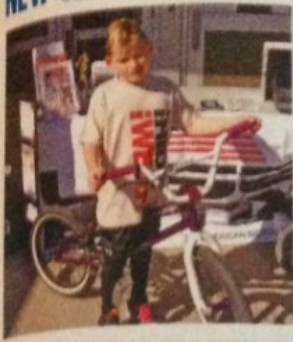


## NEW JERSEY



We just wanted to send you a few pics of 7 year old **P.J. O'Brien** from his first event of the new season. He is promoting helmet safety in the sport with his message

**"I Ride, I Wear."**

Mark, over at RiderzReady, is helping us out with this bicycle safety promotion and we are very thankful to him. He printed up the shirt and many

kids were asking about them, so we hope to see this really take off.

PJ set up his booth with custom made stickers, New Rider editions of Pull magazines, track opening day flyers and much more. He shared his "I Ride, I Wear" video promoting helmet safety and rode with the kids. For a 7 year old to put out this message, is huge!



L to R: School chums and fellow BMXers Brandon Zahnow, Darin Ranes, Jim Nelson, David Bauder & Jeff Graham.

## NORTH CAROLINA

It was a fabulous day in Charlotte, NC for the first state race of the year at **Hornet's Nest BMX**. This is also the site of the upcoming Tarheel Nationals pro series race in May. Lots of riders from all over the south region



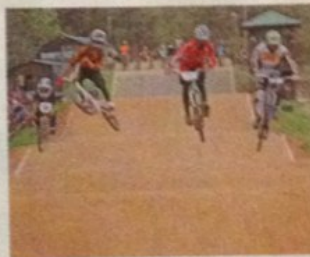
came to battle and preview the track. The track condition and weather were just as spectacular as the all the racing. With more than 50 plus motos on the day there was a great showcasing of riding skills from all the different racer levels and age groups.

Some of the top racing action belonged to a few groups.



The first was for the top 8 Expert in North Carolina, which had current Nag 5 rider Wesley Haggstrom taking the top spot over RLC #2 Jacob "The Hurricane" Hogan and Riley Queen bringing home a the 3rd. The next awesome race on the day was with the 15-16 expert girl's which was an absolute fierce battle; but Josie Ritchie went big across the triple and she then held on for a tight win over Amelia "Fireball" Zwiener, Hannah Galvin and Rebecca Robinson. Lastly we had the high flying 15 boys' expert class, which had

some serious firepower and rider skills. They all flew through the jumps with ease but coming out on top was the current RLC champion Josh Rivera who had to fight off the district #1 of Kit Bjerk who took a close 2nd, then it was Dalton Wyatt and Jordan Riggins.



All the classes and different age groups raced great and I think they all had some fun on the day. The next stop in the NC state series is at this year's host track of the Red Line Cup East Finals, which is **Tanglewood BMX** in Clemmons, NC.

--photos/article by: Ben Hogan

## WASHINGTON

A pretty cool thing went down in Redmond's GNW Nationals, in the 41-45 Cruiser class: FIVE riders on the gate all attended the same elementary, Jr. High and Highschool in Federal Way, WA.

The players: Darin Ranes WA01, David Bauder WA01, Brandon, Zahnow WA01, Jeff Graham WA02 & Jim Nelson CA11.

What's extra cool about this is that Nelson turned 41 TODAY and Bauder turns 46 on April 15, so the race date was timed perfectly for this to happen in such a tight window. Not sure if this is big enough to get a mention in an upcoming PULL, but I would assume it's unprecedented at a National - so we thought we'd send this quick self-serving press release.

Jim and Jeff were likely our most potential main makers. We were actually all there last year and got the shot (above).

**POST RACE:** In the end, the 41-45cru ranks were jam-packed with 26 riders and some hefty comp. Bremerton's JEFF GRAHAM not only wound up with being the solo classmate in the main, but also scored the win on Sunday!

## TEXAS



PHOTO BY: KIRBY CRONK

The crash pics are from the Lone Star BMX SQR in San Antonio, TX. Robbie Tucker and Hubert Jackson (both with NitroCross)

are running up front one and two...Darren Lankford (ORP) slid out in Turn One and began the mayhem...in total 6 crashed out



of the 8 man gate...it was 36-40 Cruiser Main...the other riders were Frank Ross (NitroCross), Greg Kraft, Casey Grudgell, Marcos Garza...and one other that I don't know ...great riders, great racing!!

## WANT TO BE STATE REPORTERS:

Every month, PULL magazine will be giving our readers State-by-State reports of what's happening on the local scene. If you've got the photography and writing skills and would like to contribute, please E-mail: [jmcguire@usabmx.com](mailto:jmcguire@usabmx.com)