



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS
OF ARIZONA INC

B a s s B i t e s
FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



DECEMBER 2016 EDITION
12 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



**President's
Perspective**
By Gary Grimes

**Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!**

As the door on 2016 is rapidly closing I wanted to share just a couple of things that make my job in Midweek so pleasant. The first has to be the guys in the club. We have over 120 members as the year winds to a close, and the pulse of the club is very strong. Regarding your treatment of one another, you guys are friendly, helpful, and considerate. Regarding your treatment of the board, I have always felt your support regarding decisions we make. We certainly try to make good decisions to have the highest interest of the club in mind, and though we sometimes miss the mark, you guys always support us. I believe it is the combination of the members and the board that makes Midweek so appealing to outsiders looking for a club to join.

Midweek Bass is not all about

fishing and having fun. Our members place tremendous importance on the future of our fisheries. Theodore Roosevelt stated, "The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased; and not impaired in value." Midweek Bass has taken a leading role in the state of Arizona regarding conservation of our warm water fisheries. We donated the first mold to the AZGFD for the creation of habitat reef-balls, we donated funds to help

establish the state's first bass hatchery, we are the state's first Charter member of the national reservoir restoration organization "Friends of Reservoirs," and we were the first group to work on developing the latest habitat structure - Georgia Cubes. We have developed good relationships with both the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Tonto National Forest, and are well respected by both because of our efforts. As we have taken the lead in these efforts, other groups around the state have

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HALL OF FAME

2016 Tournament Season Winners!

Angler of the Year - Rick Brown

- 1st Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Gary Martlage
- 2nd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Sean Ballard
- 3rd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Jeff Mason

- 1st Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - - Tom Savage
- 2nd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - Tom Atherton
- 3rd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - Spencer Hand

**Lunker of the Year - Spencer Hand (8.93 lbs)
April 2016 - Lake Apache**

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

"We Practice Catch and Release"

Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Hall of Fame Class of 2016



Angler of the Year 2016
Rick Brown



Gary Martlage
1st Place
Boater of the Year



Tom Savage
1st Place
Co-Angler of the Year

Merry Christmas



Sean Ballard
2nd Place
Boater of the Year



Tom Atherton
2nd Place
Co-Angler of the Year



Jeff Mason
3rd Place
Boater of the Year



Lunker of the Year
Spencer Hand 8.93 lbs



Spencer Hand
3rd Place
Co-Angler of the Year

taken notice and likewise began to seek ways to help in improving our fisheries, and I fully expect this to continue to grow.

Running a club of 120 members would not be possible without the sacrifices made by the individuals who comprise the board. Terry Tassin, John Reichard, Jack Hughes and Tom Savage have to be one of the finest groups of men I have ever had the pleasure to work with. Firstly, they are professional. What I mean by that is that they are dependable; you can count on them to perform their duties in both a timely and professional manner. They care – which means that decisions are made in an attempt to serve the best interests of the members of Midweek, and not their own interests. They are tireless – each of these guys spends countless hours every month

**Next Meeting
Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4 January** 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 next club point tournament is scheduled to be a day event at **Lake Bartlett** on **18 January 2017**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

“Other Notes From The President”

I always like to use the end of the year to perform some additional maintenance on my boat and fishing equipment so that I am ready to hit the ground running at the start of the new tournament season. You can find a fairly comprehensive boat checklist in our blog on the website, search under “boats.” Find the list, print it out, and spend the next few weeks going through it, one item at a time. In addition, I highly recommend servicing your fishing reels. We pay big bucks in order to have top quality fishing equipment and it is important to include proper maintenance to ensure they continue to operate at a high level. Find somewhere to have your reel serviced and get it done. There are instructional pages located in our blog on the website, search under “tackle and techniques.” If you would rather pay someone, for about \$30 per reel I would suggest Oliver at Pro Swimbaits, located by Bass Pro Shops. You can contact him through his website at www.proswimbait.com, you can also check out his custom pour plastics while you are there.

making sure you have the opportunity to fish. Their function at a club meeting or a tournament represents only a fraction of the effort they put forth each and every month. These guys are the absolute best and deserve our appreciation and respect.

I absolutely love our club and think it is the best bass club not only in the state, but likely the nation. We have something truly special in Midweek and I will do my best to preserve and protect it. As the year winds to a close, I wish to thank you for entrusting the board with the care of Midweek and look forward to a great 2017. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Seasons Greetings From
A Club Member**

**Views Of A Co-Angler
After Three Years:
A grateful Co-Angler
Ray Riley**

I have found the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona as a group to be very helpful and generous with their knowledge and time. I have never fished with a member who didn't treat me as an equal or a partner during a tournament. The club is centered on fun and enjoyment for all members not just a select few and there doesn't seem to be a lot of bickering or complaining at the meetings or the tournaments. My boaters have all had great equipment, which was in good repair and were very gracious



“Dag Nab It”

2017 Fishing License

Tell Mom/Wife/Significant Other a nice Christmas gift for you would be a 2017 fishing license in case you need a new one. Whether she gives you one or not, please remember to have a current license before our January tournament.

with their time and knowledge. I am looking forward to next year and getting to know more members and fishing all of the lakes. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Weighing-In
By Jack Hughes, Tmx Director

RULE CHANGES FOR 2017:

The United States Forestry Service has put in place several changes that directly affect tournament fishing on lakes they control. These rules are for lakes on National Forest (NFS) land ONLY and ONLY for tournament fishing. I would like to point out that the Forest Service managers of Arizona lakes had nothing to do with the changes that came down from Washington. All the Arizona Forestry personnel I have talked to agree that there should be one and only one rule for all users on the lakes.

The changes are:

1. After completion of a tournament, accounting paper work for Additional Fees must be submitted to the Forest Service within 30 days of the completion of the tournament to determine if additional fees are required. Information must

include number of boats, number of participants, fees collected and fees distributed, and total expenses. Fees not paid within 60 days will incur a 6% penalty fee and suspension of all remaining tournament permits in NFS lakes. *(This was previously done at the end of the year.)*

2. All records pertaining to obtaining permits, financial records, business records and supporting data must be retained and made available to the Forest Service upon demand for a period of five years from the end of the year in which the tournament was conducted.

3. The Forest Service shall have the right to enforce nondiscrimination provisions of the permit holder under the laws of the United States or the State in which the violation occurs.

4. Tournament Directors will ensure that participants do not block traffic or inconvenience other recreation users. *(This is new and I am not sure how we can do this at say Saguaro Ramp 2 in June.)*

5. There will be no fishing within the perimeter of marinas including tying off to slips, anchoring, or trolling within 100 feet of moorings. *(I asked for a detailed reading of this and what it means is no fishing within 100 feet of the perimeter of any marina or other docks on National Forest lakes including docks on the lake used for launching, camping spots, and rest room facilities. An example is at Roosevelt we cannot fish within 100 feet of the tires outside of the marina.*

(Also the rules do not describe what a perimeter is.)

6. Glass containers will not be used within the boundaries of National Forest Lakes. *(This includes glass containers on your boat so make sure your liquid refreshments are in a can or plastic. This has been on the books for several years and just makes common sense. They will start enforcing this rule this year because of many law suits due to injuries caused during low water conditions.)*

7. The Tournament Director is responsible for all participants that they follow NFS and Arizona Game and Fish regulations for fishing and boating. All watercraft participating within Arizona must be registered with Arizona Game and Fish

For clarification purposes I asked again, because I keep getting calls on this subject. If you launch a tournament from a private ramp is a permit required. The answer was: *“Any time two or more boats hold a competitive tournament on any water managed by the National Forest Service a permit is required. It was also pointed out to me a club from the southern part of the state held a tournament on Apache during 2016 and launched from the private marina without a permit and was ticketed by the NFS and their fines came to a total of \$3000.00).* **OK I NOW CONSIDER THIS ITEM CLOSED!**

As you can see, and in my opinion, this is nothing but over regulation by people in

Washington, DC so that people in Washington can justify their jobs. The new marina regulation I have been told off the record was heavily lobbied by "Several Greener Organizations". I asked how can a tournament director control what a recreational user considers inconvenience? In short the above is the current rule of the land and we have to abide by it until common sense takes over and resend some of them. Midweek Bass Anglers have always abided by the Laws and Regulations and will continue to do so.

As many of you know the NFS, especially in Arizona the last eight years, has been underfunded by the current administration. During meetings held to consider how to meet the budget short falls several consultants have suggested the NFS strictly follow the rules and regulations and ticket all violations to raise funds. The problem with this is the funds raised by ticketing go to the Treasury not the NFS. The NFS is also very concerned about its image with users and is trying hard to be seen as a friendly steward of the land at the local level. I personally think on a day-to-day basis NFS personnel in Arizona do an excellent job over all.

My last item is when we were audited this year

for tournaments held in the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 the only negative comment from the auditor was not all entry forms were filled out completely. All other records and payments to the NFS were found to be accurate. Please, in the future, fill out the forms completely if you do not use Pay Pal because if you don't fill it out either John Reichard or I have to finish the job for you and we have enough work keeping up with all the additional paper work from the government.

We are working very closely with the Tonto National Forest Service for clarification and even elimination of some of the regulations. Our concerns are shared by the TNF personnel and they are working very close with us. **DO NOT BLAME THE LOCAL TNF PERSONNEL!**

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU FROM YOUR TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:

2016 has been the best year for me as your Tournament Director since I took on the job. Midweek Bass has led the way in supporting AZG&F programs and the future of bass fishing in Arizona with both your time and money. The club members have responded to every request when I have asked for help and the attitude of the club has changed from we fish every Wednesday to these are my friends and I like



Editor's Log *By Terry Tassin*

In this the end of our 11th year of publication, it has again been an honor and privilege to serve you as editor and publisher of Bass Bites. I am most pleased to count you among our readers. On behalf of the club's Board of Directors and staff, thank you and we wish you all a

**Very Merry Christmas And
A Happy New Year!**

HAPPY NEW YEAR ***From Your Board of Directors*** ***The Five Wise Men!***



being with them and I enjoy my family joining in club events. Every year we see more and more wives/husband/significant others and off-spring at BBQ's, the club annual cruise, and banquets. The proof of how well we are doing is in the high number of members we have, which is incidentally the largest bass club in the state. You should all pat yourselves on the back because you made it happen!

Do not miss the January 4th meeting where we will have two AZG&F guest speakers - Chris Cantrell, Director of AZG&F for Fishing (he is the number one guy for fishing activities within the state) and Andy Clark, Director of Warm Water Fishing in Arizona and a real friend of the club. The discussion will be on the future of bass fishing in Arizona.

Santa's Top Groaners

1. What is a frog's favorite sport?
Fly fishing
2. What did the angler take home from the baseball game?
The catch of the day
3. Where did the fish go to get its nose fixed?
To the plastic sturgeon
4. Why couldn't Batman go fishing?
Because Robin ate all the worms
8. What do Texans call sushi?
Bait
5. What fish was a famous actress?
Marlin Monroe
6. Where do ghosts fish in North America?
Lake Eerie

SEASONS GREETINGS 2016

And on the first day of 2017 I am going fishing to try-out my new casting reel but for now I am





What: **11th Annual Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona
Recognition Dinner**

Who: Members of Midweek Bass Anglers and their Guests

When: Wednesday, January 11, 2017; Social Hour at 6:00 PM with dinner at 7:00 PM

Where: **Elks Club Phoenix Lodge #335 B.P.O.E**

14424 North 32nd Street

Phoenix, AZ 85032

Phone: 602-482-2339

Cost: \$35.00 per Guest - - Club Members \$20. (Club pays tax and gratuity)

Menu: **CATERED BUFFET**

* Traditional Caesar Salad.*

* Carved Prime Rib of Beef, Au Jus *

* Breast of Chicken Marsala*

* Angel Hair Pasta *

* Parsley Red Skin Potatoes *

* Chef's Choice Vegetable Medley *

Included: Rolls & Butter, Coffee & Iced Tea Service and Chef's Choice Dessert

Cash Bar for Alcoholic Beverages

-- ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED --

NO MEAL REFUNDS AFTER MEAL ORDERS PLACED WITH RESTAURANT JANUARY 4th

Cut on dotted line and return Reservation Slip with Payment

Please Respond No Later Than 10 AM January 4, 2017

**** Reservations may be submitted online using club website ****

11th ANNUAL MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS RECOGNITION DINNER RESERVATION

Please reserve _____ meals for:

Name(s) of Attendees:

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (\$35.00 each for Guests – Club Members \$20)
made out to **Midweek Bass Anglers**. **New 2017 members are considered guests.**

Mail to: **Midweek Bass Anglers
C/O Terry Tassin
4333 W. Echo Lane
Glendale, AZ 85302-6630**



Many Thanks to a Great Team This Past Year

By Terry Tassin
Editor, *Bass Bites*

As the year draws to a close, I'd like to express my appreciation to the regular contributors to *Bass Bites* who provide the content that makes this publication so informative and useful to our members. They make my job so much easier. So here's a hearty salute to Gary Grimes, Jack Hughes, and John Reichard, and a special thanks to my wife, Fran, who proof reads every page before I send it out. Also, let's not forget all of the club members who provide write-ups after each tournament telling everyone where and how they caught their fish. Without the input from each and every one of them, readers of our monthly newsletter would have to put up with just my "word-smithing" and after **ELEVEN** years of putting together the *Bass Bites* each month I have about run out of original copy ideas. Hint, hint, I am open to suggestions.

Some of you are probably saying to yourself (and others) "Why does Terry bother putting out a holiday edition of the *Bass Bites* each year? There are no fishing & catching reports to put out, so why?"

I guess it just comes down to being a glutton-for-punishment and to wanting to have a way to provide a platform for those members wishing to express their thoughts about the fishing this year and a way for them to wish all club members best wishes for the holidays. Some years members provide many articles for this end of year edition; other years not so much – we just have to take what we get and pass the information on to everyone.

As you can see from reading this edition, I also use this *Bass Bites* to recognize the top fishermen for the year by listing them with their photos on a page I call the "**Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Hall of Fame Class of 2016.**" It's not much and the big acknowledgement comes at the Annual Awards Banquet the second Wednesday of January.

Speaking of the awards banquet, below is just a reminder to make your reservations soon and no later than 10AM 4 January 2017. On 4 January I must tell the restaurant how many meals they need to prepare for the dinner. I am placing the information flyer concerning the dinner elsewhere in this issue of ***Bass Bites*** just in case you "misplaced" the previous flyer I sent out.

Don't forget – the **11th Annual Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Recognition Dinner** will be held Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at the Elks Club Phoenix Lodge, 14424 North 32nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85032. Social Hour begins at 6 PM with dinner at 7 PM. Cost is \$35 per non member and \$20 per 2016 club member. Advance reservations are required so do not wait – get your reservation form with your check to the club Secretary no later than 10AM 4 January 2017.

As usual, at the dinner, the club will be holding a **HUGE** raffle of lots of fishing items plus some non fishing related items. This is just a reminder for those of you planning on taking part in the club awards dinner raffle; Raffle Master **George Cobasky** won't have much in the way of small bills to make change. So please - no \$100 dollar bills for \$5 worth of tickets. The price of tickets this year is \$5 per ticket. So that being the case \$20 gets 4 tickets, \$50 buys 10 tickets, and so on. A special raffle for the ladies will also take place using the one **free** ticket each lady will get with their name tag when checking in to the party. And as George says, "Let's all have a GREAT time."

Just in case I don't see you before Christmas, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very

Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2017 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Gary Grimes 623-203-7436

SECRETARY

Terry Tassin 623-931-1546

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Jack Hughes 480-510-7779

Committee / Chairmen

PROGRAMS

Tom Savage

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE Jack Hughes-Chairman

Gary Grimes, Terry Tassin, Tom Savage, John Reichard

RAFFLE COMMITTEE -- George Cobasky

VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Savage 602-432-8589

TREASURER

John Reichard 623-512-0238

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Terry Tassin

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Tom Savage

CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE - John Reichard

Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>



"The latest survey shows you are pretty strong with fishermen this year"

**Official Supplier of
Midweek Bass Anglers Club Apparel**

John Balzic
Owner
10802 N. 43RD AVE #2
GLENDALE, AZ 85304
P 602-548-4200
F 602-548-4204
john@mandjtrophies.com
www.mandjtrophies.com

Awards • Engraving & Sandblasting • Screenprinting • Embroidery

Individuals wishing to purchase a club shirt or cap can **order directly** from our provider - **M & J Trophies & Apparel**, 10802 N. 43rd Ave, Glendale, Arizona. See their ad above.

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday
Born in January

- Jerry Askam
- Clinton Bell
- John Browning
- John Milkint
- Dave Rice
- Jason Riddle
- Vern Ridgway
- Roger Root
- Tom Savage
- Gary Senft
- Jason Wacker
- Larry White



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2017
Tournament Schedule**

- 18 January Bartlett
- 15 February Roosevelt
- 14-15 March Havasu (1.5 Days)
- 19 April Saguaro
- 17 May Apache
- 21 June Pleasant
- 19 July Bartlett (Night)
- 16 August Saguaro
- 20 September Canyon
- 18-October Roosevelt
- 14-15 November Apache (1.5 Days)