



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



MAY 2020 EDITION
15 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

It was great to see everyone again at Bartlett, 2 months of quarantine is 2 months too long. We are planning to continue with the rest of the season uninterrupted. Look for our emails. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of reading your emails, as once again we will not be having a general meeting at the Deer Valley Restaurant on the first of the month. We encourage online registration, and pairings will be done off-site and emailed to everyone. June also begins our summer schedule, with the tournaments ending at 11AM and a 3 fish limit. This is for the months of June, July and August.

The May tournament for the Midweek Bass Anglers brought us to Bartlett Lake. This was one of those rare occasions where good weather was met with good fishing. Almost every team presented a full limit of 5 fish, with almost half the teams weighing over 10 lbs, which is quite impressive for Bartlett. Congratulations to Allen Wacker and Donny Stevens on a great bag that totaled 14.44 lbs. Check is in the mail guys, as it will be for all the tournament winners. This was not a normal Midweek Bass Anglers tournament, as there were scores of pleasure boaters on the water as well. With most bass tournaments, I am usually never concerned about personal safety. But the pleasure boaters are another matter. You can expect them not to understand basic boating rules and etiquette, and their unpredictable and sometimes unlawful driving on the water certainly causes an angler to keep a watchful eye while they are close. I think it is time for some new paint on the lake buoys, because most of the pleasure boaters can't seem to read

the sign "No Wake."

Again, watch your emails from Terry and if you have any questions, give one of us a call. Until next month, stay safe.



Tournament Report Lake Bartlett May 20, 2020

Let's hear from our winners on how they caught their fish on a beautiful May day on Bartlett Lake.

Team Allen Wacker & Donny Stevens Catch 3.64 Iber Win 1st Place Team & 1st Place Big Fish

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Wacker & Stevens** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 14.44 lbs. Thanks to Allen and Donny's 3.64 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors.

Donny Stevens: Well first off I'd like to say thank you to my boater Alan Wacker; not only is he a good stick but a great guy. The day started off with a cool brisk morning we launched as boat number 29. From the launch we headed towards the right - sorry guys I'm not very familiar with the spots on the lakes yet or their names. We started off with topwater lures. I was throwing

**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

MEMORIAL DAY 2020



America United

"We Practice Catch and Release"



1st Place Donny Stevens & Allen Wacker

the Evergreen Shower Blows 105, my partner Allen seemed to be throwing a Vixen so we put three keepers in the boat really quick. The topwater bite died out then we went towards the dam where we just started grinding for a limit. Eventually we made our way to the Yellow Cliffs and slowly started upgrading our limit on jigs and Neko rigs in 5 to 30 feet of water. Throughout the day just about every fish was an upgrade. The weather was great, colors didn't seem to matter and it was more a matter of presentation of the bait. I'd like to thank everyone at Midweek Bass for putting on a well run tournament and I can't wait to do it again in June.

**Gary Grimes & Tom Savage
Catch Most Fish From One Spot
For 2nd Overall**

In **2nd Place** Team **Gary Grimes & Tom Savage** weighed five bass for a total weight of 12.97 lbs.

Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2020 scheduled for **Wednesday, 3 June** 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 when completed, by email.

The next club points tournament is scheduled for **Canyon Lake** on **17 June 2020**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

Congratulations to Allen Wacker and Donny Stevens on a very nice Bartlett win, impressive bag for Bartlett. I was fortunate to be paired with Tom Savage, and a better day at Bartlett I have not seen in a long time. Tom knew exactly where he wanted to start, and his instincts proved spot on. Tom started off with a jig and me a spinnerbait. After watching him catch 3 nice fish very quickly, I finally tied on a jig and started catching fish. We caught our better fish early, and were unable to cull after 8AM. We almost lost one fish at the end of the day when, after opening the live-well, one of our better fish launched out onto the deck and began flopping towards the water, cull tag included. But Tom's cat-like reactionary skills quickly pounced atop the floundering largemouth and safely returned him to the confines of the livewell. Fun day! Tom asked me to submit a few words for him so here they are: "Gary was one of the friendliest and skilled co-anglers I have fished with in the past couple of months." Ha Ha.

**Team Ridgway & Sapyta Cover
The Lake For 3rd Place Finish**

Team **Vern Ridgway & David Sapyta** weighed five bass for 12.50 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Vern Ridgway: Hats off to the first place finishers Allen and Donny, great job and well done to the weigh-in



3rd Place Vern Ridgway & David Sapyta

crew. I had the pleasure of drawing David Sapyta; a very competent co-angler who did his part well.

We poked around Monday to take measure of what our scaly critters were up to, some were shallow and some deep. We decided to go for both by throwing top water lures and jigs all day. We caught them in cuts, points, and bank running.

Our fish were caught as shallow as one foot and as deep as 25. We started in the main lake, went north to the Yellow cliffs, then the flats, back to the main lake, and finished our day in a creek channel. We upgraded about 3 to 4 times.

Team Gary Senft & Dale Bayless Catch Two Biggest Fish On Top Water To Finish 4th Overall

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Senft & Bayless** weighed five fish for a total weight of 12.39 lbs. The team's 3.54 lb bass was good enough for **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.

Gary Senft: Looks like a lot of guys had good limits. Congrats to the winners, that was a nice limit for Bartlett. I couldn't make a choice where to start Wednesday; up the lake or in the main lake. I decided to make a quick stop for 20 minutes to see if some of my pet bass were up that early. I never get to the lake that early unless it is a tournament day. The fish were ready to eat. Dale Bayless was using a Sammy and I was using a Rico. Dale caught two of our big fish and I caught the little ones. After we had our limit we left and started fishing structure and deep drop offs. Dale used drop shot with 4" worms and I used 7" trick worms deeper. We stayed with those setups the rest of the day. We had a good day just fishing and moving around. It's always nice to meet new fishermen to fish with. Thanks Dale.

Dale Bayless: Thank you to all the guys working the event. I had Gary Senft as my partner so I knew that it would be a lot of fun. After I got all tied up, we talked the night before and I went out to my garage and cut everything off. I retied with what he suggested and then I had one rod left. I went through my tackle and blew the dust off of my white Sammy. Boy was that a premonition. By 7:30 I had 3 fish in the boat all well over 2 pounds on the Sammy. Then by the next hour we had 5 fish. It was hard to cull because our smallest was 2 pounds even. When the top water died off I went to drop shot with Berkeley 4 inch Camo colored worms. I caught about 25 fish on those worms all day. My big bass of 3.54 came about 9 AM. We went back to the same spot and Gary said "throw the Sammy". On the second cast there was a big blow up, strike one; then a second blow up and about

Membership

As of May 22, 2020 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **121** dues paid active members.



4th Place Gary Senft & Dale Bayless

4 feet of drag came off the reel and, we knew this was the one.

It was a lot of fun and we were excited because we knew we had a good weight for Lake Bartlett. Gary taught me a few things today for which I am thankful; none more important than "stay on the back of the boat when you are netting I will bring the fish to you". Well I didn't listen at first, until I took a header and crashed and burned in his boat - now I know. Great job to everyone, it looks like everyone caught fish today.

Rick Brown & Ingo Moura Don't Fish Scared To Finish 5th

A five fish bag weighing 11.80 lbs was enough to earn Team **Brown & Moura** the **5th Place** money.

Ingo Moura: This was my first outing since this whole shutdown started, and it was especially nice getting out of town and seeing the boys again. Not a lot of hand shaking or hugs, but all of our faces said it all, and we all were excited to be out there on this beautiful, gorgeous, May day.

Congrats to everyone that placed in the money and the winning team of Wacker and Stevens. Thanks to the weigh-in crew; not only did they set up the tournament but also had to remind us to observe social distance as



5th Place Rick Brown & Ingo Moura

we are a bunch of kids (at heart) and can't help ourselves sometimes. I'm sure there was a little extra pressure there, and I am really grateful for our team leaders.

The evening before the tournament Gary Grimes had to withdraw as a boater and go as a co-angler due to his boat wasn't ready for the water. So I got 'stuck' fishing with Rick Brown and Tom Savage got 'stuck' with Gary Grimes in Tom's back seat.

Rick was fortunate to have me now as his partner, but he fished me hard, I haven't heard so much constructive criticism in all my time with the club. He kept telling me my fish wasn't good enough and I had to do better bla bla bla. Of course, I'm totally kidding for you serious reader's.

However, Rick did ride me a little. He knew this wasn't a normal Bartlett bass bite and it was going to take over 12 lbs to win this thing. He already had the bite figured out, although we didn't find a top water bite first

Tournament Statistics

Sixty contestants fished 9 hours each, bringing 150 bass to the scales for a total weight of 273.33 pounds with a 4.56 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.82 lbs. All fish but five were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

thing in the morning. We quickly went to a Carolina rig, and produced some decent fish. Rick kept catching fish and throwing them back in the water before we had any fish in the livewell. I politely told him we needed 5 fish alive in the livewell and I needed tournament points. He jokingly said we don't fish scared on my boat. Then I caught what I thought was a sure keeper and would be part of our bag. Rick said we would be culling that fish later and I was going to have to do better. Then every time Rick caught a Bartlett 'pig', he would switch baits and throw a Hirlemann buzzbait. I think he was trying really hard to make Lou proud. We had a lot of fun and we knew we were only one fish away from winning it. So we fished hard all day, fell short, and settled for 'Cinco in Mayo' but we still had a blast.

Rick is hilarious, fun to fish with, and I learned a few things along the way as well. Thanks for getting me those points Rick.

Team Russell & Marlow Use Everything To Finish 6th

Team Kevin Russell & Herb Marlow weighed five bass for 11.55 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

Kevin Russell: My partner Herb Marlow really showed up big time. He bagged our biggest fish at a time that we really needed it. That fish totally saved our tournament and got us in the money. We both had a great



6th Place Kevin Russell & Herb Marlow

day on the lake and caught an uncountable number of fish. We had culled quite a few times by 8:30 AM. Most of our fish came on jigs; drop shots and wacky worms tied up all of the loose ends.

Herb Marlow: Congrats to Allen and Donny on getting first place with a 14.44 lb bag that was pretty remarkable on Bartlett Lake. I met my new boater, Kevin Russell, at the launch and it was his first time to be a boater with his just bought boat and he was super nice. Kevin had already been pre-fishing and he knew where to go to get the day started. We had our limit at 7:30 AM. We started culling at 8:23. We had a great day and stopped counting the fish at 9:00. We must have caught a hundred fish like Gary always says. Hee Hee. We started off with top water lures and caught a few on Rico's. Boy that was a treat. The rest of the day was chigger craw jigs and I also threw a wacky Yamamoto worm for our biggest fish. Thank you to all club members for the great time. I am looking forward to the next tournament.

Lou Hirlemann & Joe Michels Finish 7th Overall

In **7th Place** Team **Hirlemann & Michels** weighed five bass for a total weight of 11.48 lbs.

Lou Hirlemann: I made another friend fishing with Joe Michels. We caught most of our fish on buzz baits, surprise surprise. I even caught our big one drop shotting a black 7 inch power worm. A good day on the lake, thanks.



7th Place Joe Michels & Lou Hirlemann

Team Floyd Vaughan & Mark Sheldahl Take 8th Place

Team **Vaughan & Sheldahl** weighed five bass for 10.79 pounds and took home **8th Place** honors.

Floyd Vaughan: Congrats to Allen and Donny for winning on our spot...lol. Mark Sheldahl and I had a pretty basic day. We started with reaction baits with no takers. Then on the first cast with a jig we brought in a 2 pound bass; the second cast saw a 1.5 pounder going into our livewell.

We threw jigs and C-Rigs all day. My co-angler Mark had a lot of experience of which I was glad to take advantage. It was great to be on the water again with all my friends.

A Few Reminders

By Gary Grimes

Starting: When starting out in the morning, you must idle past the start boat, within a boats length, before getting on plane. Yesterday we had a new boater throttle down prior to reaching the start boat, no doubt due to the excitement of game time, but nonetheless he caused poor Steve Wells (start boat) to do a shaky kneed balancing act as he tried to keep from falling into the water.

Covid: Please help us and try and keep safe distancing in the weigh-in area. Unknowing eyes will certainly be on a large group gathered in a public setting, and I would rather not have to deal with any Park Ranger issues, so keep 6 feet distance between members.

Livewells: It is the boater's responsibility to have a properly functioning livewell in order to preserve the fish. Make sure yours is in good operating condition.

Guest Column

By John Hilland

Congrats to the winners for some very nice bags for Bartlett. My co-angler Robert Plante was a great guy and we caught a ton of fish; one too many to be exact. I had the humbling experience of being DQ'd for bringing 6 fish to the weigh-in.

With the help of my wife and a few sarcastic friends I have turned to Amazon for a little help to try and make sure I don't have this happen again. I ordered a book "*Everything You Need to Ace Math in One Big Fat Notebook: The Complete Middle School Guide (Big Fat Notebooks)*". I plan on studying up before the next tournament.

Thanks to the club and all that make it a great experience every month.

Editors Note: It pays to have a good sense of humor when something like this happens.



Weighing-In
By Gary Martlage
Tournament Director

Another one in the record books for Midweek. Actually, it probably was the best average weight the club has ever had on Bartlett.

I hope this social distancing thing gets solved soon, because MBA guys are definitely the social type. We might need to work on a better weigh-in procedure, or at least get the participants to go along with the new "suggestion" of using the small cones at 6 feet apart for a wait line. Also, I don't know if it was because we missed a derby last month, but it seems the guys forgot how to leave the start boat, idling, and in single file! I have talked to some violators and issued warnings, but if we don't follow our procedures, it can result in disqualification from the tournament. Guys, this is a safety issue, and all need to abide by the rules.

More notes: a bag with "STRIKEFORCE" written on it was left at the weigh-in area. I will have it for you next tournament, if you will contact me. One other thing, during our last general meeting (in March) at the airport, did someone happen to pick up some jigs and drop shot weights off the front table? If so, please call me so I can return them to the rightful owner.

Hope to see you all next month at CANYON LAKE.

FISHING vs SEX....A REAL PRIMER
9 REASONS TO READ ON

#9 - When dealing with a Fishing pro, you never have to wonder if they are really an undercover cop.

#8 - You don't have to go to a sleazy shop in a seedy neighborhood to buy Fishing stuff.

#7 - You can have a Fishing calendar on your wall at the office, tell Fishing jokes, and invite coworkers to Fish with you without getting sued for Fishing harassment.

#6 - There are no Fishing-transmitted diseases.

#5 - If you want to watch Fishing on television, it does not cost extra, like when you have to subscribe to the Playboy channel.

#4 - Nobody expects you to Fish with the same partner for the rest of your life.

#3 - Nobody expects you to give up Fishing if your partner loses interest in it.

#2 - You don't have to be a newlywed to plan a vacation primarily to enjoy your favorite activity.

#1 - Your Fishing partner will never say, "Not again? We just Fished last week! Is Fishing all you ever think about?"

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

**Her husband
Jake**

**She thought it
was**

By mistake

**She kissed
the hairbrush**

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 Bartlett May 20, 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**

**Kurt Crawford (B)
Pete Gesswein (B)
Jeffrey Higgins (CO)
Douglas Moore (CO)
Dennis Thiel (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 June

Brian Bolander

Steve Bowlin

Warren Brackey

Casey Brown

Doug Cunningham

Gary Grimes

Tony Medina



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2020
Tournament Schedule**

15 January

19 February

18 March

22 April

20 May

17 June

15 July

19 August

16 September

21 October

18 November

Bartlett

Martinez

Alamo

Roosevelt

Bartlett

Canyon

Saguaro

Pleasant

Roosevelt

Roosevelt

Alamo