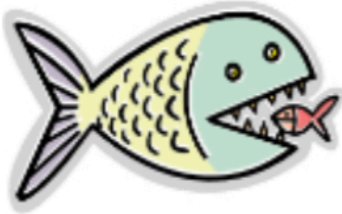


MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS Of Arizona



Bass Bites



FISHING WEDNESDAY - NOT WEEKENDS!

October 2023 EDITION
18 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

Club Established January 27, 2005
Editor: Greg Utton



Secretary's Message Dale Bayless

Lake Apache is really a beautiful lake! I really enjoyed fishing it with my partner David Convery. Congratulations to the winners and all the members for attending this final event of the year.

Heads up, the 2023 Awards Banquet and membership renewals will be upon us shortly and if you want to fish January get ready to think about renewing for 2024. The Banquet is in January. You will be getting lots of emails with information this next couple of months so be sure and check it out and respond. The 2024 lake schedule is also being reviewed and will be complete soon so I will get that to you all as soon as possible. It is a pleasure serving you all and I am looking for another great year in 2024.



Editor's Comments

I want to thank **Terry Tassin** for editing all the team inputs once again. Cartoons are supplied by **Bob Jolley**.

I want to encourage the teams to have their photos taken after weigh-in. It only takes a minute. This month we had photos for all but two of the winning teams. The photos this month from Apache are available for download at dropbox by clicking **here**.

FIRST PLACE (15.25#) Mike Bidak & Steven Wells NO REPORT SUBMITTED



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>

SECOND PLACE (14.92#) Laron Porter & Peter Gesswein

Laron Porter: Apache Lake was a real treat. I haven't fished a tournament at Apache Lake for many years and found that I really missed fishing there. My prefish was extremely tough. I never caught a fish over 2.5 pounds. Most of my fish weighed less than a pound and there were a lot of them. This is a good indicator of how good this lake will be in a few years.

Pete Gesswein and I caught our first 3 fish on jigs in 15-25 feet. They were good fish but the bites were tough to get. We then went extremely deep and caught the heck out of them on drop shot in 55 feet of water. We caught a bunch of them but nothing over 2.5 pounds. I had a blast fishing with Pete. I love fishing this format and making new friends. Congrats to Mike and Steven on their big Win!

Pete Gesswein: I had the pleasure of fishing with Laron Porter who is a real class act. We prefished on Tuesday, however, he had forgotten the backseat so we just made-do. We found maybe a dozen fish that all totaled about 6

pounds. Laron went back to Tonto Basin and returned with a seat for tournament day.

On tournament day we found some blue gills and some bass lurking underneath them. The bigger fish were in about 15 feet, then that bite died. I managed to add to our final limit with one fish. We caught a lot of fish all day some from as deep as 55 feet.

THIRD PLACE (11.66#) Brian Colby & Ingo Moura



Brian Colby: First, I'd like to thank everyone who helps plan and who fish these Midweek derbies. I really enjoy them. Huge thanks to Greg Prather for coming to our rescue. My boat crapped out and he hauled Ingo to the weigh-in with our bag. You are awesome Greg.

Tuesday found Ingo and I running all over the lake both graphing and fishing. We found some really good spots but I knew going into this tournament what I wanted to do. Wednesday morning, we ran to a shallow spot with grass and stayed there almost the entire day. We moved once for about 45 minutes but came right back to the grass. We caught our 5 fish by 10:30 AM

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and didn't catch a fish the rest of the day. Four out of 5 came on A-rigs, cranks, and a jerkbait. Ingo caught our only kicker on a C-rig. Tough day but fishing with Ingo made it great. Congratulations to 1st and 2nd place teams.

Ingo Moura: I have not done much fishing this year. However, I'm so glad to have fished this last tournament of the year, as it has restoked my excitement to fish more events in 2024.

I want to start out by thanking Greg Prather and Charles Murdock for running over to help get us back to weigh in on time. We had just under 15 minutes, but the tow rope broke twice so Greg told me to grab my fish and jump on his boat. As we raced to the dock, we crossed the buoy line with 2 minutes to spare. As I put my foot on the dock I looked to see where my partner Bryan Colby's boat was floating, but he had gotten the boat started and must have crossed the buoy line within seconds of 4:30 AM. That sight was exciting as catching a big kicker bass. Thanks for everyone's help and concerns as we did have a bit of boat trouble. But we still had a whole lot of fun. I paired up with Brian Colby and we decided to prefish, we mostly scouted around and graphed potential areas. We fished a bit and we accidentally hooked 3 fish. Unfortunately, I landed a 5-pound contender. I hate when that happens a day early. We fished just enough to put together the fact it was going to be slow fishing on tournament day, but the 3 fish we did catch were on 3 different baits but we started noticing we had signs of boat trouble for the tournament day.

On tournament day we decided to fish shallow flats with signs of grass and stay in a 100-yard stretch. We still had to throw everything we could in the box, but I stuck my 4.15 pounder with a chigger craw Carolina rig and another fish on a crank bait. Bryan picked up several fish on multiple baits, he was throwing everything he had on the boat. I had never seen someone fish so

hard; he rotated his arsenal of lures like clockwork all day. Colby is a fun dude to fish with and we had our limit by 10:30 AM. We thought we had all day to cull fish, and perhaps pick up another kicker or two. Unfortunately, we didn't have another bite all day, which typically makes for a really miserable day. We stayed focused and never gave up. We didn't stop until it was quitting time, and the next thing we knew we were pressed for time and facing a possible DQ.

It was great to see the old club members and all the young sticks in our club now. Thanks to all involved in running the club and congrats to the Top Sticks this Year - Fish On!

FOURTH PLACE (12.07#) Victor Cunningham & Mitch Vitkovich



Mitch Vitkovich: First, I would like to say thanks to all the partners I fished with in my first year with Midweek Bass Anglers. I had a lot of fun and learned a ton. This tournament I fished as a co-angler with Vic Cunningham. Vic did the pre-fishing and he put together the game plan.

On tournament day, we started shallow and stayed shallow pretty much all day. Vic started with a jerkbait and I started with a spinnerbait. The jerkbait was hot right away with Vic catching our first four fish in the first 30 minutes. I tied one on and hooked up pretty quick. That bite went cold and then we made a move out of the grass to some rocky banks. Vic hooked another good one on a drop-shot and that was it for the rocks. Then Vic wanted to go flip tules which turned out to be a great decision. We were able to make three culls and one was our biggest fish.

I've known Vic for 25 years and never had a chance to fish with him until yesterday. I'm glad I got the opportunity to fish with him and I learned a lot. Thanks, Vic for the great day and thanks Midweek and all its members for a great year.

FIFTH PLACE (10.61#) Charles Mackintosh & Doug Moore



Charles Macintosh: Congratulations to the winning team, that's a heck of a bag! Also, congratulations to Laron Porter on Angler of the Year (AOY). Wow, what a season!

We had decent practice days on Monday and Tuesday focusing on finding schools of bluegill where bass could often be found nearby. Some of the better spots we found were popular areas and we figured we would need some less obvious places to catch fish. Tuesday afternoon we spent time marking new areas with bluegill schools. The schools were at 40 feet, and on tournament day Doug stuck our first good fish at 47 feet. Late in the morning we were in a great looking spot but could not catch anything but little ones. Next spot same thing, and I was getting frustrated. We hit one of the secondary points that we identified Tuesday afternoon and Doug stuck our best fish of the day, one over 3 lbs. and things started looking up. Later we got on a great point that takes a continuous rotation of boats. It was used water for sure, but I was hopeful we had a shot since we were probably fishing deeper than most and fortunately, I was able put a good one in the boat. We caught all our fish in the main lake on drop shots. I was using bluegill-colored baits 4 and 4.5". It was a pleasure fishing with my partner Doug Moore who brought his "A" game.

Thank you to the tournament crew for an efficient operation. Also, I had a great time at the campfire hearing fish tales. Looking forward to next season!

Doug Moore: I had the great pleasure of fishing with Charlie for the second time this year. He had been to the lake a couple of weeks before and found fish on deep points. So that's where we spent a lot of our practice time on Monday and Tuesday and sure enough there they were. On Wednesday our first two spots were already covered so we tried a habitat area that had produced the day before but caught just a small fish. So off to the deeper water fishing points in 25-40 feet that held what we thought were schools of bluegill (yellows?) and started getting bites. Got our 3 pounder early along with a

bunch of dinks but kept moving from point to point (some had produced in practice, others we had marked where we found the bluegill). We managed to upgrade pretty well along the way and caught our last fish around 2:00 PM, then it shut off. All keepers were caught on drop shot with 5.5-inch curly tail margarita mutilator or 4-inch shad color worms. Congratulations to Mike and Steve on their big bag and thanks to the crew for the smooth weigh-in that got us on the road before dark.

SIXTH PLACE (11.34#) Doyle Wofford & Joe Pettinato



Doyle Wofford: Not sure about everyone else but I found it good to be back on Apache Lake once again. Great to see the lake making a comeback after the fish kill. I was fortunate enough to draw Joe Pettinato for this tournament and he certainly didn't disappoint. I spent Sunday trying to find some fish with fairly good success and was happy to see that the pattern held through Wednesday.

We started the day on the flats just north of Turtle Island with a few other boats and found fish from eight feet dropping down to about fifteen feet or

so. All our fish came off of either Carolina rigs, free rigs, Texas rigs or drop shots. We were able to catch a small limit by about 9:30 AM with a couple of two pounders in the livewell. After what seemed like forever, we decided to hit several other spots in hope of catching a few bigger fish. We were able to cull several times and finally hooked into one that was close to three pounds. Unfortunately, we weren't able to catch a significant kicker but we had a great time culling by ounces. Thanks to all that make the tournaments run as smooth as they do and hope to see everyone at the Grudge Match.

Joe Pettinato: The lakes in this state are amazing but to experience Apache Lake's uniquely natural beauty during a tournament is truly a blessing.

For this event I drew Doyle Wofford and after talking to him on the phone I knew I was in good hands. Luckily, Doyle was able to get in a practice day the Sunday before the event to test the waters and I truly believe that helped us. On tournament day we certainly did not smash them like some guys did but we had a "slow pick" of decent fish that we were confident would help us get in the money. The key for us was finesse techniques, craw colors and rip rap rock areas. Doyle's largest bass came on a Carolina rig and mine on a wacky rig. A disaster was averted when a small fish was mistakenly left unculted after several larger ones were caught. WHOOPS.

Special thanks to the Midweek admins and the weigh in crew for a job well done.

SEVENTH PLACE (10.10#) Vern Ridgway & Joe Denson

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

FIRST BIG FISH (5.04#) Manny Madrid & Randy Howell



Randy Howell: Well, imagine boating a 5.04-pounder in the first hour of the day and wondering all day if it had a chance of hanging in there for the big prize? I didn't know Apache so I opted to be a non-boater and had the pleasure of being paired with Manny Madrid. Manny had pre-fished the two days prior and took us to a cove way up past the marina. He started with jerk baits and me with a free rig. By the way, I have to mention this – I had never used Arizona Custom Baits before but I figured if I was going fishing with Manny, I should go buy an assortment of his product. Phoenix Fishing Supply to the rescue, and I climbed aboard Manny's Skeeter with a half dozen bags of new plastics to try.

Manny hooked up quickly, only to get broken off. I switched from free rig to drop shot, landing our first bass for 1.84 pounds, using Arizona Custom Baits straight tail worm in smoked green pumpkin. A few minutes later Manny had another fish on but a "side hit", with only a small amount of flesh on the hook in the end. Those bass really liked hitting his jerk bait but appeared

to be swatting it, not swallowing. This was the result four times in a row! However, fish were schooled up there and I switched to an oxblood straight worm, pitched the drop shot into 20 feet of water along a bluff, and the line got nice and heavy. It was not quite 7:30 AM and we were high-fiving when Manny netted our 5.04 pounder. Unfortunately, dinks ruled the day, and while we had 6.88 pounds in the first two fish in the first hour, our bag never got heavy, as the remaining three only landed us a total of 9.66 lbs. A frustrating day for Manny, as he is one great fisherman and I may have jinxed him that day. The result; we couldn't place anywhere but big fish. Congrats to all the winners, and especially the team of Mike Bidak and Steven Wells. That 6.12-pounder for the 5-lb. prize, and that impressive total bag definitely deserves bragging rights. But one thing more important than all the fish or their size is the camaraderie in this club. Thanks to Manny and each of you for always providing an education and spirit of good sportsmanship.

SECONG BIG FISH (4.76#) Nick Teschler & Tom Atherton



NO REPORT SUBMITTED

Goon Fish (6.14# Catfish) Roger Williams & Doug Cripe

NO REPORT SUBMITTED



HOLD FISH OUT HERE DANIEL SON!
MAKE 2-POUNDA LOOK LIKE
10-POUNDA



IF ANYONE IS LOOKING FOR GIFT IDEAS
I WEAR A SIZE 21-FOOT BOAT



EVENT LAKE APACHE, NOVEMBER 15, 2023																							
MIDWEEK BASS RESULTS																							
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	10	MIKE BIDAK	STEVEN WELLS	5	5	6.12				15.25	150	1PL 5LB	\$746 \$1000										
2	7	LARON PORTER	PETER GESSWEIN	5	5	4.08				14.92	149	2PL	\$494										
3	28	BRIAN COLBY	INGO MOURA	5	5	4.15				11.66	148	3PL	\$298										
4	29	VICTOR CUNNINGHAM	MITCH VITKOVICH	5	5	3.26				11.58	147	4PL	\$224										
5	17	CHARLES MACINTOSH	DOUG MOORE	5	5	3.12				10.61	146	5PL	\$180										
6	15	DOYLE WOFFORD	JOE PETTINATO	5	5	2.89				10.34	145	6PL	\$164										
7	26	VERN RIDGWAY	JOE DENSON	5	5	3.01				10.10	144	7PL	\$150										
8	14	MANNY MADRID	RANDY HOWELL	5	5	5.04				9.66	143	1BF	\$440										
9	16	NICK TESCHLER	TOM ATHERTON	5	5	4.76				9.61	142	2BF	\$294										
10	24	JOE MICHELS	STEVE FERGUSON	5	5	2.37				9.33	141												
11	2	JOHN HILLAND	MIKE BLOXAM	5	5	3.89				9.23	140												
12	8	MICHAEL EDGAR	BILL BRIGGS	5	5	2.94				8.55	139												
13	1	STEVE GRIER	JOHN SCHRAMMER	5	5	2.49				8.33	138												
14	9	ERIC HIVELY	KEITH WEIDERT	5	5	2.21				7.96	137												
15	18	BRIAN PRESMYK	MIKE ADAMSON	5	5	2.5				7.73	136												
16	19	DAVID CONVERY	DALE BAYLESS	5	5					6.94	135												
17	11	RANDY GRAY	NORM HAAS	5	5	1.98				6.81	134												
18	4	GARY SENFT	GREG UTTON	5	5	1.86				6.57	133												
19	27	JEFFREY STONE	SCOTT THELANDER	5	5					6.50	132												
20	23	RAYMOND BATES	ELISEO FLORES	5	5	2.38				5.86	131												
21	6	ROGER ROOT	JAMES DUEL	4	4	2.21				5.68	130												
22	20	ROGER WILLIAMS	DOUG CRIPE	5	5			6.14 CAT		5.54	129	GF	\$100										
23	21	DON BLUME	ALLEN WACKER	5	5					5.51	128												
24	3	NEIL BURNES	BOB COOLEY	5	5					5.49	127												
25	5	PETE WILLIS	FLOYD VAUGHAN	5	5	2.08				4.85	126												
26	25	GREG PRATHER	CHARLES MURDOCK	5	5					4.65	125												
27	12	RICHE ROJAS	OTTO GAL	3	3					1.82	124												
28	22	ROBIN JACKSON		0	0					0.00	50												
29	13	TOM ALAURIA	RAY RILEY							DQ	0												
			TOTALS	132	132					221.08			\$4,090										