

October 2015

Jeff and Jerod Crandon Take the T. A. Mahoney Kissimmee Calamity

BAY AREA



Surprise, surprise, surprise, The Crandon's won the T. A. Mahoney Co. Kissimmee Calamity tournament. We wouldn't have expected that team to do well on Kissimmee. They won our Kissimmee tournament earlier in the year but we didn't expect two in a row. But they did it but this time by a very narrow margin. They fished Kissimmee for the day and managed to put 5 fish that weighted 19.94 pounds. The water had gone up almost two feet in a week so the big bite was tough on most. They still managed to put five fish in the boat that averaged 4 pound piece. Chuck Pons and Mark Rees gave them a run for their money with a limit that went 19.48 pounds. They did have a 6.57 pound kicker that anchored their bag but it wasn't quite enough. They did earn a nice second-place check. The fished Kissimmee as well as Hatch. Third place belonged to our new team that needs to be reckoned with. Chris Walters and his brother Rick have been collecting checks since the first tournament they fished. Chris is our guest writer who is been putting together a tale of their practice and tournament experiences. This month he covers Lake June. His article starts on page 6. Thank you sir as I know we are all enjoying your writings. So the Walters finishes third-place with 18.01 pounds and a 6.27 pound kicker. Fourth place belongs to Casey Gonzalez and Eugene Terkoski. They brought 17.89 pounds to the scales. Casey used this term it as a practice for the big ABA tournament coming up in a couple weeks. Apparently it worked for him because we would love to congratulate him on his huge win at the ABA championship. Besides winning over \$10,000 he gets the opportunity to fish the next level coming up at Ol Hickory, Tennessee. Congratulations on a big win and for doing Bay Area proud. Good job Casey! Fifth-place belong to Brian Renshaw and Bobby Squires. They brought in a five fish limit that went 15.64 pounds but one of those fish weighed 7.08 pounds to secure their big fish of the tournament win. She was caught in Hatch late in the day flipping. Sixth place belongs to our current team angler of the year points leaders, Steve Mekdeci and Ryan Mekdeci. There limit went 14.57 pounds and kept them two points ahead in this tight race. Seventh place went to the of Tom and Carol Mahoney. Their best five would go 12.39 and earned them the last check given out for this tournament. They showed up in their brand-new Ranger Z521C and earned their first check of the year. Now let me tell you how they caught each and every fish. Well I better not because this newsletter is already 11 pages long. The dink of the tournament award went to our birthday boy, Frank Jones. He just turned 50 years old and brought him this .85 pound beauty. What a great looking fish as his markings are perfect. Overall 147 fish were brought to the scales that weighed 318 pounds. At the 2.17 pound average. Not the best average for Kissimmee but 23 limits were registered. 37 boats fished and only two fish were lost. Good fish care everyone. It was hot and the fish were well taken care of. Good job everyone and will see you at our last tournament of the year on beautiful Lake Istoktoga.





We Will Be Collecting For The Ina Mahoney Hospice Challenge Next Month

The Ina Mahoney Hospice Challenge has been going on since 2009. Bay Area Bassmasters has donated just under \$18,000 to hospice organizations in our area. We are really looking forward to a record year this year and hope and that each of us can do our part to help. This year we will be donating our proceeds in the name of Bill Polanowski. Most of the time the members that participate in this event are the ones that fish the classic. A number of our members either are new or they haven't been able to make seven tournaments. We would like to invite you to our classic meetings in November. The first one will be a regular meeting where we elect officers and finished the year's business. Our second November meeting is after the classic . This is where all our classic checks will be handed out as well as our hospice donations will be collected. We invite every member to participate in these two meetings. We will have a big screen TV from Buddy's home furnishings that will be raffled off and we will crown our 2016 classic champion. Come on down and enjoy the festivities. We're looking forward to even a better 2017.

We Are Looking At A Possible Change Of Venue For Our Meetings Next Year

We have been approached by a few of our members about possibly changing our meeting location. Beef O Brady's in Seffner has offered us their meeting room. It will seat approximately 90 people, has a stage with a PA system, and can be closed off for privacy and silence. They are willing to donate 10% of the revenue that we create back to our club. They are also offering prizes and gift certificates for our patronage. The restaurant is located east of I 75 on MLK. right about Parsons Avenue. I know that some of us will have to come a little further but some of us wouldn't have to travel as far. We have been at RJ Wings and Things for a number of years now and we have almost outgrown their facilities. Think about it and if you have any strong feelings one way the other please be at our October meeting to discuss this possibility.

October Is Richards Quality Automotive Month



Team Angler Of The Year Is To Close To Call - It All Comes Down To Istokpoga

It all comes down to this. The last tournament of the year. Two points separate our TAOY competitors. And don't discount third place as a serious threat. Istokpoga can be a place that makes you a hero or a clown. Anglers have won the first tournament of the year and zeroed in the next one. This lake can make you scratch your head and go hhuuuuummmmmmmmm! It's not over until the fat lady sings and she is warming up now. Will this be the year for Steve and Ryan? They have been one of our most consistent teams for many years now. They are always a threat. They adapt well to all conditions and have pulled off wins all over the state. Or will it be the Crandon's? Jeff fishes more than almost all of us and has been very successful in many different trails. He has teamed up with his son Jared and he is just as dangerous as Jeff is. Two points separate these two great teams. One fish bite not felt, one hook set not hard enough, one flip six inches to the left of a monster, the winning fish that sets itself free on a pad stem, one fish that missed the net, or just one second of bad luck and the title belongs to the other team. And if both teams worry too much and don't get the job done, then Tom and Bob can and will take it away from them. Make sure you stay for the weigh-in on Saturday to see who will pull this off. We will ask these three teams to hold off until the end of the weigh-in to bring their fish to the scales. This should make an exciting finish to our regular season. Congratulations to all three teams on a great year and good luck to each of you.

The Bay Area Pool Top Ten

Place	Team Members	Points
1	Steve Mekdeci & Ryan Mekdeci	479
2	Jeff Crandon & Jared Crandon	477
3	Tom Craighead & Bob Gosso	467.50
4	Lewis Roberson & Calvin Boyette	440
5	Gary Ford & Joe Hobson	427
6	Casey Gonzalez & Eugene Terkoski	423
7	Alex Udvari & Kyle Anderson	423
8	John Cincotta & Perry Cincotta	422
9	Mike Hardy & Pam Hardy	421
10	Brian Stillwell & Fred Haus	418

“Where the heck is Lake June? Oh it’s near Lake Placid.... Where’s that.....?”

After fishing the Clermont Chain Rick and I were excited to have 2 top 5 finishes. But we didn’t want to discourage ourselves when setting a goal for the next tournament. I had to google Lake June to find out where it was and from the archives on the website it looked like BAB had fished it pretty regularly. We wanted to figure out a way to earn a top 10, with that in mind we set out to prefish. I left my house at 2:30 to pick Rick up and get to the boat ramp by daybreak. We decided to stick to what we’re good at and try to find fish shallow even though this time of year is known for deep water fishing and supposedly Lake June is also known for being a good deep water fishery.

Prefishing

We started at the cove on the north side of the lake. We were throwing top water baits. We have found a couple baits that we feel you can throw all day any time of year and have a good chance to catch a couple bass. We saw some bait moving but didn’t have any luck. As we moved to the north canal system Rick caught a little one on the bridge. The canals looked perfect for what we wanted to do but we had one of those mornings you can sometimes have when throwing top water. Blow up after blow up without hooking up. By around 10 we were done fishing the north canals. Mentally we needed to move or change it up a little.

We decided to try the south side of the lake. The bite was tough until around 1130 when Rick cast up in front of me on the side of the canal I was fishing.... Of course from the middle of the canal a wake rose up and took off for his bait. He kept calm and kept steady reeling until the fish softly sucked the bait down. It turned out to be a 6.11 lb bass that was over 24 inches long. As much as we needed that pick me up it really felt like a fluke. There was no way to be confident in duplicating a fish that big in the tournament. But from then on we started catching fish. I was flipping a senko under docks and Rick was catching one after another on a Keitech swimbait. By around 2 pm we had filled out a limit of 14.5 lbs. We were happy to find fish we could catch our way and were ready to give the deep stuff a try.

We started scanning the bottom and quickly found a couple spots. We threw Carolina and Alabama rigs, hair jigs, and drop shoted a bit without any luck. We finally started to catch some fish here and there on a deep diving crankbait. We came into a couple nice bites and ended with 16.9 lbs

The second day we brought the GoPro and got some cool video. We started the day off on the point directly across from the boat ramp throwing a zara spook and a toad. Nothing. We moved back into the canals and started fishing the ones we had missed the week before. We caught about 9.5lbs but no big bites. Around 11 we were back out looking for more brush piles. We fished the rest of the day and caught two nice 3s to bring our weight to over 14lbs. We wanted to figure out a way to get more bites on the crankbaits though. So we came up for a plan that might allow us to do just that.

The day before the tournament we drove down and got a hotel at the Ramada Inn. We spent a little time on the water but we had a lot to do to get our tackle ready. In order to get the baits down farther and to keep them in the fish's strike zone longer, we put 20 lb braid on our reels. Not only does the smaller profile of the line allow the bait to get deeper, it also lets you feel everything the bait is doing. We had tried fluoro-carbon when prefishing and it just wasn't the same. We tied 20 fluoro as a leader. We changed reels and re-spooled a bunch of our equipment in order to get ready for the tournament.

Bay Area Bassmasters – Lake June Tournament – August 13, 2016

The morning of the tournament, as we were getting the extension cord rolled up and getting the truck ready, we got to meet Fred Haus. It was cool to hear his perspective about the lake as it had supposedly changed a lot since the last time BAB had fished it. I always enjoy hearing the thoughts of someone who has more experience than I do and I try to take what they say and learn from it. Plus meeting people with the same interests is always nice.

I never met Mr. Bill Polanowski, but from all the pictures and stories that we got to hear about him over the previous month, he really seemed like a great guy who loved to fish. I have to say the first 2 tournaments were a bit rowdy at takeoff but that morning as they called boat number 1 in honor of Mr. Polanowski, there was a moment of silence that was deep and truly peaceful. In my mind, we all can only hope to receive a gesture like that when we leave this world.

From relaxed thought and silence straight to full on, adrenaline filled, 70 mph excitement. We were boat 13 and were a little nervous that we wouldn't get to the couple of canals we wanted to fish first. I passed a couple boats but the majority weren't headed south. It looked like we were free and clear until we were passed... That always hurts. Darn Mercury... Anyway we made it to the canals and had company but were able to fish where we wanted to.

The plan was to throw topwater in the canals first thing and it wasn't long until we had 3 small keepers in our livewell. The deep water fish were going to be our best bet to have big weight but our thoughts were to get one big bite in the morning or possibly 2 bites that were at least 3 lbs. Sure enough our next 2 fish to fill out our limit were both 3 pounders. We were catching fish pretty regularly and hadn't had much luck out deep until later in the day while prefishing so we stayed in the canals for a bit and made small upgrades here and there. Just after 10 we made our way out of the shallow water with around 10 pounds in the well.

We were confident we could catch fish offshore but we also know how fishing goes. Sometimes no matter what, you just can't get them to bite. So we set up on our favorite spot to see what we could do. It is actually more of an area than a spot. We were fishing a couple acre area that started in 17 feet and slowly eased down to 30 feet. We had brush piles marked but also had caught fish just chasing bait over no bottom structure at all. We would start at one end and throw our crankbaits as we drifted towards the other end. I caught a fish on my first cast. They are so fat out there that even the small ones must weigh 1.5lbs. It was a cull but not what we were looking for. After maybe an hour of catching little ones I finally had a fish on that felt bigger than the others. When it jumped Rick thought it was a 5 pounder so we delicately eased him in trying not to lose him. We lost a lot of fish in practice and to remedy the problem we added an extra split

ring to the back treble hook on all of our deep divers. It worked for this fish and although it wasn't a 5 it was a solid 3 pounder and helped us upgrade over a pound. At one point we doubled up but Ricks wasn't big enough to cull and mine threw the hook despite the extra split ring.

I had our biggest fish hit a couple of drifts later. It hit pretty hard and was heavy but when it jumped I could have sworn it was tiny. I guess I didn't get a good look at it and I'm glad for that. It was a long fight and was even pulling drag a couple times. But because I had seen the fish I was more confused than nervous of losing it. As it got closer to the boat reality hit me. This fish is fighting twice as hard as any other fish I had caught that day and it just couldn't be a little one. It ended up being a 5.3 pounder and our kicker for the day. We were pumped after that fish which you can see in the video. We caught a couple more and really needed one more 3 to get rid of our little fish. We thought we were going to get it too but in the end we lost 2 fish that would have helped.

At the weigh in I was trying not to get too excited but that feeling left when I seen the tournament directors loading their weigh in bag. Every fish looked like a 4 pounder. They weighed 15.71 which I thought we would beat but for the first guys to have that much weight was a bit of a kick in the gut. But as it went on we were super excited to see that our 16.59lbs held out for 3rd place behind the Mekdeci's who had won there in the past and Gonzalez and Terkoski who caught a fish bigger than any fish ever weighed in at a BAB tournament according to the website. A 10.37 beast and they beat us by .15 oz.

Next month will be our biggest challenge yet. From past results I can see that a lot of people in the club know how to fish Lake Kissimmee. We have only been on the lake 3 times so we have a lot of catching up to do. We will do our best to figure the fish out, either way it will be a good time.

Check out the videos of us prefishing and the actual tournament day at the links below

https://youtu.be/ocn2e_bP3pE

<https://youtu.be/vfOz8GrtDIw>

On a side note....

Rick and I lost our only deep water fish at the Clermont tournament and she was our biggest fish. We hate having a fish die so we did a little research before this tournament. What worked for us was filling the livewell with 20 pounds of ice and the amount of Rejuvenade that our livewell calls for first thing in the morning. Then when we caught our first fish we filled the livewell and plugged it. From that time we didn't use any new water but just kept the water in the well on recirculate. We also brought two frozen 1 gallon bottles of ice and added one to the well around 1130 and then at 1. It worked really well for us so give it a try if you are having trouble with fish dying. We got this information from the link below.

<https://youtu.be/VqcvUaZHJJY>

<http://www.bayareabassmasters.com/>

<https://cflaoutdoors.wordpress.com/2016/09/02/lake-june/>



Thanks guys, that was another great article

Don't Forget to Make your Reservations at Roland Martins for the Classic.

The Classic is almost upon us. Next month we go down to Roland Martins Resort and compete for the crown of Classic Champion 2016. This is one of the most coveted crowns in all of sports. Thirty eight teams can qualify, only one will win. Thirteen champions have been crowned. Will you be the fourteenth?

We have 40 rooms reserved at the hotel and at Anglers. You must call ASAP to get your name on one of those rooms. I will be releasing all the rooms to the general public on October 17th. If you do not have your reservations made by then, you might not get a room. I can not hold these rooms any longer than that because I don't want to pay for all the unused rooms. I can not stress this enough! Call and make your reservations today. You can reach Roland Martins at 800-473-6766. The reservations are under Bay Area Bassmasters and Tom Mahoney. It looks like it's going to be another great time so don't miss out. Call today.

October's meeting will be Tuesday, the 4th
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)	Okeechobee	Roland Martins

Here is our 2017 Schedule

January	10 14	Winter Haven	Lake Shipp Ramp
February	7 11	Lake Harris	Hickory Point
March	7 11	Lake Kissimmee	Camp Mack
April	4 8	Lake Istokpoga	98 Ramp
May	9 13	Lake Okeechobee	North End
June	6 10	Lake Harris	Hickory Point
July	5 (Wed) 8	Lake Toho	Southport
August	8 12	June in Winter	Public Ramps
September	5 9	Lake Istokpoga	98 Ramp
October	10 14	Lake Kissimmee	Camp Mack
November	7/14 11-12	(Club Classic)	TBDJ

FBN Championship Dates

Nov	5 & 6	Pro / Am State Championship	Seminole	Sneads
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