

Sept 2015

BAY AREA

Ryan and Steve Mekdeci get HOT on the June in the Winter RPM Rumble



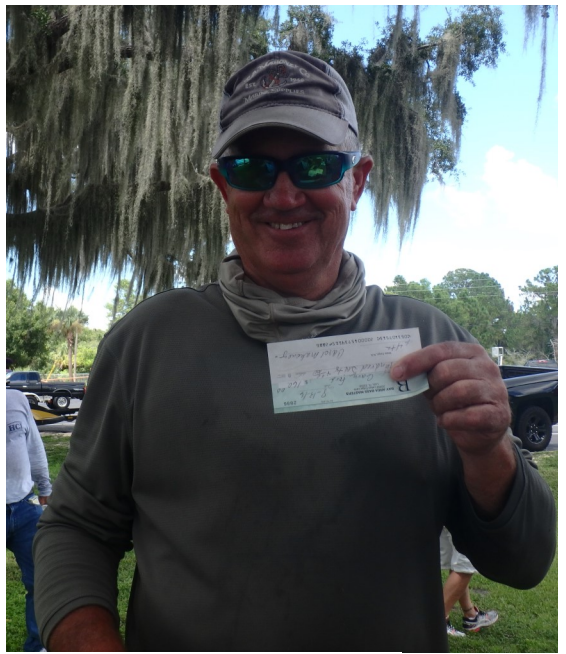
The team of Ryan and Steve Mekdeci pull out another when on June in the Winter. They have one here in the past and always do well on this body of water. The Mekdeci's brought in our first trophy catch of the day. She would go 8.10 pounds and earned them \$100 gift certificate from the Florida Wildlife Commission. Their total pounds better than second-place Terkowski. Although Gene did tournament. This 10.37 pound Bass of the year as well. This tro-worth of gift certificates from the team of Chris and Rick Walters. earned them their third check in article following the story and find Claremont chain. Gary Ford and ish with 15.71 pounds and round-Hebert and Paul Macchia with were caught in this tournament uring out where the fish had gone



weight of 19.84 pounds was over 3 team Casey Gonzalez and Eugene manage to catch our lunker of the monster takes the lead in our big phy catch will earn them \$150 FWC. Third place belongs to the They brought in 16.59 pounds and three tournaments. Check out the out how they earn their check in the Joe Hobson earn a fourth place fin-ing out the top five would be Kevin 14.43 pounds. Although a lot of fish some anglers had a tough time fig-once all the grass disappeared.

Most of the fish came from offshore humps, ledges, or brush piles. Twenty limits were brought to the scales with a total of 121 fish that weighed over 247 pounds. For an August tournament we only ended up losing three fish. Good job anglers.

Place	Team Members	Fish	Big	Final Weight
1st	Steve Mekdeci & Ryan Mekdeci	5	8.10	19.84
2nd	Casey Gonzalez & Eugene Terkoski	5	10.37	16.74
3rd	Chris Walters & Rick Walters	5	5.30	16.59
4th	Gary Ford & Joe Hobson	5	3.58	15.71
5th	Kevin Herbert & Paul Macchia	5	6.65	14.43
6th	Tom Craighead & Bob Gosso	5		14.01
7th	Mark Kummelman & Kyle Stokes	5		12.65
8th	Chris Neatherly & Steve Gallette	5	5.23	12.61
9th	Greg Shamblin & Newt Hill	5		10.70
10th	Jeff Crandon & Jared Crandon	5	2.38	10.13



T.A. Mahoney Co.
"IF WE AIN'T GOT IT, QUIT LOOKIN"
EST. 1946

Clermont Chain (another in the series by Chris Walters)

Lake Minneola, where finding 5 fish over 14 inches can be a lot harder than it sounds.

Prefishing

I mentioned last time that Rick and I started fishing open tournaments before joining the Bay Area Bassmasters. Well we had recently fished the Clermont Chain on April 24. Still we didn't have much prior knowledge as that had been our first time fishing the chain and we figured things had probably changed since then anyway. I didn't exactly kill it with my 5 fish limit going a whopping 5 lbs even but Rick had weighed in around 9 lbs so I was expecting to expand on the fish he had found. Not what Rick had in mind. We had talked to some people that got us excited about a special strip of shoreline in Lake Minneola that we were eager to fish. Our schedules were conflicting so we fished on separate days. Rick started in Minneola and was catching some little ones when he noticed a guy fishing way off the bank about 300 yards. We have never done much offshore bass fishing and Rick had really been looking for a place to try it out. This threw his day off course as he spent the rest of the day idling the lake putting over 100 new waypoints on the Lowrance. Digging through the tacklebox he found the deepest (StrikeKing 5xd in a on. We didn't have any blind in about 16 ft of cast he stuck a fish over changed. He came back honed in on 5 or 6 spots He hadn't caught many good one and in Cler-

and far between. I spent most of my time lakes north of Minneola. bridge between Lake caught a bass but noth-

caught a limit on a toad only had about 7 lbs. It looking for. Before leav-

decided to throw a spin- in Minneola and caught most 3lbs. So we set our buoys and a bunch of lighter colors like sexy working best. Our plan was to hit our best brush pile first thing for a bit then hit the shoreline we thought was the best in Minneola. Our goal was 10lbs but we knew 15lbs was possible.

Bay Area Bassmasters – Clermont Chain Tournament – July 9, 2016

The morning of the tournament we were boat 9 and went straight to our best brush pile. As we started to fish 4 boats pulled up to the shoreline we wanted to fish next and start fishing. Apparently this wasn't our little honey hole after all. We fished for about 30 minutes without a bite and finally went to the bank.

It wasn't the part of the shoreline we wanted to fish the most but we were still confident. I saw a fish bust about 5 feet back in the thick grass so with my first cast I threw right behind him. He pushed grass out of the way and tailed my bait out into the open. He finally hit about 10 ft off the grass line and was a nice 2 lber. From there I caught 10 fish in 20 casts and Rick caught a couple too. They were really hitting my toad. The closest boat to us pulled in about a 3-4 lber so we were ready for our big bite. It never came and the bite eventually died off. In our excitement of catching close to 20 bass so fast we were sure we'd wind up with a decent sack but even after culling 5 or 6 times we came off our high as we realized 7 lbs wasn't going to cut it. We figured everyone was catching fish so everyone would have at least 6lbs. It was time to go back offshore and see what we could do.

We went back to our favorite brush pile because it was the closest. It didn't take more than a minute or 2 and Rick had one. "Oh she's big!" he said as the rod doubled over and the big fish took off for its



diving crankbait we had bluegill color) and tied it buoys so he was fishing water, but on his third 3 lbs. Plans had two weeks later and out of the 100 waypoints. but every fish was a mont, good fish are few

exploring the smaller Every time I fished the Wilson and Cook Lake I ing over 12 inches. I between the lakes but wasn't what we were ing on my second day I nerbait through the grass a nice fish that was al-

game plan. We bought 3 5xd and 6xd cranks. The shad seemed to be

big run. Then it took off for another big run, then another, and ran some more. We knew at this point we weren't dealing with a bass but what the heck was it? We didn't think catfish. Then we finally glimpsed what looked like a 6 foot long yellow log in the water. A GIANT gar. Tom told me after the tournament it was a longnose gar(I believe that's what he called it) and might be close to the record. We didn't weigh it or even measure the length but we did get it in the boat for pictures. That was a bad idea considering its scales scraped my forearm up pretty bad. After that nonsense we hit a couple more piles without any luck and with the heat it was getting tough just standing there casting and reeling.



We made a move to the spot I found between Wilson and Cook to see if we could get one decent cull but no luck. One fish looked nice when it hit Rick's toad but he didn't hook up. It was time to live or die on the deep stuff so back to Minneola we went. The first 2 spots didn't yield anything and we moved to our closest spot to the ramp. It was about 12:40 and we were maybe 500 yards from takeoff. Rick finally said what I had been waiting for all day, "There's one." He brought in a fish close to 2 lbs, it was a decent cull and we were excited. We wanted another and a couple of casts later I finally hooked into one. It was fighting pretty hard. Without seeing the fish I looked at Rick saying, "It's a good one, get the net." It came to the surface without much fight left in him and I eased him into the net. We went crazy. A big 4lb fish, exactly what we needed, we had to have a kicker in order to have a chance to be in the top 10. But this was the first time we had tried to keep a fish from that depth alive in the livewell and most of our ice for drinks was melted. We did what we could and I basically sat at the livewell keeping the fish upright for twenty minutes while Rick fished. At that point I knew it was a lost cause. It stunk to have that big fish die and we've been reading a lot on how to do better with deep fish. We had time for 2 more spots without any luck and headed to the weigh in.

Rick loaded the fish in the weigh in bag and said he didn't think we had as much weight as we originally thought. We were thinking close to 11 but he said probably just under 10 after seeing our 2 smallest ones again. We weighed 9.54 with a dead fish and after 6 lb sack after 6lb sack came in we were starting to think another top 5 was possible. At the end we held 5th place and were very happy. We are super siked to have 2 top 5s in as many tournaments and are hoping to continue fishing well. Lake June is next and we have never been there before but we are excited to go try to figure them out.

<https://cflaoutdoors.wordpress.com/2016/08/10/clermont-chain/>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGoFOMLMj9sZDvHS1hKAKiA>

September's meeting will be Tuesday, the 6th 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

Don't forget that this months tournament ends at 2:00 PM

**Come join the fun at T. A. Mahoney Co.
on September 17th from 8:00 - 3:00.**

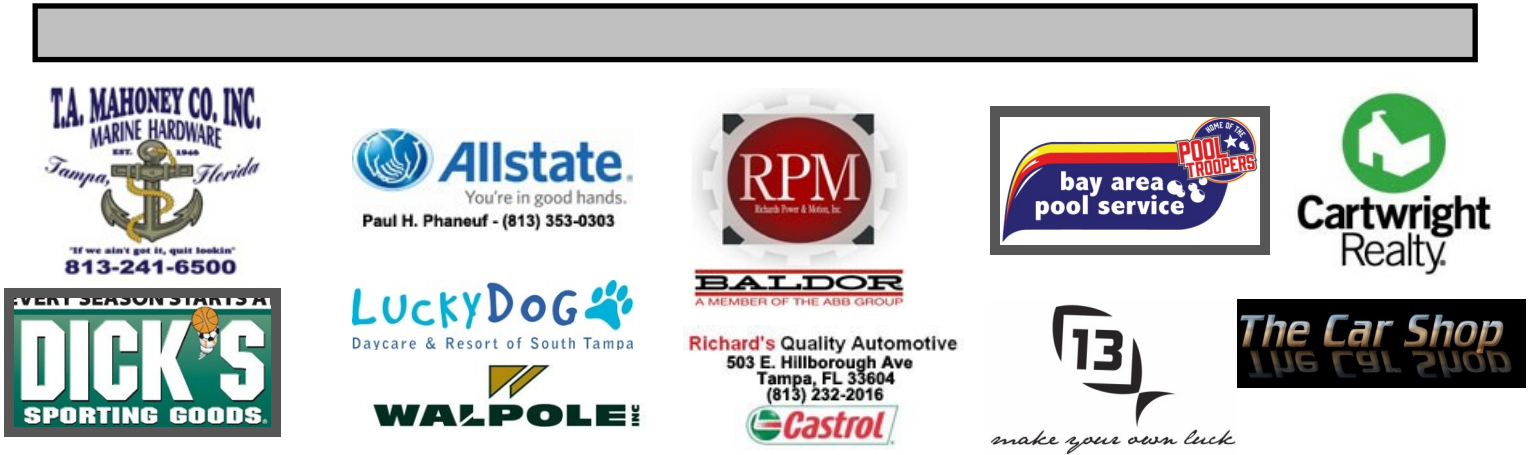
**They are celebrating their 70th anniversary
with a customer appreciation celebration.**

**A free seafood dinner will be served with tons
of door prizes and special sales throughout
the store. Don't miss it!**

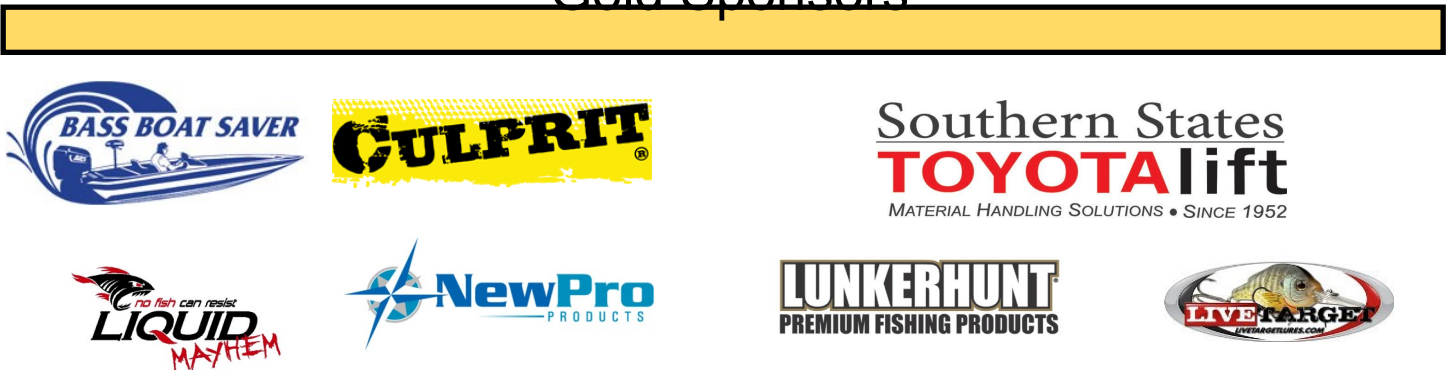
FBN Championship Dates

Nov	5 & 6	Pro / Am State Championship	Seminole	Sneads
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Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors

