

The March 2011 Edition

BAY AREA

Casey and Eugene Win June In Winter In February In Early Spring



Casey Gonzales and Eugene Terkoski had about a five pound limit in their boat at 12:30 Saturday afternoon. They had done what most of us had done, find a small limit. Now they were looking for a kicker fish or two to make the day successful. They pulled into a cove where they had spotted a few beds and started looking for some spawning fish. As they approached the pads a few dark shapes appeared on the bottom and the teams adrenaline began to rise. The first fish that they stuck went over 7 and then they they got another one over 7. Within an hour and a half they completely culled their early morning limit and put 20.52 pounds on the scales. All out of one patch of lilly pads. Good choice men! Just a reminder, in case you forgot, Casey still holds the all time dink of the year record at .65 pounds. A feat that may never be beaten.

Team Craighead, Tom and Joe, took second place honors. They had about the same kind of morning that most of us had. They had a small limit early casting Karlie worms, by Jethro, to the edge of the grass. As the sun pushed high in the sky, they decided to go sight fishing. They pulled into a patch of pads just down from where our winners found their fish and spotted a giant on a bed. Tom pitched an Ugly Kraw in Midnight Blue Flash to the bed. The bait was so ugly that the sow just had to crush it. As she did, Tom set the hook and boated our Big Bass Of The Tournament (BBOTT) just as Casey and Eugene arrived at their spot. Their total of 12.64 put them in second and earned them a nice check.

Third place came to the team of Jim Stillwell and Charles Harper. I asked Jim how they caught their fish and he told me he used a plastic thing with a hook tied to a string and wiggled it in the water and the fish bit it. We need a little more information at the meeting Jim!

Forth went to John and Colby Flinn. Again we need details at the meeting guys. Fifth went to Mike, is this right?..... Are you sure about this?.....Did you double check the figures?Jim, did you read the scale right?.....Ok, if everyone thinks this is right, Ron Hebert Jr. and Paul Macchia..... That doesn't even sound right but it must be. Even they didn't think they won anything because they left and didn't get their check at the tournament. This unlikely pair had 9.90 pounds.

Overall 123 fish were brought to the scales with 21 limits. We were just 12 fish away from a perfect tournament. Another record that fell at this tournament was our smallest limit of all time. Mike Elliot and Frank Jones, last years winners at this event, brought in a legal limit that weighted just 4.48 pounds. Congratulations everyone for a great tournament.



1st Place
Casey Gonzales &
Eugene Terkoski



2nd Place
Tom Craighead
& Joe Craighead



3rd Place
Jim Stillwell &
Charles Harper



BBOTT
Tom Craighead
8.72lbs

Tom Wins Harris !!!!!

Unbelievable But True

Have you read that headline right? They must be talking about a different Tom. Craighead comes to mind, or maybe some new guy, but not Mahoney. Mahoney and Harris just don't get along. The only thing Mahoney could win on Harris is a race against a paddle boat and the odds would be in the paddlers' favor. But a miracle happened on February 27, 2011. Tom Mahoney won the Lake Harris, Florida B.A.S.S. Federation Nation, Co-angler division, qualifier number one, 2011, tournament.

He decided to fish as a co-angler because he didn't want to torture his co-angler with his complete incompetence on this body of water. Besides, he might learn something about Harris with someone else. So he met his angler at the ramp with his overstuffed tackle bag, five rods, eight peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, ten packs of crackers, assorted diet cokes, and ten bottles of water. At least if he didn't catch any fish (his normal day on Harris) he wouldn't be hungry or thirsty. Mr. Bob Woods, his boater, told him that the fishing would be as exciting as watching paint dry. It would be slow, duuuhhh we're on Harris, this he already knew.

Bob pulled into an area on Harris that Tom had fished before with little or no success. But when Bob stopped offshore and started casting a trap Tom got excited. When my crank bait came into contact with the first twig of hydrilla a light went off in his head. He could catch fish in this stuff even in this mud hole. His first fish was a 9" beauty. Bob's first went 11 1/2". The next catch was a speck on a trap then a small shad on Bob's same trap. This gave Tom an idea. His idea's come few and far between so he figured he must react to it. He had brought a spinner bait with multiple small blades that were about the size of that shad. He tied it on and went to work. The first fish to slam it was a 4 pound hybrid. A hard fought battle but nothing to show for it. His second fish came just a little later and it weighted 5 pounds. But the stripes on the side said he had to turn it loose. His third hybrid went about 3. Tom thought that these stripers may be keying in on the chartreuse on the skirt so he change to an all white one. Ten to one hundred casts later, Tom felt a bump and set the hook. Bob said "you got another striper" but Tom didn't think so. " Bob, I think this is a good bass, get the net" Tom exclaimed. This fish went almost five. Tom was so excited. He wasn't finishing last today, as he had sooooo many times before. He had a fish in the boat. He didn't have to wear his zero shirt today. He had probably qualified for the State Championship already. He was relieved. A few minutes later he felt another strike and set the hook. A solid two pounder. Then Bob woke up. This Harris professional got a bump on his worm and put a five and a half pounder in the boat. He followed it up with a three and once again Tom was getting his butt whooped. The slow bite they were getting stopped and Bob decided to try another area. After about ten minutes on the other side of the lake Bob said " This is dumb. Lets go back to where we know there are fish and just wait them out." Tom got his stuff tied down quickly and off they went to the promised land. Tom threw most of the tackle he brought trying to get another bite but nothing seemed to work until he picked that spinner bait up again. After a few casts the bait just stopped. Tom set the hook and the battle begin. This fish pulled drag as she was headed into the hydrilla. Tom's expert fish fighting skills showed as he fought this Harris oddity, a large fish, for that matter any fish is an oddity on Harris. After what seemed like an eternity, Tom slid his monster into Bob's

net. She ended up being the big bass of the day. This 7.13 pound behemoth of the deep ended up being big fish of the tournament and easily won the co-angler pot by almost two pounds. Tom had already won the tournament but didn't know it yet. His last fish of the day came off a lipless crank bait pulled very slowly through the hydrilla. Tom Craighead was about 75 yards away and witnessed this last catch of the day. Mahoney finished with a total of 16.07 pounds and eclipsed his closest rival by a little less than six pounds. Tom only had four fish so he could continue to bad mouth Harris. A limit would have shut him up. Only 43 fish were weighted in by 33 anglers on the non-boater side with not one single limit being recorded. The boater side had only 9 limits with 93 fish distributed through 38 participants. That makes 1.9 fish per angler or one fish every 4.4 hours of fishing time. Harris is still a mud hole but at least Tom has some good memories of a day when everything worked out in his favor.



Sponsor News & Notes

Each month we will be bringing you information on a few of our sponsors as well as keeping you updated on member feedback of sponsor items whether won through the monthly raffles or purchased directly through our sponsors. To help with this section we'd like to ask that you provide feedback regarding our sponsor's products. Please let us know your stories and thoughts so that we may include it in the newsletter and also let our sponsors know as they really appreciate the feedback and are always pleased to hear from us.

Bay Area Bassmasters would like to proudly welcome its newest Gold Level sponsor: **Richard's Automotive Service in Tampa**. Please make sure to visit Richard's for any of your auto repair needs!

Sponsor Feedback

-Family Boating & Marine Centers - One of our members had his annual service completed recently and came away very impressed with the level of service provided by the staff at Family Boating & Marine Centers. His boat was dropped off early in the morning and was available for pick-up that day. If you need Yamaha service and are in the Tampa area this is the place to go!

-Bass Boat Saver - We continue to receive a ton of feedback from every member of the club who has had the opportunity to use the Bass Boat Saver product that it is the best product on the market to clean and keep up your boat. Simply wipe the boat down after you're off the water and it keeps it clean and the surface is protected.

-Jethro Baits - It didn't take long for these baits to make a mark on our members as we have already had a number of guys talk about the benefits of these baits and their terminal tackle. From what we are hearing the Karlie Finesse worm and Triple M Fluke have been top producers in area lakes.

-Koppers LIVETARGET - We did hear from one angler who received one of the Hollow Body frogs that he had multiple blow-ups on the bait within the first 10 casts of using it. If you don't have one of these baits and you like frog fishing, you need to get yourself one as they are the most realistic frog baits on the market!

Other mentions from our members who have caught fish with the following in the last few months:

- Ugly Baits (Ugly Kraw in Midnight Blue Flash)
- Culprit (T-Rex in June Bug and Watermelon Pepper)
- Hag's Tornado (Hag's Undertaker in Black Neon)
- Crumps (Boss Frog in White and Watermelon Red Flake)

Keep that feedback coming guys as it is great news to hear about how our sponsor's baits are performing.

Thanks again to all of our sponsors as we couldn't be the best and biggest club in Florida without your help and support!

March's meeting will be Tuesday, the 8th, at Stingray's located at 11010 North 30th Street at 7:30pm.

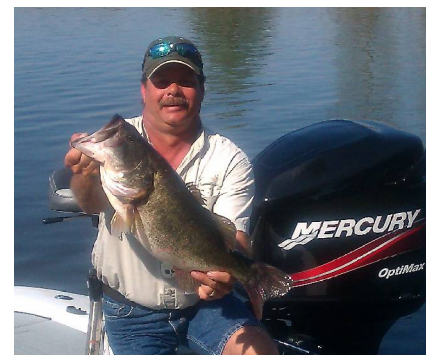


2011 Schedule

Month	Meeting Date	Tournament Date	Location	Ramp
March	8	12	Lake Tarpon	Anderson Park
April	5	9	Lake Kissimmee	Camp Mack's River Resort
May	10	14	Lake Istokpoga	Istokpoga Park HWY 98
June	7	11	Lake Tarpon	Anderson Park
July	5	9	Lake Harris	Hickory Point
August	9	13	Lake Toho	Southport
September	6	10	John's Lake	Public Ramp
October	4	8	South Winter Haven Chain	Lake Shipp Ramp
Nov (Classic)	8	12-13	TBA	

Tom Craighead Takes Big Check In Cracker Boys

Tom Craighead and Tom Mahoney have teamed up to fish Cracker Boys for the last couple of years. Their patience and perseverance finally paid off for them last Saturday. Mahoney had spotted an area in Toho that was loaded with beds and off they went to capture 40 pounds worth of them. As Mahoney's luck had been going, those fish had left town. So the team of Tom and Tom worked their way out from the spawning grounds, Craighead felt a tick at the end of a very long cast. After bird seemed like minutes, and after some coaxing from his partner, Craighead set the hook. The water boiled and Mahoney expertly moved the boat forward to close the gap on this beauty. Then Mahoney moved quickly to retrieve the net and get it extended and ready for use. As the fish surfaced Mahoney expertly netted the fish and brought it on board. She went 8.90 pounds and earned a check greater than first place team recieved. Congratulations men!



Aaron Yavorsky and his first bass on his Lightning McQueen fishing rod.

Plant City Kids Fishing Derby Set For March 19th

The fifteenth annual Plant City Youth Fishing Derby has been set for March 19th. We have helped out many times in the past with this great event but this time all we need to do is take our kids fishing. Bring your kids, the neighbors kids, or your grandkids and have a wonderful day enjoying this fun fishing destination. Registration starts at 7:30 and fishing starts for the kids at 8:30 and goes to 11. Prizes are awarded and then we take a lunch break. At 12:30 the parent/child competition starts. At 3:15 the team awards will be given out. Bring your boats to show, your kids to fish, the neighbors kids to keep them company, your grandkids to spoil, and anyone else looking for a good time and come join us for this great event.

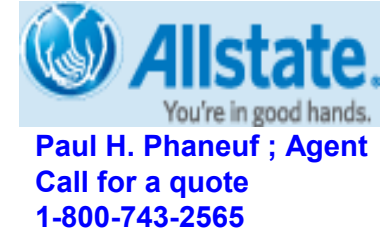
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