

March 2017

BAY AREA

Billy and Clyde Alstrom Win The Allstate Kissimmee Kalamidy



We feel like calling them Bonny and Clyde for taking our cash two months in a row but Billy doesn't look like a Bonny at all. So we will just have to call them our Allstate Kissimmee Kalamidy Champions. Billy and Clyde went over to the Kissimmee on Friday before the tournament. The area between the North Cove and Lake Cypress was on fire. Smoke covered most of Kissimmee with ash falling out of the sky. The Alstrom's fought through the bad conditions and found some large concentrations of good fish. They were fishing inside the outside grass line targeting clumps of hydrilla in between the grass. They were throwing a Gambler burner worm and swimming it around these areas. They caught a lot of fish during the course of the day and their five biggest went 25.05 pounds. Their largest fish would top the scales at 7.39 pounds. They currently top the Team Angler of the Year standings and will be a tough team to deal with the rest of the year.

Another father and son team would take the second-place crown. Jeff and Jared Crandon would earned a second-place finish with their total of 23.61 pounds. Jeff is still recovering from his accident last fall and Jared is doing a great job covering for him. Jeff gets bit and Jared sets the hook for him. It must be working pretty well because they also captured the Quantum lunker of the day. She would top the scales at 7.47 pounds. Most of their fish came off the pads in Kissimmee. Jeff told me that she had to drop the bait in and shake it hard three or four times before the fish would grab it. That's the only way they would catch fish. Thanks for the tip Jeff.

Third-place belong to the team of Brian Stillwell and Fred Haus. They fished in the middle of Lake Cypress with Rattle traps in the hydrilla. They culled through a bunch of fish to bring 19.51 pounds to the scale. They would also bring a nice kicker to the scales at 6.31 pounds. The top three places are listed and three different techniques were used.

Richard and Kara Anthony would earn a fourth place finish with a bag that would go 19.32 pounds. It could've been much better for them but Richards first bite of the morning was a monster. He pitched into some pads and set the hook hard. While trying to horse the fish out of the cover is rod snapped in three pieces. He ended up losing the fish but still got a check.

Tom Craighead and Bob Grosso would also catch their fish in Lake Cypress but they spent the day in the bushes. Tom and Bob are our shallow water experts. If Tom's trolling motor is in dragging he's fishing to deep. They earned a nice fifth-place check with 19.31 pounds and 6.54 pound kicker.

Overall we had 231 fish brought to the scales that weighed an impressive 563 pounds. 40 teams brought a limit to the scales with an average of 2.44 pounds per fish. We only had three fish care penalties for all the fish that were brought in. That's pretty good guys, keep up the good work.



BAY AREA

Flippin All Day..... If only I had the patience.

After our Lake Harris debacle, we knew we were in for a tough couple of tournaments. Between Istokpoga and Okeechobee I have a grand total of 1 day on the water. Not quite the kind of experience you need to do well. Last year we ended up tied for 11th and almost ruined our record of having a limit in every tournament. Those 5 fish were hard to come by. Hopefully this time the fish will cooperate a little more and we can hook into some of those big ones that are supposed to live there. As for Okeechobee, I guess we will have to see.



Kissimmee is a different story. We can catch fish there, but we've never caught the type of weight that does well this time of year. Rick and I have never caught 20 lbs in a tournament and in order to do well in these tournaments we knew we'd have to get close to that. Give me a hard tournament any day of the week over a slug fest and we'll usually do a lot better come the weigh in.

We headed over for one day of practice the day before the tournament. We went to our favorite spot and fished nearby to make sure there were fish in the area. We caught 11 in about 2 hours then went to try the big fish bite. After 3 hours of no bites and no confidence, we finished the final hours of the day fishing back around our area and caught another 12 to 15 fish. I had 14 lbs doing what we like to do and Rick was able to catch this stud trying to do what everyone says to do at Kissimmee.

He did end up catching a bunch when he switched from flipping and punching to a spinner bait. Rick likes tandem Colorado blades this time of year slow rolled around the spawning fish, looking for a reaction bite. I caught a couple nice fish and 1 over 4lbs throwing my top water weedless bait. Rick lost a couple on the spinner bait that looked good and wasn't sure what was going on. He realized about an hour in that he had left the hook guard on his spinner bait... So I punched him in the gut and we continued to catch some fish.



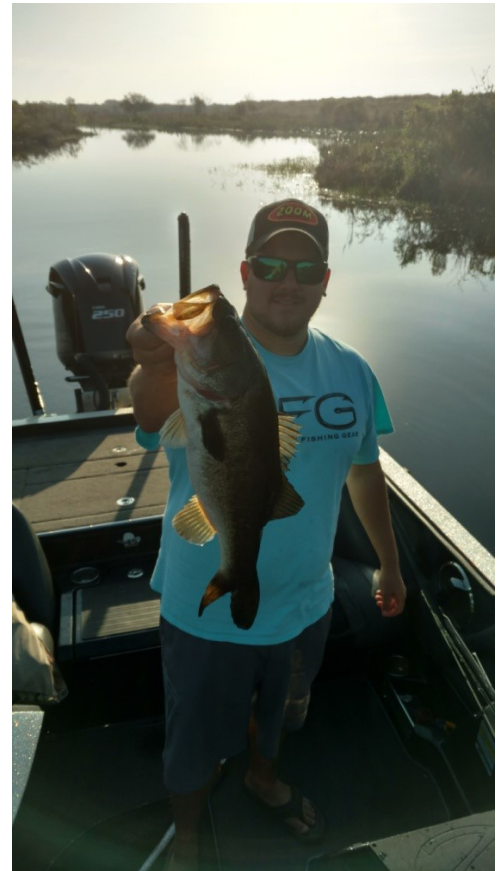
I feel like I should explain why we were catching so many fish the day before the tournament, considering we would need to fish there the next day. There are 2 reasons behind that. We had just spent the past two months looking at fish and not catching them, and then had a horrible tournament on Harris. We needed to have a little fun. We also weren't fishing our main spots but were close enough and fishing such similar water that we knew our fish would be there if we could catch them in these other areas. But we did practice a little prudence by only catching 2 or 3 in any one area before leaving it, just in case we needed to come back during the tournament.

We stayed at the Liars Lodge at Camp Mack and had to work around people in our parking spot. Guys, have a little common courtesy and sense when it comes to the basics. The guy who pays for the room gets the parking spot and access to the power, there are guys out there that won't mind letting you find a couple flat trailer tires in the morning for less than taking their spot. Luckily, we don't have any guys like that in this club. But we ended up figuring it out with the help of Brian Renshaw and Bobby Squires, thanks for the help and letting us pick your brain a little bit.

The take off was a little crazy but I think we did very well with our set up. Good job to all the guys who made those decisions. Also the Alstroms had the perfect rate for calling each boat for take-off, safe and consistent.

We started catching fish about 30 minutes into the morning starting with a couple small ones. I flipped my toad under an overhanging tree and from 10 feet away a big wake came through the pads and followed it out. The big fish hit but must have not got all of it. I set the hook and felt him for a good 3 seconds before it pulled out. I think the hook must have caught on the tip of his lips and pulled through with the force of me pulling on him. Luckily I only had to deal with that for another 5 minutes before a 5 lber crushed my bait. We had about 11 pounds by 9 am and were feeling good that with as much time as we had left, we would be able to upgrade. We caught a bunch of fish and lost another couple of good ones that would have put us up to around 17 - 18 lbs. We caught every fish on the same bait. It was a good day overall.

At the weigh in Richie Anthony showed me the aftermath of his encounter with a giant. In the first 10 minutes of the morning he got a bite and set the hook hard trying to horse the fish out of the



pads. His rod ended up breaking in 3 pieces. It's funny to think about him trying to pull a big one in free handing the line! It got off but Kara must have had a laugh. They ended up still beating us pretty badly though so we didn't feel too bad for 'em. The set up on the opposite side of the river from Camp Mack actually worked out great. We had all the room we needed and didn't have to deal with the other tournaments guys.

Rick and I didn't break into the top 10 in point standings, but we were close. We are currently sitting in 11th and hope to keep moving forward. Though with all the boats and great teams we have at each tournament, we know it will be difficult.

Next up is Istokpoga which is sure to be interesting. Hey maybe someone will even beat the Alstroms this time around!

Kissimmee Tournament Results - http://www.bayareabassmasters.com/component/content/article/89-main-menu/schedule-and-results/2017/160-march_2017_kissimmee.html

<https://wordpress.com/post/cflaoutdoors.wordpress.com/353>

April is Richards Quality Automotive Month

Richards Quality Automotive is located on the south west corner of I-275 and Hillsborough Ave. Rich has been running this Tampa landmark for many years now and has developed a reputation for doing the job right the first time and doing it at a fair price. Most days you can't even find a parking place in their business due to the volume of work they do on a daily basis. The next time you have a car issue take it over to Richard Quality Automotive and they will take care of your vehicle the first time. They will do everything from oil changes to a full engine rebuilt. Electrical issues are Tom Craighead's favorite job but he loves front and work even more. So if you own something from Japan or the good old USA, when it is giving you an issue, taken the Richards and he will fix it right the first time at a price you can afford. I'm sorry but if you like those European cars, you got to find yourself another mechanic. See you at Richards Quality Automotive.



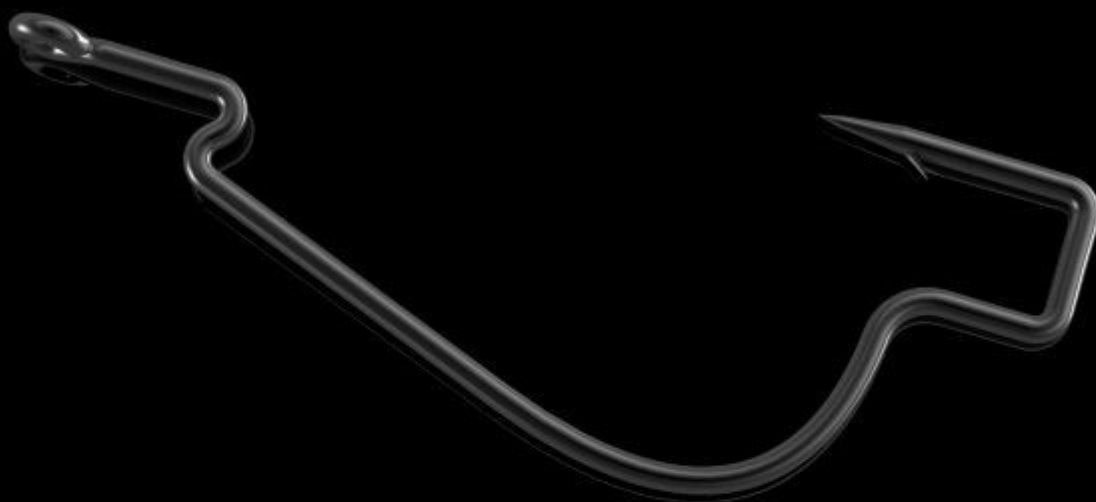
Istokpoga is a Popular Destination In April

Lake Istokpoga is one of the best big fish lakes in Florida and we are at the time of the year when they are normally chewing. This means we could run into some traffic at the ramp Saturday morning as well as on the lake. Get to the ramp early and be ready to launch when it's your turn. Parking can be a little tricky so swing wide and fill in every parking space. Try to put your vehicle AND your trailer inside the lines so the guy beside you has room as well. If you are one of the last to launch, you may be on the road so pull to the side completely. While on the water, give everyone some room. If someone is on your spot when you get to it, give them as much room as you would like to be given. Or move to a new spot. Istokpoga has the potential to have a monster under any spot you throw your bait. Good luck everyone and lets have some fun.

Find Out What These Are Tuesday

TRAPPER TACKLE

- **Make More Casts**
 - Holds live bait, natural and artificial lures better
 - Re-rigging less means more time fishing
 - Improved bait retention means more presentations that trigger strikes
 -
- **Land More Fish**
 - Sticky sharp Piercing Point for rock solid hook sets



**Trapper Heavy Cover Offset Super Wide Gap Hook
XXX Heavy**

April'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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