

# July / August 2017

## Greg and Lee Allen Win The Harris Hassle and Lewis Robertson and Calvin Boyette take the T. A. Mahoney Southport Shuffle



The newsletter got side tracked the last two months so I thought I would get you guys caught up with all the news. Greg and Lee took of 21.10 pounds and claimed the 6.06 pound kicker. They had found a that had produced a couple of nice to concentrate their efforts on that They caught a good number of fish with a bag of fish good enough to Tournament check.



the Lake Harris Tournament with a total luncker of the tournament as well with a patch of hydrilla offshore in Lake Harris fish the weekend before. They decided one patch and see what happened. and culled a few times and ended up catch that first place and Luncker of the

Second place would go to the team of Steve and Ryan Mekdeci. They brought in 15.60 pounds and moved themselves into first place in the TAOY race. Third place belonged to Jeff and Jared Crandon with 13.86 with fourth going to Tom Craighead and Bob Grosso. Fifth place went to..... Who? I must be reading that wrong. It says that Joe Craighead and Carl Powers. I'll have the secretary check that one and see if it was just a misprint..... She said it was right. They brought in 12.77 pounds to earn a 5th place check. Chriss Neatherly and Steve Gallette brought in the dink of the tournament with a 1.05 pound fighter. Overall 46 teams competed and 31 limits were brought to the scales without even one dead fish. Great job everyone on your fish care.

In July we went to Lake Toho out of the Southport Ramp. Although a number of anglers went through the locks to fish the south-use that run time to actually fish. and started fishing the hydrilla. Be- they had a 7.86 in the box and con- day with 20.01 pounds to take the Chris and Rick Walters. Their 9.05 pound kicker. You can read newsletter. Third Place belonged to



ern lakes, Lewis and Calvin decided to The went out in the middle of Toho fore most of us had cleared the locks tinued to catch fish. They ended the crown. Second place belonged to 19.35 pound bag was anchored by a about their day a little later in this the Mekdeci's with 18.54 pounds.

Fourth place was earned by Tom Craighead and Bob Grosso with 18.49 and an almost luncker of 8.99 pounds. Fifth went to Alex Udvari and Kyle Anderson with 16.34. 28 limits were brought in with 48 teams competing. Mark Kummelman & Kyle Stokes brought in the dink at .90 pounds. Next we went to June In The Winter and the results will follow in the next Installment of the World Famous, Bay Area Bassmasters newsletter.

# The View From The Lake

by, Chris Walters

HARRIS

Lake Harris has been a roller coaster for Team Walters this year. We had high expectations for the first tournament held there in February and ended up in 33rd with our worst finish ever. This event was to be our redemption and it started out looking like that goal would be coming to fruition. I practiced by myself the first day I had off and decided to try out Lake Griffin. It started out rough when the area I specifically went to fish only had about 8 inches of water. I hung my head and decided to try some other spots sense I was there but didn't have high expectations. The second spot I tried took a while to get going but once it did the day never slowed down. I had 12.5 lbs in half an hour with a 5 pounder and a couple other decent fish. I felt good about the area and went looking for more spots like it. Everywhere I stopped I caught fish and by 1 pm I had caught 13-15 fish in the 3 lb range while catching another 20 smaller bass. It was the best morning I had ever had by myself. I still only had around 16 lbs but was confident that I could catch it again and thought that would be a top 5 weight. Things were looking up.

Then Rick decided to go try Lake Eustis. He made it about 2 miles from the ramp when he heard a clunk and the motor stopped running.... Apparently we had run through an entire spool of what looked to be 50 lb braid and that was it for the motor. We only had 2 weeks to get a new lower unit on the boat or we would miss the tournament. Luckily insurance covered most of the \$5k cost and we had great service at Citrus Marine Service. We were back in the game.

We fished the day before the tournament and did well fishing in Eustis and Harris. We had around 14 lbs and Rick had a giant get off next to the boat. We had a good back up plan incase Griffin didn't work out. That was a big deal considering how nervous we were about locking back into Eustis with the 2pm weigh in time.

Tournament morning went well locking through to Griffin and we got to our spot much sooner than we had planned on. We fished the whole area meticulously just waiting for that first bite. and waiting. and waiting. When I finally did get a bite it was a dink and didn't even keep. I couldn't believe it. There wasn't any reason for the fish to have left and although I didn't expect to have as ridiculous of a day as I did in practice, we still should have been able to catch some fish here. Even though we were disappointed in the pattern seemingly not existing, we decided to fish out our other spots and see if the fish were going to turn on. We had a very slow bite but luckily we had a couple decent fish in the 2.5 lb range and were just looking for a nice one or two to make the day. Rick noticed a small knot in his line as we were coming to the end of one of our spots. It was 50 lb braid and he pulled the knot tight and tried as hard as he could to break it. It seemed to hold up well and the bite was slow so he decided to fish the final 5 casts of the area before retying not truly expecting another bite and thinking that the fish would have to be very big to break the line anyways.... As he reeled the toad around a tree that was sticking far out into the center of the canal only about 10 feet in front of us, the giant raised up and made a V in the water before smashing the toad, scaring the crap out of me, and turning to bolt back under the tree. I went from surprised to crazed excitement to absolute heartbreak as almost immediately after he set the hook I heard POW! and knew he broke the line. Rick then told me about the knot. We were both truly discouraged at that point and Rick was so mad at himself he mentioned just going home right then. The fish wouldn't have won the tournament for us but it would have put us in second place. For a team that is trying hard to compete with the top guys it was a devastating blow. We finished the day by culling a couple times in Harris where Rick lost the big one the day before and ended with 10lbs and 16th place.

(continued)

## TOHO

After a disappointing tournament at Lake Harris, it was difficult to get excited about Toho. Even though we both looked forward to the tournament day, neither one of us seemed enthused enough to spend the time to practice. Driving to the lake the morning of the tournament (literally the very first time I had ever been there) we discussed our game plan. Are we going to the river? Seems like a lot of time driving to fish something we hadn't fished in a couple months. Would the fish even be there? We decided to use the tournament as a practice day and spend our time on Lake Toho to gain some knowledge for the future. We were also call boat because neither one of us were able to make it to the meeting. So we followed the crowd out and tried a spot or two before going to the one area we both really wanted to try. We had heard it was possible to catch 15 lbs there and that would be a great day for us. After idling for probably an hour we finally started to fish. It took a while for me to catch the first fish that was small. Then it took another hour before the second bite came. But what a bite. Rick flipped a senko under a tree and when he set the hook he started to say its a giant but stopped. The fish was pulling so hard he wasn't sure it was even a bass. He had to pull the fish hard out from the tree, which had our nerves on end considering our recent luck with big fish and he had 15 lb flouro on. He managed to wrangle the fish out from the tree and it swam hard under the boat without us being able to get a look at it. He finally brought its head up and I netted the fish, we just looked at each other in disbelief. The fish was so fat and her eyes were huge and bulging out of her head. When I got a hold of her jaw it felt so thick and the beast word I can think of to describe it is sturdy. We celebrated for a couple minutes and got a picture or two and it was back to catch 3, 4, and 5.

This was our chance to finally break 20 lbs. After another hour of no bites we were starting to get nervous again. What a waste that big fish would be if we couldn't even fill out our limit. Our luck finally changed when we both got fish at the exact same time from opposite sides of the canal. Rick actually netted my 2 lber while holding his 5. And just like that we went from 2 fish for 10 lbs to 4 fish with around 17 lb. Pressure was off again. That left us the rest of the day to catch just one more fish and hopefully push to over 20 lbs. Well we were able to get our limit and I culled about 5 times gaining around 1/4 oz each time but never put another quality fish in the boat.

At weigh in we were nervous and excited. There were a couple big bags brought in and a giant 8.99 lb fish caught by Tom Craighead. Rick's fish had weighed 8 lbs 15 oz on my scale but my scale is always a little light and we figured it would be over 9. That being said, it wasn't a sure thing and ended up being a lot closer than I thought it would. I do have to say I could feel Tom's pain when Rick's fish outweighed his by 6 hundredths of a pound. We may not have broke the 20 lb mark, but with 19.35 lb, big fish, and second place, we were elated. It felt even better sense we had zero expectations going into the day. Roberson and Boyette had to rain a little bit on our parade by bringing in over 20 lbs. It wasn't as close as it looked though as they had to throw multiple fish back that were bigger than their smallest fish. The fish had died early in the day and by the rules they couldn't cull it. Somehow that made Rick and I feel better about losing to them sense they had clearly done better than we had. We were sure to raid their boat for rigging tips afterwards though which they graciously allowed and even walked us through a couple things. Thanks guys! I don't know how the rest of the guys caught their fish but I did see that Alex Udvari was able to catch 16.34 by himself which was good enough for 5th place. Good Job Alex. I will try in the future to get a little more info from the guys who do well to add to the monthly article

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I would like to thank you for your support of T. A. Mahoney Co. We have supported Bay Area Bassmasters since day one and look forward to many more years. You have given us the opportunity to install many new gadgets and gizmos on your boats as well as fixing those that have failed. We take pride in every job that we do and want to do it right the first time. Bay Area members get a discount on service as well as just about every gizmo we've got. Come on down and see what we can do for you.

## Four Angler Team Championship on Lake Harris Was Lots Of Fun

I am going to have to stop talking bad about the Harris chain. If the Mahoney's can go there and get 3 limits in a row, it can't be that bad. All three teams that represented us caught fish. Pam and Mike Hardy teamed up with Carol and Tom Mahoney to win the lucky 13th spot with 44.07 pounds. Jeff Baker, Clay Garrett, Joe Hobson, and Gary Ford took 14th with 40.59 and Chris Neatherly, Steve Gallette, Tim Grimes, and Mathew Norris took the 19th place honors with 30.21.

It was won by the team of Eric Panzironi, Robert Holcomb, Billy Charland, and Joe Collins from Winter Springs Bassmasters. Next year this tournament will be in June so be thinking about putting a team together and fishing it. The format just leads to a fun tournament where you can call your partners on the water and get info to keep you on the fish. Next year it should be going out of Okeechobee so lets bring that trophy back home like we have 2 1/2 times before.

Our meetings will be Tuesday, at Beef O Brady's in Seffner. The address is 812 W. Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. at 7:00



## 2017 Schedule

Month	Meeting/Tour.			Location	Ramp
January	10	14	13 Fishing	Winter Haven	Lake Shipp Ramp
February	7	11	RPM Inc	Lake Harris	Hickory Point
March	7	11	Allstate	Lake Kissimmee	Camp Mack
April	4	8	Richards Quality	Lake Istokpoga	98 Ramp
May	9	13	Walpole	*Lake Kissimmee	*Camp Mack
June	6	10	Hamilton	Lake Harris	Hickory Point
July	5 (Wed)	8	T. A. Mahoney Co	Lake Toho	Southport
August	8	12	Car Shop	June in Winter	Public Ramps
September	5	9	Cartwright Reality	Lake Istokpoga	98 Ramp
October	10	14	Mirrolure	Lake Okeechobee	Okeetantie
November	7/14	11-12	Bay Area Pool	(Club Classic)	TBD

## FBN Championship Dates

Sept 30—Oct 1	Team State Championship	Lake Harris	Hickory Point
October 28-29	Pro/Am State Championship	Scott Driver Park	Okeechobee

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