tx Director & White Board. Floyd Vaughan - Tank Operator, Live or dead and official count man. John Hilland - Weigh Master and verbal count man. Bob Cooley - Official Recorder and permanent decision man. These guys not only fish like we do in all the elements but they get back, set up the scales, and break everything

### 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.

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

down when it's all over. Oh, I almost forgot my job at the weigh in. They tell me "Just stay out of the way". LOL. Looking forward to Alamo in October. Also, I want to mention Jim Duel - helping with the photography and launching boats. Tom Alauria for filling in where needed like white board, and just always offering to do something. Bass Bites Editor Greg Utton and with the assistance of Terry Tassin keeps our newsletter going.

## FIRST PLACE (15.98#) Laron Porter and Bob Cooley



Take care and be safe.

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



Laron Porter and Bob Cooley

**Laron Porter:** This is one of those tournaments where being able to pre fish really paid off. Because the evening bite has been so good, I decided to stay out later Monday and try to find some areas with big schools of active fish. I was able to locate 4 spots that had not only active fish but some really big ones. I knew that the morning bite would be a lot tougher but I knew fish would still be in those same areas. I figured we'd possibly need to slow way down to get the bites. It was definitely tougher fishing in the morning and we definitely needed to slow it down and I drew the perfect person to do it. Bob Cooley was a real stick! While I power fished, he was really able to get a lot of bites dragging a Texas rigged 6" worm really slow. He was catching 5 fish to my 1. We caught a lot of fish early but knew we needed to cull. We did a milk run to our different spots and were able to eventually catch some good ones on his Texas rigged worm and my crank bait. My biggest fish spot had someone on it or near it, each time I wanted to fish it. We never got that really big bite, but we fished until the last minute trying. A big thanks to Bob Cooley for coming out and fishing with me. His

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<b>BASS BITES EDITOR</b>	Greg Utton	
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company on the boat was better than the fishing and the fishing was great. A big shout out for all those who help put everything together to make Midweek so enjoyable. THANKS!!

**Bob Cooley:** This tournament was by far the best one I personally have had since joining the club 3 years ago. The numbers and quality of fish caught exceeded my expectations, considering fishing had been a grind the last couple of weeks. Laron and I started up in the Tonto Basin area off some deeper points. I started with a Texas rig while Laron threw a 10XD crank bait. It seemed like every other cast I was hooked up and we had our limit within the first half hour - close to 10 lbs. from that point on it was nothing but culling. I kind of felt bad for Laron; every fish seemed just a bit bigger than the last, so he spent more time on the balance beam than fishing. Not really though, I was having too much fun. So, deciding to give that spot a rest, we headed to our second spot. Once in the right position, we continued to cull. Laron still throwing his 10XD, sets the hook and says, "This one is big." As it came up, we noticed that he's got two 3 lb fish trying to go in opposite directions. Pretty cool to see two decent fish caught on one lure. Boat positioning was the key to our success. If you weren't throwing in the precise lane, you were not going to get bit. Great Day, Great Partner, and I hope we fish together again soon. Special shout out goes to Michael Edgar and James Neinast for catching the big fish of the tournament, 6.49 lbs.

## **SECOND PLACE (14.89#)** **Vern Ridgway and Bob Jolley**

**Vern Ridgway:** Another fine job by our weigh crew and staff members and of course our Editor and Chief. I was fortunate enough to draw one of our seasoned veterans, Bob Jolly, as my partner. Meeting time was 4:30 AM, so Tuesday night we

had to eat dinner and sleep fast in order to meet the schedule. Our pre fish conditions found things "less than desirable."

On tournament day, we found one area that might hold some fish and another that had been known to produce fish as well, and one 30-minute stop that filled our limit throwing frogs. We



Vern Ridgway and Bob Jolley

then settled into a grind, about 1.5 fish per hour throwing creature baits into the "junk" (stick ups, trees, etc.). I believe we culled 3 times and Bob had a tough time throwing two and a half pounders back. We enjoyed our fishing time but we were soon out of time and we hit our last stop which produced 2 small non-keepers. Thanks to all who came out to support our effort; see you all in a few weeks.

**Bob Jolley:** Vern and I pre-fished in the Salt on Tuesday and caught a few bass but nothing of any size. We went back on Wednesday and it was much better with bigger fish but we still had to work our behinds off to get the nice bag we ended up with.

I used several baits including top water, drop shot, Texas rig creature baits and swim baits. I

had a great time fishing with Vern and I learned some new things. We had a fun time and I contributed some, mostly with the net, to help us to the second-place finish. Vern is a hardworking and talented fisherman and I hope we can get paired up again. Thanks to the weigh-in team who always do a great job.

and I had great conversations with Scott and David.

On Wednesday, Jim and I came up with a plan that morning at the ramp, where we decided to fish top water on steep banks on the main lake. We started over by the marina and worked our way into a cove. Jim picked one up on a Rico in the back of that cove, we then left and went to fish the shore line around the dam. The wind then had picked up a little bit so I decided to throw a spinner bait and all the other baits you would use under those conditions. But unfortunately, no fish! Jim then started using a drop shot while I continued using the same baits as before and then Jim started catching fish. We then continued down the bank, catching nothing big but a fish every now and then. I made the decision next to switch to a free rig and then caught a few fish. We had a nice limit by 8 or so. We decided to head up to the far end of the Tonto, where we found a lot of fish and had some action on top water but no hook ups. Around 12:00 we headed back to the main lake and started to throw Senko's on the steep banks in the deep water. At this point, we were then able to upgrade three of our fish.

I enjoyed fishing with Jim; it was no stress and very laid back. We never really developed a pattern, other than Rico fish we just used worms and Senko's in typical normal colors (green pumpkin, pink, light brown, etc.). When the big fish was caught, I was throwing a spinner bait and Jim tossed in a drop shot at the same spot where he hooked into a really nice fish. It took several minutes to get it in the net and it was a very nice bass. Seems the fish just didn't know which bait to bite this time around.

### **THIRD PLACE (14.09#)** **Michael Edgar and Jame Neinast** **And First Big Fish (6.49#)**

**Michael Edgar:** I have always enjoyed fishing Roosevelt; it's been one of my favorite lakes even when the fishing is bad. The Tonto Basin is one of the prettiest places in Arizona. For our practice on Tuesday, it was probably similar to everyone else's, James Neinast and I found a few fish, nothing solid but figured if we could catch a limit, we would get a check even though we knew that Roosevelt can be very stingy with its fish. The most exciting event of the day was the snapping of the trolling motor cable. I had to do quite a dance but there luckily were no damaged rods and I didn't fall into the lake! After

<b>2023 Tournament Schedule</b>	
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	

the day's fishing, we headed to the hotel around 3:30, fixed the broken cable, enjoyed a few beers

## FOURTH PLACE (13.65#) John Hilland and Chris Mabry And Second Big Fish (3.97#)

**John Hilland:** First congrats to the team of Porter/Cooley on a great bag! I had the pleasure this month of fishing with Chris Mabry, great guy,



John Hilland and Chris Mabry

super helpful and a pleasure to fish with. We made a plan to meet Tuesday to do some pre fishing. We started out in the Salt end of the lake throwing some top water lures hoping for a little luck but nothing to really go on. We decided to push up a little further in the river and flip, that didn't seem to produce for us either. Around 10am we made the long run to the Tonto end of the lake flipping and throwing a drop shot and had a bit more success.

On tournament day we started in the Tonto end again fishing drop shot and flipping; by 9am we only had one fish and decided to make a move. We headed back to the sticks in the other end of the lake flipping and throwing some moving baits. Chris hooked up right away with a little one and I switched over to what he was using. Within 10 minutes I had two good fish, one of them being

the second big fish of the day. We were able to put a nice limit together in that area and headed for the weigh in. Thanks again for the guys who make the club run so smooth. Hope to see everyone next month.

**Chris Mabry:** I had the pleasure of being partnered up with John Hilland for this tournament. He was a great partner; we worked together effortlessly and had a good time; I hope to be paired with John in the future. Congratulations to Loran Porter and Bob Cooley, great job and thanks to the weigh in crew for a smooth weigh in

We pre-fished Tuesday and started out on the Salt end of the lake and then moved onto the Tonto side of the lake. On the Salt end we fished brush filled coves and rocky points. We caught five fish on a white buzz bait and morning dawn drop shot worm. We felt the day produced a good plan to follow for tournament day.

On tournament day we followed our pre-fishing plan with little success. John caught 2 fish executing the plan in the same locations we had fished during pre-fishing. Late morning John had the idea to go to a cove with real heavy brush and trees. We worked it for quite some time with a buzz bait and a spinner bait which produced no bites. We were about to leave when I caught a very small largemouth on a white spinner bait and the bite had begun. Next, I caught another largemouth just over 2 pounds and shortly after that John caught our two big fish weighing just under 4 pounds each. Then we both got hits from two decent sized fish each but could not get them in the boat. Then the bite turned off for us and we travelled closer to the launch ramp to try to cull more fish at other coves and points which did not produce anymore bites.

## FIFTH PLACE (13.48#)

### Joe Michaels and Mike Hoggarth

**Mike Hoffarth:** I fished as a co-angler with Joe Michels and had a good time. We fished stick-ups and trees in about 5 to 8 feet of water most of the day using Buzz Baits. A few fish were caught on Rico's and Senkos. The areas where most of the fish were caught were on main lake and secondary lake points. Even though the bite was hit and miss most of the time, Joe and I were able to catch up on old times since we were both members back in the day of the Bass Nation. In closing, Joe caught most of the fish but I was able to learn a few pointers from him which was great info for future tournaments.

**Joe Michaels:** Navigating the challenges of locating biting bass proved demanding, as evidenced by my modest haul of four fish after two days of practice. The breakthrough came on the final practice day when I shifted my focus to shallower waters and began exploring brush flats. Despite my initial attempts with a small swimsuit yielding no success, inspiration struck upon witnessing another angler's with a buzzbait.

In response, I experimented with a triple-blade buzzbait resembling a dragonfly, which, unfortunately, garnered no luck. However, switching to a white buzzbait equipped with a clacker soon proved fruitful, securing my first bite within five minutes and a keeper shortly after. Recognizing the potential of this approach, I explored different locations and achieved a third bite, confirming my strategy to employ buzzbaits for the tournament.

As the tournament day unfolded, we strategically approached a brush flat adjacent to a rocky bank. The decision paid off almost immediately, with both myself and Mike Hoffarth landing 2.5lb bass – a promising start, marking the best performance in days. Persisting with the buzzbaits, we reached our limit by 7 a.m.,

comprising four fish over 2lbs and a smaller catch. Despite the minor setback of losing two fish in the dense brush, by 8 a.m., our collection had grown to over 12 pounds, including an additional 2.5lber.

Keen to build on this momentum, I targeted steep bluffs with the buzzbait in pursuit of a larger catch, successfully upgrading with another 2.5lber. Venturing to cast the buzzbait over treetops in deeper waters, I experienced a miss but swiftly secured a keeper, further motivating my focus on deeper trees. This approach resulted in a rewarding 3.5lber catch within five minutes.

However, we observed a halt in bites around 11 a.m., despite favorable cloudy conditions and a mild chop on the water, prompting a change in strategy. Moving up into the Salt and experimenting with Senkos and flipping techniques, we attempted to upgrade but had no luck.

Reflecting on the experience, I attribute the success of the buzzbait approach to the dense cloud cover, impacting bass behavior and increasing their responsiveness to moving baits.

## SIXTH PLACE (12.50#)

### Steve Grier and Warren Brackey

**Warren Brackey:** As many of you know, this was my first tournament back fishing with Midweek in two years. I've been battling the effects of a West Nile Virus infection since September of 2021. Fortunately, my health has improved enough this past year that I decided to throw my hat in the ring for this month's Rosie event. I want to thank Midweek members for all your support. Your calls, your cards and your visits helped me through the very darkest early days. I also want to thank all who stopped by to welcome me back at



Steve Grier and Warren Brackey

the morning meeting at Rosie. I especially want to thank my friend and excellent fishing buddy Steve Grier, for his continuing encouragement and for putting up with my slow-to-the-net performance out on the lake.

Congratulations to our winners, Team Laron Porter and Bob Cooley, and to all those who placed and caught big fish in this event. Very well-done guys. Also, Major League kudos to our club staff and stellar weigh-in team for putting on another fun, and very well-run Bass tournament. The club has made a lot of great changes over these last two years to help events run even smoother than ever.

It was my good fortune to be paired with my buddy Steve for this one. We have always had a great time fishing together and figuring out what the fish were doing. This event was probably our most challenging. There's no question that Steve's experience with tough fishing conditions is what made the difference for our team. This was the third time I've been paired with Steve, finishing Fourth and Third in the previous two. So, the pressure was on for an "In-the-Money" Three-peat!!

We met at Cholla Ramp on Monday morning and focused on the Tonto end with a little success. Steve had pre-fished the Salt and Tonto ends with his brother the week prior with similar results. On Tuesday, we decided to check for signs of life mid lake. After a few hours we began to see a pattern with buzz baits and walkers heading into cuts and in the backs of coves. We also got some quality fish to react to our drop shots and Texas-rig Senkos in 8- to 14-foot-deep brush lines.

On tournament day, Steve picked a bank across from Windy Hill we hadn't fished on the day before (Note to Self: We didn't see anyone else fishing there either!). The top water bite was ON FIRE! The fish we found were much better quality than the previous two days, all were close to 2 pounds and bigger! I was using a clear Spook Jr, and think Steve had on a bone-colored Evergreen 105. We had a limit of over 10 pounds in the live well by 7am and culled two fish by around 8am, putting us near 12 pounds.

The rest of our day we moved north and south of where we started out, hunting for that kicker fish. I think we culled two more times along the way. One came on Steve's Robo Worm, a 7" Fat straight tail worm in Oxblood, another hit my top water. We also broke one off in the brush that seemed to be a really heavy fish, guess it just wasn't meant to be.

It was great fun getting back out on the water with you guys. I had a great time fishing with my buddy Steve again. And hey, we even made a little change along the way. Think that makes us Three-for-Three my friend!

**Steve Grier:** Congratulations to Laron and Bob, great bag! Shout out to the weigh-in and photography crew for a great job; a very smooth weigh-in. We started with buzz baits on a point on Conners ledge and got no bites in 30 minutes.

We then moved inside the cove still throwing topwater and Warren caught a good fish on a Spook Jr. within a few casts. I switched to an Evergreen 105 bone color and we worked down the bank and caught 6 more fish. We worked the other side of the cove and back down the first side again but didn't get another topwater bite. We found some good fish on Tuesday in bushes in 10 to 15 ft, so we put down the topwater and went to pitching bushes. We quickly picked up a good fish that culled up to about 12 lbs. We spent the rest of the day fishing the brush and occasional topwater in coves on Conner's ledge and a couple of mid-lake areas. Warren got one more fish on a topwater that culled up to our final weight. We had all our weight, except for the final cull, by 9:00 AM. The rest of the day was a tough grind. It was great to have my friend Warren back on the water again. He's an excellent fisherman and an even better person. Thoroughly enjoyed our time on and off the water. Hope he is back out again soon.

**SEVENTH PLACE (11.93#)**  
**Tom Aluria and Jeff Stone**

**Tom Aluria:** Congratulations to Laron and Bob. I was able to fish on Monday and Tuesday and the fishing was pretty dismal. I managed to flip a 4 pounder and drop shot a 2.5 pounder so I started out on Wednesday flipping. I flipped one small fish first thing but my partner Mr. Flick Shake Jeff Stone started catching better fish throwing a [Flick Shake](#) in the bushes. So, I pulled out my Flick Shake rod and stayed with it the rest of the day; Jeff even struck and landed our catfish on the little bait. Thank you Jeff for the lesson. I also want to thank the weigh team; you guys did a great job.



Courtesy: Bob Jolley

**NEW MEMBERS**  
 Travis Senft



Tom Aluria and Jeff Stone



EVENT LAKE ROOSEVELT SEPTEMBER 20, 2023												
MIDWEEK ROOSEVELT RESULTS EVENT DATE SEPTEMBER 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	29 \$\$\$ Prizes
1	1	Laron Porter	Bob Cooley	5	4	3.82	16.23		0.25	15.98	150	1PL \$746 2BF \$294
2	16	Vern Ridgeway	Bob Jolley	5	5	3.62	14.89			14.89	149	2PL \$494
3	20	Michael Edgar	James Neinast	5	5	6.49	14.09			14.09	148	3PL \$298 5lb \$1000
4	2	John Hilland	Chris Mabry	5	5	3.97	13.65			13.65	147	4PL \$224 1BF \$440
5	22	Joe Michels	Mike Hoffarth	5	5	3.71	13.48			13.48	146	5PL \$180
6	4	Steve Grier	Warren Brackey	5	5	2.7	12.50			12.50	145	6PL \$164
7	30	Tom Alauria	Jeffrey Stone	5	5	3.01	11.93	4.10 cat		11.93	144	7PL \$150 GF \$100
8	26	Randy Gray	Ray Riley	5	5	3.29	11.31			11.31	143	
9	28	Charles Mackintosh	Doug Moore	5	5	2.7	10.54			10.54	142	
10	23	Brian Colby		5	5	3.02	10.11			10.11	141	
11	11	Neil Burns	John Zupet	5	5		9.77			9.77	140	
12	14	Roger Root	Eliseo Flores	5	5	2.58	9.76			9.76	139	
13	15	Gary Senft	Keith Weidert	5	5		9.50			9.50	138	
14	24	Mark Hedstrom	Jim Pardoe	5	5	3	9.19			9.19	137	
15	12	Larry White	Allen Wacker	5	5		9.12			9.12	136	
16	29	Greg Prather		5	5		8.90			8.90	135	
17	17	Brian Presmyk	Martin Bustamante	5	5	2.42	8.73			8.73	134	
18	3	Joe Beaty	Jim Duel	5	5	3.75	8.27			8.27	133	
19	27	Don Blume	Norm Haas	5	5		8.26			8.26	132	
20	7	Richie Rojas	Scott Thelander	4	4		7.61	.35 bg		7.61	131	
21	9	Gary Martlage	Tom Atherton	3	3		5.56			5.56	130	
22	6	David Convery	Doyle Wofford	4	4		5.45			5.45	129	
23	18	Gary Volpe	Randy Howell	4	4		5.28			5.28	128	
24	25	Raymond Bates	Todd Gentner	4	4		5.26			5.26	127	
25	19	Roger Williams	Dale Bayless	3	3		4.14			4.14	126	
26	5	Pete Gesswein	Floyd Vaughan							0.00	50	
26	8	Bill Briggs	Rick Knight							0.00	50	
26	13	David Brakefield	Mike Adamson							0.00	50	
26	21	Victor Cunningham	Otto Gal							0.00	50	
<b>TOTALS</b>				117	116		243.53		0.25	243.28		\$4,090