



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



AUGUST 2020 EDITION
15 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

Enough already with the heat, but hope is on the horizon. September/Fall (ha-ha) is just a few days away, and hopefully the end of this damn heat wave. Twenty-six boats braved the heat this past Wednesday at Lake Pleasant for our final summer tournament, congratulations to Amos Davis and Pat Johnstonbaugh on a very nice bag of fish, anchored by a 5.50 lb. largemouth. This fish wins them an extra \$1000, in addition to the other prize money, making for a nice August payday.

Midweek Bass continues to press forward during the restrictions caused by the Covid virus. Though we cannot hold our regular meetings, thankfully with the computerized entries we are able to continue our monthly tournaments without significant problems. In addition, we continue to add new members during this time. Please welcome to the club James Clisch, Bill Briggs, Tim Rafferty and Nathan Coyne. It's good to have you guys aboard.

Thanks to all who helped during this blistering tournament at Pleasant. This marks the second time with John Hilland and Sean Ballard conducting the weigh-in, great job guys. Also, thanks to Gary Martlage, Tom Savage and Tom Alauria for also helping. Special thanks to John Reichard for showing up at 4:00 AM and shuttling our anglers up and down the ramp, much appreciated.

This tournament marks the end of our summer hours, reduced bag limits and hopefully the oppressive

heat. This was the first summer with the 3 fish limit, and the results would seem to indicate that this has in fact helped with our fish mortality. Expect to see the same next year. The September tournament takes us to Roosevelt Lake, with 5 fish limit and the hours extended to 1:00 PM. Actually, the next two tournaments are at Roosevelt Lake, which will allow our anglers to get very familiar with the lake at the higher water level. We will finish the year at Alamo Lake, where hopefully the virus has settled down enough to allow us an end of the year barbeque. I hope to see you all next month, until then, stay healthy and safe.

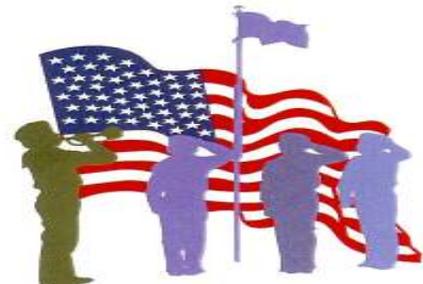
The Rules

By Gary Grimes

I understand there are tournaments where nothing seems to work, resulting in an empty live well at the end of the day. I also understand the frustration of just wanting to leave, go home and have a cold beer and forget the day. Please let us know if you leave the lake without weighing in so that we won't wonder if you are stuck on the lake somewhere with a boat problem and we need to come looking for you.

Patriot Day 9-11-2020

Special Thank You



**CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE - WATCH FOR EMAILS**

Monthly Breakfast Meeting
Deer Valley Airport Restaurant
702 W. Deer Valley Rd
Phoenix, AZ
1st Wednesday of Each

“We Practice Catch and Release”



Tournament Report Lake Pleasant August 19, 2020

Another hot day in Arizona! Let's hear from our winners on how they caught their fish at Lake Pleasant this month. In case you are wondering why all the teams only weighed three bass, the answer is during the hot summer months we go to a three fish limit to make it easier on the fish while in the livewell. In September we go back to a **5 fish limit** for the cooler months.

Team Amos Davis & Pat Johnstonbaugh Catch 5.50 Iber Win 1st Place Team, 1st Place Big Fish and 5 lb Pot

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Amos Davis and Pat Johnstonbaugh** brought to the scales the winning creel of three bass weighing 9.69 lbs. Thanks to Pat's 5.50 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Bass** and **5 lb** honors.

Amos Davis: Not much to report. We fished drop shots exclusively all day on rocky banks and flats. Fishing was slow for us. I had a great time fishing with Pat Johnstonbaugh. He had his personal best day of catching and I am very glad he did.

Pat Johnstonbaugh: First and foremost I'd like to thank everyone from the fizz crew, cameraman, and taxi driver, weigh-in crew and all the staff for their volunteer service - you are all greatly appreciated.

Amos and I started up river where we couldn't get a bite for the first hour. We tried different methods with one of us throwing a topwater popper and the other trying to dropshot. Eventually by 8:00 we had a couple of fish on dropshots, but the morning bite was really slow for us. We

Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2020 scheduled for **Wednesday, 2 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) [has been cancelled](#) due to the Corona Virus situation. Pairings will be announced by email when completed.

The next club points tournament is scheduled for **Lake Roosevelt** on **16 September 2020**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.



1st Place Amos Davis & Pat Johnstonbaugh

left the river and covered water along the rocky shores on the east side of the lake. We both had luck with red colored drop shot worms so we stuck with them. After catching fish in shaded water, I was surprised to hook a big fish on a sunny flat. Just before 9 AM, Amos had positioned us 150' feet from shore with our boat in 35 feet of depth and this allowed us to fish a little deeper water in hopes of a bigger fish. I snipped off the front of my recycled 4 inch morning dawn dropshot worm, threw a long cast, and hooked into a 5 lb plus fish in 25 feet of water. I had luck with this same bait pre-fishing on Saturday so I stuck with it for pretty much the whole day.

This bass - my personal best - almost didn't make it into the log books due to a near accident. While I was doing a health check on the live well, I opened the lid and the 5 pounder flew out and started flopping on the back deck of the boat. My hand grabbed its cull tag pretty quick and back in she went. Whew! We proceeded to cull out a couple of fish for a strong finish.

This is the 2nd time I have been paired with Amos and I really enjoyed fishing with him. Even though we didn't catch a lot of fish, we apparently caught the right fish. Thanks again to everyone who helped put on this event!

Lannes Brock & Warren Brackey Work Top Water For 2nd Big Bass and 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Lannes Brock & Warren Brackey** weighed three bass for a total weight of 9.53 lbs. They also took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors with a 3.64 lb bass.

Warren Brackey: It was another fun and well run



2nd Place Lannes Brock & Warren Brackey

tournament put on by our club staff, our stellar weigh-in team and our member volunteers. Special thanks to John Reichard for shuttling us old timers and for getting the bass we chase back to the lake to fight another day. Also, major kudos to Jeff Mabry for assisting those fish that needed his expert attention to return to the depths.

I had the good fortune of being paired with Lannes Brock to fish Lake Pleasant. Lannes and I fished Bartlett last year and had a great time sharing fish stories, but didn't fare so well in the catching fish department that day. Would this trip be our chance for some redemption? Time would tell.

We were able to pre-fish on Tuesday morning for about six hours. We spent most of our time in the 1702 area of the lake and only brought two small fish to the boat. Our first bite came around 9:30, so we were doing pretty well at figuring out what not to do. We marked a bunch of fish, just couldn't buy a bite. We would have to make some adjustments for the next morning's tournament day.

On game day Lannes decided to head toward the river with our first stop just past the no wake buoys on the shady side. Before setting up to fish Lannes decided to go to the other side where he had seen a lot of fish surfacing before the no wake zone. We were greeted there by a bald eagle sitting right next to the water. She seemed unconcerned by our presence. We were so close you could hear her feathers ruffle. It was nice way to start the day. The good news, the fish seemed to be all around

Membership

As of August 21, 2020 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **125** dues paid active members.

us and in active feeding mode, chasing shad everywhere. The bad news, they weren't eating what we were offering. We threw buzz baits, worms, Senkos and flick shakes for about an hour without a bump. We then started fishing the steep rock face. Lannes was throwing plastics forward as I threw my bone colored spook junior into the rocky shoreline. About 7 AM our first fish, about a 2.5 pounder, had slashed at my spook junior. At that point Lannes tied on the spare spook junior (clear) I had in my bait box. About thirty minutes later, BOOM! Another violent surface strike and an even bigger fish had hit Lannes' lure. We now had 2 fish and nearly 6 pounds in the live well. We picked up our limit fish, about a half pounder (if that), around 8:00AM. We had covered the wall a couple of times and now it was getting pretty warm. It was time to move back to the shady side and fish toward the main lake.

We offered up the same variety of baits for the next 45 minutes and Lannes spotted more surface activity on the other side of the first big cut. We readied our top water rods and started to cover the rocky shoreline. Around 9:00 there came another violent blow-up. Lannes heard the commotion and asked "You got him?" I replied "Oh yeah, I got him!" It was clearly our best fish, barely eking-out the 2nd Place Big Fish prize for the event. A 3.64 pounder had exploded on my spook junior! For me there is nothing more exhilarating than a big bass topwater blow-up. For it to happen to us three times in two hours in a tough event, a pretty amazing memory for sure. As it turned out this was our last fish of the day. We spent the rest of the day on the move back toward the launch, fishing likely areas and sharing favorite fish stories along the way. It was truly a day to remember. Lannes is a great guy and a fun member to fish with. As he puts it, he's out there to have fun, that's what it's all about.

Congrats to team Amos Davis and Pat Johnstonbaugh on their well deserved victory; 1st Place Big Fish prize, and the big 5 pound pot winners to boot. Well done, guys! Thanks again to my partner Lannes Brock for a great trip and a truly remarkable day on the water. It would be a pleasure to be paired with Lannes again anytime.

Team Scott Olivier & David Sapyta Grind Their Way To 3rd Place Finish

Team **Scott Olivier & David Sapyta** weighed three bass for 7.34 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Scott Olivier: Congrats to Amos and Pat for the win and the 5 lb pot. I drew David Sapyta and was looking forward to fishing with him. We fished together last year at Martinez and a coil went out in the boat at the start of the tournament so we were stuck fishing the area around the dock with the trolling motor. We felt we must be due for a good outing.

I wasn't able to prefish this months tournament,



3rd Place David Sapyta & Scott Olivier

but after getting some great advice from Jeff Mabry we decided to hit a couple of spots and hope for a top water bite. It worked and we each had a nice fish and a couple of rats in the first hour. After that it was the typical Lake Pleasant grind. We fished all the usual Lake Pleasant spots with a drop shot and we were lucky enough to catch our biggest fish with about an hour to go. Fishing was tough, we just happened to be in the right spots at the right times.

Thanks to David for some great company, I really enjoyed fishing with you and look forward to fishing together in the future. Hopefully we didn't use up all of our luck on this event. As always, thanks to the all the guys who help run these tournaments, you do a great job.

Team Brakefield & Higgins Mine On Area To Finish 4th Overall

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **David Brakefield & Jeff Higgins** weighed three fish for a total weight of 7.10 lbs.

David Brakefield / Jeff Higgins: I caught my fish on old rubber worms I had found earlier in the week in my

Tournament Statistics

Fifty contestants fished 5.5 hours each, bringing 62 bass to the scales for a total weight of 115.27 pounds with a 2.30 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.86 lbs. All fish but five were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

garage in an old tackle box I used back in the 1980's. These were worms the fish's grand pappies looked at back in the day and these youngsters must not have known there was a hook in them.

We fished one area most of the day. It was about a half mile stretch of steep walls about a mile up the main lake from the start ramp. It held fish so we stayed there. The most exciting part of the day was when we found a backpack floating in the lake full of fishing tackle and cash. We researched who it belonged to and guess what, it belonged to one of our members, Joe Matt. It had blown out of speedy John Hilland's bass boat. Joe got it back with all the tackle and money.

Steve Grier & Tim Rafferty Drop Shot 35 Feet To Finish 5th

A three fish bag weighing 6.66 lbs was enough to earn Team **Grier & Rafferty** the **5th Place** money.

Steve Grier: Congrats to Amos & Pat on the 5 pounder and a great bag. I pre-fished Monday and Tuesday and didn't catch a fish either day so I wasn't sure what to expect tournament day.

We decided to go to areas I've had success on in the past at this time of year, even though I didn't find fish there in practice. We got 4 bites and caught 3 fish on the first spot so we left there with a limit weighing a whopping 3 pounds. We went to the second spot and caught good fish over 2 lbs within 30 minutes. We didn't get a lot of bites but we got quality bites and wound up staying there for the rest of the day. We caught 6 fish there, 4 over 2 pounds.

Most of the fish came on a drop-shot Robo Worm



5th Place Steve Grier & Tim Rafferty

desert craw color and 5150 J-Zizzle. One bass was caught on Carolina rigged baby brush hogs watermelon candy and Tim caught one slow-rolling a spinnerbait. All the fish were in 25 – 35 feet of water.

This was Tim's first Midweek Bass tournament so it was nice to finish in the money. I enjoyed fishing with Tim and would welcome an opportunity to do it again.

Team Krumsiek & Cripe Fishing Main Lake Humps Finish In 6th Place

Team **Fred Krumsiek & Doug Cripe** weighed three bass for 6.43 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors. They also weighed a 2.59 lb Catfish for **Goon Fish** honors.

Fred Krumsiek: Early on tournament day Doug Cripe and I started fishing a hump on the main lake. I caught the Goon Fish catfish on a square bill crank bait. Five minutes later I caught our biggest bass on the same crank bait. Doug boated a big bluegill on his crank bait and we then switched to the drop shot and I caught one small keeper. The rest of the day we hit points on the main lake finally catching our last keeper forty minutes before the weigh-in. The crank bait was a Strike King square bill (sexy shad color) and my drop shot worm was an oxblood red flake pro worm.

Team John Hilland & "Where's My Bag" Joe Matt Finish 7th Overall

In **7th Place** Team **Hilland & Matt** weighed three bass for a total weight of 5.93 lbs.

John Hilland: Another good tournament at Lake Pleasant with some great 3 fish bags once again. Congratulations to Amos and Pat on the win and the first 5 pounder on the new system, way to go!

I was drawn with Joe Matt for this tournament. We were not able to get out together to pre-fish but we both got out on different days without much success. I had a plan and an area to run topwater right from the start. This only produced a few very small fish in the first hour. Joe started to throw a dropshot and caught a keeper right away. We moved on from our starting spot to some main lake points. Joe was a machine with the dropshot and had a limit of keepers by around 8:30. With a livewell full of small keepers we decided to head to some deeper water and look for something a little bigger. I was finally able to contribute and put a 2.25 pound fish in the boat and cull one of the smaller ones.

With about 45 minutes left we headed down closer to the marina to finish the day and that's when Joe looked back and said "where's my bag?" I really had no idea it was gone! We spent the last 30 minutes or so looking for the bag by backtracking our line on the graph with no success. At the weigh-in someone asked if

anybody had lost a bag and what do you know it was Joe's. Boy were we glad to have it back. We had a great day and really worked well together. Hope everyone stays safe and I look forward to seeing you all at Roosevelt next month.

COVID 19 Chuckles

* When we come out of this and I ask you where you want to eat, I do NOT want to hear, "I don't know." YOU HAD 75 DAYS!

* Can't wait until this is over so I can go back to social distancing on my own terms.

* Just bought six pounds of cheese. Won't need toilet paper now.

* My car probably thinks I died.

* It's been a blessing being home with the wife for three months now. We've caught up on everything I've done wrong for 40 years.

* If your parents are over 60 and want to go out ... FORBID THEM! If they complain and say, "But everyone else is doing it", tell them, "You're not everyone." IT'S PAYBACK TIME!

* Hormel Foods made their first batch of SPAM in 1937. With everyone out shopping and hoarding food, they have announced they will be making their second batch later this week.

* If you believe that the NFL will be playing football in two weeks, raise your right hand. Now slap yourself with it.

* Due to my isolation, I finished three books yesterday. And believe me, that's a lot of colouring!

* Anyone else getting a tan from the light in your refrigerator?

WINDOWS

Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive, double-pane, energy-efficient kind. Today, I got a call from Home Depot who installed them. The caller complained that the work had been completed a year ago and I still hadn't paid for them.

Helloooo....just because I'm a Senior Citizen doesn't mean that I am automatically mentally challenged. So, I told him just what his fast-talking sales guy told me last year -- that these windows would pay for themselves in a year.

Helloooo....it's been a year, so they're paid for, I told him.

There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally hung up.

He never called back. I bet he felt like an idiot.

Things You Should Know

* In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase...'Goodnight, sleep tight'.

* It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's Father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

* In English pubs, Ale is ordered by pints and quarts. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the Landlord would yell at them 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down. It's where we get the phrase: 'Mind your P's and Q's.'

* In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have 'the rule of thumb.'

* Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only.....Ladies Forbidden'. And thus, the word **GOLF** entered into the English language.

* The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

* Coca-Cola was originally green.

* It is impossible to lick your elbow.

* The first novel ever written on a typewriter, Tom Sawyer.

* Each King in a deck of playing cards represents a great King from history:

Spades - King David

Hearts - Charlemagne

Clubs - Alexander, the Great

Diamonds - Julius Caesar

* If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

* Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. "Wet your whistle" is the phrase inspired by this practice.

Remember these?

For those who never saw the Burma Shave signs, here is a quick lesson in our history of the 1930s and '40s. Before the Interstates, when everyone drove the old two lane roads, *Burma Shave* signs would be posted all over the countryside in farmer's fields. They were small red signs with white letters. Five signs, about 100 feet apart, each containing 1 line of a 4 line couplet and the obligatory 5th sign advertising Burma Shave, a popular shaving cream. Here are some of the actual signs - read from the bottom up:

Burma Shave

**X MARKS THE
SPOT!**

**TIRES WERE
THIN**

**WEATHER WAS
NOT**

**SPEED WAS
HIGH**

Sound Off

Let us hear from you. The newsletter is your vehicle for communicating and sharing with other club members.

Many of you have things to say, opinions to share.

Contact the Editor who would be delighted to hear from you.

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Pleasant - August 19, 2020



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2020 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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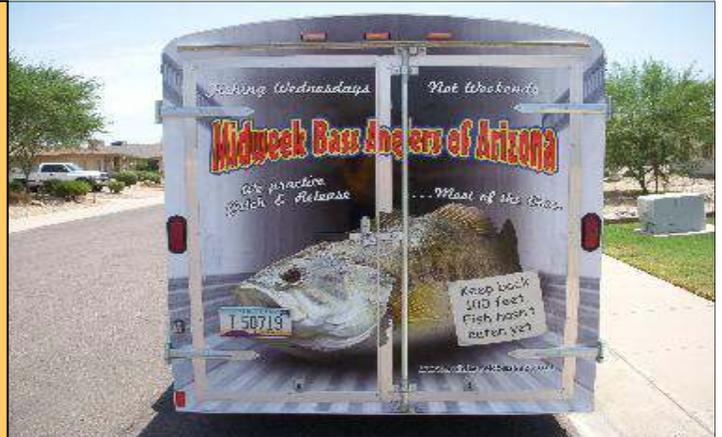
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE - Vacant

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

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

**Nathan Coyne (CO)
Tim Rafferty (CO)**

Please meet and welcome our new members.



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 September

Mike Adamson

Pete Gesswein

John Hilland

Bob Jolley

Jeff Mason

Bruce Nelson

Lester Rapp Jr

Ron Rudzinski

Howard Thomas

Gene Turner

Doyle Wofford



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2020
Tournament Schedule**

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