

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS  
OF ARIZONA INC

B a s s B i t e s

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



DECEMBER 2017 EDITION  
13 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005  
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's  
Perspective  
By Gary Grimes

Merry Christmas!  
Happy New Year!

As this year winds down to its end, I wanted to take a moment to ponder on some of the club's highlights of this past twelve months. We put a record number of boats on the water this year, and welcomed several new members. In February, our club assisted AZGFD with the construction of more habitats for our lakes. In March, we transferred our accounting to an online based software (boring, but it really helps keep better track of the money), which should help for future personnel changes on the board. In April, at Saguaro Lake, not one but two of our anglers caught 9 lb. fish. Tony Medina caught the bigger fish and ended up with the big fish of the year. Way to go Tony!

The month of May found us at Apache Lake, where golden algae

created a rather unique condition that caused a high concentration of fish way up river and almost all 30 boats to be fishing within a mile of each other at the river's beginning at the base of Roosevelt Lake dam, and we all caught plenty of fish. What a crazy and fun day it was, unfortunately Apache hasn't been the same since. Hopefully the fish will recover over the next few months in time for our May 2018 tournament. June's excessive heat caused us to cancel the tournament at

Lake Pleasant, and unfortunately we were unable to reschedule. July saw Midweek fish its first night tournament in years at Bartlett Lake. Though the fishing was a bit better than during the day, many of our guys have difficulty fishing at night so we are not likely to see a repeat of a night tourney any time soon.

By August, AZGFD had shut down Saguaro and Apache Lakes to tournament fishing due to the golden algae

Continued on page 3

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

**MIDWEEK BASS HALL OF FAME**  
**2017 Tournament Season Winners!**

*Angler of the Year - Clinton Bell*

1st Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Sean Ballard  
2nd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Gary Grimes  
3rd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - David Baca

1st Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - - Paul Ojala  
2nd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - - Tom Atherton  
3rd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - Howard Thomas

Lunker of the Year - Tony Medina (9.60 lbs)  
April 2017 - Lake Saguaro

**"We Practice Catch and Release"**

# Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Hall of Fame Class of 2017



**Angler of the Year 2017**  
**Clinton Bell**



**Sean Ballard**  
*1st Place*  
*Boater of the Year*



**Paul Ojala**  
*1st Place*  
*Co-Angler of the Year*



**Gary Grimes**  
*2nd Place*  
*Boater of the Year*



**Tom Atherton**  
*2nd Place*  
*Co-Angler of the Year*



**David Baca**  
*3rd Place*  
*Boater of the Year*



**Lunker of the Year**  
**Tony Medina 9.60 lbs**



**Howard Thomas**  
*3rd Place*  
*Co-Angler of the Year*

bloom. This caused poor Jack to scramble for new permits for different lakes, and as always he prevailed. In addition, in August we received notification from Friends of Reservoirs that we had been awarded a grant of \$35,000 to be used for habitat projects in our lakes. In October many from Midweek joined with the AZGFD for a three day habitat project at Roosevelt Lake where we assembled and installed over 400 pieces of structure. October also was our Roosevelt Lake tournament, and many of us enjoyed a pre-tournament gathering at Boston's Lakeside Grill. November found us back again at Apache lake for our final tournament of the year. This tournament included a club barbecue the night before the fishing, which was another great time for all of us to get together.

All in all a very busy year. Jack Hughes ended a successful 5 year stint as tournament director. His professionalism and diligence helped affirm our club's standing in the state as one of the finest tournament organizations around. In addition, during his tenure we saw our relationship with both AZGFD and the USFS improve. Great job sir.

The 2018 tournament season is less than a month away, and I am looking forward to another great year with you guys. Thanks to the other guys on the board, your efforts and professionalism are reflected in the quality of our club. Super Job. Thanks to all the guys who help at the meetings, barbecues and weigh-ins. Your help is greatly appreciated. Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you next year.

growing in members and quality of fishermen and only getting better in the years to come. Thanks to all my co-anglers this year for all their effort, we had a good year. I can't remember one incident where anyone got upset or a little sideways except for maybe loosing a good fish. The fishing this year wasn't as good as some of the years past but I'm expecting the next few years to be much better and hopefully Apache will rebound quickly. I'm looking forward to next year and especially Havasu. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and safe New Year and in all the hubbub of the Holidays try to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

**Otto Gal:** Recently I had an opportunity to express an opinion about Thanksgiving in America. What am I thankful for? This year I celebrated my 60th Thanksgiving in America. I'm thankful for family, friends and being American. I give thanks for all the service men and women in the military. Also, thank God I'm a fisherman.



**"Dag Nab It"**

**Next Meeting  
Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 3 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 points tournament is scheduled to be a day event at **Lake Bartlett** on **17 January 2018**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

**Seasons Greetings From  
Club Members**

**Lisa & Ingo Moura:** We wish everyone in the club a Very Big Christbass and a Safe New Reel.

**Clinton Bell:** I would like to say thanks to everyone involved in making sure our tournaments run smooth as possible - you guys do a GREAT JOB. I have been fishing tournaments for 40 plus years and fished in several different clubs over the years and this is the best run and organized club that I have ever been involved in. I see this club

### 2018 Fishing License

Tell Mom/Wife/Significant Other a nice Christmas gift for you would be a 2018 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.

Being a new Midweek Bass member I don't have many fishing memories for 2017. However the memories I have are 95% good. Being in the money three times out of five tournaments is testament to the boaters I was paired with. The one time that I was the boater I should have listened to my co-angler more closely. Also I should have listened to the advice given to me by a boater at the very first tournament with Midweek Bass; lesson learned. It has been a new experience for me to fish in the middle of the week and fishing with a whole

new group of good people has been fun. I'm looking forward to 2018 and wishing all of you Merry Christmas and a happy, safe, New Year.

**Sean Ballard:** I would like to start out and say what a fun year of fishing it was and congratulations to Clinton Bell for winning Angler Of The Year; it's not as easy as it looks to get that prize (unless you are Rick Brown LOL). I am really looking forward to next year and figuring out how to catch more and better fish in the fall; I prefer the spring fishing and all that you can catch.

I would like to give a shout out to Gary Grimes, Rick Brown, Lou Hirlemann, Larry White, Floyd Vaughn, Tom Alauria, John Hawkins, and Gary Martlage for being great friends and mentors and always there to give some sort of advice when I needed it. Thank you Gary Asmus, Gary Martlage, and Greg Prather for being great cooks at the fish fry's and BBQ's. Thank you to the weigh-in crew for having the weigh-ins not only be ready when we got off the water but getting us through the lines quickly. Thank you for the awesome Co- Anglers I had this year, I couldn't have done it with out your help. To all Midweek Bass Anglers I wish you all a happy holiday season and my best wishes for you to catch lots of fish next year. I will be getting Lasik surgery in the next few weeks and won't need glasses to see anymore, so look out guys I will be better than ever next year. P.S. Gary,

it's only 3 more months to Havasu :). I love that lake and I'm thinking about fishing a few more big tournaments there next year and try my luck.

**Happy Holidays  
From  
Your Raffle Chairman**

**George Cobasky:** Seasons greetings to all my friends in Midweek Bass Anglers. Just a reminder that at each monthly meeting, we have a raffle to support our bass club and one lucky winning member takes home some cash; so when you come to the meetings remember to bring an extra \$5 so you can enter the raffle. The club money supports our fishing outings (food) and the end of the year banquet. We have a lot of great gifts (money and fishing gear) that our wives and we receive at the yearly banquet. In my opinion we are the best bass club in Arizona because we support our board and the club members. Semper Fi to all of you.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
From Your New  
Tournament Director  
Gary Martlage**

**Gary Martlage:** Starting the first of the year 2018, I will be the Tournament Director of Midweek Bass Anglers. I am humbled taking over the position from Jack Hughes, as he occupied the position for the

### Happy to be Here

*By John Reichard  
Treasurer*

Just a reminder the 5 lb pot has rolled over from October and November. If you haven't entered the pot yet and would like to do so you must pay for the back two months and for January a total of \$15 before the January general meeting on 3 January. The club only allows back payment once a year in January as a "one time good deal".

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

last 5 years. I don't feel like it will be a rough transition, because all the lakes and permits have been applied for and received due to the hard work Jack put into the position the last few months. All I have to do is take the credit!

One of my first concerns to address is our tournament at Apache next May. I will be coordinating with Game and Fish to get updated reports on the lake condition. I personally feel there is an issue with the fish population, despite what current reports are saying. The department will be doing their sampling (shocking) in the spring of 2018, to develop more concrete information on the health of the lake. We will have plenty of time to look at other locations for May and if the lake shows any sort of major fish kill took place in 2017 I am confident the club will not want to fish the lake if reports indicate a problem with the lake.

I will still be running the scales next year at each weigh-in, but will be looking for help commitments during the weigh-in procedure. If anyone is interested in committing to join the weigh-in team next year, shoot me an email, or call me to

discuss this subject.

Remember, this is YOUR club, and keeping our ranking as one of the best clubs in the state will require dedicated volunteers! Many thanks to those volunteers for last year's support; and I am looking forward to a great group of volunteers in 2018.

Wishing you all Happy, and Healthy Holidays! Hope to see you all at Lake Bartlett in January!

Gary Martlage

[glmarty726@gmail.com](mailto:glmarty726@gmail.com)

Cell: 602-616-1001

### ***Fisherman's Night Before Christmas***

*By Terry Tassin*

"Twas the night before Christmas and all over the lake  
Not a creature was stirring, expect for me - I was awake;

The livewell was humming and prepared with great care,  
In hopes that a Hawg Bass soon would be there;

The bass were nestled along a deep rocky bed,  
While hundreds of shad danced above their heads.

With my lure in the water, and a tug of my cap,  
I settled back waiting for that winter bass tap,

When all of a sudden I felt such a tug,



### **Editor's Log**

*By Terry Tassin*

In this the end of our 13th year of the beginning of the club, 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!***



I sprang from the chair kicking over my mug.

Away to the front deck I flew like a flash,  
Kicked on the trolling motor and set the hook with a  
smash.

The moon on the breast of the water aglow;  
Gave the luster of mid-day to the objects below.

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a 20 pound Hawg spitting out eight tiny red-ear.

With a jump here and there, so lively and quick,  
I just hoped my line didn't have a nick.

More rapid than feeding stripers her jumps came,  
And I whistled, and shouted, and called her by name;

"Oh, HAWG! Oh, SOW! Oh, BABY and BIGG'N!  
Come On GIRL! Come On BABE! Come on and give  
me a KISS'N!

To the top of the water! To the top of the rock!  
Come In! Come In! Baby don't Get OFF!"

As dry leaves before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, she mounts to the  
sky.

She courses to the top and out of the water she flies,  
Flipping and flopping, as she drives high into the sky.

And then, in a twinkling, she landed on the deck,  
As I was frantically pawing as I searched for my net.

I threw open the livewell, and as I turned around,  
Down the livewell she went with a resounding bound.

When I turned a man dressed all in khaki,  
Who to tell you the truth looked slightly tacky.

A net full of gear he'd slung over one shoulder,  
He reminded me of me - only much "older".

His eyes -- how they twinkled! His dimples how  
merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose slightly  
hairy.

# SEASONS GREETINGS 2017

*And on the first day of 2018 I am  
going fishing to try-out my new  
casting reel but for now I am just*



His wry little mouth was drawn up in a grin,  
And a bushy gray beard jutted out from his chin.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke encircled his head like a wreath.

He had a broad face and a little round belly,  
That shook just like mine, like a bowl full of jelly.

The odd little hat that was perched on his head,  
Was stuck full of lures that were yellow and red.

The cheerful old guy with hip waders and gear,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to fear.

He spoke not a word, but I knew what this meant,  
I had just received a gift, from Old St. Nick.

Then he turned with a jerk, and laying his finger  
aside of his nose.

Giving a nod, up into the sky he rose;  
He sailed to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew with the speed of a missile.

But I heard him exclaim, as he flew out of sight,  
"Merry Christmas to All, and Tight Lines Tonight!"



## Weighing-In By Jack Hughes

**Jack Hughes:** Midweek Bass Anglers (MBA) has a solid reputation for being a first class club; supporting handicapped children's fishing tournaments, supporting AZG&F initiatives, and the enhancement of bass fishing for future anglers. All of these activities require time, money and often equipment. Let's take a closer look.

The members make a club and our members have been ethical anglers obeying the rules and regulations of both Federal and State. We have not had a member disqualified from a tournament the last five years for violating any Federal or State regulation. That does not mean the board looks the other way if a rule or regulation is not followed. What it does mean is our members obey the rules and regulations without trying to get around them. To the best of my knowledge not one member has been cited

for violating rules and regulations.

When it comes to supporting AZG&F there is not another club in the state that has raised though our members and affiliations the amount of money that MBA has. During 2017 MBA has through it's efforts provided funding of more than \$45,000 for fish stocking and the future of bass fishing in Arizona. When I was discussing with AZG&F personnel the club's support of the restocking program, Andy Clark, Deputy Manager of Warm Water Fisheries for the state, said "Midweek Bass is the Gold Standard of bass clubs in the state when it comes to supporting AZG&F". That is one tremendous comment!

Our members have given a lot of time and energy in supporting the restocking program at Roosevelt. For months they built habitat structures, then when the permits were in place spent three days with AZG&F and Tonto National Forest (TNF) personnel placing the structures in the lake. Both Tonto National Forest and AZG&F were very pleased with the results. In fairness there were also volunteers from other clubs and the Tonto Basin area providing manpower.

Yes, being a member of MBA puts you in some very good company because of all the good the club does outside of just bass fishing. However, when I look back at all of our volunteers for various efforts it appears to me it is the same members who are always volunteering. My guess is it is about 15% of the club. Our club has approximately 120 members and yes 15 to 20 members do the entire extra work outside of fishing. It would be a real help to the board members if more people volunteered during 2018. There are all types of tasks that have to be done to run a successful club the size of MBA. So the next time we need some volunteers think about it and give it a try, after all it's your club and I think you will find a lot of pleasure in helping out.

# Merry Christmas





What: **12th Annual Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Recognition Dinner**  
 Who: Members of Midweek Bass Anglers and their Guests  
 When: Friday, January 12, 2018; Social Hour at 6:00 PM with dinner at 7:00 PM  
 Where: **Iron Oaks at Sun Lakes**  
 24218 South Oakwood Boulevard  
 Sun Lakes, AZ 85248  
 Phone: 480-895-6484

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

Menu:

**CATERED BUFFET**

- \* Traditional Garden Salad \*
- \* Ranch & Champagne Vinaigrette \*
- \* Fire Roasted Rosemary Chicken \*
- \* Sausage, Peppers, & Onions \*
- \* Smoked Brisket \*
- \* White Cheddar Mac & Cheese \*
- \* Roasted Red Potatoes, Butter, Herbs \*
- \* Seasonal Vegetables \*

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 3rd**

Live music and dancing for all who wish to hang-out after dinner.

**Cut on dotted line and return Reservation Slip with Payment**

**Please Respond No Later Than 10 AM January 3, 2018**

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

**12th ANNUAL MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS RECOGNITION DINNER RESERVATION**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ meals for:

Name(s) of Attendees: (First & Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$35.00 each for Guests – Club Members \$20)  
 made out to **Midweek Bass Anglers**. **New for 2018 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 again 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, John Reichard, Tom Savage 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-smiting" and after **Thirteen** 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 2017.**" It's not much and the big acknowledgement comes at the Annual Awards Banquet the second Friday of January.

Speaking of the awards banquet, below is just a reminder to make your reservations soon and no later than 10AM 3 January 2018. On 3 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 **12th Annual Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Recognition Dinner** will be held Friday, January 12, 2018 at the Iron Oaks at Sun Lakes, 24218 South Oakwood Boulevard, Sun Lakes, AZ 85248. Social Hour begins at 6 PM with dinner at 7 PM. Cost is \$35 per non member and \$20 per 2017 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 3 January 2018.

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 still \$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 - 2018 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen**

**Board of Directors**

**PRESIDENT**

Gary Grimes 623-203-7436

**SECRETARY**

Terry Tassin 623-931-1546

**TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

Gary Martlage 602-616-1001

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Tom Savage 602-432-8589

**TREASURER**

John Reichard 623-512-0238

**Committee / Chairmen**

**PROGRAMS**

Tom Savage

**TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE** Gary Martlage - Chairman

Gary Grimes, Terry Tassin, Tom Savage, John Reichard

**RAFFLE COMMITTEE** - - George Cobasky

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Terry Tassin

**ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

Tom Savage

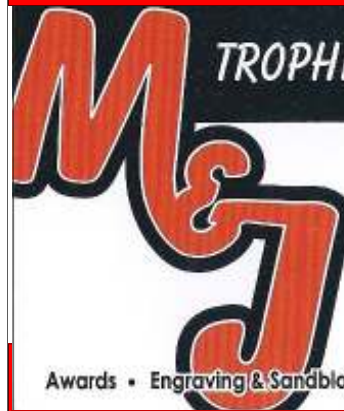
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - John Reichard

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  
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john@mandjtrophies.com  
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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
- Mike DeDoncker
- Greg Gerbig
- Randy Gray
- John Milkint
- Ron Pikul
- Dave Rice
- Vern Ridgway
- Roger Root
- Tom Savage
- Mike Seibly
- Gary Senft
- Jason Wacker
- Larry White



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2018  
Tournament Schedule**

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