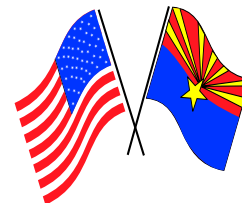


# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JULY 2019 EDITION

14 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



### President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

It was a calm and muggy morning as the Midweek Bass Anglers launched 27 boats at Lake Pleasant for their seventh tournament of the year. Few limits of fish were found, and a few teams found none. Congratulations to Jeff Mabry and Bob Jolley on the win with 9.39 lbs. Good job guys.

I often hear comments about our summer rotation of tournament locations; this year has been a steady diet of Pleasant and Bartlett, with one more Bartlett event for the club next month. The reason we do this is because it doesn't make sense for most of the club members to travel to either Rosy or Alamo in the heat of the summer when we are only fishing to 11AM. The reason for only fishing to 11AM is to minimize exposure to the sweltering summer heat. For members not in attendance at last month's meeting, we agreed to move the September tournament to Lake Roosevelt, fishing until 1PM. We will also fish Roosevelt again in October, and finish out the year in November at Alamo Lake, where the water level is still holding. My apologies for my slowness on the scales yesterday, but it is not as easy as it looks and I don't want to make a mistake with someone's weight. Our Tournament Director, Gary Martlage, is having back surgery soon and will likely be unavailable for at least one tournament so I wanted to get some time in before his absence. Thanks to the weigh-in team for a great job yesterday, and for John Reichard helping out as our official angler shuttle driver. You guys are awesome. See you next month.

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



### Tournament Report Lake Pleasant July 17, 2019

Lures working for this tournament were drop shots, Nekos, Carolina rigs, Shakey Heads, and 5150 Worms. They were all put to good use to make this event a fun, experience for the "select few" that caught fish. OK enough of that. Let's hear from our winners who provided after action reports from the tournament.

### Jeff Mabry & Bob Jolley Dominate Event At Pleasant For 1st Place Win

Taking home **1st Place**, Team Mabry and Jolley brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 9.39 lbs.

**Jeff Mabry:** Tournament day was a warm day; luckily we had a giant swimming pool to cool off. I have had

### Purple Heart Day 08 - 07 - 2019



## "We Practice Catch and Release"

some luck on Pleasant lately and was pretty busy so I decided not to pre-fish for this tournament. I have been catching a majority of my fish on drop shot in the main lake. On occasion I can get bit early in the morning on a dipper, so that was the plan. I only brought three rods to the lake and two were spinning reels. Anybody that knows me knows that isn't how I like to fish, but Pleasant is a different animal. Bob and I started early throwing reaction lures and the stripers were going crazy where we started. I caught a couple whites and stripers before I remembered there was a goon fish pot. Two of the stripers I threw back may have been big enough, but by the time we remembered the bite had slowed down. I was only able to catch one more decent one, but it wasn't enough.

We stayed in the area a bit longer to see if the largemouth would turn on, Bob got our first fish on drop shot and a little later I got a second one on a dipper. I assumed it was a striper and when I boat flipped it, the fish came unhooked and barely made it in the boat. It turned out to be big, because it was our second largest fish. The rest of the day Bob and I continued to hit all of my off shore deep spots. On our last productive spot I was able to fill a limit, but after 20 minutes of nothing we were about to leave when Bob hooked up with our big fish. While I was culling he hooked into another one that helped our overall weight. I never caught another fish and I don't think Bob caught anymore that helped. Our last couple hours were not very productive. I'm glad I drew Bob this month or the outcome would have been much different. Thanks to everyone for putting on the tournament and dealing with the heat.

Just a side note, when releasing fish please release from the deepest spot possible on the dock and make sure your fish are able to swim down before leaving. Releasing fish on the ramp doesn't give them anyway to relieve their air bladder if needed.

**Bob Jolley:** Jeff and I didn't pre-fish together so we relied on what Jeff had learned from his latest outings at Pleasant. Jeff said it would probably be a drop shot bite so I brought two drop shot rigs which is all I used during the tournament.

We were the 18<sup>th</sup> boat out of the chute and we didn't



**1st Place Jeff Mabry & Bob Jolley**

travel far when we spotted some surface activity. Jeff started throwing a swim bait and he quickly caught three stripers, two of them maybe in the four pound range. Jeff (dumb) and Bob (dumber) didn't think anything of it when Jeff threw them back in the lake. It finally dawned on Jeff that we were throwing back nice sized goon fish. Oops, a lesson learned. Jeff did catch another striper, which we kept, but it was smaller than the others and we came up short of possibly winning the goon fish pot. The good news is Jeff caught one of our keeper bass with his swim bait which did help us win the tournament.

After the striper fiasco we headed to several of Jeff's favorite spots on the main lake and we were able to catch one or two bass off of each spot. Jeff took us to one area where my drop shot got hot and I was able to contribute by catching two of our larger keepers. I had never fished at any of the main lake spots Jeff took us to and I doubt if I could ever find them again. With the exception of the first bass all of the others were caught off-shore in the 30 to 40 foot depth range with a Morning Dawn drop shot. Because we caught them so deep Jeff put weights on them and they all survived the weigh-in and release. When we took our fish back to the lake to release them Jeff spotted three earlier released bass struggling on the surface so he went for a swim and successfully saved

## Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2019 is scheduled for **Wednesday, 7 August** starting at 8:00 AM, at **Deer Valley Airport Restaurant** (one mile north off I-101 at the intersection of 7th Ave & Deer Valley Road). We hope you will come early and have breakfast together.

The next club points tournament is scheduled for **Lake Bartlett on 21 August 2019**. Club headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours: **Safe Light to 11 AM**.



## Summertime Fish Handling By Gary Grimes

Kudos to Jeff Mabry for his alertness and quick response in rendering first aid to several struggling fish floating by the ramp at the end of Midweek's July tournament at Lake Pleasant.

Anglers-please make sure your fish swim away after you return them to the water at the end of a tournament. A quick fizz by Jeff was all that was needed to restore the fish to their normal healthy condition.

them. That's a story Jeff can tell you.

This was the first time I have been paired with Jeff and I was lucky to draw such an accomplished fisherman. We fished well as a team, had a fun time talking about fishing, golf, and baseball and we managed to win some \$\$\$ to boot. I hope we get another opportunity to be paired up at a future tournament. Congrats to the weigh-in team who did another terrific job!

## Deep Water The Ticket For Jeff Mason & Jason Stanton's 2nd Place Overall Finish

In **2nd Place** Team **Jeff Mason & Jason Stanton** weighed five bass for a total weight of 9.30 lbs. Jason's 2.64 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Bass** honors.

**Jason Stanton:** First off, I want to thank the administration and tournament teams for putting together the best run events. Reluctantly I would like to congratulate Jeff Mabry (again) and Bob Jolley on their performance and victory. I was extremely fortunate to be paired with the reigning Angler of the Year Jeff Mason for the first time. I was not disappointed in the slightest by his knowledge, and skills. We both knew coming in that we would be fishing deep and slow and just trying to get 5 bites. We had a few humps and points in 30 feet of water labeled that we wanted to fish. I fished an MBC event here Saturday for my pre-fishing effort and painfully learned that dropshot was not going to be my ticket for results. I decided I would fish the bottom and tied on a 3/8 oz Shakey Head paired with a Neko fat worm from Yamamoto and Daiwa. I managed to catch our first 2 fish on it, including our big fish. Jeff landed a nice keeper on a dropshot and we had 3 good fish by 7AM. The rest was a grind to get the last 3 fish we had all day. Our last fish was unable to cull, but we felt pretty confident we were close to 10 lbs and getting a check. Again thanks to Jeff Mabry for stealing this win away from us at the last second. I am looking forward to next month at Bartlett.

**Jeff Mason:** Congrats to Jeff and Bob on their 1st Place finish. I had another good draw getting Jason Stanton as a partner. Jason fished a three fish



**2nd Place Jeff Mason & Jason Stanton**

tournament at Pleasant Saturday and picked out a starting spot for us off a hump in-between Castle Creek and Coles Bay. He caught the 2nd Place Big Fish (2.64 lbs) in the first 15 minutes on a Shakey Head and we were off to a good start. I hooked a good one on a drop shot but the fish came off. We moved to a nearby point off an island and we both caught fish on a drop shot and Shakey Head. Jason caught a nice one on the Shakey head behind the marina at Scorpion Bay. Jason kept on hooking-up and caught our limit fish off a point near Two Cow cove on a 10 inch Carolina rig worm. He had a great day catching four of our keepers. We had a good time and I look forward to fishing with him again.

## Steve Grier & Jeff Utton Work Main Lake For 3rd Place

Team **Steve Grier & Jeff Utton** weighed five bass for 8.80 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Jeff Utton:** This was my first tournament with the club and I have to say this was a very well run organization and event. Thanks to all who make this club the well oiled machine that it is. I was lucky to get paired with Steve Grier who is a very experienced angler who knows Lake Pleasant very well. I was unable to pre-fish for the tournament. Thankfully, Steve took on the responsibility to get out there for a few days to find some spots, figure out a bite, and come up with a plan.

On tournament day, we focused on main lake structure primarily fishing in the 30 foot depth range, hopping from spot to spot. We had a limit by 6AM and spent the rest of the day trying to upgrade which we managed to do a couple of times. We caught most of our fish on a drop-shot using both Robo and 5150 Worms in both watermelon and ox blood. I was also excited to catch one on a shaky head using a Googan Bait's Slim Shake worm.

Thanks again Midweek staff for a fun tournament and congratulations to Jeff Mabry and Bob Jolly on their well earned win on a very hot day.

**Steve Grier:** We fished main lake points and humps in 30 to 35 feet of water. We caught nine fish for the day



**3rd Place Steve Grier & Jeff Utton**

and all but two of them in the first hour and a half. We culled two fish later in the day. We caught most of the fish on drop shot and one came on a Shaky Head. This was Jeff's first Midweek Bass tournament and he had a good day catching 2/3 of our fish including the 3 biggest. We had a great day and a good time!

### Team Lew Southard & Warren Brackey Make It Happen For 4th Place

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Lew Southard & Warren Brackey** weighed five fish for a total weight of 8.18 pounds.

**Warren Brackey:** First, congratulations to team Jeff Mabry and Bob Jolly for their win and to all who placed or caught big fish in this event. It was another well run MBA tournament. Another awesome job by our stellar MBA weigh-in team, well done guys! A special thank you to John Reichard for taxing us old guys up the ramp and for transporting the fish back to the lake to fight another day.

It was another great day on the water, another good day for fishing (aren't they all?), and another little less than good day for catching. The fish were few and far between and pretty finicky. Actually the weather was pretty benign for this time of year, remember last year we had to cancel a summer event at Pleasant because it was too hot.

It was my good fortune to be drawn with Lew Southard. Lew and I had fished Roosevelt earlier this year and we had a great time. We caught a lot of fish at Rosey just not enough of the bigger ones. Our schedules didn't allow us to pre-fish together for this event. Lew was able to fish it the week before and he found a few areas that held fish but it was slow going. We were on fish first thing. It was slow going as expected, but Lew started putting fish in the boat right away. We started in the big cove just south of 1702 sign (forgot the name), where Lew boated three fish and lost one, all on a drop shot in about 10-20 feet. Around 6:30 we started hop scotching our way toward the Agua Fria end of the lake, fishing similar structure along the way. About two hours later I actually caught a two pounder! Good thing too, because Lew reminded me of his co-angler rule, "If you don't catch a fish you're swimming back." Before it was over we culled one fish, our last coming around 10:00. Not a nibble after that. All our fish hit drop shots. Caught my two on a 6" Fat, morning dawn with red flake Roboworm; Lew's fish also hit 6" Roboworms, an oxblood and a morning dawn with chartreuse tip. All and all it was a tough day for catching fish. After feeding all night, you just had to bump into one that was still hungry.

It was a fun time out there fishing with Lew. He is an

#### Tournament Statistics

Fifty-four men fished 6 hours each, bringing 78 bass to the scales for a total weight of 115.24 pounds with a 2.13 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.47 lbs. All but one fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



#### 4th Place Warren Brackey & Lew Southard

experienced, well prepared competitor and accomplished fisherman, and a great guy to shoot the breeze with. It would be my pleasure to be paired with Lew again any time.

### Hobby Nelson & Floyd Vaughan Drop Shot To 5th Place

A five fish bag weighing 8.04 lbs was enough to earn Team **Nelson & Vaughan** the **5th Place** money.

**Hobby Nelson:** First off thank you to all the weigh-in crew for making weigh in fast and smooth in high temperatures at Lake Pleasant. Thanks to Floyd for being a great partner; we had a great morning out on Lake Pleasant. We fished main lake points and islands concentrating from 20 to 30 feet deep. All fish were caught using a drop shot except for one fish caught on a top water lure.



#### 5th Place Hobby Nelson & Floyd Vaughan

### Team John Hilland & Ray Riley Work Drop Shots To 6th Place

Team **John Hilland & Ray Riley** weighed five bass for

7.75 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

**John Hilland:** I had the pleasure of fishing with Ray Riley, what a great guy! Ray and I were able to get out on the lake Tuesday for a little pre-fishing. We really didn't find anything other than one small stretch of bank that produced a few fish for us. We decided to leave it alone and made it our starting spot first thing tournament morning. With a game plan of Ray throwing a drop shot and me with top water we made our first stop at the bank we planned on fishing. It wasn't two casts in and Ray had a fish on for our first fish of the day. Just a few casts later and he was getting hit again but just couldn't hook up. A little further down the bank I hooked into one of our nicer fish of the day. We thought to ourselves this is going to be easy; NOT THE CASE! We scratched around the rest of the day in all of my go to spots with only two more fish coming into the boat. With about an hour or so left we hit a few new spots and caught a few more fish and headed in. All but one of our fish came on drop shot with any worm that had a little orange in it. Thanks to Ray for teaching me a new knot and all of his patience, I hope we draw up again soon. Congrats to Jeff and Bob on the win. See y'all next month.

**Ray Riley:** Hats off to the first place team of Jeff Mabry and Bob Jolley, you had a very impressive bag on a tough lake during a very HOT day. A big congratulation also goes out to the Grimes team for the 1st place big bass.

I am a "very" lucky guy. I registered to fish "as needed" and I was drawn as the co-angler with John Hilland and his beautiful new SKEETER bass boat. Its fast, comfortable, roomy, and smooth even at 74mph and it's not even broken in yet. John put together a masterful plan that worked out great on a slow day. As planned the last two fish came in the last 35 minuets, with the very last one with only 4 minutes left. John caught 4 fish to my one, but I didn't mess up my net job too much and we put everything in the live well. We only caught 5 fish but we weighed in 5 fish. Six inch straight tail worms in a red earth worm color and a crawdad color worked best, with 1 fish on a ROBO morning dawn. No top water, cranks or jerk baits only worms. It was a fun day.



**6th Place John Hilland & Ray Riley**

## Gary Grimes & Jeff Stone Drop Shot And Flick Shake To 7th Place Overall Finish

**Team Gary Grimes & Jeff Stone** weighed three bass for a total weight of 7.34 lbs. Thanks to Jeff's 3.52 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors

**Gary Grimes:** Congratulations to Jeff Mabry and Bob Jolley on their win at Lake Pleasant. Jeff Stone and I were fortunate to fall into 7<sup>th</sup> Place, especially since we did not have a fish in the boat until 10:30AM. The best laid plans of mice and men certainly applied to us on tournament day. Our bite, which produced limits of fish on two separate pre-fishing trips, was gone on Wednesday. Such is Lake Pleasant. After spending too much time waiting for the fish to turn on, Jeff convinced me to abandon the plan and search for something else. After a run towards the river, we found a nice rocky bank that the late arriving winds were blowing into. Jeff's handy drop shot produced our first fish, and quickly another that was our big fish at 3.52 lbs. I caught our third and final fish on a flick shake. Good times.

## 3.45 Pound Striper Wins Goon Fish Prize for Team Jerry Askam & Chip Albery

**Jerry Askam:** My partner Chip Albery and I started the tourney just outside of Coles Bay. I was throwing a Rio Rico and was a little bummed-out when our first largemouth of the day came unhooked on the way back to the boat. I threw back out and got slammed. I suspected it was a Striped Bass when it dove and started pulling drag. It put up a vicious fight and literally fought to its death; as soon as we got it in the livewell it rolled over and died.



**7th Place Jeff Stone & Gary Grimes**

**"Liberty, when it begins to take root,  
is a plant of rapid growth."  
- - George Washington**



**Goon Fish Pot Jerry Askam & Chip Albery**  
3.45 lb Striper



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

July always brings extreme weather, as in **H-O-T**. Fortunately, we have a great bunch of guys that take care of their fish, and we end up with minimal mortality rates at the scale. But what about the time after the fish are weighed, until they are returned back to the lake? This is the time we need to be extra careful with the fish. They have been out of the water for a long time, and deserve any special care we can give them. With a lake like Pleasant, we should try to get the fish back to the lake as fast as possible. Thanks to John Reichard (who is always there to help out), and consistent volunteer Floyd Vaughan, we had transporters taking fish back to the ramp in record time.

Dropping the fish off at the dock is a job well done, right? **WRONG!** Again, another club volunteer (Jeff Mabry), did go out and collect many floating fish that were left behind. Actually, he reported he saved all the floaters, even borrowing another boat to retrieve them. **ALL** fish retrieved were revived, and swam off to fight another day.

Hats off to you, Jeff, as you not only won the tournament, but saved a bunch of fish! I am glad to be part of a club that proves every month why we are the best anywhere.

### **A Little Humor**

The fisherman was arrested and brought to court for having caught fourteen more large mouth bass than the law allowed.

The judge asked, "How do you plead?"

"Guilty, your Honor." was the reply.

"That'll be 75 dollars plus costs." said the judge.

The fisherman paid the fine, then inquired of the judge, "Your Honor, if you don't mind, would it be possible to make some copies of the court record to take home to show my buddies?"

## **Bassin' Basics**

**Stay Put** - While fishing a bass tournament, don't get in a hurry to leave a hot spot. Many tournaments have been won by anglers who concentrated their efforts in one small area for the entire duration of competition. Thoroughly fish areas where you have caught one or two bass. What happens is a fisherman catches several fish in 30 minutes or so, then the bass stop biting, and the fisherman assumes he's caught them all. So he moves to a new area. That's often a mistake. If you change lure colors and lure styles, you can often catch many more bass from the same spot. Work an area thoroughly with crankbaits in a variety of sizes and colors, then go over the same water with a slow-moving worm.

**Be Versatile** - When fishing a bass tournament, don't be afraid to try something different. Bass often respond to a different technique or a different colored lure than they've seen before. That's one reason the "hot" worm colors tend to change from year to year and are often odd hues such as pumpkinseed or bubble gum.

**Keep Your Confidence** - One of the worst mistakes a tournament fisherman can make is losing faith in his ability to find and catch fish. That happens to most anglers when the fishing is slow. When you begin to doubt your abilities, you wind up fishing too fast, traveling too far, and generally not fishing effectively. Every consistently successful angler believes he will catch a fish on the very next cast. It's important in tournament fishing to keep the faith.

**Stay in Shape** - Many people don't think of fishing as a physical sport. That's because they haven't tried tournament fishing. In fact, an eight-hour day spent trying to catch stubborn bass in all kinds of weather requires a lot of physical and mental stamina.

An aerobics exercise program will improve your stamina but may not prepare you for blistering sun or freezing cold. Try getting conditioned for weather extremes by not using your car's heater or air conditioner while driving to and from tournaments.

**POINT:** Where a finger of land juts out into the water; where an abrupt turn in the dry land along the water occurs. Abrupt turns in the dry land are **ALWAYS** accompanied by a point (small or large) going out under water for some distance. **BUT**, you can have underwater points that go out into the water for which there is no readily discernable dry land feature. Usually, these are man-made, or may be where a submerged creek channel runs up close to the dry land.

**RIP-RAP:** The term applies to any chunk rock area. But, the majority of times, the User means man-emplaced rock along roads, dam sides, or bridges which is used to break wave action and control erosion.

### **FISHERMAN'S HOROSCOPE**

#### **Leo (Jul 23-Aug 22) - The Line**

Soon, while fishing in the ocean, you'll be overcome with the certainty that all your troubles are behind you. This revelation will come as a moray eel bites through the seat of your pants.

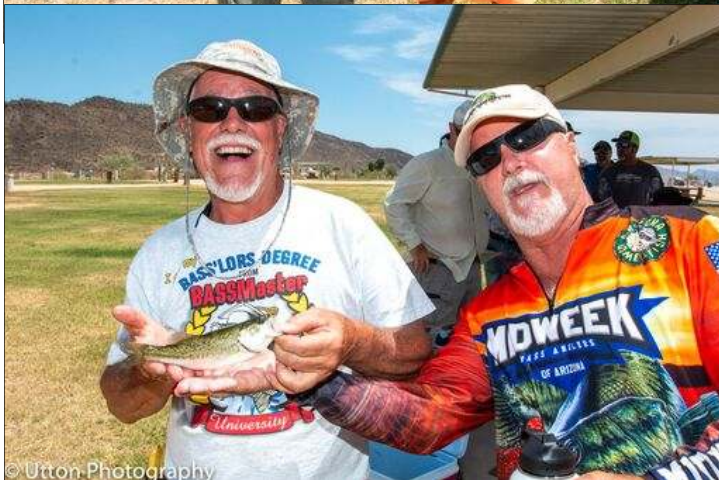
# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Pleasant - July 17, 2019



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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**

**Lowell Tucker (CO/B)  
Jeff Utton (CO)**



Please meet and greet our new members.

### Club Apparel

Members wishing to purchase a club shirt, jersey, or cap can order directly from our president.

**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday  
Born in August**

- Dale Bayless
- Dennis Beverage
- Jeff Mabry
- Hobby Nelson
- Paul Ojala
- John Reichard
- Lowell Tucker



### Midweek Bass Anglers 2019 Tournament Schedule

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