



MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



DECEMBER 2019 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!

"Time is a sort of river of passing events, and strong is its current; no sooner is a thing brought to sight than it is swept by and another takes its place and this too will be swept away." - Marcus Aurelius. This is how 2019 feels to me, like a log floating on a river that has come and gone, and so before we allow the water to pass us by, I want to take just a moment to reflect upon last year.

We certainly have experienced the elements. In February at Lake Martinez in Yuma, we experienced freezing cold conditions. I still remember a frozen water bottle on the top of my boat after waking up, only to have it get colder after the sun came up. This was also the last time a large 5 pound pot was won. Summer is nothing extraordinary for us, but to anyone not from the desert it certainly would appear we are crazy for fishing in 110 degrees plus temperatures. And last month at Alamo, we suffered through cold, windy rain and sub-par fishing conditions. In reality, though, we generally enjoy pretty comfortable fishing conditions and for that I am thankful.

Of course, we could not fish these

tournaments without the help of selfless volunteers whose time and sacrifices make it possible for us to do what we do. Terry Tassin keeps us all on track through endless emails that tell us what is going on and what we need to know. Gary Martlage as tournament director creates a fair playing field at every event we fish. John Reichard accounts for every penny that passes through the club. Tom Savage, as VP, is a steady and friendly force who in addition to helping at the meetings and tournaments, also coordinates the prizes for the banquets. Jack Hughes is our government liaison, working with both AZGFD and TNF to help improve our fisheries. Sean Ballard inputs all the data at our

meetings. Jason Stanton, Sean Ballard, Greg Utton and Tom Alauria help at the weigh-ins. Greg Prather runs the grill at our barbeques. Countless others lend a hand when needed. These men do what they do for no money, but rather from their commitment to helping others. Thanks to you all for your help, the club could not function without you.

2020 is looking to be another great year. The recent rains have filled our reservoirs to excellent levels, which gives us greater flexibility in scheduling. Roosevelt and Alamo have bounced back from their problems and have turned into great fisheries. We continue to work

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

2019 Tournament Season Winners!

Angler of the Year - Jeff Mabry

- 1st Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Tom Savage
- 2nd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - Jeff Mason
- 3rd Place Boater of the Year - - - - - John Hilland
- 1st Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - - Rick Brown
- 2nd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - - - Howard Thomas
- 3rd Place Co-Angler of the Year - - Pat Johnstonbaugh

Lunker of the Year - Tom Alauria (6.59 lbs)
March 2019 - Lake Alamo

"We Practice Catch and Release"

Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Hall of Fame Class of 2019



Angler of the Year 2018
Jeff Mabry



Tom Savage
1st Place
Boater of the Year



Rick Brown
1st Place
Co-Angler of the Year



Jeff Mason
2nd Place
Boater of the Year



Howard Thomas
2nd Place
Co-Angler of the Year



John Hilland
3rd Place
Boater of the Year



Lunker of the Year
Tom Alauria 6.59 lbs



Pat Johnstonbaugh
3rd Place
Co-Angler of the Year

closely with the AZGFD in order to create better fishing for today but also even better fishing for tomorrow. The work is slow, but each year more and more improvements are made. Next year AZGFD is looking to load Bartlett with habitat, which is awesome considering how often we use this lake. We are always looking for ways to improve the schedule. We will likely continue with Martinez for at least two more years, in order to allow us to become more familiar with this fantastic fishery. Lake Havasu will likely return, and there has been much discussion about including Mojave on the schedule. We shall see what happens. The board welcomes onto the staff Vern Ridgway, who has volunteered to serve as the club's treasurer.

As I prepare to begin my 9th year as club President, I appreciate your trust and cooperation in allowing me to continue. Truly, you guys make it so much easier for me, as well as the rest of the board, to do what we do. Joining Midweek Bass is one of the best decisions I have made, thank you Floyd Vaughan for being at Cabela's at just the right time to direct me. I look forward to each and every opportunity we will have together next year, whether on the water or

**Next Meeting
Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, 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 Bartlett** on **15 January 2020**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 3 PM**.

off. You guys are truly the best. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**Weighing-In
By Gary Martlage
Tournament Director**

Another year is over for Midweek Bass - where did the time go? I would like to say a few words, and a BIG THANK YOU to all members of the club. It is not really a job, but a pleasure being your Tournament Director. All the members that volunteered at the spur of the moment, and, of course, my weigh-in crew that was always there to run a well oiled machine. It just doesn't seem like a job, but a pleasure to be Tournament Director.

2020 is right around the corner, and I am looking forward to continuing in my position. My goal next year is to consistently try to break our all time record for participation. If any of you hear of anyone looking for tournament fishing, please refer them to our great Secretary, Terry Tassin. As of this month, he has already signed up 3 new members, and I'm sure he is ready for more. Our club is the finest club in the state, and would compete with anyone in the region. I am amazed how our membership gets along, and never seems to have any issues. Let's keep it going.

Merry Christmas, and I hope to see you all at Bartlett and the banquet in January.



**Happy Holidays From
Your Raffle Chairman
By George Cobasky**

As the year comes to a close, we must take time and reflect on the good times we've had. As I write this, we club members have increased the club funds by \$1650 for the calendar year 2019 through our participation in the 50/50 raffle at the monthly club meetings. Also, each month one of our lucky members has won their share of the monthly raffle.

Reminder: At our awards dinner on 10 January the price for each raffle

ticket will be \$5.00. When you purchase the raffle tickets you will receive **Both Portions** of the tickets you purchase and it will be your responsibility to separate your tickets and place one in the drawing container and keep one.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Seasons Greetings
From
Club Members**

Jeff Mabry (AOY 2019): What a year. I can't remember a year where fishing was so tough on a regular basis and there were several months when I thought getting a limit was going to be tough. I understand cold months, but Bartlett in August or Roosevelt in September! I know we had some fronts move in during our tournaments early in the year, but I am guessing it was fishing on the full moon that had the most to do with it. Luckily next year most of our tournaments are on a new moon and fishing should be better.

With that said I think Midweek members (and most other tournaments) need to focus on fish care. In looking back at this year's results we weighed in 42 dead fish. I know at times it can't be helped, but I also know it can be.

In the winter fish are typically caught deep and race to the top. They do not have time to empty their air



"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 wish to do so, you must pay \$5 for each of the 2019 months since April you did not enter the pot and for January 2020, 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" AND this only applies to members who have fished at least one tournament in the immediately prior year.

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

bladder and typically float belly-up. If a fish is floating in your live well it isn't okay. At times when we first catch them they will lay there for a few minutes, but after that they should be able to stay upright. I have caught fish in 5 feet of water that have floated. We don't have a clue where they came from to get that bait. Fish belly weights are a great option for keeping them upright and letting them slowly release the air from their swim bladder. Here is a video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5ojAa-C5ik> .

Maybe we can get Lou Hirlemann to

2020 Fishing License

Tell Mom/Wife/Significant Other a nice Christmas gift for you would be a 2020 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.



start pouring them and the entire club can have them in their boat. I also use the paper clips shown in the picture above with a ½ ounce weight on each arm. They are cheap and work pretty well. Any weight you make or purchase will rust and not last too long, so I use these and keep plenty in my boat.

At times the weights aren't enough and the fish need to be fizzed. I personally don't like going through the mouth. I buy 25 gauge needles from the feed stores and do it from the side. Here is a great video;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2etof7_x8NE.

Weighted fish stay upright and alive, but sometimes they still can't regulate their swim bladder. If you release them over the deepest water possible (end of the dock) it gives them the chance to swim down and regulate themselves. More than once this year I saw anglers releasing from the ramp trying to keep their feet dry. This doesn't work!

In the summer fish are shallower, but the surface of the water gets warm. If you have ever taken a swim in our lakes you know the water is warm the first 5-10 feet, but then gets much cooler as you dive down. Our live wells unfortunately only take water from a foot or so below the surface, so we are putting warm, less oxygenated water in our live well. Some people use ice which is great, but doesn't last long. Frozen water bottles work great too if you have enough room to store them. I personally put my recirculation on high and my fresh water on high. I try and keep as much water going through my live well as possible. I

know this is tough on batteries, but I also invested in an X2 Battery from Batteries Plus to avoid issues.

Anyone that has fished with me this year will attest that I spend a lot of my day tending to fish needs to keep them healthy. I weighed 49 fish in the 10 tournaments I fished with Midweek this year, and countless other fish from other circuits, all of them swam away healthy. Anything I am posting in this article has come from trial and error. I have killed many fish in my day, but I have learned from it and hope to never have another die.

Hope everyone enjoys their Holidays and I will see you next year to protect my title.

Tom Alauria – Keeping Your

Equipment Alive: I'm sure that all of us boaters have experienced one or all of the following. You burn a bearing on your trailer, you break a trolling motor cable, or the bolts on your trailer fall out due to vibration, or something happens to your boat motor. Well, there are preventative measures you can take like tightening bolts and checking your bearing grease, but these things often occur when you are a hundred miles from home. This happened to me at Alamo last month. I couldn't get my motor to go down. It turned out that it was a bad solenoid. Vern Ridgway saw me working on my motor and he had one that worked on my engine. Thanks again Vern.

Over the years I've put together a box of things that have helped me and others. These things include bailing wire, duct tape, wire ties, and a bag of assorted nut bolts and hose clamps. I also carry a spare wheel hub and grease as well as spare props and lower unit oil and yes, spare solenoids.

The reason I'm telling you all this is because I want everyone to get back on the water, home safely, and I'll do everything I can to help you. If I have the parts you need, you are more than welcome to them.

Terry Johnson: 2019 was a very

fulfilling year for me in Midweek. I can't thank enough all the folks who make our tournaments run like clockwork. From the entries and draws through publication of the results and the emails, it's all so painless for the rest of us. On a couple of occasions, I needed help launching. No problem, multiple volunteers. Twice I had to cancel because of chronic health issues, no problem. My nonboaters were all helpful and enthusiastic. When I offered to go nonboater because of an imbalance, my boaters were fantastic. The campground camaraderie was wonderful. I had a ball all year and I even picked up a few checks along the way. So, thank you, Midweek Bass Anglers, you have enriched this Old Fart's golden years and I look forward to the same in 2020. I'm taking it one year at a time!

Charlie Mackintosh - Back to Arizona: It's early December and I'm standing in my garage in Michigan looking at rods and tackle scattered over the bed of my truck. I'm trying to pull together the tackle I will need to fish the 1st MBA tournament of 2020 at Bartlett Lake. It has been nearly 20 years since I wet a line in Arizona. In the 90's I had a team partner and we fished the All-Star aluminum boat trail. It was a lot of fun. My note taking back then was not that great, but I dug up some notes on Bartlett to help pull my gear together.

I've been fishing the last 6 years in Michigan and have not once weighed in a largemouth; it has all been smallmouth. I learned in 2012 I would need to relocate from the Finger Lakes region in NY to Michigan. NY was a fishing dream with anything from the Great Lakes of Erie and Ontario to smaller

finger lakes, including Conesus which often kicked out 20+ pound bags. The St. Lawrence River and Champlain were within a day's drive and Oneida and Cayuga were only hours away. NY had smallmouth and largemouth and multiple tournament trails including clubs, the NY Bass Fed, ABA, BFL and routine visits from BASS Opens and the FLW Costa series.

Michigan on paper looked less appealing. The only major trail outside of clubs was the BFL and it focused almost exclusively on Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River which are actually connected and therefore the same venue. In terms of the variety of venues, it looked boring. But on fishing Lake St. Clair, I instantly fell in love. The lake occupies over 400 square miles of area, a relatively small catch basin connecting Lake Huron to Lake Erie. It is a shallow bowl, with a max depth of roughly 20-22 feet. Lake water is typically changed out in a period of 7 days. The lake is loaded with huge smallmouth and in late summer through fall bags of over 30 lbs - 5 fish bag limit, have been weighed for team events. Likewise, Lake Erie can deliver huge bags of fish that come with long runs and often severe boat beatings.

Fishing Lake St. Clair almost exclusively was like having a fishing laboratory. I was able to hone in on the seasonal patterns and experiment with various techniques. My strength was the drop shot and using electronics, but I expanded to using spy baits, crankbaits and swimbaits. And I learned some of the unique geographic spots. I leave the job unfinished as each passing year unlocks new secrets. Michigan fishing, like NY, was a dream.

Now, my wife and I are ready to leave the cold northern winters behind. She wasn't interested in moving to the southeast and she also declined on moving back to her home state of Texas. We agreed on Arizona. So, as we straddle both states while we work on our relocation, I looked at the various



Editor's Log

By Terry Tassin

In this the end of our 14th year of the club's existence, 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!



fishing opportunities in Arizona. The MBA trail grabbed my attention. The website is awesome and an indication of a well-run club. The Bass Bites newsletter, with the post tournament write-ups, is a great feature of the club. The random draw for team competition is unique and looks like it fosters a lot of friendships and knowledge sharing. And for those with flexible schedules, midweek tournaments are genius. I look forward to meeting everyone and fishing with a great club!

Merry Christmas and here's to a Happy New Year!

HOW TRUE IT IS!

**Another year has passed
And we're all a little older.
Last summer felt hotter
And Winter seems much colder.**

**There was a time not long ago
When life was quite a blast.
Now I fully understand
About "living in the past".**

**We used to have hangovers
From parties that were gay.
Now we suffer body aches
And while the night away.**

**We use to go out dining
And couldn't get our fill.
Now we ask for doggie bags
Come home and take a pill.**

**We used to go to nightclubs
And drink a little booze.
Now we stay home at night
And watch the evening news.**

**That my friend is how life is.
And now my tale is told.
So, enjoy each day and live it up...
Before you're to darn old!!**

**From the club's
Senior Citizens!**

SEASONS GREETINGS 2019

*And on the first day of
2020 I am keeping
warm by the fire
and for now I am just*





**Winter Wonder Land
Arizona Style**

Palm trees wave, are you listenin?
In the pool, water's glistenin,
A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight
Livin in an Arizona wonderland.

Gone away is the blizzard,
Here to stay is the lizard,
A warm sunny day, we like it that way,
Livin in an Arizona wonderland.

In the desert we will have a picnic,
Cactus, sand and rattlesnakes and sun.
Christmas dinner is an old tradition,
It's pinto beans and tacos by the ton.

Later on we'll perspire,
Temperatures rise even higher,
A warm sunny day, we like it that way,
Livin in the Arizona wonderland.

**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year**
Ferry Tassin





What: **14th Annual Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Recognition Dinner**
Who: Members of Midweek Bass Anglers and their Guests
When: Friday, January 10, 2020; 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, 2020

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

14th 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 2020 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-smithing" 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 2019.**" 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 2020. 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 **14th Annual Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona Recognition Dinner** will be held Friday, January 10, 2020 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 2020.

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 - 2020 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

Board of Directors

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Gary Grimes 623-203-7436

SECRETARY

Terry Tassin 623-931-1546

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Gary Martlage 602-616-1001

Committee / Chairmen

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Tom Savage

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Gary Grimes, Terry Tassin, Tom Savage, John Reichard

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Terry Tassin

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Tom Savage

RAFFLE COMMITTEE -- George Cobasky

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



"All those rods and reels I delivered and not one for myself"



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 2020 Tournament Schedule

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