

WY DIVE WYOMING 2015 USA FRESH WATER NATIONALS

Keyhole Wyoming was home to our Fresh Water National / International Spearfishing Meet June 5-6 this year. 23 teams came from around the nation and 4 were from New Zealand. Darren Shields, 6 time NZ national champ, organized a US diving tour that included a week long stop over for the Fresh Water Nationals. Included on the NZ teams were past national and world class divers and his daughter Gemma the 2x NZ woman's national champ. They were a fun loving group and added greatly to the competition and camaraderie. We also had a single diver from South Africa Kyle Hampton.

Keyhole is a very unique diving opportunity, and for this reason the meet was turned into a 2 day meet.

Day 1 was game fish only, which included, Catfish, Drum, Walleye, Bass, Crappie, sunfish, perch...

Day 2 was Rough fish only which included, Carp and red horse suckers.

For the first time Fresh Water Nationals included a women's / Juniors division with the idea of pushing to build our sport from the youth up. 4 women and 2 Juniors <18 year old boys, made it from NZ, Co, Hi, Wy, Ut. Our last minute entry was Eli Lai from Hawaii and he turned out to be quite the surprise.

Conditions leading up to this meet included 50 degree nights with up to an inch of rain and days that cleared up and were in the mid 80s. So campers got wet and most of the day we got sunburned. The good news was the wind stayed down and as most know Wyoming can really blow.

Diving Day 1, Game fish only.

Half the lake was murky from evenings of rain but the other half of the lake had visibility that went to 30'. This made for some beautiful diving despite the water temp around 63 degrees. The key on game fish day was to get your full allowed amount of walleye 2, black bass 3, and 20 pan fish, (hopefully mostly large drum), and 6 cats, that were very absent. And to get the biggest members of each species possible. As it turned out 4 large walleye were taken, one large drum and 1 large cat. The top 20 divers had near perfect stringers. The main difference was the quality--weight of the fish. That allowed the NZ team of John and Callum to take a very commanding lead, that looked impossible to catch.

Name	State	Day 1 Points---Game Fish	Place	
John Anderson	NZ	179.82	1	Walleye 7.8 lbs
Callum Relph	NZ	178.62	2	
Ryan Ostrander	Wy	167.16	3	Big Catfish 12.3 lbs
Hanalei Adric	Hi	158.28	4	
Calvin Lai	Hi	147.96	5	
Justin Fox	Co	142.98	6	Walleye 8.8 lbs
Mike Ban	Co	141.54	7	
Jason Nash	Wy	138.6	8	Walleye 5.6 lbs
Ian Warnock	NZ	133.2	9	
Luke Herrick	Wy	133.02	10	
Mike McGuire	Co	129.12	11	
Weston Rosenau	Wy	124.35	12	
Brandon Miller	Wy	120.42	13	
Jim Herrick	Wy	118.92	14	
Ryan Peterson	Ut	117.96	15	
Darren Shields	NZ	117.72	16	
Kyle Hampton	SA	70	30	Drum 14.5 lbs biggest fish

JUNIORS / WOMEN'S DIVISION

Name	Day 1 Points	Place
Kelston McGuire	117.72	1
Eli Lai	109.32	2
Shelby Peterson	108	3
Gemma Shields	102.78	4
Texi Herrick	101.4	5
Shantel Kimi	25.9	6

Diving Day 2, Rough fish only

It seemed that the scores from game fish day had spread the competitors out so much that no major changes could possibly happen with only a 50 carp max limit for day 2. However just the opposite occurred. Conditions improved and a few teams got into clear water and lots of carp, while most teams seem to push carp quickly out of the area and worked very hard the last 4 hours of the meet to get half of what they were expecting. Hawaii had the biggest challenge trying to catch New Zealand with a 57 point lead. If all competitors shot 50 carp it would be up to Hawaii to some how make up 57 pounds in carp, that for the most part, were all very near the same size. For Hawaii the day started poorly as Paps, Calvin's Dad and boat driver, ran over Hana, cutting his fin off his foot. Lucky for Hana he only needed one foot to win these competitions. Na, it only left a small scare on his foot and never even slowed this animal down. Hana got 50 solid fish and ended up 2nd for the day. Eli, Calvin's 15 year old son, got stuck with one fin. I wonder who stole his other? So Paps stuck him in a shallow muddy bay where he didn't have to do much swimming. In true Hawaiian style he adapted to the conditions and chose to stay still standing in shallow water mucking his feet in the deep mud. Motionless, the carp were drawn to the muck and sucking noise of his feet working the bottom Eli shoots 41 fish and ended up 4th over all, and just 3 fish behind his Dad, Calvin, who got 44 fish for 3rd place.

It was now up to the Kiwis, John & Callum, to show off their world class skills. Unfortunately they came up a few fish short shooting a total of 41 carp that allowed Hawaii to slip into first place Team for the 3rd year in a row. This is unprecedented for an out of state team to win 3 Fresh Water Nationals in a row, all in very different waters, they had never dove before. I know even they were surprised to pull this one off.--Well done--

Name	Day 2 Points	Place	
Justin Fox	232	1	10.92 lb carp
Hanalei Adric	227.4	2	8.42 lb carp
Calvin Lai	210.38	3	
Darren Shields	183.76	4	
Mike Ban	171.85	5	
Duke Spackman	158.64	6	
Luke Herrick	138.3	7	
Mike McGuire	128.28	8	
Ian Warnock	110.28	9	
Aaron Dalman	103.6	10	8.22 lb carp
Colin Smith	100.88	11	
Callum Relph	86.28	12	
John Anderson	85.76	13	
Ryan Peterson	82.82	14	
Christian Baker	70.8	15	
Jacob Kimi	68.76	16	

Youth/Woman's Day 2 Standings

Name	Day 2 Points	Place	
Eli Lai	206	1	10.2 lb carp
Kelston McGuire	148.56	2	7.5 lb carp
Texi Herrick	69.34	3	
Gemma Shields	47.9	4	
Shelby Peterson	38.82	5	
Shantel Kimi	13.78	6	

Other great performances were turned in by:

Justin Fox of Co, who took top diver on carp day, and finish 1 game fish behind Hana for 2nd over all.

Darren Shields with his Daughter Gemma, of New Zealand, moved from 10th to 4th place team and Darren individually moved from 16th to 4th over all with a killer score on carp day. See his fun video of the full experience at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUI6ASHuks>

Top honors however go out to **Eli Lai** diving in his first Nationals he moved from 18th position the first day, to 4th over all, and is our new Junior National Champ. It was a great win for the 15 year old and he hopes to have earned a spot on his Dad's team for next years USOA Nationals in Beaver Lake Ark?? Might want to look for a different driver. :)

A big thanks to Weston, Brandon, and their crew for hosting a great event.

And to the best sponsors in the world that support fresh water spearfishing and our industry every single year, you're the BEST!!!!

For next years nationals and info on other fresh water diving go to:

www.Rockymountainspearfishing.org

Final Individual Standings

Name	Total Points	Place
Hanalei Adric	385.68	1
Justin Fox	374.98	2
Calvin Lai	358.34	3
Mike Ban	313.39	4
Darren Shields	301.48	5
Luke Herrick	271.32	6
John Anderson	265.58	7
Callum Relph	264.9	8
Duke Spackman	260.22	9
Mike McGuire	257.4	10
Ian Warnock	243.48	11
Ryan Ostrander	225.52	12
Colin Smith	209.72	13
Aaron Dalman	202.72	14
Ryan Peterson	200.78	15
Brandon Miller	181.06	16
Dwight Killpack	170.62	17
Jason Nash	169.68	18

Peter Rick	154.38	19
Jeremy Herrick	149.38	20
Kevin Lowery	146.36	21
Bill Donavon	142.36	22
Jim Herrick	141.98	23
Weston Rosenau	132.73	24
Andrew Moore	130.88	25
Christian Baker	127.02	26
Carl Cooper	121.3	27
Gary Eddy	118.54	28
Kyle Hampton	108.7	29
Ryan Brazfield	107.24	30
Jacob Kimi	96.96	31
Dennis Odson	84.58	32
Wyoming James	75.5	33
Doug Brockhouse	60.68	34
Dawson Rivera	53.62	35
Clay Sibbitt	35.62	36
Ben Hilke	21	37
Jeremy Kusmin	11.28	38

Final Team Standings

Team Name	Total Points	Place
Cressi	744.02	1
Wettie Team 3	530.48	2
Imersion	523.68	3
Fox Floats	502	4
Good Duck	459.75	5
Wettie Team 2	453.2	6
Wettie Team 1	452.16	7

Final Youth/Woman's Standings

Name	Total Points	Place
Eli Lai	315.32	1
Kelston McGuire	266.28	2
Texi Herrick	170.74	3
Gemma Shields	150.68	4
Shelby Peterson	146.82	5
Shantel Kimi	39.76	6