



One of the Belly Boat rigs made its TV debut last year. Photo courtesy of SCBBBC

► BELLY BOAT BULLETIN

SONOMA, Calif. — The Sonoma County Belly Bass Boat Club has come a long way since it was organized in 1983, and especially so with the peddle-powered float tubes used by the members.

Rich Caro, president and founder of the California B.A.S.S. Federation Nation club, has experienced the “belly boat” evolution progress from a simple inner tube to a rig with many of the same features found in a bass boat.

A case in point is Caro’s rig, featured last year on the ESPN2 *Bass Tech* do-it-yourself series. The high-tech rig featured a Buck’s Bags Pontoon boat that was custom-fitted with a livewell, trolling motor, GPS electronics, depthfinder and rotating rod holder.

Since then, Caro has put the boat to good use, winning the club’s season opener on Lake Berryessa in his first tournament using the high-tech masterpiece.

The club travels throughout northern California for its events, including a recent stop at Clear Lake, where the weight for a five bass limit was broken by two club members. The team of Russ Stansbury and Andy Parsons weighed a 44-pound limit to set the new record.

More than 40 members are on the club’s roster. A founding member, Jimmy Reese, is the brother of Elite Angler Skeet Reese.