

Sand from 1B

date here,” said event organizer and Sand Master Park owner Lon Beale. “Jessie Honeyman State Park was the staging grounds for what became a record setting day in more ways than anyone expected.”

A couple standouts from this year’s Jam included Florence’s Bekah Austen, who opted to compete with the men in the Amateur Men’s division.

“Under Dune Riders International rules, three competitors minimum are necessary to have a division,” said Beale. “The Amateur Women’s did not have the three needed to make a full category, so Bekah was given the option to compete in the juniors division or the much tougher men’s division.”

Austen, who is the current U.S. Women’s champion, opted to compete with the men — and tied for first place after clocking her fastest drag time ever at 31.5 mph.

Local sandboarder Brandon Livingston was with her neck and neck with the tie and clocked in a 31.7 mph run.

International competitor Rolland Cox of Portland, Ore., easily claimed second place

overall with a 31.9 mph run. But as the total points from the drag race and the slalom race were totaled, Rolland couldn’t claim the championship title and, instead, settled for the fastest amateur division speed and third overall — with Florence sandboarder Logan Livingston in fourth place.

Pro category saw two-time DRI international champion Gabe Cruz reclaim first place overall. Cruz, who also logged in the record drag speed of 32.8, had the second-fastest slalom time of 8.63 seconds — just under local pro sandboarder Jesse Austen’s speed of 8.50. Austen took second place overall with 17 points in a very close pro competition this year.

Last was the junior competition, with 2014 winner Diego Chaves, 13, sharing the title with newcomer, 15-year-old Zack Douglass of Bellevue, Wash.

Both held a wide margin over the competition with 19 points each. While Chaves logged in the fastest slalom time of 9 seconds flat, Douglass clocked in a pro-level speed in the drags at 30.7 mph.

“With no injuries and plenty of thrills it was great to see the entire line up back at Sand

Master Park to collect their medals,” said Beale, who handed out the specially made encased 2015 Silver Eagle silver dollars, along with gift certificates from sponsors Venomous Sandboards, Xwest Clothing Company, Shipping Shack, Kavu, Doctor Dune Sandboard Wax and Sand Master Park.

“We’re definitely looking forward to the the 20th anniversary of the Sand Master Jam next year,” said Beale.

The competition is always held the third Saturday of July. Anyone is welcome to participate or spectate at this free event.

For more information, contact Sand Master Park at 541-997-6006 or visit www.sandmasterpark.com.

The DRI summer series will wrap up Saturday, Aug. 15, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Sand Master Park.

Final standings:

Pro Men:

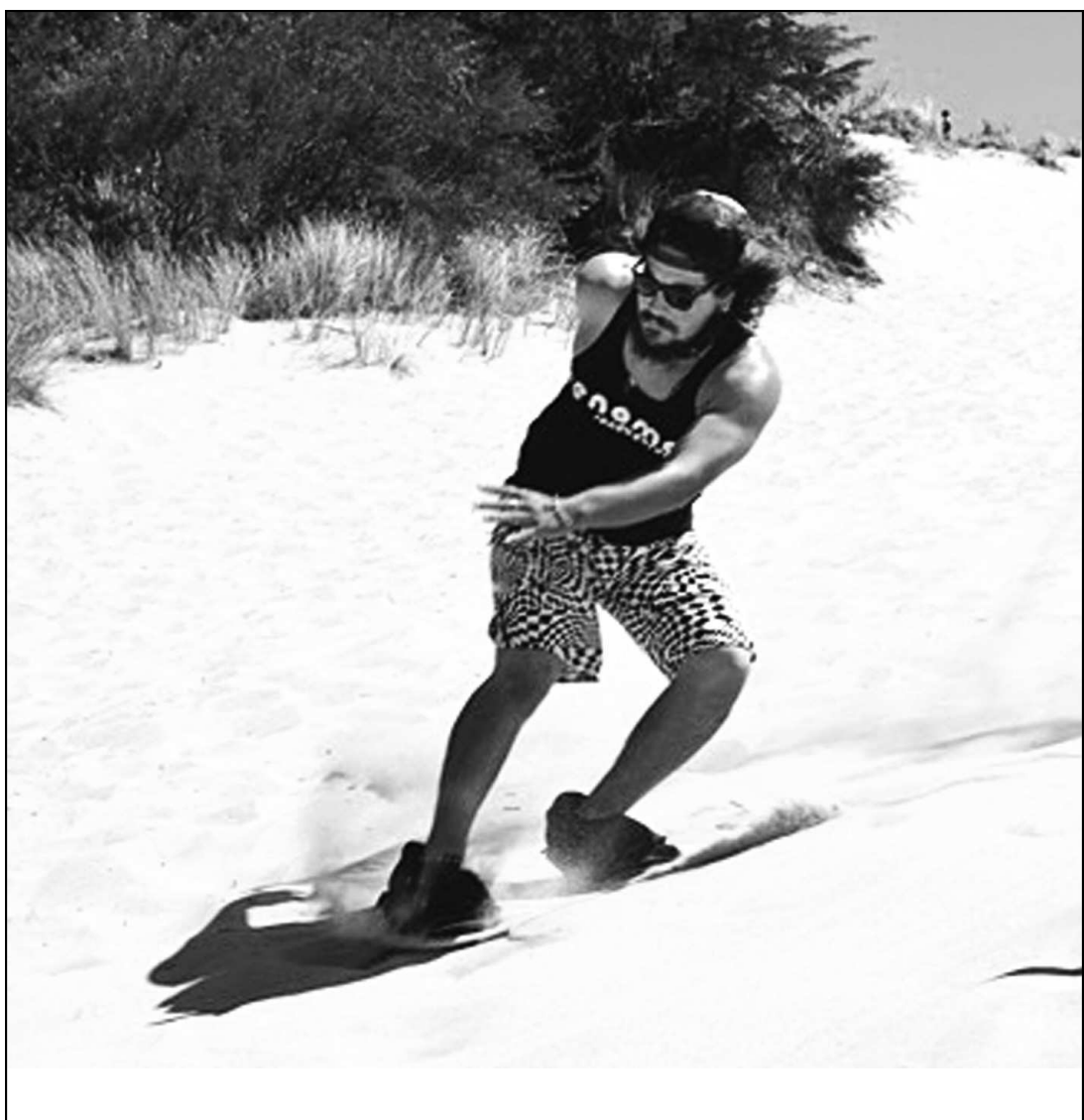
- 1st — 19 points: Gabe Cruz
- 2nd — points: Jesse Austen
- 3rd — 16 points: Jackson Cruz (tie)
- 3rd — 16 points: Matt Walton (tie)

Amateur men:

- 1st — 18 points: Bekah Austen (tie)
- 1st — 18 points: Brandon Livingston (tie)
- 2nd — 17 points: Rolland Cox
- 3rd — 15 points: Logan Livingston
- 4th — 12 points: Matt Carter
- 5th — 9 points: JD Wheeler (tie)
- 5th — 9 points: Jeff Wheeler

Juniors:

- 1st — 19 points: Diego Chaves
- 1st — 19 points: Zack Zimmerman
- 2nd — 14 points: Hallie Cruz (female)
- 3rd — 13 points: Ezekiel Cruz (tie)
- 3rd — 13 points: Kellen Zimmerman (tie)
- 4th — 8 points: Maya Cruz (female)



Returning men’s pro champion Gabe Cruz retained his crown at Saturday’s competition.



Florence’s Bekah Austen, competing in the amateur men’s division, tied for first place.



LON BEALE PHOTOS

Florence’s Jesse Austen (above left) was second in the pro men’s division; 13-year-old Diego Chaves (above right) tied for first in the junior division with Zack Zimmerman.

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