

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



AUGUST 2018 EDITION
13 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



Thirty-four boats competed in the August Midweek Bass Angler's Tournament at Bartlett Lake. We recently added our 110th member for the year, so that means 70% of our members were at the lake for this event. We have welcomed many new faces in the last few months, so in case I haven't met you face to face, Welcome! You won't find a better group of guys anywhere. You may feel a bit overwhelmed with a group this large but worry not, each month you will be fishing with someone different. It won't take long before you develop an entire new circle of friends.

Living in a dry, hot state such as Arizona, you always hear of

different records relating to our climate; driest month on record, hottest day on record, etc. I would like to submit that we experienced the most comfortable August fishing day on record. The lingering monsoon from the night before left us with 80 degree temps and overcast skies for the entire tournament. Doesn't get much better than that gentlemen.

Congratulations to Luke Spreitzer and Greg Prather on their 11.68 pound weight that secured them a victory among the crowd. Luke was a late entry, and even had to use his own boat due to problems with the Prather rocket boat. Nice job, guys. Again thanks to the weigh-team, and to our shuttle drivers. PETA would applaud us.

We are finally in the last quarter of summer, with Lake Pleasant coming up in September. Don't forget that in September we will have a 1 PM stop time. October will take us to Roosevelt Lake, where the fishing has been outstanding; should be great camping weather also. We will finish out the year at Alamo Lake in November. Don't forget that we have changed the

dates for this event to November 27-28, 1 ½ days, to avoid any conflicts with Thanksgiving on November 22. I would not be surprised to find a pre-tournament poker tournament on Monday night. Hope you can make it.



Tournament Report Lake Bartlett August 15, 2018

Our August tournament is now history. Lake Bartlett proved to be a tough nut to crack for some of our members but

Continued on page 2

Patriot Day 9-11-2018

Special Thank You



**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"

proved to be a small bass bonanza for others. The weather was great with a solid overcast sky and the day provided a lull between storm fronts.

Water temperatures were fairly stable with 83-85 degree water around the lake at the start of the tournament. I believe it is safe to say that we offered just about all the lures you think finicky fish would want.

As I mentioned earlier, some people managed to find fish so lets read how they caught their fish.

Team Luke Spreitzer & Greg Prather Jig Way To 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Luke Spreitzer & Greg Prather** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass



1st Place Overall
Luke Spreitzer & Greg Prather

weighing 11.68 lbs. Thanks to Greg's 3.64 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors.

Greg Prather: First of all I'd like to say thank you to the board and the weigh in team. Long story short, my boat is still not running right. The good news is I got paired with Luke and still got to fish.

Luke and I pre-fished Tuesday and found some small fish. At the end of the day Luke had a nice fish on a brown jig by the dam (our best fish of the day).

So since we were the last boat out on tournament day, our plan was to just go to the dam and fish top water first thing and then switch to jig's and drop shot. When we got to the dam I started with a top water popper and the water was so rough I couldn't even see my bait. So, I immediately picked up my jig rod and started

throwing that. Luke and I caught some nice fish. We culled up several times. The big fish came on a jig with Yamamoto twin tailed grub cinnamon colored.

Thanks Luke, I had a great time, see y'all at the September meeting.

Shane Edgar & Rudy Gonzales Fishing Main Lake Take 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** the team of **Shane Edgar & Rudy Gonzales** weighed five bass for a total weight of 10.65 lbs. Rudy's 3.15 lb bass won **2nd Place Big Fish** prize money for the team.

Rudy Gonzales: First off, thanks to the Midweek crew for running a great show. Congrats to Luke and Greg for the tournament win. Also, thanks to Shane Edgar for trolling me around the lake and the good company. We didn't get a chance to pre-fish together, but Shane had been out and already had several good spots in mind. We stayed in the main lake areas starting off with top water walking baits in shallow water and even landed a few bass. We had our limit early between the top water baits and a few caught on Senkos, Chigger Craws, Ned's, and Jigs. Noticing that the larger fish were biting the jigs, we mainly fished jigs the rest of the day. We covered a ton of water all over the lake. Almost all our fish came from within 10 to 15 feet of the

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 5 September** 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 Pleasant on 19 September 2018**. Club launch headquarters, tournament hours, and weigh-in location will be announced.



2nd Place
Shane Edgar & Rudy Gonzales

shoreline in rocky areas.

Shane Edgar: We started our morning off throwing top water lures; Rudy caught a keeper right away. A few minutes passed and I caught a 2 1/4 pounder on a Super Spook. We caught a few more small bass on top water then switched to jigs in hopes of culling up. We caught a few key fish right away and continued to grind it out when Rudy caught our 3.15 pounder on a jig. It got down to crunch time with two small ones still left to be culled out. Rudy then stuck a 2 pounder in the last 15 minutes of the tournament. We caught a lot of bass all morning long but struggled to get the good ones. Rudy was super fun to fish with and I look forward to fishing with him again.

Membership

As of August 17, 2018 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **110** dues paid active members.

Team Doyle Wofford & Mark Royal Drop Shot Main Lake Points To 3rd Place Finish

Team **Wofford & Royal** weighed five bass for 9.59 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Mark Royal: Congratulations to Luke and Greg – terrific bag for a 1st Place finish. Doyle Wofford and I pre-fished the Friday before the tournament and after trying poppers, jigs, and jerkbaits we found that drop-shot was our most productive bait. On tournament day we were fortunate to find a point that had some bigger fish and caught three bass that were approximate 2 pounders. Fish were caught on drop-shot worms with chartreuse tails and Robo margarita mutilator worms. The bigger fish were caught earlier in the day close to shore. I had a great time and look forward to the possibility of fishing with Doyle again soon.

Doyle Wofford: Congrats to the 1st and 2nd place teams. Mark and I had a couple of good days fishing. We pre-fished on Friday and thought we had a pretty good plan going into the Wednesday tournament. We tried the usual early morning baits such as top water and rip baits with limited success. Drop shot seemed to be the key for us and we caught fish just about every place we stopped. We caught fish on most colors but anything with a chartreuse tail got a few more bites. Main lake



3rd Place
Doyle Wofford & Mark Royal

points were the most productive for us and three of the five fish weighed came off of one of these points. Mark made an excellent partner and I hope to draw him again in the future. Thanks to everyone involved with putting on a great tournament.



“Frogs...frogs...where are my frogs!”

Team Randy Bosket & Mike Adamson Buzz To 4th Overall Finish

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Randy Bosket & Mike Adamson** weighed five fish for a total weight of 9.46 lbs.

Mike Adamson: I had a fun day on the lake with Randy Bosket and our only goal was to catch fish and get to know each other. We started off throwing buzz baits and we had a couple of swirls but no takers. At this point we went for the, 'let's at least get 5 fish so we don't look bad'. We got these fish on drop shot rigs and Carolina brush hogs. After we had 5 fish in the live well we went back to buzz baits for the last 3 hours catching one about every 20 minutes and culling up each time except once. We just worked the shoreline looking for rocks and that's where they were.

Randy Bosket: I would like to start by congratulating Luke and Greg for their win. Mike Adamson and I started the day with a very quick run directly across from the ramp and



4th Place
Randy Bosket & Mike Adamson

started fishing the rocky shoreline. Mike filled our sack using drop shot while I watched and cheered him on because my Ned rig wasn't working nearly as well. I was starting to feel as though I was along just to provide net service! We then switched to buzz baits exclusively and then it was on like Donkey Kong. I landed a nice one and started to pay my rent. After that we pretty much swapped catching fish for the rest of the day and were able to swap out all our dinks for larger fish. I had a great time fishing with Mike and look forward to fishing with him again soon.

Roger Root & James Ochs Find Fish Early And Finish 5th

A five fish limit weighing 9.41 lbs was enough to earn **Team Roger Root & James Ochs** the **5th Place** money.

James Ochs: First and

foremost, my partner Roger Root is a great guy. I got a chance to know him a little bit and I got to say that he's very knowledgeable and focused. This was my second time out with this club and I've had a great time and have learned a tremendous amount from everyone. I have to thank Hobby Nelson for getting me involved in this club and I feel very fortunate to fish in it.

We started out the morning fishing a small point and than quickly moved to the Yellow Cliffs where I started throwing a crank and spinner bait. For most of the day, Roger used a 3/8 oz jig that landed him all the big fish. He suggested I try and drop shot with a dark green 4 inch split tail Yamamoto worm while he continued to jig. As soon as I did that I got on the bite. We fished in primarily less than 10 feet of water most of the day while Roger caught 20 plus fish off of the same jig. We moved to a couple different spots but ended right back at the cliffs where Roger culled all the fish! I think we only kept 1 of mine! Ha Ha. He caught the 3 biggest keepers on our 2nd time around the area in 3 casts! By the end of the day he handed me one of his rods with his jig set up and I caught a few more. Roger knows his stuff and I had a great time learning from him.

Drop Shots Work For Team Gary Senft & Danny Childers 6th Place Win

Tournament Statistics

Sixty-eight men fished 7 hours each, bringing 159 bass to the scales for a total weight of 236.99 pounds with a 3.48 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.49 lbs. All fish but three were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



6th Place
Gary Senft & Danny Childers

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 8.98 lbs was enough to earn **Gary Senft & Danny Childers** the **6th Place** honors

Gary Senft: I got to fish with Danny Childers who just joined the club. We went out and pre-fished Tuesday just trying to get a few spots to fish. Fishing was kind of tough for us. We started at the Yellow Cliffs and it was slow with only small fish, so we left and fished around the flats and up the river. We caught a lot of small fish but the bigger fish just weren't moving up. We caught our fish on drop shot morning dawn and other colors. Also jigs, top water, and crank baits. We culled quite a few fish a little at a time. I had a good time fishing with Danny and showed him how the club was run. Congrats to the winners.

Danny Childers: This was my first tournament with the club. Gary and I fished drop shot with morning dawn worms by

the Yellow Cliffs. Gary caught most of his fish on Texas rigged worms. Morning dawn was the color that caught most of our fish. Several fish bit crank baits and shaky head rigs. On the last cast Gary caught our big 2.43 lb fish.

Team Sean Ballard & Warren Brackey Fish Out Dam Area For 7th Place Finish

In **Seventh Place** the team of **Sean Ballard & Warren Brackey** finished with 8.89 lbs for their five bass.

Sean Ballard: Holy Mackerel, what an awesome day on the water, no Trout about it. Congratulations to Luke and Greg, they totally kicked bass. I had the pleasure of fishing with Warren Brackey for the second time in two years. We started out by the dam and managed a small limit by 6 AM and culled all day long. We started with top water techniques through our spot once then went back through it with cranks and then back through with flick shakes. The bite was fast and furious and we stayed there until we caught all of the fish in that area as I knew it was going to be crowded by the Yellow Cliffs and man you guys that fished on those flats across from Yellow Cliffs were huddled up like a crappie fisherman flotilla. Our biggest fish Warren Brackey caught with a flick shake in about 15 feet of water. He got it all the way to the boat and it was like

slow motion as the fish jumped and I saw his bait go flying and I hear him say "Oh No" and then "Great Catch" as the fish landed in the bottom of the net - he shoots he scores and the crowd goes wild. Warren is great to fish with and I am looking forward to next month so I can write another one of these cheesy articles - LOL.

Warren Brackey: The weather gods showed up for this one; truly amazing conditions for our event. And, another great tournament put on by our club staff, our stellar weigh-in team, and our member volunteers. Special thanks to John Reichard and Floyd Vaughn for shuttling us old guys up the ramp and returning our bass back to the lake to fight another day.

Congratulations to team Luke Spreitzer and Greg Prather for their well-deserved first place finish and to all who placed in this event.



7th Place
Warren Brackey & Sean Ballard

It was my good fortune to be paired with Sean Ballard to fish Lake Bartlett. Sean and I won last year's night tournament there, so I knew first hand of his finesse fishing skills and uncanny ability to locate bigger fish. Sean is a great guy and a lot of fun to fish with. He stays positive and is very focused on getting that next bass in the boat.

We pre-fished the Sunday before the event. Our first pre-fishing stop was the first cut at the near side of the dam. Surprise, surprise, the fish we were looking for were there! Sean had a big blowup and big tug on his buzz bait on his second or third cast. We explored several areas after that, from the dam to the no-wake buoys at the river end and back. We caught several fish, mostly on wacky rigs, Ned rigs, dropshot, and crankbaits. The fish were up shallow and out to about 15 feet deep, near points and structure.

On game day most teams headed toward the river end. Our small cut by the dam was open for business. We lost a buzz bait fish at the boat first thing. Sean was undaunted. He put a limit in the boat by 6:30 using a wacky rig worm. By 7:00 he had culled a couple smaller fish. I had yet to have a bite! At Sean's suggestion I started throwing the same wacky rig worm he was using and started catching fish right away. They were small, but it was a start! Around 8:30 we moved to mid-lake, culled one fish, then proceeded to the river end for a while before

reversing course. Around 9:30 or so we were back to where we started. My best fish (just over 2 lbs) came there on a wacky rig worm in about 15 feet. That put us at nearly 9 lbs in the well. About 10:15 we headed back toward the start ramp, casting crankbaits and spinner baits along the rock wall between the dam and the marina. Sean caught four or five crank bait fish on the way in, but nothing big enough to help. About 10:50 I cast my spinner bait to a dark spot right at the base of a wall between two boulders. I just started swimming it out and BOOM! The fish we were looking for hit my spinner bait. I kept reeling up as she was swimming straight for the boat. Sean asked, "You got one?" I replied, "I think it's a dink." About then she turned dead right and made a big run to our left, as if to say, "I got your dink, right here!" She then cleared the water and spit out my spinner bait. I never set the hook! She was well over 2 pounds and would have really helped us. I'll be staying away from sharp things for a few more days.

I had a great time and learned a lot about finesse presentation fishing with Sean. It would be a pleasure to be paired with him again anytime. Thanks for the ride, buddy.

Team Vern Ridgway & Lannes Brock Tie For 8th Place

A five fish limit weighing 8.77 lbs was enough to earn **Vern**



**8th Place Tie
Vern Ridgway & Lannes Brock**

Ridgway & Lannes Brock a tie for **8th Place** honors.

Vern Ridgway: Eighth Place and tournament big "Goon Fish"; Congrats to Luke and Greg for their first place finish; another outstanding job by the weigh crew. Lannes Brock and I teamed up for the Bartlett event, and we started up river by the Yellow cliffs.

We threw top water, did some cranking and caught one keeper, plus the big Goon Fish which topped the scales at 0.82 oz; we had no idea he'd be good for cash, we figured somebody would try to eat him, but he made it back to the lake alive.

Our biggest bass was caught by Lannes (2.72 lbs) on a baby bass Senko Texas rigged. Our second 2 pounder came on a pumpkin colored creature bait hooked up to a jig head; we caught several little bass during the day, but the bigger

ones were hard to find.

We had a great day for 8th Place; the weather was great, and Lannes was a good partner and no boat or fish problems (except they could have been bigger). 'Bass' wishes to all and we'll see you at Lake un-Pleasant next month.

Team Vern Ridgway & Lannes Brock Catch 'Big' Crappie For Goon Fish Prize

Vern Ridgway: The Goon Fish was a Crappie; he was caught up river on a blue-gill colored crank bait. Mr. Lannes Brock did a fine job with the net on the 0.82 ounce "big" boy.



*Goon Fish Pot
Vern Ridgway & Lannes Brock*

Team Rick Brown & Robert Panaitescu Tie For 8h Place

A five fish limit weighing 8.77 lbs

was enough to earn **Rick Brown and Robert Panaitescu** a tie for **8th Place** honors.

No catching report was turned in but here is a photo of the guys with their catch.



*8th Place Tie
Rick Brown & Robert Panaitescu*



Weighing-In
By Gary Martlage
Tournament Director

Another one in the books, and we have three events more to go for the year! What a great turnout, as 68 fishermen braved the August heat. The fishing Gods decided to give us a break on the weather, but forgot to help us to catch fish. Bartlett usually produces a better quality for us, but as always, some team will figure it out.

Again, I was impressed with the volunteers that helped out during the weigh-in. THANK YOU DRIVERS that helped transport fish to the ramp; I'm sure it sure saved a lot of fish. Also, again, the weigh-in crew was fantastic,

and a big THANK YOU for making it as smooth as can be expected. Bartlett can be a headache, as the quality (size) of the fish usually makes for some very close weights. This is why it might take a little longer to weigh the fish, as I want to give everyone a correct reading for weight.

One note to our anglers, PLEASE do not forget to notify SOMEONE (preferably a board member), if you leave the lake early, or fail to weigh in fish. We do not want to leave the lake, if you are stranded on the water. Please call one of the Board members, and leave a voicemail that you left early with no fish to weigh-in.

I hope to see a great turnout at Lake Pleasant next month – our last close-to-the-city tournament this year; with a lot of volunteers ready to continue helping make this the premiere club in Arizona.



Guest Column
By Jack Hughes

It is 3:05 in the morning and tournament day for Midweek Bass at **Lake Pleasant**. Gee, 34 boats, where would I have fished, what lures would I have used. Savage would head for the opening of Humbug, Tony the river, Grimes to his secret spot.

Then I started feeling sorry for myself and thinking of other members who have had to stop fishing against their will.

For the past several months I found myself sitting at home on tournament day. Not because I have lost interest in the club or I am mad at someone, no it's for medical reasons. I have a very bad back that I have endured since being injured in Viet Nam in 1968. My back has deteriorated to the point that it has affected my legs and any movement must be very seriously considered. Naturally being able to endure 8 hours on a boat with constant jarring is out of the question and not fair to my co-angler to try it. In the past seven weeks I have had two back operations and have one more to go. The outlook is good at this time and the doctor even told me last week he would have me back on the boat for the October tournament. I'll try to make it in September I thought to my self.

I have found myself sitting home on tournament days awaiting tournament results. In the past I thought Terry always got the tournament results out at a very fast rate and often wondered how he managed it so fast. Now, sitting home waiting for the results of a tournament I swear Terry stopped off at a bar after the tournament then decided to have dinner also. Funny how your attitude changes.

Recently I have thought of the members who have had to stop fishing for medical reasons over the last eight years. Some of them have gotten lucky and returned to fishing, some will never be able to fish and then there are our friends whose funerals we attended. I think of members like Donnie Hegenderfer, who's back finally resulted in him giving up fishing temporarily, but he still has hopes of returning last I heard.

Mark Durben, who was always volunteering for everything on tournament day who's bad back finally ended his fishing for now. John Milkint who underwent a back operation and returned to fishing four months later.

Dave Rice the 2nd club president also succumbed to back problems but has not given up on fishing and still does it for fun but his tournament days are very limited. Dave was

president of the club for five and a half years and helped form it.

Doc Belden, who was an excellent stick and always there to fish with the club, went in for routine surgery on his back and something went wrong and he is now confined to a wheel chair and recently sold his bass boat. Doc was one of the very best of the good guys.

Ralph Skelly succumbed to cancer 4 years ago. He stayed a member till the end. Two days before Ralph died I went to visit him in the hospital and he was reading Bass Bites and the results of the Bartlett tournament. He said to me "I wished I had fished that tournament I would have been in the money, I know Bartlett". I left there wishing he could have fished Bartlett one more time.

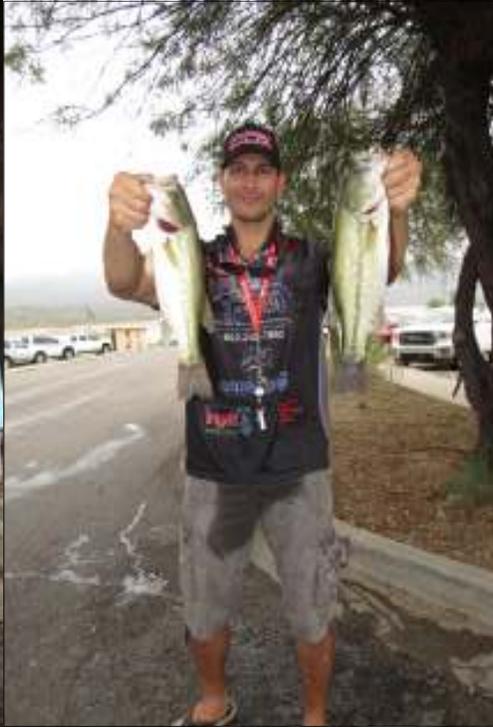
Joe Auksel was a great friend and before he died, 3 years ago, he asked me to make sure his top of the line fishing gear was quietly distributed among club members, I did it. Few members knew Joe was a very highly ranked Blue Marlin tournament fisherman. He fished the international circuit where entry fees were between \$25,000 and \$50,000. He told me he loved fishing with Midweek as much as he did any International Tournament. His first tournament with the club he caught a five pounder. He kept his membership even after being bedridden with cancer.

A good news story is Mark Royal a long-time member and a lifelong boater who was severely injured in an accident on Saguaro Lake last year. Mark missed a few months but returned as a co-angler and I just know he will soon be back fishing as a boater because of his love for fishing.

I guess I am just trying to say just because some of our members are not there on Tournament Day physically, they are there mentally. It does not mean they are not interested in the club because they are not fishing. Believe me, Midweek is hard to forget because of the quality of the members, the way it is run and I think of it as being addicted to it as much as if it was a drug.

The doctors tell me I will be back fishing with the club in October. It can't come soon enough!

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett - August 15, 2018



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

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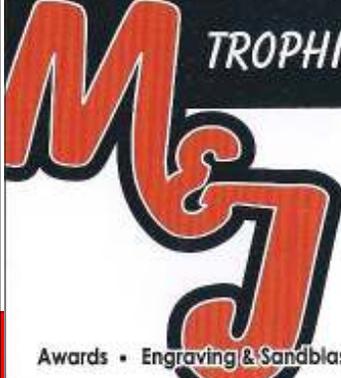
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Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>

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

**Lannes Brock (CO)
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Individuals wishing to purchase a club shirt or cap can order directly from our provider - **M & J Trophies & Apparel**, 10802 N. 43rd Ave, Glendale, Arizona. See their ad above.

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in September

- Mike Adamson
- Norm Haas
- John Hilland
- Bob Jolley
- Jeff Mason
- Bruce Nelson
- Ron Rudzinski
- Howard Thomas
- Gene Turner
- Larry Wiley
- Doyle Wofford



**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
21 November	Alamo (1.5 Days)