



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JANUARY 2019 EDITION
14 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

Thirteen years ago the very first points tournament for the Midweek Bass Anglers, consisting of 10 boats and 20 men, was held at Saguaro Lake and won by the team of Terry Tassin and Richie Rojas with one bass weighing 2.15 lbs. This year we began the tournament season with 31 boats and 61 anglers, fishing from safe-light until 3 PM at Lake Pleasant. Fishing was tough.

I prefished four different occasions prior to the tournament, and only managed to put my first fish in the boat during the tournament day. There was little to be pleasant about, other than finally catching a fish. Of the 31 boats we had 5 limits and 19 of the teams caught less than 2 fish. Congratulations to the team of Jeff Mabry and Jason Stanton on their victory with a 12 plus pound bag. Nicely done!

Recent rains have raised the water level at Alamo Lake by 6 feet. A couple of months ago I had a conversation with an AZGFD biologist about Alamo Lake, an area he covers. I was seeking his opinion on the fishery as we looked at our 2019 schedule. At the end of the conversation, I asked about other lakes in his

region and how they were doing. He got quite excited as he discussed the lower Colorado River and how great a fishery it was becoming. Lots and lots of big fish!

Well guess what, next month we are going to the lower Colorado River and will get to experience it first-hand for ourselves. We will be launching out of Fisher's Landing, which will serve as our base of operations. There are two lakes a short boat ride from the launch, Ferguson and Martinez. Both offer great fishing opportunities, so you don't need to travel far on the water. Hotels are a 30 minute drive, or you can camp at the lake, as I will be doing. In addition, long-time Martinez Lake angler Ken Howden will be joining us at our next general meeting to share tips and ideas for the lower Colorado. Hope you can make it, see you on the water.



Tournament Report Lake Pleasant January 16, 2019

As Gary Grimes said it was a very tough event for most of us fishing this tournament. Luckily I managed to put one 5 inch bass in the boat so I can claim I did not get skunked.

Now let's hear from our winners.

Coles Wash Propels Team Jeff Mabry & Jason Stanton To 1st Place Finish

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Jeff Mabry &**

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”

Jason Stanton brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 12.43 lbs. Thanks to Jeff's 4.11 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors.

Jeff Mabry: Thanks to the tournament team for putting on a good tourney with a quick weigh-in.

I was paired with Jason Stanton again. The last time we fished together we did pretty well and I knew I would need help in this tournament that he could provide. I prefished Sunday and found some fish in the main lake on a couple of my spots 30-35 feet deep. I knew I could catch them and one of them had a couple good bass on it. I also ran into Cole's Wash and threw the A-Rig. During prefish Jason and I caught a 4 and 3 pounder, but that was it.

My tournament day plan was to hit the big fish main lake spot first, and by 9:00 head to Coles Wash and by noon get back to the main lake.

On tournament day, Jason and I pulled up to our first spot and Jason caught a 3 pounder on his first cast on a drop shot rig. We stayed there for an hour or so and no more bites. We hit a couple of other spots on the main lake with no luck. We headed to Coles with one fish in the livewell. Once in Coles Jason caught our first fish quickly and it was around 2½ pounds. We kept checking the A-Rig while everyone around us was catching fish on finesse baits. I decided to leave Coles and head across the bay and fish my way out. When I trolling motored across I

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2019 is scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 February** 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 Martinez on 20 February 2019**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.



1st Place Overall Jeff Mabry & Jason Stanton

tossed my A-Rig out and towed it behind the boat. I thought I hit a tree, but it wasn't a tree. When we netted that fish I thought the 5 lb pot was in danger, but while lifting the bass out of the net I knew it probably didn't make it. We spent another hour or so in Coles with no more bites. We headed out to the main lake to try and fill our limit. We managed three more small fish to fill our limit and cull once. Tough fishing, but prefish paid off and we were able to land all of our bites.

I am really looking forward to Martinez!

Rick Brown & Otto Gal Chase Shad And Finish 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Rick Brown & Otto Gal** weighed five bass for a total weight of 11.21 lbs. Otto Gal's 4.03 lb striper won the Goon Fish Prize for the team.

Rick Brown: I had the pleasure of fishing with Otto Gal for our Lake Pleasant tournament. We started our morning out by jumping from point to point on the main lake with no luck, just the same as it had been during prefishing. Around 9:30 I decided to move to more shallow water, where I had caught one fish prefishing on Sunday in the afternoon. It wasn't long before we finally put our first bass in the boat. It was pretty small, but it sure was nice to finally have one in the livewell. Around 11:00 we had some shad move in to the area, and the bass were



2nd Place Otto Gal & Rick Brown

chasing. Over the next hour or so we managed to put together a limit, right place at the right time. Then the bite died for the bass, however, both Otto and I caught 4 lb stripers. We caught our fish on small various shad colored swim baits, and one on a Chigger Craw. Thanks to the Midweek Bass Anglers crew for a well run tournament as usual. Congrats to team Mabry and Stanton for the win.

Team Larry White & Jeff Bradley Fish Coles Wash For 3rd Place Finish

Team **Larry White & Jeff Bradley** weighed five bass for 8.49 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Larry White: Congratulations to Jeff, Jason, Rick and Otto. It was not fun watching you guys catch the bigger fish from the same area Jeff Bradley and I were fishing - after we had caught the little ones...LOL.

I was fortunate to draw a great partner in Jeff Bradley. What an interesting person and a very good fisherman. If you are lucky enough to draw Jeff you're in for a treat.

Membership

As of January 18, 2019 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **90** dues paid active members.

We caught our fish in Coles Wash on swimbaits, dropshot, and Texas rigs. We caught over two limits. It was a fun day and after 10 AM we were not lonely in the area we were fishing.

Jeff Bradley: Let me just start out by talking about my partner. Larry White is a joy to fish with. He has a great attitude and I felt completely comfortable talking with him while planning our tournament. Larry knows Lake Pleasant well while I had never fished there. We spoke several times on the phone prior to the tournament and it was easy to tell he knew what was happening and that I was in good hands. I've only been a member of the club for a couple of months and Pleasant was only my second tournament, so I felt a little out of place. Larry made everything about this outing easy and I can't thank him enough for a great couple of days fishing.

We went out Tuesday to pre-fish. The weather wasn't great. It was cold, windy and rain was threatening all day. We started in a cove that was loaded with submerged timber. It should have been great, but we got just one bite and it was a short strike on a craw Larry was throwing. The bass took the claws on the lure! Larry and I joked about trailer hooking a Texas rig. We joked about a lot of things for two days. The guy is a riot. We didn't get anything else in the cove so we moved out on the main lake and tried a long point, nothing. We tried a bluff wall, nothing, we hit a ledge Larry had marked on the map, nothing. I mean we were fishing things that had to hold fish, but we couldn't get a bite. So we packed it in just after noon on prefish day. On the way back to my truck Larry suggested for the tournament we just sit on a spot he knew and figure out what they'll bite. We know the fish are there we just have to find the right lure and presentation. How could I disagree with the guy? If you know Larry, you know why. This guy knows the game.

So tournament day comes and we're boat number 1. We're going to get our spot! I mean the boat is wrapped in the American flag. How could we not? I didn't know where Larry's "spot" was and I'm still not sure if that cove we started



3rd Place Larry White & Jeff Bradley

in Tuesday was it, but that's where we went and we're staying with our plan. Sit on it and figure it out. We went a couple of hours without a bite; throwing a bladed jig, drop shots Texas rigs, and Keitech swimbaits. Larry had gotten a few more short strikes, I had gotten nothing. So I decided to go a little rogue and put on a pink, multi-colored flake worm that I had gotten from an MTB box months before. We're still attacking the trees. There have to be fish on those trees, right? All of a sudden, bam, I got a fish on that fruity worm; a decent one too. But one fish is lucky; two is a pattern, so they say. Another hour goes by without a bite.

A friend of Larry's is fishing close-by and he's got 4 bass in the livewell. He thinks they are males guarding territory off these little secondary points in the cove. This guys catching fish and he's telling us how he's doing it, so we decide to give it a try. Small Keitech up on the bank. Bam, Larry gets one, maybe we found it. It came off the inside of the point going into a little cut. We continue up the bank and come to a second cut. Larry gets two more on

Tournament Statistics

Sixty-one men fished 8 hours each, bringing 49 bass to the scales for a total weight of 78.62 pounds with a 1.28 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.60 lbs. All but two fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

his drop shot. We just need one more to get a limit. Larry gets it in that second cut out in the middle of it. We lock it down on that spot and I pick up a drop shot. First cast and I have a fish on. This thing is stripping line like there is not even a brake on the reel. Larry is hanging off the boat with the net, I'm just trying not to hurry it in with this light rig, and we're both excited. This thing is big! Then all of a sudden everything stops. No more line pulling, no more tug, but my rod is still bent to the max. We hold onto it for a bit, hoping he'll make another run, he doesn't. We finally back the boat up keeping the tension. The fish isn't moving. When I get over it I grab the line and start pulling up. The leader knot gives and it's all over. He got me in a tree and I didn't have the rig to get him out. Defeated at this point I'm kind of losing my mind. The bite is happening and we're sitting on it. I can't get a knot tied and I can't figure out why. A little arthritis from playing drums for 40 years I guess, I'm in a hurry, I'm disappointed, I just can't get it done. I finally just gave it to Larry to re-tie. He could tell I was losing it. So Larry's tying me a new leader and I pick up the fruity worm Texas rig. This is my comfort zone and I need to calm down. A few casts into the center of that cut and I'm hooked up again. I'm not massaging this one, plus I've got a heavier rig in my hand. I drag it around to the other side of the boat before Larry realizes I have a fish on – guess I should have mentioned to Larry early that I had a fish on. We get it in and have our first cull. We catch a few more on that spot and cull one more time before it shuts down. We've got 8-9 lbs and about 90 minutes left to fish. We headed out to the middle of the cove looking for mama but don't find her. I caught one more fish off the side of a tree, but he doesn't help us.

We make one more stop on the way in but don't get anything. We're feeling ok though. We've talked to several guys and many only had one fish. Turns out it was a pretty tough day for most of us. Larry's plan worked and I never doubted him. We had three of Larry's fish and two of mine. I'm pretty happy with my day. We were sitting in third when we left the weigh-in and just hoping it would hold up. I'm pretty stoked. This is my second boat tournament ever and the first one I've had a shot at placing in.

Larry of course wants first place but he knows I'm pretty amped. I didn't get off without a little ribbing about the one that got away, but I had it coming, and I had it coming from Larry!

Thanks to all the guys who helped run the tournament. Gary Senft told me at my first one that he thinks this is the best club in town and I'm grateful to be a part of it.

Team Tom Savage & Mike Adamson Fish Castle Creek And Finish 4th Overall

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Tom Savage & Mike Adamson** weighed five fish for a total weight of 6.79 lbs.

Tom Savage: Congratulations to Jeff Mabry and Jason Stanton on their impressive win. Wow, was I ever pleasantly surprised; the weather was beautiful and we were lucky enough to catch eight fish. This was the third time I had the pleasure of fishing with Mike Adamson. Mike is great company and a very good angler. We fished all day in the Castle Creek area. Our first fish was caught on a flick shake with a purple 'Montoya' Mutilator Robo worm in about twenty five feet of water next to a cliff wall. We found that we had to fish very slowly, painfully slow. One fish was caught on a very light Carolina rig with a tiny brush hog. The rest of our fish came on drop shot Morning



4th Place Tom Savage & Mike Adamson

Dawn worms and three inch Hologram Shad. I'd like to thank Ray Riley and Gene Turner for prefishing with me. All that frustrating time on the water helped Mike and I develop a plan.

Mike Adamson: Fishing with Tom Savage is always a pleasure even though he misses a lot of good quality fish (inside joke). We fished in Castle Creek the whole day and caught fish in 10 to 30 feet of water along the east wall starting at the point. We caught the fish on flick shake, drop shot and Carolina rigs, mostly tipped with a green pumpkin or morning dawn varieties of worms. Looking forward to next month as Martinez will be a new experience for me.

Jeff Mason & Tom Atherton Catch 2nd Big Bass In Humbug And Finish 5th

A three fish bag weighing 6.76 lbs was enough to earn Team **Jeff Mason & Tom Atherton** the **5th Place** money. Jeff's 3.29 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors for the team.

Jeff Mason: Congrats to Jeff and Jason on their 1st Place finish on a tough day at Lake Pleasant. After two days of zero bites of prefishing I wasn't expecting much in the way of bites Wednesday.

I was paired with Tom Atherton who I have fished several tournaments with before and we



5th Place Tom Atherton & Jeff Mason

had a good time as always. Being the start boat we decided to stay in the south part of the lake to start the day and go up to the Humbug area later in the morning. To my complete surprise we caught two drop shot fish off an island using a red worm in about 15 feet of water; one at 9:00 AM and another one 20 minutes later. After getting that first fish in the boat you would have thought we won the lottery with all the fist pumping and celebrating we were doing! We decided to head up into the Humbug Cove at about 10:30 to fish for awhile and then come back to the area where we caught the two fish. I caught the 2nd Big Fish (3.26 lbs) of the tournament up in the Humbug on a white Chatterbait in eight feet of dirty water and it was the only bite we got up there. At 12:30 we left Humbug and headed back to the area where we caught the first two bass. I had a fish on and got popped on another but could not keep them hooked. I hope Tom and I get a chance to fish together again sometime.

Tom Atherton: First, congratulations to Jeff and Jason on their win, and big thanks to John Hawkins and John Reichard for being shuttle drivers. Fishing was tough for us today; I only had one small tap on the drop shot all day. Fortunately my partner Jeff Mason was able to land three fish, which I was very happy to net for him; especially when that fish turned out to be the 2nd place 3.29 pound big bass of the tournament!



6th Place Luke Spreitzer & Jack Shearer

Team Luke Spreitzer & Jack Shearer Prefishing Bite Holds Up for 6th Place Finish

Team **Luke Spreitzer & Jack Shearer** weighed five bass for 6.49 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

Luke Spreitzer: After prefishing Monday with my partner Jack Shearer, we had not figured out what the fish were doing and where they were located. Come Tuesday, I decided to go out and prefish again even though it was overcast and going to rain. As luck would have it I got on a topwater bite using a KVD sexy dawg walking bait in the backs of the main northern coves. I fished all of Tuesday in the rain and caught a few more bass. Come tournament day Jack and I were ready and we knew where the fish were and what to do to catch them. I think we caught 8 fish all day and lost a decent one that we did not get a chance to see. Overall we had a fun day of fishing and Jack was a great co-angler. Great job to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams; it was fun seeing you guys back there in the cove and talking with you on tournament day. Great job to the weigh-in team and also good luck to everyone at Martinez next month.

Greg Utton & Pat Johnstonbaugh Find Fish On Vertical Walls And Finish 7th Overall

In **7th Place** Team **Greg Utton & Pat Johnstonbaugh** weighed four bass for a total weight of 3.69 lbs.

Greg Utton: Congratulations to Jeff and Jason for impressive results on a really tough tournament - Winter pattern, low water temps, post frontal, and cold blue bird weather.

We started out in Jackass Cove and couldn't find anything there. During practice, we found a lot of fish and bait in Castle Creek. They weren't really biting, but at least they were there. We tried a number of locations even trying to go deep in the mid-channel, but nothing doing, they

just didn't want to play. About 9:30, we moved farther up the cove and I decided to try some rock bluffs thinking the fish were as cold as we were. I got snagged and had to re-tie, so I used the stop-lock on the trolling motor to keep us in one location. Pat decides while we are parked, there had to be fish by this particular rock and he caught one right away. Immediately we had a pattern. We park the boat by the bluff while I re-tie and Pat caught another one. The pattern was firmly established. Then I finally got a line in the water and caught our biggest fish. We ended up with four fish from that area. About 12:00 the fish went back to sleep. They had played enough.

We caught our fish on dropshot using oxblood worms and PB&J worms in about 25 feet of water fishing "real" slow.

I enjoyed fishing with Pat. He's a great trooper with a good attitude. Hope to do it again.

Pat Johnstonbaugh: First of all I would like to say thanks to the MBA weigh-in crew, set up staff, and ramp transport for their help. Also, congrats to Jeff Mabry & Jason Stanton for posting big numbers in difficult conditions and finishing in 1st Place.

Let me start out by saying, "I hate cold weather!" I know, I know, it wasn't that cold to most people. However, I've lived in hot or tropical weather all my life and 50 degrees is cold to me - that means wearing 3 shirts and 2 or 3 layers of pants (with back up clothing in case that wasn't enough). If it had been raining and windy, I would have been in serious trouble. It turns out the weather was really nice and I think we lucked out when the rain avoided showing up on Wednesday.

My boater was Greg Utton who was the nicest guy and a pleasure to fish with. We weren't able to prefish together due to our schedules but I was able to get out to Pleasant the weekend before on my own boat. My pre-fishing didn't go well though: one fish on one day and one fish on the other day, both on a Lucky Craft jerkbait. I was skeptical going into the tourney with post storm conditions and 55 degree water, but

being with Greg gave me a lot more confidence than being on my own.

I don't know Lake Pleasant very well, but Greg started us in Jackass Cove where I tried using a jerkbait with no luck. We didn't see any activity on the graph and came up empty so then we moved to Castle Creek. There seemed to be a lot of bait and fish showing up on the graph so we settled on a couple of offshore spots since a couple of boats were already in our target locations. In a couple of hours which included scanning the shores and points, we hadn't received a bite. We moved more toward the back of Castle where we finally had some luck. There were some vertical walls that we eventually fished where we got a few bites. It felt good to feel the first fish of the day -- (heck, I would've been happy with a blue gill just to let me know at least something was eating). We were fortunate enough to find 4 fish in that same area between 10:00 and 11:30. I caught my fish on dropshot in about 15 to 20 feet of water using a Robo Worm Fat - Oxblood color/red flake. Winter conditions warranted cutting the worm down in size but I used them full size and the bass didn't object. I tried jerkbaits, small green jigs, A-rig, swim bait with underspin and a sinking glide bait but nothing got me a bite other than a dropshot.

In the last year I've watched hundreds of YouTube videos, I went on 2 guide trips with Gary Senft, and I spent just about every Saturday and Sunday on the water with my new Ranger that I purchased in April 2018. Is it a rock or a fish? I have trouble sometimes feeling a dropshot bite while my bait is moving so I like to pull my bait over a rock and just dead stick it with a tight line then pull it over the next rock and come to a stop again always keeping a tight line. If I'm stopped and I feel something, then I know it's a bite. I've fished with Gary, Roger Root, and now Greg Utton - gaining experience with each. Oh yeah, it also helps that I splurged and bought a G-Loomis NXR JWR medium power extra fast rod for finesse fishing and I can feel everything now. I don't miss bites anymore.

I had a lot of fun participating in this event and

enjoying the company of my new friend Greg Utton. Greg caught our biggest fish and we ended up with 4 in the boat. We felt very fortunate to catch a few fish and had a good time doing so.

Team Rusty Murdock & Rob Panaitescu Finish In 8th Place

Team **Rusty Murdock & Rob Panaitescu** weighed three bass for 3.36 pounds and took home **8th Place** honors and finish in the money.

Rusty Murdock: We fished drop shots all over the lake to squeak out our three bass.



8th Place Rusty Murdock & Rob Panaitescu



Weighing-In By Gary Martlage Tournament Director

Our first tournament of 2019 is now history. With half of the field 'blanking', one cannot say that it started off with a bang, but as always, someone always figures it out. The weigh-in site looked more like a Yuma ghost town, which lead into my next comments.

Our next tournament will be at Lake Martinez on the Colorado River. If you want to catch lots of fish, and maybe one over 5 Pounds, this one is for YOU! I have heard comments from fishermen being hesitant to travel to this paradise, but I will guarantee you, the fishing

will be excellent.

Leading up to our Martinez tournament, **Ken Howden**, of Holiday Mobile Marine service will be the guest speaker at our next club meeting. He will discuss and take questions about fishing Martinez Lake area. Ken has fished this area for many years, and has had success in many competitions over the years. He is knowledgeable about the techniques of catching fish, camping, and lodging in the area, and general information about navigation on the Colorado River. If you have any interest in joining us at this great fishery, you will want to attend this meeting.

The 5 lb pot is well over the \$2,000 mark; if you are in the pot, and are not planning on fishing - **THANKS FOR THE DONATION!**

Let's have a great turnout next month at Lake Martinez.



Guest Column By Greg Utton

National Anthem Protocol – Did You Know?

When the National Anthem is played or the US Flag is presented, the common response from most people is to stand and remove their hats and put their right hand over their heart. After having been in the military, that always seemed, well...inadequate to me.

Many people are not aware, but the protocol for the flag and National Anthem changed in 2008 when President Bush signed the 2009 Defense authorization act. The following is an excerpt from that law.

*36 U.S. Code § 301 - National anthem

(B) Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform."

So, the next time you are at a bass tournament and the National Anthem is played and you are a veteran, instead of placing your hand over your heart, feel free to render your sharpest salute.

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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**

- Jim Duel (CO)**
- Steve Grier (B)**
- Jim Harder (CO)**
- Joe Matt (CO)**
- Steve Rubenstein (B)**
- Kevin Russell (CO)**
- David Sapyta (CO)**
- Tarron Mathews (CO)**



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 February

- Rick Brown**
- Neil Burns**
- Steve Simer**
- Mike Bloxam**
- Jason Ryan**
- Herbert Marlow**
- Jeff Bradley**
- Tarron Mathews**



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2019
Tournament Schedule**

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