



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



FEBRUARY 2020 EDITION
15 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

Most of you are likely familiar with Mark Twain, but many may not know that he got his name from his experiences while boating on big steamboats on the Mississippi River. Mark Twain was a term used to describe river depth that was high enough for the boat to pass. The Midweek Bass Anglers were fortunate enough to have Mark Twain on the Colorado, especially since the river rose over three feet from the end of the prior weekend. No one got stuck on sandbars during the tournament - yeah! Although, a couple of boats did have the misfortune of getting stuck on sandbars while pre-fishing, Most of our group travelled no further north than Ferguson Lake, and obviously no further south than the dam, but this relatively short distance encompassed over 25 miles of river, with over a dozen backwater lakes and countless backwater canals. Consequently there was plenty of fishable water, just not the type of water Midweek Anglers are used to fishing. As a result, most of our guys struggled with finding a bite the first few days, but many were finally able to figure out enough of a pattern to put together some pretty impressive bags including 6 fish over 6 lbs, which included a 7 pounder (almost), an 8, and an impressive behemoth that topped the scales at 9 lbs courtesy of Lannes Brock. The five pound pot was won boys! Congratulations on the win with 19.79 lbs to the team of Lannes Brock and Ron Pikul. Lannes was able to catch this toad of a fish in spite of getting nailed on the bridge of his nose with a 1/2 oz jig the day before the tournament by his tournament partner setting the hook on what he thought was a fish. Well done boys!

I arrived at the lake on Sunday midday, and asked the camp host if he could recommend an area that might be big enough for 10-15 vehicles. He drove me to a big flat of land that he thought would be perfect for us and I subsequently parked my camper and waited for the guys to arrive; first Savage, then Riley, then Hawkins, Alauria, Martlage, and Prather. Before the dust settled, we had over 30 guys camped at our bivouac, which was almost half the tournament. We had no trees, except for the little Charlie Brown Palo Verde which marked our area. We had no running water, and the closest bathroom was about a quarter mile away. But we had fairly level ground, few obstacles to drive around, hot coffee in the morning, warm beds to sleep on, a campfire every night and plenty of spirits to keep us warm in the cool evenings. It was an epic camping experience with many embarrassing stories, but you know the saying, what happens in fishing camp stays in fishing camp.

A special thanks to Bob Plante who was not fishing the event, but graciously showed up at 5:30 in the morning prepared to help out where needed. We ended the event to find that Bob had carried down all the weigh-in equipment from the tournament director's truck to the docks, where we conducted our weigh-in. Thank you sir. Thanks also to Tom Alauria, Tom Savage, Gary Martlage, Sean Ballard and Greg Utton for your help at the weigh-in after a very long day on the water. You guys are great. Our next tournament is at Alamo Lake on March 18th,

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

Happy St. Patrick's Day



"We Practice Catch and Release"

complete with a pre-tournament barbeque on Tuesday night at the group use area. The fishing should be awesome. Hope to see you there.



Tournament Report Lake Martinez February 19, 2020

Wow, looks like some great bass were caught at Lake Martinez this month. It appears that most of the contestants figured out how to find the fish. So without further comment, lets hear how they caught their fish.

Team Lannes Brock & Ron Pikul Catch 9 Iber Win 1st Place

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Lannes Brock & Ron Pikul** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 19.79 lbs. Thanks to Lannes' 9 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors and the **5 lb Pot** prize.

Lannes Brock: Ron Pikul and I, in the first 20 minutes of the tournament, caught our 9.00 lb bass on a brown/pepper Senko worm. We were fishing in Face Lake which is just down the river heading south. I was not sight fishing but just casting the Senko as usual. We caught 2 bass in Face Lake, one 3 lber in the California channel, none in Ferguson, and 3 bass in Fishers Landing area. Ron did a great job netting that big bass - thanks Ron.

Ron Pikul: I looked forward to the Martinez tournament for weeks, but drawing Lannes was a bonus! We both prefished Monday and Tuesday with limited success in numbers but quality was there.

Tournament day we started at one of the spots I caught a 5 lber on Monday, but never got to that spot, because as we entered the "fishing" area, in the first 50 or so yards Lannes pitched a Senko blindly into tullies and

Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2020 is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4 March** 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 Alamo on 18 March 2020**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.



1st Place Overall Lannes Brock & Ron Pikul

immediately loaded up that rod saying "This is a good fish".

The bass surfaced a few times and I realized I had never seen a fish that big. His "good" fish and mine differ greatly. I would scoop into the net from underneath, and I'm feeling some pressure now to land "Walter". Lannes told me numerous times he's struggled lately with only catching one fish a day.

After getting the fish in the boat I told Lannes he could take the rest of the day off, but adrenaline was high and he caught our second fish soon after. I managed to catch fish 3 and 4 and then number 5 during the last 30 minutes of the tournament with Lannes catching a cull fish in the last 30 minutes as well. We only caught 6 fish all day but the right 6. Senko was the bait of choice.

Congrats to all fisherman with many good bags. Lannes said we should fish in March if you think these bags are big! Good Advice? I think so.

Jeff Mabry & Dale Bayless Sight Fish To 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Jeff Mabry & Dale Bayless** weighed five bass for a total weight of 16.96 lbs. Jeff's 8.05 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors for the team.

Jeff Mabry: Another February at Martinez. Dale Bayless caught a nice 4 pounder in pre-fish flipping some current. Our plan was to do that and hope for big bites, and then go to Ferguson where I caught a 5 plus on Monday.

The plan fell apart early when I couldn't get bit flipping and Dale missed a couple. We decided to go look at some bedding areas that I checked on Monday and Tuesday. There was a bunch of new activity from Monday to Tuesday, so we thought that there was a chance of more fish Wednesday. We decided to fish our way in to some backwater areas and Dale caught our first fish on a jig. It was nice to get the stink off. We went into a few backwaters and found plenty of males on beds, but no females locked on. They were just roaming around.

I decided to get a limit of males then go to Ferguson



2nd Place Dale Bayless & Jeff Mabry

to try and cull a time or two. I started getting a male here and there, but couldn't get the females to show any interest. Finally the big girl was nearly 20 feet off the bed when I hit her in the head with a bluegill swim bait. She turned and sucked it in. Craziest thing I ever saw sight fishing. We finally got our limit with one more small male and headed to Ferguson around 1 PM.

Once there I caught a small fish on a chatterbait and kept fishing around stumps. I had three more bites in the last hour and a half, on the chatterbait, and landed two of the fish. Both were in the 2.5 lb range and made nice culls.

Congrats on the 5 lb pot and 1st Place win to Lannes and Ron. Big thanks to Jack Hughes and Gene Turner for asking me to stay in the cabin and cooking breakfast and dinners.

Dale Bayless is a triple threat as a non-boater. He is very accommodating, can back in a trailer and can fish. Any boater that gets drawn with him is in for a good day. I hope to draw him again soon. Thanks to the weigh-in crew for all they do.

Dale Bayless: Wow, what an experience for me to fish this tournament on the Colorado River. I just moved here from Southern California last year where I also fished. I really love this club and the quality and competition of it and the hard work that the officers do. Congratulations to Lannes and Ron on the win and the big bass; that was a monster. I had the pleasure of fishing with Jeff Mabry. Talk about a guy that works hard, and it payed off. Pre-fish the day before was ok with most of the day spent just looking for fish. Tourney day we went left out of the launch, I think south. We fished the current for a while where I lost the first two fish. We went into back waters through canals and sight fished. This was new to me. Man, Jeff taught me everything about male and

Membership

As of February 21, 2020 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **108** dues paid active members.

female bass behavior and when to fish and not fish. So as we sighted them Jeff would say this one is ready and I would put down my pole and stand there with the net watching him catch the males, then the females. We ended up in Lake Ferguson for the end of the tournament. What worked for me was a brown 1/2 ounce Revenge jig head with a cinnamon double tail hula grub and a War Eagle spinner bait in blue herring. Thanks for an awesome memory for me, can't wait till the next one.

Team John Hawkins & Warren Brackey Drop Shot Fish For 3rd Place Finish

Team **John Hawkins & Warren Brackey** weighed five bass for 15.50 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Warren Brackey: This years' better than expected weather was a welcome departure from last year's event at Lake Martinez. Expectations were that the fishing would be much improved as well.

Another great event put on by our hard working club staff, our stellar weigh-in team and our member volunteers. Your efforts do not go unnoticed and are very much appreciated. Special thanks to Robert Plante for his assistance at the launch and at the weigh-in. Major kudos to Greg Utton for his amazing camera work, great photos Greg!

Congratulations to team Lannes Brock and Ron Pikul for their awesome win. Very well done guys! Congratulations to all those who placed and caught fish in this event.

It was my good fortune to be paired with my friend John Hawkins. I bumped into John about four years ago in Sportsman's Warehouse and not surprisingly we started talking about fishing. Eventually John asked if I belonged to a bass club and suggested I join Midweek Bass Anglers (MBA). It happened the next month's club meeting was on my birthday, so I figured what the hay, this must be fate. The rest is history.



3rd Place Warren Brackey & John Hawkins

Lake Martinez was the third event John and I have been paired together and our best result by far. We arrived at Martinez on Sunday afternoon and pre-fished Monday and Tuesday. On Monday we caught a few fish at the North end of Martinez on Senkos. We fished there until around noon then headed to the launch area to look for bedded fish. We saw several beds, but the fish were not locked-on. On Tuesday we fished Lake Ferguson with very poor results, one fish all day. With reports that water temps would be up on tournament day, our hope was that there would be a few spawners moving up.

On game day our first stop was the area where we found fish on Monday. We fished Baby Bass and Watermelon Candy Senkos and the fish were still there. We had a small limit in the boat by around 10 AM. The action slowed, so we moved south toward the main lake and fished drop shots for about an hour with no luck. We switched back to Senkos and fished more shoreline to the South. We culled one fish by 12:30 or so and had maybe 10.5 pounds in the livewell. It was time to look for bigger fish. As John put it, "We need a kicker fish to finish respectably."

Our last move was to head back to the launch area to look for that kicker fish. We were greeted there by about a dozen other boats with same game plan. We worked our way back to the NE end of the launch area and John spotted the bass we were looking for, but still hadn't located the bed. We fan casted drop shots while we searched. Then it happened. John spotted a bed with a nice bass on it. Then he approached the bed with his back to the sun. The boat was being held by a slight breeze against the reeds in perfect position. John could see the bed and the bass about 10 feet in front of him in about 5 or 6 feet of water. A few casts with a drop shot later John hooked the fish and worked it to the net. Another excellent net job and we had a nice three pounder in the boat. It was a little smaller than we expected because it was the male. John checked the bed again and there was another fish on it; a much bigger female. A few drop shop casts later John lip-hooked her, she pulled free and went right back to the bed. At this point we knew we had a better than even chance of netting this fish. A few more casts and she was hooked for good. She made a couple hard runs to get into the reeds under the boat, but to no avail. John expertly worked her back out and into the net. She was big, weighing in at 6.14 pounds! It was a great way to end the tournament. Just an amazing and very exciting finishing sequence, awesome job partner!

Tournament Statistics

Sixty-eight men fished 8.5 hours each, bringing 132 bass to the scales for a total weight of 335.61 pounds with a 4.93 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 2.54 lbs. All fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

Team Brian Bolander & Ingo Moura Work Hologram Dawn Drop Shot And Finish 4th Overall

Taking home **4th Place**, Team Brian Bolander & Ingo Moura weighed five fish for a total weight of 14.89 lbs.

Brian Bolander: First I want to say congratulations to the winning team and that 'tank' 9 lb bass they weighed in, way to go guys! Also thanks to all those that work hard to put on such great tournaments for all of us to enjoy. I had a great day fishing with Ingo Moura, couldn't have had a better team partner.

Prefishing for me was dismal at best. Not knowing quite what to do we decided to run way up the river to some of my confident backwater areas looking for better than average fish I know are there. After 3 hours with nothing to show we decided to abandon that and run back towards Fishers Landing and Martinez Lake. We fished a small cove off the main river that had some docks and finally caught our first fish at about 10:30 on a hologram dawn drop shot worm. That keyed us into looking at the docks a little bit closer. From there we ran into Martinez Lake and fished a bank of deep tules leading into a back water cove that had docks on them. We caught our second fish of the day a solid 4 plus pounder using a little swimbait. From there we quickly filled our limit using a drop shot in hologram dawn fishing docks. We then proceeded to upgrade our smaller fish by keying in on retaining walls that were warming the water and causing the bigger fish to hug close to them getting ready to spawn. Our biggest fish 5.20 lbs came off one of those retainer walls on a hologram dawn drop shot. It was a fun day once we finally figured out a little bit of a pattern. Can't wait for the next tournament!

Ingo Moura: A big congratulations to Lannes Brock on the 9 pounder. It was a sight to see you holding her up for a photo; your smile was bigger than the fishes' mouth. Congrats to all the guys that caught 5 pounders or better and they all finished in the money. I'm sure we all knew



4th Place Brian Bolander & Ingo Moura

someone was going to come in heavier. Thanks to everyone that put this tournament on and the weigh-in crew. Thank you to David Baca for making us dinner Wednesday night; best fried chicken I ever had.

Thank you to John Hilland for inviting me to pre-fish, as our team partners were doing the same with family and friends. John found a decent bite, and although I picked up a technique or two from him that paid off "literally" I managed to respect 'stay off his water', but I was bummed it didn't pan out for him on tournament day.

So Brian informed me he found a tough bite pre-fishing but he has spots he wanted to try. So the morning started out slow, flipping in the back waters. I told him I know there are fish under the docks and grass, but I wasn't comfortable fishing on any of John's water. Brian was really cool with that so we found a similar pattern in the Martinez area and other parts of the lake; we never had to look back and find grass. We got our first fish about 11:30 and started culling. About 12:30 I caught a nice fish we thought could be our first 5 lber in the reeds. We already had 3 small males from the docks, so fishing was getting exciting. Brian caught his 5.20 lber on a Rico; mine was also on a Rico. Just kidding, that was just a little plug for Brian. We used drop shot, a small paddle tail swimbait, and chigger craw. I had a great time. Poker nights were fun, and I think more guys should try to play, its only 5 bucks, and all the guys are happy to take it from you...lol. See you all at Alamo.

Sean Ballard & Tony Medina Work Tough Areas Finish 5th

A five fish bag weighing 14.56 lbs was enough to earn Team **Ballard & Medina** the **5th Place** money.

Tony Medina: Congratulations to Lannes Brock and Ron Pikul for the tournament win and especially for the 9 pound luncker that finally won the five pound pot.

I was fortunate to draw Sean Ballard for the Martinez tournament. Luckily he was able to prefish the tournament. Sean is very familiar with Martinez and navigated places that I thought we'd never get back for



5th Place Sean Ballard & Tony Medina

the weigh-in including the tunnel.

We were able to weigh five nice fish that weighed 14.56. The only awkward part of the tournament was Sean caught every one of those bass. I was satisfied to be the net man. I threw jigs, flick shake, spinner baits, jerk baits and creature baits, but none caught a fish.

Team Gary Grimes & Rick Harang Fish Tullies Finish 6th

Team **Gary Grimes & Rick Harang** weighed five bass for 14.29 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

Gary Grimes: I had the pleasure of fishing for the first time with Rick Harang, and we had a great time on the water during the tournament. We spent most of the day in the Ferguson Lake area. We started out on the rocky points leading to Ferguson, but because of the absence of fish quickly moved over to the tullies directly across the channel. We flipped Texas rigs and Senkos and stuck with this bite all day. A special thanks to David Baca who recommended I try using a wacky Senko, which was the rig I used to catch my 6.85 pounder. What a great day.

Rick Harang: Congrats to Lannes Brock and Ron Pikul for their nice bag of fish. I didn't expect to see a 19 plus pound bag at this event - very impressive. For two days all the talk I had heard was that the bite was tough and only a couple of fish over 5 pounds had been caught. Either things changed dramatically or big secrets were being kept; I suspect the latter. I personally have only fished the river a handful of times and it has been over 20 years since I have been there. This is my third year in the club but I haven't been able to fish many tournaments until now. It was my first "away" tournament. I had a great time and look forward to the upcoming year.

Any how, I had the pleasure of fishing with Gary Grimes for the first time. We had a great day fishing and talking. We went to and stayed in Ferguson all day hop scotching around to points and particular areas of tullies. All but one of our fish came flipping and pitching. Gary



6th Place Gary Grimes & Rick Harang



7th Place Kevin Russell & Jack Hughes

caught most of the fish; I was "net boy". I only caught 2 keepers. His nice fish of 6.85 pounds really changed our outlook. I think it was about 12:30 when he caught it. I thought for sure we had a chance at the big fish pot with that one. Wow, a 6.85 only got third big fish, didn't see that coming. Thanks to the club officials for all their hard work putting on this event.

Jack Hughes & Kevin Russell Finish 7th Overall

In 7th Place Team Jack Hughes & Kevin Russell weighed five bass for a total weight of 13.14 lbs. They were unable to provide input for this edition of Bass Bites.

Team Jeff Mason & Tom Atherton Take 8th Place Finish

Team Jeff Mason & Tom Atherton weighed five bass for 12.80 pounds and took home 8th Place honors.

Jeff Mason: Congrats to Lannes and Ron on their outstanding win at Martinez. Also congrats go to the teams that caught all the BIG fish; Lake Martinez sure showed up BIG for our tournament! I was paired up with Tom Atherton and we had a blast fishing Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesday I caught 2 fish, well one got off, but I managed one close to 4 pounds on a chatterbait and Tom absolutely smashed them in the afternoon on a Texas rigged worm. It was crazy, about every 5 minutes he would say, I'm getting a bite, sure enough another 2 plus pound fish on the line. Tom's fish sure got us excited about the tournament on Wednesday. We started in Fisher's Landing with about half the club in there and managed to catch 4 fish on a drop shot, two good ones. Tom caught our 5th fish on a drop shot up in the mouth of Ferguson after we fished Martinez with no luck. We returned to Fisher's Landing around 12:30 and stayed the rest of the day which was a good decision. This time it was my turn on the drop shot as the fish bit the drop shot in MMIII, Desert Craw, and Red Crawler colors instead of



8th Place Tom Atherton & Jeff Mason

the Texas rigged worm. We managed a pretty good bag but again no big fish in our bag. I had a great time with Tom and hope to fish with him again in the future. Thanks to Midweek Bass for putting on another great tournament.

Tom Atherton: What a great tournament! Congrats to the winners. Some really nice bags were brought in and more 5 plus pounders than I have ever seen weighed in.

Another great job was completed by our weigh in crew. I had a great time fishing with Jeff Mason. We pre-fished on Tuesday catching them in Martinez, Ferguson, down south in some backwaters on the Arizona side, and off some docks. We caught fish on crankbaits, chatterbaits, dropshots, and Texas rigged worms. On tournament day we fished many of the same areas, but could not get bit on anything but the drop shot. Fishing with Jeff surely improves my netting skills as I think he culled out every fish I had caught. None of our fish came from "bed fishing".

Goon Fish Prize Won By Team Kukral & Turner With 2.18 lb Crappie



Goon Fish Pot Wayne Kukral & Gene Turner

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Martinez February 19, 2020



Oh by the way, the team also won the prize for getting stuck on a sand bar. This is what happens when you don't have "mark twain" when fishing at Martinez.



Weighing-In By Gary Martlage Tournament Director

Tournament #2 is in the history books! The fishing for some was fantastic, for others, not too good. The BBQ went along as the same as the tournament. Some thought it was great, some did not enjoy it at all. Overall, I thought everything turned out on a positive note.

Just a point about the weigh in. Most of the anglers know why we use our official bags to control the number of fish limits being weighed. Most of you stood in line of 20 plus anglers on the walkway and I'm just happy that the weather cooperated. The weather was nice and helped the fish being held in bags for too long. We will always use our bag system, no matter what the circumstances. The only positive note was that all fish were turned loose to fight another day.

Hats off to the members dealing with our weigh-in, as we had to work with a system where the fish were brought to the scales before the boats were trailered. Again, I cannot say enough about the cooperation of the members, weigh-in team, and especially help from "Grandpa Plante" for getting the equipment set up before we came in.

Our next event will be at Alamo, with the Group Use Area "A" rented for the club. We should have quite a few joining the campsite, since I hear the improved area is already sold out. Get your camp gear ready and join us in the Group Use for a BBQ, and a POKER night under the stars. See you all next month at ALAMO.



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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**

**Jon Andrews (CO)
Bill Page (B/CO)
Gary Volpe (B)**



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 March**

**Midweek Bass Anglers 2020
Tournament Schedule**

- Sean Ballard
- Lannes Brock
- Richard Brookins
- Jim Duel
- Otto Gal
- Steve Houston
- Robert Plante
- Lew Southard

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

