

Picatinny Junior Bassmasters Enjoy a Day of Fishing Jackson Rielly and Eric Sheng Victorious in Bassin' Kids Tourney

The 10th annual Bassin' Kids Tournament on Picatinny Lake was greeted with sunny skies and 15 eager anglers ranging from 5 to 15 years of age. The event was sponsored by the Picatinny Rod and Gun Association (PR&GA), the Civilian Welfare Council, and Keitech USA Baits. Three new anglers won prizes for catching bass, as none of last year's trophy winners repeated the feat this year. At the start of the tourney each family was provided with a tackle pack generously donated by Keitech USA Baits, resident Picatinny anglers Dan Murphy and Tom Hartigan, which included some plastics worms, stickbaits and Keitech swimbaits, jigs, hooks, weights and Keitech Bait literature.

Nine contestants competed in the Junior division of 10 and Unders. Ten year old Jackson Rielly was the only contestant to land multiple bass during the tourney. Jackson was successful with a green pumpkin Zoom Magnum Finesse Worm fished without any weight along the western shorelines in the southern end of the lake. His two bass totaled just under 3 lbs earning him a first place trophy in his first year of competition with the Bassin' Kids. Just behind Jackson was 10-year old Aidan Murray who found a bass willing to inhale his belly weighted Slurpee Stick Bait in his very first cast with that bait. His 1.67 pound bass was caught in the center of the northern end of the lake and earned Aidan the 2nd place trophy in the younger division. Other competitors that landed fish were Josh Aarsen who brought in a Black Crappie Bass and Anthony Thompson who caught a Chain Pickerel. Also competing in the Junior Division were 5 year old Kenzie Aarsen, Jason and Ryan Cakerri (8), Gwen Cakerri (10), and Michael Thompson (9).

In the Senior Division of 11-15 year olds, Eric Sheng was the only competitor to land a largemouth bass. Eric and his Dad were the guests of Tim Cassidy in his Tracker Bass Boat. Eric landed his 2.12 pound keeper on a Senko stickbait which was weightless and hooked in the middle (wacky style) and allowed to flutter down to the bottom to mimic a dying baitfish. Eric's bass also stood up as the largest of the tournament earning him a Lunker Bass trophy as well. Dillon Prendergast, 13 of Sparta, brought a monster Yellow Chain Pickerel to the scales, which earned him the Lunker Toothfish Trophy. His pickerel weighed over 3 pounds and also hit a wacky rigged Senko. Tori Hartigan rounded out the trophy winners with a Black Crappie Bass which weighed just under a pound and held up as the Lunker Panfish among all the Crappie, Perch and Sunnies caught. Tori's Crappie hit a Baby 1-Minus Crankbait in the north end of the lake. Josh Loomis (13) also competed in the Senior Division, landing a pickerel, and Katie Aarsen (11) brought in a Sunfish. Also participating was Dayne Cakerri (11).

As you can see, Picatinny Lake offers a healthy and plentiful variety of fish for all anglers. The fishery has never been healthier, thanks to the catch-and-release practices of so many of the Picatinny anglers young and old. And it's available to all military and civilians employees working at Picatinny Arsenal, as well as their parents, spouses and children. See the PGR 200-1 for the exact eligibility rules. All it takes is a NJ fishing license and a Picatinny fishing permit. You can even use the MWR boats on the arsenal lakes and ponds for free by signing up for the PR&GA. And check out the new dock and piers refurbished by a group of PR&GA volunteers. The next opportunity for the children to win some prizes while taking advantage of the arsenal waters is Saturday, 11 September when the PR&GA will sponsor its annual National Hunting and Fishing Day Trout Contest. The contest will begin at 10:00 am in the stream below Bucky's. This is one your child will not want to miss. Watch for more details of all the day's festivities.

Picatinny Rod & Gun Assoc.
Bassin' Kids Invitational Bass Tournament
When: Sunday 11 July 2010, 0600-1000 hrs
Where: Picatinny Lake

RESULTS

	<u># Bass</u>	<u>Total Weight</u>	<u>Big Bass</u>	<u>Other Fish</u>
10 AND UNDER:				
1. Jackson Rielly, 10	2	2.81 lbs	1.55	1.25 lb Pickerel
2. Aidan Murray, 10	1	1.67 lbs	1.67	1.90 Pickerel, Perch
3. Jason Cakerri, 8	-	--	--	
3. Ryan Cakerri, 8	-	--	--	
3. Kenzie Aarsen, 5	-	--	--	
3. Josh Aarsen, 9	-	--	--	.54 Crappie
3. Gwen Cakerri, 10	-	--	--	
3. Anthony Thompson, 9	-	--	--	.94 Pickerel
3. Michael Thompson, 9	-	--	--	
AGE GROUP 10-15:				
1. Eric Sheng, 12	1	2.12	2.12 lbs	1.13 Pickerel
2. Tori Hartigan, 15	-	--	--	.90 Crappie
2. Dillon Prendergast, 13	-	--	--	3.25 lb Pickerel
2. Josh Loomis, 13	-	--	--	.94 Pickerel
2. Katie Aarsen, 11	-	--	--	.37 Sunfish
2. Dayne Cakerri, 11	-	--	--	

Lunker Bass – Eric Sheng, 2.12 lb Largemouth Bass
Lunker Toothfish – Dillon Prendergast, 3.25 lb Chain Pickerel
Lunker Panfish – Tori Hartigan, .90 Black Crappie Bass