

May 2017

**BAY AREA**



# Ryan And Steve Mekceci Conquer The Richard's Quality Automotive **BASSMASTERS** Istokpoga Cold Front Challenge

Last year's Team Anglers of the Year pull off a win in Istokpoga. A late season cold front blew through our state just before this tournament and shut down a number of anglers fish. But the Mekceci's decided to just go fishing. They started at a grass line and started throwing spinner baits and rattle traps. That got a couple of good fish. They threw swimbaits for a while and caught a couple more. Then they worked worms and stick baits on the outside edges and caught a couple more. Nothing seemed to work great but they got the right bites with the baits they were working. Their top five would top the scales at 22.47 which is better than 3 pounds better than second place would bring to the scale. Their total was helped by also bringing in our Quantum Lunker of the Tournament. She would weigh in at 7.56 pounds. She fell to a stick bait thrown right on the outside of the Kissimmee grass.

Jeff and Jared Crandon take the second spot with a total of 19.24 with a 6.68 pound kicker. Flippin and pitchin was the method of the day as they worked a bunch of water and caught them in all types of vegetation. Another father son team, Bruce and Jared Young took third 19.02 with a 7.04 pound lunker. Even with extensive questioning and the threat of loosing his job, Jared wouldn't give me any idea of how they caught their fish. (Jared Young works at Mahoney's now, for those that didn't know)

Another father and son team took fourth. Our own tournament directors, Gary Ford and Joe Hobson came in with a total of 18.37 with a 7.41 big fish. I would normally tell you they went to the creek but the water level was so low, I don't think they could get in. Gary loves to fish those creeks so bad, he probably got out and pushed that boat across the sandbar. Fifth place belonged to the almost brothers team of Brian Renshaw and Bobby Squires. They would bring in 17.75 pounds with a second place big fish that would go 7.50 pounds. They were working the edges with everything in their tackle boxes.

Overall, no one reported catching large numbers of fish but the ones that bit, were the right ones. Overall we had 46 boats fish the tournament with a total of 145 fish brought in. That is a 2 1/2 pound average, not bad. The FWC was on site and praised us for the way we handled the weigh-in. Not one single fish died. Great fish care everyone and thanks for your patience with the FWC. The cold front defiantly brought the numbers down last month but I don't think a cold front will shut down Kissimmee this month so watch for some big bags.



**Jerseys Are Here!**  
**Bring Some Cash Or Your Checkbook**  
**I Don't Have Totals Yet So Bring Extra**  
**Cash, Put The Rest In The Raffle**



# Okeechobee Tournament Moved To October

Due to the hazardous conditions in Lake Okeechobee, we decided to switch this month to Kissimmee and Okeechobee to October. This gives us a couple of great opportunities. First, the Florida B.A.S.S. Nation is having the state championship out of the same ramp just two weeks after our tournament. So if you haven't qualified for that championship, you still have time. Check the schedule in this newsletter to get the dates of the last two qualifiers. Our tournament will get you some extra time on the water to prepare for that opportunity. Our Classic will probably be on Okeechobee as well. It never hurts to spend some extra time preparing for that as well. By that point, we know that there should be plenty of water in Okeechobee. Looks like October might be my favorite month this year.

## Bay Area Bassmasters Bragging Board

This is a new feature I want to add to the newsletter. Send me your bragging pics for the last month and I'll include them in this publication. Send them to CaptMoho@aol.com. I'll put your fish, fresh or salt, as well as any hunting pics you want to put up. This is for the last month. Include who caught it as well as a brief description. This month we only have one entry so I'll include it here.



Tom Mahoney,  
accompanied by TA  
Mahoney caught this 11.0  
pound beauty practicing  
for our May tournament.  
She was caught on a Fat  
Ace behind a Carolina  
Rig. It was caught May  
6th and submitted to the  
FWC as a Trophy Catch.  
His first since he  
registered on the FWC  
site.

# We Salute Our May Sponsor Walpole

Walpole as started in 1952. It is still family owned and operated today. They specialize in bulk transportation and have three locations in Florida and one in Alabama. We are very happy to have John and Perry Cincotta in our Bay Area family. They are always looking for good drivers so if you have someone looking send them to John and Perry. Thank you Walpole or your support of Bay Area Bassmasters.



## No Water In Kissimmee Either

Looks like the same drought that caused us to change our Okeechobee tournament has also drained Kissimmee. Camp Mack is experiencing extremely low water levels as well. About the only place to accidentally hit a rock in Kissimmee is in Camp Mack. Everyone knows that this ramp and it's infamous rock has claimed thousands of dollars worth of prop damage through out the years. Use the ramps carefully and don't back down too far or you will fall off the end of the ramps. The first ramp is the best one so plan on using it only. You might have to crank your boat up on the trailer. That is much better than going off the end of the ramp. But if you do, get your boat off the trailer and ease the trailer forward. If it won't come don't force it, back off and get some help lifting it up. If you force it you could rip the axles out from underneath the frame. That's so much damage that even T. A. Mahoney's may not be able to fix it. While running the lake remember that the grass lines aren't in much water so come off plane well before you get there and idle in. Lake Cypress is very shallow and the sandbar in front of the Southport Canal has grounded a number of boats recently. We will be weighing in on the stage at 3:00. If you pull in by the stage, don't jump out on what looks like the ground. You will sink up to your waist in mud. Fortunately Camp Mack's bathroom comes complete with showers if you forget this warning. With a little caution and common sense we should have no problems at all. And the fishing should be great! See you there.

May's meeting will be Tuesday, the 9th 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	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 Okeechobee	Okeetantie
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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