



# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



**JANUARY 2020 EDITION**  
**15 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN**

**CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005**  
**EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN**



### President's Perspective

*By Gary Grimes*

I always have the best time at our club tournaments. I certainly am not referring to the quantity or quality of fish caught, especially this month, but rather just seeing all your smiling faces at the lake. It was a very, very, tough day fishing at Bartlett, with only a couple of limits being caught. Better fishing is coming real soon. Thirty-four boats is certainly a great way to start off the year, especially with all the new faces to the club at this event. Welcome to our newest members, I hoped you enjoyed your day and hope to see you again next month. If as a new member you felt kind of lost yesterday, don't worry. Give yourself three or four tournaments and you will have a good working knowledge of how our tournaments operate.

Congratulations certainly go out to Sean Ballard and Joe Zimmerman on a great win. They had an impressive bag of fish when compared to the others, especially mine. There should be a special award for any team that can catch 3 fish that weigh a total of 1.33 lbs. Do you appreciate how hard it is to catch a 1/3 lb fish? Not easy. Did anyone else notice AZ Game & Fish on the water today? I saw them several times with boat-loads of Christmas trees, strategically locating them in the middle section of Bartlett.

A big thanks to the weigh-in crew and others who helped make the weigh-in go super smooth. A huge thank you to Gary Martlage for supplying us with super jumbo hot dogs, along with all the fixings. What a nice treat at the end of a painful day on the water. Next month the club visits Lake Martinez, hopefully the weather will be warmer

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

than last year and help the fish cooperate just a bit more. Some guys are staying at motels in Yuma, but many of us will be dry camping at the lake. They have a bar and grill right by the ramp which is quite convenient for an afternoon beer or dinner. Hope to see you soon.



### Tournament Report Lake Bartlett January 15, 2020

The first tournament of the year is history now. Lake Bartlett proved to be a tough nut to crack for some of our members but proved to be a small bass bonanza for others. Now let's hear from our winners.

### Team Sean Ballard & Joe Zimmerman Target Shad Balls 1st Place Finish

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Sean Ballard & Joe Zimmerman** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 10.76 lbs.

**Sean Ballard:** I have been fighting a cold for a week and Wednesday was still more of the same. I went out on Sunday and found a bite around noon that I was able to catch and duplicate a few fish so I left that area



**“We Practice Catch and Release”**



**1st Place Overall Sean Ballard & Joe Zimmerman**

alone for Wednesday's tournament.

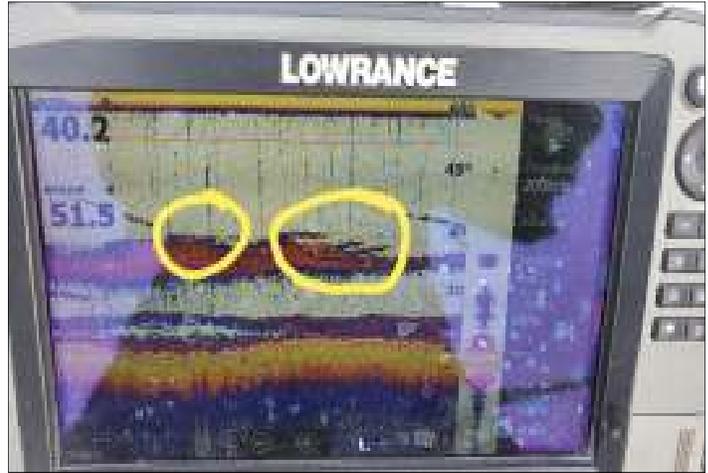
I was planning on sitting there all of tournament day but the wind was too strong. So I decided to go to the "nursery" where I always start and we managed our big fish on a crank bait and one more on a Ned rig. We moved around and just fished picking up a few Bartlett rats and then I stopped at the spot I found on Sunday. We got there around 1PM, put the boat in 30 to 40 feet of water, casted with a drop shot and we proceeded to cull all of the smaller fish. We never left that spot until it was time to go to the weigh-in. We were targeting shad balls with bass swimming through the ball. I even used the graph to watch my bait drop until it was right in front of the bass and picked up a few more doing that; we caught around 15 fish all day. I got paired with Joe Zimmerman. I really enjoyed fishing with him and look forward to fishing with him in the future.

**Joe Zimmerman:** We went straight up the river a couple of miles, stopped at an inlet around some rock

## Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2020 is scheduled for **Wednesday, 5 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 19 February 2020**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.



piles and began fishing. I had a feeling it was going to be a good day when we saw an otter headed for shore swimming near our boat. We began casting crank baits in 20 feet of water and caught several nice fish in the 2 pound size. Sean Ballard, using a Ned Rig, also landed fish in the 2 pound range. Sean gave me good advice on using the Ned Rig technique in catching fish.

We left that area and pitched crank baits, jigs, and Texas rig worms and back to crank baits and picked up a few smaller bass. We boated back about a mile from the main ramp to fish around cliff walls on the main lake. We could see on his sonar there were balls of shad with bass suspended above and below. We started fishing drop shots in 35 feet to 40 feet of water, with Zoom and Robo worms in sexy shad color. BINGO! We then began culling, weighing, and fizzaing. It was a total blast catching fish and having to cull fish in the 2 pound range. We had a great day of fishing and catching.

## Clinton Bell & David Brakefield Fish Flats Finish 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Clinton Bell & David Brakefield** weighed five bass for a total weight of 10.37 lbs.

**David Brakefield:** Congrats to Sean Ballard and Joe Zimmerman for edging Clinton Bell and I out and



**2nd Place David Brakefield & Clinton Bell**

taking first place. Sean does not need the money but sure loves the bragging rights (Great job). Clinton asked me to write our article because he knew he might let his secret "go to bait" out of the bag and then everyone would know what baits he used. Clint is a great guy and great fisherman. He told me he has been fishing Bartlett since he was 14. It was an honor for me to fish with him again. That being said we used green pumpkin colors most of the day for our soft baits. We fished the east side of the main lake almost all day. We looked for flat areas in 23 to 28 feet of water with buoys that had the word "reef" written on them. Clint caught a nice one right off the bat on a Texas rigged worm. I caught another one soon after on a brush hog or something that resembled one. Clint nailed another one on a jig and then caught a couple more using a jigging spoon. I caught one towards the end of the day on a morning dawn drop shot. The ones we caught were scattered throughout the day. It was a slow bite but a great day to fish anyway. Thank you to the board and the weigh-in crew for a great job and I am looking forward to the upcoming 2020 tournament year.

## Team Vern Ridgway & Ingo Moura Sing To Fish For 3rd Place Finish

Team **Vern Ridgway & Ingo Moura** weighed four bass for 7.52 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Vern Ridgway:** Ingo Moura and I were teamed for the first derby of the year. The practice day was cold, windy and generally tough fishing conditions and so was tournament day. Our first stop was mid lake on a rocky bank where we picked up our first fish on a reaction bait. That first fish was very lonely in the live well for 5 hours. After using about 12 different baits with no results, I picked up a crank bait and we caught 3 additional bass in the mid lake area of the lake covering lots of water in the process.

Special thanks to the weigh-in crew, my partner Ingo Moura, and the cook of those excellent hot dogs. See you all in Yuma next month.

**Ingo Moura:** I was fortunate enough to get paired up with Vern again; apparently we only get paired up when it's cold out. We were paired together last February in Yuma, and he's a fun guy to fish with even when we're not catching many fish. Congrats to all the "sticks" in the money. Thanks to all the staff club members and volunteers. It really takes an army to keep this club growing and going. Great Hot Dogs too!

Vern and I pre-fished Tuesday and found out the bite was tough; Vern caught an early fish on a jerk bait and a second bass much later that day. That night a few



### 3rd Place Ingo Moura & Vern Ridgway

of us went for \$1 Tacos at the Hideaway in Cave Creek - good times. A big thank you to Richard Brookins for his hospitality and his great coffee and thanks to Joe Zimmerman for helping us out and congrats on his 1st place finish with Sean Ballard.

We went into tourney day knowing we would both throw jerk baits before first light. Vern caught the first fish on his second cast, and then the grind kicked in most of the morning. We tried everything from slowing down and fishing plastics, jigs, spinnerbaits. Vern even tied on an ugly green crank bait, and ultimately caught the 2nd fish with that just before noon. I was really struggling and not totally confident with anything I was trying. After a day and a half without a bite I finally tied on a shad crank bait and told myself there is nothing wrong with this bait. So with a renewed sense of confidence, we decided to blitz and move around often and fish faster. Vern kept singing to the fish and I wasn't sure if he was getting delirious, but I found it very entertaining. I even started talking to the fish myself and then I felt some weight, I thought I got another fish-stick, but it turned out to be a good size 2 pounder. Suddenly it looks like we are back in the game and Vern really started-up his singing to the fish. We were getting pressed for time, and then Vern stuck our biggest fish for number 4 in the livewell. If only we were in the 2nd flight I think we both knew number 5 was coming. We ran out of time and we were not sure if a fifth fish would have made a difference any how – good times. Love this club and I will see y'all at Martinez in February.

## Team Paul Ojala & Todd Gentner Never Give Up And Finish 4th Overall

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Paul Ojala & Todd Gentner** weighed five fish for a total weight of 7.40 lbs.

**Todd Gentner:** Let me start by congratulating everyone who caught fish from 29th place all the way to first.

I had the pleasure of being plastered to my seat

### Membership

As of January 17, 2020 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **100** dues paid active members.



**4th Place Todd Gentner & Paul Ojala**

in Paul Ojala's new Phoenix boat. That was short lived because we ran to our start spot and never left until closing time (total of 7 minutes of wind shield time all day). Never moving all day, boats would come and go, streaking to and fro all day. We talked with numerous boats about how slow it was, so we decided to stay put. We knew we were on fish, no matter how tough the bite was. It sounded like it was slow all over the lake (never leave fish to find fish). About an hour in, I boated my only fish, 2.5 lbs on a jig in about 20 feet of water. This was the most consistent depth for our hook-ups. Slowly and even slower than that, Paul caught another 5 fish on every thing from Carolina rigs, to drop shot. To my surprise a crank bait in 1 foot of water 30 minutes before the bell did help us cull an 8 incher. We fished a stretch of main lake points and drop offs. Disappointed in our results on the lake, we knew we gave it heck all day and we had to take our lumps at the scales. Twenty-four hours later all I can think of is, "Damn we fished hard for that 7.4 pounds" (i.e.: NEVER GIVE UP)

**Steve Grier & Charles Mackintosh Work Main Lake Finish 5th**

A five fish bag weighing 7.08 lbs was enough to earn Team **Grier & Mackintosh** the **5th Place** money.

**Charles Mackintosh:** I had the pleasure of fishing with Steve Grier for my first MBA tournament at

**Tournament Statistics**

Sixty-eight men fished 8 hours each, bringing 79 bass to the scales for a total weight of 122.07 pounds with a 1.79 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.54 lbs. All fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



**5th Place Steve Grier & Charlie Mackintosh**

Bartlett Lake. We pre-fished the lake on Monday and Tuesday. Monday we tried a variety of areas and caught fish in three spots with bites in a fourth spot. I was able to catch three fish on a Z-man TRD drop shot and a fourth on a Yamamoto Ika. Steve caught some fish on jigs. Tuesday we tried different areas. The first spot was loaded with bait and fish were hitting on the surface. It looked like a great area, but we were unable to get any bites. We rotated through various areas during the day but had no success until the very end when Steve put one in the boat. During practice I spent a significant amount of time using a blade bait but had no luck. Shaky head worm, chatterbait and crankbait also did not produce.

One of our practice spots clearly stood out as the best and we were able to start our tournament day there, close to the launch ramp. Steve landed a good 2.5 lb. fish in the first 10 minutes. I caught some small fish on the drop shot with the Z-man TRD in Coppertreuse. Steve landed another 2.5 lb. fish. Around 10:30 AM we left the area to check other spots with a tournament limit in the livewell. We spent a couple of hours fishing two spots but saw little activity and only had one bite - a dink I landed and released. To finish the day we went back to our first spot. I was able to land one more 1 lb. fish on the Yamamoto Ika in watermelon pepper color. Our fish came from a spot with chunk rock. Based on the debris in the livewell, I believe they were feeding on crawdads. Steve's two fish placed us in the money and I was able to bump us up a couple of spots by filling out the limit. I had a great time fishing with Steve and the club and am looking forward to the tournament next month at Martinez. Thanks also for the food and drink at the weigh-in.

**Team Tom Alauria & Warren Brackey Fish Deep For 6th Place Finish**

Team **Tom Alauria & Warren Brackey** weighed three bass for 5.85 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

**Tom Alauria:** I need to congratulate everyone



### **6th Place Warren Brackey & Tom Alauria**

who was able to catch a limit of fish. This tournament was crazy. Out of 34 boats only five brought in limits of bass. On top of that we had to try to fish in gale force winds. Warren Brackey and I only had 3 fish but they were good enough for 6th place. Warren caught 2 on jigs and I caught one on a spoon. All the fish were caught deep.

**Warren Brackey:** Congrats to Team Sean Ballard and Joe Zimmerman for their win and to all who placed and caught big fish in this event. The weather gods sent us their "Seasons Greetings" for this one. A steady 20 MPH Nor'easter and a wind chill factor in the low 40s ushered in Midweek Bass Anglers' 2020 season at Bartlett Lake. Despite Mother Nature's chilly welcome, it was another great event put on by our club staff, our stellar weigh-in team and member volunteers. Thanks to all who helped set-up and man the hotdog buffet line, and a special thanks to John Reichard for shuttling us old guys up the ramp and for returning our bass to the lake to fight another day.

It was my good fortune to be paired with my buddy Tom Alauria for this one. It was like déjà vu all over again. Tom and I were paired in the first tournament last year at Lake (un) Pleasant, which turned out to be a very unpleasant event for us. This was our chance to start 2020 off on a more positive note. Word was out that it was a very tough bite at Bartlett. Tom and I were able to pre-fish a couple days, hoping that we could figure out some kind of pattern. The fish were stacked up around 20 feet deep on main lake points and reefs, and seemed to be everywhere. Getting them to bite was a whole other thing. We caught maybe eight fish in two days. Our hope was that we might get a few days of warmer weather to improve their appetites before the event. Obviously, that did not turn out to be the case.

On game day, we decided to fish the first main lake point after the Sheriff's Cove. Conditions were brutal on exposed points, it likely would have been impossible to hold our position without Tom's trolling motor's Spot-Lock. Tom fished a drop shot forward and I fished a jig straight down with my back to the gale. Our first fish came around 8 o'clock on my cinnamon with black flake hula grub, two

hours later our second fish hit Tom's jiggling spoon. Two hours after that our third fish hit my hula grub cast out on a deep flat. That was it, three bites all day, all within a few hundred yards of each other, all in about 20 feet of water. Thanks to Tom's experience all our fish remained upright, swimming normally in the bottom of his livewell all day. All were on their sides after coming up from the depths. Tom expertly fizzed each of our fish and they each responded immediately. Well done, partner!

It was a tough bite out there for sure. Tom and I had a great time despite the typhoon conditions at the start. I think Tom would agree we finished much better than expected with just three fish. As always, it was a lot of fun fishing with Tom Alauria. Already looking forward to our next time on the water, buddy.

### **Richie Rojas & Doug Cripe Work Soft Plastics To Finish 7th Overall**

In **7th Place** Team **Richie Rojas & Doug Cripe** weighed three bass for a total weight of 5.45 lbs. Richie's 3.48 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors for the team.

**Doug Cripe:** The bite was tough with the wind and the cold but we managed three fish off of five bites. The first was caught on a wacky worm on a drop shot in 16 feet of water (green with black pepper). The second was on a drop shot on a morning dawn in 20 feet of water. The third on a wacky rig worm in 25 feet of water dark red color on my partners last cast! My first tournament with the club was interesting to say the least.



### **7th Place Doug Cripe & Richie Rojas**

### **Team Allen Wacker & Jack Shearer Take 8th Place Finish**

Team **Allen Wacker & Jack Shearer** weighed three bass for 4.91 pounds and took home **8th Place** honors.

No Catching report was submitted.

### 3.59 Pound Bass Wins 1st Place Big Bass Prize for Team Gary Martlage & Dan Vojacek

**Gary Martlage:** We had 2 fish in the boat the first hour of the tournament, fishing the main lake, both on an "A" Rig. I thought Bartlett would finally start producing, but I never had another bite the rest of the day! I still enjoyed the tournament, and especially my new partner and friend Dan Vojacek.



**9h Place & 1 PI BF  
Dan Vojacek & Gary Martlage**



**Weighing-In  
By Gary Martlage  
Tournament Director**

The 2020 season started off with not a hitch, except right up to tournament time. Many adjustments to pairings had to be made, some right up to the last minutes before the tournament. Remember guys, communication is the key. If you have an issue fishing the upcoming tournament, Please contact me ASAP, so we do not leave any member on the shore on tournament day.

I do believe we finally got the start of the tournament off without issue. Everyone left in single file, and there were no issues of anyone jumping the gun. Again, all the good things you guys do is appreciated.

Lake Martinez will be our next stop. This should be a fun and exciting tournament. Please get your entries in right away so the BOD can decide if we will have enough entrants to put on a dinner Tuesday night. With inexpensive lodging available, and primitive camping (which I personally recommend), we should have a great group of guys looking to score big. The 5 lb Pot WILL BE WON, I believe I can guarantee it!

Lastly, I have had a few members ask me about the

Clifford Pirch A-Rig I have been using. You can go to his website to look what is available, but DO NOT ORDER from his website, as it will not be filled.

Call **Kirk Russell** direct to order. He makes these and other baits (Lil Chunk Baits), including a great squarebill crankbait, and is working on a "RedEye" type spinnerbait. He lives in Star Valley. Call him at **928-978-0441** to order.

Support local fishermen, not Chinese made junk.

Mention my name and Midweek Bass.

### 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**

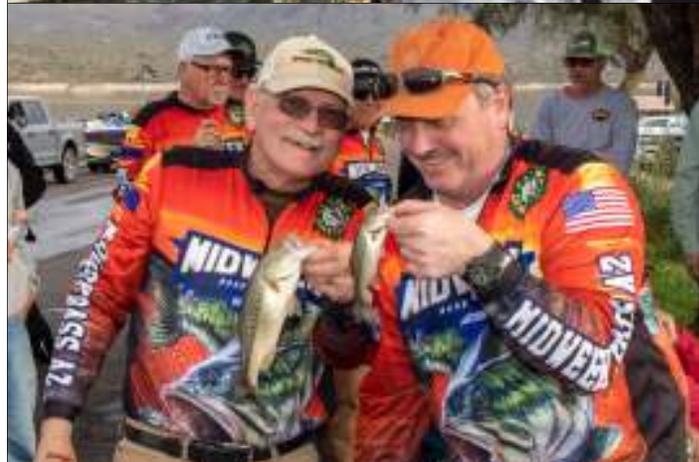
**AND SO WAS  
HE.**

**THE MOON WAS  
FULL**

**DRIVER IN TREE**

**CAR IN DITCH**

# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett January 15, 2020



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

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**ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

Tom Savage

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

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

**Doug Cripe (CO)  
Andy Goettl (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 February**

**Midweek Bass Anglers 2020  
Tournament Schedule**

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

- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| 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     |

