



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



OCTOBER 2019 EDITION
14 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective *By Gary Grimes*

For those of us that stayed at the Roosevelt Lake Resort for this past tournament, it was almost like camping, except none of the work. Our boats were parked right in front of our rooms under the shade of 30-year-old Mulberry trees, allowing us the convenience of working on our gear just feet away from our rooms. Most nights after dinner we would circle up our camp chairs and share our daily fishing stories, while waiting for the moon to crest the hill just across the parking lot. Tuesday night almost all of our club members attended a dinner hosted by Midweek and provided by the resort restaurant. Good times.

The bite at Roosevelt continued to be uncharacteristically tough for such beautiful fall weather, but congratulations to Greg Utton and Dale Bayless on a great win. They won with 10.88 lbs., including a 4.64 lb. big fish. The presentation of the big fish at the scales drew everyone's attention, but a collective sigh of relief was breathed once the LED display stopped prior to going over 5 lbs. That pot will be over \$2500 next month at Alamo. Just a reminder that should the pot not be hit at Alamo and it rolls over into 2020, those of you not currently in the pot will have an opportunity in January to back-pay for any months in 2019 you were not entered in the pot and then to enter the pot until it is won.

We continue to see new members entering the club, and expect to finish the year with around 120 people. Plans are being finalized for the annual club banquet, to be held at Sun Lakes in January, details will be forthcoming. Alamo Lake will be the final point's tournament of the year, it happens on November 20th. The club has reserved the group use area for those who wish to join in this event. The group use has no water or

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

power, so you will need a generator. Showers are available about a quarter mile away at the Cholla campground. We plan on doing a barbeque on Tuesday night at the group use area, so come out and join us and let's make this the biggest tournament of the year.



Tournament Report **Lake Roosevelt** **October 16, 2019**

Greg Utton & Dale Bayless Put It Together And Take 1st Place Overall and 1st Place Big Fish

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Greg Utton & Dale Bayless** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 10.88 lbs. Greg's 4.64 lb bass took **1st Place Big Bass** honors for the tournament.

Greg Utton: First, many thanks to the tournament team for putting together another great tournament. The dinner was first rate with a great hamburger and good company.

Dale Bayless and I prefished Tuesday and it was a disaster. We caught one fish. So come tournament day,

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

"We Practice Catch and Release"

we had no good spots, no pattern, and no plan. We decided to just start on the other side of Windy Hill and work our way to School House.

We missed a couple in the Windy Hill Bay and worked our way out to one of the submerged islands. I suddenly hooked into one and told Dale to get the net - I had a "monster" on. And indeed I did. That was our first of the day and it came in at 4.6 pounds. Really nice to start out the day with a good kicker! I caught it on Texas rigged Robo Worm with a #1 hook - it was a little scary.

Then we tried a small rocky point and Dale tied into a 2 pound smallmouth using a square bill crank bait. He lost another big fish on his crank bait 30 minutes later, but that kind of set the pattern for us.

We tried a number of different baits and rigs through out the day, but the only thing working for Dale was his crank bait and the only thing working for me was the Texas rigged Robo worm. So, that's what we did. He fished reaction and I fished finesse. Not a bad strategy when you think about it. Anyway, we had a good day on the water and did a lot of "fist-bumping". We didn't know how well we were going to do at the weigh-in, but had way too much fun to worry about it.

I am looking forward to the next tournament at Alamo.

Dale Bayless: Well seven months as a member of the club and I am finally getting my opportunity to write to the Bass Bites. Of course thank you to the staff and another great run tournament. My partner was Greg Utton and I am ecstatic that I was a part of his first ever win in the MBA. However, not as ecstatic as netting our first fish of the day, and Greg's PB, which Greg said was a Carp or a Catfish. When she came up (4.64 lbs) I told Greg "That ain't no damm carp ". Then we kept it up while losing two bass about the same size. I landed a nice 2 + pound smallie. Then we started with 4 oz per fish and went up from there, fish by fish. I tried to help out by culling when we only had four fish. Greg and I decided we should take five fish in and I had some serious redemption to do, and I did it. I tried everything in the book, nothing worked. The only thing I caught fish on was a 1.0 KVD square bill crank, shad color. I logged in about 4,000 casts and put my wrist on ice last night, but it all

Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2019 is scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 November** 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 Alamo on 20 November 2019**. Club headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours: **Safe Light to 3:00 PM**.



**1st Place Overall & 1stPI BF -
Greg Utton & Dale Bayless**

worked out - especially the redemption part. Greg is a heck of a guy and I had a great time. We put in some serious work and it paid off.

Randy Gray & Gary Martlage Fish Top And Bottom Win 2nd Place Overall

In **2nd Place** Team **Randy Gray & Gary Martlage** weighed five bass for a total weight of 10.46 lbs.

Randy Gray: Congratulations Greg and Dale, nice job and so close to the 5 pound pot. Gary Martlage and I worked out to be a pretty good team. We did not catch a lot of fish but managed to get the right ones. We caught a few small fish (I mean really small 5 inches) but we just barely managed to cull them. We caught 3 of the limit fish on jigs in about 20 to 25 feet and Gary put 2 in the bag on a buzz bait. I do have a complaint - Gary as tournament director would not let me keep my huge turtle as goon fish.

Gary Martlage: It sure was nice to fish as a co-angler. My partner, Randy Gray, was a consummate gentleman during our time on Roosevelt. It is nice to fish with other boaters on an occasional basis, as we had FUN the whole day. We did have one concern that Randy's RPM gauge seemed to not work properly, but being an electrical engineer by trade, Randy used his finger to tap slightly on the gauge, and then it worked perfectly from then on.

Randy and I started down by the dam in the morning, looking for a 5+ lber next to deep water. Our first fish came on a lipless crankbait. Randy told me not to look, as he slid the solid 10 ounce fish in the live well, saying things should get a little better than our start. A nice 2 pounder was our next fish and it was caught on a buzzbait, and things vastly improved from that point. Moving to Sally Mae cove we immediately put 3 more bass in the boat, using jigs in 25 feet of water. We then moved to the pattern that was popular in the tournament, casting plastics, and reaction baits in the back of the coves that had dragonflies all around. It was fun, watching bass jump 2 feet out of water, trying to eat the



2nd Place Randy Gray & Gary Martlage

bugs in midair. After a solid limit, we moved out to the outer breaks in the Salt, finishing up with another nice 2.5 lber again on a jig, in 25 feet. Even though we did not get our 5 plus pounder we were hoping for all day, it was a blast talking to Randy about the olden days with the BASS Federation, Apache Bass, and ABC clubs, etc. I found out that we probably knew at least 20 other guys whose names were brought up including some stories that really do not belong in print. I look forward to conversing with Randy soon, and hope to be sitting in the back of his boat for another tournament. Midweek Bass is a class act club, and it is days like we had that make me look forward to every monthly tournament.

Jerry Askam & Gene Turner Catch 12 And Weigh 5 For 3rd Place

Team **Jerry Askam & Gene Turner** weighed five bass for 10.30 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Jerry Askam and Gene Turner: First of all, a big thank you to the club officers in getting a cookout organized with good food and great camaraderie. It was a nice time for our new members as well as the tenured members to meet each other and tell a few fish stories.

Jerry and I pre-fished on Tuesday and we spent a lot of time mainly in the Windy Hill, Salome and Methodist cove areas along with a few others. There seemed to be a top water bite that day and we used many lures including the Rio-Rico and the Whopper Plopper. We caught a few at sun up on the Whopper Plopper (mostly Gene) and the Rio Rico (Jerry). We also used drop shot with darker colored Robo-worms. We never caught many fish in one place but continued to check the lake out so we had a plan for Wednesday morning.

Wednesday morning came and we started at our predetermined spot where we had caught top water the morning before, but we did not catch one fish there. At that point, we started moving on to various coves and points. Again, we never caught many in one place at one time. We started out catching smaller fish which were later culled with larger fish, catching a total of about 12 fish. The largest fish (2.79lbs) was caught by Jerry with a



4th Place John Hawkins & Howard Thomas

spinner bait.

In closing, I would like to thank Jerry for being a great boater and coach for the day. We had a great time, told a lot of stories, and even found time to catch a few fish! It was a great day!

Team John Hawkins & Howard Thomas Fish Shallow For 4th Place

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **John Hawkins & Howard Thomas** weighed five fish for a total weight of 10.09 pounds.

Howard Thomas & John Hawkins: The team of Hawkins and Thomas are now officially the "Bushmen of MBA". I think the Hawkman (John) knows every bush in the lake by name and probably has every one he caught a fish on "GPS'ed". When things slowed down I would throw out deeper and John would say "Hey, turn around we're fishing over here, you know we have been catching our fish in 3 to 6 feet of water". And I would say "I'm trying to catch a bigger fish, I know you could use that 5 lb. pot money". I threw a swimbait the size of the fish we were catching but with no luck. The bigger fish are still on summer vacation. Ask Gary Senft he'll tell you all about it. Or, for that matter, ask Rick "the stud" Brown. I was shocked at his bag and I'm sure he was also shocked. I wish Trump would "Make Our Lakes Great Again" - don't you?

John threw speed craws in watermelon green and I threw my old standby 7" Senko until John had me change to a 5" baby bass or watermelon black flake. He thought I might be scaring those smaller fish away. John's fun to be with but it's sort of like being in a Seinfeld sitcom or Mash. Anyway I'm writing this for the both of us and I hope he approves when he reads it or I will probably have some sort of penance to do. Just having fun with you John; I love you like a brother, and congrats to the winners.

Jack Hughes & Jeff Bradley Use Big Worms For 5th Place

A five fish bag weighing 9.99 lbs was enough to earn



5th Place - Jeff Bradley & Jack Hughes

Team **Jack Hughes & Jeff Bradley** the **5th Place** money.

Jack Hughes: Jeff Bradley was a substitute for my original co-angler who was unable to fish. First, having Jeff in your boat is a real pleasure; I could not have asked for a better co-angler and he is a pleasure to be around.

Practice fishing was really slow for us. Practicing on Tuesday when leaving the Bobcat ramp, we noticed all of the fish on the graph and when we returned that afternoon there seemed to be more. We decided since we were next to last to launch that we would fish the Bobcat cove.

On tournament day, our first fish came on a Ned rig at about 30 feet and Jeff got one on a 10 inch zoom worm at the same spot. We moved down till we marked large arches on the graph between 25-30 feet. I think Jeff went to a 14 inch worm and I was throwing 10 inch ribbon tail worm. We were taking turns catching 2 to 3 pounds. When we landed our fifth fish Jeff said we have a limit. I looked at my watch and said it is only 7:38 AM. We spent the rest of the day in the same cove looking for holes with fish in them and slowly kept up grading a few ounces at a time. We caught fish on 14 and 10 inch worms, Carolina rigs, Whopper Poppers, Texas rigged 7 inch worms, Ned rig worms and crawdads. We had one fish that died but he completely swallowed the hook and worm and even though we could not remove the hook we just cut the line and left the hook in him. Jeff - thanks for two great days on the lake.

Jeff Bradley: I had two great days fishing with Jack Hughes. We didn't know each other and that can always be a little uncomfortable, but Jack made it easy. We caught two fish in practice. One on a Ned rig and one on a drop shot. Needless to say we weren't very optimistic

Tournament Statistics

Fifty-one men fished 8.5 hours each, bringing 117 bass to the scales for a total weight of 185.64 pounds with a 3.64 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.58 lbs. All but two fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

about Wednesday with the temperature rising, but we knew where we'd seen the fish. We decided to start at the same place we had Tuesday. By 8 AM we had a limit. We caught fish on a Whopper Plopper, a Carolina rig, a drop shot and our biggest fish came on 10.5 inch Zoom Ol' Monster in Green Pumpkin. We moved to the west shoreline and found another group of fish at the bottom of a ledge and culled at least one and maybe two fish there. They all came out of the cove where the Ringtail and Bobcat ramps are. By noon we had caught everything we were going to except for one we didn't need that Jack caught at the end of the day. Thank you Jack for a great couple of days fishing and story telling. You were a great host!

**Team Jeff Stone & Warren Brackey
Finesse Fish To 6th Place**

Team **Tom Jeff Stone & Warren Brackey** weighed five bass for 9.79 pounds and took home **6th Place** honors.

Jeff Stone: Well I told Warren I had a game plan and told him what and where we were going to do the plan and guess what – 6th place was ours. After a shaky start we hit the backside of Windy Hill and caught a few dinks. By 8:45 we were culling out bigger ones for the little ones. We caught most of our fish finesse fishing plastic worms and caught a lot of our big ones on Flats. All in all it was a great day on the lake. I had a great time fishing with Warren and hopefully I taught him a few things and he taught me a few things. It's always a great day on the lake.

Warren Brackey: First off, congratulations to team Greg Utton and Dale Bayless on their well deserved victory and to everyone who placed or caught big fish in this event. What a great day for a fishing tournament and another well run event put on by our club staff and weigh-in team. Super job guys! All your efforts are greatly appreciated.

It was my good fortune to be paired with Jeff Stone for this one. Jeff and I fished a Bartlett event earlier this year so I learned of his finesse fishing skills first hand. Unfortunately our schedules did not allow us to pre-fish



6th Place Warren Brackey & Jeff Stone

Roosevelt, but we were able to fish one morning at Bartlett the week before the event. We had a great time, got to know each other a little bit better, and we caught a lot of fish! Jeff is a very focused competitor and I truly appreciated the finesse fishing lesson.

The morning of the event, we decided to fish from Badger Ramp toward Windy Hill. I threw a Whopper Plopper for about half an hour. By then Jeff had four dinks in the live well. Bad news, they were not the fish we were looking for; good news, the fish were biting! We then crossed over and fished the mouth of Sally Mae where I caught my first fish on a flick shake. It was our biggest fish at that point, but that was about to change. As we came out of Sally Mae, headed toward the Salt end, we started to find our bigger fish. I should say, Jeff started to find our bigger fish. My little buck bass was culled within the hour. The fish were all over Jeff's flick shake and drop shot worm presentations. Around eleven or so I was able to put a two pounder in the live well jig fishing a hula grub. Around one o'clock we moved across the lake to the coves before the marina and proceeded to throw everything at them but the kitchen sink. We caught a lot of fish, just never found a bigger one.

It was a fun day on the lake. I had a great time fishing with Jeff and watching one of our club's best finesse fishermen getting it done. It would be my pleasure to be paired with him again anytime.

Steve Grier & Tom Atherton Catch 2nd Place Big Bass On Buzzbait For 7th Place Overall Finish

Team Steve Grier & Tom Atherton weighed five bass for a total weight of 9.69 lbs. Steve's 3.11 lb bass took **2nd Place Big Bass** honors and his 5.37 Carp earned **Goon Fish** prize for the team.

Steve Grier: Congratulations to Greg and Dale on the win, and thanks to the weigh-in crew for another job well done. We fished shallow water in the backs of coves in the Tonto arm and concentrated on coves with a lot of brush. All our fish came from 3 feet of water or less. In the first half hour I stuck a fish on a spinnerbait that we



7th Place Steve Grier & Tom Atherton

knew immediately was big. We got him through the brush and to the boat and I'm thinking all the time that this is our tournament. I'm willing to admit, when Tom netted the fish and it came up yellow, I was stunned and disappointed; a 5.37 lb carp - hell of a goon fish. We caught our fish on buzzbaits, spinnerbaits and Texas rigged worms. The big fish came on a buzzbait. We caught fish all day but it wasn't fast and furious. We caught about 15 fish and dumped 4 that would have helped our final weight, one of the perils of fishing in the sticks I guess. I really enjoyed fishing with Tom Atherton during pre-fishing and the tournament; he is a good fisherman and we had a good time.



Weighing-In By Gary Martlage Tournament Director

Tournament 10 of 11 has been put in the record books. Congratulations to the winners, and better luck to the rest of the pack next month at Alamo. We have reserved the large group use area for our last tournament, so anyone wanting to camp primitively in the area can do so. However, you will need a daily primitive pass for each vehicle that is camping. We plan on another cook-out on Tuesday night, so come camp and eat with us the night before the tournament.

As for Roosevelt, our 2nd in a row tournament went off without too many glitches and the fishing seemed to improve compared to the month before. I am very happy the way everyone pitches in to help the weigh staff and a special hats off to Gary Grimes, as he ran the scales like a well oiled machine.

The only criticism I have is during our pre-launch meeting I asked the boaters to go by the start boat at idle speed and in single file. I did see one boat in the top 10 (since I was 11) that did give the old "wave to the start boat", but was well over 100 feet away, and not in line. We send boats out in an orderly fashion for safety reasons. I am warning boaters again, you could be disqualified by not following the rules we have put into place. PLEASE don't make me be the one that does this to your team! Let's try it again at Alamo, and make your Tournament Director happy as I want to report on nothing more than great things Midweek Bass Anglers do. See you all at Alamo.

FISHERMAN'S HOROSCOPE

Scorpio (Oct 24 - Nov 21) - The Bait

You are an avid fisherman who spends every spare moment and your last dollar on your passion. This explains why all other aspects of your life are pretty much "up the creek."

Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2019 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**

**Brian Bolander (B/CO)
Steve Houston (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 November

- Randy Bosket
- George Cobasky
- Eugene Crist
- Wayne Kukral
- Ingo Moura
- Kenny Myers
- Greg Utton
- Jeff Utton
- Floyd Vaughan



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 Roosevelt
- 16 October Roosevelt
- 20 November Alamo