

Bay Area Bassmasters Raises \$3,500 For Gulfside Regional Hospice



From the very beginning the Ina Mahoney Hospice Challenge has been the success. When Tom Craighead came up with this idea to support Bay Area's President, even he didn't know how well it would do. To date the wonderful and generous anglers of Bay Area have donated \$15,358.59 to area hospice organizations. In 2014 we collected a record \$3,500 for Gulfside Regional Hospice. This shows the true character of this club and its members. Buddy's Home Furnishings and Rooms to Go gave us a TV and gift certificates to raffle off for this cause as well. Their donations raised \$800 to combine with the \$2,700 that was pledged by our anglers. Tom Mahoney says he couldn't be more proud to lead this fantastic group of anglers. He has never heard of another fishing organization that has ever done anything close to this. The generosity and compassion of this group puts them far ahead of any other club in the country. He has always said that Bay Area Bassmasters is the best club in the world and this is just another way that they prove it.

Teresa Craighead, Tom's wife, is now dealing with a hospice organization of her own. Her father is slowly losing his battle with a debilitating illness. Her family has been helped already with the professionals that hospice brings to their door. Each and everyone of us may need hospice at one time or another so let's please continue to support them in the 2015 season and beyond.

New Year, New Forms

The 2015 season looks to be another great year for the anglers of Bay Area Bassmasters. Every year we have to give our club secretary (Tom Craighead) the paperwork that he needs to get us all registered. Just because you fished with us last year doesn't mean you don't have to fill it out. We have got new forms this year so please pick them up Tuesday night and fill them out. Put the angler and co-angler info on the sign up sheet. Please include your current e-mail address so that we can keep you up to date on what is happening with our club. Fill in all the information it asks for and please include your cell phone number. If you are a returning angler, we don't need your B.A.S.S. number unless it's changed.

The second sheet is the liability release form. It was copied from an old B.A.S.S. form and it has a clause about your insurance coverage. B.A.S.S. is getting tighter on their insurance rules so this will keep us in compliance. The sheet is two sided but it's the same on each side. One angler signs the front and the other signs the back. Turn those forms in to Tom and he won't have anything to complain about. See you Tuesday night.

Tom and Carol Mahoney Take the Classic, Barely

Lake Okeechobee, November 2014, Bay Area Bassmasters 12th annual year end Classic. The early favorites are, Casey and Eugene, Gary and Joe, and Jeff and Dan. Cold front expected over the weekend. Lake fishes very tough. Rain expected all day Sunday. These all could have been the headlines for this years Classic out of Roland Martin's Resort, but the one headline that everyone wouldn't have believed is; The Mahoney's Won?

It was a typical Tom and Carol bee to pre-fish for their ing that the last couple to find a good flipping hunt for pods of pre-the outside edges of They went south and ditch with similar Coot Bay and found a rim ditch north and They went out to the As they took the rim haven they passed the



November day when Mahoney hit Okeecho-upcoming classic. Know-of years they had failed bite they went on the spawn fish. They fished several areas to no avail. fished the cuts in the rim results. They eased in to few fish. They took the fished Uncle Joe's cut. Shoal and had no luck. ditch towards Moore-

large wall in the construc-
tion area. As Tom idled beside the wall he was watching his structure scan and noticed some irregular bottom as well as some fish markings. They decided to try the area and proceeded to catch fish. The fish would bite a stick bait on the bottom but you had to keep it moving, otherwise you would lose it in the rocks. Hoping that nobody had seen them catch those fish they left the area and moved on. Saturday morning came and Tom and Carol were off. They decided to fish Coot Bay first because the fish were a little larger there. After a couple hours and only two small fish they moved to the wall. As they rounded the corner heading to their spot they thought they had the wall all to themselves. Then they spotted one boat on the end they wanted to fish. It was Allen Powers and Billy Wood. They had also found these fish. Although they had their trolling motor down, Tom and Carol knew they could not crowd these fellow Bay Area anglers. So they went on past them and fished the north side of the wall. As they fished they noticed that there was an eddy on either side of the channel. They worked these areas and soon had a limit. The culling began and they put together about an 11 pound bag. They left the area around noon and were hoping to get the afternoon bite in Coot Bay. When Tom and Carol pulled into the bay, it was way too quiet. No movement or activity of any kind. They decided they better try their luck with a flippin' stick. They work the outside islands off the Clewiston canal and managed to catch a solid three pounder. That allowed them to cull up to 12.59 pounds. They thought that would put them in the middle of the pack but with the lake fishing so tough it put them in a solid third-place. Meanwhile Allen Powers and Billy Wood would be our day one leaders with 15.19 pounds. They had caught 100 fish on Saturday and that was their best five. Tom and Carol decided to try their luck at the wall first thing on Sunday morning. As Tom and Carol's Skeeter passed Allen and Billy's Nitro, Tom thought he might get a shot at that corner he had found Friday. When he pulled up to the wall he put his trolling motor down he asked Billy and Allen to pull right up to him. Tom didn't want any bad feelings so that both had a shot at fishing the corner. Billy and Allen started schooling Tom and Carol on how to catch fish in this area. They caught 20 fish to Tom and Carol's two small ones. Tom decided to move forward and try his luck in the eddies leaving the corner to Allen and Billy. They continued to catch one fish after another without moving more than a few feet. Tom and Carol started working the edges of the canal with Gambler fat aces. Soon Carol caught a 3 pound bass. After about 30 min. they had caught their limit and were starting to cull. The rain continued to fall yet there was a cold wind starting to blow.

(Continued)

Tom and Carol were going to go out to the lake and try to catch a big fish but new that with the cold front on top of them it would probably be useless. They felt the best chance to increase their bag was to continue to plug away in their area. Allen and Billy never moved and continued to catch fish. Tom and Carol worked both sides of the river and even the south side of the wall. They were picking up a fish here and a fish there that helped. Tom tied on a small vibrating crankbait and started throwing it at some of the schooling fish. A couple of fish hit the bait and then jumped off but he connected to a good one and after an extensive fight got their kicker to the boat. It weighed 4.69 pounds to anchor their 17.71 pound bag. Allen and Billy caught another 15.06 pounds by culling through another hundred fish. Neither one of the teams knew who had the best total. It was too close to call. They both felt they had won but they had to wait for the final results. One bad cull on either side could have cost them the tournament. As it turned out Tom and Carol Mahoney pulled out a victory by the slimmest margin in Bay Area Bassmasters history. Five one hundredths of a pound was all that separated first and second place. 30.30 pounds was the winning total with 30.25 pounds coming in second.

Meanwhile the team of Perry and John Cincotta were busy catching fish of their own. They ran up to the Fisheating Bay area of the lake and concentrated on the outside edges of the ditch area. They found lots of mats and had to take their time and work a big weight through them to find some good fish underneath them. They used some Hags Tornado creature baits as well as some Culprit craws. They brought in a

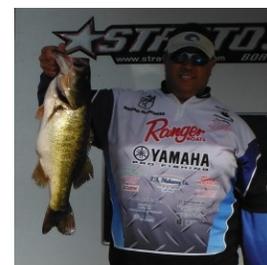


7.27 pound kicker that claimed second place big fish honors on day one. They were solidly in 5th place on day one with an 11.77 pound bag but day two the bite got bigger and they brought in 14.23 pounds. That moved them up to third with a total of 26 pounds even.

Our fourth place team was Carl Powers and Mathew Miller. They were in fourth on day one and held firm on day two to hold their position on the score board. They were on a very consistent pattern just like the other Powers team. They had 12.24 and 12.53 for a two day total of 24.77 pounds. I could make something up and add a bunch of drama to this but I forgot to ask them how they caught their fish. So when you see them ask them. They'll tell you.

After ending their first day in second place, the team of Tom Craighead and Tim Hibbs (Team Richards Quality Automotive) had a tougher day on Sunday. They had 13.19 on day one and added 11.01 on day two to claim top five honors. Tom told me how he caught them but it was kind of boring so I'll leave the details out.

Mike Blanchard and Tony Office claim first place big fish with a 8.5 pound beauty on Saturday and Alan Press took Sunday's honors with a 5.43. Cory and Paula Bump claim the Betty Lou award. Everyone had fun and bunches of fish were caught. It just doesn't get any better than that!



**Thank You Richards Quality Automotive
Your our January Sponsor for The Harris
Challenge (Literally)**



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.

Sponsorship News & Notes:

- **We'd like to THANK the following sponsors for their support of our club!**
- **PLATINUM SPONSORS: 13 Fishing, Allstate Insurance (Paul Phaneuf), Armor Guard, Bay Area Pool Service, Cartwright Realty, Dick's Sporting Goods, Frogg Toggs, Lucky Dog Daycare & Resort of South Tampa, Richard's Quality Automotive, T.A. Mahoney Co., Inc., The Car Shop, Wal-pole**
- **GOLD SPONSORS:** Bass Boat Saver, Culprit, Doby's Rods, Florida Lift Systems, New Pro Products, The Original Grill
- **SILVER SPONSORS:** Bass King Outdoor Clothing, Buddy's Home Furnishings, Chums, Dr. Dan's, KeelGuard, Lake Fork Trophy Lures, LIVETARGET, Rod Sox, Stinky Fingers
- **BRONZE SPONSORS:** Advantage Bait Company, Bluewater LED, Eco-Pro Tungsten, Gambler, Keitech USA, Lungerhunt, Propeller Dynamics, Rage Fish Attractants (Liquid Mayhem), The Rod Glove, Valley Fashions (Jerseys), Vicious Fishing

With our 2015 season getting underway we would like to thank all of our sponsors for their support of our organization. We are grateful for their support and it goes a long way to making our club one of the best in the Country if not the World! Please make sure to visit their websites, social media pages, or stores and send them a thank you and let them know about your use of their products. With everything they do for our club it is incumbent upon us to respond with feedback and a polite thank you!

- **Social Media Pages and Information**
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/BayAreaBassmasters>
- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/Bay Area Bass>
- Instagram - <http://instagram.com/bayareabassmasters/>

If you are on any of the above Social Media platforms please make sure to like and share our pages and posts as well as following our sponsors pages. Also please submit your pictures to us through email to bayareabassmasters@gmail.com so that we may post to our Social Media sites. Pictures showing sponsor products or references are very welcome!

Additional Items:

Please make sure to support all of our sponsors and let them know that you are with the club! If you are interested in getting product, many of our sponsors are available at T.A. Mahoney's. You can also go direct to many of our sponsors websites, make sure to mention that you are with the club as well.

Keep that feedback coming guys as it is great news to hear about how our sponsors 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!

Bay Area Bassmasters Club Membership Benefits from our Sponsors

As a member of our club you are eligible to receive some great benefits from some of our sponsors. Please see below for our sponsors offering discounts and how to get them.

Advantage Bait Company – 25% Discount

- Please contact Mike Press for information on ordering product

Armor Guard Painting & Coating - **\$500 off** exterior coating job, **\$250 off** interior or exterior standard paint job, **\$250 off** any safety/security film job

- Contact at 727- 501-1264, ask for Rodney

Culprit – 30% Discount

- Go to the [Culprit Online Store](https://www.culpritstore.com/catalog3/) - <https://www.culpritstore.com/catalog3/>
- Use promotional/coupon code: BCC0015

Eco Pro Tungsten – 40% Discount off of most items

- Visit their [website](http://www.ecoprotungsten.com/) - <http://www.ecoprotungsten.com/>
- Use promotional/coupon code: press

Keitech USA – 20% Discount

- [Register online here](https://www.keitechusa.com/index.php?dispatch=profiles.add) - <https://www.keitechusa.com/index.php?dispatch=profiles.add>
- During sign-up put “**Bay Area Bass**” after your last name
 - Once registered you will get an email notifying you of your account being set-up

Liquid Mayhem – 40% Discount

- Visit their [website](http://ragefishattractants.com) - <http://ragefishattractants.com>
- Use promotional/coupon code: BABM2014

T.A. Mahoney Inc. – 10% Discount off of most items

- Please see Tom Mahoney or mention that you are with the club upon checkout at the store.

Vicious Fishing - 25% Discount off of most items

- Visit their [website](http://www.getvicious.com/) - <http://www.getvicious.com/>
- Use promotional/coupon code: ViciousBAB

Contact bayareabassmasters@gmail.com if there are any questions or if further information is needed.

January's meeting will be Tuesday, the 6th at R J Wings N Things in Temple Terrace, located at 51st and Fowler at 7:00pm.



Month	Meeting/Tour.	Sponsor	Location	Ramp
January	6 10	Richards Quality Auto	Lake Harris	Hickory Point
February	10 14	Allstate Insurance	Lake Toho	Southport
March	10 14	T. A. Mahoney Co. Inc.	Lake Rousseau	Public Ramp West
April	7 11	Armor Guard	Lake Istokpoga	98 Ramp
May	5 9	Cartwright Realty	Lake Kissimmee	Camp Mack
June	9 13	Florida Lift Systems	Lake Tarpon	Anderson
July	7 11	Mystery Lake	TBD	TBD
August	4 8	Lucky Dog Resort	Rodman Reservoir	Kenwood
September	8 12	Walpole Inc.	Lake Reedy	Public Ramp
October	6 10	Bay Area Pool Service	Lake Istokpoga	98 Ramp
November	10/17 14-15	(Club Classic)	TBD	TBD

2015 Florida B.A.S.S. Nation Central Division Schedule

Feb 22, 2015	Pro/Am Qualifier	Harris Chain of Lakes	TBA
Mar 21, 2015	Pro/Am Qualifier	Kissimmee Chain of Lakes	City of Kissimmee
Mar 22, 2015	Team Qualifier	Kissimmee Chain of Lakes	City of Kissimmee
May 30, 2015	Team Qualifier	Harris Chain of Lakes	TBA
May 31, 2015	Pro/Am Qualifier	Harris Chain of Lakes	TBA
Aug 22, 2015	Pro/Am Qualifier	Kissimmee Chain of Lakes	Camp Mack

2015 Paralyzed Veterans Of America Tournament

March 27-29 Lake Toho Lakefront Park

Florida B.A.S.S. Nation Bass Club Team Championship

June 27-28 Lake Okeechobee Roland Martins Resort in Clewiston

Florida B.A.S.S. Nation State Championship

November 7-8 TBA Central Division

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