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# PRO RIDER™

WATERCRAFT MAGAZINE

## Jose Luis HERNANDEZ

### 142 MPH World Record

on BK Built Turbocharged  
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Cooled By Fizzle Racing Intercooler

**FIZZLE HYDRODRAGS**

**VIRTUAL FREESTYLE  
CHAMPIONSHIP**

**INTAKE GRATES 101**

**RIDER PROFILE MOUAD SALHI**

**VICTORIAN JETSKI/PWC  
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**FUTURE THREATS**

**JET SKI EXTRAVAGANZA**

**SEA-DOO 2024**

**JERSEY SHORE PWC RIDERS  
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"arigatou" Japanese word means "Thank you"

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Gold Coast Australia a Merry Fundraising Adventure for Kids in Care

Photo: Jeff Lakeford, Nautical Image



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Pro Racer



**Charles Guinchard**

Charles Guinchard  
Photography



**Claire Hartung**

Amateur Freestyle



**Dan Swartz**

Promoter  
WaveDaze



**Daniel Sanchez**

Sanchez  
Interpreters



**David Lando**

WFO Productions



**David Stewart**

Founder, Leading  
Edge Impellers



**Dawn Dawson**

President  
Reflections  
Advertising



**Dieter Quaghebeur**

Braapshots



**George Hammerbeck**

HammerSport  
Racing



**Gia Goetschel**

Nauti Girl Crew



**Greg Gaddis**

Greenhulk

191 WILSON ROAD • JACKSON, GA 30233  
WWW.PRORIDERMAG.COM

#### PUBLISHER & EDITORIAL DIRECTOR:

Michael Ratti  
michael@proridermag.com  
Australia +61 426 771 331

Cathy Ratti  
cathy@proridermag.com  
USA + 770.883.8356

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS & DISTRIBUTION:

Cathy Ratti  
cathy@proridermag.com  
USA +770.883.8356

#### GRAPHIC DESIGN:

Bailey Vasquez - Sutherland Printing

#### INTERN:

Sadie Mir

#### Subscription Services:

Email cathy@proridermag.com, call 770-883-8356, or write to Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine, 191 Wilson Road, Jackson, GA 30233. Please include name, address, and phone number on any inquiries. For change of address three weeks' notice is required.

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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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Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine  
DESIGNED AND PRINTED IN THE USA

Printed by Sutherland Printing



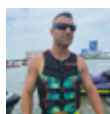
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in Care Australia



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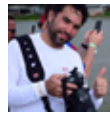
**Kenny Wong**

KDW Sports  
Photos



**Lewis Lipstone**

President  
West Coast  
Watercraft Club



**Manuel Valdes**

MVP Production



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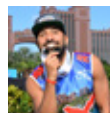
**Mark Rabe**

Minnesota Marks  
Customs



**Miguel Manghesi**

Test Director  
Nautical Events



**Mouad Salhi**

Pro Racer/Trainer  
US and World  
Champion



**Nam Ngo**

Founder,  
Out Here Fishing



**Paul Hewitt**

Founder,  
Virtual Freestyle  
Championship



**Richard Saunders**

Professional Free  
Spirit Recording  
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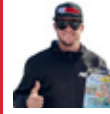
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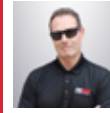
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US and World  
Champion  
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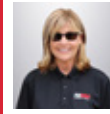
**Michael Ratti**

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Editorial Director



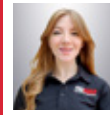
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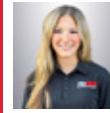
**Cathy Ratti**

Subscriptions &  
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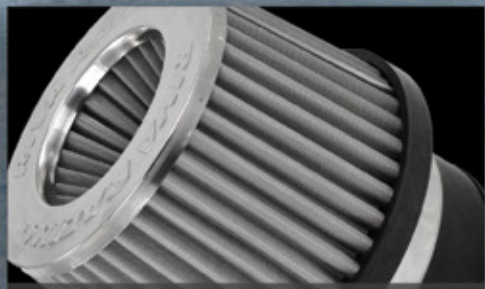
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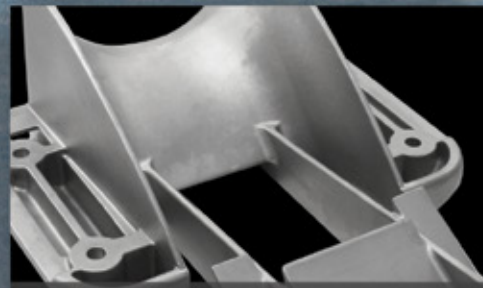
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## THE MONEY \$HOT

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

The January-February 2024 Kickoff Issue cover shot taken by highly skilled photographer Manuel Valdes goes to Jose Luis Hernandez of Miami, Florida. Jose, an expert driver, blazed across the water during the 2023 Fizzle HydroDrags at full throttle for around 4 seconds, just long enough to stamp a new Official World Record at 142 MPH! The run obliterated his previous World Record of 135 MPH. The sheer acceleration of this beastly machine had people in disbelief, in shock of what they just witnessed.



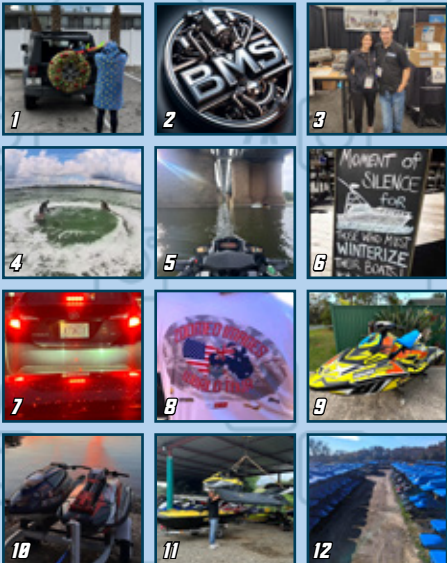
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JOSE LUIS HERNANDEZ 142 MPH

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4. Sonja Sawyer, Stephanie Witt-Hurr with members of Ski Riders of North Florida and Flagler Ski Riders at Matanzas Inlet, St. Augustine, Florida 13-year-old Kylie Meier's newly launched jet ski racing endeavors



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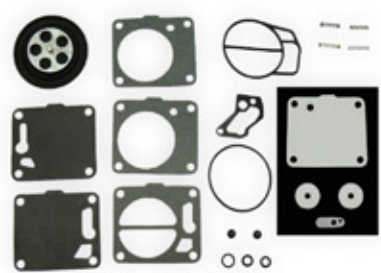
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# PRO RIDER

JANUARY / FEBRUARY

Welcome to the exciting kickoff issue of Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine for January-February 2024! We're thrilled to dive into the new year with an electrifying cover shot taken by Manual Valdes featuring record breaker Jose Luis Hernandez, the World's Fastest Man on Water.

We express our sincere gratitude to our loyal subscribers and valued advertisers. Your unwavering support has been the driving force behind the success of Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine, and we're truly thankful for the trust you place in us.

The year 2024 promises to be filled with phenomenal stories, heart-pounding adventures, and breathtaking images, captured by some of the greatest photographers in the world.

Thank you for being part of our incredible community, and here's to another year of wrenching and riding, adventure, high-speed thrills, incredible achievements, and unforgettable moments on the water!

Wishing you a fantastic start to the year! **PR**

Michael Ratti and the Pro Rider Team

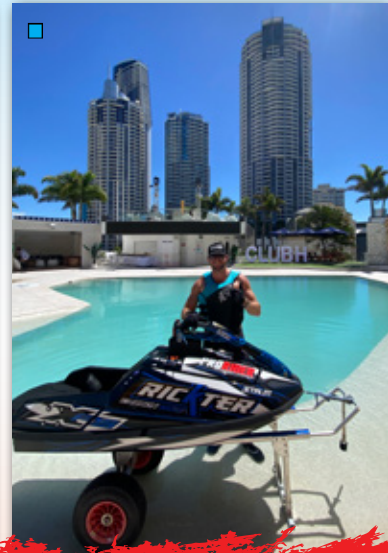
Instagram: @michael\_ratti



Cali Beach Club Shows at Surfers Paradise with Jetpack Entertainment & Events



PHOTOS: LUKE KENNY LMK MEDIA



**"DON'T BE AFRAID OF OPPOSITION. REMEMBER, A KITE RISES AGAINST, NOT WITH THE WIND."**  
- HAMILTON WRIGHT MABIE

Joy and Peace from our Family to Yours

PHOTO: MIKKI DAWSON PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTOS: KRYSTLE BRANT



Thunder Lake Stunt Team celebrating the holidays Thunder Lake Style

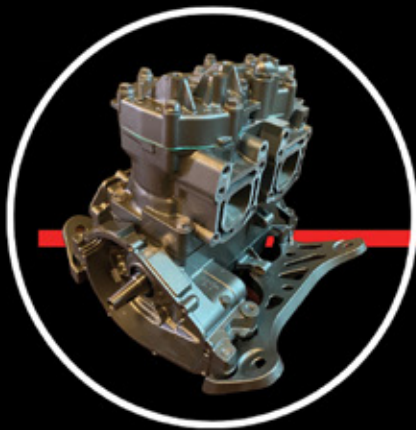


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## PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

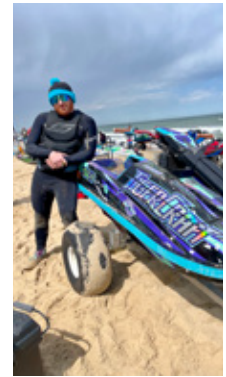
Congratulations to Kirk Olson, Minneapolis, Minnesota for submitting this winning photo with adorable 4-year-old daughter Keira taken at Prior Lake, Minnesota. Kirk will receive a set of Strapinno's Retractable Ratchet Straps from our great friends at Strapinno!



## WAVEDAZE PROPOSAL TO REMEMBER

Mel Jensen anticipated a proposal but was pleasantly surprised when it happened at Virginia Beach WaveDaze! Her fiancé,

longtime Freerider Josh Derham, proposed between sets of riding, and the excitement from their "freeride family" was truly incredible.



## A RISING STAR IN JET SKI RACING – CAROLINE MAAS, HENDERSONVILLE, TN

**Photos:** Taylor Funderburke Action Shots

**PRO RIDER:** Your rapid rise in the jet ski racing scene is impressive. You've only raced 3 times.

**CAROLINE MAAS:** I have 3 races under my belt so far. I started riding as a teenager, though only recently had the courage to pursue racing after attending Pro Watercross Nashville Invitational as a spectator. While sitting in the pits, I learned everything I could. After my first race in Chattanooga, I was hooked! My inspiration in short — my family and friends!

**PR:** Taking on top female competitor Sophie Francis in Spindale and securing a victory is a remarkable achievement. Can you describe the strategies that fueled your success in that race?

**CM:** I rode as hard and fast as I could, paid attention to the buoys without keeping track of Sophie's position on the course.

**PR:** Racing your 1100cc runabout in the 1800 open class securing a 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and 1st in class is a testament to your skill and determination. Walk us through the challenges you faced and how you managed to excel despite the odds.

**CM:** Racing against larger machines was intimidating and if I got stuck in their pump wash, I'd be toast. I did my best to avoid getting fire-hosed and keep them behind me in the turns. It took a lot of strength on the corners to edge out the bigger skis, but I concentrate on my breathing while racing, to maintain my stamina throughout and ride hard until the finish line.

**PR:** Beyond the racetrack, what are your favorite activities?

**CM:** I love being on the water and spend a lot of time leisure riding my Sea-Doo Wake Pro 230 on Old Hickory Lake.

I am a classically trained dancer, and dance for fun all the time. I enjoy SxS off-roading in the winter.

**PR:** Race preparation is key to success in any sport. Please share some insights into your race-day routine.

**CM:** Race day is still new to me; I'm still honing my pre-race routine. So far, it starts with meditation, a protein shake, pre-workout, music, and a little jumping around and dancing. Dancing gets my body loose and warmed up, enhances focus, and boosts energy levels for the race.

**PR:** What are your plans for 2024?

**CM:** I plan on practicing and running buoys and am eager to get to as many races as possible and securing sponsors to be able to do so and expand my presence in the jet sport racing community.



PHOTO: GLENN ELLIOT

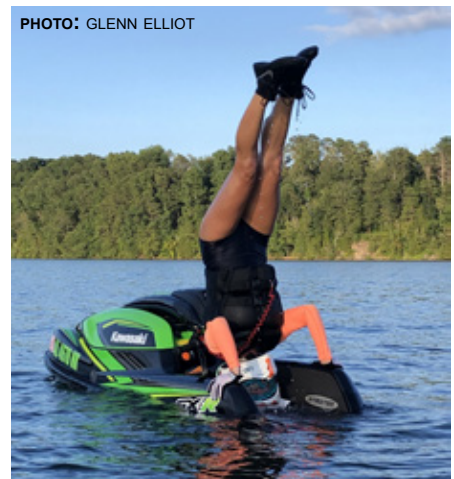


PHOTO: GEORGE HERNANDEZ PHOTOGRAPHY



## FROM HYDRODRAGS TO 'I DO': CHAMPION RACERS ANGELICA GONZALEZ AND CHRIS CAPUTO TIE THE KNOT

Professional racers and longtime sweethearts Angelica Gonzalez and Chris Caputo were married at the Howey Mansion in Howey in the Hills, FL. Shared Angelica, "interesting how that came about, as the only reason I knew about the mansion was from passing it on the way to the HydroDrags in Tavares. It's 5 minutes from the race site. Every time my family drove to the races, we admired it though it was abandoned at the time. Years later, it's a wedding venue! It seemed sentimental since me and Chris met at the races." Caputo is planning on opening a jet ski shop near their new home in Dade County.

"Plans for 2024 include lots of new jet skis for various classes in the HydroDrags and merging my jet ski life with his as he grows his business here in Florida. Very excited to see what life has in store for us!" said Angelica.



PHOTO: MANUAL VALDES



PHOTO: RABECA CRUZ PHOTOGRAPHY

## JET SKI EXTRAVAGANZA AND TREASURE HUNT

Submitted by: Mark Rabe, Minnesota Mark's Custom 550z

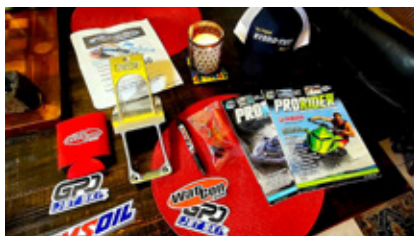
Photos: George Hammerbeck, HammerSport Racing; Richard Saunders



Extravaganza Recap by HammerSport Films

The Jet Ski Extravaganza, initiated in 2022 as a local season-end gathering, saw remarkable growth in 2023 with generous contributions from key businesses in the jet ski community. Notable donors included Rhaas, GPO, Watcon, Impros, Jettrim, PJS, Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine, Hydro-Turf, Cometic, Pro Watercraft, Showtime Freestyle, 27/50, Paul Lehr, Travis Maahs, HammerSport Films, and Minnesota Mark's Custom 550z. The event featured a thrilling 6-check point treasure hunt, challenging participants to uncover the identity of a pivotal figure in jet ski history — Larry Rippenkroeger.

Hosted in Clermont, Florida, the competition drew 30 riders with diverse watercraft, all vying for cash prizes and the coveted 'Piston Cup' for ultimate bragging rights. Piston Cup Team Winners: Jennifer & Richard Edmondson, Zak Azodi, and Morgan Salber.



PISTON CUP AWARD

## GET READY FOR THE 2024 ANNUAL SWIMSUIT ISSUE!

The highly-anticipated annual swimsuit issue is just around the corner, and we're inviting all swimsuit models and photographers to submit their stunning pictures! Don't miss the chance to be featured in this special edition — send your submissions to michael@proridermag.com, and we can't wait to see the incredible talent.



PLEASE ENJOY THIS ISSUE'S 'LETTER TO THE EDITOR' IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH!

## DEAR PRO RIDER WATERCRAFT MAGAZINE,

My name is Dan Sanchez; I am 48 years young, my father is from Puerto Rico, my mom is from Venezuela; my heart is divided into half Arepa and Mofongo try them.

I live in Seminole County and work as a Certified Medical and Legal Interpreter. I love my job. My superpower is to be a bridge between people **"Words travel worlds, and interpreters do the driving"**. Due to the nature of my work in hospitals and courts, I often interpret challenging situations, especially for parents of critically ill children. After hours of assignments and patients, one becomes frustrated and overwhelmed. One of my hobbies and passions is riding my motorcycle, clearing my mind, enjoying the air and nature. For a long time, I have been unable to enjoy my passion, too many people are distracted with their phones; one can see people driving for miles, at high speed. Working as a legal interpreter, I see many cases due to accidents caused by distracted drivers. *I said to myself 'no more'.*

I found the wonder of jet skis. I already knew them in my home country; I had a Kawasaki 1100. Here in the USA, it is different; there is freedom also security; we have found brotherhood in several places, one of them being the Nauti Girl Crew's invitation to their annual Halloween Ride, they opened their arms in friendship, and we felt almost like family.

Florida's waterways are incredible, the rivers and beaches are amazing, and even more, I don't have the constant fear of a distracted driver killing me.

I came across Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine, and I read and learned a lot. I see the groups, the articles, and the best products. My wife is fascinated by this new hobby. She said, *when are we buying one for me?* Now, I own a Yamaha FX HO Cruiser.

With my subscription to Pro Rider, I wait for each edition to see rides, groups, and new products for my PWC. Thank you Pro Rider, excellent job!

Now, I have a new passion for enjoying and unwinding, meet new groups and make new friends.



## ESTIMADOS PRO RIDER WATERCRAFT MAGAZINE

Mi nombre es Dan Sanchez, tengo 48 años; mi padre es de Puerto Rico, mi mamá de Venezuela, mi corazón dividido mitad Arepa y la otra Mofongo pruébalos.

Vivo en el condado de Seminole y trabajo intérprete médico y legal certificado. Amo mi trabajo. Mi superpoder es ser un puente entre las personas: **"Las palabras viajan mundos, los intérpretes son los que manejan"**. Debido a la naturaleza de mi trabajo en hospitales y tribunales, a menudo interpreto situaciones muy difíciles, especialmente para padres de niños gravemente enfermos. Después de horas de asignaciones y pacientes, uno se frustra y se siente abrumado. Uno de mis pasatiempos y pasión es manejar motocicleta despejar la mente disfrutar el aire las vistas y naturaleza. Desde hace un buen tiempo ya no puedo disfrutar mi pasión como antes, hay demasiadas personas manejando distraídas con sus teléfonos; se puede ver a personas conduciendo por millas, a gran velocidad. Trabajando como interprete legal, veo muchos casos de accidentes por conductores distraídos. *Dije "no más"*

Descubrí la maravilla de las motos acuáticas. Ya las conocía en mi país de origen; tenía una Kawasaki 1100. Aquí en los Estados Unidos, es diferente; hay libertad y también seguridad; hemos encontrado hermandad en varios lugares, uno de ellos es la invitación del Nauti Girl Crew en su paseo anual de Halloween, abrieron sus brazos en amistad y nos sentimos casi como en familia.

Las vías fluviales de Florida son increíbles, los ríos y playas son asombrosos, y lo que es más importante, no tengo el temor constante de un conductor distraído que me pueda matar.

Me encontré con la Revista Pro Rider Watercraft y leí y aprendí mucho. Veo los grupos, los artículos y los mejores productos. A mi esposa le fascina este nuevo hobby. Ella dijo, *¿cuándo compramos uno para mí?* Ahora, poseo un Yamaha FX HO Cruiser.

Con mi suscripción a Pro Rider, espero cada edición para ver paseos, grupos y nuevos productos para mi moto acuática. Gracias Pro Rider, ¡excelente trabajo!

Ahora, tengo una nueva pasión para disfrutar y relajarme, conocer nuevos grupos y hacer nuevos amigos.

**Dan Sanchez,**  
Altamonte Springs, Florida  
Daniel@SanchezInterpreters.com





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PRO FREESTYLE LEGEND AND MULTI NATIONAL AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE HOLDER

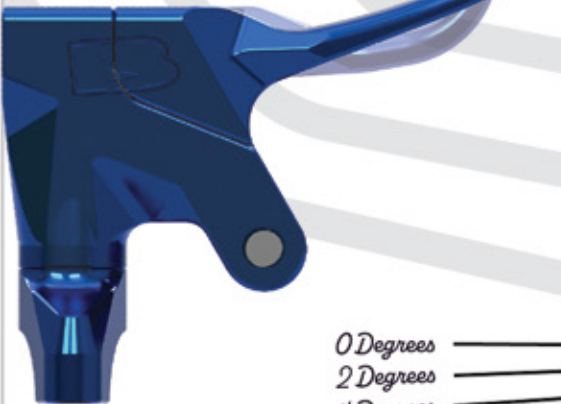
HOMETOWN: Clearwater, Florida | LOCATION: St. Pete, Florida - P1AquaX 2019 | PHOTO: Jessica Waters

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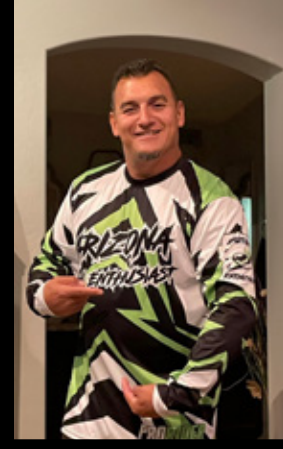
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1 & 2 FINGER MODELS



ONE LEVER  
5 ADJUSTABLE POSITIONS

0 Degrees  
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4 Degrees  
6 Degrees  
8 Degrees





# REVDUP APPAREL

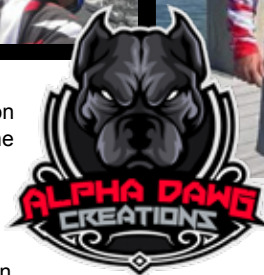
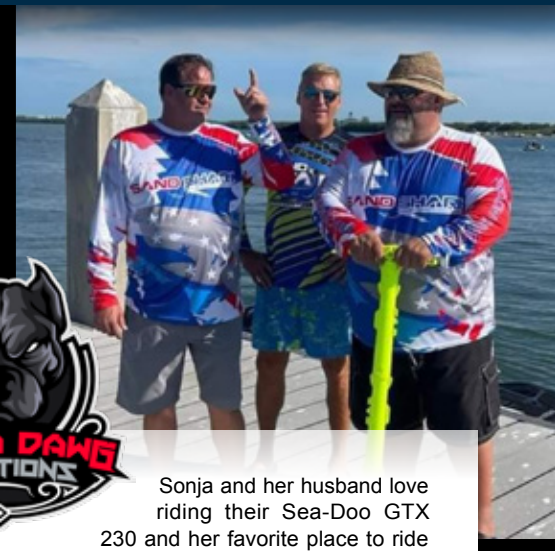
# REV UP YOUR STYLE: INTRODUCING REVDUP APPAREL

**R**evdUp Apparel is a family collaboration between brother and sister, Don Douglas and Sonja Sawyer. Both raised in the apparel printing business as kids, now as adults, bring their respective skill sets together to provide professional customized apparel to the jet ski and professional service communities.

In speaking with the leadership of the different clubs, they expressed a common message for the need of quality apparel for their membership but did not want the hassle of managing the process. It seemed to be a perfect match. The RevdUp Apparel line was created. RevdUp Apparel currently provides design, creation, hosting, and fulfillment for four (4) jet ski clubs in the United States.

Sonja shared, "the growth since we started has been at a pace that has really allowed us to refine our process. We want to provide a quality product that is customized to the customers vision, not ours."

Sonja, no stranger to the jet ski community, living in Middleburg, Florida, is an active member of the Ski Riders of North Florida and the owner of Alpha Dawg, a specialty products company specializing in apparel, engraving and embroidery products. She has a background in art and graphic design and heads up all interactions between customer, artist, and printer to ensure the customer's vision is brought to print.



When asked about the inspiration behind the designs, Don said, "the RevdUp Apparel process is a personal experience from start to completion. We meet one on one with the customer to get their ideas and then we work between the customer and the art team until the customer is happy. Our printing process bucks the traditional restrictions. Silkscreen and heat transfer methods are limited to specific locations (chest, back, sleeve), but printing 360 we can take your custom high-resolution design and place it all over the shirt. We call it 360-degree printing. Add spf protection and moisture wicking technology and you have that quality, professional RevdUp apparel."

Sonja and her husband love riding their Sea-Doo GTX 230 and her favorite place to ride is anywhere on the St. Johns River. On her bucket list is the ride to the Bahamas, and no doubt one day she will make it happen!

RevdUp Apparel will be a lot more visible in the 2024 season. They are in the process of designing and printing brand banners and tents and plan to attend as many events as possible to provide a more visible presence and support for the jet ski community.



# REVDUP APPAREL

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## Confederación Sudamericana de Motonáutica



The 9<sup>th</sup> South American IJSBA took place in the city of Encarnación, department of Itapúa, Paraguay, organized by the CSDM, South American Confederation of Motorboating in December 2023. This event was attended by the best pilots from Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina, Peru, Colombia, and Chile. The format of the South American consists of circuit, oval and endurance f1 and f2. On this occasion, Brazil won the championship and Peru was its escort. We thank all the participating teams, governors, and sponsors, and especially Mrs. Amy Green of Canada, the appointed Race Director of the event and always honors us with her presence. Thank you, Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine, for your support. **PR**

### CHAMPION AT 15:

### PARAGUAY'S EDGARDO DARIO BRITTO INSAURREALDE SHINES IN 2023

**EDGARDO DARIO BRITTO INSAURREALDE** of Paraguay began his sports career in Motonáutica at the National level in 2022, competing in the minor category the 650 cc 2t; that same year he was consecrated Paraguayan National Vice-Champion of that category. In 2023, his second season of competition, he has already climbed the category (Aspirated) where he is Paraguayan National Champion at the age of 15 in two modalities: \* Aspirated Open circuit \*Aspirated Open oval race. In his last participation in December, 2023 he had the privilege of representing Paraguay in the South American Jet Ski Championship where he obtained the achievements of South American Vice Champion Turbo Expert F2 (Endurance); South American Vice Champion Aspirated Motorcycle Expert (Runabout Circuit); South American Vice-Champion Aspirated Motorcycle Expert (Oval race).

**Spectacular Racing Action:**  
South American Confederation of Motorboating's Event  
**Story and photos:** Miguel Manghesi, Test Director Nautical Events; Luis Alder CSDM President



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# BREAKING RECORDS AT THE 2023 FIZZLE RACING HYDRODRAGS!

By: James Blanch, Owner Fizzle Racing  
Photos: Manuel Valdes MVP Production



Racing Sea-Doo 325, the world's first to be unleashed with a standalone ECU from FuelTech, or the 1-day old 2024 FuelTech Yamaha 1.9 Liter FX SVHO equipped with the same!

The two-day HydroDrags event unfolded at Lions Park, Lake Alfred, Florida. With an unexpected cold front brewing, weather conditions took a turn for the worse, turning the event into a battle of rider skill and rapid last minute mechanical adjustments. With parts being swapped through the night in hotel parking lots and tuners dialing in setups minutes before the race, the action did not disappoint. As the wind blew harder and the waves rolled in higher by the minute, the crowd watched eagerly as four classes of watercraft and their riders (Pro Stock, Pro Spec, SuperStock and Unlimited) battled it out for all the glory, earning the title and exclusive spot at the top of the podium along with cash prizes and prizes from companies including FuelTech, Riva Racing, WaveDek Miami, Broward Motorsports Racing, Jettribe Racing, and Millennium Custom Wheels.

Pro Stock Class kicked off with strong competition from familiar faces and newcomers. After running up and down through the winner's and loser's brackets, the final race came down to two young guns lining up on the launchpad to go head-to-head - HydroDrag rookie, World Champion closed course racer from Kuwait, Rashed Aldawas, on his Fizzle Racing Sea-Doo RXP 300 built by Calas Performance, versus the 5-time HydroDrags World Champion Angelica Gonzalez on her Angelica Racing Yamaha FZR. After a tough battle and mechanical issues on both skis, Rashed edged a narrow victory undefeated on his way to his first HydroDrags Championship trophy!

Spec Class was next with a Calas built Sea-Doo RXP, driven by Harold Ramos, racing to the top of the competition. Later the ski was disqualified for a throttle body rules violation allowing Omar Maldonado to elevate to the top of podium after a fierce showing of mechanical talent and rider ability aboard his supercharged Yamaha FZS.



PHOTO: FUELTECH

**T**he 2023 Fizzle Racing HydroDrags World Finals were a record setting affair! What a storybook beginning for new Race Director, Billy Tew and new Title Sponsor, Fizzle Racing, with Jose Luis Hernandez making history again. What began 15 years ago as a grassroots movement in the tiny C-54 Canal in Sebastian, Florida, has turned into a full-blown drag racing spectacle drawing spectators and racers from around the globe!

In 2008 when Tim Mc Kercher first created the concept, later passing the torch to Mikey Young in an era that lasted a full decade, this level of evolution in the sport would have been unfathomable. The top speeds and pure acceleration these watercraft are achieving, along with cutting-edge industry-leading innovation available for spectators to take in are truly a sight to behold.

Roaming the pits had us close and personal with BK Built's World's Fastest Personal Watercraft, the FuelTech compound supercharged and turbocharged PWC, the 1-week-old 2024 Fizzle

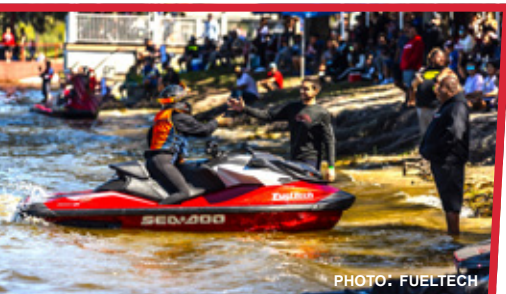


PHOTO: FUELTECH







Second place went to HydroDrags rookie Carlos Perez of CP Racing in South Florida, a top builder in his own right, with multiple recreational turbocharged watercraft coming from his shop exceeding the 120+ MPH barrier.

The Speed Alley competition was one for the record books! As 15 MPH winds caused waves to crescendo into white caps, Jose Luis Hernandez of BK Built risked life and limb to go full send mode with more than 65 PSI of boost plus nitrous on the way to one-upping himself in a big way. Jose blazed across the water full throttle for 4 seconds, long enough to stamp a new Official World Record at 142 MPH aboard his turbo nitrous equipped Yamaha GP1800R, obliterating his previous World Record of 135 MPH. Joel Villa, CRT Racing followed next with a solid showing at 132 MPH - also on a Yamaha GP1800R. Drama ensued following Speed Alley as the top two teams called each other out to an anytime, anywhere Street Grudge Race. Eventually CRT Racing forfeited the race to BK Built unable to get their watercraft properly prepared for the showdown. Enthusiasts are eagerly waiting to see if the race will happen in the future. Once cooler heads prevailed, HydroDrags Speed Alley rounded out with Carlito Del Valle, owner at CRT Racing, achieving 105 MPH on a Spec Class Yamaha GP1800R, just shy of the 106 MPH record held by Cuco Performance.

Drag racing continued with the SuperStock Class, where racers are allowed to do nearly any modifications to their watercraft other than turbocharging or nitrous injection. In the end, most of the horsepower proved counterproductive due to water conditions. Reliability and rough water hookup became the recipe for success as Harold Ramos avenged his earlier disqualification by taking the SuperStock title on his Sea-Doo RXP! In true Cinderella story fashion, rookie Rashed Aldawas drove the Fizzle Racing Pro Stock RXP to second, solidifying a one-two finish at the top of the SuperStock Class podium for the two Calas built Sea-Doo RXPs.



"I personally want to say "thank you" for everyone that came and supported the event. Big thanks to Fizzle Racing, FuelTech, DDR Performance, Pro Valve Racing, Riva Racing, AquaSport Performance, Racer H2O, and the City of Lake Alfred for having us. Would like to shoutout my other half, KD Eastridge, for being there countless hours before and during the race to make it run successfully. Thank you to our sanctioning body, the American Jet Sports Association, for being onsite providing expert guidance and support! Keep an eye out via QuadlifeEntertainment.com and Instagram @Hydrodrags\_official for exciting updates for what's in store for the 2024 race schedule!"

— BILLY TEW, Race Director



Unlimited Class drag racing rounded out the schedule with fireworks as riders tried to manage their 800+ HP turbo nitrous watercraft as they bounced through waves down the length of the eighth mile racecourse, hoping to avoid hurting the engine or themselves. In the end Carlito Del Valle of CRT Racing added another trophy to his extensive drag racing award collection as he raced down the track to victory with grit and determination aboard a turbo and nitrous equipped Yamaha GP1800R! In the final race of the day, he topped underdog Rashed Aldawas on the Pro Stock Sea-Doo RXP, who ended with a second-place finish after being eliminated by Carlito.

I'd like to thank everyone who made this event possible, especially the racers who pour their heart and soul, their time and sacrifices, the risks to their safety, their finances, and reputations for the sake of the ultimate competition towards our shared passion and community camaraderie. **PR**



PHOTO: FUELTECH





# FROM UNDERDOG TO TOP DOG

In an industry dominated by major shops with lengthy lists of clientele and seemingly endless bankrolls, led by alpha male personalities who are driven by competition and the spoils that come from victory, one speed king has risen to the top of the game. Brian Kirchberger of BK Built is that man, AC technician by day, jetski superhero by night, Brian has been the brains and magic behind the World's Fastest PWC since 2016 and continues to accomplish the impossible out of his humble 2-car garage. His tuning ability and mechanical knowledge are responsible for the last 7 consecutive World Records for Fastest Personal Watercraft in the World.

While naysayers were calling the current World's Fastest Ski a "one-hit-wonder" that would never reach the 135 MPH record speed again achieved in the summer of 2020, BK had already secretly consulted on a Cuco Performance street race build



By: James Blanch, Owner Fizzle Racing  
Photos: Mauel Valdes, MVP Production

that also reached the 135 MPH mark in testing. More than two years later, with rumors of other shops aiming at a chance to beat the record, it was time to dust off the World's Fastest Ski. It was time to shock the world again. This time owner/driver Jose Luis Hernandez a.k.a. World's Fastest Man on Water and builder/tuner Brian a.k.a. BK Built locked in on a new goal — breaking the 140 MPH barrier!

Fast forward to October 15th, 2023, Lions Park, Lake Alfred, Florida. With an unfortunate turn in the weather and 15 MPH winds kicking up waves into white caps, Jose Luis Hernandez of BK Built risked life and limb to go 'full send mode' with more than 65 PSI of boost plus nitrous on the way to one-upping himself in a big way. Jose blazed across the water at full throttle for around 4 seconds, just long enough to stamp a new Official World Record at 142 MPH. The run obliterated his previous World Record of 135 MPH. Not only that, the sheer acceleration of this beastly machine had people in disbelief, starting to doubt their own eyes and in shock of what they just witnessed.

This watercraft is truly on a level above anything else ever created.



Here's a rundown of what has changed since the 135 MPH run in 2020:

- The stock exhaust manifold was swapped out for a dry exhaust header.
- The stock cast intake manifold was changed to a billet intake manifold, capable of running dual injectors per cylinder to keep up with the demands of the new methanol fuel setup that replaced the old E-85 setup.
- The turbo size was upped from the previous 72mm turbo that was rated for 1200 HP to one that is now rated for 1300+ HP.
- The oil pan was changed to the high-volume billet aluminum oil pan created by Anderson Dick at FuelTech and a FuelTech ECU replaced the outgoing MoTeC ECU.

What hasn't changed is the hull which is still untouched as far as any weight reduction, still running the factory cast cylinder head, engine block, crankshaft, and oil pump, plus the large Fizzle SuperCooler intercooler, mechanical fuel pump and custom pitched jet pump impeller.

Keep a lookout for this ski because, rumor has it, the BK Built team has their eye on a new goal! **PR**



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“Rotax is in love with the water. I started him at a young age, and he is also crazy for stand-up paddle boarding. He now weighs 66 pounds and definitely needs a life jacket as **Bulldogs** are shaped like a brick and sink :-). I only take him on the perfect days, if he had his way, he would join me on every outing. I think the big attraction for the FISHPRO he knows when it's in use, he is in for his favourite meal on the dinner menu being fresh Snapper!”

**Andrew Hill Andrew**  
Hill Adventure Fishing | New Zealand



PWC Doctor **Chris Cialdella's** pup **Rider, Springer/Lab mix** aka 'street hound' trying to get Paul Lehr's attention at the 2023 World Finals in Lake Havasu.

**Nikki Dunagan, Palm Bay, Florida** is featured with **Sophie**, a 7-year-old Lab mix. “She’s a water dog, whether we’re on a PWC, boat or kayak, she’s always excited to be on the water. We ride out in the Indian River by Grant-Valkaria Islands and Sebastien Inlet,” shared Nikki.



**Jake Gluszek, Westmont, Illinois**, is pictured with riding buddy good girl 10-month-old **Penelope** a Labrador/Dalmatian Mix rescue from the West Suburban Humane society. “She loves fun in the sun and cooling off on the boat after playing with her friends on the sandbar all day. Our lake is Lake Wisconsin, Penny was 4 months old in these photos loving every minute of the water,” said Jake. Also pictured is Jake with **Punkin**, Terrier Mix who is also a rescue.





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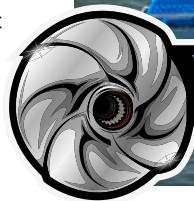
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## CRAFTING PRECISION: The Art and Science of Leading Edge Impellers



### LEADING EDGE IMPELLERS

In this exclusive interview, we delve into the dynamic world of personal watercraft impellers with David Stewart, the founder of Leading Edge Impellers and an industry veteran with over 35 years of experience.

**PRO RIDER:** Please share the inspiration behind Leading Edge Impellers and the journey from previous ventures to this new endeavor?

**DAVID STEWART:** My passion for jet skiing sprouted in 1986, my first ski was a Kawasaki 440, and being part of the development team working for Skat-Trak at the time (a world-renowned impeller manufacturer). Through the '90's, I gained professional experience with the design, testing, manufacturing, and development of newer, more efficient impellers. But I saw a void in quality impeller service and qualified sales, so I founded Impros in 1999. Over the next 20 years, I became one of Skat-Trak and Solas' largest dealers, developed the Hooker line of impellers, and continued to provide expert service to everyone from weekend warriors to professional racers.

A few years ago, I had a health scare that freaked me out leading to drastic changes, including selling Impros. After some regret and a lot of prayer, I realized I can't put the brakes on my life. Long-time customers and friends convinced me to utilize my 35+ years of impeller expertise and build another business doing what I love and in 2022, Leading Edge Impellers was born. I bought all new equipment, fixtures, and tooling, and have built an informative and easy to use website featuring a vehicle search, and full line of Solas products and custom PWC and jet boat applications based on my years of testing and tuning impellers.

While much has changed since 1986, Leading Edge was established to provide the highest quality personal watercraft and jet boat impeller solutions available.

**PR:** With over 35 years of experience, what key lessons have you learned in the personal watercraft industry, and what are you most proud of regarding your career and current business?

**DS:** I've learned that there are followers, and there are leaders in this industry. As leaders in impeller design, we're constantly seeing other "pro's" following our every step with our custom impellers, and many design aspects of our website, and using it as their own ideas. Hopefully our customers will see who the leaders are and choose us as their #1 source for impellers & services.

I'm proud that I took that giant leap back in '99 and started a business from scratch, building a very recognizable name in the industry, that was viable, and strong enough to draw buyers. I'm hoping that experience will lead me to push Leading Edge to the next level, with expanded athlete support, and do as much as we can to give back to the sport.

**PR:** Your background includes being part of the development team at Skat-Trak and founding Impros in 1999. How have these experiences shaped the company's commitment to providing high-quality impeller service and sales at Leading Edge?

**DS:** Those experiences mean everything to me. Ken and Diane Stuart (Skat-Trak) opened the door for me to learn and grow in this amazing industry, and I will forever be grateful to them.

The experience and knowledge gained over the years working for Skat-Trak and running Impros 20 years taught me to prioritize customer service and satisfaction right up there with the ability to provide the highest quality custom impellers and service possible. As part of that priority, LEI quality checks each impeller sold for correct and accurate pitch and balance and offers our exclusive "Perfect Pitch Guarantee" so our customer either loves their impeller or can return it for a free repitch to tune it for their specific application.

**PR:** Could you highlight milestones in your journey, such as developing the Hooker line of impellers and organizing the successful BBSD event?

**DS:** Shortly after founding Impros, I developed the Hooker line of impellers, which at the time was a game changer for freestyle skis. Now, with our Pro-Tuned Solas impellers, we're still providing top performing impellers for freestyle enthusiasts. Many years of designing, testing and tuning impellers is behind the immediate success of Leading Edge Impellers. We have the most extensive line of jet boat impellers available anywhere and custom Pro-Tuned impellers specific for each model of jet boat available. Our custom tuned "twin" impeller set up is changing the late model jet boat's ability to hit and maintain surf speeds and drastically improve low end grunt.

With the help of friends, family, and sponsors, we put on a jetski event for ten years straight in Blythe, CA, Blythe Bound Smack Down

(BBSD) a hugely successful customer appreciation event on the Colorado River. Year after year, BBSD drew a great group of people that truly felt like family.

**PR:** Please share your favorite equipment and riding locations; additionally, we understand you and your wife produce an outdoor travel vlog 'Choose Outside', we'd love to hear more about it!

**DS:** I am a standup rider at heart. My favorite is the new 4-stroke Superjet, and my SXR 800. If I'm not on a standup, you'll find me enjoying time on the Colorado River and Lake Havasu surfing and wake boarding behind the Yamaha 255X jetboat.

When not doing water sports or mountain biking, you'll find us hiking in the mountains. My wife and I got the golden ticket to hike the World-Famous John Muir Trail, so we started a YouTube channel, Choose Outside by vlogging our JMT hike in 2019. That 3-week backpacking trip was an adventure of a lifetime. We have been hiking, biking, jet skiing and paddling since the 1980's, and have hours of footage and decided to share our adventures on Choose Outside - it's a lot of fun, but making videos takes a lot of time!

**PR:** Any announcements for 2024?

**DS:** This year, we'll be partnering with SBT to support their effort to serve racers and high-performance enthusiasts with their Adonis line of impellers. Leading Edge will be doing the custom tuning, final machining and balancing for their customers in need of anything beyond the impellers they stock. Combined with SBT's support of the World Finals and other events, we're hoping to fill the void left by Skat-Trak in the high-performance market and supply racers with custom options.

Leading Edge has an exciting new product we'll be introducing later this year. I'll have to leave it at that for now though.

It's a bit scary starting over, but the amount of support and kind words I've received from family and close friends make me feel like I have the whole world by my side. Cheers to a rad new venture!

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# REVVING UP THE FUN:

## PRO RIDER TAKES A SPIN ON THE LATEST SEA-DOO WATERCRAFT AT BEAVER LAKE

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**P**ro Rider was invited to have some fun on one of the premier lakes in the southern Ozark region, Beaver Lake, Bentonville, Arkansas where Pro Rider Photo Journalist Charles Guinchard and other media representatives had the opportunity to experience new 2024 Sea-Doo watercraft and pontoons. **PR**

### PRESS RELEASE

*Valcourt, Quebec, Canada, August 20, 2023 BRP Inc. (TSX: DOO; NASDAQ: DOOO) continues to push the boundaries to create unforgettable memories on water, with the model year 2024 Sea-Doo and Manitou product lineups. Sea-Doo is revving up the waves with the next generation of the iconic Spark, adding thoughtful new comfort, convenience, and styling updates. For adrenaline seekers who love the thrill of acceleration, the new class leading 325 hp Sea-Doo RXP-X/ RXT-X and the 300hp Sea-Doo GTR-X deliver phenomenal performance. In the pontoon category, the award-winning Sea-Doo Switch, which took the world by storm two years ago, now offers enhanced comfort and convenience as well as upgraded technologies in the new Sea-Doo Switch Cruise Limited. After revolutionizing the pontoon boating on-board experience last year, the Manitou lineup adds dual Rotax S150 outboard engines with Stealth Technology, including iDock joystick piloting to the Explore model.*

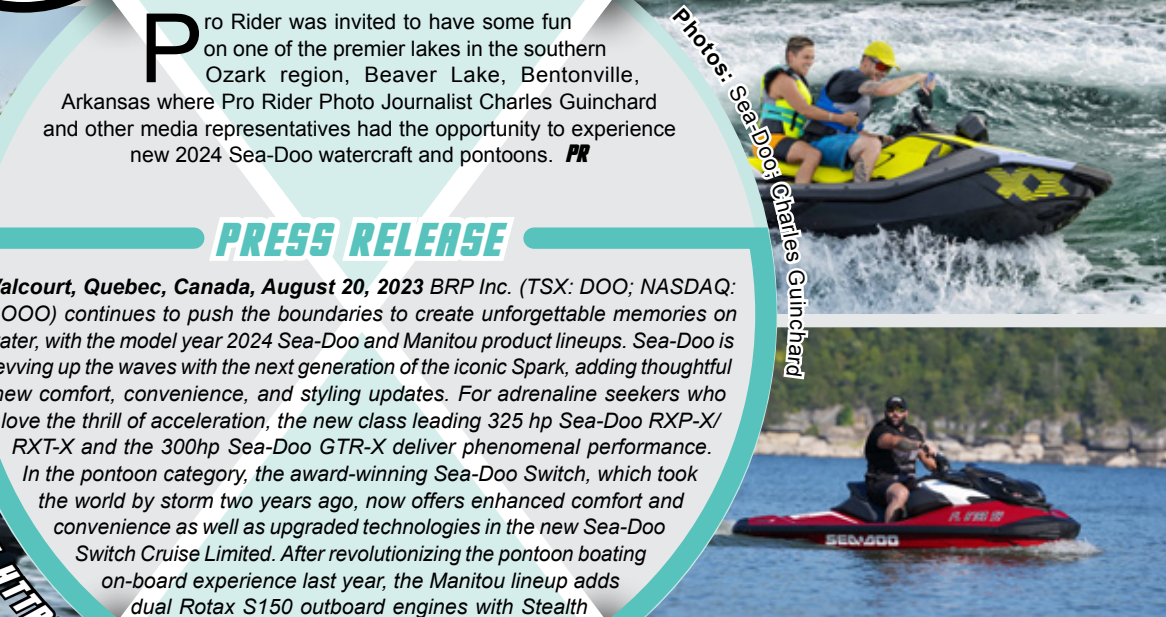
Photos: Sea-Doo / Charles Guinchard

SEE THE FULL 2024 LINEUP AT [HTTP://SEA-DOO.BRP.COM/US/EN/](http://SEA-DOO.BRP.COM/US/EN/).



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**VJSBA**, known as Victorian Jet Sport Boating Association in the early 1980s, was formed by some passionate riders on the early Kawasaki Js550s/440s. One of the founding fathers for the state of Victoria (southern state of Australia) was John Youings. John was president for 10 years from the middle 80s to around 1996/97. A family man and small business owner, John paved the way for PWC closed course racing in Victoria let alone Australia, his name is widely known throughout the country with past generations of PWC racers of the 80s/90s era.

The club continued until the early 2000s to early 2010s and had an almost 10-year hiatus from closed course racing.

Current president Alex Youings stepped in around 2019 and proved he could resume PWC closed course racing in the state of Victoria.

Alex is a 2nd generation racer/ rider. His roots of PWC riding lie in surf riding, however in 2017 he gave closed course racing a go in New South Wales ( NSW PWC) racing his Kawasaki 800sxr. From then on, he caught the bug for racing and has enjoyed every race meet he has attended while also helping fellow clubs in Australia.

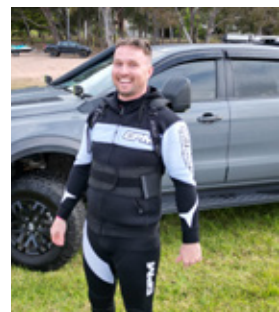


*Victorian Jetski Boating Association*

**REVITALIZING RACING:  
VJSBA'S RETURN TO THE TRACK!**



Shared Alex, "With the challenges in the state of Victoria being known for multiple regulations and higher standard of safety regulations than most states, our club, along with committee support, former racers as well as current Pro racers, achieved the club's first closed course race since 2011 in early 2021 at Kangaroo Lake, Victoria, 4 hours NW of Melbourne the capital of Victoria. With the success of our first race meet with 25 entered riders our club has slowly grown year by year and growing. In the last 2 years of racing returning in Victoria the club has successfully presented 5 events; things haven't been easy but that's part of the challenges we face together for our passion of PWC racing. We've gained many new opportunities and experiences with industry related sponsors as well as businesses willing to support us to run our events. We look forward to the future and what it brings to our sport in Victoria!" **PR**



**2024 RACE CALENDER**

1. GDBC PWC Race Weekend + AJSBA national tour stop  
DATE: February 10th/11th 2024

2. GDBC PWC Race Weekend  
DATE: March 9th/10th 2024

3. Kangaroo Lake pwc race weekend  
DATE: March 30th/31st 2024  
Was planned to be 13th/14th of April, but the AJSBA NSW PWC tour stop is this weekend.

4. GDBC PWC Race Weekend September 2024  
DATE: TBD

5. GDBC PWC Race Weekend October or November 2024 DATE: TBD

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# Jet Skis & Generosity:

Nautical Image  
PHOTOGRAPHY

## A Merry Fundraising Adventure for Christmas Presents for Kids in Care

By: Jane Padden, Founder | Photos: Jeff Lakeford Nautical Image

**C**hristmas Presents for Kids in Care was founded in 2014, blooming from a simple conversation between founder, Jane Padden and a customer who worked in child safety. The charity has provided over 2200 presents for children in residential care due to being victims of child abuse all over south-east Queensland, Australia. Christmas Presents for Kids in Care is a year-round charity that works tirelessly to raise funds through events such as sausage sizzles, trivia nights, Guinness World Record attempts and their annual Santas on jet skis ride.



**For Kids in Care**

This year's popular Santa Ride fund raiser on the Gold Coast Broadwater from Biggera Waters Beach to Surfers Paradise proved to be a resounding success, although we experienced a slight dip in attendance, likely due to the prevailing economic climate. Despite this, the event raised over \$5,000 AUD and we enjoyed an exhilarating day on the water, led by the KoKoMo cruise boat with our distinguished VIPs on board. Adding to the spectacle, a sleek jetcar glided gracefully across the water, drawing considerable admiration. The sight of numerous onlookers emerging onto their balconies, enthusiastically waving and cheering, along with the warm reception from people on the bridges we passed under, made the experience truly memorable. **PR**



cruising the

watch Santas



Gold Coast

Video: @picturesbymlz



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO GET INVOLVED,  
PLEASE VISIT [WWW.FORKIDSINCARE.ORG.AU](http://WWW.FORKIDSINCARE.ORG.AU).



Photo:  
@picturesbymlz



## INTAKE GRATES -101

**W**ater, by way of jet thrust, is what propels your personal watercraft. The jet drive draws water into a large inlet underneath your craft and forces it out at high speed through the nozzle at the rear. When the first Jet Ski was produced in 1976, the primary purpose of the intake grate was to protect the jet pump components from large debris entering and damaging them. A few metal bars were secured across the length of the opening. Even today, most OEM intake grates still share the same general design and functionality. For a craft that hasn't been modified, the stock intake grate works well enough to provide protection from debris. But they are barely acceptable from a performance point of view. In fact, some intake grates that come standard on PWC have been designed to reduce performance and limit top speed to help the manufacturers meet their top speed limitation agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard.

When a watercraft is modified to produce more engine power and top speed, the stock intake grate becomes inefficient. As engine power is increased so too is the rate at which the pump impeller spins, drawing more water into the pump. Restrictions in the OEM intake grate can limit the amount of water that enters the pump and prevent it from distributing water evenly to the pump impeller of a modified craft. Excessive turbulence at the top of the pump tunnel induces cavitation that causes the impeller to slip resulting in poor acceleration and a loss of top speed, much like the tires on your car when running on wet pavement. RIVA has developed a line of intake grates with redesigned ramps and wings that deliver water more evenly and efficiently into the pump. This reduces the turbulence before the pump impeller enabling it to process water in a more solid state producing more thrust and higher top speed. Their angle and shape, as well as the configuration of the intake grate's opening, improve hook-up enabling you to maintain more speed in rough, choppy conditions. On some units the increase in performance has been so effective that aluminum and other

soft alloys can't take the stress, and for those models RIVA produces intake grates made of solid cast stainless steel. This ultra-strong material allows thinner bars and larger openings to feed even more water into your jet pump at all speeds.

Aftermarket intake grates aren't the only option to improve jet pump performance. In the case of Yamaha WaveRunners, and others where the tunnel ramp is built into the intake grate, the OEM grates and transom plate they are secured to have voids to reduce weight and save material. For most users, these voids don't necessarily affect performance on a stock craft. But for those interested in performance, and especially maximum acceleration, they adversely affect modified craft. The voids trap air that gets sucked into the pump amplifying the amount of air bubbles, or cavitation, created when you accelerate. They lower the density of the water in the jet pump making it more compressible costing thrust at the nozzle. This results in a quick jump in engine acceleration but only a very slow increase in vehicle speed. To counteract this RIVA Racing offers Pump Seal Kits that consist of polymer pieces molded to precisely fill the voids. With the voids in the intake grate properly sealed, cavitation is minimized. This translates to vastly improved acceleration. It also reduces the likelihood of damage to your jet pump components caused by excessive cavitation. Left unchecked, excessive cavitation will eat away the surfaces and edges of your pump impeller, wear ring and pump stator vanes which will lead to even more cavitation.

Performance isn't just about getting the most horsepower out of your engine. It also requires improving jet pump efficiency. Optimizing your jet pump components will allow you to get the most out of the aftermarket modifications to your craft's engine. **PR**



**SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON OF STOCK INTAKE GRATE AND AFTERMARKET INTAKE GRATE**



**SIDE-BY-SIDE SHOT OF PUMP SEAL KIT; PIECES SEPARATELY AND INSTALLED IN A PUMP SHOE**



**VIEW OF UNDERSIDE OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT AT JET PUMP INLET (STOCK INTAKE GRATE)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [RIVARACING.COM/PUMP-HANDLING/INTAKE-GRATES.HTML](http://RIVARACING.COM/PUMP-HANDLING/INTAKE-GRATES.HTML)**

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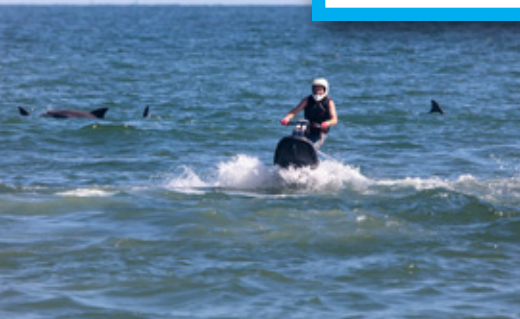
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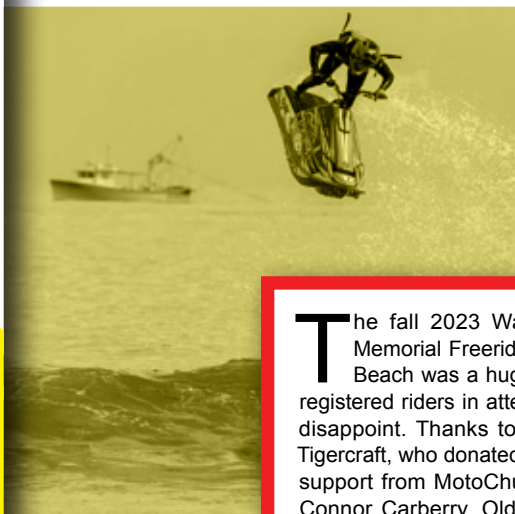
**NOTHING BUT GOOD TIMES**  
*Celebrating Landon Ward's Legacy*

**FALL 2023 WAVEDAZE FREERIDE**

By: Dan Swartz, WaveDaze Promoter  
Photos: Joseph Worst, @Loud\_Clicks\_Phography

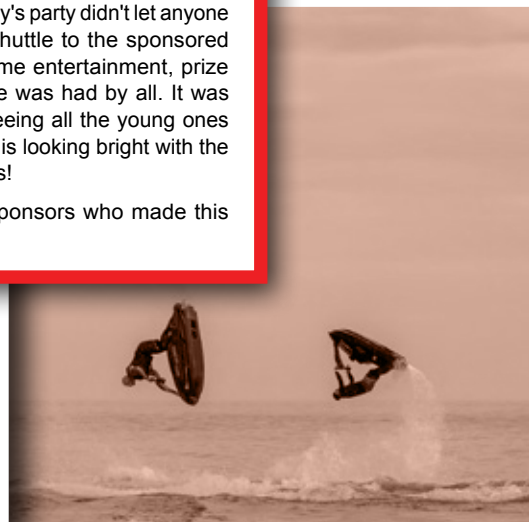


**MOST TIME WRENCHING AWARD  
PRESENTED BY TUCKER FISHER  
TO DAVID HO-YEN**



The fall 2023 WaveDaze Landon Ward Memorial Freeride 4-day event in Virginia Beach was a huge success. With 90 plus registered riders in attendance, the event didn't disappoint. Thanks to our huge title sponsor, Tigercraft, who donated a Tigercraft SV hull with support from MotoChurch. Congratulations to Connor Carberry, Old Lyme, Connecticut, on winning the hull. Peabody's party didn't let anyone down. From the limo shuttle to the sponsored buffet and keg, awesome entertainment, prize giveaways, a great time was had by all. It was fun and encouraging seeing all the young ones at the event. The future is looking bright with the next generation of riders!

Special thanks to all sponsors who made this event possible. **PR**







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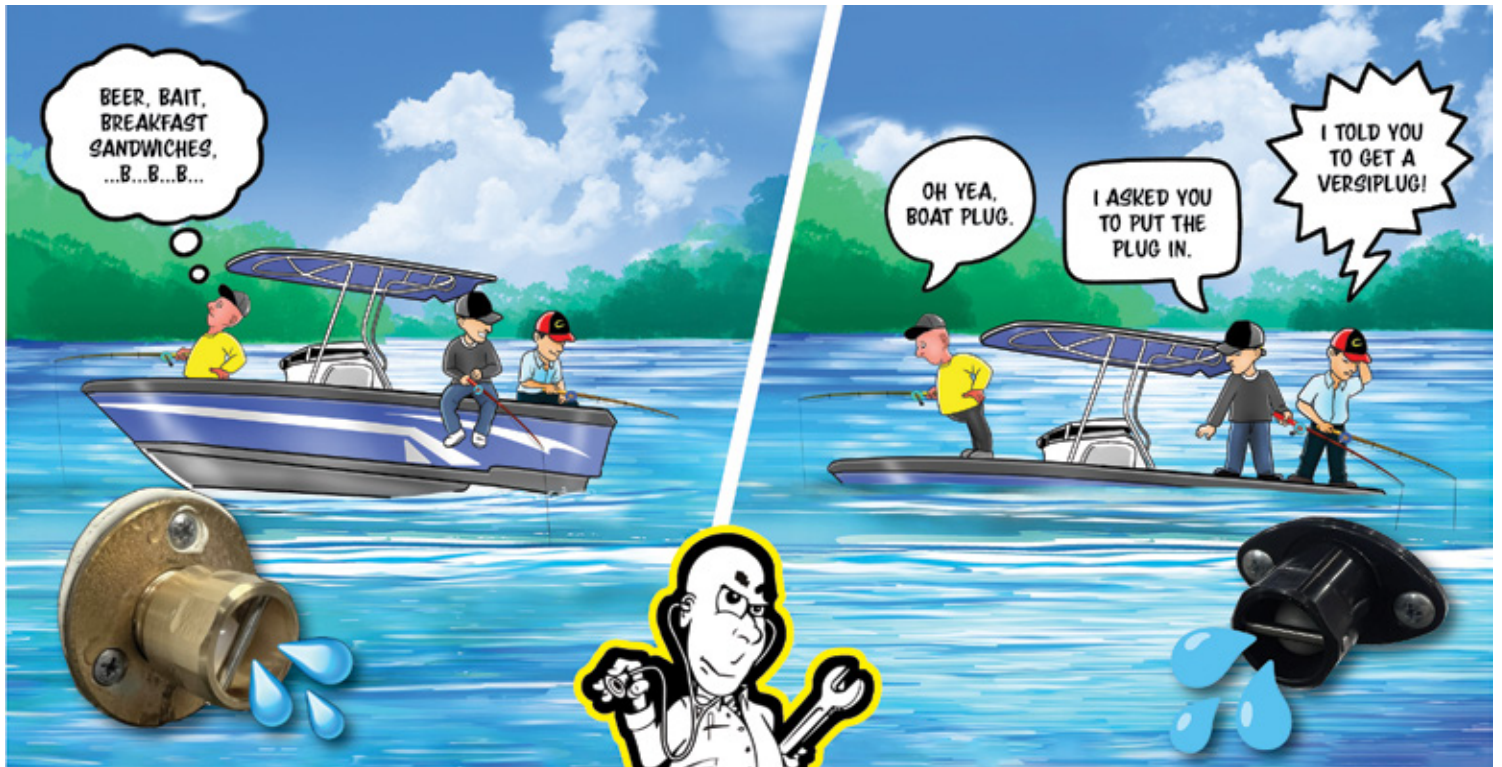


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## Annual Make-A-Wish Charity Ride



Story and photos: Jason Chait



Jersey Shore PWC Riders pulled out all the stops with amazing sponsors and Beesley Point Sea-Doo graciously hosting at their dealership the Annual Make-A-Wish Charity Ride Event.

This event had a \$20.00 per watercraft entry fee and was permitted through the NJ State Marine Police as a certified marine event. Generous sponsors donated prizes for the auction with all proceeds donated to Make-A-Wish New Jersey.

Following registration and a safety briefing riders launched and rode through the inter coastal waterways of NJ to Atlantic City grouping up at

Brigantine Beach on the Atlantic City Inlet and then back to Beesley Point Sea-Doo for a bar-b-que and raffle. Along the route marshes, twists, waves, and turns made for an adventurous ride!

A total of 49 personal watercrafts participated and we raised \$2,327.00 making this the highest amount raised from our group to date!

We look forward to our Make-A-Wish charity ride event in 2024 and hope to continue to make this a huge success with the phenomenal support from our group and sponsors. **PR**



Jersey Shore PWC Riders extends special thanks to the following for their gracious support:

- Beesely Point Sea-Doo
- Greenhulk
- Life Saving Equipment Repair Co. LLC
- RIVA Racing
- JP Racing Inc.
- East Dover Marina
- Pro Rider Watercraft Magazine
- Bopensky Watersports
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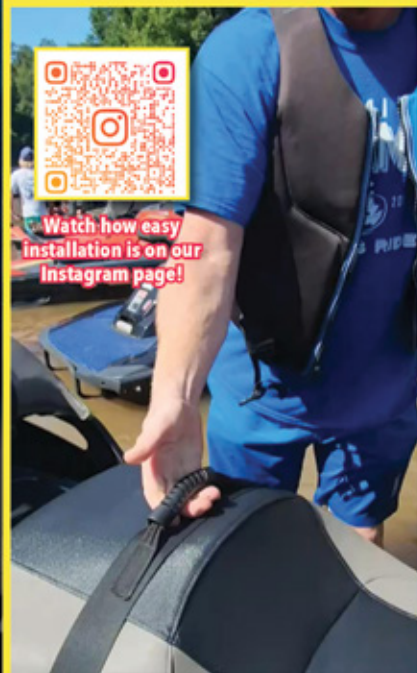
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## GLOBAL TALENT UNLEASHED: 4<sup>TH</sup> Annual Virtual Freestyle Championships 2023

By: Paul Hewitt, Founder Virtual Freestyle Championships



In the ever-evolving realm of freestyle, one name stands out as a visionary behind a spectacular global showcase – Paul Hewitt, the dedicated founder of the now Annual Virtual Freestyle Championships. As we applaud the winners and the inspiring newcomers, we recognize Hewitt's unwavering dedication in establishing an event that has become a prime opportunity for riders worldwide to showcase their skills on the virtual stage.

We knew we were in for a show in this year's Virtual Freestyle Championships, however we could not have known at the time we were in the presence of both the 2023 AM and Pro IJSBA World Champions, crowned the following month at Lake Havasu City.

This was not the only thing special about Virtual Freestyle this year. Blowision, taking the headline sponsor spot, elevated the competition still further, and allowed us to offer a prize purse for the first time.

With a \$1500 prize purse up for grabs in addition to an impressive array of prizes, riders turned out in force showcasing freestyle talent from five continents! British rider Steve Riley took the title in the N&C Jet Ski Ltd 800cc class, opened to past and current riders, with a lightning fast and super smooth surface routine that left some high-caliber riders in his wake.

Not many riders can combine amplitude and quality with a high trick count, but US rider Henry Li did just that, unanimously taking the Jet Ski Mann 900cc title. Demi Morgan took second place, though her greatest achievement was to come, as she went on to take the Amateur World title in World Finals.

The Wax Racing 1200cc Novice class offered an easy, informal entry into a first competition for new riders with all the toys. The 1200cc Novice title was taken by Polish newcomer Dandi (Daniel) Sankowski, notorious for his swimming pool backflip and who was unanimously voted as this year's "Most Inspirational Newcomer."

Every year we look forward to the rivalry between the Minnesota based Jukish brothers in the 1200cc class, with their family always supporting this competition. Gabe withdrew due to mechanical issues, however younger brother Nolan did not disappoint, taking the Rikter-sponsored 1200cc title with a packed "Duracell" routine. As we later learned, he was another rider saving his best for Havasu, as he went on to show a whole new level at World Finals, taking the Pro World title alongside Demi.

Finally, the Showtime Freestyle Best Trick competition offered just about every freestyle trick seen on the planet over the past 20 years, and this year's trophies were bagged by Luke Stocks (800cc), Henry Li (900cc), Dandi Sankowski (1200cc Novice) and Nolan Jukish (1200cc).

This is a continuously evolving event. As we plan for 2024 you can expect further polishes to this slickly run competition. Under discussion are compressing the timeline between entry and screening, closing the gap between pre-recorded and live competition, adding in other extreme sports, and screening on additional media channels including TV. **PR**

STEVE RILEY



WATCH BLOWISION



2023 PRESENTED BY

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BOBBY DIABOLICAL



CLAIRE HARTUNG



PAUL HEWITT  
PHOTO: MARK POVEY



# RESULTS

## 800CC

1. Steve Riley *ENG*
2. Gary Burtka *USA*
3. Claire Hartung *GER*
4. Paul Hewitt *ENG*
5. Luke Stocks *USA*
6. Thomas Wolf *GER*

## 900CC

1. Henry Li *USA*
2. Demi Morgan *USA*
3. Stephen Smith *ENG*
4. Bobby Diabolical *USA*

## 1200CC NOVICE

1. Dandi Sankowski *POL*
2. Maxime Simoneau *CAN*
3. Farzad Takaloo *ENG*
4. Colton Chamberlain *USA*
5. Dennis Saulnier *CAN*
6. Austin Landers *USA*

## 1200CC

1. Nolan Jukish *USA*
2. Kornel Babilec *POL*
3. Adam Reynolds *ENG*
4. Luke Stocks *USA*
5. Michal Krawczynski *POL*
6. Corey Murray *USA*
7. Tan Hussain *ENG*
8. Geno Bates *USA*

## BEST TRICK

1. **800cc** – Luke Stocks *USA*
2. **900cc** – Henry Li *USA*
3. **1200cc** Novice – Dandi Sankowski *POL*
4. **1200cc** – Nolan Jukish *USA*

## MOST INSPIRATIONAL NEWCOMER

Dandi Sankowski

Special thanks to International Panel of World Champion Judges: Keith Thomas (ENG), Michael Ratti (AUS), Martin Pearce (ENG), Mark Curtis (ENG), Marc Sickerling (GER).

Anyone interested in getting involved in the 2024 event please contact Paul Hewitt, via [virtualfreestyle.tv](http://virtualfreestyle.tv) or [britishfreestylechamps@gmail.com](mailto:britishfreestylechamps@gmail.com).



TAN HUSSAIN  
PHOTO: MARK POVEY



LUKE STOCKS



COLTON CHAMBERLAIN  
PHOTO: KEN GALLAGHER



AUSTIN LANDERS



DANDI SANKOWSKI



FARZAD TAKALOO  
PHOTO: MARK POVEY



HENRY LI



## BLOWSION VIRTUAL FREESTYLE SCORES:

EXECUTION	DIFFICULTY	VARIETY	FLOW	TRICK COUNT

Claire, 19, currently studying psychology in university, is an up-and-coming freestyler and racer who enjoys water skiing and windsurfing and is part of a circus group.

**PRO RIDER:** When did you get involved with jet skis and specifically when did you start doing freestyle?

**CLAIRE HARTUNG:** I've always been part of this scene through my father, Marc Sickerling. Growing up, I attended numerous jet ski events and had chances to ride. In 2021, luck led us to a 25-year-old Superjet, my first ski, allowing me to learn from scratch — a feat not possible with my father's highly modified jet ski. Having obtained my motorboat license at 16 in Germany, we enjoyed jet skiing together. I honed my skills on rivers in our region and a private jet ski lake in the Netherlands, where we continue training today.

**EQUIPMENT:**

1997 Yamaha Superjet, which was only slightly modified with a different cylinder head and exhaust. We made hull modifications including footholds, a lowered carbon hood, new drain system and tubbies. Norbert Weber from Lightweight helped with this process.

Last winter I had the opportunity to paint my ski with my own design and my crankshaft was rebuilt.

**PR:** Who inspires you?

**CH:** My greatest inspiration is my father, who, thanks to his many years of experience, has mastered numerous tricks you don't see anywhere else these days. I'd like to master them too as I've seen how these tricks impress the audiences.

For freeriding I find Abraham Hochstrasser very inspiring always showing new dimensions of freeriding. It would be a dream to see him ride the big waves of Nazaré.



## LIKE FATHER LIKE DAUGHTER:

*Claire Hartung, Cologne, Germany*

Regarding freestyle, Lee Stone inspired me even before I had my own ski. I saw him ride at a European Championship in 2018 and the double backflip stayed in my memory.

**PR:** Where do you practice?

**CH:** We train near Eindhoven (Netherlands) on a jet ski lake (stand-up only), a 2h drive while I sleep in the car. We meet our freestyle friends and spend one day a week jet skiing. In Germany, there is no opportunity to ride like this.

**PR:** In which events have you participated?

**CH:** My first was 2022 Virtual Freestyle a great introduction competition as we were able to film my 2-minute routine until we were happy with the result. I took 2nd place in the 800cc Novice class.

We joined the European Freestyle Championships in Paris, as my father was supposed to be a judge. Thomas Wolf, another German rider in the 800cc class, persuaded me to take part and 30 minutes later I performed my routine and to my surprise became European vice-champion.

I raced the final round of the Belgian championship, which provided insight into racing, and I got to see Quinten Bossche.

During the season, I focused on freestyle to prepare for the European Championships. I took part in 2023 Virtual Freestyle 800cc class and achieved third place, riding at the same level as very experienced riders.

At the European Championships, I achieved first place in the final round and won best trick, showing a submarine, a signature trick of my father. In the Super Final, I performed well earning the same points as Paul Hewitt, leading to a 1-minute ride-off, but Paul took the win.

**PR:** What are your plans for 2024?

**CH:** I would like to take part in another race, Virtual Freestyle, and the European Championships in London and watch a freeride event. I'm happy about any opportunity to participate and meet new people from this sport. A dream is to ride in Havasu one day with the help of sponsors.







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# Big Splash of Joy:

## SECOND ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

Photos: Kenny Wong, Ken Gallagher





The shores of Body Beach in Lake Havasu recently played host to the Second Annual Toy Drive, transforming the picturesque setting into a festive gathering of jet ski riders, racers, families, and friends. In the true spirit of the season, attendees came together for a good cause, even the Grinch couldn't resist the merry atmosphere, a fantastic blend of holiday cheer and watercraft excitement. The generosity of those in attendance shone through as a plethora of toys were collected and donated to a local charitable organization.

*We extend a very special thank you to **KENNY WONG** for organizing and facilitating this successful event and to all the helpers and photographers that made it so special! **PR***





# THE BEERS BOYS TEAM TRIPLETHREAT 2.0

Hyde Park, New York

Photos: 10mm Photo; Tiziano Magni

**B**ill Beers raced from 1987–1997, competing in several series and World Finals earning the #1 Amateur 440 Super Stock title in 1992 and #2 Expert Ski in 1994. Sharing his love of the sport with his kids, Team Triplethreat was born with Bill, Sr., Billy Beers, Jr., and Momo Beers the Destroyer. Billy was #1 Sport Spec for a few years. Momo was always top 5 in Sport Spec and Sport Mod, the fastest teenage girl in the Northeast racing from 2014-2019. Since they were babies the triplets, Liam, Jake and Colin now 13, enjoyed watching their father and siblings race.

As their brother and sister got jobs and couldn't participate as much, Team Triplethreat 2.0 splashed onto the scene.

Bill took the boys to Peach Lake in Putnam County, New York, a private lake, courtesy of Anthony Coursen, it gave them the freedom to learn, build skills and ride for hours and is still their favorite place to ride.

### A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO SPONSORS:

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## LIAM

**SKI:** Yamaha WaveBlaster

**RIDING:** Race and recreation

**RACE #:** 48

### LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS:

Honor roll; 2<sup>nd</sup> overall  
East Coast Watercross

### MEMORABLE TIME ON

**WATER:** Jumping waves at Peach Lake with Jake and our friend Jackson.



## JAKE

**SKI:** Yamaha WaveBlaster

**RIDING:** Race and recreation

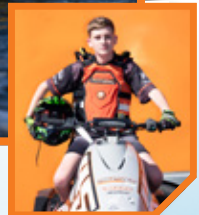
**RACE #:** 24

### LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS:

Honor roll; 3<sup>rd</sup> overall  
East Coast Watercross

### MEMORABLE TIME ON

**WATER:** Riding standups with my dad, I was following him, we were playing around and he called me over to tell me something and pushed me off the ski. It was so funny



## COLIN

**SKI:** Sea-Doo HX

**RIDING:** Race and recreation

**RACE #:** 872

### LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS:

Honor roll; 6<sup>th</sup> overall East  
Coast Watercross

### MEMORABLE TIME ON

**WATER:** The first time I rode an HX at Seth's lake. I felt really fast on it.



# Jack DuBois FREESTYLE ATHLETE

*"Jet skiing is tough on your body especially when you aren't taking your nutrition seriously. I have relied on the POSSIBLE protein powder to aid in my recovery all season long, to keep my body performing for World Finals."*

*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 nutritional products, offering organic, non-GMO, gluten free products, free from fillers and poor-quality ingredients. I start every day with a smoothie consisting of POSSIBLE Protein and POSSIBLE SuperGreens. POSSIBLE Snack Bars fuel me throughout the day and the POSSIBLE Beet Pre-Workout has become a part of my pre-ride ritual. I envision a future where professional motorsports athletes prioritize their nutrition with the same level of dedication as professional athletes in sports like soccer, football, and baseball."*



**"Try my favorite shake: blend 1 serving of POSSIBLE Chocolate Cacao Protein Powder, 1 banana, and ice."**



Photo: @nyanp-productions

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Allow me to share a bit about myself — I'm a youthful entrepreneur managing a taekwondo business in Ontario, California. My early exposure to fishing came from my dad, who ignited my interest at a young age. Our family tradition involved frequent trips to the ocean, as my father owned a boat in Long Beach, California, leading to our regular Sunday excursions.

In 2022, faced with challenges with my previous boat, I ventured into the thrilling realm of personal watercraft (PWC) fishing. The decision to switch to a Sea-Doo FishPro proved to be exhilarating. Imagine hopping onto a PWC and heading out to Catalina Island — the speed and agility added a new dimension to my fishing experience. My already fervent passion for fishing reached new heights with the acquisition of the Sea-Doo.



## CRUISING AND CASTING: *The Joy of PWC Fishing*

Story and Photos: Nam Ngo @outhere\_fishing

The Sea-Doo FishPro 170 Sport features a specialized design catering to the needs of anglers. This includes a stable hull design for enhanced fishing capabilities and comfort. It is equipped with a powerful engine, a 170-horsepower Rotax engine, providing the necessary speed and performance for both cruising and fishing activities. The series comes with various fishing-specific accessories including a dedicated fishing cooler, rod holders, a trolling mode for controlled speeds, and a fish finder or navigation system.

Among my preferred PWC fishing spots, Palos Verdes, CA, stands out. The vibrant kelp forest in this area is filled with calico bass, Sheep Head, white sea bass, Barracuda, and an array of other marine life. This spot holds a special significance for me — it's where I honed my skills in PWC fishing, navigating through trial and error. The picturesque scenery adds an extra layer of enjoyment to the ride.

While I typically venture out alone on my PWC fishing expeditions, occasional outings with friends and my dad on a boat make for memorable shared experiences.

I enjoy targeting sizable game fish such as bluefin and yellowfin tuna, along with dorado. My preferred timeframe for outings is during October and November due to the generally calm conditions in the ocean. The reduced wave size during this period contributes to a smoother and more manageable riding experience. **PR**



CHECK OUT THE GREAT VIDEOS ON NAM'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL SHOWCASING HIS JOY FOR THE OUTDOORS AND FOOD VENTURES [WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@OUTHEREFISHING](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@OUTHEREFISHING)



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*—Randy Cabrera Founder of Florida Ski Riders*

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# BUCKET LIST RIDE for GIA!

## LAKE POWELL WATER AND LAND TOUR **EXTREME**

By: Gia Goetschel, Co-Administrator Nauti Girl Crew, Tampa, Florida  
Photos: Lewis Lipstone, West Coast Watercraft Club; Gia Goetschel



I started riding PWCs a couple of years ago with friends and discovered many groups of riders here in Florida. I bought a Yamaha VX Cruiser in 2022. I always had a passion for power sports. I grew up in the countryside of Ecuador riding motorcycles, ATVs, bikes, 4X4s, horses, swimming, rafting. Getting a PWC was like the feeling of riding a motorcycle and a horse, perfect combination but on the water, bingo!

Looking for other riding opportunities I found Lewis Lipstone, from the WCWCC who mentioned he had one spot left for their Annual Lake Powell Water and Land Tour. You never saw anyone pack and leave so fast, just like my nickname "Gia go Fast"!

Upon arriving I met with Bob at Up Lake Adventures who showed me the Sea-Doo I would be riding, although I am a Yamaha fanatic at heart.

Our group of 12 rode the lake, rivers, creeks, and canyons of Lake Powell in Utah and Arizona. I was amazed of the beauty, rain driven waterfalls, red rock formations with varying tones and colors, such a different landscape than what I'm used to in Florida. Water conditions in some places were a little rough depending on the winds but mostly smooth.

In the narrow canyons it was incredible, barely wide enough for the ski, challenging but exciting! When I got to the end of one of the best twisty tight canyons I shed tears of happiness, then yelled: "I made it! Bucket list item accomplished! Woohoo!"

The adventure continued as we embarked on an exhilarating UTV ride supplied by Bob at Up Lake Adventures with Mike as tour guide with 11 UTVs traversing up and down the flats, downhill and uphill around the Grand Staircase-Escalante Park area. As we ventured off road, in some places it felt like we were exploring the moon, all gray, black and maroon sand, rocks with hills and dry rivers, you name it. We even had the chance to see fossils from dinosaurs to oysters!

I had a phenomenal 5-day adventure over 300 breathtaking miles and came home with a big smile and plans to return. In 2024 the ride will be joint with Nauti Girl Crew and WCWCC organized by Lewis.

In 2024 my goal is to continue promoting women in the sport of recreational riding by leading and supporting female riders, all while having a great time. We have a year full of adventures and exciting NGC rides including a women's only ride to The Keys, Lake Powell, Suwannee River, and our Annual Poker Run. **PR**



WATCH GIA'S



ADVENTURES!



Videos: Lewis Lipstone,



Administrator West Coast



Watercraft Club

*"West Coast Watercraft Club coordinates the Lake Powell Water and Land Tour Extreme every September. Over the past few years when fuel was readily available it was easy to manage Lake Powell without worrying about running out of gas. Now times are different as Dangling Rope is no longer there. Each rider is responsible for making sure they have an extra 10 gallons of fuel, lunch for 2 days and an overnight bag. The Lake Powell adventure ride is refined and updated yearly with new activities. Come check us out!"*

— Lewis Lipstone Administrator West Coast Watercraft Club



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# OIL PAN UPGRADE: PREVENTING CATASTROPHE

By: Greg Gaddis aka **HULK JUNIOR**

The Yamaha 1800CC engine is one of the most capable watercraft engines out there. It has set numerous records and is top choice amongst most racers and builders. Aside from the engine's proven power capabilities, the engine is fairly reliable. As with anything mechanical, there are flaws that can be addressed to improve reliability.

One of the newest components available for this engine, and now the 1900CC variant, is the FuelTech billet oil pan. The oil pan addresses major issues that will ultimately cause severe engine damage.

From the factory, the Yamaha engines come with a small, poorly designed oil pan. The oil pan features a pickup tube and baffling that is far from ideal. The factory oil pan is so bad that oil starvation and cavitation occurs when decelerating. This scenario is literally starving engine components of oil resulting in temporary metal-on-metal contact. Oil starvation causes many engine component failures. In fact, the oil starvation issues have probably caused many failures in the past that were dismissed.

One of the most common failures on the SVHO engine is the supercharger clutch. This has always been labeled as a "wear item" and is expected to go out. Hard riding, racing, and riding in rough water conditions have proven to decrease clutch life. These riding conditions increase the chance of oil starvation with the stock oil pan. I would not be surprised if most of these clutch failures can be traced back to oil starvation issues. The supercharger clutch is very dependent on oil and starving the clutch of oil will result in a failure. The supercharger clutch experiences the most stress when rapidly letting off the throttle; rapidly letting off the throttle translates to decelerating and, ultimately, oil starvation. When the supercharger clutch is under extreme stress in need of oil the most, it is being starved of oil due to the factory oil pan design.

The second most common issue is the supercharger shaft and bearing failing. The supercharger shaft has a journal bearing that is very dependent on a constant oil supply. No oil means no lubrication and the supercharger will end in a catastrophic failure. While supercharger failures are few and far between, it is more common than I would like to see.

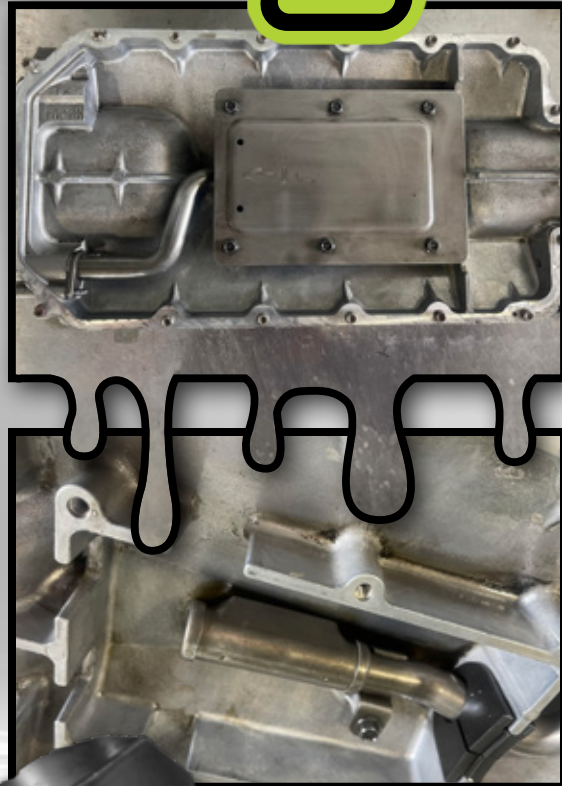
The bearing, step collar, and thrust plate get wiped out which allows for the supercharger shaft and impeller to push into the front housing. This destroys the entire supercharger, not a cheap fix. Even aftermarket supercharger shaft and bearing kits proven to be a much stronger alternative have failed. Maintaining the proper oil pressure is key for the supercharger to survive.

Worst case scenario, oil starvation will damage the engine internally. Every rotating part of the engine depends heavily on oil pressure and oil supply to avoid damage. Bearing failures and engine damage is rare, but it does happen on high performance applications.

While I would not consider any of these issues to be common, the issues are certainly something to take note of. I am not the type of person to stand by for a "what if" scenario. I would rather address the issues before a problem occurs. The FuelTech oil pan will prevent any issues related to oil starvation as it has eliminated the oil starvation problem.

The FuelTech oil pan features a larger sump, improved baffling, and an improved pickup tube to eliminate oil starvation entirely. The pan is nearly double in capacity at 10 quarts; having the extra oil capacity will increase the oil life and oil change interval. The pickup tube is located within a chamber with trap doors. The trap doors allow for oil to flow into the chamber during acceleration and deceleration while retaining the oil near the pickup tube. Being that the pan is made from billet aluminum, it adds structural rigidity to the cast aluminum engine block.

The FuelTech oil pan although a bit pricy, is far cheaper than what a failure due to oil starvation would cost; it is cheap insurance to protect costly engine and supercharger components. You can purchase the FuelTech oil pan in the GreenHulk store along with other performance parts from FuelTech, RIVA Racing, FIZZLE Intercoolers, and WORX Racing. Use coupon code 'greenhulk' at checkout to save 10% on mostly everything in our store! **PR**



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Photo by Kenny Wong



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# GUTS AND GLORY

## The 2023 WGP#1 Jet Ski World Cup in Pattaya, Thailand

By: Dawn Dawson | Photos: Dieter Quaghbeur Braap Shots

Braap Shots

The penultimate round of an intense year of racing culminated in explosions on the water in Pattaya as Jomtien Beach played host to spectacles of speed, skill, and controversy as competitors vied for the coveted Jet Ski World Cup trophy and the title of World Series champion. The Jet Ski World Cup, the finale of a four round tour this year, attracted thousands of spectators and media attention from around the world as 300 riders from 40 countries participated in this global event.

Racing in Thailand is unique and is much like the people from the land of smiles. You look at these pristine blue waters, friendly and welcoming and you think "Ah, this will be easy." But no. The water, like the people, is complex and ever changing. It is tough to maneuver a sharp course with winds that change the directions of the waves every few minutes. Your body must constantly adjust itself to the way the boat cuts through the water multiple times... not to mention those who had the rigor of having to ride a ski that is not their own. Case in point: Moto 2 Pro Runabout GP saw 6 boats break, including Skinny Mo and Gyorgy Kasza. Another case in point: it was not a foregone conclusion that the one who gets the holeshot keeps the lead, as was perfectly demonstrated in Pro Runabout 1100 Open and Pro Sport. The water was the ultimate wildcard for this stop.

In Pro Women Ski GP, Jasmiin Ypraus was looking to keep her overall World Series points



lead, but took a risk on borrowed property, thanks to Nacho Armillas' and his team. While she was not able to podium for this round, she took the World Series title, just 10 points ahead of Jet Ski World Cup winner, Emmanellie Ortendahl. Emma took her World Series tour stop win fresh off her Havasu victory and came in second in World Series points in Pro Am Ski Stock behind Mattias Reinaas. River Varner came in third in World Series points and second in the Jet Ski World Cup just ahead of comeback kid, Sofie Borgstrom.

Pro Am Endurance Open belonged to French conquistador, Jean-Bruno Pastorello. The Humble Hulk capped off his year with a four-for-four Series win, with Tory Snyder second overall in points, followed by Anthony Radetic who is having one of his best racing years.

Another veteran who nabbed a four-for-four victory was UK's perfectionist, Simon Belcher. Simon was close to a World Cup win in 2022 but was outpaced by the strong cohort of Thai riders. This year, fate was in his favor as he took not just the World Cup win, but the World Series title ahead of riding buddy, James Bushell. Young gun, Keeratikom Phiwngam, came in third in points for the World Series podium.



Louie Buhisan was one of the poster riders for the Philippines' monumental rise to the top in 2023. Louie won the Pro Runabout 1100 Open World Series title, a source of great pride for the entire team. Suphathat Footrakul was the winner of the Jet Ski World Cup, fighting off stiff competition in Kasidit Teeraprateep and Ou Mouet Saly.

**WGP#1 RECAP  
BY BRANSHOTS**



Pro Runabout GP was a class of shock and awe, with Mohammad Albaz holding his World Series lead to win the overall followed by consistent champion and fellow countryman, Mohammad Burbayea. Albaz's position was not a given as Easy Rider Francois Medori came into Moto 3 in the point lead, but had to settle for second overall for the Jet Ski World Cup and fourth overall for the World Series as teammate, Jeremy Perez, took third place on the World Series podium. This is Albaz's first World Series victory, but certainly not his first World Cup title.

Pro Ski GP was a testament to world class riding. Quinten Bossche achieved a four moto win in Havasu in 2023 and we were questioning whether he could do the same under the brutal conditions in Pattaya.

Turns out, he absolutely could. Jeremy Poret, who came into the round in the lead, replicated his 2019 performance and won the entire World Series title despite setbacks in Pattaya. Kevin Reiterer gave us his best as usual, showing that starting at the back of the pack is just a state of mind, and passing is always possible. Toshi Samurai Ohara was the quintessential renegade cowboy fully willing to put himself out there to stay ahead of a strong pack. Anders Keller and Raphael Maurin were consistent performers and could not be ruled out in the points race for the World Cup and the World Series. It was Kevin Reiterer who took his second World Cup title this year and second on the World Series podium, with Mickael Poret who is enjoyed a phenomenal racing year in 2023, coming in third, tied in points with Quinten Bossche.

There is a lot to be said about fame and the rise to the top. Our sport is at a pivotal moment where stakes have never been higher, and publicity is increasing more than ever. In these moments, we get to show the world who we are and why we deserve to be admired. Each of our riders have shown they are wonderfully human and care deeply about doing well, and at the end of the day, that's what makes great stories, and great role models for the world to look up to and cheer for. I cannot wait to see what 2024 will bring and how much further, if you pardon the pun, we can push this boat out. **PR**



**- 17 DECEMBER 2023**



PHOTOS: @JELINPERSONSFOTO



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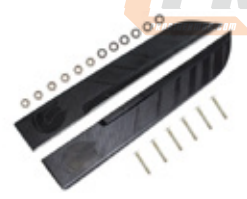
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All you need to prepare is the handlebar and grips.  
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The total weight of fixed steering kit is lighter than OEM hood and handlepole.  
It is possible to select the height and bar clamp by combining optional parts  
such as the evolution series with excellent expandability and the  
steering mount bearing type [UL35211].



## Fixed Steering Kit for TR-1 Yamaha Superjet **UL46200**

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The included steering mount system uses bearings for smooth steering.  
The normal SX-R (handle pole, engine hood) weighs about 22kg, but by replacing it with a  
transform hood and steering mount, it is possible to reduce the weight by about 12kg, or 45%!  
It is possible to select the height and bar clamp by combining optional parts such as the evolution series  
with excellent expandability and the steering mount bearing type [UL35211].



## Transform Hood Kit for Kawasaki SX-R **UL46100**

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In the high-stakes world of watercraft racing, where split-second decisions and peak physical performance can make all the difference, maintaining top-notch fitness is not just a choice—it's a necessity. Pro Rider delves into the personal fitness routine of world champion racer Tory Snyder, Bradenton, Florida, exploring how his disciplined approach to training and nutrition plays a pivotal role in his success on the water. From intense workouts on his jet ski to strategic dietary choices, Snyder provides insights into the regimen that keeps him at the top of his game.

**PRO RIDER:** Please describe your personal fitness routine and how it specifically complements your performance as a world champion racer.

# FUELING VICTORY: A CHAMPION RACER'S FITNESS AND NUTRITION REGIMEN

## A CONVERSATION WITH TORY SNYDER

**TORY SNYDER:** For example, getting ready for a P1 AquaX season. I try to do something like a professional fighter would do before a fight. About 5 weeks out I start on a strict meal plan and training routine. During the offseason I watch what I eat and train and ride multiple times a week.

**PR:** What are some key exercises you perform and why those particular exercises?

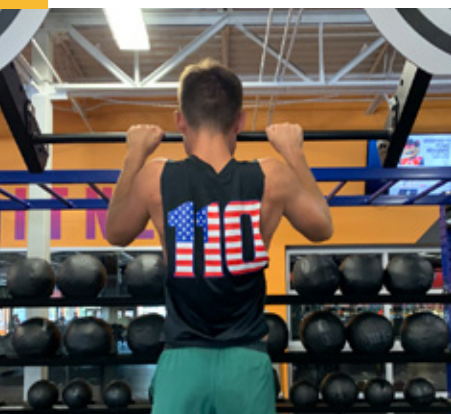
**TS:** Nothing is better than training on the ski. Racing a jet ski works muscles that you can't work any other way than on the ski itself. Just up the road from me I have one of the best places to ride, right off the Sunshine Skyway bridge in Florida's Tampa Bay. For endurance training I do one lap from the bridge and around Egmont Key, a small Island in the middle of the bay. This simulates the closest thing to a P1 AquaX moto. I run, road bike and ride the Peloton as my exercise off the water.

**PR:** In the world of watercraft racing as well as recreational riding, how important is overall fitness?

**TS:** It's everything. Some of these popular rec riders will go over a 100 miles in one trip with gas cans on the back of the ski. Many people think of jet skis as something to do on vacation for an hour. Every time I take my buddies on the skis all day they always end up sore in the lower back and forearms the next day.

**PR:** Can you share any nutrition or dietary tips that have contributed to your success; do you have a go-to pre-race meal or routine that you swear by?

**TS:** Having Tim Judge in my corner has been a huge advantage when it comes to giving me diet tips, especially since I started to be a top guy in runabout racing. He has always preached pasta and grilled chicken the night before the race. Then during the week, I either do ground beef or grilled chicken with some type of small carb. I will have that for lunch and dinner every day.



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## MOUAD SALHI

### GOALS, DREAMS, AND TRIUMPHS



**PRO RIDER:** Please share your journey from Morocco to the USA.

**MOUAD SALHI:** In 2002, I began training in Morocco and started professional racing in 2003. During a trip to Europe, I won a jet ski race in Portugal, becoming the first Moroccan to win the European championship in 2003. I continued training with the best jet ski coaches and racers (Steven Dauliach / Yves Van Heers / Laurent Boucher and others) from 2003-2008 and went on to win several championships in Europe, Morocco, and USA. Because of my huge success in Morocco, the association I was attached to was upgraded to a federation. By 2008, I was facing challenges in Morocco by way of misuse of sponsorship funds being funneled to the government federation instead of us athletes, so I decided to pursue my career in racing in the US. I was done being taken advantage of and feared for my future. Wearing a dark hoodie, I escaped my country in the night to Europe then on to America. I began racing again in 2018, achieved success, and established myself in the US.

**PR:** After a decade-long hiatus from racing, what inspired you to return?

**MS:** I am very competitive and had it in my blood and my mind to return. I started in the US in Pennsylvania and wasn't the right connections. After becoming homeless moving to Florida was key to my return to jet skiing. Working hard to build a life and make enough money to fund myself, I was able to get back in the game in 2018.

**PR:** Please list the specific classes you race and provide insights into the equipment and modifications you've made.

**MS:** Up until 2019 I only raced Stock Pro class standup. In 2019 I added runabout racing. I have several standups and sitdowns I race. I mostly do basic stock modifications, tuning ECU the steering sponsons and have intake grate.

**PR:** As the first Moroccan, Arab, and African with multiple international titles in the jet ski industry, how do you see your role in inspiring others to pursue their dreams in water sports?

**MS:** I am honored to be the first Moroccan, Arab, and African with international titles, a role I do not take lightly. I aspire to be a beacon of inspiration, encouraging others to chase their water sports dreams no matter the obstacles. I have coached several racers in and outside the US including Tim Hickman #161, guiding him from the beginning to secure the training and skills to become the 2023 P1AquaX AM300 US Champion. I have made several trips back to Morocco to train young, aspiring athletes. I hope my achievements continue to encourage them.

**PR:** Describe the challenges you faced in your jet ski racing career and how you overcame them.

**MS:** Overcoming challenges defines my racing career. From facing homelessness, technical and monetary setbacks to enduring fierce competition, each hurdle fueled my determination to succeed. Funding everything myself has presented many challenges. I am currently looking for a sponsor as I continue to work hard to perfect my craft.

**PR:** You often refer to yourself as an "American Dream Story." How has the American dream played a role in your personal and professional life?

**MS:** The American dream resonates in my journey, symbolizing opportunity, resilience, and triumph — integral elements in shaping my personal and professional identity. I couldn't let my dreams go and with hard work and determination, I was able to accomplish my dreams.

**PR:** Throughout your jet ski racing journey, who has been a significant source of inspiration?

**MS:** Chris MacClugage's aggressive skills and Brice Lopez's style that I trained with in France and the guidance of Laurent Boucher in France, were pivotal in fine tuning my skills while navigating the waters of competition and self-discovery. I am my own biggest competitor and I've used my difficult life experiences to fuel my passion for success and inspire growth within myself.

**PR:** Looking ahead, what are your plans and goals for 2024?

**MS:** 2024 holds exciting prospects. My goals include further triumphs on the international stage by racing in the Pro Class in the P1 Aqua X, the WGP1 in France, Poland, Lake Havasu, and then Thailand, pending I find sponsors. I aim to continue pushing boundaries, leaving an indelible mark in the jet ski racing realm.

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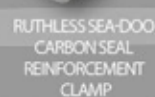
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