



# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



SEPTEMBER 2018 EDITION  
13 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005  
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



### President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

The Midweek Bass Anglers enjoyed another abnormally pleasant weather day for our monthly bass tournament at Lake Pleasant. Twenty-nine angler teams competed from safe-light until 1:00PM under a canopy of clouds and comfortably tropic temperatures. We managed to escape the rain until the tournament ended, and even then it was only a light sprinkle, making for a refreshingly cool weigh-in. Congratulations to Jeff Mason and Gary Martlage on the winning bag of 14.71 pounds.

Lake Pleasant has never been a club favorite. A combination of big, clear water and uncooperative fish made catching a limit of fish a rather challenging prospect. But Pleasant has many positives in its favor. It is located within the city limits of Peoria, so it is close and easy to get to. Pleasant is big, one of the state's largest reservoirs as far as volume of water. It fishes big as well. There are several all-day type coves, with enough diverse structure to allow a fisherman to easily spend an entire day. There is a river, though it only flows during the heaviest of storms, and still has an abundance of trees and shrubs. So why no love for Pleasant?

Fishing is certainly different at Pleasant. Not sure why, but maybe the clearer water. Don't know about other anglers, but I was unable to find success pre-fishing with any reaction baits, even in the early morning. During one rather unsuccessful pre-fishing trip, when again I had no fish in the boat by 9AM, I ran into Hobby Nelson on the water by the entrance to the river. He had caught about a dozen fish already. Living close-by, Hobby frequents Pleasant and indicated that his most productive bait at Pleasant is always a drop-shot, which happens to be my least favorite bait. Ugh! Well, my next trip out I had one rod on my deck, guess what? Yes, a drop shot. And guess what, I caught some fish. So, drop shot became my primary rod over my next few trips, and low and behold, my catch rates increased.

There were several respectable bags of fish presented at the weigh-in on tournament day,

Continued on page 2

**Monthly Breakfast Meeting**  
**Deer Valley Airport Restaurant**  
**702 W. Deer Valley Rd**  
**Phoenix, AZ**  
**1st Wednesday of Each**  
**Month 8:00 A.M.**

**Happy Birthday**  
**US Navy - 13 Oct 1775!**  
**US Marine Corps - 10 Nov 1775**



**“We Practice Catch and Release”**

with at least 10 fish over 3 lbs. and 5 fish over 4 lbs. Almost all teams caught limits of five fish as well. From the board's perspective, that makes this lake a solid choice for the tournament schedule. It is unfortunate that we lost Saguaro and Apache this year, and maybe for a while yet into the future, but I think it is time to put Lake Pleasant back into the normal rotation of lakes that we fish.

**From AZGFD: VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**

The Arizona Game and Fish Department will be constructing fish habitat at Roosevelt Lake Friday September 28th from 7:00AM to 5:00PM and Saturday September 29th 7:00AM to 3:00PM. We will be at the Windy Hill amphitheater parking lot. If you plan on helping us both days, a pass will be provided for free camping in a Forest Service Campground. Please bring cordless drills, sawzalls and a pair of work gloves. IT WILL BE HOT, so come prepared with water and snacks. We will be building roughly 200 Georgia Cubes. If you have any questions please feel free to email Bryant Dickens at [bdickens@azgfd.gov](mailto:bdickens@azgfd.gov). We look forward to seeing you out there.



**Next Meeting Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 3 October** 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). We hope you will come early and have breakfast together.

The next club point tournament is scheduled for **Lake Roosevelt on 17 October 2018**. Club launch headquarters, tournament hours, and weigh-in location will be announced.



**Tournament Report  
Lake Pleasant  
September 19, 2018**

All reports I received said the weather was fantastic at Lake Pleasant for our September tournament. Not too hot and just a very light occasional rain to keep you cool. Oh well, guess I missed a good one. Here are the winner's catching reports.

**Team Jeff Mason & Gary Martlage  
Work Worms and Topwater Lures  
To 1st Place Finish**

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Jeff Mason & Gary Martlage** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 14.71 lbs.

**Jeff Mason:** I had the pleasure of being paired up with our illustrious Tournament Director Gary Martlage. Gary and I had a great day on the water, catching a great bag of fish and having a lot of fun doing it.

Gary got us started off by putting our first three fish in the boat. I had just barely put the trolling motor down when he caught our first fish around three pounds on a topwater bait. Even though the lake is only at 36% full I actually like fishing when the water is at this level. We started out in a cove across from the 10 lane ramp where I had caught some buzz bait fish last Friday. We had a limit of fish within the first hour with the one nice fish Gary caught. We



**1st Place Overall Gary Martlage & Jeff Mason**

moved to our second spot in the mouth of the river were Gary had caught some fish last Saturday. We fished along a 100 yard stretch of bank and picked up one good fish on a topwater bait, then turned around and worked our way back. I caught our biggest fish (3.85 lbs) on a drop shot. This fish grabbed my worm when I was reeling it in; it never jumped, and made a couple of runs under the boat acting like a catfish. Surprise, surprise, up came our biggest bass of the day! Gary caught a 2 plus on a drop shot on the same bank. We spent the rest of the day fishing a drop shot in about 15-25 feet of water in the main lake. We were able to cull a 1.70 pounder with a 2.13 pounder, and a 1.96 with a 3.4 pounder. We got a huge break on the weather and I really enjoyed the day fishing with Gary.

**Gary Martlage:** I was paired with Jeff Mason for Lake Pleasant. Fishing "as needed" status, gave me a chance to fish with a boater that I usually would not get a chance to fish with. Being out of the EOY awards running this year, the "as needed" status helped out the pairings, as boats were plentiful for Pleasant. Jeff commented to me he needed some help with points as he is in the running for Angler of the Year. I told him I would do my best and after boating the first 3 fish, I jokingly said I did not want to do all the work myself! Jeff stepped up and I became the netter throughout the day – should have kept my mouth closed. What a wonderful day to fish - weather wise, and we were lucky to put together a decent bag. Fish were caught on topwater and dropshots, with no apparent pattern, but just "going fishing". I really enjoyed fishing with Jeff, as we discussed prior days, fishing other circuits. This will go down as one of my most favorite days of Midweek Bass Anglers club fishing.

### Roger Root & Bob Jolley Jig Their Way To 2nd Overall

#### Membership

As of September 21, 2018 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 113 dues paid active members.



**2nd Place Roger Root & Bob Jolley**

In **2nd Place** the team of **Roger Root & Bob Jolley** weighed five bass for a total weight of 13.08 lbs.

**Roger Root & Bob Jolley:** Roger and I pre-fished on Monday and caught a few small fish, primarily on finesse baits. We fished in the river and we weren't sure we could catch a good bag there on Wednesday but decided we would start there and give it another try.



**"Frogs...frogs...where are my frogs!"**

On tournament day I started with top water lures and Roger threw a jig which brought us our first catch, a nice 3 pounder. Soon after that Roger caught back to back 4 pounders and our day was looking really good. We had our best five fish within the first two hours but found it difficult to cull out the two smaller fish. All of our keepers came on a variety of jigs, mostly in shallow water.

This was the first time I had drawn Roger as a partner and I really got an education in jig fishing. Roger is a very talented fisherman and was fun to fish with and to get to know. I hope we can get paired up again in the near future.

Congratulations to Jeff Mason and Gary Martlage for their win and many kudos to the weigh-in team and the shuttle service volunteers.

### **Team Richie Rojas & Scott Olivier Fish Main Lake Points To 3rd Place Finish**

Team **Rojas & Olivier** weighed five bass for 12.84 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Scott Olivier:** I enjoyed the opportunity to fish with Richie Rojas. He very well may be the nicest person I have ever fished with. Between the cool temps and great conversation with Richie, I couldn't ask for a better day. Fishing for us was fairly steady all day long. Richie started us off with a nice topwater fish right away on a popper. I think the rest of our fish came off dropshot rigs throughout the day. Most of the fish seemed to be off rocky points and we caught them all in the main lake. They didn't hit very hard, just seemed to be there. It is days

### **Tournament Statistics**

Fifty-seven men fished 7 hours each, bringing 132 bass to the scales for a total weight of 224.03 pounds with a 3.93 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.69 lbs. All fish but ten were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



**3rd Place Richie Rojas & Scott Olivier**

like this that you really appreciate a nice sensitive drop shot rod. All in all we probably caught around 15 fish and they were spread out from sunrise to weigh-in.

### **Team Shane Edgar & Terry Johnson Buzz Way To 4th Overall**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Shane Edgar & Terry Johnson** weighed five fish for a total weight of 12.73 lbs.

They fished in the north end of the lake and caught just about all of their fish on buzz baits.



**4th Place Shane Edgar & Terry Johnson**

### **Sean Ballard & Jeff Stone Flick Shake And Finish 5th**



**5th Place Sean Ballard & Jeff Stone**

A five fish limit weighing 12.00 lbs was enough to earn **Team Sean Ballard & Jeff Stone** the **5th Place** money.

**Sean Ballard:** OK, big shout out to Jeff and Gary for a solid bag for Pleasant and the 1st Place win. I managed to get out for 3 hours on Monday morning to prefish and it was all I needed to get a game plan worked-up. I had 5 spots where I wanted to start so I rolled the dice and I decided on starting at Pipeline Cove and it was the right decision. My partner Jeff Stone and I managed a limit by 7AM using flick shake purple smoke zoom worms in 1 to 10 feet of water and an Alabama rig. Most fish hit right away. We jumped over to Cottonwood Cove and Fireman Cove and we managed to cull out all of the small fish to complete our final limit of 12 lbs by 10AM. We caught around 20 fish and I can't remember the last time Pleasant has been fishing this great. So do your self a favor and make a 2019 New Years resolution to learn how and when to throw the flick shake rig. I pick a new rig to learn every year and it has really paid off. I've cashed a check in the last three tournaments using flick shake - I prefer it over a drop shot.

### **Soft Plastics Key To Team Hobby Nelson & Tom Atherton 6th Place Win**

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 11.14 lbs was enough to earn **Hobby Nelson & Tom Atherton** the **6th Place** honors

**Hobby Nelson:** First off thank you to the weigh-in team for an excellent job done and to Midweek Bass Anglers for providing food after the tournament. I had a lot of fun fishing with Tom Atherton and enjoyed our day on the water. Even though we did not get to pre-fish together we fished most of our day between Paul's Hide-A-Way and the entrance to the river. All of our fish were caught right off the shoreline on drop shots and Senkos. On the way back to the ramp we made a stop in Jackass Cove where we picked up our largest fish of the day right before the weigh-in.



**6th Place Tom Atherton & Hobby Nelson**

**Tom Atherton:** First, congratulations to the winners and a great job by the weigh-in team. Also, I send a huge thanks to the shuttle drivers who made it much easier for everyone. I had a great day fishing with Hobby Nelson for the first time. We had a limit in the first 45 minutes of the tournament and started looking for some bigger ones. We caught lots of fish using red drop shot worms, and green pumpkin Senkos on the eastern coves and points of the main lake. Hobby caught our big fish, and even spooned up a nice stripper just for giggles.

### **Team Larry White & Dennis Beverage Fish Trees And Shoreline For 7th Place Finish**

A five fish limit weighing 10.90 lbs was enough to earn **Larry White & Dennis Beverage** the **7th Place** money. Larry's 4.14 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors for the team.

**Larry White:** A fun tournament and the hot dogs were a great touch. I had a good time fishing with Dennis Beverage. We started fishing toward the river and after a half hour of fishing with three bluegill and a stripper later on my Rico, I finally caught a 3 pound large mouth bass on it. I then suggested we move to my second spot. I finished out our limit and caught our 2<sup>nd</sup> Place big fish there on a drop shot rig. The big fish grabbed my bait in a foot of water, and then he tried to set a water speed record heading to deep water.

Despite our best efforts, we had two small fish that refused to be culled from the live well. I was very happy that Dennis finally did get a 'keeper' fish just before weigh-in time. All in all the weather was great and fishing was good. Nice job to the winners.

**Dennis Beverage:** Ahh, where do I start. This was only my third Midweek Bass tourney, and certainly not my best day fishing for sure. But, my boat commander, Larry White, came through like the pro he is. He had two good sized ones in the tank by 8:30 including the second place big fish at 4.14 lbs and the other not far behind. I was kind of excited because I thought we were off to a good start and stood a fine chance of finishing in the top five or so. We had pre-fished the day before and I caught my share of would-be keepers, but on tourney day I was nearly skunked. Only a late morning light-weight bass that was marginally bigger than our smallest fish marked for culling made the final



**7th Place Larry White & Dennis Beverage**

five. Not sure why I didn't do better production wise because, for the most part, I was following Larry's lead using pretty much the same rigs and baits. We top water fished the first 45 minutes or so, until daylight caught up with us. Then we switched to drop shot rigs for most of the rest of the day. The first big one came on a popper and the second on a drop shot. Most fish were caught near the shoreline, many in amongst the trees and other brush making for frustrating snags. Of course I did have my share of misses and ones that somehow got away. But all in all, we had a good time, I learned a lot from Larry, and even though I didn't produce nearly what I expected, we still finished in the money at 10.90 lbs.

Congrats to winners Jeff Mason and Gary Martlage as well as Roger Root and Bob Jolley coming in a close second. Thanks also go to the great weigh-in team, the shuttle crew getting fish back down to the water, and the guys getting the hot dogs ready. I sure was ready for that hot dog when all was done.

## **Jerry Askam & Mark Royal Net 4.37 lb Bass For 1st Place Big Fish Prize**

**Jerry Askam:** Congrats to Jeff and Gary on their nice tournament win.

It was certainly different seeing all of the exposed brush at Lake Pleasant and we fished



**1st Place Big Bass - 4.37 lbs  
Jerry Askam & Mark Royal**

a lot of it. However, we caught the tournament's biggest bass on a point off of one of the big islands on the North side of the lake in 20-25 feet of water.

I was drop shooting a FAT morning dawn/chartreuse tail Robo worm. After a bit of a run the fish came straight up out of the water right at the side of the boat. My partner Mark Royal had the net positioned perfectly and as the fish reached the top of its jump it came unhooked and went right into the net. Great save Mark!

## Team Gary Senft & Floyd Vaughan Catch A Cat For Goon Fish Prize

**Floyd Vaughan:** Not much to report on our Goon Fish adventure. We were fishing up the lake between the 1702 sign and the mouth of the river and I was fishing a drop shot rig with a Morning Dawn Robo Worm. I got a hit and thought it was a big bass. Gary Senft started getting excited and went for the net. Well it did not take long before we both figured out it was not a bass but a catfish. Awe shucks! However, after we netted the cat we decided it might be a good thing after all because if we won the Goon Fish prize that was \$100 we did not have at the start of the tournament. Well that's my story and I am sticking to it. See you next month.



*Goon Fish Pot Gary Senft & Floyd Vaughan*



## Weighing-In By Gary Martlage Tournament Director

Putting our 9th tournament for 2018 behind us was special, as Jeff Mason and I won the tournament! The Fish and Weather Gods were on our and the club's side. No complaints were heard at the weigh-in concerning the weather or the fishing. Lake Pleasant was kind to the majority giving up some nice bags of fish for a "dog-day" in September.

Again, I cannot say enough about the volunteers that help out with the weigh-in. The weigh crew - Tom Savage, Tom Alauria, Sean Ballard, Gary Grimes, and our professional photographer Greg Utton, did a fantastic job. Greg Prather was right there to lend a hand, where needed, and Mark Durben took control (along with ever - steady John Reichard) in helping transport fishermen with their catch down a very long ramp to release their catch back into the lake. I cannot thank you all enough.

This has to be the first time I heard "crickets", after our drawing two weeks ago. There was not one change in the pairings for this tournament. WOW. I hope everyone enjoyed Lake Pleasant as we need to get used to fishing it. Our lake choices are few for our modified summer hours and the board does not want to send our club to a long distance travel lake, only to fish a five or six hour tournament. I do believe Lake Pleasant is fishing better the last couple of years and we will probably be using it more in the future in case of future Golden Algae conditions on other lakes.

I am looking forward to cooler fishing temperatures, and weighing in a (maybe more?) 5 plus pounder next month at Roosevelt Lake.

# CAUTION

**FISHING AND HUNTING  
STORIES IN PROGRESS  
PROTECTIVE BOOTS  
MAY BE REQUIRED**

# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Pleasant - September 19, 2018



**Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2018 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen**

Board of Directors

**PRESIDENT**

Gary Grimes 623-203-7436

**SECRETARY**

Terry Tassin 623-931-1546

**TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

Gary Martlage 602-616-1001

Committee / Chairmen

**PROGRAMS**

Tom Savage

**TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE**

Gary Martlage - Chairman  
Gary Grimes, Terry Tassin, Tom Savage, John Reichard

**RAFFLE COMMITTEE** - - George Cobasky

**GOVERNMENT LIASION**

Jack Hughes

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Tom Savage 602-432-8589

**TREASURER**

John Reichard 623-512-0238

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Terry Tassin

**ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

Tom Savage

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE** - John Reichard

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

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

**Cody Hutchinson (CO)  
Terry Johnson (B)  
Scott Olivier (CO)**



**Club Apparel**

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

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

- Tom Atherton
- Dale Byrum
- Mark Durben
- Mike Grisham
- Fred Krumsiek
- John Montoya
- Mark Royal



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2018  
Tournament Schedule**

- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 17 January     | Bartlett          |
| 21 February    | Roosevelt         |
| 20-21 March    | Havasu (1.5 Days) |
| 18 April       | Alamo             |
| 16 May         | Roosevelt         |
| 20 June        | Bartlett          |
| 18 July        | Pleasant          |
| 15 August      | Bartlett          |
| 19 September   | Pleasant          |
| 17 October     | Roosevelt         |
| 27-28 November | Alamo (1.5 Days)  |