

New Blood – 2009 New Mexico Junior Bassmaster Championship
By David Herrera

For the first time since the inception of the Bass Federation Nation Junior Bassmaster program New Mexico does not have a repeat State Champion. This fact is a testimonial to the increase in skill level among our junior ranks. The New Mexico Juniors follow a tournament trail culminating with the State Championship which is an invitational open to the top six qualifiers in each age group. This year the State Championship was conducted on Navajo Lake on September 19-20, 2009.

The lake was in transition between the summer and fall patterns and the bite was definitely tough with those juniors who found bait-fish and using a drop shot pattern rising to the top of the leader board. Down sizing baits and patience proved to be a necessity along with finding bait-fish holding in or over submerged brush in 15 to 30 feet of water.

The winning pattern was identified by both of the new state champions Tanner Cooper in the 15-18 age-group and Jonny Beard in the 11-14 age-group on the first day of the tournament. Both angler took a commanding lead in their respective age-groups on day one and used their patterns too successfully to maintain that lead through the second day of the tournament. Tanner and Jonny were co-anglers on the first day of the tournament and worked together to perfect the tactics that ultimately lead them to the title.

Jonny Beard lives in Mesquite New Mexico and has qualified for three state championship tournaments; the third time was definitely his charm as he ran away with the 11-14 age-group title this year weighing in 6 fish for a total of 10.16 lbs. Jonny has one year remaining in the 11-14 age-group and will certainly prove to be a power to contend with in future years.

Tanner Cooper was attending his first State Championship tournament in his second year in the program, Tanner bested his closest competitor by 2.77 lbs with a two day total of 15.17 lbs. This is not however Tanner's only angling accomplishment this year. Tanner and co-angler Seth Garrison a three-time Junior State Champion were the Four-Corners Team Bass Anglers of The Year and won the Four Corners Team Bass Championship conducted on Navajo Lake on September 26-27, 2009. Through the seven tournament season the junior bassmaster team of Cooper and Garrison dominated 43 other teams consisting of some of the best anglers from New Mexico and Colorado including several Federation Championship Contenders. Seth Garrison is now attending New Mexico State University and will be missed in the Junior Ranks, Tanner has one year remaining in the 15-18 age-group.

We must thank those who helped us with our State Championship Tournament, all the boat captains who donated their time and resources, our premier sponsors S&S Flow Testing and Charlie's Sporting Goods, Wal-Mart and Jean Lemelin, (Pro-Worm Baits) as well as the Four Corners Bassmasters and Kids of the Southwest. A special thanks to Celine Garrison who organized the parents and supporters of the host Four Corners

Junior Bassmasters and provided a great meal to all the contenders, boat captains and parents during the awards ceremony at the conclusion of the tournament.

NEW MEXICO JUNIOR BASSMASTERS - STATE CHAMPIONSHIP 2009

Boat Captain	Contender	Boat	Fish	Alive	Weight	Penalty	Weight	Rank		
Day 1 - September 19, 2009										
Terry Cox										
	Seth Garrison	1	5	5	5.86	0	5.86	2		
	Clayton Ramsey	1	2	2	1.73	0	1.73	2		
Jerry Stevens										
	Donald Peters	2	1	1	2.53	0	2.53	4		
	Landon Mcknight	2	0	0	0	0	0	4		
David Herrera										
	Jerry Cano	3	1	1	2.33	0	2.33	5		
	J'Ray Cox	3	1	1	0.86	0	0.86	3		
Roger DiCamillo										
	Tanner Cooper	4	5	5	9.48	0	9.48	1		
	Jonny Beard	4	3	3	5.17	0	5.17	1		
Frank Ramsey										
	Jordan McMorris	5	4	4	4.54	0	4.54	3		
	Julian Sosa-Carver	5	0	0	0	0	0	4		
Chase Kemp										
	Nick DiCamillo	6	1	1	0.87	0	0.87	6		
	Cheyenne McMorris	6	0	0	0	0	0	4		
Boat Captain	Contender	Boat	Fish	Alive	Weight	Penalty	Weight	Rank		
Day 2 - September 20, 2009										
Chase Kemp										
	Tanner Cooper	1	3	3	5.69	0	5.69	2		
	Clayton Ramsey	1	0	0	0	0	0	4		
Frank Ramsey										
	Donald Peters	2	0	0	0	0	0	4		
	J'Ray Cox	2	0	0	0	0	0	4		
Monty Striegel										
	Jordan McMorris	3	1	1	0.97	0	0.97	3		
	Jonny Beard	3	3	3	4.99	0	4.99	1		
Roger DiCamillo										
	Nick DiCamillo	4	0	0	0	0	0	4		
	Cheyenne McMorris	4	0	0	0	0	0	4		
Shannon Striegel										
	Jerry Cano	5	0	0	0	0	0	4		
	Landon McKnight	5	1	1	1.12	0	1.12	3		
Mark Garrison										
	Seth Garrison	6	4	4	6.54	0	6.54	1		
	Julian Sosa-Carver	6	2	2	1.67	0	1.67	2		
11-14 AGE GROUP			Total Weight		Day 1	Day 2	Total	Finish		
	Clayton Ramsey	1-1			1.73	0	1.73	2		
	Landon McKnight	2-5			0	1.12	1.12	4		
	J'Ray Cox	3-2			0.86	0	0.86	5		
	Jonny Beard	4-3			5.17	4.99	10.16	1	State Champion	
	Julian Sosa-Carver	5-6			0	1.67	1.67	3		
	Cheyenne McMorris	6-4			0	0	0	6		
15-18 AGE GROUP			Total Weight		Day 1	Day 2	Total	Finish		
	Seth Garrison	1-6			5.86	6.54	12.4	2		
	Donald Perers	2-2			2.53	0	2.53	4		
	Jerry Cano	3-5			2.33	0	2.33	5		
	Tanner Cooper	4-1			9.48	5.69	15.17	1	State Champion	
	Jordan McMorris	5-3			4.54	0.97	5.51	3		
	Nick DiCamillo	6-4			0.87	0	0.87	6		