

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



APRIL 2019 EDITION

14 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

The April Midweek Bass Anglers tournament at Roosevelt Lake set a new record with 35 boats on the water, it would have been 37, but as with all tournaments, things happen and people have to withdraw. Congratulations to Tanner Cormier and Ron Rudzinski on the win! We have had a number of new members join recently, welcome to the club! You may notice we do things a little differently than what you might be accustomed to, so I thought I might take a little time to review why.

Most of the teams paired for a tournament will remain unchanged, but not always. It is our policy to try and get everyone on the water who wishes to fish and has registered on time. We are pretty successful getting everyone teamed, thanks to the efforts of our tournament director, Gary Martlage, who is working daily changes in the days leading up to an event. Changes generally occur due to one of three reasons; job, health or boat problems. Many of our co-anglers have boats, so that gives us options to ensure everyone fishes. We never force someone to use their boat, but we might ask. You may also have noticed that we have pre-determined amounts for the co-anglers to give their boaters for cost sharing in a tournament. You will notice that Pleasant, Bartlett, Saguaro and Canyon are \$50. Roosevelt, Apache and Alamo are \$80. Martinez and Havasu are \$100. The amounts reflect estimated averages of costs a boater is likely to incur including: getting the boat to the lake, fuel and oil used while on the water-including one day of pre-fishing, and lake permits, all of which we have deemed as reasonable costs to share. This is certainly not a perfect system, but we have removed all the guesswork and record keeping, and eliminated that sometimes awkward

discussion about "how much is enough."

At each of our tournaments the weigh-in team, which consists of 6 people, are all volunteers. You may have noticed that they all fish the tournament as well. After the initial pairings at the meeting, we modify the list by moving all of the weigh-in team to the first flight, since they have to return early. You also are likely to have noticed we conduct our weigh-ins a bit differently as well. You must use one of the clubs designated weigh-bags to present your fish. The reason for this is that fish mortality increases the longer the fish remain in your weigh-bag, due to oxygen depletion; they are much safer in an aerated live-well. We require the use of the black-club-weigh-in bags in order to limit the number of people standing in line with fish, thereby preserving more fish to be caught another day. We do ask, however, that you bring your personal weigh-bag to the scales, in addition to the club bag holding your fish, so that after the fish are weighed we can return the fish to your possession for return to the lake.

Regarding our tournament schedule, you will notice the stop times change as we move into summer. If you do not already know, as you get older and your hair begins to either thin or grey, the things you once were able to do might begin to change. Your vision dims, your

Happy Mothers Day!



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

"We Practice Catch and Release"

catlike balance and reflexes begin to fade, and your body's ability to regulate heat diminishes. Because of this, we do not fish night tournaments. In addition, in May we stop at 2PM. June-July-August we stop at 11AM. September, we stop at 1PM. Yes, there are some summer days that are unusually cool, and maybe we could have fished until 1PM rather than 11AM. But it is not fair to make a change in the rules, including stop time, at the lake prior to the tournament when the expectations have already been established.

Terry Tassin sends out a multitude of emails every month, full of all the information regarding the particulars of the tournament. Everyone has received a copy of the tournament rules, and they are available to view online. Therefore, we do not cover all the tournament details at the lake, just the ones that are specific to that body of water. It is our job to prepare and present the information prior to the tournament, but it is your job to read it.

I am glad you all are a part of Midweek; I don't think there is a finer group of guys anywhere else. Your cooperation and help make it easier for the club to function and for that I thank you. See you next month at Bartlett, safe-light until 2PM.



Tournament Report Lake Roosevelt April 17, 2019

Windy days, and chilly air temps and the fishing was still pretty good. Read on to hear all of the fish stories our winners provided.

Team Tanner Cormier & Ron Rudzinski Squeak Out Win And Take Home 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Tanner Cormier & Ron Rudzinski** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 12.37 lbs.

Ron Rudzinski: First I have to say it was great fishing with Tanner Cormier, and we both got our **FIRST**

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2019 is scheduled for **Wednesday, 1 May** 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 points tournament is scheduled for **Lake Bartlett** on **15 May 2019**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 2 PM**.

WIN in Midweek Bass. He got us into some good spots where we were able to get some better quality fish. We pre-fished Tuesday and got a couple of nice 2 pound plus bass on jigs after striking out on topwater and crankbaits. For us the bite got tougher so we tried Senkos (Texas and wacky) and were able to decide to concentrate on 6 – 8 feet depth for flipping jigs and Senkos for the tournament. That strategy did work for us and we were able to upgrade all day. Our big fish 3.72 came mid-day when the wind came up and it nailed my spinnerbait. I find it amazing how every tournament with our competitive field, 1-2 decisions during the day affect a small upgrade or not in your bag weight and final standings.

All in all a great time at Rosie. Midweek Bass has a great bunch of guys and I appreciate all the time and effort the officers and volunteers put out to run a top notch tournament and bass club.

Tanner Cormier: Tournament day was a beautiful overcast day with very slight breeze. Ron Rudzinski and I started our morning in the coves directly across from the Schoolhouse boat ramp. We started off by targeting the steep banks that contained cover overhangs and submerged bushes from the rapidly rising water levels. Unfortunately, the early morning reaction bite was not on our side, therefore we switched things up and began to flip the cover with craws and Senkos.

The flipping and pitching bite turned out to be the ticket for best bite. Right off the bat Ron and I doubled up on solid bass. Both fish were in the two plus pound range and got the adrenaline pumping. The same cove we doubled up in quickly became a feeding frenzy. Shad were busting and bass were chasing!

After the shad frenzy had slowed, we went back to fishing the heavy cover to claim our limit. As the day passed, the wind began to pick up and made the ripple in the water perfect for a spinner bait bite. Ron began to throw a white and chartreuse spinner bait, with silver and gold blades. Ron was persistent with the spinner bait and it paid off big time. Ron managed to hook up on many fish, but unfortunately some threw the hook. Thankfully Ron did not allow the frustration to get to him and he



1st Place Ron Rudzinski & Tanner Cormier

continued to throw the spinner bait and hooked into a 3 ½ pounder that successfully made it to the scales. From that time on we continued to grind and fight the wind. Towards the end of the day we managed to cull out some of the smaller fish and managed a 2 ½ pound average with the one kicker to bring to the scales for a 12.37 bag.

Big congrats to all anglers; it was a tough bite and patience was a necessity for this event. Thank you Midweek Bass Anglers for the awesome tournament. I look forward to the upcoming tournaments.

My big thanks to Ron Rudzinski for fishing with me and sharing his knowledge for those finicky bass.

Senko's And Swimbaits Propel Jeff Mason & Howard Thomas To 2nd Place Overall Finish

In **2nd Place** Team **Jeff Mason & Howard Thomas** weighed five bass for a total weight of 12.15 lbs.

Howard Thomas: Congratulations to Tanner and Ron for their 1st place win. We were one cull away from being in the drivers' seat but being a back seat driver 2nd Place isn't all that bad. Jeff Mason and I had two practice days with tournament day being the best. We had good days to fish except for the wind. By the time you reel the bow out of your line the fish has already decided he doesn't like your fake offering and has spit it out; but we managed.

Jeff started us out with our first 3 fish of the day and then I finally got on track thanks to Jeff's knowledge of the lake. We fished both ends of the lake with our largest fish coming from the Tonto side, a 4.40 pound stud. I told Jeff I didn't think the fish was that big because it was going along with the program till it saw the boat and then made a beeline for the bottom peeling braid off on my reel with the drag pretty much set near max. It bit on a wacky rig Senko worm, watermelon with green and purple flake. The rest of our fish were caught on Senko's and 4" swimbaits in pure white. Top water, which was working in practice and catching nice fish, just would not work for us today. Thanks go to Jeff Mason for leading our team into the winners circle. Your kindness and generosity toward fellow anglers is amazing. Again, thanks.

Jeff Mason: Congrats to Tanner and Ron on their 1st Place finish, we almost got ya! Every time I have partnered up with Howard Thomas we usually do pretty good and always have a blast fishing together, lots of laughs. My wife always asks me after I've fished with Howard why I am yelling at her. I think a part of our success lies with Howard not being able to hear me half the time!

We pre-fished last Thursday and stunk up the joint, I had two fish on and Howard caught a nice one on a giant swimbait that looked like it needed batteries.

Membership

As of April 19, 2019 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **105** dues paid active members.



2nd Place Howard Thomas & Jeff Mason

Tuesday's pre-fish went a lot better with us catching fish from one end of the lake to the other on topwater, small swimbaits and Senkos. In one cut in the Salt end we almost had a double hookup on a 3 pounder and 2 plus pounders so we made that our starting spot Wednesday. I started out with topwater Wednesday and had no takers so I switched to the Senko and on my first cast I caught one almost 3 lbs which got us off to a great start. Howard and I caught our limit pretty early and started culling after fishing mid-lake and moving towards the Tonto end on the south side of the lake. We had between 8-9 lbs before we reached a point past the dam where we had some topwater action the day before. We were battling the wind and Howard was throwing a 7" Senko when he hollered "get the net" and landed our big fish of the day, a 4.40 pound beauty. We were hooping and hollering and taking pictures and I turned around and cast my 5" Senko and caught one almost 3 lbs, BAM! We went from 8-9 lbs to 12 lbs with those two fish, right spot, and right time. Thanks to Midweek Bass again for putting on a great tournament.

Team David Baca & Christian McKay Use Senko Worms To Finish In 3rd Place

Team **David Baca & Christian McKay** weighed five bass for 10.70 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

David Baca: First of all, congrats to Tanner Cormier and Rod Rudzinski for an awesome win when quality fish were very hard to find. Also, big thanks to all of those that make such a fun tournament happen. I had the enjoyment of fishing this tournament with my grandson, Christian McKay, but I would not trade that for the circumstances that made that happen. His partner Dale Byrum, had recent surgery and was not up to making the tournament and my partner Dennis Beverage, lost his stepson. Our thoughts and prayers go out to these guys.

For the tournament, I managed to get in some "fun fishing" for a couple of days and found a lot of small



3rd Place Christian McKay & David Baca

fish in the back of coves all over the lake. It seemed I could not get bit anywhere else and just to catch a 13 inch fish you had to throw something at 10,000 salt cedars in 2 to 5 feet of water to catch one fish. Since my grandson had to work till late on Tuesday, I got everything ready and tied two poles each with spinnerbaits, Senkos, and zipper worms that we could use as swimbaits and pitching jigs in the cedars. During the tournament this was all still working - including the lack of quality fish. We had a limit within 30 minutes of the tournament start and then started culling 12 inch fish with 12 ½ inchers and so on. Christian put a decent Senko fish in the boat and I got a couple with a spinnerbait that helped what I thought was not a very good bag. What a surprise we had when it was all tallied up. We mainly just focused on having fun and see what happens, and the number of fish we caught made that happen along with the great weather and the Third-Place finish came as a big surprise. We were not expecting a top ten let alone Third-Place.

Christian McKay: I Just want to thank everyone who puts these tournaments on and all of you that make it a great experience. This was my 2nd tournament in the Midweek Bass club and it's been great thus far. This tournament on Roosevelt I was lucky enough to fish with my grandpa David Baca. I wasn't able to do any pre-fishing for this tournament and got to the lake late Tuesday night and he had already found a small pattern from fishing for a couple days prior. The fish seemed to be from 2-5ft and in the coves. We probably caught around 20 fish on the day and all of mine were caught on Senkos, zipper worms and spinnerbaits. The bigger fish we caught were on the spinnerbait. Overall it was a great day of fishing and I'm glad I was able to make this

Tournament Statistics

Sixty-eight men fished 8.5 hours each, bringing 160 bass to the scales for a total weight of 262.17 pounds with a 3.95 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.63 lbs. All but four fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

tournament. Going into weigh in we weren't sure we even had 10 lbs of fish but we were lucky to come out with a 3rd Place finish.

Senkos In The Brush Pays Off For Team Clinton Bell & Mark Durben With 4th Place Overall Finish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Clinton Bell & Mark Durben** weighed five fish for a total weight of 10.10 pounds. Clinton's 4.92 lb bass took 1st Place Big Bass honors.



4th Place Mark Durben & Clinton Bell

Mark Durben: Clinton Bell and I discovered a pattern on Tuesday that brought in about 16-18 lbs; unfortunately, Wednesday wasn't quite the same. We had been throwing cranks and Senkos on the insides of coves but the cranks just weren't effective on Wednesday. Clinton hooked the big 4.92 pound fish on a Senko. While we caught, and missed, a lot of other fish they were all clones and the 4 others weighed about the same as the one big fish. Almost all our fish on Wednesday came on green pumpkin, or similar colored Senkos thrown in to the brush. I enjoyed the opportunity to fish and learn from Clinton and hope to get drawn with him at a future tournament.

Team Steve Wells & Doug Cunningham Tie For 5th Place

A five fish bag weighing 10.02 lbs was enough to earn Team **Steve Wells & Doug Cunningham** the **5th Place** money.

Doug Cunningham: I had the pleasure fishing with "Story Time" Steve Wells; if you've got the time, he's got a story. The morning started with us shooting across the lake fishing the shoreline on the main lake. We tried everything, Senkos, chatterbaits, jigs, Ricos, and drop shot. About an hour in, I tied on my old Sammy, (white bottom with a lime green top) and that's when I caught a

3.71 pound bass. The next couple of hours we were just catching dinks with Senkos until about 11 PM. I caught another 3.5 lber on a quarter ounce shaky head with green pumpkin hog crawler flipping into the shore on the main lake. The day went on with a few small fish again until we had the unfortunate situation of breaking down in Sally Mae (Salome Cove) about 12:30. The main motor was out so we started working our way with the trolling motor back to the launch dock. Luckily we were fortunate enough to have a fellow club member take the time and tow us back to the dock. We arrived at the dock about 2:15 and just hung out there till the end of the tournament. Over all it was a beautiful day on the lake with plenty of stories to tell.

Team Floyd Vaughan & Tom Savage Fish Senko's To 5th Place Tie

Team **Floyd Vaughan & Tom Savage** weighed five bass for 10.02 pounds and took home a tie for **5th Place** honors.

Floyd Vaughan: I fished with Tom Savage. He kept us legal and we caught fish on buzzbaits in the morning and Senkos like everybody else. Tom caught the biggest bass for our team and it came on a Senko in 12 feet of water. After that we went up the Salt end of the lake and flipped fish shallow missing most bites but we still had fun.

Tom Savage: Congratulations to Tanner and Ron for their 1st place win. I thought the weather was great but the fishing was tough. Floyd and I pre-fished on Tuesday from one end of the lake to the other only catching a few fish. It seemed to us that the fish were holding tight to cover and there was lots and lots of cover. We decided to pitch in and around the cover on banks with deeper water near by. Wednesday morning we went looking for those conditions. We decided to look between Windy Hill and Grapevine. We found a cove near Grapevine and started fishing. Most of our fish were caught on Senkos in less than 8 feet of water, but our biggest fish was caught on a wacky Senko in about 12 feet of water. We were very surprised that our 10 pound bag would be good enough to get us even close to being in the money. You just never know. I enjoyed fishing with Floyd; he's a lot of fun. I also had a great time camping with my friends Tuesday night and I'm looking forward to our next campout.

Tom Alauria & Todd Gentner Fish Salt Cedars And Senkos Finish 7th Overall

In **7th Place** Team **Tom Alauria & Todd Gentner** weighed five bass for a total weight of 9.52 lbs.

Todd Gentner: Short but sweet. Well a big shout out to all the anglers who were able to locate and put a pattern together to catch them. A special thanks to my partner Tom Alauria who pre-fished 4 days and established a pattern and then taught it to me in depth.



7th Place Tom Alauria & Todd Gentner

Hopefully Tom will describe our day on the water. I just appreciate the camaraderie, hospitality, and friendships I receive each and every time I am able to get on the water. Tight lines and see you boys in the fall.

Tom Alauria: Congratulations Tanner and Ron. You did well! I got to the lake on Saturday so I had a few days to figure out how to catch fish. I also watched the weigh-in for the Monterey tournament and got concerned with how few fish were brought in. I did find fish in the salt cedars, and Senkos seemed to work. Todd Gentner came up on Monday and I had a blast fishing with him. He had never caught a fish on a Senko, but his first cast on Wednesday he hooked one over 3 lbs. We caught between 25 and 30 fish and they all came on Senkos.

Team George Cobasky & Otto Gal Scratch Bottom for 8th Place Finish

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 9.23 lbs was enough to earn Team **George Cobasky & Otto Gal** the **8th Place** money.

Otto Gal: We started our day just outside the no wake zone by the island with spinner bait and Texas rig brush hogs (watermelon red flake). Then a cold ride to "Y Cove". Caught them on drop shot, split shot, green pumpkin chartreuse tip finesse worms and brush hogs. Later we revisited some paces we caught them earlier. The only place we didn't catch fish is Salome Cove.

George Cobasky is a great partner; he laughed at all my corny jokes.

George Cobasky: I had a great time fishing with Otto; he has a lot of fishing knowledge regarding Lake Roosevelt. Being the next to last boat out we started our morning fishing the small island in the launch area. Flipping to the shore line we hooked two one pound fish and one over 2 lb. - great start. Otto was using a Robo worm and I was using a small baby brush hog. After making a complete circle of the island we decided to go up the Salt near Schoolhouse Point and there we started picking up bigger fish. We fished with different baits off and on but I never had a bite. I decided to go back to the small baby brush hog and I started catching fish again. As



8th Place Otto Gal & George Cobasky



2nd Place Big Fish-Gary Asmus

a lot of our members know I have a hard time catching fish, but this outing was great.

Goon Fish Prize Won By Team Bowlin & Johnstonbaugh

Pat Johnstonbaugh: The Goon Fish was caught by Steve Bowlin. He was using a citrus colored worm on a muddy shoreline mid lake. It felt heavy and fought like a bass. The catfish fooled us into thinking that this one was not like the smaller fish we had been catching earlier; however, of course it turned out to be a catfish!

Habitat Build-Volunteers Wanted

Arizona Game and Fish is seeking volunteers to help build fish habitat structures at Roosevelt Lake on Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27.

They'll be set up at the Windy Hill amphitheatre parking lot from 7:30 am - 4 pm on Friday and 7:30 am - 1 pm on Saturday to build Georgia cubes. Please bring a cordless drill if you have one, water, and a shade canopy if you have/need one. There are 260 Georgia cubes to build in a day and a half. Challenge accepted!



Goon Fish Pot Pat Johnstonbaugh & Steve Bowlin

Gary Asmus & Lou Hirlemann Net 4.54 lb Bass For 2nd Place Big Fish Prize

Gary Asmus: It was a great day fishing with Lou Hirlemann, We had our chances with buzz baits and jigs but the big one came on a jig late in the day and that's all there is to it.



Photo Scrapbook - Lake Roosevelt - April 17, 2019



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2019 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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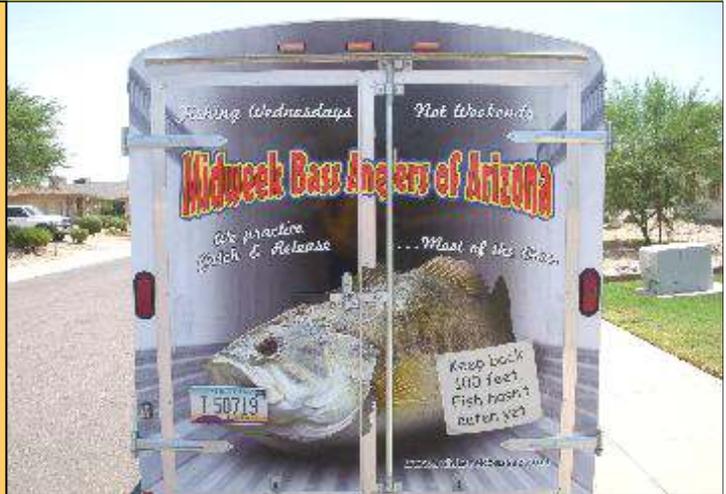
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE - Vacant

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

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

**Danny Childers (CO)
Gene Crist (B)
Doug Cunningham (CO)
Geoffrey Green (CO)**

Please meet and greet our new members



Club Apparel

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in May

- Tom Alauria
- Phil Brewer
- Jim Buchanan
- Butch Dangelo
- Steve Grier
- John Hawkins
- Joe Matt
- Rusty Murdock
- Ray Riley
- Steve Rubenstein
- Kevin Russell
- Sam Schattenberg
- Terry Tassin
- Dan Vojacek



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

**Midweek Bass Anglers 2019
Tournament Schedule**

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