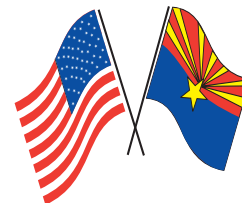


# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



**NOVEMBER 2020 EDITION** **CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005**  
**15 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN** **EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN**



### President's Perspective *By Gary Grimes*

The Midweek Bass Anglers fished their final tournament of the 2020 season, with a 30 boat field of competitors. The tournament launched around 6:30 AM and lasted until 3 PM. The weather was brisk at the launch and warm enough for t-shirts at the finish. You would think that with 30 boats and 60 anglers that someone would have caught a fish bigger than 2.76 pounds, but it was not to be. Congratulations to Steve Grier on catching the tournament big fish, way to go. Yes, the bite was tough. There were plenty of one-pound fish willing to bite, but the big girls must have been having a party together down by the dam past the no-fishing buoys. Congratulations to El Capitan Vernesto Ridgway and his partner El Hefe Grimes on the win! Blind squirrel...you know the rest. The final tournament was also center stage for the nail-biter points race for Angler of the Year (AOY), with three people having a real chance to win the honor. Congratulations to Sean Ballard on an outstanding season and finally achieving AOY. He has certainly put in the effort.

We end the season under the cloud of Covid, and all the restrictions that come with it. I appreciate all your

cooperation this year as we tried to mitigate safe distance at the weigh-ins while sharing in the excitement as team weights are recorded on the board. Thanks Tom Alauria for the great board work. We will likely see more of Covid restrictions at least for the first half of next year, but we shall persevere. We will try and keep you informed via email of club information through Terry Tassin. I look forward to seeing you all in 2021. Have a great Holiday season with your families.



### Tournament Report Lake Alamo November 18, 2020

### Sean Ballard Wins First Time Angler Of The Year Title.

Another great fishing season is over and the last event of the year was one tough nut to crack when it came to putting numbers and decent size fish in the livewell. The final club point's tournament of the year 2020 started off at 6:30 AM with boats heading up lake, down lake and all points in between. The tournament weather was great but cool with water temps around 65 degrees in most of the lake, but numbers and good size

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### **MIDWEEK BASS HALL OF FAME** **2020 Tournament Season Winners!**

#### **Angler of the Year - Sean Ballard**

- 1st Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Vern Ridgway
- 2nd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Jeff Mabry
- 3rd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Gary Grimes
- 1st Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - - Tom Savage
- 2nd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - - David Sapyta
- 3rd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - - Warren Brackey

**Lunker of the Year - Lannes Brock (9.00 lbs)**  
**February 2020- Lake Martinez**



## "We Practice Catch and Release"

fish were hard to come by; in fact most bass were hard to come by. All fish were released back into the lake to live and fight again another day.

Now let's hear from our winners.

## Vern Ridgway & Gary Grimes Wrap-up The Year With 1st Place Overall Win

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Vern Ridgway & Gary Grimes** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 9.04 lbs.

**Vern Ridgway:** Hats off to the weight-in crew again; great job guys. The weather was great and the fishing was tough, but we gathered up for another Midweek Bass derby that proved to be great fun for most of us. I had one of the great draw partners in the club and he did not let us down. Mr. Gary Grimes and I teamed up and scratched out a victory.

Gary was out of town exercising his "ambassadorship" in Mexico and was unable to practice with me so I put in 3 days of practice working one end of the lake to the other. I caught lots of little fish and a few sizable keepers, but the indication was it was going to be tough fishing conditions and anybody's ball game.

I knew the fish had to be on points and that's where we caught most of the keepers in 25 feet of water. We threw everything and caught fish on blades, top water and Texas rigged creature baits. We kept moving and culling as we went. Soon Gary had culled out most of the first group of fish we caught. I think he enjoyed his "guided" trip on Alamo.

**Gary Grimes:** It is a real nice change of pace to fish from the back of the boat as a CO once in a while. You can really focus more on fishing, instead of navigating. Once again, I got to fish with Vern Ridgway, and it was awesome. He is always prepared, usually spending several days pre-fishing, as he did at Alamo. We caught some early fish with a combination of



**1st Place Overall - Gary Grimes & Vern Ridgway**

spinnerbaits and Texas rig, but what little reaction we found was gone as soon as the sun rose above the mountains. We spent the rest of the day fishing plastics in 20 to 30 feet of water, and I guess we found a point that had a few bigger fish that made the difference for us. Thanks again to the weigh-in team for all your hard work. Thanks Vern and congratulations on Boater of the Year.

## 20 Foot Depth Magic For Team Randy Gray & Doug Moore 2nd Place Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Randy Gray & Doug Moore** weighed five bass for a total weight of 8.34 lbs.

**Doug Moore:** First of all, congratulations to Vern and Gary for their win on a tough day. As always a big thank you to all who do the work to make these tournaments run so smoothly. I had the pleasure of fishing with Randy Gray, a seasoned veteran of Arizona lakes and his experience paid off for us. I was able to pre-fish with him Monday and he also fished alone on Tuesday and found a spot that was working well. We pretty much stayed there all day during the tournament fishing in 20 feet using drop shot, jigs and spoons. It was slow but we managed a limit by about 9:00 AM, including the "big" 2 pounder that Randy got on a spoon and then plugged away the rest of the day to upgrade. Randy got another 2 pounder on a spoon late in the day and that did it for us.

**Randy Gray:** Who would have thought 8.34 lbs for second place; 8.34 is barely honorable mention for a normal tournament. But I will take it. Congrats to Vern and Gary, a half pound kick was big at this tournament. How did Doug and I pull it off – slowly! I worked one spot because I didn't know where else to go, which made for a

## Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2020 scheduled for **Wednesday, 2 December** 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 will be announced by email when completed.

The last chance to fish together in 2020 will be the annual Grudge Match on 16 December 2020 at **Bartlett Lake**. This is not a club points event. EOY awards will be presented.

The first club points tournament for **2021** is scheduled for **Lake Bartlett on 20 January 2021**. Club headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours: **Safe Light to 3:00 PM**.



**2nd Place Doug Moore & Randy Gray**

long day. We caught two bass on a spoon and we got the rest on drop shot.

I stopped at Wickenburg Marine on my way back home for my freebie lower unit maintenance. It was a great experience by great guys who know their stuff. They are certified on Minn Kota's and they gave Gary Grimes and me a lot of good tips for taking care of our boats.

**Steve Grier & Joe Michels  
Work Hard For 3rd Place**



**3rd Place Steve Grier & Joe Michels**

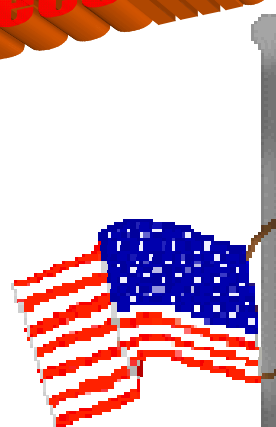
Team **Steve Grier & Joe Michels** weighed five bass for 8.27 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors. Joe's 2.76 lb bass took **1st Place Big Bass** honors for the tournament.

**Steve Grier:** Congrats to Vern and Gary for a good bag on a tough day. Joe and I pre-fished on Monday and Tuesday. We went to the river to see if we could find a flip bite. We found one area where we got a few bites with a couple of decent ones. We also looked for an early morning crankbait bite and got a few bites with a couple of nice keepers. We spent some time down lake on points with little success.

Our game day plan was to crank early and then hit the river to flip looking for a bigger fish. We only caught one small fish cranking and after an hour headed to the river. We only caught 2 small keepers flipping with chigger craws and brush hogs in the river. In one area Joe noticed a top water swirl. Since there weren't any ducks in the area, he picked up a spinnerbait and cast toward the swirl. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> cast he caught the big fish. We left the river about noon with 4 fish. We went to a secondary point in a cove on the north side and in the first 30 minutes caught 5 fish to fill out our limit and cull with one about 2 lbs. We caught the fish on jigs and Carolina rigged brush hogs. We fished the rest of the day on points on the north side but didn't catch another fish that helped us.

Joe is an excellent fisherman and I enjoyed my time on the water with him. I am looking forward to doing it again. A big shout out to the weigh-in crew for another great job.

**Pearl Harbor Day  
December 7th**



**America United**

**Joe Michels:** I caught the "big fish" of the tournament! We were flipping up the river and had caught 2 small fish flipping, when I saw a sizable splash. I looked for a Grebe bird that made the splash and didn't see one, so I suspected a fish. I picked up a spinner bait, and began to fan cast where the fish splashed. On the third cast it hit. That made the difference in our bag at the weigh-in.

### Team Amos Davis & David Sapyta Crank First Limit For 4th Place

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Davis & Sapyta** weighed five fish for a total weight of 8.25 pounds.

**Amos Davis:** First congratulations to Vern Ridgway and Gary Grimes for winning this tournament. Fishing was really tough. I had a great time fishing with David Sapyta. This was a first and we had our limit by 7:30 AM. Those first fish of the day were caught on a Rapala Fat Rap crank bait. That bite died as the sun got higher in the sky. We fished the rest of the day working points. We used Oxblood Red-flake Robo worms all day. Congratulations to Sean Ballard on winning Angler of the Year.

**David Sapyta:** I fished with Amos Davis, had a fun time and learned a lot. We fished drop shot almost all day and we were culling at 7:30 AM. The club was great this year even with this Covid virus. Thanks to all the weigh-in staff from the top down.



### 5th Place - Gary Volpe & Pete Gesswein

up a few fish early but most of the fish were caught on craw colored worms. I had a great time fishing with Gary Volpe who is a great person and fisherman.

### Team Gary Martlage & Pat Johnstonbaugh Jig And Worm To 6th Place

Team **Gary Martlage & Pat Johnstonbaugh** weighed five bass for 7.78 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.



### 4th Place David Sapyta & Amos Davis

### Pete Gesswein & Gary Volpe Fish Deep For 5th Place

A five fish bag weighing 8.06 lbs was enough to earn Team **Pete Gesswein & Gary Volpe** the **5th Place** money.

**Pete Gesswein:** Congrats to Vern & Gary on the win and every body else that got to fish this tourney. It was a beautiful day. We found most of our fish in 15 to 25 feet of water. The bigger ones were deeper. We cranked



### 6th Place Gary Martlage & Pat Johnstonbaugh

**Gary Martlage:** Pat Johnstonbaugh and I fished two days on Alamo; everything was perfect - weather, company and fishing. The only problem was no quality fish to be caught. We fished mainly in the dam area, using jigs and dropshot rigs. We caught 20 plus fish on tournament day, but nothing over 2 pounds. I caught fish on a 4.5 inch curly tail MMIII Roboworm, with Pat throwing a micro jig. Again, fishing was fun, but just couldn't get that kicker fish to put us over the top. I had a great time with Pat, and look forward to fishing with him in the future.

## Sean Ballard & Greg Prather 7th Place

Team **Ballard & Prather** weighed five bass for 7.71 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

**Sean Ballard:** I had the pleasure of fishing with Greg Prather and had a blast. Even if you didn't know what my boat looks like you could tell it was my boat from a distance as I had an unusual 'lean' to one side. I took some time off work and was able to fish from Sunday to Wednesday, and I eliminated a lot of water. I caught fish from 0 to 30 feet during practice.

On tournament day we decided to target deeper bass on a long point. We picked up 3 fish early and then headed to the bank and picked up a small limit. We then headed towards the dam and caught 3 more bass and started culling. We moved across the lake and fished rock points and then after positioning the boat in 30 feet of water we cast to 15 feet and proceeded to cull all the way until it was time to go weigh-in. We caught over 20 fish for the day. Baits we caught fish on were jigs, Texas rig creature baits, Keitec swim baits and dropshot purple Zoom worms. I have to say the best thing that happened



**7th Place Greg Prather & Sean Ballard (NS)**

at the tournament was having enough weight to capture AOY (Angler of the Year) honors. AOY is extremely difficult to win as you have to be consistent for an entire year. When I checked the white board and talked with Tom Savage I knew I had won. A flood of emotions ran over me as I reflected on an entire year of fishing against some of the best anglers in Arizona. I have learned from all of you and I want to thank everyone. I look forward to fishing tournaments with Midweek Bass next year.



## Weighing-In By Gary Martlage Tournament Director

The 2020 season is over and great times were had during the year. I am impressed with our members' participation in the club. A tournament doesn't go by without many anglers offering to help with anything needing to be done. I kind of feel bad turning down the help; but it's because of our "well oiled" weigh team we have developed over the year of tournaments. Special thanks to TOM SAVAGE (weight recorder), TOM ALAURIA (white board), GREGG UTTON (photographer), SEAN BALLARD (bump tank), GARY GRIMES (weigh master), JOHN REICHARD (shuttle service), JOHN HILLAND (journeyman), and many others that help setting up, and breaking down the event after each tournament. Next year, there could be some rotation of the weigh team, so if you can commit to all the tournaments, give me a call in the month of December to discuss your participation.

Special thanks and hats off to TERRY TASSIN (secretary, and computer email guru), for he is the glue that holds everything together from tournaments, meetings, membership, and other club activities too many to mention.

The only thing I would wish for in 2021, is a vaccine for this Covid thing, and we can all get back to our favorite sport - fishing! I hope to see all of you, and maybe a few new faces, in January at Bartlett Lake.

Just a heads-up that there will be a **"Grudge Match" at Bartlett on 16 December**. More information will be coming, as GARY SENFT and I will be sitting down and working out the particulars. We plan on serving lunch, and passing out End of Year awards at this event, so find yourself a partner and come on out. We will allow anyone to fish, as long as one of the partners is a CURRENT or FORMER Midweek Bass participant. More info to come later.

**FISHERMAN'S HOROSCOPE**  
**Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21) - The Hook**  
Born under the influence of this sign, your delusions of fishing are doomed to failure. You couldn't catch a fish if it were coated in batter and swimming in tartar sauce.

**Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2021 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**



Please meet and greet our new members.

**Club Apparel**

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

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

David Brakefield

Amos Davis

Rick Harang

Rick Knight

Ernie Melcher

Joe Michels

Richie Rojas

David Sapyta

Ed Smith

Steven Wells



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2021  
Tournament Schedule**

20 January	Bartlett
17 February	Alamo
17 March	Martinez
21 April	Roosevelt
19 May	Roosevelt
16 June	Pleasant
21 July	Pleasant
18 August	Bartlett
15 September	Roosevelt
20 October	Alamo
17 November	Roosevelt