



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JULY 2020 EDITION
15 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

Midweek Bass fished its seventh tournament of the year at Lake Pleasant this past Wednesday. Once again, we had a three fish limit, hoping to reduce the amount of stressed fish. It appears to be working, as we only had two dead fish out of all the fish presented, and they did not go to waste, as one of our members was happy to take them home for some midweek fish tacos. Thanks to Jeff Mabry for remaining in the water after the tournament ended to rescue and revive any fish that might need assistance. Thanks also to John Reichard for his complementary shuttle service both before and after the tournament. I believe the south ramp at Pleasant Harbor Marina has the longest and steepest ramp of all the lakes we fish.

Congratulations to new member William Briggs and old member David Brakefield on a winning sack of 9.61 lbs., anchored by a big fish of 4.23 lbs. Great job guys! Lake Pleasant in July certainly fishes differently than other lakes we fish. I understand that most success was found offshore in deeper water using drop shot. It's not that you can't catch fish otherwise, but the drop shot certainly seems to be the most productive bait at this lake. The weather was, well, it is July in the desert, and it was hot. There was a couple of hours in the late morning when there was no wind, and combined with the higher humidity made it less than pleasant.

We welcomed Sean Ballard and John Hilland to new positions on the weigh-in team. John ran the bump tank and Sean ran the scales, and they did an outstanding job. Thanks for the help guys. I also want to

thank all our guys for practicing proper distancing (for the most part) and for wearing masks during the weigh in. Even though it is our personal responsibility to wear masks, the businesses that we patronize are the ones who can get into trouble if they do not try and promote mask wear. We certainly don't wish to create any problems at the lakes that allow us to fish, so again, thanks. It is likely this virus and all the sickness and death that accompanies it will be with us for the rest of the year, and likely into next year. Hopefully an effective treatment or vaccine is discovered, but short of that we will probably not have any monthly meetings until further notice. I sure miss our time together, but hopefully if we are all careful in avoiding getting sick, we can once again meet in the near future.

Last month we started a monthly newsletter, in lieu of the meetings, in order to share with you much of the information we would normally share at a meeting. Our plan is to continue this practice until such time as we can start meeting again.

Purple Heart Day

08 - 07 - 2020



**CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE - WATCH FOR EMAILS**
Monthly Breakfast Meeting
Deer Valley Airport Restaurant
702 W. Deer Valley Rd
Phoenix, AZ
1st Wednesday of Each

“We Practice Catch and Release”

It is again time to finalize our 2021 tournament schedule, and I will be sending out a brief survey in order to get your input. It will happen soon. The new tournament entry is now live on the website, effective for our next tournament. Remember, no options, no five-pound pot, one single entry fee, all prizes split by the winning teams. That's all for now, hope to see you next month at Lake Pleasant again.



**Tournament Report
Lake Pleasant
July 15, 2020**

Another hot day in paradise! It was "a bit" warm but it was still bearable. Let's hear from our winners on how they caught their fish at Lake Pleasant this month. In case you are wondering why all the teams only weighed three bass the answer is during the hot summer months we go to a three fish limit to make it easier on the fish while in the livewell.

**Team Bill Briggs & David
Brakefield Catch 4.23 Iber Win
1st Place Team & 1st Place Big
Fish**

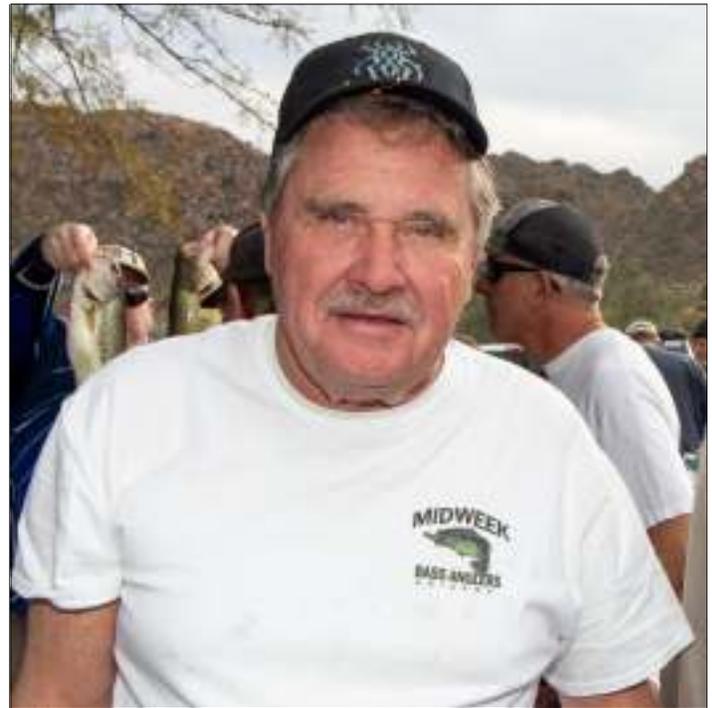
Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Bill Briggs & David Brakefield** brought to the scales the winning creel of three bass weighing 9.61 lbs. Thanks to Bill's 4.23 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors.

Bill Briggs: Being as this was my first tournament with the club, I was not sure what to say here. God blessed us today. I couldn't have asked for a better partner – David Brakefield. After he caught our first fish on a prop bait I switched from a buzz bait to my favorite top water lure and after a couple of casts caught two nice bass on the same cast. What a blast. I managed to catch

Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2020 scheduled for **Wednesday, 5 August** starting at 8:00 AM, at **Deer Valley Airport Restaurant** (just one mile north of I-101 at the intersection of 7th Ave & Deer Valley Road) [has been cancelled](#) due to the Corona Virus situation. Pairings will be announced by email when completed.

The next club points tournament is scheduled for **Lake Pleasant** on **19 August 2020**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.



1st Place David Brakefield & Bill Briggs

our big bass on a drop shot just a few minutes before weigh-in.

Thanks again David, and thank you all for letting me join you.

David Brakefield: Wow, my first win with Midweek. It's hard to beat really good fishermen (you guys). I have to give the credit for this win to our new member and great fisherman, Bill Briggs. Bill had fished Pleasant a lot when he lived in Phoenix years ago. We pre-fished together on Tuesday and thought we had a top water bite with a buzz bait figured out, but that bite was not there early on Wednesday.

We fished most of the morning without a bite but there were fish busting shad on the surface from time to time in the cove we were fishing. We were still working the top water a lot while mixing in some drop shot, crankbait, and Ned rig. I had on a Whopper Plopper and was just fixing to cast it when a fish boiled chasing shad that was within my casting distance. I cast the Whopper Plopper into the boil and caught a 2 ½ pounder. We started watching for this action and soon after Bill cast his secret, no longer available, go-to top water lure into a boil and hooked two (2) bass - one on each hook. I netted them on the first try. That was a good thing too, because one of them came unhooked just as soon as we got them in the boat.

We fished most of the day in a cove on the east side of the lake about a mile up from the launch ramp where we caught a couple of small fish. At about 10 o'clock the bass had pretty much stopped chasing the shad. We decided to cross the lake and fish some deeper water on the west side. We were fishing near the county campgrounds. Since we were the start boat we had an extra 15 minutes to fish. At 10:54 Bill hooked onto our 4 pounder using a drop shot rig with only 6 pound test line

on it. He kept the fish on and I netted the bass; we put it in the livewell and we headed to the scales. I want to thank "The Gary's" for running this well oiled machine, and their staff (the weigh-in crew too), for doing a great job to make them look so good.

Watch out for Bill Briggs, you can expect to see him in the number one spot on the leader board again. Everyone stay safe.

Gary Martlage & Donny Stevens Hump Hop For 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Gary Martlage & Tom Atherton** weighed three bass for a total weight of 8.54 lbs. They also took 2nd Place Big Fish honors with a 3.64 lb bass.

Gary Martlage: I had the pleasure of fishing with one of our newer members, Donny Stevens. We had a great time on Pleasant, even though we did not have a chance to pre-fish for the tournament. I did go out Monday to mark a few spots, knowing our plan was to fish underwater humps in the main lake. Tournament day, we started with topwater in the Sheriff's Cove area with not one strike. We proceeded to our spots marked from Monday, and did find one hump that held fish. We caught 8 fish during the short tournament, all nice quality fish, upgrading 4 times during the day. Drop Shot was our technique of choice with MMIII 4.5 inch Robo worms. We

had our 3 fish limit by 8:30 and upgraded only once the rest of the tourney. Donny let me operate the net a lot, but I told him anyone can catch the fish, but it took a pro to operate the net as I did! We had a fun day, and I am looking forward to fishing with Donny anytime.

Donny Stevens: First off I would like to say thank you to Gary Martlage, I had a great time fishing with you. The day started off by getting to our first spot and throwing top water baits such as Vixens Whopper Poppers and Mega Bass Dogx for the first hour with not even a bite. So in the words of Gary Martlage "it's time to go humping". The rest of the day was hump hopping with the normal techniques such as dropshot rig, Texas rig (morning dawn margarita mutilator) in deep water 20-50 feet. Fishing was slow but consistent for us. The fish were healthy and fought like tanks. All-in-all it was a very fun exciting day. I'd like to say thanks to Gary again and look forward to the next tournament.

Team Hilland & Sapyta Fish Slow For 3rd Place Finish

Team **John Hilland & David Sapyta** weighed three bass for 6.49 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

John Hilland: Congrats to William and David on a great 3 fish bag. I had the pleasure of being drawn with David Sapyta, what a great guy. David and I hit it off right from the start and worked really well together. His stories about his time in Vietnam and the service he provided our Great Country were incredible. Thank you to David and all of our Vets for your service. No real mystery to how we caught our fish. We started out with top water baits



2nd Place Gary Martlage & Donny Stevens



3rd Place David Sapyta & John Hilland

Membership

As of August 21, 2020 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **123** dues paid active members.

and quickly switched up to drop shot and other plastics fished from about 15-30 feet on main lake islands and points. Most of our fish came on a hand poured worm that's incredibly soft and seems to mimic a shad. We didn't catch a bunch of fish but we did get a few good ones. Stay safe and I hope to see everyone next month.

Team Floyd Vaughan & Howard Thomas Find Deep Fish To Finish 4th Overall

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Vaughan & Thomas** weighed three fish for a total weight of 6.29 lbs.

Howard Thomas: Not much to say except "It was hot out there." Ninety-two degree water, my shower at home isn't that hot. If you like eating Arizona fish in the summer, they are all pre cooked when you catch them. Next month just bring your tarter sauce and tortillas and you can have fish tacos when you get off the lake.

We fished hard and deep all morning only catching 4 fish; 3 of which we turned in for a 4th place



4th Place Floyd Vaughan & Howard Thomas

Tournament Statistics

Forty-six contestants fished 6 hours each, bringing 49 bass to the scales for a total weight of 88.54 pounds with a 1.92 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.81 lbs. All fish but two were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

finish. Drop shot was all that worked. Morning Dawn Robo worms, in 30 feet of water, no big secret. Like Floyd said "Just keep that line in the water because we probably won't get a lot of bites", and he was right. Congrats to the 1st place winners and thank you Floyd for another lesson in fishing.

Floyd Vaughan: Hi guys, my fishing report is short and sweet. We caught our fish on drop shots in 25 to 35 feet of water on the main lake early in the day. Howard caught the first one and then we started to roll. It's like my old grandmother Rosana Rosana Danna used to say, "If they're not biting on one thing, it's always something else". Congrats to Dave and Bill for their 1st Place finish.

Hobby Nelson & Tom Savage Use Drop Shot Rigs To Finish 5th

A three fish bag weighing 6.22 lbs was enough to earn Team **Nelson & Savage** the **5th Place** money.

Hobby Nelson: I had the great pleasure of fishing with Tom Savage again. We had fished together before in the past so I knew it was going to be a fun day on the water no matter what. We did not get the opportunity to pre-fish together but we talked over the phone and we put a strategy together and decided to concentrate on main lake islands and humps.

On tournament day we went to our first spot which was a submerged island in front of Cole's Bay. Tom immediately caught our first two keepers and had me wondering if I was going to be the net man for the remainder of the day. I finally got on the board about 30



5th Place

Tom Savage & Hobby Nelson

minutes later and within the first hour we had our limit. We then bounced around on the islands between Humbug and Castle catching a few more fish and upgrading once. With the extreme heat we took extra measures in trying to care for our fish. However, even with all our efforts to keep them alive, we still lost our smallest fish. Because of this, we actually caught fish that were bigger but had to release them due to our smallest fish having died on us. All fish were caught on drop shot rigs between 25 and 35 feet of water. All in all it was a fun day on the water.

Tom Savage: Congratulations to Bill Briggs and David Brakefield for the impressive win, and welcome to the club Bill, what a great way to get started. Hobby and I caught our fish on drop shot in 20-30 feet of water, on under water humps. It was a tough bite, but Hobby put us in the right places where we would catch one here and one there. I'd like to thank Jeff Mabry for taking care of all our fish after the weigh-in. Great job Jeff.

Team Mabry & Turner Fishing Main Lake Humps Finish In 6th Place

Team **Jeff Mabry & Gene Turner** weighed three bass for 5.77 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors. They also weighed a 2.50 lb Catfish for **Goon Fish** honors.

Jeff Mabry and Gene Turner: As the first boat in the second flight, you always hope your initial planned fishing hole is available but that did not happen as the first two planned stops were not available. We fished the main lake in our time on the water catching fish mainly on humps. It was a good start for me as the co angler, when



6th Place Gene Turner & Jeff Mabry

I put the first fish in the boat that morning. I might add it was the only fish I put in the boat all day, but it was one used for the weigh-in. Jeff then took over and caught numerous fish. We spent the day drop shotting, using a variety of curly tail worms in water from 10 to 35 feet. At one point, Jeff had a fish on and said this is a "Big Fish", but as he reeled it in, the fish rolled and we knew that it was not a big bass but a catfish, again caught on a curly tailed worm.

It was my pleasure to fish with Jeff during the day and I also want to give him a "Thank you" for staying down by the boat ramp where the fish were released after weigh-in to resuscitate any fish needing help that day. He did say that the fisherman did a great job in keeping their fish healthy so congrats to all of you that caught fish.

Team Sean Ballard & Warren Brackey Finish 7th Overall And Weigh 2nd Place Big Bass

In **7th Place** Team of **Ballard & Brackey** weighed three bass for a total weight of 5.51 lbs. Thanks to Sean's 3.70 bass the team won 2nd Place Big Bass honors.

Sean Ballard: Not much to say, the bass was caught in two feet of water on a flick shake rig.



Weighing-In By Gary Martlage

Another tournament in the record books! We seemed to have luck with the weather, as the temperatures did drop to the low 100's on Wednesday. There was a thought of cancelling the tourney, because of the record heat reported the days before our scheduled event. I was elated about the smoothness of the takeoff in the morning, and it seemed the weigh-in went off without a hitch. I have been breaking in a few new volunteers for weigh-in, as John Hilland manned the bump tank, and Sean Ballard did a fine job on the scales. Of course, a big Thank You to our recorder Tom Savage, who is always there to verify the weights. Gary Grimes was there to lend his hand, and I tried to take decent photos for the Bass Bites. Of course, we are all waiting for Tom Alauria to come back with the white board, to record the weights in real time. I'm sure he will be back soon, as this Covid thing has put some restrictions on us. Special thanks go to Jeff Mabry - the 'fish police', and John Reichard for taking time to shuttle guys to and from the ramp. Every month I thank these volunteers, as the tournaments would not be possible without them. Thanks, again guys.

Lake Pleasant is one of the lakes we have to use locally, and I know a few fishermen grumble about it. One must understand that these local tournaments are run in the heat of the summer, and our options are few with lakes having the Golden Algae problem. Hang with us,

and keep fishing. We want to keep the club fishing during these unpredictable times. Of course, next month is also going to be at Pleasant, but I feel (hopefully) that participation will increase. We want to do whatever possible to keep participation as high as possible, especially during these hot summer months. That said; I hope to see you all at Lake Pleasant in August.

COVID 19 Chuckles

I'm having a quarantine party this weekend! None of you are invited.

We are just two to three weeks away from learning everyone's real hair colour.

All these people are worrying about a baby boom in the next nine months. Two days of home schooling should nip that right in the bud!

Just saw a burglar kicking his own door in. I asked him, "What are you doing?"
He said, "Working from home."

If you thought toilet paper buying was crazy, just wait until 300 million people all want a haircut appointment at the same time.

All I can think about now when I'm watching any TV show or movie is how everyone is standing WAY too close together.

I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe!

The Department of Health is looking to hire couples married seven years or more to educate people on social distancing.

Quarantine Day 16. I've started taking calls from telemarketers. Some of them are actually quite nice. Jamar from Superior Life Insurance has a new baby.

Grocery shopping has become a real life version of Pac-Man. Avoid everyone, get the fruit, and take any route possible to avoid conflict.

So we don't go to restaurants, kids aren't signed up for anything, and we just stayed home for Spring Break? Sounds like my childhood.

This is like being 16 again. Gas is cheap and I'm grounded. Geez.

My wife and I play this fun game during quarantine. It's called, "Why Are You Doing It That Way?" There are no winners.

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

**GOOD
MORNING
NURSE**

**ALL
TOGETHER**

**LET'S
REHEARSE**

**BROTHER
SPEEDER**

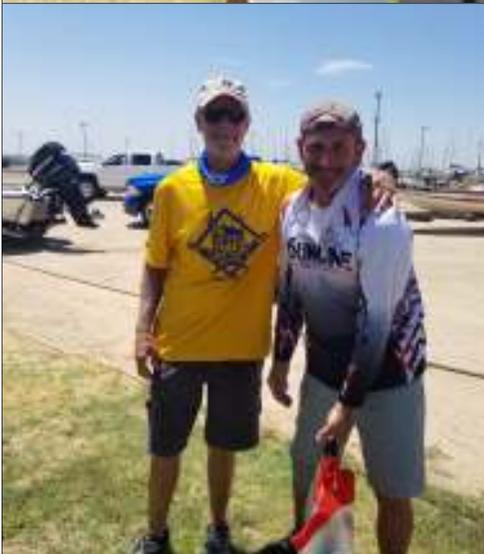
Sound Off

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

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

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

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Pleasant - July 15, 2020



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

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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**

**Bill Briggs (B)
James Clisch (CO)
Robert Cooley (CO)**

Please meet and welcome our new members.



Club Apparel

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

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

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



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2020
Tournament Schedule**

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