

May 2015

Jeff Baker and Darin Betts Win The Armor Guard Istokpoga Duel

BAY AREA



BASSMASTER'S

Jeff Baker is a busy man. His wife and kids take up most of his free time and his job takes the rest. So when his house needed to be painted, her knew he didn't have time to do it himself. So he called Armor Guard. Rodney got that home looking fresh so all Jeff could worry about how he was going to catch fish on Saturday. He called his buddy Darin Betts, and off they went. Istokpoga was their destination. Istokpoga is an old Indian word that means "home of the mean an ornery large bass with attitude". Jeff put his Frog Togg jacket on to protect him from the morning chill, and Darin strapped his 13 Fishing rods down and putt his Bass King beanie on and off they went. The first couple of spots didn't produce so Jeff knew a line of pads that always had fish. It required patience but Jeff had plenty of that because he knew that his dog, Cartwright, named after his favorite Realty company, was safe and happy. He had dropped him off at Lucky Dog Pet Resort before he went fishing. Jeff grabbed his Dobyns rod and gently placed his Culprit Incredi-Claw right at the base of the pads. He felt a light tap and set the hook. This fish lived up to the Istokpoga name as Darin had to not just net it but to subdue it. In the battle to get her in the net, Darin's sunglasses fell off his face. But because of the new set of Chums that he had just purchased at T. A. Mahoney Co. they were still safely around his neck. She would be their kicker as she went 7.18 pounds. An hour later, Darin felt a tap through his Vicious Braid, as a bass inhaled his Lake Fork Hyper Freak with a 1/2 ounce Eco Pro Tungsten weight. She would go a little over 4 pounds. As they continued to work this line of pads Darin started to day dream about the dinner plans he had with his wife that night. The were going to Tarpon springs to the home of "The Original Grill" Ballyhoo's. He knew that they would have a great meal and some ice cold adult beverages. He thought his mouth was getting dry just thinking about that cold beer but he realized that it was only his lips. So he put on his Dr. Dan SPF 30 lip balm and he was ready to catch some more fish. Jeff had worked the boat way back in the shallow water, behind the grasses, and the water was gin clear, He said, and I quote, "This water is so clear, it looks like Istokpoga has a contract with Bay Area Pools". That phrase didn't hardly get out of his mouth when another good bass slammed his Advantage Baits spinner bait. That makes three. Jeff worked his way out of that clear water and looked for some thick cover. The sun was high and he knew this was his best bet to catch some more fish would be some heavy cover. He put on a Gambler Burner Craw, that he had purchased at Dick's Sporting goods, on his flippin stick, doused it with a healthy dose of Liquid Mayhem, and started punching the thick stuff. About 50 feet down the line, his Burner Craw wouldn't lift of the bottom so he set the hook. Good thing, because that fish made four. An hour later that spot was done so he headed for a stand of cat tails. He put a Lunker Hunt, Lunker stick on and started working the outside edges. Soon number five took the bait and Jeff put her in the boat. That would be their day, Five fish that went 22.32 to take the crown for tournament #4. As Jeff pulled into the basin, all the spots were filled with boats so he just pulled right up on the concrete ramp to drop Darin off knowing that his boat would be undamaged because he had

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installed a Keel Shield on his boat. The only regret Jeff had all day was not buying that new Skeeter boat he had looked at. If he had done that he would have just earned himself an additional \$3000 with the Real Money program. But they were happy to get that first place check. Jeff keeps his boat looking like new though with his regular use of Bass Boat Saver. He just wipes it down when he gets home and another quick spray before he goes and that thing looks great. And Jeff looks good too in the club jersey manufactured by Valley Fashions.

Second place belonged to the team of Brian Renshaw and Bobby Squires. Their five best went 21.15 pounds. They could have had another half pound if they had installed a New Pro Live Well vent system in their boat. The day got real hot and this would have let that hot air out of the live well and kept their fish cooler and healthy. So lets go back to the beginning. Their day started of well. They got lucky and drew boat one at the meeting so they had to show their insurance info to Tom, head mechanic for Richards Quality Automotive. Mr. Craighead looked at that paperwork and wondered how Paul Phaneuf and Allstate Insurance had kept his rate so low. He was looking at it with the help of those Blue Water LED lights that Bobby had installed. Bobby backed his truck up to launch the boat and was feeling good about how well she was running. He had just got it back from The Car Shop and they had done a tune up as well as an oil change. She was purring like a kitten as he dropped his partner in the water. Brian pulled his rods out and slid his Rod Sox off each rod, tied on a Live Target square bill Baitball and he was ready for action. When Bobby got to the boat he tied on his Keitech Swim Impact bait on his 13 Fishing rod. He wanted to try out a new presentation that he had seen the pro's do on his 50" flat screen TV that he had purchased at Buddy's Home Furnishings. Brian wouldn't have even been able to fish this tournament if he hadn't been able to get his job finished at work. They had a break down on one of their forklifts and Florida Lift was able to get it repaired quickly so the job got done and Brian could concentrate on the fish that were calling his name. So boat one was called and off to the races they went. They pulled into their spot and bam, the fish were on it. Five fish in nine casts and the culling began. Brian tied on a Warrior umbrella rig and they started coming two at a time. After the dust cleared, 27 fish had hit the net including their kicker that went 7.95 pounds.

Third place belonged to the team of Chuck Pons and Mark Rees. Did you ever notice that these two guys seem to have one letter each missing out of their last names. Maybe that is why they partnered up. (Things that make you go hummmmmmm) Anyway, I have run out of sponsors so I don't know how they caught their fish or how many they boated. Their five best went 19.04 with a 7.47 kicker. I can bet that from the looks of Chuck's boats floor, that plastics were involved.

Fourth place belonged to Jeff Crandon and Dan Richarson. They brought 16.82 pounds in with a 8.04 kicker. Fifth belonged to Lewis Robinson and Calvin Boyette. Their limit went 15.22 with a 6 pounder. Sixth was Chris Neatherly and Steve Gallette and seventh went to last months champions, Bruce and Jared Young.

The Big Fish of the tournament went to Team Walpole Inc. John and Perry Cincotta. Their used to carrying heavy loads of cargo so this was a piece of cake. She broke the nine pound barrier by .32. That makes her the big fish of the year, so far. Congratulations gentlemen! Overall we had 4 fish that qualified for the Florida Trophy Catch Program. Out of a forty boat field, 22 limits were brought in. We only had one zero and it wasn't even the Mahoney's. We brought in 152 fish that went 401.17 pounds. That's better than 2 1/2 pounds each. That's a good time on the water. The only issue we had was way to many dead fish. We need to work on this. Do I need to bring the FWC biologist back in? Eric would be happy to give us another presentation!



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 all of our amazing 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, Walpole**

- **GOLD SPONSORS: Bass Boat Saver, Blue Water LED, 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, Warrior Baits**

- **BRONZE SPONSORS: Advantage Bait Company, Eco-Pro Tungsten, Gambler, Keitech USA, Lunckerhunt, Rage Fish Attractants (Liquid Mayhem), Valley Fashions (Jerseys), Vicious Fishing**

- **Feedback – submit pictures or video to bayareabassmasters@gmail.com**

- **Frogg Toggs** – We have heard from a few of the folks who were lucky enough to win a certification for a free Frogg Toggs Toad Rage Jacket and we are getting great feedback on how lightweight and comfortable these jackets are while also providing protection from the Florida rain! Make sure to check out this and all of their products as they make high quality products for every budget.

- **New Pro Products** – As we begin coming into our hot season please make sure to help keep our resources plentiful by protecting your catch. Check out the VT-2 Livewell Ventilation system to give your catch an extra chance at being released to one day be caught again!

- **Bass King Clothing** – With all the Bass King products passed over the years many of our members can be seen wearing these products on the water. Everyone speaks highly of their clothing and accessories as being very comfortable and breathable.

- **Warrior Baits** – We're starting to get some feedback on one of our most recent sponsors. Their baits were used by some teams during the Istokpoga tournament to flip and pitch for some nice keepers. Make sure to check out the full line of products.

Social Media Pages and Information – please like & follow us and our sponsors!

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/BayAreaBassmasters>

- Twitter - https://twitter.com/Bay_Area_Bass

- Instagram - <http://instagram.com/bayareabassmasters/>

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.**

Do You Hear It? Listen hard.....

There It Is, Okeechobee is Calling !

The Florida B.A.S.S. Nation is holding the Bass Club Team Championship next month on Okeechobee out of the Roland Martins. You know, the place we all love in the fall. This time it will be June 27th-28th. This is the four man team championship that used to be in the fall. Now it's back on Okeechobee where we won it last time. Put your team together and lets go have some fun. Rooms are discounted and the Tiki Bar is open. Yeeehaaa!

Florida B.A.S.S. Nation Holds It's Third Qualifier on May 31st Out Of Harris

If you haven't qualified for this years State Championship, here is your chance. And it's on the same body of water that the Championship will probably be held. You can enter on-line at Floridabassnation.com. There will be no pairings meeting and you will get your boater/ nonboater info via of a text message. It's easier than it's ever been to enter and fish these qualifiers. So come join us for a great tournament and a good time.

Florida B.A.S.S. Nation Holds It's Second Team Qualifier on May 30th Out Of Harris

Ok , so it looks like the same headline but it isn't. This one is the two man team tournament. You and the club member of your choice are invited to come fish on Saturday for the chance of a check and a chance to qualify to fish the State Team Championship September 19-20 out of Scott Driver Park on the wonderful, Lake Okeechobee. This is the Team Championship side of the Nation and you could win yourself a chance to fish in next years Bassmaster Classic. Just one more opportunity the Nation offers you at a chance for fame and fortune. Lets go fishing!



May's meeting will be Tuesday, the 5th 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

May 30	Team Qualifier	Harris Chain of Lakes	Hickory Point
May 31	Pro/ Am Qualifier	Harris Chain of Lakes	Hickory Point
Aug 22	Pro/ Am Qualifier	Kissimmee Chain of Lakes	Camp Mack

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 Team Championship

September 19-20 Lake Okeechobee Scott Driver Park / Okeechobee

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

November 7-8 TBA Central Division



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