



# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JUNE 2019 EDITION

14 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



### President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

This past May was my 10<sup>th</sup> year in Midweek Bass. I joined upon the recommendation of Floyd Vaughan during a chance meeting at Cabela's. I was quite green when I joined, the only thing I knew was Texas rig worms and Rapala fat rap cranks. I owned two rods and a small tackle bag. Like many of you I had a boat, a small Ranger R83. I was getting tired of going to the lake by myself and always getting skunked, I needed some help. I fished the first 3 years as a co-angler, getting paired with some great fishermen who helped me with different baits, different presentations, and how to find fish. In 10 years I have been paired with probably 100 different guys. I have learned something from each and every one of them. Most of the lessons were "what to do" type lessons, but there were also many "don't do this" type lessons. It is amazing how much quicker you can learn the sport of bass fishing by fishing with others.

We really have a great group of guys in the club. As you get older, it is often much more difficult to make new, lasting friendships but Midweek has given me the opportunity to meet some great guys with whom I enjoy wonderful friendships. I always look forward to the fall and spring when we camp, because of the time we get to spend together.

I was not at the June tournament, as I was in Canada with several of my Midweek friends enjoying much cooler weather and a chance to catch some walleye and northern pike. I'll see you after I get back down to a hotter climate.

**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 Bartlett June 19, 2019

All teams weighed fish at this tournament, and all but three fish were released back into the lake to live and fight again another day. Now let's hear from our winners.

### Jeff Mabry & Floyd Vaughan Dominate Event At Bartlett For 1st Place Team

Taking home **1st Place**, Team Mabry and Vaughan brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 12.81 lbs. Additionally, thanks to Jeff's 3.93 lb fish the team also won the 1st Place Big Fish prize.

**Jeff Mabry:** I actually went to the meeting last month and was drawn as a solo. We were able to get some more entrants and the first revision I was put with Floyd

# Happy Independence Day



## "We Practice Catch and Release"



**1st Place Jeff Mabry & Floyd Vaughan**

Vaughn. Floyd and I have never fished together, but we have spoken a couple times. I figured it would be a fun day regardless of the outcome.

I took out a buddy and his daughter Tuesday to see if I could figure something out. I figured out fishing wasn't very good, there was no reaction bite, and I didn't need to fish any where I had fished the previous day. We caught a few fish, but they were pretty small.

Because I am not very smart we started throwing reaction baits early. Floyd threw a blade and I threw a buzz bait; shockingly neither worked. We slowed down a bit and I finally caught a few little ones on the bottom; one with a Ned rig and a couple Floyd got on a jig.

We left that area to head over close to the ramp where there were a couple of humps where I found fish, but we couldn't get any to go.

Our third spot was partially occupied by Lew Southard. I asked to make sure I wasn't impeding on him and he took one side of an island and told us we could take the other. We watched Lew catch several fish, but we only got one. Floyd caught a nice 2 plus pounder to get us our first decent fish.

Then the fun started when we went to our next spot. I hadn't fished it in years and it was underwater, but made a nice island with a saddle to a point. On my third cast I got one close to 3 pounds. I was just throwing one of Lou Hirlemann's Shakey Heads with a green pumpkin chigger craw. We worked our way around the island and

**Next Meeting Next Tournament**

Our next club meeting for 2019 is scheduled for **Wednesday, 3 July** 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 Pleasant on 17 July 2019**. Club headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM**.

positioned the boat to fan cast over the saddle. Pretty quickly we started catching fish. I'm not sure which ones came first, but I know Floyd caught a couple and on back to back casts I was able to catch a nearly 2.5 pounder and then the big fish (3.93) of the tournament. Floyd made a great catch with the net on one that I wasn't able to get a good hook set on. The fish came undone in the air and Floyd caught it perfectly. We caught one more nearly 2 pounds on that saddle and I am not sure if we caught another fish for the day. We fished some other areas, but both of us felt like the pressure was off.

If you haven't ever spent a few hours with Floyd on a boat you have missed out. We laughed all day long, even before we started getting the good ones. Thanks to Gary and Jason for a fast and efficient weigh in.

P.S...Look how Floyd parked in front of my house. I am the one on the left and he blocked part of my neighbor's driveway. Of course we didn't notice this at 3:00 AM, so it stayed like that until we returned from the tournament.



**Soft Plastics Propel Jeff Mason & Rick Brown To 2nd Place Overall Finish**

In **2nd Place** Team **Jeff Mason & Rick Brown** weighed five bass for a total weight of 9.83 lbs. Rick's 3.14 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Bass** honors.

**Jeff Mason:** Congrats to Jeff and Floyd for their win with a great bag for Bartlett. Luck of the draw, I got Rick Brown for a partner, who by the way won last month's tournament at Bartlett. Rick and I pre-fished Monday and had a pretty good day, catching fish on his Carolina rig and me on a jig. We tried top water on Monday with NO bites.

I guess we are not very coachable because as boat number 3 on tournament day we headed for the dam area and threw topwater lures; NO bites. I got a few bites on a KVD 5XD Crankbait in Citrus shad color and lost a decent one at the boat, ouch! We started fishing spots all the way up to the mouth of the river catching a few fish on Rick's Carolina rig and me on a drop shot. Rick caught a nice one on his rig that absolutely swallowed his craw and we ended up losing him for our one dead fish. I caught a



**2nd Place Rick Brown & Jeff Mason**

good keeper up the river on my first cast with a Keitech ½ oz jig and we proceeded to fill out our limit and started working back towards the launch ramp. We fished until about 9:45 and were in bad shape, with one dead fish and one other decent one, and three 1 ½ pounders in the well.

We stopped at a place we had fished earlier across from the boat ramp and started getting good bites on the Carolina rig and a drop shot. Rick caught the 2nd big fish of the tournament (3.14) on the craw, and I caught a good keeper on a drop shot and we also culled out our smaller fish from this spot. It is always a pleasure to fish with Rick and his "Magic Wand."

**Rick Brown:** When the pairings were announced I was super happy to get paired up with AOY Jeff Mason. I have been fortunate enough to fish with Jeff a few times since being in the club; we seem to do pretty well and always have a great time. I had some recent work done to my boat, so Jeff and I used pre-fishing on Monday as a test run for my boat. The boat ran great; big thanks to Ken Howden of Holiday Mobile Marine for getting it fixed. As far as pre-fishing, the result was topwater was out and plastics were in. On tournament day Jeff and I had a rough start. First spot nothing, 2nd spot Jeff had 2 crankbait fish come off, 3rd spot I gill hook a bass that dies pretty soon after and Jeff loses another fish on a drop shot (a good one). We didn't let this get us down, and I was confident that we would turn it around. We picked up a small limit on the next stop then Jeff put our first good 2 lber in the boat on a jig. In the last two hours of the tournament we upgrade several times by ounces, then finally I was able to catch a nice 3 lber using my old faithful chigger craw. Congrats to Jeff and Floyd for the win with a great bag of fish.

### **Gary Senft & Howard Thomas Net 3rd Place**

Team **Senft & Thomas** weighed five bass for 9.44 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Gary Senft:** Congrats to the winners for that big bag of fish. We started straight across from the ramp with spinner baits and cranks. Then we went to a couple more spots with no success. We then changed to brush hogs,



**3rd Place Gary Senft & Howard Thomas**

Texas rigs, and drop shot. I used watermelon candy for my brush hogs and green pumpkin for my drop shot with morning dawn worms. We made many stops working our way up to the river catching a lot of fish and culling. We ended our day up the river by Ship Rock and headed back to the ramp at 10.40. We were lucky to catch three fish over 2 lbs to make our 9.44 lb bag. It was fun fishing with Howard again. Thanks to the weight in team for doing such a good job.

**Howard Thomas:** Great day on the lake with Gary Senft. How could it not be; the man lives on Lake Bartlett. Have you ever fished with a man that knows the fishes' names? He knows his stuff. Next to Jeff Mason he's the best draw I have had all year. It's hard not to catch fish with that kind of knowledge of the lake. With that all said we had a fun day on the lake fishing. We started out on the point across from and left from the ramp. Trying a lot of different offerings we got no bites and moved on to spot #2 where Gary quickly put 3 fish in the boat. I had bites but could not hook-up. The fish were actually chomping my bait in half. I finally started catching when I listened to Gary and used his small craws in watermelon and his red worms. Knowledge is golden. Thanks for a great time on the water and sharing your knowledge with me. With Gary you might call it ledge fishing. Know-Ledge!

### **Team Randy Gray & Jason Stanton Makes It Happen For 4th Place**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Randy Gray & Jason Stanton** weighed five fish for a total weight of 8.67 pounds.

**Randy Gray:** Congrats to Jeff and Floyd, you waxed us all with your 12.81 pounds. How did we catch our fish—very slowly. I give Jason full credit; once we finally got a limit (drop shot, Texas rig chigger craw), Jason went to a jig and got the two good fish we weighed in (it was my choice as to where we fished but he caught them). Then we managed to cull out a couple of real dinks to just make it to 4<sup>th</sup> Place. Jason saved our bacon.

**Jason Stanton:** I would like to thank the

administration for running such top notch events. Congratulations to Jeff and Floyd on an epic day at Bartlett Lake. I was paired with Mr. Randall Gray and had an awesome time with an extremely experienced fisherman. We bounced around most of the morning catching a little fish here or there on drop shots with 5150 worms. We had 4 fish on our way back from the river around 9 AM. We decided to fish "the nursery" area for a few casts. On my first cast with a Strike King Itsy Bitsy Bug jig I landed a two and a half pounder. We hung around the area for another 90 minutes and managed to upgrade two more fish including the 2.83 lber on jigs. We made a move and stopped at one main lake point on the way back to the ramp where Randall culled us up another half a pound with minutes left that made a huge difference based on how close it was below us. So glad we get new water next month.

### Team Root & Spreitzer Earn 5th Place

A five fish bag weighing 8.56 lbs was enough to earn Team **Roger Root & Luke Spreitzer** the **5th Place** money.

No catching report received from the team but here is a photo of them with their catch.



**5th Place Roger Root & Luke Spreitzer**

### Team Paul Ojala & Tom Savage Fish "Jigs And Rigs" To 6th Place

Team **Paul Ojala & Tom Savage** weighed five bass for 8.44 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

**Paul Ojala:** First off I'd like to say it was great to get back out as a boater for this tournament. I had the

#### Tournament Statistics

Sixty-one men fished 6 hours each, bringing 148 bass to the scales for a total weight of 215.50 pounds with a 3.53 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.45 lbs. All but three fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



**6th Place Paul Ojala & Tom Savage**

pleasure of fishing with Tom Savage and he definitely lived up to the savage part as he put a beating on me all day long. The day started off relatively slow for Bartlett standards with the bites being slow and me dumping the first fish flipping it into the boat. We moved to our second spot and almost immediately Tom put a decent keeper in the boat using a small finesse jig in a cinnamon color. He proceeded to boat a couple more before I was able to get my first fish in with a green pumpkin chigger craw "Carolina Rigged" we proceeded to get our limit and cull several times using the cinnamon colored jig and Carolina rigged Chigger craws. We ended up catching about 18 fish in 15 - 20 feet of water off a single point before we made our last move of the day. We worked a small rocky flat and Tom was able to make two more culls at that point. It was a great tournament and I couldn't have asked for a better co-angler to be on the boat with me.

**Tom Savage:** Congratulations to Jeff Mabry and Floyd Vaughn for a very impressive win. Paul Ojala and I caught most all of our fish at one spot, a point near the no-wake buoys. We caught around 18 to 20 fish total, upgrading an ounce or two at a time. We caught our fish using jigs and Carolina rigs. Thanks Paul, I really enjoyed fishing with you, and hope we can do it again.

### Hobby Nelson & Pat Johnstonbaugh Have Top Water Fun On Way To 7th Place Overall Finish

Team **Hobby Nelson & Pat Johnstonbaugh** weighed five bass for a total weight of 6.36 lbs.

**Pat Johnstonbaugh:** An impressive bag was caught by **Jeff Mabry & Floyd Vaughan**, good job guys! Finding the big fish was amazing as well. I had pre-fished the weekend before and tried a number of things such as cranks, spinnerbaits and paddle tails but I had my best luck with dropshots and Carolina rigs so that remained the focus for me on game day.

We started in the main lake and the bite was slow even though we saw other boats catching a few. We tried humps, rocky shores, and coves but just couldn't put anything together right away. Eventually I caught a couple



**7th Place Pat Johnstonbaugh & Hobby Nelson**

of Carolina rig fish and early morning we migrated halfway up the river. Fish seemed to be in the 10 to 15 foot depths. Attempts with a Roboworm on a shaky head ended with no bites so I changed to a dropshot equipped with a 5150 green straight tail worm resulting in a single fish. Hoping to get some bigger fish I changed to craws. I tied on a Chigger craw with a skirt and a 3/8 oz weight but it was falling too slow and wasn't staying on the bottom so I went to the set-up I had luck with prefishing and that was a Carolina rigged brush hog, watermelon, Chartreuse dipped tail, 3/8 oz weight and that caught most of my fish in roughly 10 feet of water.

Although I was having some luck, it was my boater Hobby Nelson who came through for us. It was fun seeing him catch a bigger fish totally blowing up his topwater bait and later he landed a 2-1/2 pounder in the main lake



**8th Place John Hilland & Richard Brookins**

which enabled us to make a paycheck. He really saved our day. One cool thing we saw was a bobcat on shore stalking a bird in the water and successfully jumped in the water to catch that bird. Even though I didn't see the actual catch, I saw all the feathers in the water and the bobcat on shore with his prize in his mouth. Anyways, thanks Hobby, I really enjoyed fishing with you and thanks to our fantastic, hard working staff, and to Bartlett Lake for again providing a challenging and enjoyable event.

### **Team John Hilland & Richard Brookins Take 8th Place By Less Than One Ounce**

Five fish weighing 8.30 lbs was enough to earn Team **John Hilland & Richard Brookins** the **8th Place** money.

**John Hilland:** Congrats to Jeff and Floyd on a great Bartlett bag, nice job guys. I had the pleasure of fishing with Richard Brookins, we fished together in January at Pleasant and he caught our only fish. This month I was able to help a little more and not have Richard carry me. We started off our day just south of the Yellow Cliffs. I was throwing a top water lure and Richard a jig. Richard put our first fish in the boat right away, a few minutes later I caught our best fish on a walking bait. We continued in that area both throwing jigs and Carolina rigs and had a limit in the boat by 6:30. We spent the rest of the day hitting numerous spots trying to cull what we had. Our best results came on a jig and Carolina rigged Brush Hogs fished around 10 to 20 feet deep off main lake areas. Thanks again to all that help put on such great events each month. See you in July!

**Richard Brookins:** I had the pleasure of fishing with John Hilland on his new Skeeter boat. What a sweet ride. We started off fishing jigs and then John switched to a top water bait and caught our largest fish. This motivated John who went on to fill our limit and hook a catfish even though it was not big enough to win the Goon Fish prize. I struggled losing a few fish and missing too many. All in all it was a great day with a great bunch of folks.

### **9.42 Pound Catfish Wins Goon Fish Prize for Team Greg Prather & Tom Atherton**

**Tom Atherton:** I caught the 9.42 lb flathead catfish

**Goon Fish Prize-Tom Atherton & Greg Prather**



throwing a Strike King 5XD crankbait, in Chartreuse Shad color, on 10 lb Seagar Abraxx line, fishing east of the dam in about 12 feet of water. That fish sure fought hard.



## Weighing-In

By Gary Martlage  
Tournament Director

Another tournament in the record books. The teams brought in the usual Bartlett fish, except for the winners, Mabry and Vaughan. A great sack of fish! Congratulations to the team.

Everything seemed to go as usual, as the weigh team worked hard on a hot day. Special thanks to Jason Stanton for stepping up to be showered by the fish tank. Again, thanks to Tom A, Tom S, and our new photographer - Greg Utton.

One point of criticism is the start of the tournament. I noticed that some teams did not go by the start boat, as their number was called. We need to go by the start boat in order to idle out from the team in front of you. It is not permitted to start from 50 yards out, and not going in order. I will be watching for boat infractions next tournament, and will not tolerate a team not following the rules. Find who is in front of you, and idle out in numerical order, as the rule states. Infraction of rules during a tournament may result in disqualification.

Let's all have a great showing at Lake Pleasant in July, hope to see you there!

## Definitions

**Live bait:** the biggest fish you got to handle all day.

**Thumb:** a temporary hook holder.

**Sinker:** a weight hopefully big enough to knock out any fish on the way to the bottom so that it floats to the surface.

**Fishing rod:** a stick with a worm on one end and a fool at the other.

**Truth:** when one fisherman calls another fisherman a liar.

**"Angling"** is the name given to fishing by people who can't fish.

**Fishing** is not a matter of life and death. It is much more important than that.

## A Fisherman's Prayer

God grant that I may live to fish until  
my dying day,  
And when the final cast is made  
And life has slipped away,  
I pray that God's great landing net  
Will catch me in its sweep,  
And in His mercy, God will judge me  
Big enough to keep.

## Bassin' Basics

**Ledges - Fish Light Lures** - In clear-water lakes, bass often hold in the shade created by an overhanging ledge along a rocky shoreline. To catch these suspended fish use a lure that sinks slowly enough to entice strikes as it falls past the holding fish.

Because it falls slowly and erratically, an ultra light tube lure is an obvious choice. A key to fishing a tube lure is to watch your line as it sinks. Fish often hit the tube lure on a slack line, so you'll "see" strikes that you're not able to feel. Try to match the tube lure to the color and size of primary baitfish in the water you're fishing.

**Riprap - Fish Rocks Early** - Riprap is an ideal spot to catch bass anytime of the year, but it's especially good structure in early spring. The light-colored rocks absorb heat from the sunshine. So a riprap shoreline may be significantly warmer than a nearby dirt bank. Fish the riprap with a crankbait, casting parallel to the bank and reeling fast enough so the lure periodically bounces against the rocks.

**Try Night Moves** - Put the night moves on summertime bass to get away from daytime crowds of water-skiers and beat the summer heat. Bass often feed at night on any moon phase, but night fishing five days either side of the full moon makes it easier for the angler to see. Night fishing is particularly good for big bass. Expect to catch fish on the same deep-water structure that produces bass during daylight hours. Fish also become active along shorelines and will attack black spinnerbaits or topwater plugs.

**Watch The Birdies** - Most fishermen recognize the frenzy of seagulls working over schools of feeding fish, a phenomenon that often occurs on inland lakes where bass chase shad to the surface. A less obvious indicator of schooling fish is the presence of a great blue heron that seems reluctant to leave a perch on a stump or log, despite the nearness of a fishing boat.

Heron typically feed on small fish by wading the shallows, but they quickly learn where and when bass are schooling on shad and sit patiently waiting for the action to occur. The heron then feeds by picking up dead or crippled baitfish left on the surface by aggressively feeding bass and occasionally grabs a small bass that ventures too near its perch. Fall is prime time to watch the birdie.

## FISHERMAN'S HOROSCOPE

**Gemini (May 22-Jun 21) - The Fishing Pole**  
With Gemini ruling your life, you are well aware of the duality of existence. You'd do well to remember that there's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore looking like a dope.

# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett - June 19, 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**

**Dave Boon (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 July**

Rickey Boehm

Joe Bonucci

Todd Gentner

Terry Johnson

Gary Martlage

Scott Olivier

Greg Prather

Jack Shearer

Jason Stanton



**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 - TBD
16 October	Roosevelt
20 November	Alamo