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PRO RIDER™

WAVE RUNNER MAGAZINE

**2024
YAMAHA
GP HO
BORN FOR
VICTORY**



BRAVE THE WAVE

PINEAPPLE POINT REC RIDE

FULL THROTTLE WATER X

CENTRAL FLORIDA SHOOTOUT

WETBIKE RALLY

BAIKAL JETFEST RUSSIA

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ASSOCIATION**

WGP#1 WORLD SERIES FRANCE

**JP RACING SUPER
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NYC JETSKI INVASION

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JET STAR 

T&D JETSKI PERFORMANCE

EMERGED IN 2014 FROM A GARAGE IN VICTORIA

Travis Jackson and Dee Ryan, hailing from Melbourne, Australia, dove headfirst into the thrilling world of jet skiing at a tender age. They swiftly developed an unwavering love for the sport, graduating from social two-stroke standup rides to full-fledged runabout races in Victoria.

Embracing the spirit of amateur racing since the mid-2000s, Travis and Dee became skilled at fine tuning and enhancing the performance of PWCs. Their expertise extended not only to their own jetskis but to those of friends and family. Before they knew it, their passion took over their backyard and garage, transforming them into a vibrant sanctuary for an array of skis.

Shared Dee, "We always dreamt of owning a jetski shop, then with a career change for Travis we decided to open a small factory which we quickly outgrew. We built up a large clientele and loyal customer base which allowed us to grow and establish ourselves and move into a much larger premises which is fully equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, diagnostics, and water testing tank."

Continued Travis, "We built up many great relationships from the social riding clubs and the VJSBA (Victorian Jetski/PWC Association) racing community which assisted our dream to open our first ever PWC service centre and workshop. With years of hands-on experience, loyal customers, and clientele along with long nights of constant researching, countless hours testing on and off the track this allowed us to progress quickly and outgrow our first premises."

For the past few years, they have been in their second premises on Barry St., Bayswater. Their technicians have a combined 30 years' experience, and their team makes T & D Jetski Performance one of the best in the industry, combined with their enthusiasm, camaraderie, and teamwork of which they are very proud!

T & D Jetski Performance is passionate about all aspects of personal watercraft. As a leading provider for repairs, servicing, logbook servicing, engine re-builds and specialising in high-performance parts, and tunes they strive to enhance the reliability, speed, handling, and overall capabilities of your watercraft, all makes and models, Kawasaki, Yamaha, Sea-Doo and Polaris and jet boats. Additionally, they are an authorised insurance repairer for warranty repair requirements.



"With years of experience in the industry, we have established ourselves as a trusted name among PWC enthusiasts and professionals. Our commitment to quality workmanship is at the core of everything we do," said Travis. Our commitment to customer satisfaction sets us apart from the competition. We're always here to help with any questions and we're committed to providing our customers with the best possible service."

In addition to a huge range of genuine used jet ski parts, they stock aftermarket jet ski parts, new and used. "We are your one-stop-shop for all your jet ski and jet boat needs," said Dee.

Travis currently races in Rec Lites, while Dee competes in NA Runabout. They ride a variety of skis: Travis favors the X2 and standups, and loves racing his Sea-Doo Spark, while Dee enjoys her modified RXP X and SXR1500, and races for fun on her Naturally Aspirated STX. **PR**





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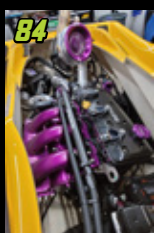
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PRO RIDER FEATURES

Annual NYC Invasion
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3X JET SKI WORLD CHAMPION SEBASTIEN GIRELLO



What our riders have to say!

"After spending a few days with the BlowSION crew testing different versions of the 2021 Superjet BlowSION scoop grate, I can conclude that the 3 Fin intake grate is perfect for smooth water and small chop. It has an amazing hookup in the turns without losing speed on the straightaways. The 5 fin grate is amazing for super choppy water. It hooks up great in the rough straightaways and handles great in the corners." - Sebastien Girello, 3 time jet ski world champion.


This billet scoop grate is an amazing piece! The 3 fin or 5 fin can match your demand for different types of water conditions and is a must have on your 2021+ Superjet. - Christophe, Owner of Go Fast US

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PRO RIDER™

WATERCRAFT MAGAZINE


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PWC Explorers




Annie Girnius
Freelance
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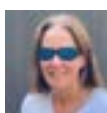
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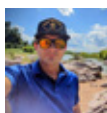
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Note:


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 safety gear.

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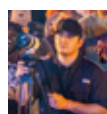
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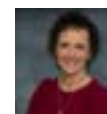
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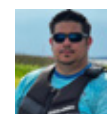
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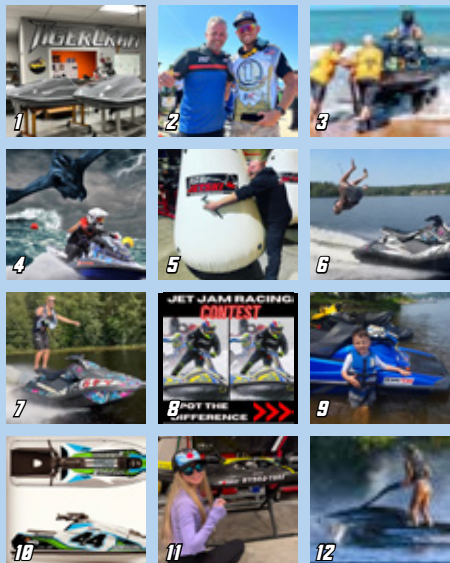
1. How do you train for jet skiing out of the water? @offroadingky
2. @sakpasental #CoupleGoals #jetskidate #holdontight
3. Catching up on their reading TCJP Sortie 2023 Lake City, MN (full feature in Nov-Dec issue)
4. This is what it's all about #FAMILY @sophierebecafrancis
5. I just wanna ride @projetskier



THE MONEY \$HOT

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

The 2023 September/October cover shot goes to Yamaha WaveRunners' GP HO™, a standout model from the 2024 Yamaha GP series. This image showcases the perfect blend of performance and style, where pure power and exhilaration meet on the water. Designed for those who crave high-performance thrills, these world championship-winning WaveRunners are built to deliver an unmatched riding experience. With a relentless focus on performance, Yamaha takes the GP HO to new heights with a powerful 1.9L HO Yamaha marine engine, unleashing even greater speed and acceleration.



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Publisher & Editorial Director

PRO RIDER

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

Welcome to the 74th print and digital edition of Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine. We're thrilled to have you dive into the excitement of the September/October 2023 issue overflowing with eye-catching pictures and engaging text.

A heartfelt thank you to our advertisers, subscribers, and wholesalers whose support allows us to bring you the best in watercraft content. We also extend our gratitude to the many talented guest authors and photographers whose contributions make every page come alive.

As you explore these pages, please note the advertisers, and patronize them every chance you get and kindly mention you saw their ad in Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine.

This issue's cover proudly showcases Yamaha WaveRunners' GP HO™ from the 2024 GP series — a pinnacle of innovation and performance. Within these pages, you'll discover the pulse of the watercraft world, from races and recreational rides to fishing and freerides. Enthusiasm and participation with watercraft continue to be phenomenal, reflecting the spirit that drives us all.

Thank you for being a part of our ever growing watercraft family! **PR**

Sincerely,

Michael Ratti and the Pro Rider Team

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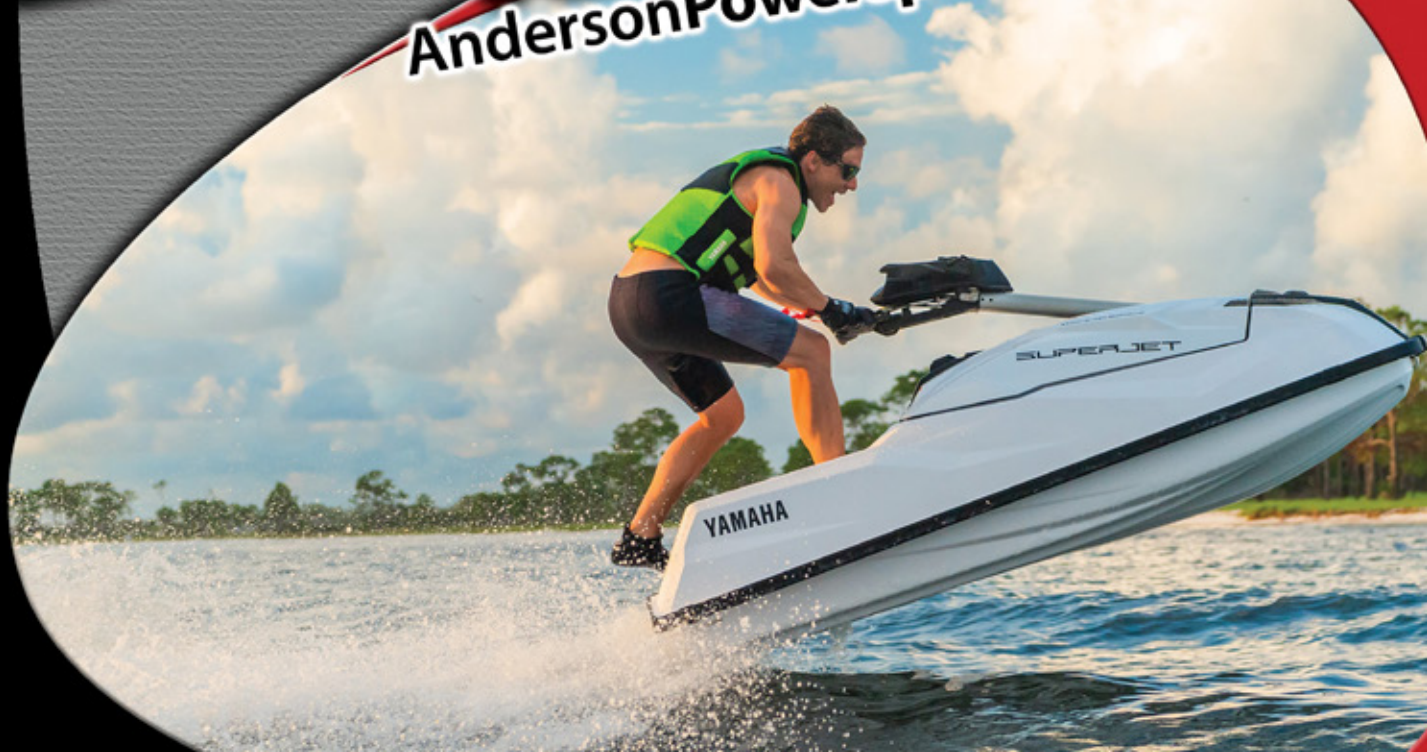
5

- 1. Rail Grabbing on the Gold Coast Photo: Liam Mellott
- 2-3. Pro Rider Toddler and Infant Division, Aaliyah Rain and Romeo Marvin
- 4. Showtime Pro Ski Team celebrating another successful week
- 5. Catching up with UAE Pro Freestyler Typhoon Al Qubaisi and son Salem in Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast, Australia



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FREESTYLE PRODIGY IN THE MAKING: BROCK DOBERSTEIN

Photos: Nicole Miller; Ryan Doberstein

When Brock Doberstein was 2 weeks old, his family travelled to WV for the 2018 Pro Watercross Nationals. At 1 month old, they drove from NC to Arizona for the IJSBA World Finals. Brock's dad, Freestyle Champion Ryan 'flyin Ryan' Doberstein said, "He napped alongside the action. When he was 3, we did a backflip on my ski! Brock learned to ride alone at 4. He used my old Kawasaki 650SX I acquired at age 13, Yamaha Superjets, and his fav - my 'old school' freestyle ski. Our ski is a Wamilton SJ hull with an Erik Brigham 735 61x engine, tuned by Paul Lehr, Full Spectrum 49cc carb, and my TNT pipe from my 900cc freestyle class.

Brock's favorite tricks are side rail riding with no hands, a one-footed "scarecrow," and riding backward.

He's an entertainer, engaging with the crowd. For safety, Brock rides at idle speed, wearing a tether and life jacket. We practice stopping with the kill switch and red button. He knows these skis lack brakes like his bike. Hand signals are practiced. I monitor surroundings; if I tap my head, he returns. As he learns throttle, I aim to modify it for safety. Sharing the ski poses a power challenge, needing it powerful and barely powerful.

The AJSA and Junior Stars program had me teach Juniors freestyle moves on their race skis. We love what AJSA does. Recently, Brock earned 2nd place at age 5 among 6 Junior Freestylers. At this rate, I see Brock being the youngest kid to flip a standup, but I'm not rushing it. Our focus remains on enjoying these young years as a family, traveling."



UK JETSKIERS

Story and photos: Romeo Celoro

My fascination with water sports began in childhood, where the sea, pools, and all forms of aquatic activities captivated me. From kayaking to white water rafting, I found joy in the water. However, it was in 2018, during my first jet skiing experience at Tattershall Lakes in the UK, that I truly fell in love with jet skiing.



The jet skiing community has grown immensely and embraced the realm of social media. My passion for adventure, travel, and meeting people led me to explore jet skiing across the UK. Creating the UKJetSkiers IG page allowed me to establish a welcoming platform to share experiences and organize gatherings in stunning locations like Devon, Cornwall, Isle of White, Loch Lomond in Scotland, and the Bristol Channel.

Our focus is on promoting safe water riding and supporting less confident riders by addressing their questions and providing guidance. Through sessions for inexperienced riders, we emphasize personal control and confidence on a jet ski. Sharing images and videos of UK rides encourages exploration.

Our aim is to foster a knowledgeable community that thrives on mutual assistance and safe water experiences. An upcoming charity event underscores this spirit, as we raise funds for the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution), a leading UK charity dedicated to sea rescue. We're embarking on a journey from UK waters to France to support RNLI's vital year-round work, safeguarding lives on the water.



CAREER WOMEN IN THE POWERSPORTS INDUSTRY

Submitted by: Dr. Lorie A. Tuma, Associate Professor Grand Valley State University

Women often enter dealerships, be it for automobiles or powersports, feeling anxious about their lack of knowledge and potential ridicule. The male-dominated motorsports sales and service field adds to this apprehension. However, change is swift. Meet Alisa Gross, General Manager at Rockstar Powersports, Florida. Her journey from a part-time parts division job at 16 to an executive position illustrates this transformation. It wasn't easy. Over two decades, she confronted egos, skepticism, relocations, and industry fluctuations. With female mentors' aid, she established herself as a respected leader. Today, women are entering and excelling in powersports, creating substantial careers alongside established figures. Alisa advocates for more women to join, instigating change. Intimidated by male-dominated showrooms? Alisa invites aspiring women to step in, gain confidence, and contribute to this evolving industry. Contact her at (352) 796-6116 to be part of this shift.



HOW TO DOCK A PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

Reprinted with permission from DiscoverBoating.com



Even if you keep your personal watercraft (PWC) on a trailer, your day on the water aboard a Sea-Doo, WaveRunner or Jet Ski is likely to begin and end at a dock, and may include tying up at a gas dock, restaurant, or other dock. Knowing how to successfully approach a dock will make you look like a pro and help avoid damage to your PWC, and injury to you and your passenger. Here's how to dock a PWC the right way:

7 Steps for Docking a PWC, Jet Ski, WaveRunner or Sea-Doo

1. Study the situation—approach into the wind or current, if possible.
2. Be aware of other nearby boat traffic.
3. Think about where you'll tie up to secure your dock line.
4. Tell any passengers to sit tight and have dock lines ready.
5. Approach the dock slowly — come in at idle.
6. Use short blips of throttle to help with steering control.
7. If applicable to your craft, use attached cleats, or loop the line around the base of your handlebars.



SEA-DOO BRP DEALER OF THE YEAR - NIELSEN ENTERPRISES RECEIVES DUAL AWARDS!

Congratulations to the entire Nielsen Enterprises team on achieving the prestigious 2023 Sea-Doo BRP Dealer of the Year title for both the region and the nation! With a rich history spanning 54 years, this thriving dealership attributes its well-deserved recognition to the exceptional dedication of its staff and the unwavering support of its valued customers.



HAVASU'S JET SKIING TRIO: THE KING TRIPLETS

Photos: Ken Gallagher

At just 5 years old, Brody King joined his father Justin to watch jet skiers practice at Body Beach during World Finals. Enthralled, Brody's desire to ride ignited. Now 12 years old, the King triplets, at age 6, began mastering riding after the family purchased their first jet ski. Brody's encounter with Coy Curtis in 2018 spurred his racing ambitions, and he debuted in 2020, becoming an unstoppable force.

The Kings expanded their fleet for family rides, while supporting Brody's races. Ashlynn entered her first race in 2021. Justin even participated in a "dads' race," cheered on by his kids. Ashlynn and Brody ride 2 stroke Yamaha Superjets and Caitlin rides a 4 stroke Superjet.

Ashlynn embodies competitiveness, Caitlin exudes laid-back vibes, and Brody balances both traits with a big heart. Brody, aiming to be a fighter pilot, stands out with flying lessons, soccer, and a caring spirit. Ashlynn thrives in robotics, competed in World Championships, and all three excel academically and socially.

Shared Kim King, "One of the greatest things we love about this sport is the friendships built over the years. They put their helmets on, and they are competitors but as soon as the race is over and the helmets come off, they congratulate one another and are off running around having a great time."

Their favorite riding spot is Body Beach. Justin works on their skis along with Taylor Curtis at TC Freeride.

Sponsors include TC Freeride, Worx, Jettrim, and Pro Watercraft.





DEAR PRO RIDER WATERCRAFT MAGAZINE,

Hi, my name is Brad Porter or 'B-Rad'. I am married and live in St. Augustine and ride a 2021 Sea-Doo GTI 170. Several years ago, I started to suffer from anxiety and found that being on the skis is such a great way to de-stress. My motto 'LIVE 365' has helped me live my life to the fullest 365 days a year. During the week my wife and I own and operate a mobile detailing business but once Saturday and Sunday hit, we are on the water! We have made such good friends and helped start a group in our area called First Coast Flo Riders. They have become more than friends; they are like family. I also started a YouTube channel called Porter Jetski Adventures where I share our experiences so more people can enjoy what we love so much. My favorite place to ride is Key Largo. It's such a beautiful place with so many sights to explore.

But St. Augustine is where my heart is. We have two inlets within a 12-mile radius and many sandy beaches and great waterways to ride anytime of the year. It's always a great day to be on the water but if I can't be on the water, at least I can read my Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine and see everyone's adventures and get ideas of where we can ride next. I love seeing what's new in the industry and the great articles. The support we feel from the Pro Rider Magazine team is incredible and we look forward to many more good times in the future!

Brad Porter
St. Augustine, Florida



RENEGADES WEEKEND WITH MANATEES SILVER SPRING



GABE JUKISH
1st Place Pro Freestyle



CHRIS ANYZESKI
3rd Place Pro Freestyle

Congratulations
**TO ALL PARTICIPANTS
2023 BRAVE THE WAVE!**



PARKER SCHOLAND
2nd Place Amateur Freestyle



ANTHONY VITNELL
1st Place Amateur Freestyle

TORRENT

PHOTOS: RONALD AND NICOLE MILLER

CONTACT TORRENTPUMPSINFO@GMAIL.COM FOR DETAILS AND MORE INFORMATION



JOHN KRENN

HOMETOWN: Coppell, Texas

PHOTO: Garrett Casto

LOCATION: Alligator Lake, St. Cloud, Florida



Reimagine the progression of PWC racing, putting SAFETY FIRST!



Average Speed Ranges by Stand-up Ski Class

2-STROKE LITES (YAMAHA & KAWASAKI STOCK HULLS): 45-48 MPH

4-STROKES LITES (YAMAHA & KAWASAKI STOCK HULLS): 52-58 MPH

GP (AFTERMARKET & KAWASAKI SXR 1500 HULLS + 1500cc MAX): 65-78 MPH

SKI-MOD LITES (AFTERMARKET, YAMAHA OR KAWASAKI LITES HULLS + 1100cc MAX): 56-60 MPH

KAWASAKI SXR 1500 STOCK: 61-68 MPH

**Speeds vary depending on PWC set-up and geographic location*

Are you a parent wondering what is the next step for your youth racer, or a passionate recreational rider wanting to enjoy the performance of an aftermarket hull without having to muscle a 68+ mph stand-up ski? The Kommander GPI 1050 may be your perfect match! It's time to reimagine the progression of PWC racing, putting safety first and defining a clear path for the youth and/or adult novice and amateur racers to responsibly advance to Pro/Expert Ski GP 1500 classes. Today, the sport has a gap with youth and adult-beginner racers advancing from a two-stroke or 4-stroke lites class straight to a Ferrari-like performance Amateur Ski GP line up, where speeds are 10-20 mph faster than the lites classes. It is common feedback that this transition is too big of a gap and does not offer an ideal stair-step advancement approach to speed and skill level.

Kommander Industries has developed a solution to bridge the speed and skill-level gap with the Kommander GPI 1050, utilizing the Yamaha 1050 motor with speeds ranging from 56-60 mph. This package allows for riders to experience the enhanced performance of a Kommander hull at reduced speeds compared to the Pro/Expert Ski GP classes. As the racer advances their riding ability on the Kommander 1050, and demonstrates their readiness to move up to the Amateur Ski GP class, there's no need to purchase another aftermarket hull. The 2023 Kommander hull redesign evolves with the racer's skill level, and accommodates a motor conversion from the Yamaha 1050 to the Kawasaki 1500. The performance of the Kommander 1050 has been proven on the race track, winning the IJSBA World Title in Lake Havasu City, AZ in 2019, 2021 and 2022. What was once a "concept build," has grown in popularity, and will make history at the 2023 World Finals with more Kommander GPI 1050's lined up for the Ski Mod lites class than ever before.



Photos: Charles Guinchart

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DESIGN YOUR NEW KOMMANDER GP1, PLEASE VISIT WWW.KOMMANDERGP1.COM OR EMAIL SALES@KOMMANDERIND.COM



INTRODUCING **PWC Trail Finder** *Mapping Waterways and Adventures!*



Story and photos:
Billy Crews



Whether you're a seasoned explorer or a newbie seeking aquatic escapades, PWC Trail Finder is your compass to uncharted waters, ensuring your every journey is as informed as it is exhilarating.

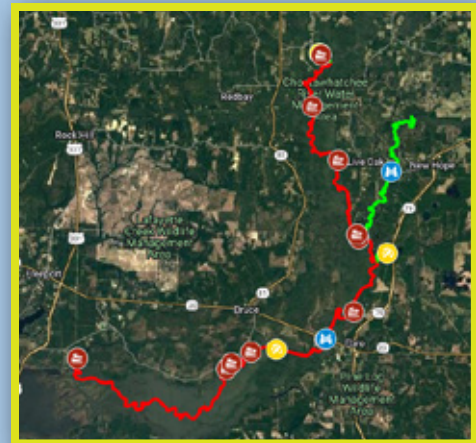
I was born and raised in south Louisiana an hour from the Atchafalaya Spillway. With a million acres of swamp, rivers, bayous, and lakes, the Atchafalaya is the nation's largest river swamp. My father was an avid bass fisherman; as his only son, he was intent on me learning my way around by boat. Fast forward to 2006 I acquired a pair of new Sea-Doos RXTs. I spent a lot of time exploring the Atchafalaya and other area waters near my home.

During my first Mudbug (Greenhulk's annual PWC rally in Morgan City, Louisiana) I realized most visiting PWC riders hardly knew their way around the area. I and a few other locals took it upon ourselves to guide organized tours off the beaten path. Soon I received emails and calls inquiring about trail data. Eventually I considered it might be easier if there was a central location where GPS data could be shared/stored/retrieved.

How does PWC Trail Finder work? Easy! Go to the website www.pwctrailfinder.com agree to the T&Cs, simply pick a state, and scroll through the available routes. Each route includes a brief description of the trail, number of round-trip miles and a view of the area in

Google Maps with the GPS route overlaid. Click the download button and a GDB (Garmin Data Base) file will download to your PC. From there you can load the trail directly to your GPS unit (or to an SD card or other external drive). The site also works in mobile although steps may vary by phone type.

All data is free! No login required and we record nor store personal user data. As of 2023, there are over 20,000 miles of trails from 24 states and the District of Columbia. Every trail was previously recorded by GPS on a PWC ride before being added to the site. Whenever possible, each trail is supplemented with pertinent waypoints such as marinas, ramps, fuel, food, local island/sandbar hangout, etc. Additionally, whenever possible each trail will display a "Report" or "Video" button (written, pictorial, video, or combination) of what to expect on your ride based on another's previous experience. Nearly half the trails on the site contain some version of a report and I've always felt, especially riding somewhere new for the first time — the ability to know what's around the corner, before you get there, is a valuable tool. **PR**



PWC Trail Finder

For the best places to ride a PWC. Over 20,000 miles and counting...

Round 2 of the WGP#1 World Series occurred in Vichy, central France, on the eastern bank of the Allier River. A dam was built in the river to form Lake Allier. The event was held at Le Palais du Lac within the Center Omnisports Pierre Coulon, located by Lake Allier. This park offers ample natural surroundings and various sports areas, making it an ideal venue for the event with excellent viewing access for spectators.

Both sides of the river have high concrete walls, giving the track a compact, tight feeling. Flat before the race, the moment the skis went out all the movement of the waves bounced back against the concrete walls, creating a very rough and unpredictable track surface. Pilots expressed it was a tricky and physically demanding track. Some had to fight six rounds just to overtake 1 position. Racers delivered in every aspect, full dedication, and great racing.

Close to 200 pilots from all over competed. The family Poret, the heart of this organization in Vichy did a great job with the whole team!

French pilots Raphael Maurin in Pro Ski GP and Francois Medori in Pro Runabout GP represented their country well.



LAKE ALLIER SHOWDOWN:
Round 2 Highlight WGP#1 World Series in Vichy, France
 Story and photos: Dieter Quaghebeur, Braap Shots

Starting strong Dustin Farthing from the USA secured the pole position and claimed victory in moto 2. However, his momentum was hindered as he concluded the race with 2 large holes in his ski. His team worked diligently to repair the hull in preparation for the next day, but regrettably, the mending proved insufficient. In a twist of fate, he borrowed a ski from Francois Medori to secure a 4th-place finish, despite never having ridden the ski before.

Kudos to all the women in the Women Ski GP class, they delivered great racing! In the Women GP, the top 5 had great battles. Jessica Chavanne was the deserved winner. Jasmin Ypraus had a bad start and had to fight back hard. Estelle Poret, River Varner, and Benedicte Drange engaged in thrilling racing duels.

In Pro Runabout GP, Dustin Farthing was quick, but his bad luck let Mohammed Burbayea take first place. In Pro Ski GP, Kevin Reiterer dominated with Quinten Bossche, Jeremy Poret and Maurin fighting for the rest of the podium. **PR**





Photo: Alex Nikolis

LEE STONE BLENDS FREESTYLE SKILLS AND BUSINESS SAVVY

Lee Stone
10x World Champion

Lee Stone Products

PRO RIDER: Please tell us what motivated you to establish Lee Stone Products.

LEE STONE: I wanted to fill a gap in the market for a product that wasn't already there.

PR: When did you officially open for business?

LS: The end of 2012.

PR: How has your phenomenal freestyle career influenced your approach to running your own company?

LS: As a professional athlete always striving to be better, my career has given me a great work ethic which motivates me to always want to be better business-wise and to produce and ride the best product.

PR: What is the focus of Lee Stone Products?

LS: To continue to create world-leading products that will keep providing the sport with what it needs to continue progressing.

PR: How do you balance the demands of competing at the highest level with the responsibilities of running a business?

LS: This is probably the hardest aspect of my life. Running a business is a full-time job but also performing at the highest level is a full-time job. There is no magic secret to this other than constant hard work and dedication and a lot of sacrifices.

PR: What are you most proud of regarding Lee Stone Products?

LS: Having created a brand that's known globally and seeing consumers around the world progress their skills on our products.

PR: How do you stay current on the latest industry trends and developments?

LS: I think a huge benefit we have at LSP is having myself competing at the highest level and consistently training at the highest level, which helps me determine what the product needs in order to continue to develop that professional level for freestyle.



Photos: Charles Guinchard



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121 PHOTO

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WATER TOMORROW!



CHALLENGING CONDITIONS

Full Throttle WaterX Pro Watercross International Cup Qualifier



Although the Pro Watercross International Cup Full Throttle West Coast qualifier was a very last-minute production, 95 of the best racers on the West Coast traveled to the all-new Riviera Marina in Lake Havasu City, AZ for action-packed racing.

Conditions were gnarly, with temperatures reaching a high of 122 degrees, severe rain, wind, and thunderstorms, and cross wakes from hundreds of boaters made for an extremely challenging and exciting track!

A highlight was the 'Meet the Pros' event where top pro riders signed autographs, offered interviews with media members, then topped it off with a Freestyle Exhibition. The Pro Ski GP class made four great motos with Coy Curtis 155 aboard his new Fast Powersports GP1R, taking the win over Jake Pearce 88 and Kole Cramer 202. The ever-growing women's class provided great racing with 10 racers on the line, each battling and swapping positions in all motos. Ultimately, 12-year-old Britton Reinhard 851 took the overall victory over Alexz Benson 124 and Ashlynn King 409. The round was a huge success despite the last-minute decisions to host the event.

We thank Anderson Powersports LHC, Environmental Waste Solutions, Jettrim, and Pro Watercraft for their support and sponsorship; without them, this race would NOT have happened.

Full Throttle Water X will finish out the West Coast Regional Tour at the fan-favorite Havasu Landing Resort, and season finale at the all-new Belmont Shores in Long Beach, CA Halloween weekend! See you on the line! **PR**

By: Deegan Newton | Photos: Kenny Wong, Rick Powell, Ken Gallaher





0000
FULL THROTTLE
WATER



STEERING SYSTEM UPGRADES - 101

The factory steering and controls on your PWC consist of the steering system, handlebars, control pods and grips. Most of these original components provide little adjustment or customization for rider comfort and control.

Most of the materials that make up the stock steering system are plastic to save production costs. This includes critical items such as the steering column and control levers. Wear on the original plastic materials quickly causes the tolerances between them to loosen up, resulting in a sloppy or disconnected riding experience. That's not the feeling you want when you're navigating busy waterways or competing on a racecourse.

Recognizing the importance of a solid connection between rider and craft, RIVA Racing offers upgraded steering and control components with superior functionality and high-strength aluminum construction. Billet steering columns, billet control levers, and proprietary aluminum handlebars are engineered to optimize reliability and

rider comfort through advanced design and ergonomics. The aftermarket steering systems accept motocross style bars available in different widths, heights and bends that accommodate a variety of aftermarket grips. The versatile clamping mechanism on the billet steering columns provides added adjustability to match the rider's bar position preference. Most factory grips now feature a flat "winged" design that limits the rider from changing hand positions when sitting or standing. This issue is resolved by installing aftermarket grips such as ODI lock-on grips for maximum control. Once the steering system, bars and grips are upgraded, the plastic control levers are next. RIVA offers a variety of precision-machined billet aluminum control levers for Yamaha, Sea-Doo, and Kawasaki watercraft that provide improved strength and comfort.

Upgrading your steering and controls will improve your riding experience along with adding that race ready look to your watercraft. Visit rivaracing.com/steering for a full selection of steering and control options. **PR**



COMPLETE RIVA RACING STEERING SYSTEM UPGRADE



CNC MACHINED BILLET ALUMINUM STEERING COLUMN



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FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO THIS TECHNICAL BULLETIN CONTACT:

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A CONVERSATION WITH DAVID ALONSO VISIONARY FOUNDER OF RUTHLESS RACING

PRO RIDER: How did you get started in the jet ski industry and what (or who) inspired you to establish Ruthless Racing?

DAVID ALONSO: I started racing PWC 7 years ago, working with jetskis roughly 4 years ago and decided to start supplying parts as Ruthless Racing a couple years ago. I wanted to bring change to the way tuning was being done. I wanted to offer the best of custom stage kits, one to one with customers and walk them through the build and tuning process and get their watercraft where it should be for what they are paying for it to do. We will be the fastest with the reliability to back it up. Ruthless Racing is 'The Game Changer' and that's what we are doing and will continue to do.

PR: What drives your passion for creating advanced watercraft?

DR: I want to create winning teams and even my customers that aren't racers, they're still part of the Ruthless Team. As I always say, 'Win with us or watch us Win'.

PR: How do you manage working with racers internationally while being based in the USA?

DR: It can be difficult with time zones, but we make it work with planning, early mornings, and late nights. With RTD3 (remote tuning device) by HP Tuners we can fine tune any Sea-Doo across the world. It's what we need to do to bring those trophies home and be number 1.

PR: What would you say is your proudest achievement so far?

DR: That's a difficult one because I'm proud of all my achievements. I'm proud of Ruthless Racing and being the underdog achieving results against the big players. I'm proud all my customers are happy with the results they get and I'm proud of the team riders. We're getting wins in the USA and recently in the UK just had two wins in a row since our rider over there joined the team through our UK supplier. The achievements wouldn't happen without all of them behind me.

PR: What is your personal preference when it comes to riding PWC and where do you enjoy riding?

DR: I like going out, data logging and tuning to find new tricks, what works and what doesn't. All testing is done on my own machine. When I'm not on the river doing that then it's out cruising and chilling with whoever is out on a ride, maybe look for some drag races for a bit of fun, always pushing the business though. Getting my name out there.

PR: Looking ahead, what are your plans, any new projects on the horizon you are excited about?

DR: New projects, well that's a secret so watch this space. Can't give those away, never know who's reading ha ha. Obviously with the launch of the new engine from Rotax there will be a lot of research and development going into that and seeing where we can go with it which is exciting. Other than that, just got to keep pushing for Team Ruthless and everyone that's part of it.

I'd like to thank everyone that's believed in me and stuck by me, you know who you are, and I appreciate every one of you. Let's Go!

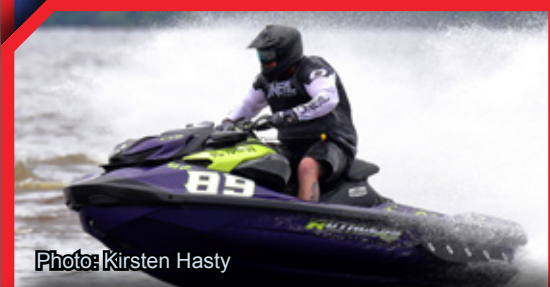


Photo: Kirsten Hasty



DAVID ALONSO

Founder
Ruthless Racing



Photo: Manuel Valdes

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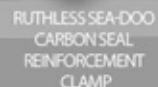
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FAST**



**WATERCRAFT PERFORMANCE
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FIRST ANNUAL PINEAPPLE POINT TAKEOVER

SKI RIDERS OF NORTH FLORIDA

By: Michael Salom
Photos: Brandon Smith,
Mike Menefee, Michael Salom

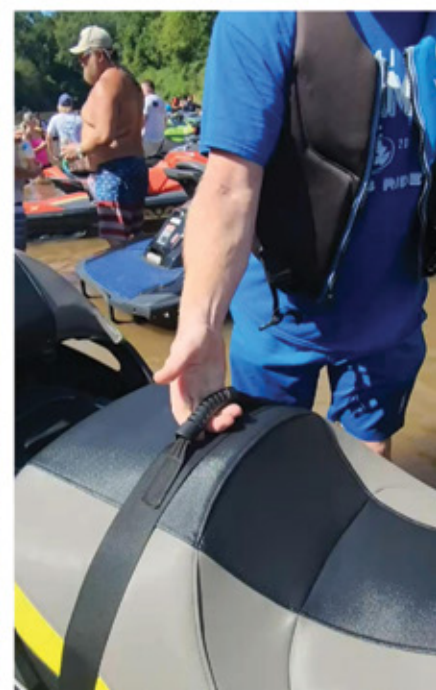
Just a skip and a jump north of the vibrant Green Cove Springs, not too far from the lively city of Jacksonville, lies a slice of paradise along Florida's northeast coast. Welcome to Pineapple Point, nestled along the picturesque St. John's River! This haven of leisure holds a name as heartwarming as the symbol it's named after — the pineapple, a traditional symbol of hospitality.

It's more than just a gathering; it's a tradition we're looking to uphold year after year. The 2023 inaugural Pineapple Point takeover by the Ski Riders of North Florida was enthusiastically embraced as 32 skis made a splash at our very first event, and guess what? We're aiming for an even bigger wave of excitement next year with a whopping 60 riders!

At our core, we're all about building bridges and creating cherished moments. Whether it's lazing about on the water or revving up our PWCs, we're a community that knows how to have a blast year-round. Think of it as the Boater Skip Day, but with personal watercrafts.

Exploring the numerous nooks and crannies of this aquatic wonderland has become our shared passion. Here's to more sun-soaked escapades, unforgettable encounters, and the promise of countless joy-filled rendezvous to come! **PR**





WAKE STRAP is the ultimate safety and freedom strap for passengers riding on the back of any PWC!



Riding as a passenger on a jetski is a lot of fun, however, the conventional practice of gripping onto the driver or the unwieldy side bars isn't ideal for the passenger or operator. Enter Wake Strap – a solution designed to enhance the safety and comfort of PWC passengers during aquatic journeys.

The Wake Strap has a 2-inch soft nylon webbing strap and a 2-inch heavy-duty adjustable buckle. The handle is made with a roll-bar grab handgrip providing a comfortable hold.

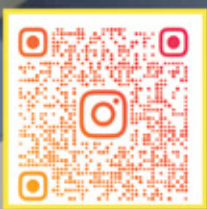
- Fits most Jet Skis, WaveRunners, and Sea-Doos
- Comes in 4 colors: red, blue, black, & white
- Handsewn with UV protectant thread for long-lasting durability from the sun
- Installation is easily accessible and secured in the middle seat

- Soft nylon strap will not cause friction to the seat
- Trips are more pleasurable when the passenger can also enjoy jumping the waves.
- Unexpected passenger slams on the driver's back are a thing of the past.
- Invite family and friends of all ages for a ride with freedom.
- Have the ability to look around, sightsee and see what's coming.
- Adventure to more rivers, lakes, and oceans with added confidence!

"The Wake Strap provides a safe and natural way to hold on without interrupting the driver."
KEVIN YOUNTS,
INVENTOR OF WAKE STRAP

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YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE WETBIKE RALLY ON FACEBOOK (WETBIKE, ULTRANAUTICS OWNERS.)



19th Annual WETBIKE Rally

FROM MEAGER BEGINNINGS TO EPIC GATHERINGS:

THE INTERNATIONAL WETBIKE RALLY STORY

By: MJ Dodson | Photos: Annie Girnius

WETBIKE A WetBike is a planing motorized personal watercraft often likened to a blend of a motorcycle and a jet ski. A key distinction between a jet ski and a Wet Bike is the latter lacks a conventional boat-like hull, opting for hydrofoils instead of wheels, creating a unique waterborne motorcycle. While jet skis maneuver with jet pumps, wet bikes feature front steering, much like conventional motorcycles.

If there is a bucket list event that lovers of fun and odd watercraft should attend, let it be the International Wetbike Rally. At Lake Murray, just outside of Ardmore, Oklahoma, is a week-long yearly gathering for Wetbike aficionados. Alongside Wetbikes you might catch an original Wetjet or two. Maybe you'll see a CirCraft or an exotic watercraft prototype.

One thing is certain. You'll be greeted by very welcoming folks who will help you get your watercraft water ready, not just running on the trailer.

Among the group are talented cooks preparing delicious food for mealtime. Bring something to share and join in the good times.

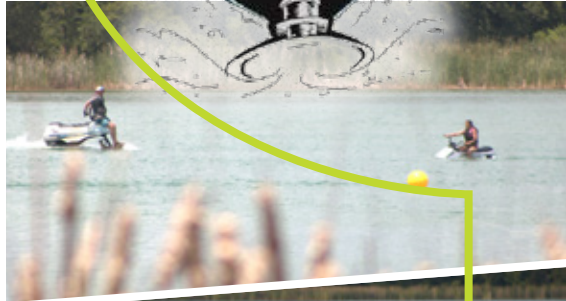
During the week there is plenty of time for fun rides to one of the marinas for ice cream.

A sunset ride is only a suggestion away. Bench racing and trading speed secrets around the toolboxes are on the docket each night. Some participants rolled in for the whole week, others trickled in as the days progressed.

Carolina Wetbikes, Westcoast Wetbikes, Weeks Brothers Watersports, Wissota Wetbikes, Gulf Coast Wetbikes, and Wisconsin Wetbikes were on hand to supply parts and knowledge to all who had trouble keeping their craft ripping and shredding. Carlson Racing set up a slalom course that brought everyone together for head-to-head action. The ultimate victor claimed the prized 'lightning bolt award' as the fastest contender.

What started as a meager meet up 19 years ago, has blossomed into one week every year that everyone looks forward to. From only a few participating the first couple of years in tents, to now taking over an entire campground, full of RVs and decked out trailers, you can find a place to settle in among seasoned Wetbikers or first timers. Generosity, fondness of Wetbikes, and a fun spirit run deep through the community. Whether you drive 3 hours or across the nation, you're welcomed with smiles and great hospitality.

The week closes as participants gather, exchange goodies, decide on next year's timeframe, and handout honors. **PR**



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CAMDEN POWELL

Photo by Kenny Wong



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Photo by David Rosenfield

SADIE MIR

Photo by Kenny Wong



**JAY
FINLINSON**

Painter Poverty:



Story and photos: Joe Belfiore

The Story of My Resilient 1970 Ford Econoline



I work in auto body and paint and have had my own shop for a few years in Fox Lake, Illinois. I was doing work for a friend in the oil field. He and his coworkers had "oil money" on their windshields. While I was working on the van, he suggested I should put "painter money" on the windshield. I laughed and said painter money? More like painter poverty! He thought that was so funny he sent me a big sticker for the windshield and 8 years later it's still on there.

My van is a 1970 Ford Econoline Supervan. It has the original motor and transmission, a 302 Ford v8, 3 speed automatic. I did an exhaust, intake, and bigger carburetor to wake it up. It has no power steering or power brakes so it's a bit of a handful to drive. Being such a simple machine is why it's been so reliable. Less to go wrong.

A friend snagged it off eBay, stashed in an Indiana hangar with a busted transmission. He got it to Illinois, fixed the transmission, and 3 years later, we struck a deal. I'd handle rust repair and paint on his truck, and in return, I'd get the van. I was pumped — it seemed like the ultimate jet ski and dirt bike hauler!

First was a tune up and updated carb and exhaust. The back was totally bare. I put a subfloor down then laminate wood flooring and new carpet up front. Got it done just in time for the 2013 Wisconsin Dells Freeride. It worked great as a shuttle bus into town with all my buds at night.

The next year I got a deal on Cragar wheels and got them on right before the Dells ride. The year after I fixed what little rust it had and repainted it. The roof is still original paint! It's been to WaveDaze in Virginia Beach, a 2,000-mile round trip and WaveRave in Michigan a few times.

It's my most dependable ride, though it's almost comical — cruising around becomes a story-sharing session. Every gas stop turns into a trip down memory lane with folks sharing their van experiences. And that's why I cherish it. I restore cars professionally, and the monotony of working on muscle cars gets old. What excites me is sparking memories in non-car enthusiasts, just through the vehicle I'm driving. My '64 bug gets a similar reaction — stories and attention that make it all worth it. **PR**



GOT A ONE-OF-A-KIND SETUP THAT SCREAMS FOR ATTENTION? WANT YOUR RIG TO STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT? DROP US A LINE AT CATHY@PRRIDERMAG.COM TO HAVE YOUR MASTERPIECE SHOWCASED IN PRO RIDER WATERCRAFT MAGAZINE. DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR CHANCE TO SHINE!



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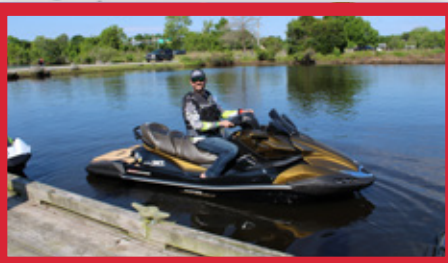


@unlimited_pwc

Carolina groups came together for another amazing 'Belly Buster' focused on giving back and uniting the community. This year's event was special due to me being back after being diagnosed with Stage 4 Mantle Cell Lymphoma. The very first recipient from this event was a young girl also diagnosed with cancer. She is currently beating it and doing very well. This gathering brings the community together, setting aside differences and showcasing our collective capabilities.

The event introduces riders to racing with Pro Watercross and includes a rec ride, a great raffle with items from vendors across the community, and a BBQ rib cookoff.

Carolina Watercraft Club and PWC Explorers have taken the lead in organizing and implementing this style of event, alongside other organizations, to foster a positive and united community. Amidst an increasing trend of drama and negativity, these events serve as a reminder of our shared purpose. Although challenging to arrange, the value they bring makes the hard work worthwhile. These events have offered significant support to individuals facing adversity, a cause deeply meaningful to us. Many beneficiaries remain unaware as we often choose to help unexpectedly.



A Very Special Gathering: 2023 BELLY BUSTER

Story and photos:
Adam Buckler,
Founder / Owner at PWC Explorers

This year, we raised over \$2,000 to aid an 8-year-old girl battling Stage 4 Rhabdomyosarcoma. Conceived by Scott Morin and Rodney Graham, this event was orchestrated in collaboration with Pro Watercross. I joined forces to amplify its impact. It serves as a stark reminder of our blessings and life's sudden twists and lets us shift focus from self-interest and drama to making meaningful changes in others' lives. Much gratitude to our sponsors, volunteers, and supporting riders who enable this event. Our commitment to hosting a premier east coast event remains unwavering.

Demo Day with Big Rock Powersports

With the generous support of Big Rock Powersports in New Bern, North Carolina, we organized a demo day featuring jet skis from Kawasaki, Sea-Doo, Yamaha, and the Sea-Doo Switch. This cost-free event allowed participants to test ride the skis, catering to both first-time buyers and those considering a brand change. Demo Day was a remarkable success, and we're enthusiastic about an even grander edition next year. We extend our gratitude to Big Rock for their partnership. Presently, we're exploring the possibility of expanding this into a weekend-long event for 2024, with thrilling surprises currently in development. **PR**



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SOMEWHAT OBNOXIOUS

Story and photos: Harley Hunt

EVOLUTION

Raised on the Tennessee River, boating became a family tradition since I was 2 months old. Our journeys ranged from camping in a 17-foot Sea Ray Bowrider to owning 35-to-38-foot Sea Rays on the same dock today. As a teen, I had a modified Yamaha WaveRaider 760. College took me away from boating, but I returned with a 25-foot Baja 252, then a 342 Baja "Two OBNOXIOUS." Our friends' boating group inspired us to explore more with 2-stroke skis — I got a GP1200 named "Slightly OBNOXIOUS." As our group grew, I upgraded to a 2009 FZR for the speed and adventure.

Upon acquiring the 2009 model, constant clutch replacements prompted me to opt for a Turbo swap. With multiple clutch replacements in two years, I sought a 2016 FZS with the right specs: white on black, SVHO motor, and a solid starting point. After a search, I found a suitable ski in Arizona with only 19 hours. Crucially, my build required a bolt-on system without altering the mid wall or factory electronics and aimed to preserve the rear storage bucket, serving as my cooler.

I designed a distinct turbo system for my ski, deviating from the conventional turbo modifications seen in South Florida. Using a 1/2" thick 304 stainless flange inspired by a factory exhaust gasket, the setup situates the turbo above the tunnel and behind the midwall. This innovation maintains consistent cooling, upholding the typical ski functionalities. With a 2.5" inner pipe and a 3.0" outer pipe/jacket, featuring a V-band flange for the Borg Warner turbine housing, the system efficiently handles temperatures — peak recording at 137°F after a full pull. My downpipe, with a 3" inner pipe and a 3.5" outer pipe/jacket, integrates a wideband bung for water splash prevention and redirects water into the exhaust for cooling. The kit is designed for SVHO models with Riva through-hull exhaust, carefully not affecting storage or oil drainage. The polished aluminum cold side is connected to a Fizzle intercooler, catering to those with common mods.

Tuning for the turbo setup, executed by Deans Team, guarantees top-notch performance. Even under loaded storage and a full tank, the ski maintains consistent speeds, consistently pulling 92–93 mph and occasionally hitting 94 mph.

Ski runs 94 MPH @ 9360 RPMS and is set at 20 lbs of boost (93 pump gas). On low boost it runs 88mph, and spins 8850 RPMS and set to 15 lbs of boost. There is a waterproof switch on the handlebars to flip from high or low boost anytime. I keep the ski around 11.7 Air Fuel Ratio (49 to 54 psi fuel pressure weather depending). Richer than most like on these motors but safer too.

2016 FZ SOMEWHAT OBNOXIOUS MODS:

- Borg Warner EFR 6758 F(v) turbo (.85ar)
- Fizzle Factory 1000 intercooler
- Tial 50mm BOV (yellow 11lbs spring)
- Turbosmart Dual Stage Boost controller
- Deans Team 1000cc injectors

RIVA:

- Fuel Pressure Regulator • 3 Bar Map Sensor
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- Deans Team Ecu (9500rpm Turbo Tune) • Svho Cut Plate • R&D Intake Grate • Pump Seal Kit/Resin Filled • 3" 85mm Nozzle And 2" Wedge • Transom Re-Sealed And Resin Filled
- Coco's Tunnel Reinforcement • Innovative Pbs-1 Digital Wide Band & Boost/Vacuum Gauge • Pet Tach (Pet-2100dxr) • Candoo Gps Speedo • Worx Drop-In Steering Stem • Riva Pro 30" Runabout Handlebars • Odi Ruffian Lock-On Grips • Riva Billet Trigger Throttle • Worx Sponsons • Fzs Front Seat, Fzr Rear • Custom Jettrim Seat Cover



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JET TEK PERFORMANCE'S SECOND ANNUAL EVENT

RAISES FUNDS AND SPIRITS ON FLORIDA'S EMERALD COAST

By: Brandon and Taylor Anderson
 Photos: Michael Anderson

Jet Tek Performance celebrated our second annual promo day on the beautiful islands of the Emerald Coast, Florida.

With enthusiasm, a fleet of more than 100 skis made their way from different places, counting in members from FL Ski Riders, FL River Riders, Mississippi Ski Riders, Emerald Coast Jet Ski Syndicate, Bama Riders, and Louisiana Vintage.

Beautiful Santa Rosa Sound, which contains multiple islands running between Hurlbert Field and Mary Ester, FL served as home base for the event. This area is a gorgeous calm water playground perfect for speed runs and posting up on a beach to just relax. We even renamed one of the sandy islands 'Jet Tek Performance Point.'

We were excited to meet and greet with our community, have fun in the sun, listen to music thanks to our fantastic DJ Justin Reid, and raffle great items for a great cause. This year we added a paid raffle alongside our annual free raffle and raised over \$1,000 for Amazing Grace Bully Rescue, a nonprofit, foster-based, no-kill dog rescue located in Pensacola. We adopted our youngest pit mix mutt "Ace" from Amazing Grace two years ago.

Graced by substantial attendance and buoyed by the support of family, friends, and the Emerald Coast Jet Ski Syndicate, our hearts are full of gratitude.

Our photographer Michael Anderson and videographer Jared Armstrong captured unforgettable moments before a classic Florida 3PM storm rolled through.

Sponsors included: Fizzle Intercoolers, Inc., Premier Tinting, Florida Metal Works, Boondock PWC, and Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine. **PR**



Video: Jared Armstrong





2023 BAIKAL JETFEST — RUSSIA'S UNIQUE SPORTS, MUSIC, AND AQUABIKE EXTRAVAGANZA

Founded in 2018, Baikal JetFest is a unique sports and music festival that takes place annually in one of the most beautiful places in Russia — next to Lake Baikal in the mountainous region of Siberia and considered the deepest lake in the world.

BJF includes dizzying stunts on aquabikes, races, spectacular extreme shows on the water from eminent athletes from all over Russia and the world, master classes, sports activities on the ground and music with splendid DJs.

The Baikal JetFest event is getting bigger every year with 60–70 sportsmen and 3,000 visitors. It's a BJJF family format with sportsmen from all over Russia (St. Petersburg, Sochi, Vladivostok, Moscow, etc). This time Pro Freestyle 3X European Champion Niels Willems from Belgium joined us. My dream is to repeat the 2019 format and invite all my Jetski friends from all over the world! **PR**

STUNNING SPECTACLES AND WATER THRILLS:

Story and photos: Mikhail Liskhovchuk, Founder Baikal JetFest



VISIT WWW.BAIKALJETFEST.COM FOR DETAILS AND VIDEOS.

QUEENSLAND PERSONAL WATERCRAFT CLUB

Hosts Queensland State Titles,
Showcasing Intense Racing and
Trans-Tasman Spirit

The newly revitalized QPWC recently organized the Queensland State Titles at Atkinson's Dam in Southeast Queensland, Australia. While the club faced challenges following the departure of the longstanding and effective committee, the event demonstrated that under Jamie Eade's leadership, the club is now firmly back on track.

A total of 39 registrations were recorded and it was exciting to witness participants from various parts of Australia and New Zealanders making the journey.

The tradition of friendly competition between these two nations, known as the Trans-Tasman rivalry, extends to numerous sports, including Jetski racing.

Weather conditions at the venue were idyllic, although mornings carried a slight chill. Despite early morning fog, the race schedule progressed without interruptions.

Like several other clubs, this one has adopted the use of lights instead of tape for race starts. Once racers became accustomed to this change, it led to remarkably tight starts, making it challenging to determine who secured the hole-shot advantage. Across most classes, racing remained fiercely competitive. As the excitement built, everyone eagerly awaited the culmination of these efforts in the final results. **PR**



QPWC

Queensland Personal Watercraft Club



Story and photos:
Craig Milne,
Zoomed Images





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A Poker Run involves visiting five designated spots and drawing from a deck of cards. Each stop offers new places, sponsor interactions, and card collection. The best poker hand is determined at the last stop, creating a thrilling chance to explore, connect, and test your luck with friends!

Eager riders gathered at the Astor boat ramp for the first annual Nauti Girl Crew Poker Run. Excitement overflowed as many participated in their first poker run ever. In groups of ten, enthusiastic riders departed every 20 minutes for poker stops along the serene and winding St. John's River. Stops included Powells Fish Camp, Hontoon State Park, and the beautiful Blue Springs State Park.

At the initial stop, riders encountered a setup of beach chairs, umbrellas, and more courtesy of SummerLux Rentals. Amidst the shade and treats, riders snagged their cards. Onward along the St. John's, the next stop, hosted by Hulla Fun Boats, showcased a novel approach – attaching a boat hull to a ski for innovative shared rides. The sight left riders curious about the potential of enhancing their skiing experience.



NAUTI GIRL CREW'S FIRST ANNUAL POKER CARDS, CRUISING, AND CAMARADERIE RUN

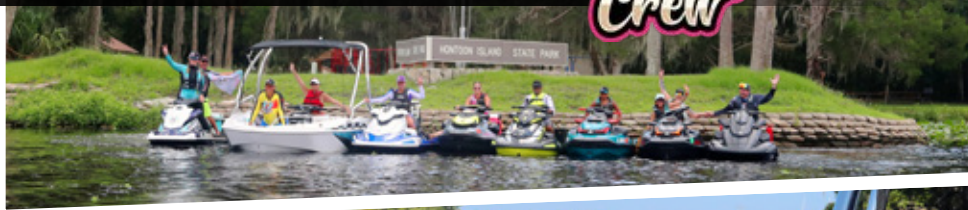
By: Renee Hill | Photos: Zee Khan, Phil Hubbard, Renee Hill

Stop three was sponsored by Ride Now Powersports of Ocala. Ride Now greeted happy riders at the beautiful and historic Hontoon State Park. The final card draw was by provided by SandShark Anchors.

The cruise finale was positioned at Blue Springs State Park French Landing where riders enjoyed lunch provided by Nauti Girl Crew. Many made their way over to Blue Springs State Park, for a cool dip in the spring on a very hot day. Blue Springs makes an amazing stop for floating down the clear blue springs, where you can then exit the Spring, walk back up and do it again. Blue Springs has a restaurant, gift store, and raft rentals.

At the end of the day, anxious players gathered for the reveal of the best poker hand and trophy presentation. Followed by a raffle of great giveaways by SandShark, Florida Ski Riders, Versiplug, PWC Super Rack, Orlando Yamaha Kawasaki, Jettribe, Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine and tons of Nauti Crew Gear! Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone for making this a huge success!

See the route taken and follow it yourself on the Know Wake App, search Nauti Girl Crew Poker Run and enjoy the route to Blue Springs with a group of friends. The route, approximately 50 miles round trip makes a perfect one tank day trip. **PR**



JOIN NAUTI GIRL CREW - JET SKI GROUP ON FACEBOOK TO FOLLOW AND JOIN ON THEIR NEXT UNIQUE RIDE!





PWC FISHING Division

ADDED TO ANNUAL
CENTRAL FLORIDA
SHOOTOUT



Story and photos: Ashley Ballard

The Central Florida Shootout Salt Water Fishing Tournament started over 12 years ago when Shawn Mecchella along with wife Jennifer and a hand full of volunteers set out to create something the tournament world was missing, a fun tournament that did not cost a lot to enter and gave back to the local community. The first few years were a learning experience with the Captain's Party being held in the parking lot of the fishing supply store Shawn owns, Strike-Zone Melbourne. Now, the Captain's Party alone has outgrown many of the local venues in Brevard County, Florida with over 1,500 people attending the event.

With local food trucks, entertainment for the kids, and the possibility of walking away with one of the over 100 raffle prizes, the Central Florida Shootout Captain's Party attracts fishermen and non-fisherman alike to come together to support an event that supports the community. The way the team of volunteers sets up the weigh-in for the Central Florida Shootout allows it to be yet another fun event for families and spectators. Of course, the Central Florida Shootout team does not just hand over the checks to the winners and call it a day at the Awards. The Awards include free rod and reel combos for all children that attend, more raffles, and presentations from the amazing benefactors that the Central Florida Shootout donates all the proceeds to each year.

The 2023 Central Florida Shootout was a little different however, even though Route One Motorsports has been a tournament sponsor since the beginning it was this year their owner Willy came to Shawn with an idea — a PWC fishing tournament within the Central Florida Shootout! After a little research, they found no evidence of any PWC-specific fishing tournaments. Shawn and his team of volunteers went to work, dialing in the rules, working with Sea-Doo corporate, and getting the word out to a whole new community. That community stepped up in a big way. Sea-Doo Corporate brought their amazing marketing team in on the planning process and followed through creating a big presence at all the Central Florida Shootout events.

The Central Florida Shootout is set up with both inshore and offshore weigh-in categories, the same was set up for the first annual PWC division. PWC fishermen showed up for each category, including Sea-Doo Fishing Ambassador Emmanuel Williams. Emmanuel won the kingfish category with his twenty-pound kingfish. Williams got the win in the overall category as well, beating out regular boats. It wasn't easy to get the win. Conditions on the water were rough with a three-to-four-foot ground swell and stiff east winds making for choppy conditions.

The biggest win of the day was showing that PWC fishing belongs in the competitive sport fishing community! **PR**



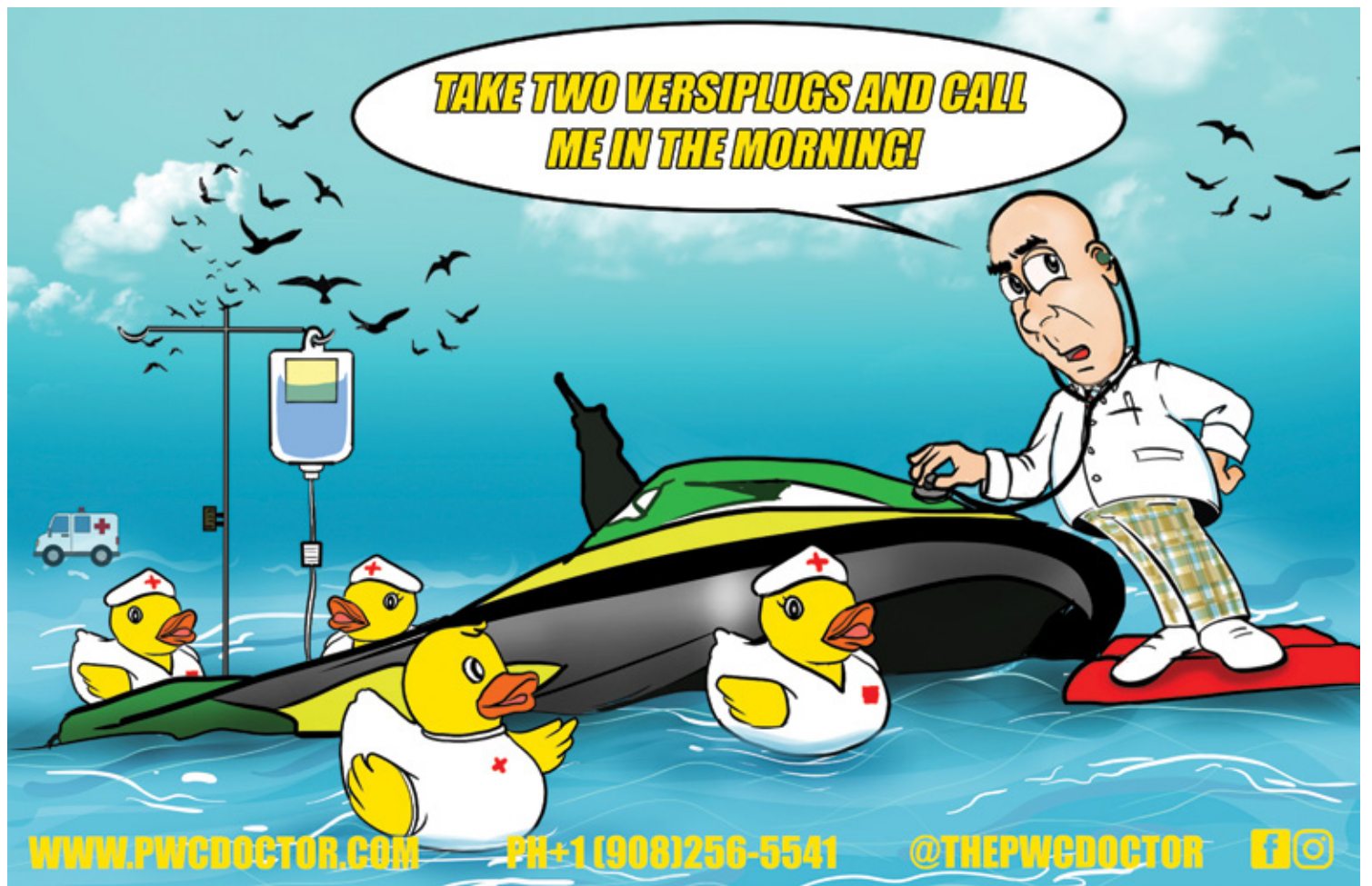
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4.0 GENEROSITY AND EXCITEMENT HIT LAKE ERIE TURTLE JOE'S SANDBAR

By: Craig. R Witt, Founder WNY PWC | Photos: John Witt

The "PACK" was back in full effect this year at Turtle Joe's Sandbar on Lake Erie near Buffalo, New York for WNY PWC's Annual charity event the RALLY 4.0. This year's beneficiary was The Boys and Girls Club of Eden / Angola in which they were able to raise \$3,657 for charity as well as a child was given a full ride scholarship to the club for the upcoming school season! Member Josh Kritz won the poker run with the best hand and Jim Reverand took home the raffle ski!

A huge thank you to all sponsors, volunteers and everyone who continues to make this possible each year. It is amazing to see the community come together and give back. The feeling of riding with that many skis and being around those who are truly passionate for the sport, never gets old. **PR**





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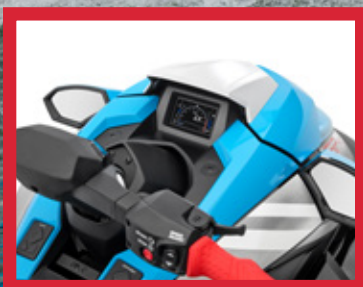
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Yamaha Introduces 1.9L High Output Marine Engine for Yamaha Boats and WaveRunners®



Story and photos: Yamaha

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EPIC WATERCROSS SHOWDOWN:

WCWA Races & Freestyle



WESTERN CANADIAN
WATERCROSS ASSOCIATION

By: Morgan Victoria, WCWA | Photos: Bas Hobson, Aaron Dobroskay, Christen Dobroskay



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HIGHLIGHTS!



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Picturesque South Saskatchewan River came alive with roaring jetskis and the thrill of high-speed. Water sports enthusiasts gathered from all corners of the region for the highly anticipated Western Canadian Watercross Association (WCWA) races sponsored by Renown Down Hole Solutions Inc. This annual event promised heart-pounding action, showcasing riders in various classes and an awe-inspiring freestyle competition!

From novice riders honing their skills to seasoned professionals showcasing their expertise, races catered to all levels of experience. Beginner, Lites and Open in both stand-up, sport spec and runabout classes, provided a platform for riders to compete for coveted titles.

High energy races showed intense competition with seasoned vet, Derrick Parislau 221, taking the overall win in Pro Am Open and Ryan Turner 08 coming out on top for Pro Am Lites. Spencer Chestolowski 12 was uncatchable in Novice Open with Adam Gates and Chris Synowec 261 battling for first in Novice Lites. Sport Spec had a full line up with Merek DeCorby 16 taking the lead followed closely by Matteen Makari 11 and Lauren Turner 49. Chris Eccles 10 won first in Pro AM Runabout while Robin Kurpuweit 21 took top spot in Beginner Runabout.

One of the most eagerly anticipated events was the freestyle competition, where riders unleashed their creativity pushing the boundaries of what's possible on a jetski. Chris Synowec took first followed by Chad Hinkson and Ryan Turner competing for second, while Morgan Sieben, the sole female freestyle competitor, put her all out there for that elusive backflip.

Beyond exhilarating races and freestyle, WCWA offered a fantastic atmosphere with Little Caesars and Redbull supporting the riders, a DJ and announcer amping the audience and energetic community of riders. Whether you're a dedicated fan or newcomer to watercross, this gathering fostered a sense of camaraderie and excitement.

Special thanks to Steve Chestolowski C12 and family for keeping jetski racing alive in western Canada for so many years! **PR**

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The scenic backdrop of Tugaloo State Park played host to the Pro Watercross National Tour stop in Lavonia, Georgia on Lake Hartwell, a beautiful reservoir straddling Georgia and South Carolina. The lake witnessed fierce competition across numerous classes, creating a show of full-throttle racing and intense rivalries.

On the shores of Lake Charles, Louisiana's North Beach Park, another renowned stop of the Pro Watercross National Tour unfolded. Seasoned contenders joined a wave of newcomers to the sport, adding a fresh dynamic to the event. Lake Charles, LA marked the thrilling conclusion to the tour before the inaugural 2023 Liqui Moly International Cup scheduled in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, at the Havasu Riviera Marina on September 28 — October 1, 2023.

These tour stops highlighted the sheer excitement and athleticism that has long defined the Pro Watercross National Tour! **PR**

THRILLING RACING AND HISTORY MAKING!

PRO WATERCROSS NATIONAL TOUR LAKE HARTWELL, GEORGIA and LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

Photos: Rachel Howington, Chad Moreno

PHOTOGRAPHER RACHEL HOWINGTON CAPTURED THIS IMAGE OF SOPHIE FRANCIS CREATING HISTORY IN THE PRO WATERCROSS PRO SKI GP CLASS AS THE FIRST WOMAN EVER TO WIN THIS CLASS. NOTABLY, SHE RACES WITH THE NUMBER 911, PAYING TRIBUTE TO HER LATE HUSBAND RACING LEGEND ERIC 'THE EAGLE' FRANCIS.



Rachel Howington
PHOTOGRAPHY



Photo: Garrett Brown
@g20mediahouse



STRETCHING FOR STRESS REDUCTION (1)

Stretching properly prevents injuries, eases post-workout muscle pain, and reduces soreness. Aim for 5–15 minutes before and 5-8 minutes after your workout, coupled with good hydration. Consider yoga for effective stretching that enhances strength, balance, flexibility, and mood. Yoga's controlled movements and breathing exercises also aid in stress reduction, heart health, and pain relief

Check out 10 min yoga flow on YouTube.

CORE STABILITY FOR JET SKIING (2)

A solid core is vital for stability on a jet ski. I use a yoga ball to mimic water movement, doing a move where I start in a push-up position with feet on the ball. Pull knees to chest, hold, then push back to plank and complete a push-up. This is one rep. Do 8 reps for 3 sets

STRENGTH TRAINING FOR LONGEVITY (3)

It's not easy to hop on a standup jetski and go! Having a strong foundation of overall, full body strength is essential for excelling at everything you do in life.

A weekly regimen for strength training is key. Working out regularly helps lower body fat and maintain or grow muscle mass. Long-term benefits include increased mobility, and reinforcement of major joints, knees, ankles, hips, and shoulders, increasing overall physical and mental health.

Walking lunges are great for jetski training! If you can do them with correct form, try adding weights! Use dumbbells or kettle bells, start with 10-20lbs per hand and move up in weight when you're ready. Keep your back straight, hips square and bring both knees into a 90° angle.

HOW TO QUICKLY BUILD YOUR STAMINA (4)

Struggling with 5-minute jet ski fatigue? It's time for endurance training! Try cycling — a cost-effective option (as low as \$50 on OfferUp or Craigslist) compared to a gym membership. Cycling, an aerobic activity, enhances arms, legs, core, heart, and lungs. It guards against various health issues like stroke, heart attack, cancers, and more. For a fantastic low-impact cardio, cycling is great for any fitness level. I suggest a weekly 5-20 mile mountain bike ride.

Grab a friend or family member as your accountability buddy. This will help ensure your success and inspire others around you to ride. Nothing like handlebar therapy to clear the mind! PR

RIDING STRONG: FITNESS STRATEGIES FOR WATERCRAFT WARRIORS

By: Kyla Desrosiers, Amateur Modified Vintage 550; Women's Vintage 550
Photos: Natalie Travers





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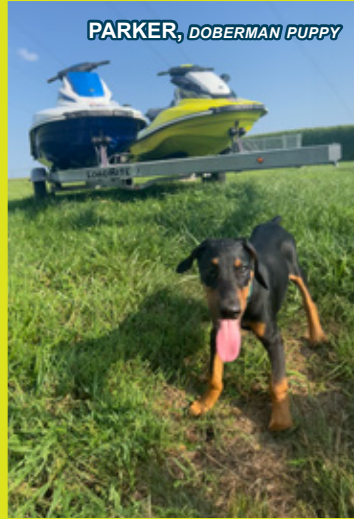


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DAVID GOLDER, Pro Racer Sport Spec, Ski Lites, and Ski GP and long-time supporter of Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine from Oxford, Pennsylvania. David and his furry family members attend races all over the US!



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What's the hottest event this summer in Michigan? Kid Rock? Taylor Swift? If you're a jet skier, it was the 2023 WaveRave Freeride held annually in New Era, Michigan. This is Michigan's ultimate Freeride with over 100 jet skiers and their families from across Michigan and surrounding states filling up the Claybanks Township campsite. Campsites were sold out since late 2022 with last minute cancelations quickly snagged. We continue to see more kids and families attend which further strengthens the position that WaveRave is a family friendly freeride uniquely different than all others.

Lake Michigan offers one of the best backdrops for a freeride with fantastic sunset views that has created a traditional daily sunset ride! This year's event drew riders from across the East Coast and Midwest. By mid-day Saturday 160 jetskis lined the beach creating a relaxed atmosphere to catch up with familiar faces, meet new riders and ride.

Mother Nature cooperated with warm, not too hot temperatures, lots of sun, warm water, and nice waves. A brief shower that blew through helped fuel a once in a lifetime spectacular lightening show on Friday evening followed by a clear evening Saturday night to enjoy the Perseid Meteor Shower.

Midday Sunday as the event wound down, a couple of fathers with young sons and friends happened to be at the beach with some old standup skis. They were teaching them how to ride. The boys got to see some unique and "cooler" jetskis and ask a lot of questions. This was a great way to end the event, inspiring the next generation of riders!

We thank our sponsors including Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine for their support of our event and generous donations to our great raffle with the proceeds being donated to the Township and the campground. **PR**



Story and photos: Jim Kwiatkowski



CHECK OUT ALL THE ACTION AND KEEP UP ON THE EVENT DETAILS FOR 2024 ON OUR OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE
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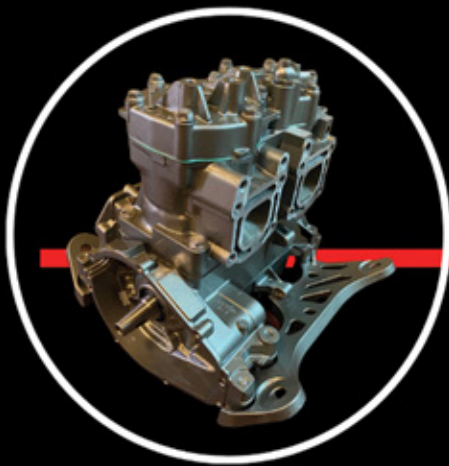


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JETSKIING PARADISE:

THE GULF STREAMERS

'NASSEH TO NASSAU' VOYAGE

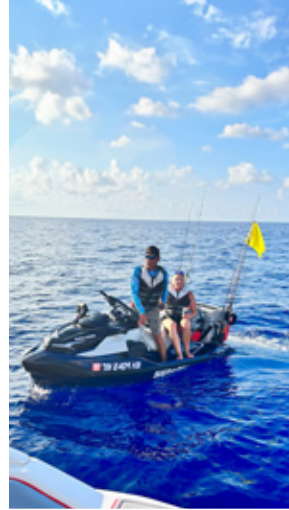
By: Raul De La Melena | **Photos:**
Compliments of Gulf Streamers Members

Raul De La Melena, originally from New York, made his way to Florida and in 2014 purchased his first skis, a 2000 Sea-Doo GTX Millennium Edition and a 2001 Polaris, learning all he could about the engineering aspects of the vessel, hull, mechanics, electrical, everything that made up a PWC settling with a 2016 Sea-Doo RXT 260. When asked about the Gulf Streamers, Raul shared this story with Pro Rider.

The Gulf Streamers group emerged in 2017 out of a need for comprehensive information on crossing to the Bahamas via a PWC. Navigating details like entry requirements, emergency protocols, US re-entry, customs, immigration, international law, and safety was challenging due to limited resources. The group's mission was to compile all this vital information in a centralized and easily accessible platform for the benefit of others.

In 2017, our inaugural trip brought like-minded individuals together for a group crossing, each watching out for the other. This tradition grew with each year, except for the pandemic-induced hiatus that saw borders closed. Our post-pandemic comeback in 2022 marked a memorable event, with 26 jetskis, including my 2-year-old's first Bahamas experience as a Gulf Streamers member. In 2023, as Covid restrictions eased, we crossed with 17 jetskis and 9 boats, totaling 51 riders.

The inspiration for this year's route was motivated by a fellow group member, Elias Nasseh, who tragically passed away in 2021. Elias always dreamed of crossing to Bimini. In conversations with Elias's family, the idea struck me that his last name, Nasseh, bears a resemblance to "Nassau."



This gave rise to the idea of commemorating Elias with a trip to Nassau, leading to the creation of the event name "Nasseh to Nassau."

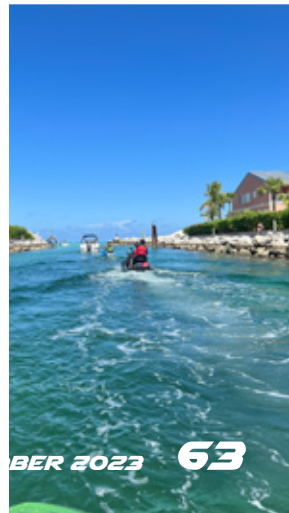
This year's Bimini/Nassau run was without a doubt one of the most interesting and adventurous trips to date. With 15 PWCs and 9 boats, 3 major manufacturers were represented by several Yamahas, Sea-Doos, and 1 Kawasaki, all made the trip without incident.

Crossing conditions could not have been better as most PWCs kept pace even loaded down with extra fuel and a week's worth of supplies. We crossed as 1 big group but once reaching Bimini the novice riders stayed at Bimini while a smaller group of 5 boats and 4 skis (1 Kawasaki, 2 Yamahas, and 1 Sea-Doo) continued the more difficult journey to Chub and then Nassau.

We faced challenging conditions during our journey to Nassau, overcoming fuel shortages, tough waters, and unexpected delays. Despite these trials, our resilient group made the call to prioritize safety and return a day early, demonstrating our unity and ensuring a safe trip home.

Entering Bimini, encountering the Mackie Shoal, the joy of Nassau's main channel, waterfalls at Atlantis, swimming with pigs, meeting local Gulf Streamer members - these were all fantastic moments. However, the ultimate highlight is the quality time spent with family and friends, building lasting bonds, creating memorable stories for generations to come.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the Gulf Streamers admin group and every member for making these experiences truly extraordinary! PR





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Durkins Photos.com

By: Tim Plumptre, JSRA
Photos: Lee Durkin

the Home of British Jet Ski Racing

The best riders in the UK gathered for Round 3 of JSRA racing at Crosby Lakeside, just north of Liverpool and home of the Beetles and from where the RMS Titanic was registered. There is a huge amount of sea fairing heritage in the area, making it a great place for race weekend.

The British race scene is growing, numbers are the highest in 20 years with big international racing personalities, James Bushell, Simon Belcher, Alfie Fenwick and Johnathan Kavanah (the latter switched from freestyle to racing) and numerous up and coming internationally strong competitors. Many UK racers have their eye on the Euros, and a few on the World Finals in Havasu. But the current focus is on the right to be called a British Champion, one of the most prestigious titles in the world.

With 10 classes, plus novice and masters the schedule was stacked. Classes with the most excitement were Runabout Naturally Aspirated, Ski GP, Sport GP, Ski Stock and let's not forget the 550s.

In Ski Stock, Harley Gill (23) is leading, but the competition is starting up his pump! Sam Wilson, Jonny Kavanah, Luke Thomson, and Jenson Gill all want silverware.

Runabout N/A Open, is tight. Kyle Horton, Matt McMaster, and Darren Leeper demonstrate 'rubbing is racing'. You never know who's going to holeshot, and then the fun begins.

Sport GP speeds are getting ridiculous. These guys are quick round the buoys and straight-line speed is like Runabout GP 10 years ago. Lennon Parking is holding his own

against a strong James Bushell and Simon Belcher. Tim Atkinson and Graham Leach are worth watching.

In Ski GP, Danny Mace is dominating after 3 rounds. Close behind are several previous British Champions, including Jason Young, Richard Gilbert, Anthony Dean (former World Champ from the days of black and white TV).

Two other names worth a mention, Kevin Pope (#56), a regular at World Finals, will soon be 70 years young and he's still at the top of his game, fighting for the ski GP win! The second is Harlie Ritchie. He raced a borrowed Kommander and took the field completely apart. He's heading to Havasu and will have Anthony Dean and Nicolas Rius in his corner. Don't say I didn't warn you! **PR**

Photo:
Mark Povey



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AJSA Southern Summer Series: A Season of THRILLS, VICTORIES, and RACE FAMILY BONDS

By: Brad Adams, CFO AJSA Racing | Photos: Taylor Funderburke, Action Shots; Carlean McCreary

The AJSA Southern Summer Series was the highlight of the summer for over 200 jet ski racers and families. There are too many exciting stories that can't be told here, but if you get the chance to talk to any of our racers, they will tell you about the holeshot they got, the battles they fought, and the good times with their race family. We have been blessed to provide 13 rounds of great racing in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia.

One of the highlights of the summer was the Junior Triple Crown Showdown and introduction of the Jr. Super Ski class. These elite junior ski racers competed in Spring

City, TN, Johnson City, TN and concluded the triple crown in Chattanooga, TN! 1st place was Knox Ritchie, followed by brother Axel Ritchie 2nd. 3rd went to Treyton Smith who edged out Caden Schilling in a tie breaker. Thank you to North Georgia Heating and Air, Whites Cycle, AOMC, and Blockhead Racing for amazing prizes!

Another memorable event was the Sport Class Clash in Johnson City, TN. Sport Stock had 11 boats on the line, and Vintage Sport GP 8. Competition was stiff competing for \$4000 cash! Vintage Sport GP class was won by Deven Farthing, followed by Johnny Smith 2nd, and Tory Snyder 3rd.

Sport Stock class was won by Deven Farthing, followed by Kayden Baldwin 2nd and Wyatt Hayes 3rd place.

Rounds 11 & 12 in Spindale, NC held at the Isothermal Community College attracted 600+ spectators and showcased our sport like no other. The course featured multiple splits and promoted good passing and great racing! The Pro WX1050 class is going into the championship round with Teagan Hill leading Jimmy Wilson by one point!

One thing is certain, watercross is alive and well, and we are having a blast giving back to the sport we love. Our plan is to grow the sport and give racers a platform to excel. We have a place for the rider who has never raced, and we have great lineups for the most experienced racer to compete at a high level.

We at the AJSA appreciate everyone that has worked to make the Southern Summer Series a success. See you at the races! **PR**





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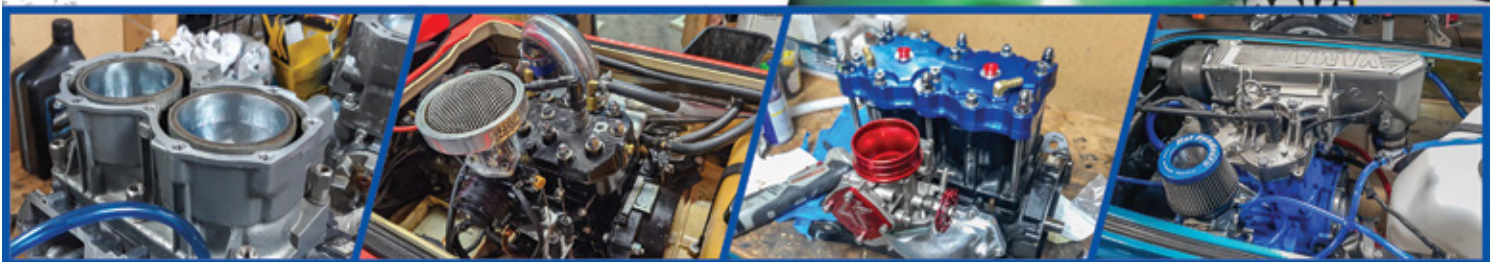
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KNOX



KNOX "PHENOM" RITCHIE

PHOTO: Cory Eads

AGE: 13

HOMETOWN: Soddy Daisy, Tennessee

SKI: Yamaha Superjet, two-stroke, 701

RACE #: 2 | **RIDING:** Racer

LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: Star roll and Renaissance program; 2nd race got 1st place 10–12-year-old AJSA series Macon, GA; 3rd race Jettribe NautiWater Kentucky 1st place 10–12 division; 1st place 13–15-year-old division, 1st place Amateur Lite

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT ON WATER: Competing against older nationally ranked riders and challenging myself in racing Ski Juniors 13–15 Lites.

FAVORITE RIDING LOCATION: Wet scooter Wednesday at Pine Tree Park Soddy Daisy

SPONSORS: Killer Frog Racing, Dayton Collision Center, Hixson Learning Center, mom and dad's wallet, C57racing.com



AXEL

AXEL RITCHIE

PHOTO: Carlean McCreary

AGE: 16

HOMETOWN: Soddy Daisy, Tennessee

SKI: Yamaha Superjet

RACE #: 99 | **RIDING:** Racer

LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: Fastest junior lap time in AJSA series; 2nd in Amateur Class Pro Watercross, Lake Hartwell, and 2nd place winner in AJSA Junior Triple Crown Series

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT ON WATER: At a Pro Watercross race at Lake Hartwell they combined Amateur Ski and Pro Ski GP, it was my first time racing alongside of David Cabrera and he knocked me off my ski.

FAVORITE RIDING LOCATION: Chester Frost Park, Hixson, Tennessee

SPONSORS: Mom and dad's wallet



COOPER



COOPER SMITH

PHOTO: Charles Guinchard

AGE: 11

HOMETOWN: Soddy Daisy, Tennessee

SKI: Yamaha Superjet

RACE #: 25

RIDING: Racer and Rec Rider

LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: 2nd place in the AJSCA Macon race April 2023

FAVORITE RIDING LOCATION: Chickamauga Lake in Tennessee

SPONSORS: MoMo's BBQ, mom and dad



Jack DuBois FREESTYLE ATHLETE



"Two years ago, my buddies convinced me to buy a Superjet. I quickly fell in love and jet skis became a slippery slope. A Superjet turned into a Krash and soon I was picking up my first full carbon freestyle ski. I decided to go all in on this jet ski thing and started competing. I am scheduled to compete at all the Great Lakes Watercross events in the Midwest, Brave the Wave in Michigan, and the world championship in Havasu. Partnering with POSSIBLE® has given me the ability to perform at my peak for longer training rides and competitions.

Nutrition is something motorsports athletes take for granted. When I began fueling my body with the right whole food-based products I saw a huge change in my performance as a rider. POSSIBLE is pushing the limits of "clean label" nutrition products, offering organic, non-dairy, non-gmo, gluten free products, free from fillers and poor-quality ingredients. I start every morning with a smoothie consisting of POSSIBLE protein and POSSIBLE SuperGreens. POSSIBLE snack bars offer nourishing snacks throughout the day and the new POSSIBLE Beet Pre-workout has become part of my pre-riding ritual. I envision a future where motorsports athletes prioritize their nutrition with the same level of dedication as professionals in sports like football, soccer, and baseball."



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MICHIGAN Wave Makers

7TH ANNUAL BRAVE THE WAVE

It's a family thing

By: Ryan Kulka, Co-Owner, Michigan Wave Makers, LLC

Photos: Candice Vieira, Ronald and Nicole Miller, Jim Lewis



Brave the Wave #7, Lake Orion, Michigan, went off with record numbers in freestyle alone. Brave The Wave has become a unique three-day event with a freeride before and after and intense competition in the middle! This year's Brave brought a double elimination slalom course giving riders more tray time, with top notch racing in classes from 550 to 1500 and always entertaining chicken races in the middle!

It's truly a multiple family run event from the Nallamothu family stationed throughout the park, the Kulka kids in candy sales, Candice Vieira, the Millers, and new friend Jim Lewis on photography, the Buurmas on tech and registration, and Scott Arsen on brackets.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Brian and Justin Sylvain for graciously and consistently hosting pre and post freerides as families came together to create the best freestyle in the world with 800-900-1200 classes and over 40 registrants performing their best in front of 500 fans.

Incredible sponsors including State Farm Michael Leahy, Brian Sizemore with Torrent Pumps, LPW Paul Lehr Jr. and Luke Stocks Showtime Freestyle have been with us since the first Brave the Wave.

A heartfelt thanks to all our sponsors, whose support empowers us to consistently craft an exceptional event year after year. A special note of gratitude to Terri Nallamothu, who is retiring from Brave.

Get ready, Brave #8 is already in the works! **PR**



MICHIGAN WAVE MAKERS



Winners by category Brave the Wave 2023

Slalom	550-650	Vintage up to 650	700-800 no meds	800-900	900+
1st Scott Darling	1st Matt Miller	1st Eric Roeser	1st Ryan Bakerhouse	1st Jeremy Bouzine	
2nd Steven Richman	2nd Kyle Kocharski	2nd Ryan DeBruin	2nd James Zoubair	2nd Eric House	
3rd Eric Martin	3rd Austin Lipke	3rd Brian Stevens	3rd Eric House	3rd Ryan Stevens	

Super Chicken

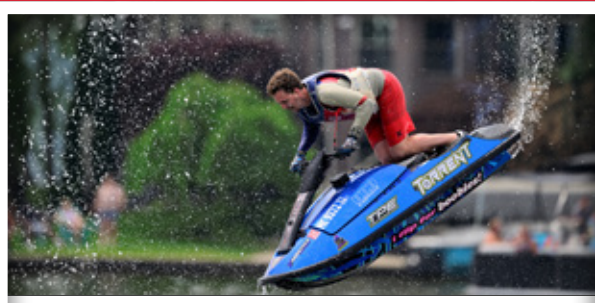
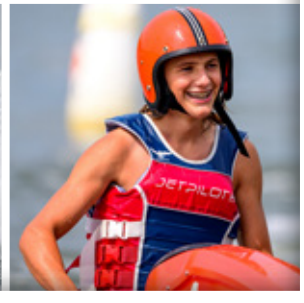
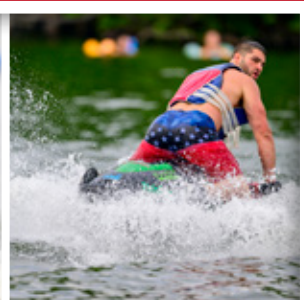
1st Austin Schwab
2nd Carter Jutah
3rd Eric Martin

Freestyle

Stock Insl 800	Up to 900 CC	Up to 1200 CC
1st Ryan Stevens	1st Andrew Wilson	1st Carter Jutah
2nd Eric Martin	2nd Ryan DeBruin	2nd Nathan Lutz
3rd Kyle Stevens	3rd Jonathan Whitfield	3rd Chris Anderson



Special shoutout to the talented and legendary Mikey Young for his remarkable contributions as announcer for this year's event. His voice and insights added an extraordinary dimension!





SUPER ENHANCED RXPX UNVEILED



Pro Rider had the opportunity to connect with Julio Paula, the visionary behind JP Racing, to delve into the details of his enhanced Sea-Doo RXPx.

PRO RIDER: Alright, Julio, spill the beans! How did you go from regular wrench-turner to PWC mechanic extraordinaire, specializing in engine builds and mods?

JULIO PAULA: I can never leave anything *STOCK* and many people are the same. Not that it's a bad thing, but makes us unique. We've built very nice skis throughout the years mainly with the Sea-Doo platform. I realized other people wanted the same thing but didn't necessarily have the mechanical skill or confidence, so I started offering my services as a side hustle and eventually it just took over.

PR: Is there a title for this build project? How long have you worked on it, and is it your personal ride?

JP: I haven't named any ski since my #BLACKBIRD400, the OG ski that put us on the map. This project has taken longer than expected, due to the fact we have changed over to FuelTech and had to learn a new platform with the addition of custom engine work and fabrication. Took us about 1 year to get it on the water from shell, to build ideas, to the actual build and maiden voyage. Yes, this is my personal everyday riding ski.

PR: When you're in your lab, concocting high-performance engine potions, what goes into maximizing speed and power while keeping things safe and reliable? Any secret ingredients you can let us in on regarding this build? Speaking of speed, exactly how fast does this thing go?

JP: It's not if it'll break, it's when it'll break. Performance and reliability don't seem to work well together after a certain point. Also depends on the client and their goals. We can tailor our setups for different needs. There is no replacement for displacement, that's all I'm saying secret wise on the build. The ski has been 96.8 MPH GPS on wastegate which is 24lbs and zero trim control (we don't know where it's at!?) We recorded this on a mediocre pull. Our goal is 100mph+.

PR: What's the craziest project you've tackled for a client?

JP: To be honest I reserve all the crazy stuff for us. Building turbo charged skis is a long process. Basically, pockets must be deep and there's no time frame. So much goes into building a custom ski since nothing we offer on turbo builds is off the shelf. Although we do have a few clients running around on some nice turbo skis, those clients are on a different level.

PR: For speed junkies itching to unleash the beast within their PWCs, what tips can you share that can take their ride from "meh" to mind-blowing?

JP: VENTILATION IS KEY! If you modify your machine, make sure it can breathe. My biggest tip is knowing your limit and don't go too crazy. As much as we want to build up every ski to its max, sometimes it's more enjoyable to stick with the more reserved setups and enjoy the water!

PR: You're like the PWC whisperer, ahead of the curve. How do you keep up with industry advancements? Is there a secret society of engine gurus, or do you have a direct line to the speed gods themselves?

JP: Ha, funny you mention that. We work directly with other shops and exchange tips and tricks together. A few heads are always more productive and smarter than one that's for sure. We wouldn't have come this far without the help and support from everyone who has a direct relationship with JP RACING.

I would like to thank my team for always grinding hard and climbing to new levels. I also thank everyone who supports JP RACING, INC.





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RIDING TOGETHER, INSPIRING TOMORROW:

ANNUAL NYC JET SKI INVASION



By: James Reichelt, Founder NYC Pirates | Photos: Zee Khan Picture Perfect, Princezee

The NYC Jet Ski Invasion event began in 2017 and has become the largest rideout in the country, with the purpose of bringing together jet ski teams and individual riders to foster camaraderie, create new friendships, and build a strong community of jet ski enthusiasts.

The NYC Jet Ski Invasion has a significant impact on the city, providing jet ski enthusiasts with an unforgettable experience allowing participants to enjoy New York City's numerous historic landmarks, such as the Brooklyn Bridge, Statue of Liberty, World Trade Center, and the Intrepid Museum, from the unique perspective of their own personal watercraft. This opportunity offers a thrilling and unparalleled way to explore and appreciate the beauty of the city, making it an exceptional and cherished experience.

Social media word of mouth contributed to the popularity of the event with close to 400 jet skis this year and growing. Riders came from New York, New Jersey, Philly, Massachusetts, Florida, New Hampshire, Virginia, Michigan, Connecticut, North Carolina, and Canada!

Being that we granted a permit, the Coast Guard, FDNY, NYPD and Jersey emergency vessels monitored and safely lead the way throughout the ride.

A challenge we faced involved navigating specific areas of the city and contending with rough waters, causing a few individuals to fall off their jet skis.

However, thanks to the expertise of skilled riders and invasion leaders, those who fell were promptly assisted back onto their jet skis.

Plans for NYC Pirates include expanding activities and events to foster unity among jet ski enthusiasts by hosting additional jet ski events throughout the year, providing opportunities for people to come together and share their passion for watercraft. To support these initiatives, NYC Pirates plans to seek more sponsors, to enhance the scale and quality of events.

Furthermore, we have a vision of involving children focusing on teaching them valuable skills. NYC Pirates aims to offer swimming lessons to kids, promoting water safety and confidence in the water and educate youngsters how to manage boats, imparting essential knowledge and fostering a responsible approach to water-based activities.

By implementing these plans, NYC Pirates seeks to create a stronger and more engaged community of jet ski enthusiasts, while also contributing to the development and well-being of young individuals through education and skill-building initiatives. **PR**





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