



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



NOVEMBER 2019 EDITION
14 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

The anglers of Midweek Bass fished their 11th and final tournament of the season this past Wednesday, November 20th, at Alamo Lake. We actually started the event the evening before at the group use area, where 55 of us gathered for the final barbeque of the year. Greg Prather once again did a masterful job on the grill, perfectly cooking 60 burgers and 72 brats. Gary Martlage provided his tournament famous beans, with even enough leftovers for bean burros for the next day. Fortunately for us the rain spared us and didn't come until later, so we were able to enjoy the time together. The barbeques are one of my favorite times in the club, as we get to hang out, talk tall tales and cry over the ones that got away, all the while enjoying icy cold beverages. Thanks to all the guys who helped with the setup and tear down.

Thirty-one boats fished the final event, and congratulations to Jeff Mabry and Pat Johnstonbaugh for the win. Also, "job well done" to Jeff for also securing the highly coveted Angler of the Year (AOY) honor, having amassed the most points through all 11 tournaments. It is

not easy to win a single tournament in Midweek Bass, let alone AOY. This is not an average club, as we have some great sticks, so to win anything is a tremendous accomplishment. This has to be one of the more difficult times of the year to fish that I can remember. It seemed that every tournament we fished, the fish were very difficult to catch; they were mostly deep, and not very hungry. I was told that next year most of our events occur during the new moon, rather than the full moons we endured recently, so hopefully that will help our cause.

It has been a great season of fishing, in spite of not having Saguaro or Apache on the schedule. This year Midweek has welcomed 27 new members and will finish with a near record 120 members (we had 122 members in 2016). Midweek continues to have the largest membership of any club in the state, while also launching an average of 30 boats per event. Not too many changes to expect next year, with the major exception of moving to a 3 fish limit during the hot summer months.

The annual awards banquet will be here on January 10th and I encourage all members to come out and have a great evening with the gang. Thank you all for your help and support this past year, the club is only as good as its people and we have some of the best.

Continued on page 2

MIDWEEK BASS HALL OF FAME **2019 Tournament Season Winners!**

Angler of the Year - Jeff Mabry

- 1st Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Tom Savage
- 2nd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Jeff Mason
- 3rd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - John Hilland
- 1st Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - - Rick Brown
- 2nd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - Howard Thomas
- 3rd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - Pat Johnstonbaugh

Lunker of the Year - Tom Alauria (6.59 lbs)
March 2019- Lake Alamo



"We Practice Catch and Release"



**Tournament Report
Lake Alamo
November 20, 2018**

**Jeff Mabry & Pat Johnstonbaugh
Wrap-up The Year With 1st Place
Overall and 1st Place Big Fish**

Taking home **1st Place, Team Jeff Mabry & Pat Johnstonbaugh** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 10.68 lbs. Jeff's 2.90 lb bass took **1st Place Big Bass** honors for the tournament.

Jeff Mabry: Alamo Lake in November and rain. Believe it or not this is the second time I have had that scenario and the second time I won the tournament. Good rain gear is worth every penny the one time every four years we need it.

I fished a team tournament a couple of weeks ago and realized the fishing was going to be tough, but not this tough. There were some good bags that day including Clinton Bell fishing by himself. The bite changed a bunch in the last two weeks and catching real fish was a challenge. Pat Johnstonbaugh and I prefished Sunday and Tuesday. Sunday we managed 6 fish, but my secret was going to be a buzz bait in the backs of coves in the afternoon. That didn't work! Tuesday we only had 3 fish and all I figured out was that you could catch them on nearly anything, but they were few and far between and getting a limit of real fish was going to be an issue.

Game day we were boat 18 and my start spot was close to the ramp. I put it on plane for 10 seconds and pulled up to my spot. I threw out my jig and started getting the boat adjusted so we could both reach all of the target areas and not have to move. When I picked up my jig I felt weight and set the hook. Our first fish was landed as the last boats started heading for their first fishing spots. I positioned the boat and turned on Spot Lock. We didn't move for at least an hour and a half and had 4 real fish in the boat ranging from 1.5 to 2 lbs. I caught 3 on the jig and Pat put in another bass on a swimbait with an

Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2019 is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4 December** 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 15 January 2020**. Club headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours: **Safe Light to 3:00 PM.**

underspin. We finally moved the boat around and tried other spots I had marked in that area, but couldn't manage a limit there.

From there I took the A-rig and started throwing in shallow areas with stick ups. Pat threw a number of baits following me. After an hour or so I picked up our 5th fish on one small stick up. It happened to be the big fish of the tournament and we had an audience close by to witness it. I continued to throw the A-rig shallow and the jig deep the rest of the day. Pat fished from behind throwing reaction lures when we were moving and jigs and Texas rigs on the bottom when we weren't. He finally picked up our 6th and last fish of the day on a spinner bait on one of the flats across from the ramp. It was a nice 2 ¼ pound fish to give us a ¾ pound upgrade and seal the victory.

A huge shout out to the weigh-in crew for always coming in a bit early and getting set up. I can't remember a tournament, this season, where I ever had to wait in line to get my fish weighed.

I want to thank all of my co-anglers for this season. In looking back at the four tournaments I won, co-anglers weighed fish in all 4 events. In 3 of the 4 I wouldn't have won without my co-angler's catches. Thanks Jason Stanton, Bob Jolley, Floyd Vaughn, Pat Johnstonbaugh, and all of the other co-anglers that contributed to my weight this year. I would also like to thank Gary Martlage, Tom Savage, Terry Johnson and everyone else in on the "you are disqualified for missing the meeting" joke. I was about ready to explode. Lastly I would like to congratulate Rick Brown and Tom Savage on a great year. They both set the bar pretty high which pushed me to catch them.

Terry Tassin thanks for doing all you do and keeping everyone in the loop!

Pat Johnstonbaugh: I became acclimated to tropical and hot weather early in life so anything below 60 degrees is cold to me! When I told my wife that we would be fishing in "arctic winds with torrential downpours", she promised to thaw me out when I got home! I could only laugh at myself when I saw Jeff Mabry was wearing



**1st Place Overall & 1stPI BF -
Jeff Mabry & Pat Johnstonbaugh**

shorts in the morning during the tournament. Thankfully, things started to heat up as Jeff put us on the fish at several of his favorite spots. His jig bite was working, while I caught a keeper dragging a full size Keitech with an underspin. Unlike our pre-fishing on Sunday and Tuesday which only netted 6 fish and 3 fish respectively, on game day we avoided catching any dinks. Earlier, Jeff threw reaction baits while I was flipping Hula Grubs and Senkos which had worked previously. He was successful and caught one just short of 3 lbs while I was not having much success. It appeared that things had changed from Tuesday to Wednesday. I changed to a spinner bait and caught a 2 plus pound fish. We ended up catching 6 fish total.

Jeff was a model boater – he applied his experience successfully, shared his knowledge with his co-angler, and even emptied 3 compartments in the boat to allow me to put my rods, tackle bag, and stuff away so that I wasn't cramped; some how the cold and rain wasn't so bad after all. It was November of 2018 when I fished my 1st tourney with Midweek Bass and it was nice of the group to gift me a 1st place trophy on my one year anniversary. Once again the staff amazed with a great cookout, a challenging but fun event and a dedication that would make any angler feel welcome. Thanks guys for a great year and congrats to Jeff Mabry for earning AOY.

Team Steve Grier & Floyd Vaughan Fish Shallow Win 2nd Place Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Steve Grier & Floyd Vaughan** weighed five bass for a total weight of 10.22 lbs.

Steve Grier: Congratulations to Jeff and Pat on a great job. Floyd Vaughan and I started in a cove near the Cholla ramp where I caught a good fish near shallow cover pre-fishing on the weekend. I didn't find much else on Tuesday so we headed for the cove. I started with a spinnerbait but didn't get any bites. I picked up a Texas-rigged brush hog (green pumpkin candy) and started pitching green bushes in 3-5 feet of water. Over the next hour we caught 2 fish over 2 lbs. We decided to try and fill out our limit fishing secondary points in coves where I had some bites in pre-fish or we had previous success. By 11:00 we had caught 1 small fish. After an hour for a motor repair we decided to head to the river to see if we could duplicate our morning success. (Many thanks go to Floyd who knew exactly what to do in response to the "low oil" alarm and got the issue resolved so we could continue fishing without risking damage to the motor). We went to an area on the north side of the lake where I had also caught fish on the weekend. There was not a single boat in sight when we got there. We managed to catch 5 more fish over the next 3 hours to fill out our limit including a 2.5 lb big fish. The fish were caught pitching trees and brush in 3 to 5 feet of water. We pitched several different baits but all the fish were caught on green pumpkin candy or watermelon candy brush hogs. I thoroughly enjoyed fishing with Floyd, we had a great time and I look forward to doing it again.

A big shout out goes to Jeff Mabry and Pat



2nd Place Steve Grier & Floyd Vaughan

Johnstonbaugh for their 1st Place finish. When I did a walk around my boat prior to heading home I discovered the bearing cap gone, grease all over the inside of the wheel, and the bearing trashed on one of the wheels. No way could I tow the trailer. Jeff and Pat were the only ones left in the Cholla parking lot. They helped me brainstorm options including strapping the axle to the frame and driving it home on 3 wheels (something I have actually done with a previous boat, from Alamo no less) or try to replace the bearing since Jeff had some bearings in his truck. We decided to try and replace the bearing, not knowing for sure if we had all the right tools. When we got the tire off, we discovered the axle on this Ranger trailer is bolted to the frame, something I had not noticed previously, probably because I didn't have a need to know. We abandoned the bearing replacement option and I drove it home on 3 wheels at 45 mph without incident. I'm very grateful to Jeff and Pat for staying, rolling up their sleeves and helping me get to a workable safe resolution. Thanks guys!

Floyd Vaughan: I'd like to start by thanking Steve Grier. I was a bit under the weather and he took the reins of his beautiful boat and put us on fish. He led the way to a great second place finish right behind – I can't remember - some rookie named Jeff I think; anyway, all our fish were caught shallow in less than 10 feet of water, close to heavy cover, and required very meticulous bait placement. All of the fish we caught were of good size but only caught 9 fish all day. Congrats to Jeff Mabry and Pat Johnstonbaugh for their win.

David Baca & Doyle Wofford Work Dam Area For 3rd Place

Team **David Baca & Doyle Wofford** weighed five bass for 8.72 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

David Baca: First of all a big hats-off to those who volunteered to work in the messy weather to prepare and do the weigh-in and a great job at that. It is one thing to be fishing in the yucky weather but the work was really



3rd Place David Baca & Doyle Wofford

a great dedication. Another hats-off to Jeff Mabry and Pat Johnstonbaugh for the winning sack on a tough day. I had another great fishing partner, Doyle Wofford, who had a great attitude and is a great fisherman to spend a somewhat difficult day of fishing. We started out in the dam area and started catching very small fish which we fortunately were able to cull a few times by the end of the day. Thanks Doyle for a great job! All of the fish that we weighed were caught on Yamamoto spider jigs in 30 to 40 feet of water. We both just caught enough fish at a pace that did help us to keep our thoughts off our wet feet, and at times the rest of our bodies.

Doyle Wofford: I decided to fish as a co-angler for this tourney because I wanted to take my trailer to camp in comfort and I'm sure glad I did! I was lucky enough to draw David Baca and was told by several folks to be sure and take notes. Dave is an excellent fisherman and I was able to learn quite a bit during pre-fish and the day of the tourney. We concentrated on the dam end of the lake throwing jigs in fairly deep water. I caught the first fish of the day on a baby brush hog on a drop shot rig but decided to take Dave's lead and stick to fishing Yamamoto grubs for the rest of the day. Dave caught most of the fish but I was lucky enough to catch a few as well. Thanks for patiently answering all my questions Dave.

I'd also like to congratulate the winners and thank the team that put together an outstanding dinner on Tuesday night. I had a great time and hope to fish all the events next year. I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all!



Money Matters
By John Reichard

Here we go again! We find ourselves with **NO** 5lb Pot winner at the last tournament of the year so now the pot is open to all club members as we start a new year of competition. If you were in the Pot before and for some reason you dropped out you can now get back in by

paying the amount back to the month you were last in the Pot. If you have not been in the Pot because you are a new club member or you just did not get in the pot this past year, you now can back pay to April (\$40) to be in the pot. The back cash has to be paid to the treasurer at one of the next two club meetings or mail a check to the treasurer. To all members I recommend you pay \$55 for the whole year in order not to drop out of the pot because you miss a tournament or you just forget to enter.

Team John Hilland & Kevin Russell
Fish Deep For 4th Place

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **John Hilland & Kevin Russell** weighed five fish for a total weight of 7.38 pounds.

John Hilland: Congrats to Jeff and Pat; way to put it together and get a win. I'd also like to congratulate Jeff on his Angler of the Year win, well deserved. I had the good fortune of being drawn with Kevin Russell, great draw for me as we fish very similar and work good together. We prefished on Tuesday from river to dam and used the whole day to try and get a clue on a pattern. We found the bait to be thick around the 30 to 40 foot depth in certain areas and used the graph to find fish below the bait. Once we saw a fish we would slow drag a jig and drop shot through the area. We decided this would be the plan for game day. On our first spot we were able to put 4 small keepers in the boat on a jig in the first two hours. Kevin caught the 5th fish on a DS just down the bank and we were on the move to try and find something a little bigger. Most of the rest of the day was spent fishing deep off points where we culled up 2 times and with an hour or so left we went back to our starting spot. Fish had moved back in the area which allowed us to cull a few more times for our final bag. Almost all of our fish came on a jig or shad colored drop shot worm. Thanks to the crew for the burgers and brats and another great year in the books. Happy Holidays, see ya'll next year!



4th Place John Hilland & Kevin Russell

Lester Rapp & Rick Knight Tune-up Lizard For 5th Place

A five fish bag weighing 7.11 lbs was enough to earn Team **Lester Rapp & Rick Knight** the **5th Place** money.

Rick Knight & Lester Rapp: Lester and I want to thank everyone who works hard every month coordinating the Midweek Bass Anglers of AZ tournaments. It was another great year! I was paired with Lester Rapp and what a great guy to fish with, especially in the wind and rain. We pre-fished together part of Monday and on Tuesday. It was tough finding those big fish, but lots of little ones found their way to us. We just could not find the big bass we knew are in Alamo Lake.

Early Wednesday morning, we asked each other, "Where do you want to start?" Well we decided to start the day across from Cholla ramp on the points. We were throwing everything in our arsenal from top water, cranks, drop shot, and brush hogs with very little luck. We came across a point that showed a lot of fish, so we went to a Zoom Watermelon Candy Lizard. We dressed it up a little by dipping the tail in chartreuse garlic and salt and then added some good smelling cologne. It must have made a good smelling, nice looking lizard, because we landed 2 decent fish on that point. Then the wind decided to blow and it was all Lester could do to keep the boat close to where we wanted to fish, so we headed to the other side of the lake. We finally ended up in the cove near the main launch ramp and the rain started. We worked our way around in the rain and picked up another decent bass on a white crank bait out of this cove. But with the rain, the wind died down and we went back to the points on the other side of the lake again and "bam" we landed 2 more for our limit on that sexy lizard. We fished mostly in 15 to 20 feet of water and it paid off for us.

It was an honor to fish with Lester Rapp. I hope I have a chance to fish with him again next year. We had a great time and learned a lot from each other. Looking forward to another great year!

Team Tom Alauria & Jeff Utton Spoon Up 6th Place

Team **Tom Alauria & Jeff Utton** weighed five bass for 6.73 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

Tom Alauria: I have a lot of people to congratulate and thank. First I want to congratulate Jeff and Pat. I also want to congratulate Tom Savage, Rick Brown, and Jeff Mabry for 1st place Boater, and Co-angler and Angler of the Year. I want to thank the tournament committee for another great meal and also for waiting until it was safe before starting the tournament. I also want to thank my co-angler Jeff Utton. It was a pleasure to fish with him and I hope to do so again. Finally I want thank Vern Ridgway for giving me the part I needed for my motor. For this tournament I found catchable fish in 25 feet of water. I called my partner and told him to buy some spoons and not to tell his dad Greg. We ended up catching a lot of fish and culling several



6th Place Tom Alauria & Jeff Utton

times. Even with all the rain and motor problems I had a great time.

Jeff Utton: First off, I would like to thank Midweek Bass and the tournament crew for putting on a fun, all be it cold and wet, event. I also want to extend my congratulations to Jeff and Pat for their first place finish.

For this event I was lucky to get paired with Tom Alauria who did the real work for this tournament. Tom headed to the lake on Sunday and had three days to figure them out. By the time I joined him Tuesday mid-morning he had already found a pattern and had a good bag of fish going. We fished for a few hours to make sure the pattern held and got off the water. We found them in about 20 feet of water feeding on bait fish and spooning was the trick.

Tournament morning however was a different story. At our first spot Tom picked one up pretty quick using a spoon but that was it. An hour or so later after a move to a different spot I caught one on drop shot and that's when the excitement ended. After the big rain went through Tom recommended we head back to our first spot and try again since we knew fish were there. That's when Tom says "I think the spoon bite is over". Right then I caught a keeper on a spoon (wish he would have said that sooner). That kicked off the last hour which made up for the rest of day and allowed us to complete our bag and then some.

Thanks again to Tom for being an excellent teammate and teaching me how to spoon for fish.

FISHERMAN'S HOROSCOPE

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21) - The Hook

Born under the influence of this sign, your delusions of fishing are doomed to failure. You couldn't catch a fish if it were coated in batter and swimming in tartar sauce.

Lannes Brock & Richard Brookins 7th Place

Team **Brock & Brookins** weighed five bass for 6.20 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

Team Roger Root & Bob Jolley Work Dam End Of Lake For 8th Place

Team **Roger Root & Bob Jolley** weighed five bass for 5.90 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

Bob Jolley & Roger Root: In 8th Place the team of Roger Root and Bob Jolley finished with 5.90 lbs for their five fish. Roger and I both pre-fished, but not together. I caught mostly small fish when I pre-fished and didn't have a plan on where to fish on Wednesday. Fortunately Roger did have a plan which got us off to a fast start.

We fished primarily the main lake towards the dam area where we started out by catching a few crankbait fish but unfortunately lost a solid bass which could have moved us up the standings ladder. We caught our last two keepers and a lot of dinks on a variety of drop shot baits which closed out a cold and rainy day of fishing.

This was the second time I have fished with Roger and the second time we finished in the money. I hope I can get paired up with him again in the upcoming season and we can keep our streak going. The weather for fishing stunk but the cook-out was great and many thanks to the volunteers who put on the dinner and helped with the weigh-in.

Fishing Solo John Hawkins Catches 2nd Place 2.65 lb Big Bass

Team **John Hawkins** managed to bring in the 2nd Place Big Bass all by himself. Even though he had nothing to contribute to the Bass Bites I am sure he enjoyed bring in that bass. (Editor)



2nd Place Big Fish-John Hawkins

Guest Column By Randy Gray

This is the big fish from a week long adventure into the Brazil rain forest. We were there November 7 thru November 16 fishing the Rio Negro. It was not a big numbers trip as the river was up too high but 27 fish over 10 pounds were caught. This one hit a 1/2 oz jig. One does not set the hook and fight these fish, one gets hit and you hang on hoping to land the monster. What is shown is 19 pounds and 32 inches long – MY FISH. Everyone should experience the massive power of a big Peacock Bass! The second person in the picture is Carlos our guide.



Carlos & Randy Gray



8th Place Bob Jolley & Roger Root

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Alamo - November 20, 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**

Mark Sheldahl (CO)



Please meet and greet our new members.

Club Apparel

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

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

- David Brakefield
- Amos Davis
- Dennis Dodd
- Rick Harang
- Jim Harder
- Rick Knight
- Richie Rojas
- David Sapyta
- Brad Shoemaker
- Steven Wells



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2020
Tournament Schedule**

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