

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



**AUGUST 2019 EDITION**

**CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005**

**14 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN**

**EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN**



### President's Perspective

*By Gary Grimes*

If you are a gambler, you may be familiar with Keno; it is much like the state lottery. You choose numbers. Eighty (80) consecutively numbered balls are dropped into a hopper, and over the course of 60 seconds, 20 of the eighty balls are randomly selected. There are a variety of possible bets you can make, but one of the more unusual bets is to choose 20 numbers. If you happen to choose 20 numbers out of the total possible 80, and absolutely miss all of them, you win money. Why? Because the chances are pretty slim that you won't hit one number. I guess I should buy a couple of Keno tickets, because today at Bartlett, the lake known statewide as a "numbers" lake, my partner and I did not catch a single fish; my fault, not his.

Congratulations to Larry White and Rick Brown on the win, with 7.9 lbs. Yes, that is correct, 7.9 lbs. It was a very tough day on the water for fishing, as less than half the teams were able to scratch out a limit. I thought Bartlett was supposed to be the lake where you can catch numbers? Maybe next time; unfortunately next time will not be until next January, as this tournament marks the end of our summer schedule. We fish Lake Roosevelt in September and October, and we finish out the year at Alamo in November.

It was good seeing everyone at the lake today, sure wish the fishing had been better. I absolutely missed our tournament director, Gary Martlage. I never realized how much you have to pay attention when running the scales. I spoke with Gary the other day and his back is on the mend, albeit slowly. Thanks to Sean Ballard, Jason Stanton, Tom Alauria, Tom Savage, and Greg Utton for all the help at the weigh in. Special thanks to John Reichard for driving all the way to the lake and helping

shuttle anglers and fish to the water after the weigh-in.

The five pound pot continues to grow, and this fall should provide a great opportunity for someone to win a nice pot. We are planning on a big barbeque at Alamo Lake in November; the weather should be wonderful for being outdoors. Summer is almost over! Yeah! See you soon. Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 4th. Hope to see you there.



### Tournament Report Lake Bartlett August 21, 2019

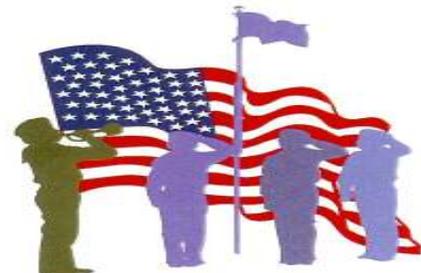
Our August event is now history. Lake Bartlett proved to be a tough nut to crack for most of our members. The weather was a record breaking HOT on tournament day with the highest temperatures ever recorded for our area being recorded by the weather bureau.

Water temperatures were fairly stable with 84-87 degree water round the lake at the start of the tournament. I believe it is safe to say that the teams 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 their catching reports.

# Patriot Day 9-11-2019

## 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"

## Larry White & Rick Brown Dominate Bartlett For 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Larry White & Rick Brown** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 7.90 lbs. Rick's 2.84 lb bass took **1st Place Big Bass** honors.

**Larry White:** Rick and I pre-fished on Tuesday and found several places with good fish on soft plastic lures. Here's a surprise for everyone...not on Carolina rigs. On tournament day, we started at the closest pre-fishing spot and Rick had our big fish on a crankbait within 5 minutes. I followed a couple of casts later with our second fish. A few casts after that another one was caught on crank bait. Rick saw a fish chasing food near the bank, threw a popper, and number 4 was in the boat. We ran to our other spots and nothing. We tried a couple of other areas without success. About 10:30 Rick said "any ideas" and I said "one". We moved and after a couple of casts I had our 5<sup>th</sup> and final bass of the day. We culled our smallest fish and time was up. What a fun day fishing with Rick. Talked fishing but mostly hunting.

**Rick Brown:** After the pairings were done, I was really happy to find out I was fishing with my good friend Larry White. I have fished with Larry a few times over the years. He is a great fisherman and we seem to fish pretty good together. Let's go fishing!

I started the morning throwing a crankbait around some large boulders. The reaction bite had been tough for us, so after a few casts I went straight to a Texas rigged chigger craw. We moved down the bank and over some shallow boulders, I got what felt to be the infamous bluegill bite or maybe it was just a finicky bass. I picked up a baby bass crankbait and threw in the same spot and caught our first fish at almost 3 lbs. We caught 2 more really small fish in the next 30 minutes and then started moving around the lake. We came back to our hot spot around 9:00, as we had no luck in other spots. As we were fishing plastics in 20 feet of water, there was a bass that was chasing some shad in the shallows. I grabbed my topwater popper and moved that way and after about 10 casts the bass came and got it, a nice 2 plus pounder.

## Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2019 is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4 September** starting at 8:00 AM, at **Deer Valley Airport Restaurant** (one mile north off 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 Roosevelt** on **18 September 2019**. Club headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours: **Safe Light to 1PM**.



**1st Place Larry White & Rick Brown**

We struggled again until Larry completed our limit around 10:45 catching our final fish on a dropshot. Tough day fishing all over, but we were just fortunate enough to find a couple nice ones. Thanks to the Tournament Crew for a great job as usual, especially with our Tournament Director out recovering from back surgery. Get well soon Martlage!

## Yellow Cliffs Ticket For Tom Alauria & Bob Jolley's 2nd Place Overall Finish

In **2nd Place** Team **Tom Alauria & Bob Jolley** weighed five bass for a total weight of 6.33 lbs.

**Tom Alauria:** This was not an easy tournament. Not only did we have record high temperatures but also a lake that was dropping its water level and fish with lock jaw. Bob Jolly and I did pre-fish on Monday and we did find some fish in about 15 feet of water. On tournament day I suggested that we spend the five hours of fishing time working the flats near the Yellow Cliffs. We knew that we were on fish. Surprise, surprise, all of our fish came on drop shot rigs. Bob threw a 5150 worm and I threw morning dawn and bold bluegill. We did not catch a lot of fish but the ones we did catch were of good quality for Bartlett. It was a good day and I really enjoyed fishing with Bob.

**Bob Jolley:** Tom Alauria and I pre-fished on Monday which turned out to be a very tough day on the water. Tom caught one fish and I lost one, but we fished enough areas where we saw fish to make a plan for Wednesday.

We were the 7<sup>th</sup> boat out at the start and two spots that were on our milk run were already occupied, but we had already decided to go to Tom's first choice which was on the flats west of the Yellow Cliffs. It was slow going at first



**2nd Place Tom Alauria & Bob Jolley**

but Tom started catching fish and filling up our live well. I couldn't buy a bite but I did a good job of netting. When things really slowed down we decided to move and went south to another flat (where Tom caught one more) and a couple of other spots with no luck so we returned to where we had started. Tom did most of the heavy lifting but I finally woke up and caught two good fish that contributed to our weigh-in bag. I think we ended up catching 7 or 8 fish, with Tom catching most of them. It was certainly better than our pre-fish on Monday and we won some prize money on another tough day at Bartlett. All of our fish were caught on drop shots and pink was the color of the day.

Tom and I hadn't fished together for several years and I'm really glad we got paired up again. Even though it was tough fishing we had a fun time and I learned a couple of new drop shot techniques.

Congratulations to Larry and Rick for their win and thanks to the weigh-in team and John Reichard's shuttle service.

### **Rusty Murdock & Joe Matt Throw C-Rigs For 3rd Place**

Team **Rusty Murdock & Joe Matt** weighed five bass for 6.02 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Joe Matt & Rusty Murdock:** It was a rough day to find a bite. Bites were light and most of our fish were caught on a Carolina rig with brush hogs off points 20 to 30 feet deep; we caught a total of 12 fish.

### **Team Clinton Bell & Jim Duel Fish On Top For 4th Place**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Clinton Bell & Jim Duel**



**3rd Place Rusty Murdock & Joe Matt**

weighed five fish for a total weight of 5.83 pounds.

**Jim Duel:** Practice Day 8/19/2019, Clinton Bell picks me up on pre-fishing day and we are off to the lake. He lets me know that we would be targeting active fish and we only need 5 fish - right! We headed out toward the river end but stopped short a half mile from the no wake buoys and start throwing toward the north bank. He pulls in a couple of bass using a double prop buzz bait; all I catch is a bluegill.

We turn back and pass the Yellow Cliffs, go around the island and start fishing the shallow coves that have access to open water. Clinton pulls in a few more bass - me a bluegill. In the back of one of the coves there is a bass chasing shad; we leave it alone. He's there and he'll be there when we come back. He's active. See you on Wednesday.

It's getting warm, time to head home. He/We (it's a team right) have figured something out. I haven't caught a bass all day; bluegill yes - bass no.

Back at my vehicle Clinton helps me out with the proper way to rig a Carolina rig and offers a Rico popper to tie on. That afternoon I went and got a new pole. I went to Sportsman's Warehouse picked up new line and two Rio Rico's.

Tournament Day 8/21/2019, I'm rigged up and ready to go. We headed back to the same areas we fished during pre-fishing and had three in the boat by 8:30. We fished shallow water using the Rico's and I think a buzz bait. Clinton pulled one out of 30 feet of water with a drop shot Morning Dawn worm. At 10:30 we had 4 fish in the boat and I tied on a Rebel Double Deep Wee R and brought in our 5th fish. 11:05 and we head in for the weigh-in and unload our dismal catch. But it appears to have been a dismal day for all.

If you are fortunate enough to draw Clinton Bell as a



**4th Place James Duel & Clinton Bell**

partner, listen and pay attention. He is casually comfortable about his abilities and knows what he's doing. Clinton, thanks for the help and the advice.

### **Amos Davis & Dale Bayless Fish Plastics Near Dam For 5th Place**

A four fish bag weighing 5.40 lbs was enough to earn Team **Davis & Bayless** the **5th Place** money.

**Dale Bayless:** Amos Davis and I fished together for this event. Thanks to another well run tournament and to the staff that helps out, especially in this heat. Thanks Amos for a safe and classy ride today.

We headed to the dam area and hit the first point and cove north of the dam. This is where we caught our only 4 bass for the entire day. Amos scored first with a nice crankbait bass. I caught three bass on the 301, 5" Senko worm. It's green pumpkin with gold, purple and red flake. The fish were either right off the shore or next to rocks in about 3 to 8'feet of water. Amos lost one around 10:00 but the majority of fish suffered severe lock jaw after about 8:30 for us. Thanks again MBA.

**Amos Davis:** Congratulations to the winners. This was a tough tournament for catching fish. We fished one area by the dam and caught our fish in the first hour and nothing after that. Senkos were our main baits. My partner Dale Bayless had a good day using a Senko.

#### **Tournament Statistics**

Fifty men fished 5.5 hours each, bringing 79 bass to the scales for a total weight of 85.65 pounds with a 1.71 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.08 lbs. All but two fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

Dale was a great guy to fish with!

### **Wind Drop Propels Team Tom Savage & Gary Blaustein To 6th Place**

Team **Tom Savage & Gary Blaustein** weighed five bass for 5.37 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

**Tom Savage:** Ray Riley and I prefished on Friday and caught thirteen bass. Four bit on top water lures early, some dropshot, some on C-Rig and some on Texas rig baby brush hogs. We decided to go back out Tuesday just to make sure the bite was still there. Well it wasn't, we only caught one fish. I was so bummed out I decided to call in sick, but my wife wouldn't let me.

On tournament day Gary Blaustein and I were able, with divine intervention, to put five fish in the boat. Gary put our first fish in the boat on a small silver Kast Master jig. After what seemed like forever I was finally able to get one on a C-rig, then another on a dropshot. At 10:30 we only had three fish in the boat, and that's when the wind stopped and the water started boiling all around us. I put the trolling motor on high and started chasing fish boils. I finally got close enough to two of them to put our last two fish in the boat. I enjoyed fishing with Gary and I hope to get paired with him again. Congratulations Larry and Rick for a great win on a very tough day.



**6th Place Tom Savage & Gary Blaustein (not shown)**

**Jeff Mabry & Dan Vojacek**

## Work Reaction Baits To 7th Place Overall Finish

**Team Jeff Mabry & Dan Vojacek** weighed five bass for a total weight of 5.01 lbs.

**Jeff Mabry:** It is hard to write about catching only 5 pounds of fish. Dan Vojacek and I started throwing reaction lures shallow. I was able to catch our best fish on a buzz bait. I then threw an A-rig for a while and caught two fish rather quickly. We fished the rest of the day for two small fish on drop shot rigs. This was my worst day of summer fishing ever at Bartlett. That lake stinks right now and I am glad we are not going back this year.

The best part of the day was talking to Dan. I met Dan some 35 years ago playing little league with his son Danny. We talked about mutual people we know including Gary Blaustein who finished 6<sup>th</sup>, and talked a lot about hunting at which Dan and his son have been very successful.

Thanks to all for putting the tournament together and I can't wait to hear how Floyd caught that catfish Goon Fish!

## 2.42 Pound Bass Wins 2nd Place Big Bass Prize for Team Sean Ballard & Hal Hensey

**Hal Hensey:** I have always had trouble fishing Bartlett because of the rocky bottom and too many break-offs. Sean told me some rigging options that helped my situation. Fishing wasn't easy and I started out with a 0.30 lb bass, which I threw back, without thinking. I was sure we would be replacing this bass with a 2 or 3 pounder. The day seemed to be slow on the larger fish. Sean caught our biggest fish early so I assumed my day would

improve as well. Trying other lures didn't help so I stayed with a drop shot. Shortly before 11:00 AM I hooked into a good fish which was in the brush and I didn't feel a hit but just some more weight which caused me to react, but not with a good hook set. I did not see the bass but I can only assume it was a 4 lb plus! Larry and Rick should feel very lucky that I didn't get this one in the boat. Thanks to Sean for his bass that provided us with a check. It was a hot day, but it's always good to be fishing and Sean is always fun to fish with.



**2nd Place Big Fish-Sean Ballard**



**7th Place Jeff Mabry & Dan Vojacek**

### A Little Humor

\* Game Warden: You're not allowed to fish here!  
Fisherman: I'm not fishing. I'm just teaching my worm how to swim.

\*A banker went fishing with one of his customers. They were out on a boat in the river when the vessel smashed into a rock and tipped over, spilling the guys into the drink. The customer noticed the banker flailing away and said, "Say, can you float alone?"

"Oh, c'mon!" exclaimed the banker. "I'm drowning and you want to talk business!"

\* At Sunday school, the teacher was leading the class in a discussion of what Noah might have done to pass time on the Ark. "I think he went fishing," said one little girl. The little boy sitting beside her gave her a look and piped up, "What... with only two worms!"



## Weighing-In

By Gary Martlage  
Tournament Director

Another one for the record books at Bartlett. Didn't seem too exciting to fish, so I elected to have back surgery instead! Many of you have called me to check up on my surgery, so since I was not at the tournament (good job weigh team!), I thought I would let you know how I am doing. I had a fusion of my (L4/L5/S1) spine on July 30, and after 3 weeks, am doing well. The old body seems to improve daily, pain and mobility wise. I had a post-op on Wednesday, and pretty much got a "go" to continue fishing in the near future. Thanks for all your calls and well wishes, and I hope to be at Roosevelt next month. I might even try to talk Jack Hughes and John Hawkins into showing up, since they both have had similar surgeries the past few months. Maybe we can have a few cocktails and compare battle scars. Hope to see you all at Roosevelt next month.



## Bassin' Basics

### Tips

- Position yourself only as far away as water clarity dictates; stay close enough for consistent accuracy.
- Try to make the lure land on the water with as little noise as possible. Cast past the target when possible.
- In windy weather, put tension on the line just before the lure touches down. This will straighten out the line and prevent it from blowing across obstructions.
- Learn casting techniques that permit a low trajectory, such as flipping, pitching, sidearm casting and underhand casting.
- Use a quality rod and reel matched to the weight of the lure. Rods with a stiff blank but relatively fast (limber) tip are easier to cast than extremely stiff or uniformly limber rod.
- Cast with the wrist, not the arm and shoulder.

**Second Rod** - Keep a second rod rigged with a Gitzit, plastic worm, or Sluggo type lure when fishing a surface plug or buzzbait. If a bass misses the topwater lure, quickly tossing out the fake worm often results in an almost immediate strike.

**Find the Warmest Water** - Bass are extremely sensitive to water temperature. A one or twodegree difference to a bass feels roughly the same as 10 degrees of air temperature difference to a human. Use a surface temperature gauge to detect pockets of warmer water in early spring; then, you're almost certain to locate concentrations of fish that are more aggressive than those in cooler water.

**Fish Between Fronts** - Cold fronts are the curse of spring fishing because the fronts back bass out of the shallows and force them to become dormant. Watch weather forecasts and schedule fishing trips on the back end of a warming trend between fronts. Bass usually bite best just before a norther blows in. Fishing may be excellent as the wind shifts to the north, particularly if the front is accompanied by heavy cloud cover. Fishing is ordinarily worst during the high, blue shies and high barometer after the front.

**Stay in Creeks** - If you're at a loss as to where to catch bass in the spring, hit the creeks. Submerged creekbeds are natural highways for bass, offering deep-water sanctuary into which the fish can retreat. Creeks also are near shallow spawning flats where the fish moveduring warm trends. Put your boat in the creek channel and cast to the submerged banks. Watch your sonar for indications of fish stacked in deep water under the boat. You can often catch such concentrations by jigging a spoon.

**Hot Weather Is Prime Time** - Though many bass fishermen believe spring and fall fishing are tops, it's tough to beat summer fishing for bass. Summer represents the longest stretch of static weather in the entire cycle of seasons. Those seemingly endless days with no reprieve from the heat creates very predictable bass fishing. Water temperatures are high, and the fish are active. Feeding binges may occur at any time during the 24-hour period. Summer is the best time to find concentrations of bass on main lake structure. Use plastic worms or crankbaits for best action. Early and late, topwater fishing in the shallows works. In lakes with good shad populations, watch for bass chaseing shad. Schooling bass become predictable in late summer and early fall

### **FISHERMAN'S HOROSCOPE**

#### **Virgo (Aug 23-Sep 22) - The Lure**

You have mastered the art of thinking like a fish. In fact, you're apt to fall for anything...hook, line and sinker.

# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett - August 21, 2019



**Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2019 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**

**Rick Knight (B/CO)  
Gene Kochert (CO)  
Marvin Woods (CO)**



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 September**

Mike Adamson

John Hilland

Bob Jolley

Jeff Mason

Bruce Nelson

Lester Rapp Jr.

Ron Rudzinski

Howard Thomas

Gene Turner

Doyle Wofford



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2019  
Tournament Schedule**

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