

June 2015

Tom Craighead and Bob Grosso Take The Cartwright Realty Okeechobee Slam



When I called it the Okeechobee Slam it's because every single team that competed in this event caught a limit of fish. Every single team. For 14 years I have been waiting to say that. 14 years! Finally it happened. The only slight draw back is that one team decided to take a premature left and ended up in in the cattails of Tin House Cove. He only ended up an hour and a half late but he had a limit too. The dink of the tournament ended up being almost a pound and a half, not even worth embarrassing the anglers over. If you didn't make this tournament, shame on you. The fish were jumping in our boats, a new lunker of the year was crowned, two fish made it to the trophy catch club, the average fish brought in to the scales weighted 2 1/2 lbs., and you could run any where you wanted to on the lake.

We did have a couple of issues, first Jon and Milan had a bearing in a hub let go and had to get an axle replaced. That just goes to show you how important trailer maintenance is. And secondly, our Okeechobee sponsors, Cartwright Realty, didn't make the tournament at all. Shawn was driving down Friday night and missed his turn. Following his GPS he ended up on a county road going east. His lights showed a dark shape on the road ahead and it ended up being a full grown bull. As he hit the shoulder to avoid the 1500 pound beast the trailer caught the ditch and caused his car to flip. The SUV flipped over a few times and ended up on its side. Thank goodness for seat belts because Shawn and Brian were shook up but fine. The Lexus and Nitro weren't. It looks like both were totaled. Shawn put the pics up on Facebook and most of you saw them. It was a scary situation for them but the bottom line is they are fine. So if you need to sell a boat, Shawn is in the market.

Now for the tournament. If you remember the headline, Tom Craighead and Bob Grosso took first place honors with a 18.79 pound bag. They went down to the shoal area and started flippin. They caught a bunch. They bit on a variety of lures but the better fish came off of Gambler Why Nots and Studs. Their bag included 5 fish that were all about 4 1/2 lbs. Quadruplets!

Second place belonged to one of our youngest anglers and his mom. Team RPM, Alice and Justin Richards, were very close but came up just a little shy with a 18.43 pound bag. They stayed close to the ramp and fished the Eagle Bay area. They pitched, casted and flipped a variety of lures to catch their fish. They fished an area of reeds and cattails about the size of a football field all day. They never left that area and burnt about a gallon of fuel all day. Their kicker went 5.69 pounds.

Third place belonged to Lewis Robertson and Calvin Boyette. They had some experience up on this end of the lake and caught most of their fish pitching a worm to the grass on King's Bar. Their bag went 17.87 pounds to earn them some good TAOY points.

Fourth place went to Keith and Dalton Katrein. Dalton had just recently broken his leg and was sporting a new cast and crutches. You know what happened next. He hooks and lands of biggest

fish of the year on Okeechobee. His 8.92 pounder would earn him a nice check as big fish of the tournament as well as anchoring his fourth place finish of 17.76 pounds.

Jeff and Jared Crandon finish out the top five with 17.97 for their limit. Unfortunately they lost a fish and it cost them a place. They finished with 17.72 pounds to keep them in contention for the TAOY race. As I previously stated, everyone had a limit with only a few fish care penalties assessed. Overall everyone had a good time and wanted to do it again next year.



A Raise in Entry Fee For 2017 To Be Voted on This Month

There was a motion brought to the floor last month to raise the entry fee next year to \$65.00. The extra \$5 would be used this way. \$1 per team would go to Big Fish of the Year. \$1 per team would go to Dink of the Year. The remaining \$3 would go to the first and second place TAOY finishers in a 70/30 split. That would mean that if we averaged 35 boats a tournament, big fish and dink of the year would get \$350 and TAOY would get \$490 and second would win \$210. Everyone at the meeting gets a vote so be there.

Southern States

TOYOTA lift

MATERIAL HANDLING SOLUTIONS • SINCE 1952

June is time for a picnic and Southern States Toyota Lift is our picnic sponsor. They have been helping out with our mid-year extravaganza for years now. They changed their name but not their great location. They have been serving the south for 64 years now with a great product; Toyota , great service, great drivers (Joe Craighead made me write that), and a great reputation of putting the customers needs first. So if your in the market for a new or used lift truck, give Southern States Toyota lift a call. You will be happy you did.

Southern States will be supplying much of our picnic goods for us Saturday including one of it's most treasured employees. Joe and Donita with a little help from their friends, will be cooking and preparing our feast after weigh-in on Saturday. They will be cooking all week to make sure we have more than we can eat Saturday. Remember to bring a desert and whatever you might want to supply. If you want to make a 30 pound banana pudding, Joe will find some ice to keep it on. And don't forget to get your family to come out and enjoy the festivities. A group photo will be taken in front of pavilion 1 as soon as weigh-in is completed. Don't miss the fun and fellowship with all our Bay Area family and friends.

The Bay Area Pools

Midseason Top 10

Here is the top ten teams as they stand half way through the season. Only 29 points separate one from ten. Remember that these ten get their Classic entry fee paid so its worth your while to try to get here and stay here. This is how they stack up;

Place	Team Members	# Fish	Weight	Points	# of Tourneys	Big Fish
1st	Steve Mekdeci & Ryan Mekdeci	24	67.79	265	5	8.53
2nd	Jeff Crandon & Jared Crandon	25	80.54	260	5	7.45
3rd	Tom Craighead & Bob Gosso	24	61.54	259	5	6.30
4th	Brian Stillwell & Fred Haus	25	61.15	256	5	6.15
5th	Gary Ford & Joe Hobson	25	61.83	249	5	4.47
6th	Lewis Roberson & Calvin Boyette	25	60.65	249	5	
7th	Dave May & Jeff May	22	59.74	245	5	7.70
8th	Chris Neatherly & Steve Gallette	24	60.46	238	5	4.90
9th	Keith Katrein & Dalton Katrein	23	55.12	238	5	8.92
10th	John Cincotta & Perry Cincotta	23	60.03	236	5	

Gulfside Hospice Receives Donation From Bay Area Bassmasters

Members of Bay Area Bassmasters presented staff at Gulfside Hospice a donation check for \$3,350 from the annual Ina Mahoney Hospice Challenge.

Here is the article that was printed this year about the Ina Mahoney Hospice Challenge. Thank you, each and everyone of you for the continued support of this wonderful program. If you would like to see it go to; <http://www.pascoshoppingguide.com/gulfside-hospice-receives-donation-from-bay-area-bassmasters/>



The Bay Area Bassmasters donated \$3,350 to Gulfside Hospice from the 2015 Ina Mahoney Hospice Challenge. Since the Challenge began, more than \$18,000 has been donated to Gulfside. Pictured left to right: Tom Mahoney, Carla Armstrong, Tom Craighead, Sr.

When Ina Mahoney passed away on Gulfside's service in October 2009, the fishing club members rallied around Tom, Ina's husband and president of the Bay Area Bassmasters. The club started the annual challenge in 2010 to raise money for Gulfside as a way to say thank you for the care provided to Ina and her family.

During the Bay Area Bassmasters season, each angler donates a \$1 per pound for each fish that is caught. That money is pooled together, and donated to Gulfside after each fishing season. Since the Challenge began, more than \$18,000 has been donated to Gulfside Hospice in support of patient care and bereavement services in Pasco County.

"It's hard to put into words how much this donation means to our patients and families," said Carla Armstrong, Director of Philanthropy at Gulfside, at the check presentation. "Our patients can't be here to say thank you, and that's why I am here. On behalf of the 350 patients that Gulfside cares for everyday, thank you."

Bay Area Bassmasters, currently the world's largest "Buddy" Team Tournament Trail Bass Fishing Club, is designed to provide a little something for anglers of all ages. The Bassmasters holds tournaments monthly from January until November. For more information about the Bay Area Bassmasters, call 813-949-5770 or visit www.bayareabassmasters.com.

Gulfside Hospice, initially licensed in 1989, serves more than 350 patients daily. Gulfside employs over 250 professionals and has more than 550 volunteers, and is the only hospice that serves Pasco County exclusively. Pasco Palliative Care, initially licensed in 2009, serves Pasco County residents facing chronic illness, who are not hospice appropriate or still seeking curative treatment. For more information about GHPPC, call 800-561-4883 or visit www.ghppc.org.

June's meeting will be Tuesday, the 7th at R J Wings N Things in Temple Terrace, located at 51st and Fowler at 7:00pm.



2016 Schedule

Month	Meeting/Tour.	Sponsor	Location	Ramp
January	5 9	Bay Area Pool Service	Winter Haven	Lake Shipp Ramp
February	9 13	Allstate Insurance	Lake Istokpoga	98 Ramp
March	8 12	Lucky Dog Resort	Lake Harris	Hickory Point
April	March 29 2	Walpole Inc.	Lake Kissimmee	Camp Mack
May	10 14	Cartwright Realty	Lake Okeechobee	Okee-Tantie
June	7 11	Florida Lift Systems	Lake Tarpon	Anderson
July	5 9	Car Shop	Clermont Chain	Clermont City Ramp
August	9 13	Richards Power & Motion	June in Winter	Public Ramps
September	6 10	T. A. Mahoney Co. Inc.	Lake Kissimmee	Camp Mack
October	4 8	Richards Quality Auto	Lake Istokpoga	98 Ramp
November	8/15 12-13	(Club Classic)	TBD	

Don't forget that our next four tournaments end at 2:00 PM

2016 FBN Central Division Schedule

June	18	Open Team– Folds of Honor	Lake Rousseau	Inglis Dam Ramp
Aug	21	Pro/Am Qualifier	Lake Kissimmee	Camp Mack

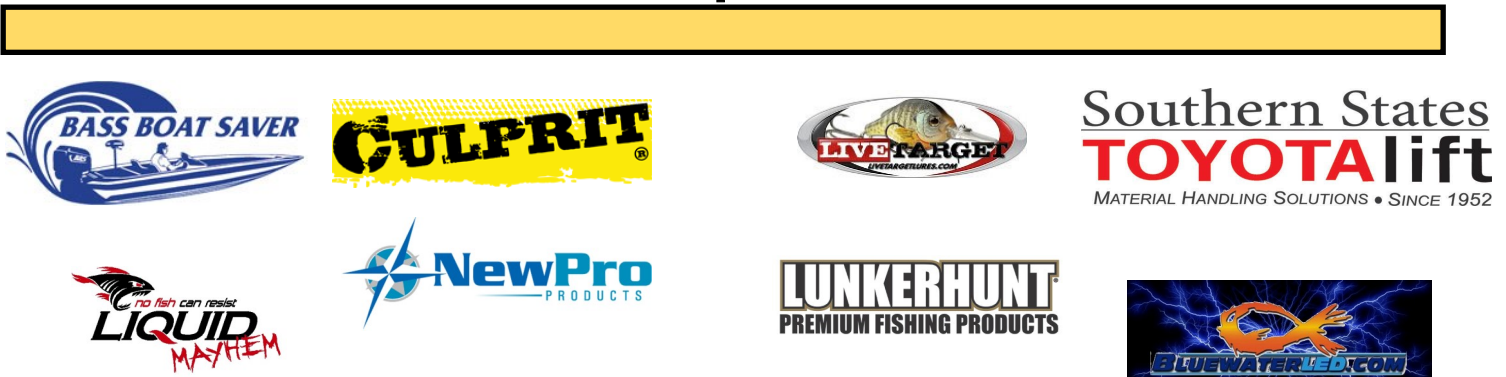
FBN Championship Dates

July	23 & 24	Bass Club Team Championship	Lake Toho	City Ramp
Aug	27 & 28	Team State Championship	St. Johns River	(tentative)
Nov	5 & 6	Pro / Am State Championship	Seminole or Wimico	(tentative)

Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors

