

# March 2017

## Billy and Clyde Alstrom Win The Harris RPM Dash

### BAY AREA



As usual the weather forecast called for a cold front to come in the area on Friday. The rain and the clouds moved out by early Friday morning and the skies cleared. The bass that were sitting on the bed hoping to have stable weather to finish their yearly spawn. That didn't work and they headed to deep water to wait for the next warming trend. A lot of our anglers were hoping to find the fish that they had seen in practice, waiting for them Saturday morning. That didn't happen. About the only thing left sitting on beds were 11 inch fish. Billy and Clyde Alstrom were just going to try the proven February pattern for bass. Flip the pads. Bass love pads in February. They went to Little Harris and started pitching and flipping pads. They caught a good fish, then another, and then another. The pattern repeated itself over and over and they managed to bring in 21.76 pounds of largemouth. There lunker with 5.34 pounds so the other four averaged over 4 pounds apiece. That's a great day on Lake Harris. They were almost 5 pounds better than the second place team.

Speaking of the second-place team, that honor belonged to Roy Raulerson and Ryan Cooper. They had located some fish the weekend before and were hoping that they would still be there. Although smaller than they caught them in practice, they were still there. Although they actually were sitting on the bed, they remained in the area and were susceptible to a slow flipping presentation. As the sun came up and the water temperature started to climb they flipped over to an isolated lily pad and felt a slight heaviness in the line. They set the hook just because it was free and realized they had hooked a good one. She would weigh 7.69 pounds and claim the Quantum Lunker award. They put together a nice limit that went 16.83 pounds to earn their second check of the day.

2017 Team Anglers of the Year, Ryan and Steve Mekdeci, would earn a third-place check this February afternoon. They brought in 16.20 pounds with their five fish. They did something a little different this time. They are normally slow wormers but today they worked Rattle traps. They are finally letting some hydrilla grow in the Harris chain and the Mekdeci's took advantage of it. They would rip the traps off the grass and the fish would snatch it. Fourth-place belongs to the team of Gene Goldman and Gaither Davis. They brought 16.07 pounds to the scales and caught them all with the slow worm presentation. Fifth-place belong to Ken and Stephen Whitlow. They brought in 13.65 pounds of Harris Bass to earn them a nice little check.

Overall we had a record high of 55 boats fishing the Harris chain. We are the largest B.A.S.S. club in the state as well as the country. We have more members in our organization then some states do. Thanks everyone for making this such a great club.

You guys ended up bringing 226 fish to the scales that weighed an impressive 451.07 pounds. That included 31 limits. That made it a two pound average per fish. And what makes it even more impressive is that we only lost one fish for the entire tournament. Great fish care everyone and we are really looking forward to another great tournament on Kissimmee out of Camp Mack. We will see you there.

Our Lake Harris Champions



# March Is Allstate Month With Paul Phaneuf

Paul will be with us on Tuesday night. Any insurance questions you have, please bring them with you and Paul will be happy to answer them. Paul writes boat, automotive, homeowners, life, umbrella, and many other forms of insurance and does them at a great rate. Allstate insurance is one of the most trusted names in the country, but Paul can write policies with many other companies as well. Many of us already use First Patriot Inc. Insurance Agency but for those that currently don't, give Paul a call before your next renewal date and let him work up a quote for you. His number is 813-353-0303.



## Kissimmee is a Popular Destination In March

For those of you who didn't know, Camp Mack is now under new ownership. There are some new rules and some new ways that they are using their facilities. We can no longer weigh-in anywhere but on the stage. The stage is booked for two o'clock, three o'clock, and four o'clock. This means we have to weigh-in on the riverbank in front of Camp Mack at three o'clock. There are also three other tournaments going out that morning. It looks like they will probably have approximately 150 boats there Saturday morning. That means don't pull a Mahoney and get there 10 min. before launch. Be there early so you can get a place to park both the truck and the boat. Rosie's has some great vittles and comfortable picnic tables. Make yourself at home and plan on how you're going to catch a 30 pound stringer for the day. Will give you all the details Tuesday night. See you there.



# The View From The Lake

By Chris Walters

Dad always said bad decisions have consequences.....

I live closer to Lake Harris than any other lake Bay Area will be fishing this year. With that in mind Rick and I wanted to capitalize on some extra practice days and a little more knowledge about the lake. Truth be told, we had amazing practice days. Rick couldn't come home with less than 16 lbs per day during practice and that was without catching the bigger fish he found on bed. What killed us this tournament was finding too many fish too spread out and making a bad decision to go for a possible 30 lbs instead of our almost guaranteed 15. We had 3 different game plans to choose from for the day of the tournament. 2 of those plans were secluded away from everything and we probably could have been fishing without much company. The other was a well known community hole that seemed to have 8 lbers everywhere on Thursday before the tournament. The urge to fish for those big fish was too strong for us and ended up putting us in 33rd place at the end of the day with a tiny 7 lb limit. The big fish disappeared and the other anglers that decided to fish there were able to capitalize on some of the easier to catch fish while we wasted time on a big one. I caught our biggest fish on a toad in between trolling to different beds and we each caught 2 dinks sight fishing. We caught 5 fish all day and didn't get another bite. The blue bird sky had the fish locked up for the most part and a lot of people struggled to catch a limit. One thing that had us feeling good about our decisions is everywhere we went we were fishing right next to the Crandons and if you're around them, you're probably making the right decisions. Unless you are bed fishing behind them... That's never a good idea.

We are sitting in 16th place for team of the year at the moment and are hoping to move back into the top 10 after this month's tournament on the Kissimmee Chain. We have an uphill battle for sure and our goal of team of the year might already be out of reach, but we will see how the rest of the year goes. One tournament at a time.

## It's Jersey Time Again

- Crew ss      \$45
- V Neck ss    \$45
- Zip stand ss \$52
- Long sleeve +\$10
- Jackets and hoodies  
\$80 - \$100

Men's jerseys run true sizes but add one size to the jackets. Ladies sizes are not even close. Add at least two sizes to all ladies apparel. These prices are close but may change slightly as I don't have confirmed prices or setup and freight charges yet.



March's meeting will be Tuesday, the 7th 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 Okeechobee	North End
June	6	10	Lucky Dog	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 Kissimmee	Camp Mack
November	7/14	11-12	Bay Area Pool	(Club Classic)	TBD

## FBN Central Dates

May	21	Pro/Am Qualifier	Lake Harris	Hickory Point
August	19	Pro/Am Qualifier	Lake Henderson	TBD
TBD		Open Tournament/ Folds Of Honor		TBD

## Bass Club 4-Man Team Championship

July	15 & 16	Harris Chain Of Lakes	Hickory Point
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## FBN Championship Dates

Sept 30—Oct 1	Team State Championship	Kissimmee	City Ramp
October 28-29	Pro/Am State Championship	Scott Driver Park	Okeechobee

[For more info on The Florida B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments go to floridabassnation.com](http://floridabassnation.com)

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