

NOVEMBER 2018 EDITION 13 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN



One of these years we are going to experience both great fishing and camping at the same time. Alas, it was not to be the case at Alamo Lake for the final Midweek Bass Anglers tournament of 2018. The camping was truly wonderful, with beautiful days, cool nights and cold mornings, it doesn't get any better. Unfortunately it was a real struggle to locate and catch quality fish, but, as always, someone seems to find the fish. Congratulations to Clinton Bell and Ingo Mauro on finding the right bites for their first place victory. In addition, congratulations to Jeff Mason for winning the Angler of the Year Award, great job Jeff!

A trip to Alamo would not be complete without a club barbeque, and a fine one it was. Gary Martlage did a fantastic job on the grill filling in for our normal pit master, Greg Prather, who

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005 EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

was hunting Bighorn in the southern Arizona desert. Thanks to all the guys who helped with the setup, serving, and cleanup. It was great seeing Jack Hughes back in the field, as well as so many other guys. I just love our group; we have the friendliest, most helpful guys around. A new prospective member, Jim Duel, decided to get a firsthand look at one of our tournaments before joining. He was the courtesy shuttle in the black truck that helped at the launch and return. Look forward to seeing you in the future Jim.

As the year winds to an end, I am thankful for another great year. We had 11 great fishing tournaments, welcomed 33 new members into the fold and made better friends with the guys. This would not be possible without the sacrificial efforts of Terry Tassin, Gary Martlage, John Reichard, and Tom Savage, your Midweek Board. Thanks for your hard work and willingness to serve. As 2018 winds to a close,

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MIDWEEK BASS HALL OF FAME 2018 Tournament Season Winners!

Angler of the Year - Jeff Mason

Lunker of the Year - Jeff Mason (7.18 lbs) May 2018 - Lake Roosevelt



"We Practice Catch and Release"

we are making the final preparations for the annual banquet, to be held in Sun Lakes on Friday, January 11. Please come and enjoy a wonderful evening full of quality cocktails, great food, awesome prizes and great fellowship. 2019 is soon upon us, so it is time for boat and reel maintenance and to get those new licenses and permits.

<u>Wickenburg Marine:</u> One last item of interest to pass on to everyone; Gary Martlage received a call while on the water prefishing at Alamo Lake from Wickenburg Marine. They offer complete marine service, including basic maintenance, engine repair, electronics and trailers. They even joined us at the BBQ and passed out their cards to the members. While there, they fixed Lou Hirlemann's malfunctioning trolling motor. Located in Wickenburg, they can be reached at 928-684-3111.



Tournament Report Lake Alamo November 27-28, 2018

Jeff Mason Nails Down First Time Angler Of The Year Title.

Another great fishing season is over and the last event of the year was one tough nut to

Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our final club meeting for 2018 is scheduled for **Wednesday, 5 December** starting at 8:00 AM, at **Deer Valley Airport Restaurant** (just one mile north of I-101 at the intersection of 7th Ave & Deer Valley Road). We hope you will come early and have breakfast together.

The first 2019 club point tournament is scheduled for Lake Pleasant on 16 January 2019. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are Safe Light to 3 PM.

crack when it came to putting numbers and decent size fish in the livewell. The final club point's tournament of this year started off at 6:45 AM with boats heading to their start spots all around Alamo Lake. The tournament weather was great but cool with water temps around 61 degrees in most of the lake, but numbers and good size fish were hard to come by; in fact any bass was hard to come by. All fish were released back into the lake to live and fight again another day.

Now let's hear from our winners.

Shallow Bite Propels Team Clinton Bell & Ingo Moura To 1st Place Finish

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Clinton Bell & Ingo Moura** brought to the scales the winning creel of seven bass weighing 16.19 lbs. Thanks to Clinton's 4.72 lb bass the team also won **2nd Place Big Fish** honors.

Clinton Bell: Congratulations to Jeff Mason on winning Angler of the Year and all the other anglers that finished well this year.

Pre-fishing on Monday the plan was to start deep in the morning and then move in shallow as the day progressed. Ingo Moura and I found fish from 20 - 35 feet but the bite was slow for

The Rules By Gary Grimes

With the 5 lb pot now approaching \$2000, I thought it might be prudent to expand on one of the conditions for winning this pot. In order to win, the person who catches the fish must be a qualified participant in the 5 pound pot. In addition, I believe we would all agree that the person who catches the fish is understood to be the person who both hooked and landed the fish. So, if the person who hooks the fish is not in the five pound pot, he cannot hand-off the rod to his partner who is in the five pound pot.



1st Place Overall Clinton Bell & Ingo Moura

me and the people we talked to had the same report. Sometime around 1:00 PM we went to the shallow water and in about 10 minutes we boated 3 nice fish; we then left that spot for tournament day. We started there Tuesday and Wednesday and never left the area both days. The fish were in less than 5 feet of water and we caught them on spinner baits and creature baits. This is the second time I have had the pleasure of fishing with Ingo. He is a great partner and I hope to draw him again in the future. Merry Christmas to All!

Ingo Moura: What a humbling fishing season this was for me; I was all over the board this year and even an embarrassing DQ last month. However, finishing off the year with a Win is most satisfying and encouraging. Of course it helped drawing "BIG BELL CLINTON" as my partner.

Congrats to everyone finishing in the money. Going into the 2nd day of the tournament the standings were very close and I knew we were fishing with the big boys. Thanks to the weigh-in crew and everyone who helped out with the barbeque. I also really appreciated Jim Duel for being the shuttle guy; Jim, you'll really enjoy this club. It takes time to get to know everyone, but I feel like I have a lot of brothers here and you will

Membership

As of November 29, 2018 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **116** dues paid active members.

too.

On Monday I heard through the grapevine that it was brutal out there fishing. Clinton and I went out and quickly discovered it really was brutal, at least during the entire morning. We did find an afternoon bite, with Texas style craws and Brush Hogs. We quickly stopped fishing any area where we picked up fish and possibly had three hot areas for the tournament.

Tournament day we changed it up a little and went straight to shallow brush and threw white spinner baits. I quickly loaded up the boat with "rats"; "Big Bell" slowly culled our entire limit and topped it off with a 3.28 pounder on a white paddle tail worm. The rest of his fish came from craw style jigs thrown into the nastiest piles of brush available. If we found horizontal trees, we found fish. One or two bass were picked up on a Senko as well – we're talking 2 or 3 feet of water during the afternoon.

On the second night in camp "my brothers" attempted to poison me with some really good scotch and tried to wear me out with a friendly



game of poker. I'm not a great poker player, but I am good at drinking. I was worried if I could be disqualified (DQ'd) for waking up drunk...LOL. However, when I woke up the next morning I was bright-eyed and bushy-tailed and nervous about holding our lead.

We went into tournament Day 2 knowing we were not going to have the luxury of the afternoon bite. We had large grins on our faces all day, but we saw no fish until almost 11AM. We only had one more hour to fish and then Clinton picked up a rod and scaled down his bait to a green brush hog and threw it into the biggest horizontal tree in our area. Splash, he had a pig on that would not come out of the trees. This fish was so fat she got stuck and pinned between the branches. Clinton was working on pulling her through the bush and I got a little excited and told him to "get his flipping boat over there - NOW!" I had to get the net onto the tree, push the tree down, and then net the bass. Success! We were hoping she would go 5 pounds and everyone thought so as well. However she only weighed 4.72 lbs on the official scales. We went in to the weigh-in with only two fish and won with a two day total of 7 fish weighing 16.19 lbs.

Thanks to my partner Clinton this one goes in the books as a big win for our team.

Vern Ridgway & John Milkint Team Up And Finish 2nd Overall

In **2nd Place** the team of **Vern Ridgway & John Milkint** weighed six bass for a total weight of 14.95 lbs.

Vern Ridgway: A big thank you to the food

Tournament Statistics

Thirty-nine men fished 15 hours each, over a two day period, bringing 130 bass to the scales for a total weight of 176.22 pounds with a 4.51 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.35 lbs. All fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

crew, it was great! Thanks to the launch crew and weigh-in team for another outstanding effort; and congrats to Mr. Bell and Mr. Moura for their first place finish.

The luck of the draw teamed me up with the very talented John Milkint. He was fun to fish with and did his part catching fish. I was out on the lake Sunday doing a little poking around before picking John up early Monday (but not to early per John's request). My boat was on the trailer and ready to go fishing. I stopped where both Jack Hughes and John were staying with the smell of bacon and eggs filling the air of their warm abode. I picked John up and off we went for some pre-fishing activities.

We took the measure of some fishing areas near the launch ramp, to no avail; so we followed the birds and found ourselves up river in the trees. We received a couple of bites in the trees but we only set up on one fish to determine its size. We believe if you don't set the hook in practice, the fish may be there the next day as opposed to setting up on them every time you get a bite.

Day one we were Boat #7 so off to the trees we went but it was not to be so easy. It wasn't until 10:00 that we got our first fish. One bass in the bucket, then John set the hook on a bass about 10:30 and we had two in the boat. Then Vern (me) got spanked by something that headed for deep water with out stopping.

We went ahead and scratched out a 4 fish total for Day 1 with almost 10 lbs. I thought it'd be a "middle of the pack" effort with all the "5 pounders that were caught the day before"; but we were surprised to find ourselves in 2nd place at the end of the first day of the tournament.

Day 2 we fished the same way as Day 1, but 12 noon came fast and we only had 2 fish for 5 plus pounds which turned-out to be good enough for 2nd Place Over-all.

We threw top water, Senkos, jigs, and flipped a split tail grub that Yum made to catch our fish. They were in 6 to 10 feet of water next to wood.

Let me close this report with my Christmas of greetings to all.

John Milkint: First of all, congratulations to Clinton and Ingo for a strong finish in this two day tournament.

Midweek Bass really lucked out on the weather for November, chilly mornings but sunshine warmed the days up nicely along with light winds. Not bad for late November.

Now to the fishing experience. Vern is a pleasure to fish with and any co-angler drawing him will have a great experience. We spent the two days fishing in 5 to 8 feet of water around brush piles and trees. We were flipping small craws and Senkos the entire time with a few exceptions when Vern was trying surface lures. None of our fish came on the surface lures.

It was a very slow bite and we were unable to catch a limit either day. Fortunately we had some quality fish that helped us at the weigh-in table.

The camping experience with Midweek is always marvelous. The launching, the cookout, the tall tales, the poker group, and the campfires are memories to be remembered.

Team Jeff Mason & Herbert Marlow Fish River To 3rd Place Finish

Team **Mason & Marlow** weighed ten bass for 14.80 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors. Herb's 4.92 lb bass took **1st Place Big Fish** honors for the team.

Jeff Mason: A big thanks again to the MBA crew for dinner Monday evening, boat launching and trailering help, and the weigh in, great effort guys! Congrats to Clinton and Ingo, and Vern and John for their 1st and 2nd place finishes under tough fishing conditions. I was partnered up with Herb Marlow who was fishing in his 4th MBA tournament. Herb was anxious to do well, learn a few things, and have fun. I think he did all of that plus more, catching the 2nd Big Bass

of the tournament, a 4.92 beauty on a Bagley square bill crankbait in 6 feet of water. Herb



1st Place Big Bass - Herb Marlow

Guest Column By Greg Utton

I want to relate an experience I had after the October tournament at Roosevelt and the incredible response of several members.

My tilt-trim motor died during the tournament. The motor was up just enough to get the boat on the trailer, but not enough to travel. The motor needed to be raised by hand. Before I knew it, my Co-angler had rounded up four big guys to lift the motor while I tightened the hydraulic pressure screw.

When I started home, I could see that without the trim motor hydraulics, the motor was bouncing too much and could easily drop down when traveling at highway speeds. This could get real ugly real fast. So I pulled over and got some rope to tie the motor down. I was in the process of getting it tied down and heard something behind me. When I turned around, it looked like there was a convoy of trucks and boats parked behind me. Some more guys stopped to see if I needed help and proceeded to tie down the motor for me.

It's really great to belong to an organization where the guys are this considerate and don't hesitate to help each other. My hat is off to the Midweek Bass Anglers members.



3rd Place Jeff Mason & Herb Marlow

caught that bass the first day up the river and we both filled out our limit of fish using a drop shot and jig out in the main lake. I was going to try to fill out our limit the second day in the main lake but only caught 1 small fish and so we returned to the river at 8:30. We didn't get a bite until about 10:30 when we moved out in the trees and started using a drop shot. We filled out our limit but still had that little fish. I moved north and fished a small group of isolated trees and caught our biggest fish of the day and was able to cull out that small one with about 10 minutes left in the day. I made a new friend, had a fun time in the process, and had a great day.

Herb Marlow: First I want to thank Gary Senft for taking time to talk with me and encouraging me to join the club back in July 2018. Thank you Gary, one of the best decisions I ever made!

I have fished in four tournaments now and have had growing success in each one. The boaters Gary Martlage, Ron Pikul, Luke Spreitzer, and Jeff Mason have taught me techniques on how to catch bass and the right equipment for the bait I'm throwing. What a privilege to fish with these experienced anglers.

At Lake Alamo Jeff and I were fishing in the river, where we caught most of our fish, when I hooked this big one on a square billed crank bait. I fought it through three bushes to land the fish with help from Jeff's excellent netting ability's, and finally got my prize in the boat. Wow what a tournament and I had a great time with good food and great fellowship. Thanks guys and God bless.

Team Gary Grimes & Tom Savage Break Off Big Bass Finish 4th Overall

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Gary Grimes & Tom Savage** weighed ten fish for a total weight of 14.64 lbs.

Gary Grimes: Firstly, congrats to Clinton and Ingo on the win, you guys did great. I was fortunate enough to get paired with one of my best buddies, Tom Savage, for the final tournament of the year. We caught one fish while pre-fishing, so we knew what not to do. We primarily focused on the river end of the lake, catching our better fish on spinnerbaits on Tuesday, and Texas rigs and C-rigs on Wednesday. I too had a *grande lobina* (big bass) on the line on Wednesday, but it was not to be; I broke off in a tree. It was a very tough bite, very difficult fishing, but still a blast hanging out with the best guys in Arizona's largest and best bass club.

Tom Savage: Congratulations to Jeff Mason for Angler of the Year and to Clinton Bell and Ingo Moura for their 1st Place win at Alamo.

I had a great time at Alamo even though the fishing was tough. Fishing with Gary Grimes is always a good time. On Monday, we found a spot on the main lake where we felt we could



4th Place Tom Savage & Gary Grimes

putting together a great year of fishing for us.

catch a limit of fish, but they were small fish.

On Tuesday, we started at a spot which looked good but we had not pre-fished the location. After giving it a good try with no luck, Gary said; let's go put five fish in the boat. We headed for our small fish spot. In a short period of time, using Carolina rigs with baby brush hogs in watermelon red, we put five small fish in the boat. We were catching them so quickly we even had a double hook up. We were throwing several fish back when Gary said let's leave because we aren't going to win with these fish. We headed for the trees and brush. Gary's first cast with a spinner bait produced one of our largest fish of the tournament. Using spinner baits, it didn't take long for us to get rid of our little fish. I think we caught two more fish after 12:00 but they didn't help us cull-up.

On Wednesday, we returned to where we caught our larger fish but they weren't there. Gary did catch a nice fish by pitching a Texas rig creature bait into the trees. We decided to go back to the small fish and fill the live well. We ended up with two nice fish and three small fish which were good enough to retain our fourth place.

John Hilland & Rick Brown Finish 5th

A ten fish limit weighing 13.67 lbs was enough to earn **Team John Hilland & Rick Brown** the **5th Place** money.

Rick Brown: Congrats to team Bell and Moura for the win. Also, a big congrats to Jeff Mason on the AOY award; well deserved for a great guy and an even better angler! I had the pleasure of fishing with John Hilland for this tournament. When the fishing is tough it sure is nice to have a partner that you can BS and have a good time with. We did manage to scrape together a limit both days, but as it goes sometimes just not enough of the good big ones. We caught our fish on drop shot worms and Carolina rigged craws on the rocky banks in about 5 to 10 feet of water. We also caught a couple of fish flipping in the trees. Also, thanks go to the board members and weigh-in crew for John Hilland: Another amazing tournament in the books. Congrats to Clinton and Ingo on the win. I had the good fortune of being paired up with Rick Brown; he's a great fisherman and an even better guy. We were able to pre-fish on Monday and eliminate places along with catching a few nice fish. Tuesday started out slow with most of our spots occupied, after a few hours of slinging baits around we had one fish that Rick laughed at and then threw back into the lake. We did put together a small bag and felt a little defeated. Wednesday morning came with a new plan; we started throwing crank baits in the trees and planned to flip as the water warmed up. After a few hours we had two small fish and decided to run out to the main lake and try to fill our limit. We were able to put two more fish in the livewell and headed back to the trees for the final hour. Thank goodness we did, with about 15 minutes left Rick boated our best fish of the tournament and our 5th for the day. Thanks to the crew for a great tournament, hope to see you at the banquet.

Goon Fish Prize Won By Team Ballard & Howard

Howard Thomas: I must say I love to fish Alamo but I just wish Mother Nature would fill it up with water. Even half way would be nice. What a goofy tournament for me. Kind of wish the Goon Fish had been a bass, but at least it buys the gas to go up there. Thanks Mister Carp. Sean Ballard is always fun to fish with as he always has a chance to win. I like his style. He said "Howard, that's a carp", so he put the net down and went back to fishing and said "when you finally get him up top let me know and I will net him". Over all we had a good time considering I was under the weather from a cold. So, Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night. See ya'll at the pre-banquet tailgate party in Jack's driveway and to all you men on the board, thanks for another great year of service to the Club; we couldn't do it with out you. Especially CDR Tassin; we missed you at the tournament Mr. Pictures.



Money Matters By John Reichard Treasurer

Congratulations to all club members who participated in this year's tournaments. Thank you for making Midweek Bass Anglers the biggest and best club in Arizona. Each and every one of you should be proud of our club and what you have contributed. Once again our club saw new members join and some old members leave for various reasons. The fellowship we all enjoy at our monthly meetings, the tournament BBQ's, and the time spent on the water with different partners has been outstanding.

Our 5lb Pot is currently worth \$1575 and it has been a closed pot since June 2018. As the pot rolls over to January the club opens the pot to any current or new member to get into the pot by paying back to the current pot's opening date which was 6 June 2018. Anyone who is not in the pot currently can buy into the pot for \$30 plus \$5 for January 2019.

Gentlemen, this could be the biggest 5lb Pot the club has ever seen depending on how many members join the pot by paying the back amount owed.

I would like to remind each of you that we have a place on our tournament entry form to donate to AZ Fish & Game for bass stocking. Please continue to make your donations.

It's been a pleasure serving you again this year as your treasurer. I hope 2019 will be a banner year for our club. I wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope 2019 will bring all of you good health, happiness, and great times on the water.



Bassin' Basics

Stay Put - While fishing a bass tournament, don't get in a hurry to leave a hot spot. Many tournaments have been won by anglers who concentrated their efforts in one small area for the entire duration of competition. Thoroughly fish areas where you have caught one or two bass. What happens is a fisherman catches several fish in 30 minutes or so, then the bass stop biting, and the fisherman assumes he's caught them all. So he moves to a new area. That's often a mistake. If you change lure colors and lure styles, you can often catch many more bass from the same spot. Work an area thoroughly with crankbaits in a variety or sizes and colors, then go over the same water with a slow-moving worm.

Be Versatile - When fishing a bass tournament, don't be afraid to try something different. Bass often respond to a different technique or a different colored lure than they've seen before. That's one reason the "hot" worm colors tend to change from year to year and are often odd hues such as pumpkinseed or bubble gum.

Keep Your Confidence - One of the worst mistakes a tournament fisherman can make is losing faith in his ability to find and catch fish. That happens to most anglers when the fishing is slow. When you begin to doubt your abilities, you wind up fishing too fast, traveling too far, and generally not fishing effectively. Every consistently successful angler believes he will catch a fish on the very next cast. It's important in tournament fishing to keep the faith.

Stay in Shape - Many people don't think of fishing as a physical sport. That's because they haven't tried tournament fishing. In fact, an eight-hour day spent trying to catch stubborn bass in all kinds of weather requires a lot of physical and mental stamina.

An aerobics exercise program will improve your stamina but may not prepare you for blistering sun or freezing cold. Try getting conditioned for weather extremes by not using your car's heater or air conditioner while driving to and from tournaments.

Practice With A Purpose - When pre-fishing tournament waters, use the time wisely. Stay in a top fishing area just long enough to make sure the fish are there. Don't try to catch every fish you can from a spot you intend to fish during the event. Consider using lures without hooks; this lets you determine strikes without injuring or spooking the fish. The best use of practice time is in searching for new hot spots. The more productive spots you become familiar with, the more likely you are to catch fish during the actual competition.



Weighing-In By Gary Martlage Tournament Director

Congrats to all the winners at Alamo! This includes ALL of you, as we had another fine tournament to end the season. I cannot say more about the volunteers that help me run a smooth weigh-in. Special thanks to the weigh-in team (Tom Savage, Tom Alauria, Sean Ballard, George Cobasky), as I think we have this procedure down pat. Thank vou Mike Adamson, Jack Hughes, and Jim Duel (new member coming on board next year) for their vehicle use of transporting guys for fish release. I will be looking for volunteers to help next year, and I am sure it won't be a problem, as I constantly get guys offering help.

I know that Alamo is on the schedule next year, and some of you might be wondering about the water situation. I know we will have a great time in the spring, as the lake will fish a lot better than this tournament. The camping facilities are excellent, and rather inexpensive, compared to Havasu. Let's all pray for rain, and good health to all in 2019.

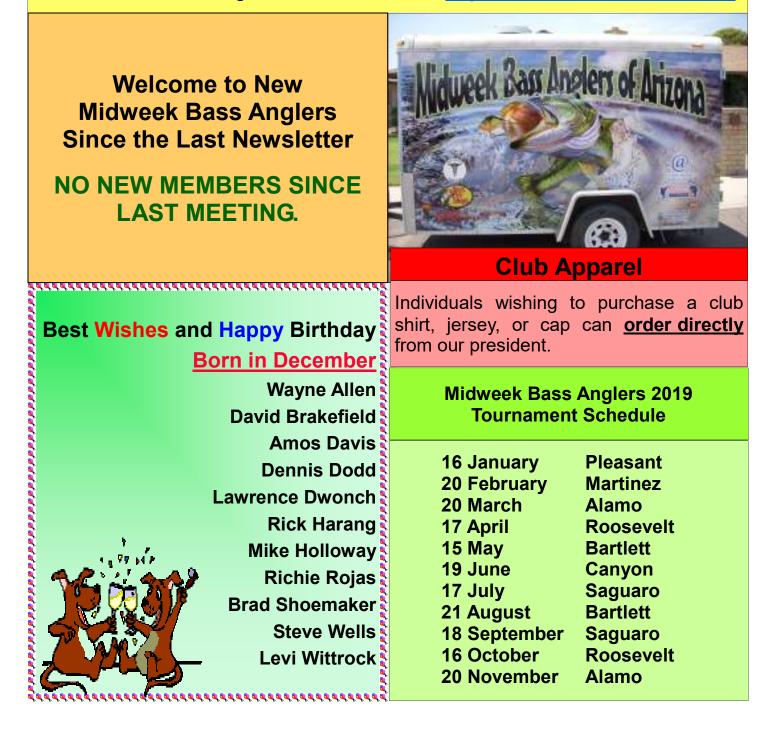


Photo Scrapbook - Lake Alamo-November 27-28, 2018



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RAFFLE COMMITTEE - - George Cobasky

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