



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



SEPTEMBER 2021 EDITION
16 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes

.The bite was tough for many at the September tournament at Roosevelt Lake, but someone always finds a way. Finding his way once again was the team of Steve Grier and Chris Mabry, with a winning sack of 13.33 lbs, beating the Second place team of Bill Briggs and Spencer Hand by a mere 4/100 of a lb. Once again thanks to all who helped throughout the day, and a special thanks to the weigh in crew for handling the weighing of fish in a quick and professional manner.

SPECIAL NOTE: There was a bit of confusion regarding the October Alamo Lake tournament. Alamo Lake contacted reservation holders for October 20, 2021 that their reservations had been cancelled due to planned maintenance in the park. The very next day, Alamo Lake decided not to proceed with the maintenance, so the park is available for our tournament and yes, we will proceed at Alamo Lake in October. Apparently you will need to rebook any reservations you had made for the park.



Tournament Report Lake Roosevelt September 15, 2021

I would like to note the heart-breaker finish between 1st and 2nd place teams Grier & Mabry and Briggs & Hand. Only the smallest amount of weight separated their places...13.33 vs. 13.29 pounds. All but three teams limited out. Now on to the "good stuff".

Team Steve Grier & Chris Mabry Win 1st Place Team Overall

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Steve Grier & Chris Mabry** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 13.33 lbs.

Steve Grier: Another fun day on the ever-changing Lake Roosevelt. Shout out to the weigh-in crew, much appreciated. I pre-fished Monday in the Tonto and got a couple of good bites in the trees in about 15 feet of water. I checked several points in the Tonto from 15-25 ft and caught a few small fish. I also looked at some shallow water less than 3 ft with buzzbaits and got some bites.

On Tuesday we spent the day in Tonto and fished about 15 areas and points and caught 30 fish, nothing over 2 lbs. We went back to the trees for about 30 minutes and flipped shallow 5 feet of water and got one good bite.

We decided on game day to roll the dice and go to the trees where we didn't get many bites but we got better bites. We started flipping the 15 ft trees for an hour and a half and got no bites; they were gone. We flipped the shallow trees and caught a 3.2 and dumped a couple of good ones. We left there at about 9:00 with 3 fish - 2 little ones. We went to the shallow water area and filled out our limit and added one good 2.6 pounder. We checked out a couple of other shallow areas and caught a 2.2 pounder in one of them. We decided at 11:30 to take another run at the shallow trees and picked up a 2.9 flipping. In the last half hour, we went back to our best shallow water area and managed to get a 2.4 to cull our last small fish. The flipping fish were caught on a black/blue fleck Senko, and the shallow water fish on a

October 20 Lake Alamo Rescheduled

Apparently the scheduled maintenance at Lake Alamo has been postponed, so we will be fishing at Alamo in October as planned. Club members will need to rebook their reservations. Group Use Area 'A' reserved by club Sunday the 17th through Noon Wednesday the 20th.

**CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
WATCH FOR FUTURE INFORMATION**

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

"We Practice Catch and Release"



1st Place Steve Grier & Chris Mabry

white buzzbait and a spinnerbait. It was a really fun day. It was great to fish with Chris Mabry; he's new to the club and learning a lot. He fished hard and caught the fish that put us over the top. I enjoyed the day on the boat with him.

Chris Mabry: Prefishing on Tuesday we tried to get a few fish on Topwater but the bite was nonexistent. We changed to drop-shotting structured areas from the shore to 30 feet deep and caught about 30 fish with none over 2lbs.

Tournament day I was out of my element while we were flipping in the trees. It was dead for about 1.5 hours except one small fish. We travelled to a shallow

Next Meeting - Next Tournament

Our next club meeting for 2021 scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 October** 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 Alamo** on **20 October 2021**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.



2nd Place Hand & Biggs

cove where Steve threw a buzzbait and I threw a spinnerbait. We started seeing more fish and began culling the smaller ones. We went back to flipping trees and Steve culled a few more fish. Then we went into a shallow grassy area Steve was throwing a buzz-bait and I was throwing spinner baits. Steve culled a few more and I thought I was snagged but picked up my best fish just over 2lbs. Next we travelled to a nearby stand of small trees and Steve culled another fish. Steve wanted to travel back to the previous shallow cove to try to catch a nice fish that he spotted following a fish he caught earlier in the day. Believe it or not he caught that fish on a buzzbait and we culled our last fish for our final five fish.

Fishing with Steve was a great pleasure and we both had a good day. As usual when fishing with this club I was taught new techniques and ideas to help me in future tournaments.

Bill Briggs & Spencer Hand Drop Shot To 2nd Overall Finish

In **2nd Place** Team **Briggs & Hand** weighed five bass for a total weight of 13.29lbs. Thanks to Spencer's 3.61 lb bass the team also won **2nd Place Big Bass** honors

Spencer Hand: Bill Briggs and I had a chance to prefish Roosevelt on Tuesday and put together a good plan for the tournament. However, we did not stick to the plan very much. Pitching Square bill cranks in the shallows did not pan out and most of the points were covered by our fellow competitors; so we found a good empty point and started Drop Shotting. I had caught a good 2.5 pounder on a Morning Dawn DS with chartreuse



3rd Place Worchester & Goettl

tip. I ended up using that setup all day and we sat on the same point almost all day. We caught 4 more small ones for a limit then wound up culling out those twice and that made a nice limit. I caught the big one (3.61) around noon on the Drop Shot.

Bill is a great fisherman and he out fished me on Tuesday. I hope to draw him again in the future.

Bill Briggs: I thank God for another good day on the water. We started out throwing shallow crank baits around brush in shallow water but that didn't work as well as it did in practice. Being boat number 31 I was sure the points we wanted to fish would be occupied and they were; except for one. We spent almost all day on that point catching a limit of small ones first. Then the bigger fish moved in and we culled all of them within a half hour. Then it slowed down but we caught and culled throughout the day on the same point. Thank you Spencer for being a great partner and thanks to the weigh team and all others that make these tournaments happen so smoothly.

Team Andy Goettl & Don Worchester Fish Deep For 3rd Place Finish

Team **Andy Goettl & Don Worchester** weighed five bass for 12.23 pounds and took home **Third Place**

Membership

As of September 17, 2021 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **131** active members.

honors.

Andrew Goettl & Don Worchester: Don called me the day that Terry posted the boat/partner draw and I was disappointed to have to tell him that it was unlikely that I was going to be able to get out to pre-fish. He took the news in stride and tried to find a partner to get him out on the water a day or two early, but he was unable to find anyone. We were truly going into this one blind. I met up with him in the morning and we got all loaded and ready and headed over to the morning meeting to get our names and money into the side pot and it was there we came up with a plan. I asked him if he would rather catch more fish and hope for a few big ones or try and actually win one. He didn't hesitate a millisecond and said we need to try and win it. I said I figure there might be a top water bite and a flip bite in the creek and if he didn't mind a long run we could go give it a shot. I also mentioned that it can be a bit of a "Hero or Zero" kind of deal, but I was willing if he was. He basically said, "Let's do it" and we solidified our "plan".

We were boat 23 and I am sure at least one or two teams were already fishing before we ever left the no wake zone, but we were committed and off we went. We were coming up to Cholla ramp at 70 MPH and bouncing over a few wake waves and Don had a grip on the Passenger Console with his head down, and I felt a pang of guilt. I shouted over the wind and the Verado's supercharger, "Are you alright?", and he just smiled and said, "Makes me feel alive". I decided I was going to like this guy.

Anyway, we made the run up near Indian Point and started throwing some topwater lures and in about 5 minutes I put a solid 3 pounder in the boat. I thought it was going to get crazy and we were in for some fun, but that was the last thing I caught on the Spook. We fished the shoreline for another hour with no more takers.

I moved the boat into the trees up in Tonto Creek and we started throwing all kinds of things. Here is what didn't catch fish in the Tonto Creek for us: Squarebill, Rattle Trap, Drop Shot, Texas Rig, Shaky Head, Jerkbait, Rico, Spook, Spinner Bait and finally a Chatterbait. I had a Flipping rod set up with a ¾ oz Tungsten head and a Missile Bait D-Bomb that had been in my rod locker from the Martinez tournament and I grabbed it. I got to the end of a small run of dead trees and 'tick'...BAM! I swung another 3lber into the boat. We fished around for at least another hour or so and I managed to get a small bass pitching and a good 2.75 lber into the boat. After that, things slowed way down. Now in hindsight, maybe we should have stayed in the creek looking for 2 or 3 more quality bites, but we decided to start hitting some spots in the main lake.

We managed to fill out the limit and cull a few times on main lake spots in 15-20 feet of water using Shaky Heads and dropshot and worked our way up to our 12.23 lb bag. All in all it was a good day and Don is a real pleasure to have in the boat. Nobody got hurt, nothing on the boat broke, I got to go fishing when I should have been at work, and we managed to make a little money. A good day.



4th Place Rubenstein & Senft

Senft & Rubenstein Work Main Lake Points Take 4th Place

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Gary Senft & Steve Rubenstein** weighed five bass for 12.13 pounds and took home **Fourth Place** honors.

Steve Rubenstein: This month's tourney was a great time. First Gary Senft and I would like to thank our tournament director Gary Martlage and the weigh in crew for continuing to do such a good job. Also congratulations are in order for Steve Grier and Chris Mabry for winning the tournament. Same goes for all the other winners.

I was fortunate to draw Gary Senft as a boater, and we had a great day. I pre-fished last Friday and Monday and had a tough time; however, Gary did well pre-fishing. Our pattern for the tournament was to stay mid-lake and fish points. We started on points and began to catch fish on Texas rigged brush hogs. I caught the first 2 keepers each being around 2 lbs. Then Gary started catching fish as well. By 9:00 we had a limit and we figured it was time to start looking for bigger fish. We

Tournament Statistics

Sixty-eight contestants fished 7 hours each, bringing 160 bass to the scales for a total weight of 283.53 pounds with a 4.17 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.77 lbs. All but four fish were released alive back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

changed location several times staying on points, Even though we were catching fish, the fish were smallish. Then Gary took us to this one point, and we were graphing nice fish and that's when we started catching them, mostly on brush hogs. I tried a drop shot, but only caught some small fish that would not help. So, I went back to brush hogs. Gary was able to stick a couple of nice fish that we culled. All our keepers were caught on brush hogs. We kept circling this one point and kept catching fish and culling up. With about a half hour left in the tournament, Gary hooked a real big fish, and fought him to the boat. She was inches away from my net. Then she jumps, head shakes, and breaks the line. What a heartbreaker. By then with ten minutes left we moved a few hundred yards to the next point. Gary catches a fish that culls, and then I catch one that culls as well. We caught lots of fish and we had a decent bag. I want to thank Gary for imparting a lot of knowledge to me. To be honest, as a newcomer to Arizona, it has been tough learning a new way of fishing here. I want to thank Gary and all my previous partners for all that I have learned to date. Also, kudos to the club for the format of changing partners each month. See everyone at Alamo.

Gary Senft: Great job again Steve and Chris for winning 1st place. My partner Steve and I kept it simple. We just fished points in the main lake. We tried a lot of different techniques like drop shot, Texas rigs, and Carolina rigs. Texas rigs worked best for us using brush hogs, 7" worms and zoom small crawdad baits. We caught 24 bass and had a good time fishing together. We did loose one good fish at the boat. Thanks to the weigh in team you guys did a super job. All our fish were caught 10 to 25 feet deep.

Team Jack Hughes & Jon Andrews Work Salt Finish 5th

A five fish bag weighing 11.66 lbs was enough to earn Team **Hughes & Andrews** the **5th Place** money.

Jack Hughes: I fished with Jon Andrews for the second time in two years. Jon may have an equal in the club as a co-angler but there are none any better to have in your boat. I also want to comment on Floyd Vaughan, in my opinion the job Floyd does in controlling the boats during the launch, in the dark and aiding drivers is the best safety feature the club has come up with. "*Well done Floyd every month!*"

Jon and I worked for two days before the tournament on developing a plan for tournament day and covered most of the lake. We settled on the area between Windy Hill and north of School House. We refined that to four primary points and 3 back up areas with most of our fishing between 15 and 25 feet. Unfortunately, two of our points had club fishermen already sitting on the points on tournament day.

We tried for two days using top water and had zero hits. We also tried cranks and LV-500 lipless cranks with no hits. We were just unable to get a reaction bite

going. We decided our best chance was shaky heads, Texas rig worms and drop shot and they became our main stay for tournament day. We caught as a team somewhere between 40 and 50 bass on tournament day and Jon spent a lot of time with the balance beam upgrading by ounces most of the time which cost him valuable fishing time, but he never complained. We had 5 fish in the boat 17 minutes after we were released at dawn. Jon landed our biggest fish, 3.47 lbs. on a Texas Rig Senko Morning Dawn, and said "Let's see if I can get his big brother". Several casts later he hooked up to a toad and it took him a while to get it to the boat and when it was close, but not close enough to net, it headed for the bottom making his drag sing. He worked it back to the boat and just before it was close enough to net the fish broke off. That fish was well above 5 pounds and closer to six. Jeff was upset for about 30 seconds then picked up another rod saying I'll get his twin brother, he tried but was unsuccessful.

Our primary color's for all worms was June Bug and Morning Dawn for Senko's or 7 inch Zoom ribbon tail worms. Drop shot was Robo worms, 4 inch fat, Prism Shad and Morning Dawn.

Gary Martlage as usual ran a great tournament and had a well-trained Weigh-in crew.

Jon Andrews: I fished with Jack Hughes who had put in some serious prefishing time on the water and promised me he had some spots with good fish on them. Turns out he didn't fib. We had about a 9 pound limit in the livewell in maybe 15 minutes. Jack did most of the early work and I just acted as the net man. I was able to get our biggest fish early on a 7 inch ribbon tail worm on a point near deep water. We moved around but ended up where we started on the main lake and upgraded late in



6th Place Moore & Hilland

the day. I would like to thank Jack for all the prefishing he did, which absolutely contributed to our success.

Team Hilland & Moore Fish Windy Hill Area Win 6th Place

Team **John Hilland & Doug Moore** weighed five bass for 11.47 pounds and took home **6th Place**. Thanks to John's 5.11 lb bass the team also won the **5 lb Pot**.

Doug Moore: First of all, congratulations to Steve and Chris on their 1st Place overall victory - by .04 lb! Additionally, thanks as always to the crew for another great tournament. I had the pleasure of fishing with John Hilland, a highly skilled angler and even better gentleman. John knows Roosevelt well and after fishing together on Tuesday we had an idea of what we were going to try on tournament day.

After picking up a couple of small fish early on a popper and a crankbait, we moved to the bank near Windy Hill and found some success. I caught a handful of small fish on a drop shot while John went to work with his jig. We had a pretty small limit until John hooked that 5.11 lber. He picked up another nice upgrade a little later and we had our bag for the day. It was a great day on the water!

Randy Gray & Ingo Moura Cull Up To Win 7th Place

Team **Gray & Moura** weighed five bass for 11.05 pounds and took home **6th Place**.



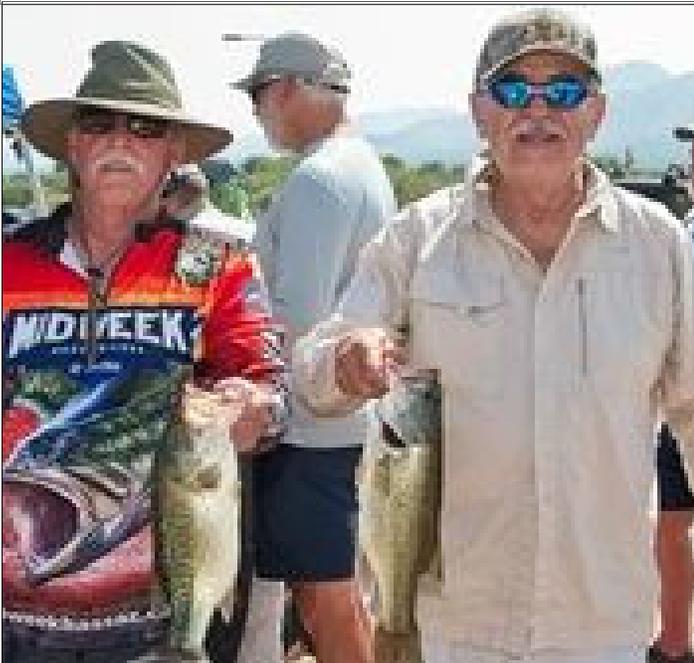
5th Place Andrews & Hughes

Ingo Moura: It was nice to see everyone again, I was out for a few months and it turns out several other guys were as well. It was great to see all the new faces, and seeing our club growing in numbers. Thanks for the weigh-in crew and all the organizer's time and efforts; you are awesome! I really like the new set-up for picture taking, it makes it less awkward and there are fewer fish flopping around the ground.

I had the pleasure to pair up with Randall Gray, a seasoned fisherman and a local on the lake. However, the bite Randy had for us was an afternoon bite, and days before the tourney, mornings were slow. We poked around on Tuesday and found 1-2 small fish every spot we checked, so we knew we were planning on running and gunning and trying other areas on the tournament day. It turned out the bite was on at the first spot we checked, on a point in 18 feet of water, and we had our limit before 6:30 with 5 "rats". Fortunately after that, every few fish got a little bigger so we kept culling, we must of culled 15 times or so and I kept real busy in the back of the boat. We moved once, but quickly went back to our original spot and picked up a couple of 2 pounders. We knew we needed a kicker but that didn't happen. However, the 2 pounders we had caught felt like kickers at that point. We must of each caught 25 fish and ended up weighing-in 10.98 pounds. Considering the rats we went through, we were very satisfied with what we ended up with in our bag. We used dropshots, Texas rigs, flick shake, and Wacky Senkos.

Thanks to Randall Gray for all his hospitality; I had a fantastic weekend, learned a trick or two and I hope everyone can say the same. See ya'll at Alamo next month.

Randy Gray: Kudos to the weigh in team volunteers. A great club is one that makes it go smooth



8th Place Pikul & Medina

and easy, that's you guys. I fished with Ingo Moura and had a great time. We are never too experienced to learn and I got schooled with whacky Senkos. I am going to work that method a lot in the future. It seemed that for this tournament the best approach was to have confidence in where you were and stick it out. That's what we did on one point with Senkos and drop shot. We caught more fish then we could count and got a nice bag, just didn't get the kicker. Fish seemed to be located at about the 18 foot level.

Team Pikul & Medina Fish Main Lake Points To Win 8th Place

Team **Ron Pikul & Tony Medina** weighed five bass for 10.98 pounds and took home **8th Place**.

Ron Pikul: Congrats to the top teams. Tony Medina and I fished and really covered a lot of water from Windy Hill launch west to Cholla, working main lake points. Drop Shot was the consistent pattern for us. Baby brush hogs and prism shad small curly tailed worms worked best. I had great fun and I am looking forward to Alamo next month.

Tony Medina: The fishing was typical Roosevelt; pretty fair early in the day on cranks, Senkos and drop shots. We pretty much ran the lake and came back to spots we fished earlier and culled out all our smaller fish. I am looking forward to fishing Alamo next month.

David Brakefield & Mark Durben Fish Brush To Win 1st Place Big Bass

Team **Brakefield & Durben** weighed five bass for 11.47 pounds and took home **10th Place**. Thanks to Mark's 4.10 lb bass the team won the **1st Big Bass prize money**.

Mark Durben: Congrats to Steve & Chris for winning the tournament overall, and to John & Doug for winning the 5lb pot.

David Brakefield and I didn't get a chance to prefish but David had some spots on the Tonto end of the lake he likes to fish and that is what we did. At the second spot I threw a natural shad Senko wacky style behind some brush and hooked up with the 1st place 4.1 pound big bass. David got it into the net just as it came unhooked. It's always fun to fish with David; this is the second time this year we drew each other at Roosevelt.





1BB Brakefield & Durben

Goon Fish Prize Won By Team Greg Utton & Mike Bloxam With 3.45 lb Catfish

Thanks to **Mike Bloxam's** 3.45 lb Catfish, Team Greg Utton & Mike Bloxam took home the Goon Fish prize of \$100.

Mike Bloxam: My partner was Greg Utton and I really enjoyed fishing with Greg, he is a good guy. Greg did everything he could putting us on various types of structure and we threw everything in our bags. But unfortunately it just wasn't our day. The Goon Fish I caught was in a cove on the Tonto end. This cut was a great spot on Monday and produced some nice fish on a 3/8 oz football head jig with a 4 inch chigger craw trailer.

We pulled into this cut and on the second cast I got a nice hit and a good fight. The fish didn't act like a channel cat but when we got it to the boat we saw what we had caught with a feeling of disappointment until we remembered the Goon Fish prize. The cut didn't produce any bass. So we moved on to many more spots.

Thanks to the MBA and the weigh-in volunteers for putting on another enjoyable tournament.



Weighing-In By Gary Martlage Tournament Director

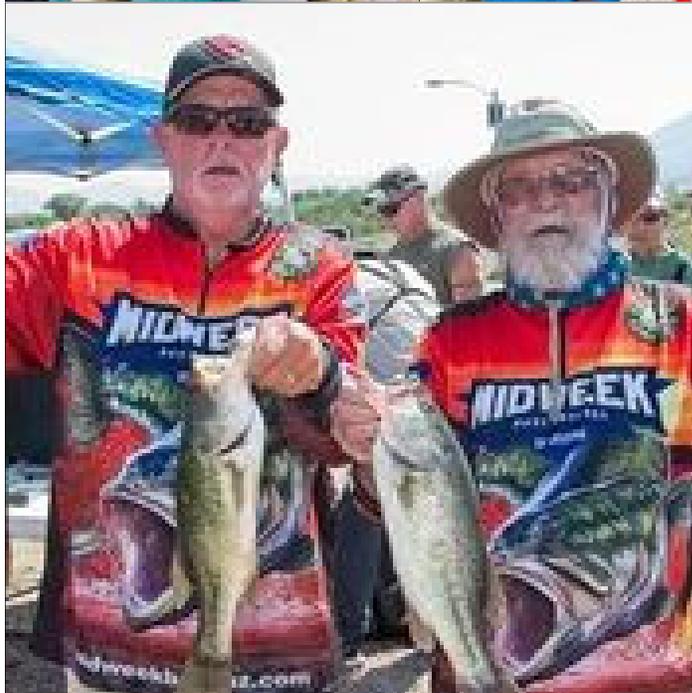
Congrats to the winners of the Roosevelt tournament. Steve Grier and Chris Mabry boated 13.33 lbs, good enough to take home 1st Place honors. On top of their winnings, they also collected over \$600 in Side Pot money. Not a bad payday.

As tournament director, I really appreciate all the volunteers at the weigh-in site. Rusty Murdock really came through with the easy-up shade, and helped out the squad while they weighed the fish. Newcomer, Doyle Wofford, helped out and everything went very smooth for a HOT day on Lake Roosevelt. I heard of some floating fish at the ramp, but by the time I put my boat back in the water, all fish seemed to survive.

We have had conflicting reports about ALAMO cancelling the reservations, due to park maintenance. As of this writing, they have not reinstated any reservations, so if you need to reserve a camp site please do so soon. We do know we have the Group Use 'A' area reserved for Sunday October 17th through Wednesday October 20th.

See you all at ALAMO in October!

Photo Scrapbook - Lake Roosevelt- Sep 15, 2021



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2021 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 and Returning
Midweek Bass Anglers
Since the Last Newsletter

Please meet and welcome our latest members.



Best Wishes and Happy Birthday
Born in October



- Tom Atherton
- Mark Durben
- Doug Haney
- Mike Hoffarth
- Robin Jackson
- James Malone
- Mark Peiffer
- Abraham Romero
- Mark Royal
- Joe Vogeli
- Mike Wall

**Midweek Bass Anglers 2021
Tournament Schedule**

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