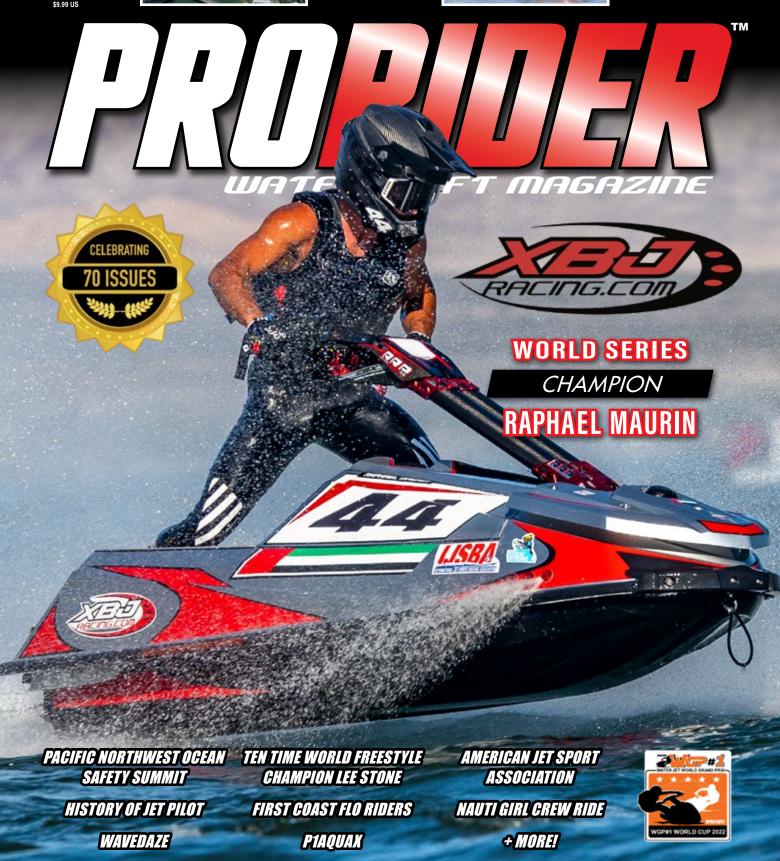




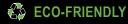
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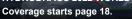
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Coverage starts page 18. PHOTO: Manuel Valdes















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# David Cabrera has been involved in the personal watercraft industry 30 years on and off the racecourse.

- The birth of Strapinno retractable ratchet straps came on a family outing.
  - **WORLD FREESTYLE CHAMPION LEE STONE**Few sports have ten-time World Champions. Sit back and read what
- Few sports have ten-time World Champions. Sit back and read what the champ has to say.
- **SUPER CHARGED HIGH-SPEED RACING HYDRODRAG WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**The 'GOAT' Carlito Del Valle proves he's still the fastest.
  - PASSING THE HYDRODRAGS TORCH 20
  - Surf and Turf's longtime promoter Mike Young hands HydroDrag reins to young gun Billy Tew.
    - FIRST CORST FLO RIDERS 22 Recreational riding group enjoys dolphin and sea turtle sightings.
    - ABONE THE WATERLINE: HISTORY OF JET PILOT 24
  - JetPilot was established in 1986 by a group of 4 guys from California.
  - Josh Klem, Webster, New York grew up around motorsports of all kinds.
    - NAUTI GIRL CREW FILLS LOCK 30
  - Group sets the record for the most skis the lock master ever had 33 skis!
    - PISMO FREERIDE 32
    - No better feeling than pushing your ski into the Pacific Ocean.

      \*\*FREESTYLE FRETORY 33\*\*
    - Greg Brock, longtime professional Freestyle competitor, performer, is the driving force behind the Freestyle Factory.
  - Annual ride on Australia's picturesque Gold Coast saw well over 200 riders all in Santa attire.
    - AMERICAN JET SPORT ASSOCIATION
      AJSA is a grassroots organization building a series focused
    - on the southeastern United States.

      \*\*INRUGURAL PRCIFIC NORTHWEST OCEAN SAFETY SUMMIT 3::
    - Global big wave, ocean safety, PWC safety and tow surf operators, and photographers convened.
- Cal Miller and son Kelly developed a line of inflatable bumpers to protect boats and jet skis from common threats
  - and jet skis from common threats.

    \*\*TORRUE DOLL9\*\*

    Amir Djerassi has a passion for jet skiing, motocross, and innovation.
  - Waves sun family friends fun: wavedaze! 44
- Waves and weather were great, everyone left with fantastic memories and new friends.
  - RIDE AWAY WITH ALVEAN AZURIN Amazing bucket list PWC ride to Bahamas.
    - ROLLER CORSTER SERSON: PIRQURX 58
  - The 2022 SBT P1 AquaX season was a roller coaster of highs and lows.

    \*\*PHOTOGRAPHERS ORGANIZE TOY ORIVE / PHOTO SHOOT\*\*
    64
- Pro Rider Pro Photographers Kenny Wong and Rain Porter organized a unique event combining toy drive and photo shoot at the 'Jet Ski Capital of the World.'

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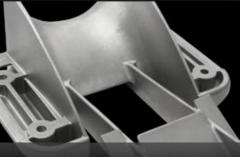
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191 WILSON ROAD • JACKSON, 6a 30233 • WWW.PRORIDERMAG.COM

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#### Note:

Much of the action depicted in this publication is potentially dangerous. Virtually all the riders seen in our photos are experienced experts or professionals. Do not attempt to duplicate any stunts that are beyond your own capabilities. Always wear appropriate or for appropriate safety gear.

We welcome your company and industry news. Please include digital photos with your press release and send the information to michael@proridermag.com or cathy@proridermag.com. We cannot be responsible for unsolicited product samples. The publisher does not assume liability for products or services advertised herein.

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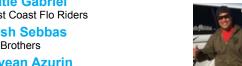




































# PR SOCIAL MEDIA

















## *WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PRORIDERMAG*

- 1. JetXCo V4 in the works Photo: @jetxco\_
- 2. Pro Rider Pro Photographer Joe Worst at Virginia Beach Wave Daze
- 3. Yuzo Taguchi Ferrari, Ducati, Rickter, check!
- 4. Crazy Test Tank Photo: @goldnautica
- 5. "Doesn't get any better than this." Photo: @braapshots
- 6. Welcome to 'The Den' Broward Motorsports
- 7. On the road again with Blowsion
- 8. From an F250 diesel to 'Hello Kitty' scooter Anthony Radetic's setup at Triple Crown Thailand Photo: @anthonyradetic22









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- 1. @action\_horizons\_stunts
- 2. @ride7117
- 3. @jetskijourneys;@exploringfloridawaterways
- 4. @prowatercraft
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- 9. @bassiltheriverking
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- 12. @genevagallagher; @kengallagaher

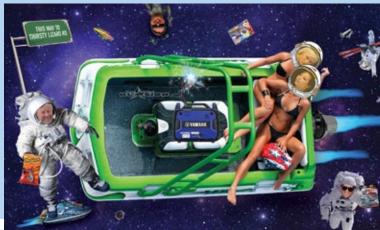
# THE MONEY \$HOT JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

The 2023 January-February cover shot goes to XBJ Racing and sponsored rider Pro Ski Grand Prix 2022 WGP#1 World Series World Champion Raphael Maurin! Maurin secured podium

finishes throughout the year racing across three continents starting with the Euro Championship in Poland, followed by the IJSBA World Finals in the USA, culminating in the final round in Thailand. Cover photo captured through the lens of Dieter Quaghebeur @braapshots. Be on the lookout for full Triple Crown coverage in the Mar-Apr 2023 issue.











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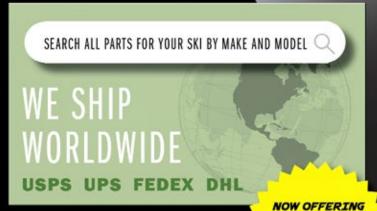




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# HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM PRO RIDER WATERCRAFT MAGAZINE!

elcome to the first issue of 2023 and the 70th print and digital issue of Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine entering our 12th year in production. We are grateful beyond measure for all subscribers and advertisers and honored to work with superior photographers, authors, and event organizers.

The 2023 January-February cover shot taken by @braapshots goes to XBJ Racing and sponsored rider Pro Ski GP 2022 Triple Crown World Champion Raphael Maurin. Maurin, aboard a Kommander GP1, raced round 1 Poland, round 2 USA and the final round in Thailand, with zero mechanical failures! Read more about the Triple Crown in the Mar-Apr 2023 issue of Pro Rider.

Features include Inaugural PNW Safety Summit, HydroDrag Championships, First Coast Flo Rec Riders, WaveDaze, History of Jet Pilot, MotoOption Lifestyle, Cabrera Motorsports Business Profile, an interview with 10-time Freestyle World Champion Lee Stone and much more!

Visit Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine on Facebook, Instagram at @proridermag, and online at www.proridermag.com for news, announcements, digital issue access and extras! **PR** 

Sincerely,

Michael Ratti and the Pro Rider Team

| O Instagram: @michael ratti



1: Introducing the Pro Rider Poncho | 2: Pro Rider Toddler Division Aaliyah Rain Ratti | 3: Photo Shoot by Zoomed Images at Brisbane Holiday Park: Craig Milne, Paul Everest, Michael Ratti, Siana Ratti, Mitchell, Amber Clark, Jake Beekman | 4: Show Prep @splashdownentertainment, @rari\_pierce Hayman Island Whitsundays | 5: Michael Ratti, Christopher Pierce Hayman Island Whitsundays Australia @splashdownentertainment | 6: Show Prep @michael\_ratti Hayman Island Whitsundays | 7: Ignite the Night Sea World Carnivale Thunder Lake Show | 8-9: Triple Crown Ski GP World Champion Raphael Maurin





Ken Gallagher Photography

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# MEET DAVID CABRERA:

avid Cabrera has been involved in the personal watercraft industry over 30 years, on and off the racecourse. He's passionate about the sport and the people involved in it. In his professional career, he worked in engineering and news operations at Telemundo/NBC News for 27 years which airs on channel 51, the source of his race number.

Shared David, "I'm very competitive, which is what led me to race. As racers, we are constantly striving for a competitive advantage. I've always been intrigued by how things work, my jetski was no exception. Always looking to add speed and better handling, using my skills as an engineer, I began to play with the mechanics and electronics on my ski as a hobby making vast improvements while enjoying what I was doing."

# **PRO RIDER:** How did Cabrera Motorsports get started?

**DRUID CABREERA:** Several years into racing, I was introduced to Sam Nehme, owner of Broward MotorSports, a great friend and mentor. Sam was focused on building and growing his brand into the magnitude of success it has become today and not actively racing. As it often does when two people share a passion, Sam didn't take long to get back on the racecourse.

My position at Telemundo was terminated, so I began taking specialized courses on OEM ECU tuning and programming. Little did I know this would be the beginning of Cabrera Motorsports! With Sam Nehme and Tim Judge, we've combined our passion and knowledge to produce world-winning ECU tunes and engine packages that have dominated the market for three years.

### **PR:** What is the focus of your business?

**III:** Cabrera Motorsports sells parts and accessories for personal watercraft specializing in ECU performance reflash for Yamaha, Kawasaki, and Sea-Doo.

# **PR:** What are you most proud of regarding Cabrera Motorsports?

OC: In three short years, we've positioned ourselves as a passionate motorsports company committed to outstanding work quality and service excellence. We've become known for having the best tunes in the industry from performance gains and reliability.

In 2022 Broward Motorsports swept the P1AquaX podium, winning the National Championship with a 1st for Jimmy Wilson, 2nd for Dustin Farthing, and Christian Daly rounding it out in 3rd, all running a Cabrera

Motorsports tune. We went undefeated in the AM200 class with Sammy Nehme. To top it off, for two consecutive years, I've won 2 IJSBA World Finals in Stock class and on the GP, running our new MoTec M130 harness box for the first time. Being both a racer and a data-driven engineer, I can test and see the results, making it a winning combination. We've gained the trust and confidence of some of the best riders in the world, including Dustin Farthing, Chris MacClugage, Eric Francis, Jimmy Wilson, Christian Daly, Sam Nehme, Sammy Nehme, Sophie Francis, and Yaniel Fiallo.

### Mhat's your best advice to jet ski owners/riders/racers, water sports enthusiasts in general?

Like everything in life, if you are committed and willing to put in the hard work, anything is possible!

### PR: Do you have any special plans for 2023?

We're extending our ECU reflashing services to ATVs, boats, and side-by-sides. We want to see more racers on the water, especially young riders. We plan to pull out all the stops in innovating and growing Cabrera MotorSports and our sport in general.











# 2022 PRO-ENDURO NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

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PHOTOS: David Rosenfield

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# PR STARTING LINE

# CAMP FAR WEST WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY

Submitted by: Chris Kaikkonen

Photos: Kenny Wong; Chris Liu

It was not your typical day in November in Wheatland, CA at local waterway Camp Far West, a gathering spot of

Northern California/ Nevada racers for wintertime riding in an area called Jetski Cove. Many braved the chilly waters in wetsuits The racecourse had action with different types of personal watercraft as riders pushed each other to their limits. There were a few crashes with no injuries giving the shore some excitement.









## REMEMBERING JET SKI LIFE OF CHARLESTON FOUNDER LAURA NEWKIRK 1980-2022

REPRINTED FROM PRO RIDER WATERCRAFT MAGAZINE MAY-JUNE 2020

# CHARLESTON INVASION RIDE TO BENEFIT MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION

Calling all PWC enthusiasts! Join Jet Ski Life of Charleston and ride the beautiful Charleston South Carolina Intercoastal Waterways, Historic Harbor, Barrier Islands on this 75-mile guided ride with all proceeds donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Jet Ski Life of Charleston's Owner, Laura Newkirk, has suffered with the debilitating effects of Muscular Dystrophy her entire life. Laura





shared, "I realize I will be in a wheelchair soon. I participate in MDA fundraisers because they use the money for funding research towards finding a cure and helping MD families with treatments. I have had them help me firsthand. It's not too late to keep my 9-year-old son, my riding buddy, from ever sitting in a wheelchair. I hope he enjoys a

PWC until he's an old man. When you donate to MDA, you're strengthening our community by bringing researchers closer to finding treatments and cures and support those living with muscular dystrophy, ALS and related neuromuscular diseases."





## PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to Dawson Dowling, Grand Rapids, Michigan for this winning photo of his brother Preston age 11 riding Dawson's 1990 550sx on the Thorn Apple River in Grand Rapids. "The ski is completely stock but will be getting a milled head this winter," shared Dawson.



### UINCENT FOUNTAIN

Photos: Kenny Wong

Vincent, age 7, first starting riding jet skis in 2022 on the Sacramento River in California with his father Tim Fountain and friends of the Sacramento Jet Ski Club. He became interested in riding as soon as he saw his dad's first take off. Mom Shelby shared, "Anything that's fast with a motor my son wants to pick it up and go for it without fear. Jet skiing is his number one sport. When it's not riding season, he loves fishing, boating, and soccer. His dad is currently training to race in 2023. Vincent wants to race his little heart out. If they had a class his age, he would be in it!"







### Making more time for fun: Introducing Strapinno

Submitted by: Alan Cheung

How to best describe the Strapinno family is our sense for adventure, land, sea, or air we are up for the challenge. The birth of Strapinno came on a family outing where we were frustrated with detangling and organizing the excess slack in the traditional ratchet straps. It took way more time and energy needed to get our equipment and supplies loaded which meant less time for fun. We thought why can't these straps work like seat belts, pull out and fasten when needed and retract when done. From there we designed and engineered our first retractable ratchet straps. They worked extremely well for securing general cargo and locking down ATVs/motorbikes onto trailers. One day we observed something very dangerous, a jetski trailer traveling down the road with straps flinging wildly through the wind. We thought





there must be a safer way, so we developed a retractable rachet strap specifically for water gear, our marine series was born. We have since developed several straps for transporting water equipment. Still living the adventurous life, we now have a better and safer way to bring our gear to those destinations.

## ARGUIN JET GROUP

Submitted by: Sammy Maysonnave, President Arguin Jet Racing Association

Arguin Jet Group is in the Bordeaux Region of France. We sail mainly on the Arcachon



Basin. I created this group to bring together jet enthusiasts, organize trips, share good times with friends and train for endurance races. I also participate in walks with children who are victims of bullying at school. We ride year-round and go to the Verdon and Spain. In 2023 our goal is to increase outings on the basin and organize a tour of Corsica by jet ski. I am also 2021 GP3F2 endurance France Champion and going to the Martinik Cup, a race that brings

together many champions including

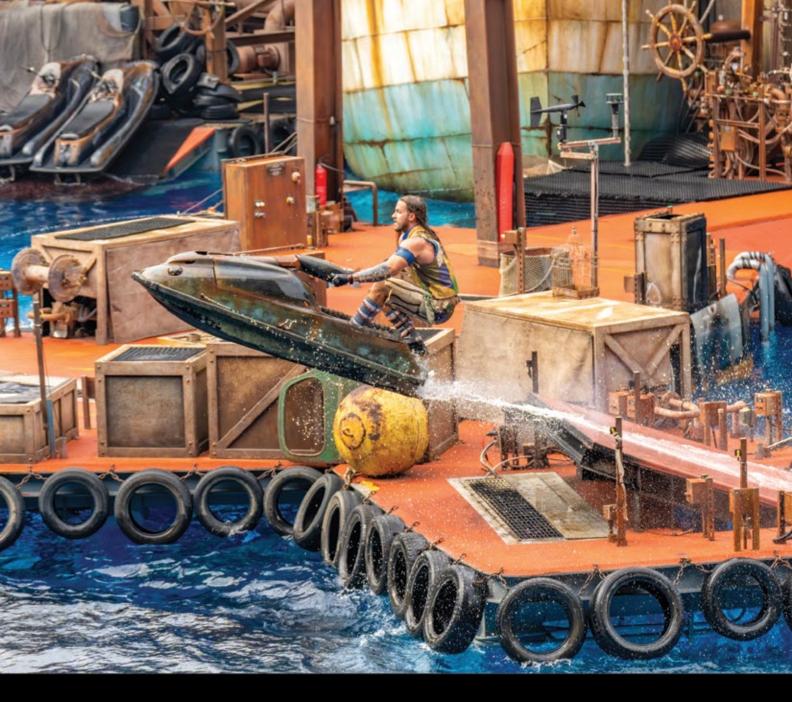












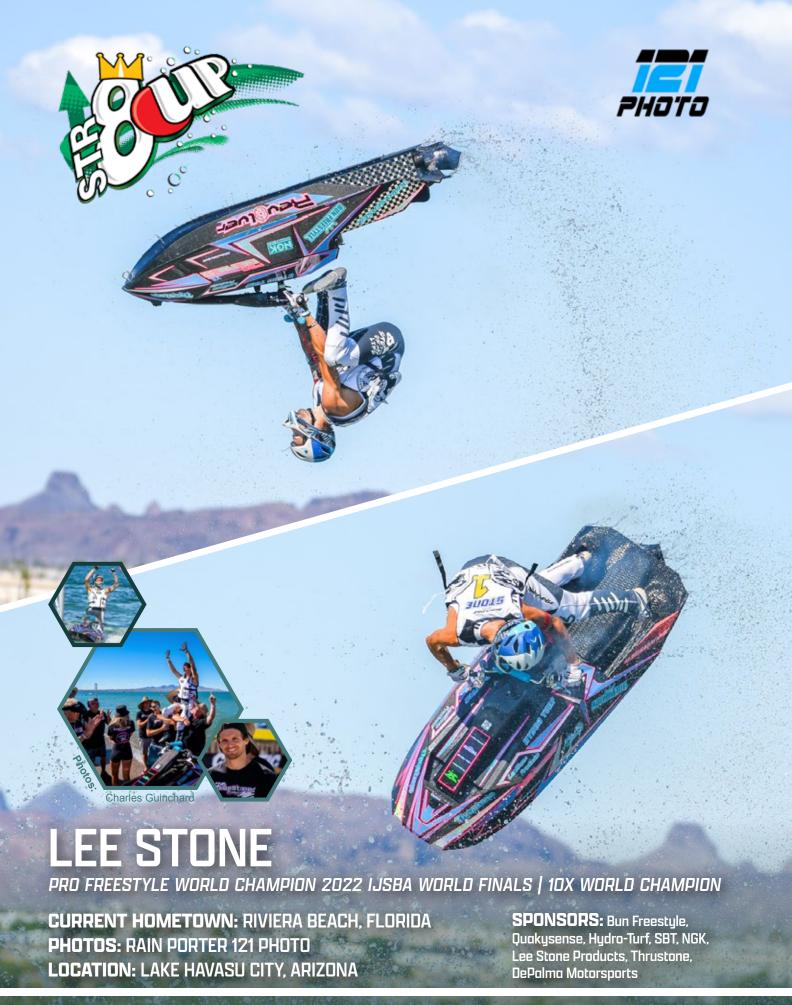
# **NOW CASTING JET SKIERS**

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ew sports have ten-time World Champions.

Recently I had the opportunity to interview ten-time Freestyle Jet Ski World Champion, Lee Stone, at Lee Stone Products in Riviera Beach, Florida. Sit back and see what the champ has to say!

**ALEX NIKOLIS:** What is your earliest memory on a jet ski?

**LEE STONE:** I was four, my dad traded a treadmill for a sitdown jet ski totally random never been on one. We rode weekends, me on the back with my dad. I got my first 550 standup at seven. We put a screw on the throttle so it would only go twenty percent. I remember going full throttle around the lake, so excited I was going full throttle. Dad later told me he had wound the screw in. I was so disappointed thinking I was going full speed but really, I wasn't.

When did you first realize you wanted to do freestyle competitively?

**L5:** At nine I attended my first competition and remember deciding to take this further and compete. On my tenth birthday, I did my first competition.

Who was your biggest influence and who did you look up to ?

**L5:** Two people in the industry, Eric Malone, and Alessander Lenzi. Early in my career I gained a relationship with Lenzi, who sponsored me. I moved to Brazil for two years to live and train with him. He was a big influence in my career but also Malone. At the time, Malone was the

greatest of all time, innovating tricks, winning championship after championship, that was who I wanted to go after in terms of the things he'd done, the legacy he left, his whole aura of freestyle, he inspired me.

III: Is there any one championship that stand out and why?

**L5:** Four had a big impact. First was my 2005 Amateur World Championship. I was fourteen my first year coming to the world championship and I won it, first major milestone. Then my first Pro World Championship people are competing seriously, that's their ultimate dream, to win a Pro World Championship as it was for me. The third was for a bad reason. 2017, the year I did the double backflip, I won the first and second rounds: third round the ski broke and I lost the championship. I trained so hard for years trying to do the double backflip. I came out as the first one to do the double backflip and to go through all of that and not win was the lowest point, and always sticks out. The fourth has to be the last championship, my most emotional and difficult to win. Winning ten was something I wanted from day one, from being a kid.

What is something about Lee Stone most people don't know?

**15:** I have a phobia of fish touching my skin, sounds super weird but if I'm in a wetsuit, gloves, I can hold a fish no problem. But if I'm in shorts and there's fish swimming, I have a problem.

Who do you feel is your biggest rival & why?

**L5:** I don't have a particular rival because every time I enter the championships, I treat it like anybody could beat me.



**MI:** What are some things you do mentally and physically to prepare yourself before you compete?

**15:** I run through my routine in my head, look at the competition space and visually plan out every direction of every trick. I continually repeat in my head where each trick is going to be. I've competed a dozen times in my head before getting on the water.

**M:** What does the future hold for Lee Stone?

**15:** I don't think I'll compete again. If that answer is the same in three months who knows. It's difficult, I have desire and motivation to keep pushing. I have all the right tools, equipment, and people around me to continue winning but at the same time there's only so long I can neglect my business. The business is growing and must have more of my time to stay successful. As of today, I plan to focus on helping new people in the sport, keep riding, and creating the world's first new tricks.

**III:** Is there anything you would like to add?

**L5:** It's been a crazy ride competing for twenty-one years. Big thanks for everyone who's supported me, whether a fan, competitor, or sponsor that's been a part of this journey and helped me along the way to win ten championships. I'd like to thank my wife and family, Bun Freestyle, Quakysense, Hydro-Turf, SBT, NGK, Lee Stone Products, Thrustone, and DePalma Motorsports.











The 'GOAT' Carlito Del Valle proves he's still the fastest!

By: Mike Young | Photos: Manuel Valdes MVP Production

he 15th Annual Hydro-Turf HydroDrag World Championships was held in Tavares, Florida, Wooton Park West for the final time. Racers from far and wide participated in this prestigious event of speed with more sponsorship than ever and more than 4,000 spectators! Although some factors tried to deter the competition, the Surf and Turf Crew weathered the storm and made it happen in great fashion with 105 races and Speed Alley.

Team Matatanes and the Empire Jet Ski Club brought masses from New York, New Jersey, and the East Coast. Luver Perez and Millennium Custom Wheels brought peeps from the Tampa Bay area. Closed course races were added as if this event wasn't already built for success!

Stock Class was up first on the glassy water. New sponsor and friend Jamel Meerzo, from Mohawk Pier & Lift earned his wings, as he traveled from Indiana eventually landing in 5th, behind Cuco Performance. Angelica Gonzalez, Princess of HydroDrags and Multi National and World Championship, was defeated in the 3rd round vs LMR JR and sent to the consolation bracket to face off against Damian Garcia for the LCQ final. She edged him out to face off LMR again. After some mishaps, Luis Marine, Jr. took the top spot, Angelica second, although, she will always be #1 in her fiancé's eyes, Chris Caputo, Jr.!

Spec Class was crazy as favorite, Isel Pupo, was defeated by teammate Dayan Lopez in round 4 and sent to the consolation bracket. Lopez faced off against Miguel Espinet, both undefeated. Lopez took the win. Pupo won 2 consecutive races taking the Spec Class Championship.

### SPEED ALLEY CLASSES TOP SPEEDS

Jose Luis Hernandez, Miami, the current World Record Holder with 135 mph in the Unlimited Class, posted 131 mph ahead of Carlito Del Valle, CRT who posted 130 mph, 3rd Samil Suarez from Orange Boost Performance, with 121 mph.

Superstock Class was next. Stock Hull, internal engine work allowed, no NOS or nitro fuel, tested by Tech Inspector, Rene Mesa. 20 racers began in this double-elimination bracket, but the Luis Marine, Jr. Team went undefeated with David Lima coming through for a close 2nd and Dayan Lopez filling the podium in a respectable 3rd.

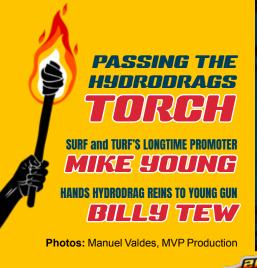
Unlimited Class is always crazy, this year was no exception. Certain racers are legendary in this category; every sport has their 'GOAT' (Greatest of All Time), ours is CRT's Carlito Del Valle of Miami. Carlito again proved he is the fastest in the world! His path was not easy, 20 racers to pass. In the 5th round, Cuco Performance upset the champ sending him to the 1-loss/consy bracket. In CRT fashion, he kept his cool and faced off against one of the toughest competitors in HydroDrag history, Scott Rice, a cagey competitor from Tennessee. Del Valle took back-to-back wins giving him the World Title again! Congrats GOAT!

Thanks for 35 years of support! See you in the pits soon! **PR** 

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### MIKE 'MIKEY' YOUNG

has been a powerhouse in the jet ski industry for as long as Pro Rider can remember. His phenomenal skills in event promotion and announcing are well known and respected worldwide. The man behind the microphone and driving force of the HydroDrags for many years, is retiring, sort of.

Young became involved with PWCs just out of the Marine Corps in 1988 when the first sanctioned APBA race came to Canal Fulton, OH, Clay's Park. Childhood friend, Doug Tynan, owned a trophy shop in town and asked him to work in exchange for food

and beer. In his early 20's Young thought it would be a great time, little did he know he'd make a career of it. The following year, he and park owner, Thomas Clay, started an IJSBA series with help from Lance Bryson, IJSBA Communications Director.

When asked what motivated him to establish Surf and Turf Promotions, Young said, "In

1991, I moved to Florida to pursue my dream working with the best race promoters, Chris and Mark Lauber World Cup Series, Bill Stone Hot Water Tour, Rick Carr West Coast Promotions, and Alex Cassulo Poseidon Jet Sports Tour. I became Marketing Director for West Coast Promotions before moving to Florida and buying Cassulo's equipment in 1995. With help from Henry Lonski, Maurice Murray, and Bruce Brahms from Sea-Doo, my dream of becoming a Race Promoter came true as did my announcing career with ArenaCross and FMX!"

Young recently turned over the reins of HydroDrags to Billy Tew. "Billy is very motivated and reminds me of myself when I was his age. I wanted to hand it off to someone that will take the brand and make it better as we've made a lot of progress the last several years with our largest turnout ever in 2022! After speaking with my wife Carrie, I'm continuing my announcing career and working on my store, Young's Boutiques, which we started during Covid 2020.

What's next for Young? "I'm partnering with Florida Ski Riders to produce PWC Poker Runs in Florida, work with the Cayman Islands as their Race Director, P1, JetDrags, and work with my friends in Chattanooga and the Great Lakes Tour as an announcer and help with the Junior Stars Program! So much for retirement, it's overrated!" said Young.

Young thanks wife, Carrie for supporting his global travels and acknowledges promoters and sponsors that believed in him and racers that supported him the last several decades.

"I love Pro Rider Magazine and will never forget meeting a young Michael Ratti at an event in Macon, GA who said he wanted to become the 'Travis Pastrana' of PWC Freestyle. Kudos to Michael for also achieving his dream! See you in the Pits!"



### RILLY TEW

purchased his first junky jet ski on Facebook Marketplace 6 years ago. He connected with Polk County (Florida) Ski Riders, learned about his boat, got involved with Florida Ski Riders' excursions and became part of the jet ski community.

Tew was drawn to Hydrodrag racing that brings together different classes of riders, ages, and people from all over to showcase the hard work they've put into their jet skis as well as their talent and skills. The HydroDrag series creates a fun and safe environment for anyone that enjoys adrenaline and being surrounded by people dedicated to the sport. Tew started racing 3 years ago. Shared Tew, "I went from not only working the races but competing in them with my own PWC. It's not been an easy ride, I've not won any titles yet, but hope to secure one soon."

When asked what motivated him to take on the Hydrodrag series, Tew said, "I've enjoyed riding skis for some time now, but specifically working with Mikey Young and his team the last 4 years has been the main influence. I've watched him showcase the sport which increased my interest in the series. I wanted to take on a more responsible role."

He added, "We're coming on strong for 2023, new locations, more dates, bigger payouts! There may be more classes for newer riders to ease in and possibly closed-course racing following the Hydrodrag races. I welcome feedback, questions, or concerns, and can be reached via O @Hyrdrodrags\_Florida or email: djquadlifeent@yahoo.com." PR





# **AUTHORIZED DEALER**

worxracingusa.com kyle@worxracingusa.com







et skiing is a hobby for some, a way of life for some, and an obsession for others; the founders of the First Coast Flo Riders fit into the latter. This community of jet ski fanatics was established in 2022 by founders Joey and Tori Fuentes, Jeff & Katie Gabriel, Matt King, Yhon Martinez, Aimee Osorio, and Brad and Jesi Porter to share our love of the sport. swap tips on ski maintenance, exchange ride ideas, and most importantly grow our little family. The Flo Riders was manifested as many great ideas of our time, while relaxing on the beach. During a stop in Matanzas Inlet, a regular meet-up spot, we realized how great it is that we've met each other and how lucky we are to all get along so well. That turned into 'let's start our own group'! Since our initial internet reveal on Facebook, we've grown to over 300 members

Our group consists of all types of Sea-Doos and a few Yamahas. We do most of our riding in the Jacksonville/St. Augustine, Florida area. Rides are filled with dolphin and sea turtle sightings. Our most memorable ride to date was for the bravest (or craziest) of us. We traveled to

Destin, FL for a weekend of winter riding, 45 degrees, windy, rough waters, and raining. Despite the bumps in our plans, we toughed it out in the emerald, green water seeing more dolphins than any of us have ever encountered! Our largest turnout as a group was the amazing Dunedin Excursion by the Florida Ski Riders headed by Randy and Becky Cabrera. The unforgettable journey commenced at 4:00 am, meeting at a gas station for the 3-hour drive across the state. Tired and cranky, with kids dragged out of bed so they would not miss this experience, we trekked over to the Gulf Coast excited to witness this amazing sight, hundreds of skis riding together in the most beautiful water you've ever seen. The water was rough, but the scenery and Gulf of Mexico made it worthwhile, not to mention spending the day with our 'family'.

The Flo Riders made our first public appearance in the recent, annual St. Augustine Parade with four floats, 8 jet skis, and 20 Flo Riders joining in. Our participation included a toy drive followed by a group ride from Vilano Beach to Matanzas.

We look forward to hosting with the Nauti Girl Crew in May 2023 for a ride to Peanut Island in West Palm Beach, FL. We welcome everyone to join our group and we hope to see you on the water! PR





# **ABOVE THE WATERLINE:**

# THE HISTORY OF JETPILOT

ro Rider recently caught up with JetPilot's Brand and Sales Director, PJ Elbing, Sport Dimension, Inc. to chat about JetPilot's history. Elbing joined JetPilot 4 years ago and was excited because it's a unique brand with deep history and much opportunity. Shared Elbing, "We refined the brand strategy and updated many of the design components to freshen the overall look of the brand. Many who grew up using JetPilot products are training the next generation and we wanted to make gear they were excited about wearing as well."

### PRO RIDER: Please describe JetPilot's beginnings.

**PJ ELBING:** JetPilot was established in 1986 by a group of 4 guys from California. They spent a lot of time riding jet skis and dirt bikes and loved the lifestyle around it. Both sports were blowing up at the time and no one was making apparel or riding gear, so they started JetPilot. The brand has been owned by a few different entities over the years, but the current owners have been at it the longest.

### PR: How did you come to use the term 'Above the Waterline'?

PJE: 'Above the Waterline' is our main tagline that speaks to our most important goal: helping people who love watersports stay safe and protected (above the water) with our life vests and riding gear, high quality, premium products that are durable, functional, and look good. The most critical aspect is the products perform to our customers expectations. We want them to be able to rely on our vests if they have a bad fall or something goes wrong. Our wetsuits need to keep riders protected from the elements, whether it's wind, cold, or the constant battering of your shins and knees through turns.

### PR: What is JetPilot's focus?

**PJE:** Our focus is building high quality, premium products for watersports. Our vests are the primary category; we will continue to expand the offering and innovate where we can. We cater to 3 main product categories: PWC, tow sports, and general boating. Our roots are in watercraft racing, and we remain committed to building the highest quality gear that can be put to the test in any marine environment.









### PR: What are you most proud of regarding JetPilot?

**PJE:** I'm most proud of the amazing relationships I've built with our athletes, ambassadors, and customers. The JetPilot following is fierce and the crew that wears the gear and represents the brand is what makes it tick.

### PR: Please share the water activities you enjoy.

**PJE:** We live at the beach in California, so we spend a ton of time in and around the ocean. I was born and raised around Wisconsin lakes so I love any tow sport you can think of, but my main passion now is surfing. I get on a ski every so often but would love to spend more time exploring lakes around the west like Lake Powell. Lake Havasu is always a fun time, the crew there is so dedicated to the sport and truly embodies the lifestyle.

### PR: Any special plans for 2023?

**PJE:** We're launching a new line of Vintage Class suits and vests along with an updated Sabre race suit. The new Sabre neoprene side entry vest we introduced in 2022 has been doing really well so we will be expanding that line. We're seeing solid demand for our Utility series vests so we are looking to expand some features. We will continue to support dedicated athletes and do as much as we can to give back to the sport.



ETPILO





osh Klem, Webster, New York grew up around motorsports of all kinds and worked for his father at his automotive repair shop during high school. As a family they rode jet skis, dirt bikes. He and his brother built go karts, rode ATVs, and were obsessed with all things "go fast."

PRO RIDER: What motivated you to establish MotoOption and how did you select the name?

JOSH KLEM: Early on I wanted to work in the motorsports industry and was always fascinated with design. I loved wearing industry apparel, my way of showing passion for racing and establish connections. It's not uncommon for other riders to introduce themselves if seen in industry branded apparel. I realized many lifestyle brands I thought were "for the riders" and passionate about the sports were owned by mega corporations running 10-15 brands from an office somewhere. My freshman year in college I started MotoOption with the intent to create a lifestyle brand staying true to its roots in motorsports and giving riders the "option" to wear a brand as passionate about riding as they are. In my eyes, a lifestyle brand is one that ties people together when you're off your machine.

Seventeen years later we have maintained this vision, are still family owned and operated, design all our merchandise, and print and produce a lot of it right at our shop.

# PR: Please describe MotoOption's focus.

JK: Our focus is to produce lifestyle products riders and racers can wear and use knowing the brand behind the product is as passionate as they are. We strive to create high quality, on trend apparel and accessories the same quality as the "big brands" at affordable prices while maintaining our grassroots approach.

## PR: What are you most proud of regarding your business?

JK: The fact we are still here! Many thought our brand couldn't last and to be fair, it probably shouldn't have. It's a very difficult business, extremely competitive. We're always going up against companies with 100x the resources and budgets. However, staying true to our values and being genuine in our support we've built a very loyal following and are very appreciate of that.

# PR: In your free time what do you enjoy?

JK: Running a brand is a lot of work, I don't have a ton of free time but when I do, I love all things motorsport related, riding pit bikes with my kids and working on and driving cars.

# PR: Any special plans for 2023?

JK: For 2023 we hope to bring the MotoOption brand to more events through our trackside program and give more riders an opportunity to experience the brand and our product line in person.

We thank all the riders, racers and fans that have supported our brand the past 17 years. It's because of your business and support we can to do what we love. We will continue to work hard to bring you the coolest merchandise. Check us out and give us a try! We're confident you'll be happy with







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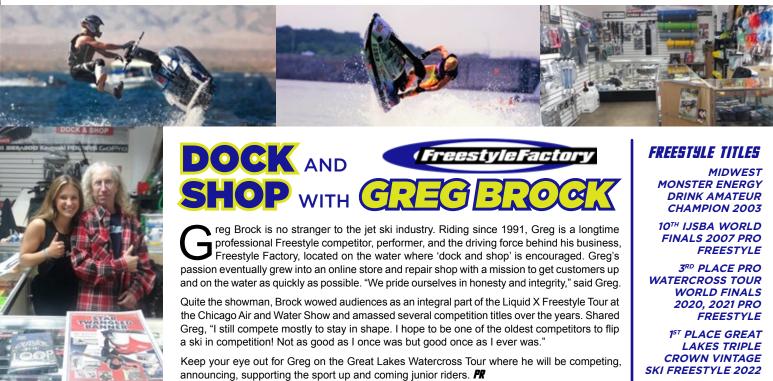
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## **RACING FOR** RACERS BY RACERS

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### AMERICAN JET SPORT ASSOCIATION

he American Jet Sport Association (AJSA) is a grassroots organization established to build a series focused on the southeastern United States. The AJSA was born from the Chattanooga Jet Ski Club (CJSC) established in 2019 for local racers to gather and ride buoys.

The CJSC asked leadership to hold a race and with the help and mentorship of another promoter, we held a race in Chattanooga in July 2022. Based on turnout and positive feedback leadership founded the AJSA. Recognizing racers in the midsouth region were driving 10-12 hours to race, our goal is racers will drive no more than 6-8 hours for most races.

Recognizing racers had to choose between different sanctioning bodies and as a result were limited to where they could race, AJSA started a sanctioning body that allows for racers from any sanctioning body to race. We also understood beginners don't have a real place to start learning; we want to facilitate a place for them.

For 2023, our inaugural season, we plan to host 6 races. Dates are tentative with sites to be determined:





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The full-color, touchscreen display on the MaptunerX makes it as easy to use as the cell phones we are now all so attached to! Tunes are specifically designed to work with preset groups of performance parts to deliver improved top speed and acceleration. These upgraded parts packages and tuning are offered in incremental "Stage Kit" levels. Whether it's a recreational Stage 1 Kit or a fullblown open class racing build, all the Tunes are accessible online and downloaded to the MaptunerX for easy access. Communication cables specific to your model watercraft allow you to connect to the ECU for tuning along with diagnostic and monitoring functions.

Custom tuning is also available through an additional MaptunerX app called 'Data Logging'. Users can work directly with RIVA's ECU tuning engineer to customize a Tune for a specific set of parts, conditions, or competition type. In many cases, a Tune is all that is needed to dramatically improve performance with no additional parts.

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## PR BUSINESS PROFILE

**Torque** mir Djerassi of Tel-Aviv, Israel has a passion for jet skiing and motocross, and loves innovation. As a software engineer, he worked 20 years in high-tech companies but left two years ago to focus

on Torque Dolly. When asked what motivated him to develop the dolly, Amir shared, "Real life situations; a friend wanted to buy a standup but once he realized he needed a 4x4 to launch from the beach it became a complicated issue I wanted to make the sport more accessible to more people. I wanted to own a sports car but couldn't give up my 4x4 vehicle because of the jet ski. Torque Dolly is the result of a problem I had to solve for myself. It became an obsession,

perfecting the product, making it capable, reliable, modular, and most importantly

practical. The development process took

a long time but was very rewarding. I was

exposed to new technologies, manufacturing

methods and various aspects relating to business management."

Currently Amir's business focuses on modular, motorized, and non-motorized dollies for standup skis only, but he aims to expand and create a new model for sitdown skis soon. PR













# WAVES SUN FAMILY FRIENDS FUN: WAVEDAZE!

Story and photos: Joseph Worst, Loud Clicks Photography

aveDaze Fall 2022 at Virginia Beach, Virginia 148 riders strong was outstanding, as expected, from the complimentary dinner at Mahi's for early arrivals, to the free party bus shuttling everyone to and from Peabody's Nightclub where participants reminisced about the good ole days with the 90's grunge band Flannel.

Throughout the event, the Aqua Social Club provided great service to all riders, fueling their bodies with food and drinks. WaveDaze raffle was a huge success with the pool deck and balconies filled with attendees scoring amazing swag.

Waves and weather were great but more importantly everyone left with fantastic memories and new friends.



A huge 'thank you' to event promoter Dan Swartz and all who attended and supported WaveDaze. Dan did an amazing job as always organizing every aspect of this bi-annual event. Dan and crew continue to surpass expectations!



















This feature is dedicated to the memory of long time WaveDaze participant and special friend Landon Ward.

### LANDON WARD 1984-2022

"There are some who bring a light so great to the world that even after they have gone the light remains."

JENNIFER SWARTZ Norfolk, Virginia







## PRI FUTURE THREATS

## JANUARY///FEBRUARY 20



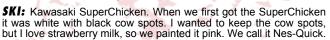


### JAYDEN STRINGER

Photos: Tyler Lynch @10mmphoto

**AGE:** 14

HOMETOWN: Webster, New York



RIDING: Race and rec rider

**RACE #: 17** 

LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: 2022 National Champion and made Honor

Roll all year at school.

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT ON THE WATER: In the middle of a race, a wave caught me, the SuperChicken tipped on its side and almost tipped completely over, and I was in the water holding on. I was able to hang on, gave it gas, and saved it.

FAVORITE RIDING LOCATION: Sylvan Beach, New York

SPONSORS: CK Powersports, Lazzaro Performance, KDM Kustoms



### COLBY STRINGE

Photos: Tyler Lynch @10mmphoto

**AGE:** 15

HOMETOWN: Webster, New York

**SKI:** Kawasaki X2 and Yamaha WaveBlaster

RIDING: Racer and rec rider

**RACE #: 112** 

LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: 2022 National Champion; built my own race skis (with my dad's direction). My dad owns a powersports repair shop and I love to go there and help him out. Jet skis are pretty much my life so I want to learn as much about them as I can. I hope to go to the IJSBA World Finals in Lake Havasu soon!

**MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT ON THE WATER: Riding around** the islands at 1000 Islands, NY – it was so much fun.

FAVORITE RIDING LOCATION: Cape Vincent, NY

**SPONSORS:** CK Powersports, Lazzaro Performance, KDM Kustoms, Pro Watercraft, Jettrim, Fly Racing



### IAN BABEK Photos: Marcos Tobares

**HOMETOWN:** Buenos Aires, Argentina

SKI: Kawasaki SXR 800

RIDING: Racer **RACE #: 69** 

LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: National Junior Champion - 2021, South American Junior Champion – 2021, South American Novice Champion – 2022; currently racing in Amateur in the South American and National Championships.

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT ON THE WATER: Last race for the South American Championship, ran in the Buenos Aires city center, in the main dock, Puerto Madero, with hundreds of spectators and luxury buildings around us. I finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in that race, the experience of riding there was the best!

FAVORITE RIDING LOCATION: Dique el Cadillal, Tucuman, Argentina for its transparent water and beautiful sights.

**SPONSORS:** Charly Jet Ski and all my family in all the races.









PR PETE-11-PUTE

### PRESENTED BY:



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Patrick Sarenich & Roscoe AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER | GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN



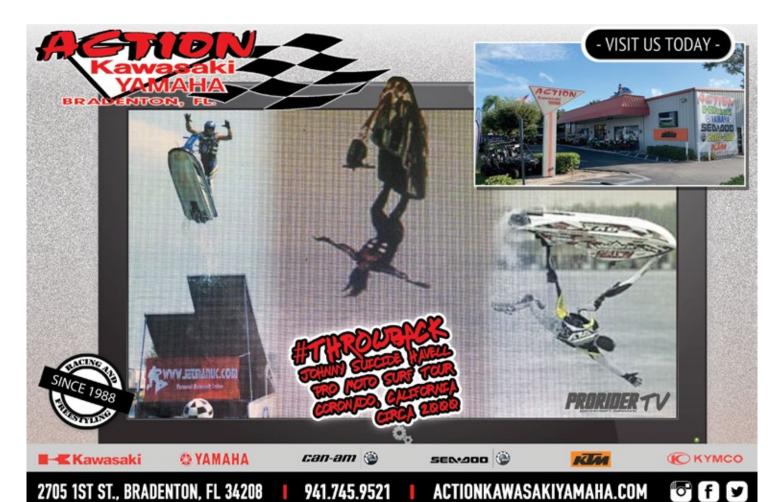
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# BUCKET LIST Story and photos: Alvean Azurin Procedure to Bahamas

had been to Bahamas multiple times but never by PWC! Miami to Exumas has been on my bucket list for a long time. A total of 9 people including Tonito and Vilmary from the SeaRoachTV channel made the amazing journey!



In Launched from Haulover Miami Florida to cross 55 miles to Bimini, Bahamas. We discovered there was no more fuel due to a large group of boats. We rode 13 miles to search for fuel at Cat Cay Island, luckily, we obtained fuel to continue the 93-mile journey across open water with no islands in sight, to Chub Cay Island, 161 miles.

**2.** Chub Cay to Nassau, Bahamas 48 miles docking our PWCs overnight at Bayshore Marina Nassau, ideal location for docking, floating dock and 24hr security.

**IMS 3-** Nassau to Secluded Island for tent camping 36 miles. This cove area was near Iguana Island.

## Secluded Island to Staniel Cay 55 miles. Plenty of photo ops along the Exuma Cays; snorkeling at Pablo Escobar's famous

sunken plane off a sandbar in Normans Cay; checked into the Chamberlain Cottages Staniel Cay, great atmosphere, cozy, and affordable with a place to beach or anchor your PWC across the street.

**IMS** 5- Island hopped to the top 3 tourist attractions in the Exumas: Pig Beach, Thunderball Grotto, and Compass Cay Sharks.

**Int's** 6- Staniel Cay to Little Farmer's Cay. Stopped at multiple beaches and explored the waters. Great food spot, Ty's Sunset Bar & Grill.

The From Staniel Cay we headed straight to Nassau to avoid a storm coming through the south cays overnight; docked our PWCs at Bayshore Marina.

**DAY 8-** Explored Nassau, Bahamas and had fun at Atlantis Resort Water park.

Grandros Island, Morgan's Bluff, greeted by friendly locals/port authority, we were directed to the best place to tent camp along the beach with running water/electricity to charge our devices. Beautiful beach camping and the locals were amazing, Bahamas best hidden gem.

In and to Bimini. Conditions were a lot better 90+miles. Visited Honeymoon Harbour, lots of stingrays and nurse sharks. Next the sunken ship, SS Sapona, a great site to swim and explore when water conditions are smooth. Checked into Bimini Sands Resort & Marina overnight.

best water conditions of the whole trip! We were able haul butt and make it to Miami in under 1.5 hrs.

Lots of preparation and experience is required for a trip like this. Prepare yourself mentally and physically for the worse conditions.

10 MUST HAVES: Tool kit (specifically for your PWC), drinking water, extra spark plugs, snacks/food, GPS device, marine radio, sunglasses/goggles, long sleeves, and leggings to protect your skin, life vest, and hat/balaclava.

Keep a lookout for the YouTube episodes, I hope to take y'all along with me to Alaska, Canada, the upper East Coast of the USA and maybe Asia. **PR** 

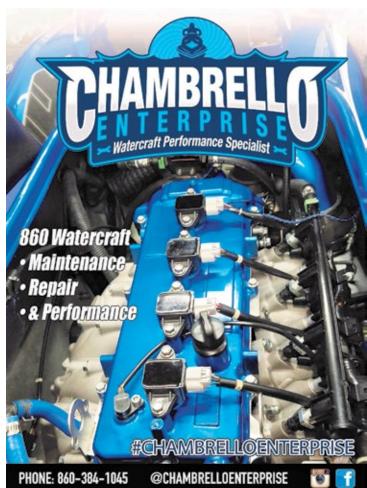




































Story and photos: P1AquaX

he 2022 SBT P1 AquaX season was a roller coaster of highs and lows. The season kicked off in Kissimmee / St. Cloud, home of Disney, Universal and popular tourist destinations.

East Lake Tohopekaliga, a quiet, hidden gem in St. Cloud is not the usual first event for AquaX but was a welcome change to the rough challenges of Daytona.

Racing was fast on the flat waters as Eric Francis took the Pro Enduro win. Eric was on fire with a level of determination that noticeably surpassed his 2022 demeanor. He was on a mission; it was evident the season was going to be highly competitive. Tory Snyder and Brian Baldwin finished out the podium respectively.

Enrique Chia took the top spot in Amateur with an overall win with Joe Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> and Todd Czarcinski 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Before the next AquaX event, Eric Francis suffered a fatal accident in an overseas endurance race. The loss was raw and gut wrenching at Sarasota as we paid tribute to Eric. Racing went on and the defending Champion, Erminio lantosca took the much-needed win with Dustin Farthing and Deven Farthing rounding out the podium.

Joe Johnson, Seth Nama, and newcomer Jason Williams took the 300 AM class top three along with Sam Nehme with his second win of the season for the 200 AMs.

Michigan City rolled out the red carpet and welcomed racers with open arms. Lake Michigan was rough and unforgiving. Jimmy Wilson prevailed along with Christian Daly and Tory Snyder. With new podium finishers each round, consistency was key to take the championship. Jay Finlinson, Errol Lange, and Enrique Chia secured top spots in the 300 AM class with Sam Nehme, Kevin Sullivan, and Jason Lester the top three in the 200 Class.

Normally the season starter, Daytona was the penultimate round for 2022. The Atlantic in August was calmer than usual. Dustin Farthing snagged his first AquaX event win for his first full season of racing the series, followed by James Wilson and an impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> by Vanjae Ramgeet.

In 300 AM Jay Finlinson made his mark taking the top spot again, with Eric Diaz and Jason Williams respectively. The 200 Class became a cake walk for Sam Nehme as he continued his winning streak with Kevin Sullivan and Frenchman Yoan Feron 3<sup>rd</sup>.

St. Pete, the final round of the season was down to minimal points separating the top 5 in Pro Enduro. Jimmy Wilson won with Christian Daly and Deven Farthing. The 300 AM Class belonged to Finlinson with an impressive run by Trey Williams and Domenico Barilla.

### **PRO ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:** Deven Farthing

The P1 AquaX World Championship hosted by the Atlantis, Bahamas, was a spectacular setting for competition. Racing was top notch with upsets and excitement across the board. The well deserving win went to Tory Snyder who fended off Jimmy Wilson and Christian Daly.

The Amateur International Championship was won by the dominant Finlinson, followed by Trey Williams and Jason Williams.

### P1 AQUAX ENDURO WORLD CHAMPIONS

- 1. Tory Snyder
- 2. Jimmy Wilson
- 3. Christian Daly

### <u>P1 AQUAX ENDURO AMATEUR INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP</u>

- 1. Jay Finlinson
- 2. Trey Williams
- 3. Jason Williams

Thank you to all racers and sponsors who support the series. We are truly blessed to have the level of competitive racers in both Pro and Am classes!











#CardoneRacecorner #MondayNightRaw #TheBrandTheyLove #SettingTheBarHigh @239RACEBOAT



### 1013 RIDE SCHEDULE

- March 11th: Palatka to Silver Glen

-April 8th: Black Creek to Corky Bells

- May 13th: Santa Fe River

June 10th: Ponce Inlet Disappearing Island

-August 3-6: Key Largo Excursion W/FL Ski Riders

-Sept. 11th: 9/11 Memorial Ride W/FL Ski Riders

-October 8th: Ft. George

-October: Halloween Rides

Additional Pop up Rides and details will be announced





### **2023 SCHEDULE**

MARCH 4-5, ROUNDS 1&2 "2023 BEST OF THE WEST SERIES KICKOFF" WINDSOR STATE PARK, LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ

APRIL 15-16, ROUNDS 3&4 "NEDRA ATWOOD/GARY HART MEMORIAL"- LA PAZ COUNTY PARK, PARKER, AZ

MAY 6-7, ROUND 5 "4TH ANNUAL HUNTINGTON BEACH MOTO-SURF & FREERIDE"- HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA

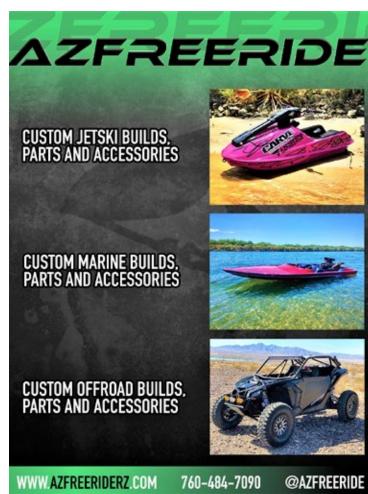
JUNE 10-11, ROUNDS 6&7 "2ND ANNUAL RACE FOR CURE"-CRAZYHORSE CAMPGROUNDS, LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ

AUGUST 19-20, ROUNDS 8&9: -T B A

SEPTEMBER 15-17, ROUNDS 10,11&12 "THE 2023 HOT PRODUCTS BEST OF THE WEST SERIES CHAMPIONSHIPS"-CRAZYHORSE CAMPGROUNDS, LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ











**PR PHOTO CONTEST** Pro Rider Jan / Feb 2023

## Gear Giveaway

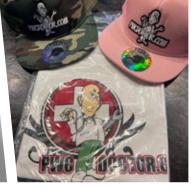
## WIN THIS GEAR!

This issue's photo contest winner will receive a PWC Doctor Prize Package compliments of our good friend at Versiplug, Chris Cialdella. The package includes PWC Doctor swag and a Reach Around Wrench, for those hard-to-reach flange nuts. When no one is around to help, now you can get your own nuts off with the Reach Around Wrench.



### OUT ALL THE FINE PRODUCTS AT W





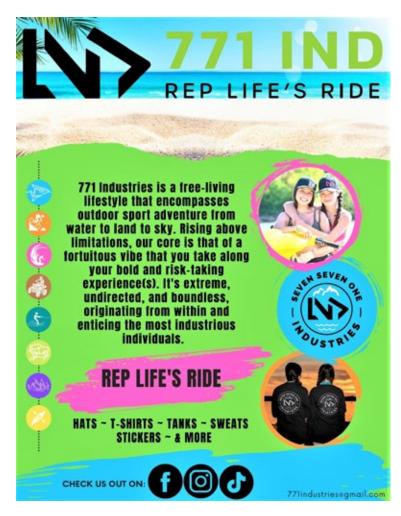
### **PRORIDER GEAR KEEPS YOU LOOKING FAST ON AND OFF THE WATER. \***

\*Individual results may vary

Submit your best high resolution PWC related photos to contest@proridermag.com with "Pro Rider Entry" in the subject line. Photos that have not yet been posted to any social media sites will have greater chances of winning. Open to amateur photographers only. Good luck! \*Products and sizes may vary.

Visit www.proridermag.com for more information or "like" Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine on Facebook.













# PHOTOGRAPHERS ORGANIZE TOY PRIVE & PHOTO SHOOT

Photos: Kenny Wong, Rain Porter, Rick Powell, Ken Gallagher, Rachel Hankins

ro Rider Pro Photographers Kenny Wong, California and Rain Porter, Arizona recently organized a unique event combining a toy drive with a photo shoot at the 'Jet Ski Capital of the World' Body Beach, Lake Havasu, Arizona. Jet ski riders donating toys were treated to a professional photo shoot by top action sports photographers Wong and Rain, joined by Rick Powell, Ken Gallagher, Rachel Hankins, and the Grinch (aka Geneva Gallagher). The well attended successful event was featured on the front page of the local newspaper. PR



















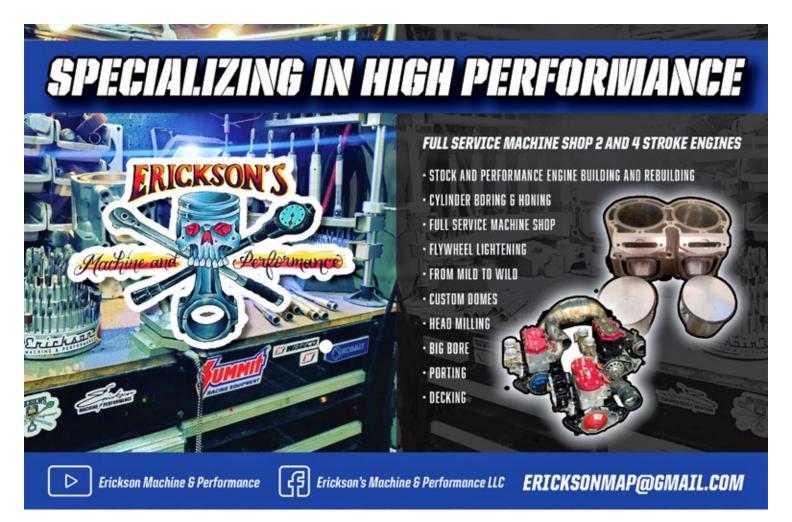
















# PHYSICAL FITNESS & AID IN RIDING

itness has always been a big part of my life. I began dancing competitively at a young age, training 15+ hours per week in the studio, including stretching for flexibility, along with strength and conditioning. In my later teens, I grew to enjoy strength and HIIT (high intensity interval training).

Both my mom and brother are personal trainers and introduced me to the gym. I currently work at a local gym and spend 3-4 days a week weightlifting and 2 days a week doing HIIT classes. The HIIT classes have increased my cardiovascular fitness and endurance.

Another hobby of mine is jet skiing. I've spent most all summers either in Havasu or Parker, AZ on the river where I started riding jet skis. By: Breya Bachmar

Both dance and jet skiing require a lot of core stability, strength, balance, and cardiovascular endurance. The training I do in the gym and studio each week has prepared me for riding skis. I do 2 upper and 2 lower body workouts per week in addition to HIIT workout classes and dance practice.

My workouts combined with proper nutrition has helped with my overall performance and energy levels. I aim for mostly single ingredient foods like ground turkey, chicken, sweet potatoes, rice, yogurt, nuts, and oatmeal, drink plenty of water each day and get 7-8 hours of sleep per night to feel and perform at my best! **PR** 



























# H-57/: (FIFE HI)

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- DECKING RE-SLEEVING
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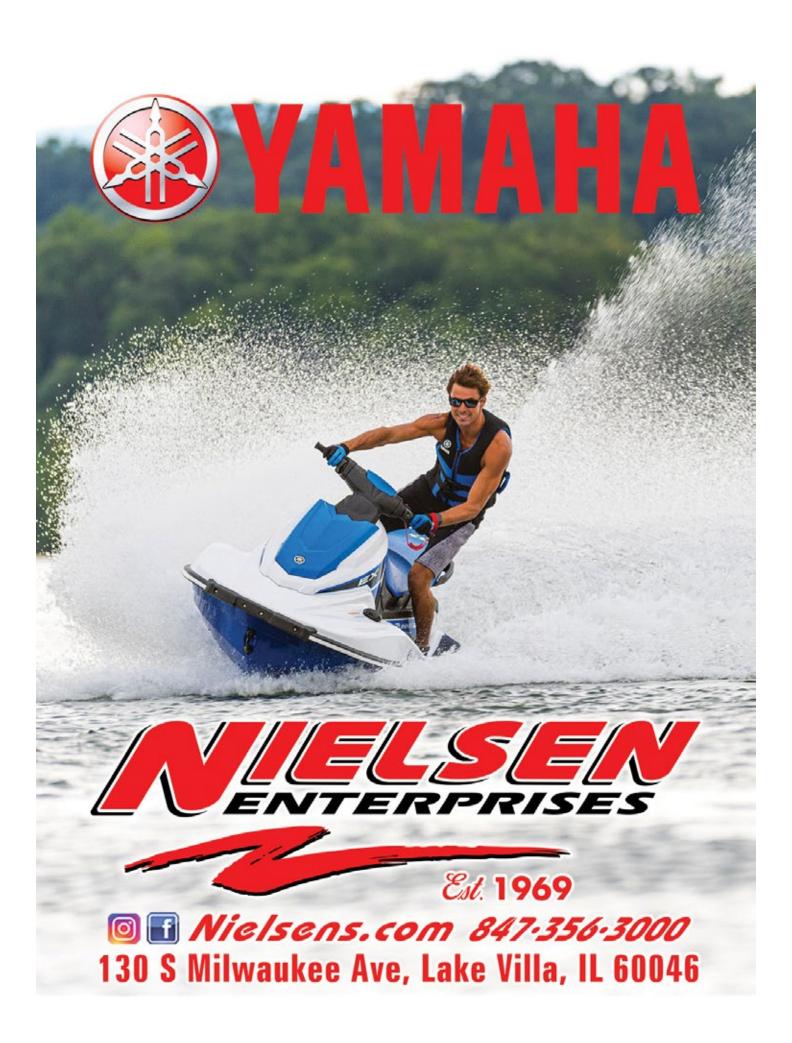
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