

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JUNE 2017 EDITION

12 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN

CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

### President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



The Midweek Bass Anglers is the largest bass club in the state of Arizona and has operated since 2005. At the time of this writing we have 113 members, and will likely top 120 by the end of the year. We hold 11 points tournaments a year, starting in January and continuing monthly until November and average 30 boats for each tournament. In addition to our tournaments, we also host monthly breakfast meetings where we get together for friendly socializing and learning as we listen to the previous month's winners share the methods they used in their victory. We also host several barbeques a year, usually at Alamo and Apache Lakes; feeding over 50 people

each time we fire the grills. At the end of the year we hold a banquet, where we get together with our wives and each other and celebrate the accomplishments of the year while enjoying a wonderful meal with plenty of cold refreshments and raffle off thousands of dollars worth of prizes. These are an amazing amount of activities when you think about it, especially when you consider we have no paid positions.

Midweek is an all-volunteer organization; no one gets paid for any of his or her work on behalf of the club. Without these efforts the activities in Midweek would grind to a halt although there are many who lend a hand from time to time, and I wish to recognize a few individuals who make a commitment to help keep the wheels turning. As club secretary Terry Tassin is the absolute glue that holds our group together. He is one of the founding members of the club, and has served on the board as secretary since its inception in 2005. He makes sure we all know what we are doing with who, where, and when by sending out hundreds of informative emails on a monthly basis. He attends

every function, hosts every board meeting, documents every club action, and greets every new member and helps them orient to the Midweek way. Every month he gathers stories and reports from the winning anglers and publishes an 8 plus page newsletter entitled the **Bass Bites**. He is steadfast and professional, and is the true heart and soul of the club.

John Reichard is definitely worth his weight in rubies. What does he do? Well, as treasurer he is responsible for the club monies. This involves all the monthly deposits, issuing checks to tournament winners for all the various prize awards, all the while carefully

## JULY 4th 2017

### Happy Independence Day!



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

## "We Practice Catch and Release"

documenting every transaction on a computerized accounting program, which he just learned how to use this year. John has recently automated the check printing process through the new accounting software. He does a super job staying on top of everything through the hours upon hours he spends monthly keeping our books up to date. John is careful, committed, and consistent in his upkeep and care of our finances.

Tom Savage is the board vice president. He provides valuable input for all of our decisions, fills in when needed as the meeting chairman, and also fills in occasionally as tournament director. One of the duties we have added to VP in the last couple of years is that of assistant tournament director, and Tom got the call to step up this past May and June during Jack's absence at our Apache Lake and Lake



## Things You Should Know By Gary Grimes

**2018 Tournament Scheduling:** As we move into the summer, this is the time of year when the board begins considering the tournament schedule for the next year. Why so early you ask? Because the permit application opening with the Tonto National Forest is in September, and we want to be in first in order to get the schedule dates and lakes we want. I thought I might share with you the over-riding principles that direct us as we assemble the schedule. Probably the single biggest consideration in setting up the schedule is participation. It is our goal to put the greatest number of boats on the water each month. We do this solely because it is our desire to give as many members as possible an opportunity to fish. Because of this principle we have found it works best to schedule our farther in distance, camping lakes, like Havasu, Alamo, Roosevelt and Apache, during the cooler months, when the weather is more conducive to camping. These also happen to be our longest tournaments, as we usually fish from safe light until 3 PM, and we want to minimize our exposure to heat related incidents. Summer in Arizona is absolutely hot, and dangerously so if not properly prepared. So, when most other circuits shut down for the summer, Midweek fishes shorter hours in order to minimize exposure, while continuing to provide tournament opportunities all through the year. Productivity is also important, meaning guys want to catch fish, so we strive to monitor the fishery conditions at each lake in order to allow maximum fish catching, which explains why we only visit Lake Pleasant every few years. And finally, variety is important, so we try to mix it up but we have limited options available since we really only have 7 lakes from which to choose. Our goal is for our anglers to catch maximum amounts of fish, mixed with opportunities for big fish, and where both the fish and our anglers live to see another day.

**Friends of Reservoirs:** In early 2016 the Midweek Bass Anglers became the first Arizona chapter member of Friends of Reservoirs (FOR).

Their mission (FOR) is to restore habitat to the many aging reservoirs across the United States. Each year they award thousands of dollars in grant monies to organizations throughout the country in order to restore lost habitat. Last year the Midweek Bass Anglers, in partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, applied for such a grant. I just found out that we have been awarded \$33,584.00, to be used to restore habitat in Arizona's desert lakes. This money should be available to use in the fall. Pretty awesome!

### Next Meeting Next Tournament

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 5 July** 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 will be at **Lake Bartlett** on **19 July 2017**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. **Night tournament hours are 4 PM to 10PM.**

Pleasant tournaments. It wasn't 30 minutes into the tournament at Apache when Tom had to address an out-of-bounds matter, and he handled it with both tact and fairness. Tom's levelheaded, easygoing nature is another key attribute towards ensuring the absolute best for our group.

Jack Hughes is the tournament director for Midweek. Most guys only see a small part of Jack's work, like when he is giving a report about the last tournament, or maybe delivering a brief just prior to a tournament's start. What guys don't see are the hours and days Jack spends acquiring the necessary permits to fish in order to begin each and every season, and the reports he must complete and submit after each tournament. They also rarely see the burden Jack takes upon himself to make sure every angler gets on the water each month. Each month there are anywhere from 4 - 12 angler changes that occur in the pairings. These changes occur because someone got sick, someone's boat broke down, or some other unforeseen problem that causes an angler to have to drop, or either we don't have enough boats or co-anglers. Jack does his best to make sure everyone fishes. Jack also works diligently maintaining our relationship with both the Tonto National Forest and Arizona Game and Fish Department, making sure our club is operating within any and all rules and guidelines required at the particular

fishery. Jack's selfless dedication to both the club and its members is truly appreciated.

Aside from the Midweek Board of Directors, the men mentioned above, there are many who selflessly help in the month-to-month operational duties. At a tournament, we can count on Gary Martlage to bring all the weigh-in equipment that he stores at his house, and come in early at the end of every tournament in order to set-up and run the weigh-in. Assisting Gary almost every month are his team of merry men; Spencer Hand on the bump tank, Tom Savage and John Milkint documenting every weight, Terry Tassin photographing every team, and John Hawkins checking the livewells prior to launch. Sean Ballard helps at each monthly meeting registering every angler on the club's computer

in order to deliver a speedy, fair and random pairing for the teams. When we cook, I can always count on Greg Prather and Gary Asmus to run the grill and provide us with great food. In addition, a special thanks has to go to Rusty and Christine Murdock, who always graciously provide us with wonderful side-salads and desserts at our barbecues. Each one of these individual's dedication and sacrifice allow the other members of Midweek Bass the ability to enjoy a quality tournament experience. Their efforts are appreciated. Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

I truly enjoy my role in Midweek as the club's president. We have easy going and helpful members, and a board committed to providing the best opportunities for tournament fishing to its members. My best to each one

### **Come On Guys - Step-up Help Wanted - Club Treasurer**

The club will be in need of a Treasurer at the end of the year when John Reichard steps down. We recently migrated all of our financial data to QuickBooks Online to make it easier to access and enter information.

This will be John Reichard's last year serving as club Treasurer for the Midweek Bass Anglers. In preparation for his departure, we are looking for someone to assume the responsibilities of Treasurer when he leaves, but more importantly we would like to bring this person aboard early this year so that John can provide some training and oversight. As Treasurer you would be required to provide an accounting of the club's income and expenses, as well as deposit monies and issue checks. This position does require a vote and approval by the club in November, but your approval is very likely with the support of the board behind you. The term of Treasurer is two years, and any applicant must be an active member. Interested? Let me know. Gary Grimes, President.

[gary@bestexpression.com](mailto:gary@bestexpression.com)

of you and I'll see you on the water.



**Lake Pleasant  
CANCELLED  
June 21, 2017  
By Terry Tassin**

Hot, hot, hot, or should I say "If it's too hot we won't go!" I would say that this was only the second time in club history we had to cancel an event because of weather conditions, but you will hear this in a couple of other places in the newsletter so I am not going to talk about the subject.

Because the tournament was cancelled we have no money winners giving their reports. However, we do have a couple of "pre-fishing" reports and other stories so here they are - enjoy.

### **Side Pot Information** *By Gary Martlage*

Being that we did not fish this month, I thought I would give Terry something to fill the Bass Bites with.

Our club has grown in the last 3 years to over 113 members at this time. As new members come aboard, they are inundated with rules, regulations, etc. Sometimes it seems overwhelming at times!

As the originator and manager of the tournament SIDE POT, I thought I would go over some thoughts, and how it is generated.

First of all, the SIDE POT is

not affiliated with any of our club payouts. Tournament payouts are based on a participation scale (1 boat paid in 5). The club tournament payouts will hold a small percentage back, to help with club expenses. As most of our tournament activities are run with volunteers, there are still expenses such as permit fees, weigh master material (weigh bags, scales, white board materials, etc,) banquet costs, and raffle prizes. Our Board of Directors manages this quite well, and I would like to pat them on the back.

The SIDE POT was invented over a few cold beers around the campfire three years ago. Some of the fishermen were betting on their catch between contestants, hoping to take additional cash home with them. Bets have been anywhere from \$1 (one BIG one), to \$50, depending on how much and what kind of libations were consumed the night of the bet! I started the SIDE POT to include more contestants that missed the campfire conversation, and other members that are willing to throw down an extra \$20.

The SIDE POT has two divisions; one for the Boater and one for the Co-Angler. These pots are totally separate. You are **NOT** obligated to enter. You are **NOT** obligated to share the pot money with your partner. Since it is a team weight, each participant either in the Boater or Co-Angler side will be credited the weights as per the tournament final standings. I

pay out 50% to first place, 30% to second, and 20% to third; both divisions are paid out as separate pots. 100% is always paid. Payments are announced after the final standings are posted, and paid out at the next club meeting. This is why 1) No payments are made immediately after the tournament, and 2) payments are deferred until the next meeting. I will not pay out until the final tournament results are posted.

Don't worry, if you cannot make the meeting for payment, you are welcome to stop by my office, or wait until the next tournament to get your prize. I do **NOT** mail out checks, as the club does, because I do not collect any "management" money for running the POT, and I don't really want to make it a big thing. If you need your money, call me to make other arrangements, or just wait until I see you at the next function.

Last comment, from now on I will hold strict to the payment entry in the POT. I am collecting money up until the end of the morning pre-tournament meeting. I want to make sure all entrants are marked off my list (your total responsibility) and you verify it has been done. I know 95% of the club members, but at 4 AM, most of you look a lot scarier than you do in the light! This is why I ask your boat number, and allow you to see me check off your name. I am going to HATE not paying you should you 'place', but your name is not marked off my

sheet. Please do not put me in this position, as I do not want this ever to happen! Again, **I WILL CLOSE COLLECTION OF SIDE POT MONEY AT THE CLOSE OF THE PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING!**

Do yourself a favor, if you are participating in our tournaments, bring an extra \$20 for the **SIDE POT!**

### **Willow Springs Wednesday By Sean Ballard**

As most of you know I decided to go to Willow Springs on Wednesday to escape the insane heat. We left the house around 6 AM and made it to the lake by 8:30, put the boat in the water, and began to fish. Kathy started us out with 2 fish right away and then I followed it up with some of my own. On the first fish I hooked, I had an Osprey come out of nowhere and try to take my trout as I was reeling it in - that was really exciting to see. There are eight Ospreys up there now that I counted and I did manage to feed a few of them with some of my trout that I released. In the morning it was a little warm in the lower 90's and around noon we got some cloud cover and the temp dropped to mid 80's so Kathy and I decided to take a nap from all the hard fishing we were doing. We did fish until 3:30 and caught over 40 trout. All fish came off of my home made in-line spinner with a worm trailer. Most fish would hit and then you had to feed the lure back to them a few times and twitch the lure for them to get hooked; as soon as I had

the technique down I didn't miss many in the afternoon. Maybe next year we should just plan a road trip to Willow Springs and do a trout derby for our June tournament and then Lou Hirlemann would have the fastest boat with his kicker motor. Willow Springs is a 10 hp max lake but electric trolling motors are ok to use. I now have fish in my freezer and we are having trout for dinner tonight. See ya at the next meeting and I am looking forward to Bartlett nights in July.

### **Tom Savage & John Hawkins By Tom Savage**

I'd like to thank Johnny Hawkins for going to the lake with me. I didn't know anything about Lake Pleasant so Johnny said he'd help me out. He showed me all of Tom Alauria's favorite spots. What



a nice guy! I caught a 3 lb 12 oz bass in 25 feet of water on a Carolina rig. Also caught that same day was a 2 pounder.



### **Money Matters By John Reichard Treasurer**

June was only the second time a Midweek Bass Tournament has been cancelled and as a result the Treasurer's report is unusual and in flux. The way I am handling the entry fees from our cancelled June tournament is, the June entry fees are being rolled-over to our July night event at Lake Bartlett. Anyone not fishing Bartlett in July will get – except for the 5 lb Pot option - a full refund of their rolled-over entry fees from June. Those who paid to fish in June are requested to please contact the club Secretary – Terry Tassin - no later than 1 July –and let him know you will be fishing our July tournament and to roll-over your entry fee. Also, if you are not fishing in July let him know so we can send you an entry fee refund.

Holding the Lake Pleasant entry money for tournaments beyond Bartlett in July is extremely difficult to keep track of and a full refund seems the most prudent way of handling a cancellation.

Those members who have paid for Pleasant, and are fishing Bartlett, need to complete an entry form and make a note on the form that the July entry has been paid with your JUNE tournament

entry fees. Just forward your entry form for July and mark on the top of it "FEE CARRIED OVER FROM JUNE". Remember, you still must submit an entry form for the Bartlett tournament. If your June entry included the 5 lb. pot, there is no need to include an additional \$5. Since we did not fish in June there is no 5 lb pot fee for that month. For those not in the 5 lb pot, it is still closed until someone weighs in a 5 lb bass.

### Tech Tips

**Electrician's tape for emergency repairs:** Carry some electrician's tape with you when you go fishing and keep it handy. If you knock the transducer off the bottom of your trolling motor on a rock, you can always tape it back on with the tape and go back to fishing. The impulses from the fish finder will shoot through the tape and will also be picked up by the transducer again. Make sure when you tape the transducer to the trolling motor, you tape it as straight down as possible. It'll get you through a day of fishing.

**Going against the grain for late-summer bass:** Hot summer, fish deep – that's the standard game plan for most bass fishermen, but every once in a while somebody proves that it doesn't always work that way.

In any lake, there's always a large population of bass that live super-shallow all year. From now until the middle of

September, you probably can catch a good stringer of bass on ledges, but sooner or later they're going to burn you. Always check the shallow fish, no matter how hot and sunny it is. It might not be the best pattern, because the baitfish aren't shallow – but then again, it might be the main event.

Fish the transitional water between the ledges and the big bays or coves. Hit the points and shoreline with topwater lures. If you get around bluegill beds – which you're liable to find during any of the warm months – fish topwater lures that mimic bream. If the wind gets up, hit the banks and points on the windy side with swimbaits or spinnerbaits. There doesn't have to be any cover; just watch for baitfish breaking on the surface as bass come up under them. Then put your trolling motor down and start covering water.

**Upsize trebles for surer hook sets:** When fishing crankbaits and the fish seem to be just slapping at the lure and missing the hooks, upsize the back treble from, say, a No. 6 to a No. 4. A lot of times fish are sluggish and will just nip at a lure or barely get hooked on the front treble. Having a bigger treble on the back gives you a better chance for a solid hookup, either because the fish latches on there, or it gets hooked there during the fight. It's a good idea to start the season out with smaller crankbaits and then use larger ones as the year progresses. The rationale is to match the size and color of the actual

forage available at the time you are fishing.

**Moon Phases:** Experience says, fishing tends to be better, sometimes great, on the three days before and after a full moon and the new moon. Sometimes there will be an especially strong bite on the days before or after, and sometimes for the entire period. However, weather fronts can completely cancel out the expected advantage of a good moon. Stable weather is probably a stronger advantage, but when there is stable weather and a good moon it can be gangbusters fishing.

**Sunglasses for all occasions:** Good sunglasses are valuable fishing tools. In low light they can help you spot obstacles under the water and at the surface when you're running down the lake; and in bright sunlight they can help you see cover or fish. You should consider having pairs of glasses with three different lens colors for different light conditions. At first light, wear the amber or brown lens, which really brings out contrasts. Later in the morning, switch to grey, which is a good all-around choice for most light conditions. When it gets up in the day and the sun is really bright overhead, go to the green lenses. They cut through the reflection on the surface and help you see deeper into the water. Keep glasses with those three lenses in your boat and they will cover any light situation. Another thing that is important is to use the soft

cloth packaged with sunglasses to clean them off. Lenses will last a lot longer without getting scratched up if you do that instead of trying to wipe them off on your shirt or a rag.

**Don't wait too long to respool line:** If you fish rocks and shoreline cover a lot when practicing for a tournament, on the last day of practice put on fresh line because the old stuff has gotten nicked and abraded. But don't wait until the night before the tournament starts to change the line. Instead, take a break around midday on that last practice day and respool. That way, while you are in actual fishing situations you can get accustomed to the feel of the new line and adjust it as needed before the tournament starts. If you have any problems with the line, such as having too much or too little on the spool of a spinning reel, you can correct them during that last afternoon of practice. You don't want to have to mess with line during the first round of the tournament and waste precious fishing time.

## Bassin' Basics

### Working flats with a flutter spoon

When fish are really spread out, maybe because it's a cloudy day or it's in the fall and they're really feeding and roaming around a lot following the bait, a good lure to fish is a flutter spoon. With its vibration and flash, and the fact that you can cast it a mile, it's a good

lure for covering a lot of water.

Usually, the 5-inch size works best, but sometimes downsizing to the 4-inch model helps with the catching. Mainly this is something you should try on a fairly flat bottom between a drop-off and the bank, where it's probably much less than 20 feet deep. Look for slow tapering bars between the river ledge and the bank, a hump on the flat – places like that.

The flutter spoon has a nice cradling action, so you don't need to use any kind of swivel with it; just tie it directly to 20-pound test fluorocarbon. You'll get some line twist, but not bad. Fish it with a long rod that's fairly stiff because you can make long casts with it and set the hook better. After casting out, let the spoon sink to the bottom, and then sweep it up with that long rod. Then "kill it" and let it go back down on a slack line; that's very important. You'll get more strikes if you let the spoon fall horizontally on a slack line so it has that good rocking action.



## Bits & Pieces By Terry Tassin

### As we Age.

- \* Life is a gift to you.
- \* The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.
- \* Live it well! Enjoy today! Do something fun! Be happy! Have a great day!

\* Remember, "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver".

\* Live happy in 2017!

\* Lastly, consider the following: Today is the oldest you've ever been.....yet the youngest you'll ever be. So – enjoy this day while it lasts.

\* Your kids are becoming you...but your grandchildren are perfect!

\* Going out is good...Coming home is better!

\* You forget names...But it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!

\* You realize you're never going to be really good at anything...especially golf and fishing.

\* The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.

\* You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep". (I love this!)

\* You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.

\* You tend to use more 4 letter words..."what?"..."when?"...??

\* What used to be freckles are now liver spots.

\* Everybody whispers.

\* You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet....2 of which you will never wear again.

\* But Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!

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

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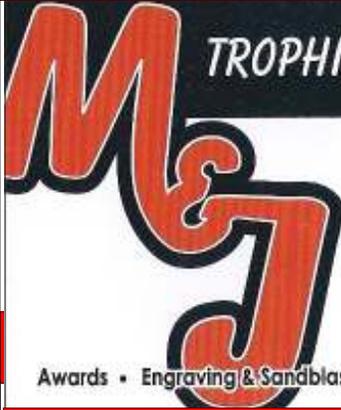
**CONSERVATION/LEGISLATIVE** - John Reichard

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

**Welcome to New  
Midweek Bass Anglers  
Since the Last Newsletter**

**Jason Ryan (B)  
Richard Mladick (CO)**

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



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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 July**

**Ricky Boehm**

**Kenny Cartledge**

**Vic Cunningham**

**Todd Gentner**

**Gary Martlage**

**Scott Olivier**

**Greg Prather**

**Chad Schimmel**

**Jack Shearer**

**Jason Stanton**



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2017  
Tournament Schedule**

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