

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS  
OF ARIZONA INC

**B a s s   B i t e s**

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



DECEMBER 2018 EDITION  
14 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005  
EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



**President's  
Perspective**  
By Gary Grimes

**Merry Christmas!  
Happy New Year!**

The 2018 season of the Midweek Bass Anglers has come to an end. We fished 11 tournaments this past year, but unfortunately were not able to fish at either Saguaro or Apache due to poor fishing related to water quality issues. This forced us to put Lake Pleasant back into the rotation, which as it turns out was not so unpleasant after all. Next year will be different yet again. Lake Havasu is being replaced by Martinez in February, followed by Alamo in March where I expect the Five-Pound option pot to be finally won. Though we have scheduled both Canyon and Saguaro next year, current reports are not encouraging and will likely force us to use Bartlett and Pleasant even more. Such is the life of fishing.

Midweek Bass welcomed over 30 new members this year, which is

pretty amazing considering we do not aggressively advertise. Word of mouth is always the best form of advertising, and it serves us well. I am certainly thankful for the guys in our club. I don't think you will find a more helpful, friendlier, and easy-going group of guys anywhere. It makes our job on the board much easier.

Speaking of the board, my greatest thanks go to Terry, Tom, John and Gary for the professional manner in which they conduct

themselves in carrying out their duties. Terry is certainly the glue that holds the club together, making sure we all know what we need to do, where, and when. Tom Savage is a sound and quiet voice of reason on the board, who helps out in just about every area. John Reichard has faithfully served as treasurer for 5 years now, and has done a commendable job in taking care of our books. Jack Hughes is working as our Government Liaison Chairman, who is helping

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**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**  
**2018 Tournament Season Winners!**

**Angler of the Year - Jeff Mason**

1st Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Roger Root  
2nd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Vern Ridgway  
3rd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Richie Rojas

1st Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - - Rick Brown  
2nd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - - Warren Brackey  
3rd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - - Tom Atherton

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

**“We Practice Catch and Release”**

# Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Hall of Fame Class of 2018



**Angler of the Year 2018**  
**Jeff Mason**



**Roger Root**  
1st Place  
Boater of the Year



**Rick Brown**  
1st Place  
Co-Angler of the Year



**Vern Ridgway**  
2nd Place  
Boater of the Year



**Warren Brackey**  
2nd Place  
Co-Angler of the Year



**Richie Rojas**  
3rd Place  
Boater of the Year



**Lunker of the Year**  
**Jeff Mason 7.18 lbs**



**Tom Atherton**  
3rd Place  
Co-Angler of the Year

both Midweek and AZGFD improve the quality of our fisheries. Gary Martlage is our self-sacrificing tournament director, who makes it possible for us all to fish competitively. He is always there, toting the tank, scales and bags, making sure everyone is paired. Thank you, gentlemen!

It is an honor to serve with these men, as we strive to serve you in making Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Inc the best club in the country. I hope to see all of you at our annual banquet. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Seasons Greetings From Club Members**

**Tom Savage:** Wow this year certainly flew by, but I have to say it was one of the most fun years of fishing. Not only did

**Next Meeting  
Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 2 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 Pleasant on 16 January 2019**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

we have some great tournaments and camp outs, I got to fish Lake Oviachic in Mexico twice thanks to Gary Grimes. I also got to fish Lake Amistad in Del Rio, Texas. The weather was bad and fishing was tuff but it was a great road trip with Tom Alauria and Ray Riley. I want to thank the board members and the many volunteers for helping to make this the best bass club there is. Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year.

**Jeff Mason (AOY 2018):** Thanks to Midweek Bass for putting on a great club tournament circuit that's professionally run, with a great group of guys, and is always a lot of fun.

Everything fell into place for me this past year to win the Angler of the Year. I want to thank all of my non-boaters as they carried me through quite a few tournaments and without them I would not have won this award. To finish on top while competing against so many great anglers and long time friends is quite an honor.

It's a special time of year and I would like to share with you one of my most memorable moments of the year that occurred at Alamo when my long time (30 years) friend and team partner, Lyle Dalby, and I were pre-fishing on November 12, 2018.

We were down by the dam area on the North side with very rocky and steep banks when I noticed the tail of some animal go around a corner in

front of me. I turned to Lyle and remarked that I think I just saw a bobcat ahead of us. For the next 15-20 minutes we were lucky enough to keep within eyesight of this magnificent animal as it glided, stalked, and scaled the steep mountain side looking for food. Lyle and I were so stunned we stopped fishing and watched in amazement as the bobcat moved down the bank prowling for prey. Then at one point he leapt vertically in three bounds up a twenty foot boulder with ease. He would creep up to the next ridge and peek over the top of it looking for prey on the other side. It is very rare to be able to see such a beautiful and majestic animal in its natural habitat for such a long period of time. Just an added bonus to being a fisherman with Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona!

Happy Holidays to everyone!

**Otto Gal:** Here is a personal experience I would like to share with my friends in Midweek Bass about drinking and driving. This might save you the cost and



**"Dag Nab It"**





## Happy to be Here

By John Reichard  
Treasurer

Just a reminder the 5 lb pot has rolled over from November. If you haven't entered the pot yet, and are eligible to do so, you must pay for the back six months and for January a total of \$35 before the January general meeting on 2 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!

embarrassment of being arrested for DUI. People have been known to have an unexpected brush with authorities from time to time, often on their way home from an innocent "social session" with family and friends.

This year it happened to me. I was out for the evening to a party and had several margaritas, coupled with imbibing on a bottle of rather nice red wine. The party was held at a great Mexican restaurant quite a ways from my home.

Although relaxed, I still had

### 2019 Fishing License

Tell Mom/Wife/Significant Other a nice Christmas gift for you would be a 2019 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.

the common sense and presence of mind to know that I was "slightly" over the limit. That's when I did something I've never done before - I took a taxi home.

On the way home there was a police DUI check point, but since it was a taxi they waved it through and I arrived home safely without incident. These roadblocks can be anywhere and I realized how lucky I was to have chosen to take a taxi home.

In the morning, the real surprise to me was that I had never driven a taxi before. I don't know how or where I got the taxi, and now that it's in my garage, I don't know what to do with it. If you want to borrow it for your party endeavors, give me a call. Hee hee!

**Vern Ridgway:** *Bassin* - "To be a successful fisherman you should get there yesterday when the fish were biting." What, where, and when to throw, this is always the question when time comes to do some angling and dangling; I've always tried to use the KISS system when chasing bass (keep it simple stupid). One would never think of this as my approach to bassin, however upon looking into my tackle box, you'd see my tackle box is my boat.

But I, like most of you, buy "stuff" I think I might need, which results in lots of stuff. I try to use the basic colors as a starting point in any presentation, but will go

through several colors until I find what they want.

Our problem as fishermen is that we try to "force feed" them with what we think they should be eating, and sometime this chew's up the time clock, and in a tournament, we wind up chasing the clock before making the necessary adjustments to what the fish want.

Depending on the lake and time of year determines what should be thrown, always at first light I'll chunk some sort of reaction bait; if no action, I'll slow it down; that could be a Jig, Shakey head, Senko, Drop Shot, or Carolina rig. Now if at this point in time there is still no action, it's necessary to slow it way down, like watching snails crawl. This may be achieved with any of the tools mentioned above, we all have our favorites and I have mine. I'll start by throwing the bait up shallow and work it out to the 30 foot range, and sling it again until I find some action; the fish will tell you how deep they are; then focus may be given at the desired depth of the first strike.

I use a fairly simple graph system in which I watch water temperature, depth and structure as I go along. As I go along this may include primary points, secondary points, and miscellaneous structure such as boulders or "unusual shore line". One must always keep a sharp eye out for the fish birds, we want to catch fish, but they must catch fish as a condition of their survival.

The equipment I use is Shimano reels and Loomis and St. Croix rods.

There it is short and sweet, while angling, dangling, sweating and swearing.

Seasons greeting to all - Vern.



## Happy Holidays From Your Raffle Chairman

By *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 and Happy Holidays.



## Weighing-In

By *Gary Martlage*  
Tournament Director

It's the Holiday Season in Phoenix. For the past 30 plus years, I have not had a "White Christmas" since moving here from Indiana, but what a great place to live. During this season, take time out to look around and bless all the things that are great in life.

Thinking back on our 2018 season with Midweek Bass, I really am blessed with all the fun I have had at our tournaments. I have met a bunch of great guys, and enjoyed their company around campfires and on the lakes. Remember the time at Apache Lake, when 30 boats were crammed into a 500 yard area? What a trip! I'm sure this will never happen again, but the memories will last forever. Poker nights, cookouts, competition with a friendly bunch of guys is why I thoroughly enjoy Midweek Bass. It has been not without some problems - boats breaking causing last minute changes in partners; trolling motors malfunctioning, batteries dying at the most inopportune time, etc.; but all the guys pull together and help out whenever they can. What a great bunch of guys!

I was blessed with all the volunteers this year, helping with the weighing of fish, breaking down our operation at the end of the tournament, volunteers that shuttle fish back to the lake, and folks that just



## Editor's Log

By *Terry Tassin*

In this the end of our 14th 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!*



make our club the BEST around. Let's all keep the Mojo going next year and I'm sure we will have another spectacular year.

Hope to see you all at the banquet in January as this is the time we recognize and celebrate our anglers, and our sport of bass fishing! MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

### A Little Humor

"Two Texans went on an ice-fishing expedition in Minnesota. They gave up after only one day and returned home. When they were asked why they had come home so soon one of them replied, "Heck, it took us six hours just to get the boat in the water!"

*What's the best place to see a man eating fish?  
At a seafood restaurant.*

Just my luck! When the fish don't bite the

mosquitoes do!

*What's the meanest fish in the Arctic Ocean  
Santa Jaws*

Warden: You're not allowed to fish here!

Fisherman: I'm not; I'm just teaching my worm how to swim.

*At Sunday school, the teacher was leading the class in a discussion of what Noah might have done to pass time on the Ark.*

*"I think he went fishing," said one little girl. The little boy sitting beside her gave her a look and piped up, "What...with only two worms?!?"*

You might be a redneck if you've been too 'drink' to fish.

*The fishing was so bad that even the liars didn't*

# SEASONS GREETINGS 2018

*And on the first day of 2019 I am going fishing to try-out my new casting rod but for now I am just*



*Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas  
From Your Editor*





*catch any.*

The answer is net profit. And the question?  
What does a fisherman earn?

*What's essential to have when ice fishing?*  
*Good ice site.*

### **De-fin-itions**

Live bait: the biggest fish you got to handle all day.

*Thumb: a temporary hook holder.*

Fisherman: a jerk at one end of the line waiting for a jerk at the other end.

*Sinker: a weight hopefully big enough to knock out any fish on the way to the bottom so that it floats to the surface.*

Rookie angler: the one who catches the most and biggest fish.

*Fishing rod: a stick with a worm on one end and a fool at the other.*

Truth: when one fisherman calls another fisherman a liar.

### **Santa's Groaners**

What do fish get if they don't like the bait that fishermen are using?

A re-bait

How do you manage to keep a killer fish behind bars?

Strong lox.

What do sea monsters eat?

Fish and ships

What is a frog's favorite sport?

Fly fishing

What did the angler take home from the baseball game?

The catch of the day

Where did the fish go to get its nose fixed?

To the plastic sturgeon

Why couldn't Batman go fishing?

Because Robin ate all the worms

What do Texans call sushi?

Bait

What fish was a famous actress?

Marlin Monroe

Where do ghosts fish in North America?

Lake Eerie

*"So, Eddie, what did Daddy say when his line broke and the big fish got away?"*

*"Should I leave out the swear words, Mom?"*

*"Please do."*

*"He didn't say anything."*

Clem and Jethro are standing in the creek fishing on a quiet Sunday afternoon.

Clem: Did I tell you the new one I heard the other day?

Jethro: Was it funny?

Clem: Yeah.

Jethro: Then you haven't told me.

### **Paraprosdokians**

Figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous. Here are a few to enjoy.

Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.

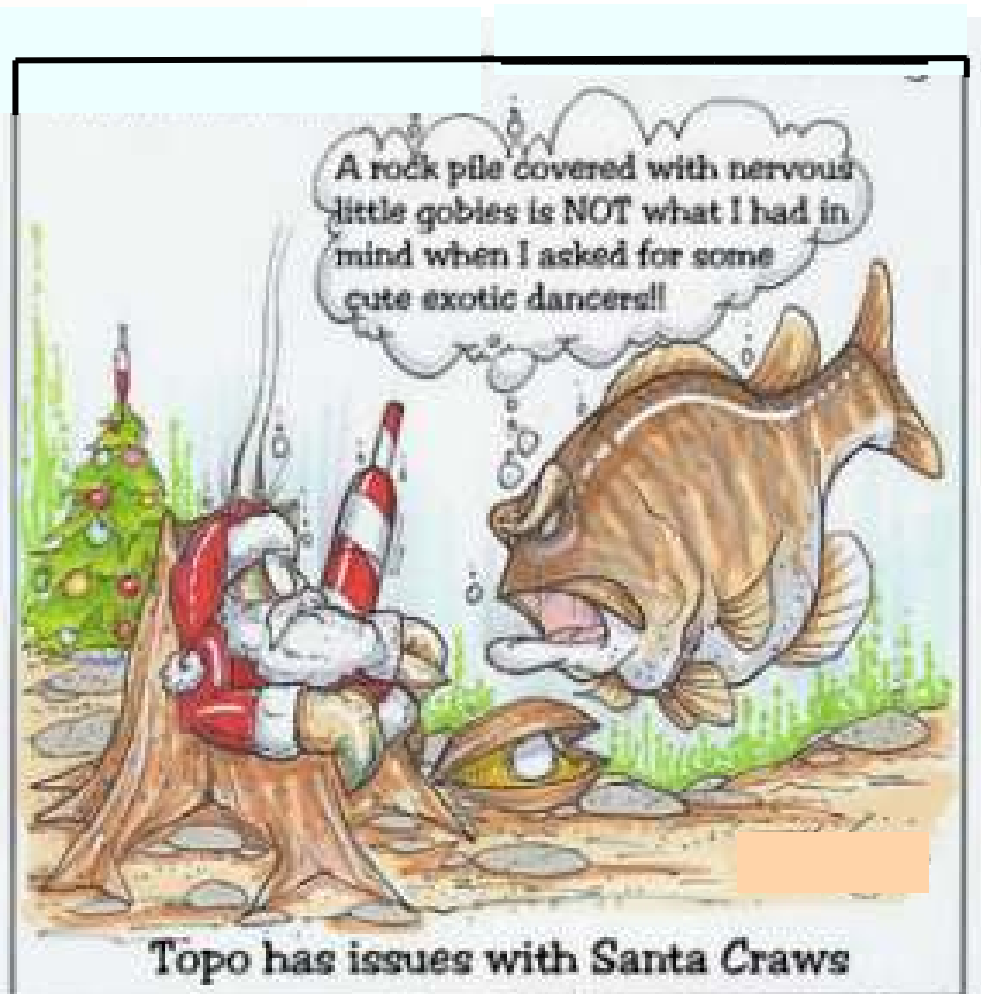
Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

**Merry Christmas**





What: **13th Annual Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Recognition Dinner**  
Who: Members of Midweek Bass Anglers and their Guests  
When: Friday, January 11, 2019; 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 2nd**

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 2, 2019**

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

**13th 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 2019 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 During Another Great 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, Gary Martlage, 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 **Fourteen** 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 2018.**" 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 2 January 2019. On 2 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 flyers I sent out.

Don't forget – the **13th Annual Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Recognition Dinner** will be held Friday, January 11, 2019 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 2018 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 2 January 2019.

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 - 2019 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

**Committee / Chairmen**

**PROGRAMS**

Tom Savage

**TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE**

Gary Martlage - Chairman

Gary Grimes, Terry Tassin, Tom Savage, John Reichard

**RAFFLE COMMITTEE** -- George Cobasky

**GOVERNMENT LIASION**

Jack Hughes

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Tom Savage 602-432-8589

**TREASURER**

John Reichard 623-512-0238

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Terry Tassin

**ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

Tom Savage

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE** - Vacant

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



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



Joy to the World...

### Club Apparel

Individuals wishing to purchase a club shirt, jersey, or cap can order directly from our president.

### Best Wishes and Happy Birthday Born in January

- Jerry Askam
- Clinton Bell
- Danny Childers
- Randy Gray
- John Milkint
- Rob Panaitescu
- Ron Pikul
- Vern Ridgway
- Roger Root
- Tom Savage
- Mike Seibly
- Gary Senft
- Jason Wacker
- Larry White



### Midweek Bass Anglers 2019 Tournament Schedule

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