

Freddy Vaca of Dallas TX brought home the gold in Amateur Runabout Limited.



Ito Masashi of Irvine CA — very fast in Expert Ski Limited class.



Kerkes from Mission Viejo, CA, who took the win in his first race. Also in his first race, Jason Voegeli looked sharp aboard the BCW Performance machine. Jason finished in second, followed by Pacific Jet Sports-sponsored Dave Dekruiyf. At times it was anybody's race to win or lose, which made this one of the more exciting races of the morning.

Jeff Wright of Grand View MO took second in Veteran Ski Class.



# Blue Water/Red HOT

**Everclear Promotions Intensity Tour Round 1**

By AARON SANCHEZ • PHOTOS BY BANG IMAGING

**F**rom winter warmup to red-hot action, Round One of the Intensity Tour delivered the goods with non-stop Personal Watercraft racing and entertainment. The Blue Water Resort and Casino in Parker, Arizona, hosted the opening race of the 2005 APBA PWC Championship season with a two-day event filled with thrills and spills.

RPM Racing Enterprises' Ross Wallach and Everclear Promotion's Aaron Boatman co-produced the event. AeroEFX Productions filmed the action for the Outdoor Channel, with air times set for May on the "Speedzone" program. The presence of the national television crew brought a new level of professionalism to Personal Watercraft racing and the riders, staff, and fans stood tall to show the world what our sport is all about.

Saturday's warmup race, while exciting and very entertaining, was just a precursor to Sunday's all-out barn-burner, featuring the West Coast's fastest, flashiest riders duking it out. Believe me, the gloves were off!

First off, our future stars competed in the Junior Ski 10-12 Stock class. These micro-missiles showed tons of skill and had Novice riders up and down the beach shaking in their booties, not wanting any part of the young guns. As they say, "act like you've been there before". Keifer King of Anaheim, CA, looked like a seasoned pro earning his first victory, while Dave Pulley of Lake Elsinore on his Pro Tec-prepped Yamaha took a hard-earned second place.

While the little guys were quick, the big kids in Junior Ski 13-15 Stock class were downright fast. Taking the win was Matt Golberg of Lake Elsinore, CA, on his Blowsion sponsored ride, while Las Vegas's own Shawnee Matta made a big splash claiming second place honors. These guys and girls can't even drive a car legally, but they showed us all that racing is in their veins.

It is quite a sight to watch new racers visibly being overtaken by the personal watercraft racing bug. Beginner Runabout is all about that, and Cristol Pulley of Long Beach showed she has what it takes to make it to Victory Lane. Her DMP Motorsports-backed Yamaha was just too much for Riva/Hydro Turf's Rudy Santos, who would have to settle for second for the day. This may be a season-long battle that comes down to the last race to decide who will take home the title. We'll have to wait and see who wants it the most.

The Beginner Ski class is the training ground for future Novice stars and this year's class seems to have been doing their homework. Displaying great skills and making the Granada crew proud was Scott

As if the morning did not have enough excitement already,

next up was the Women's Ski class. Something about cute girls in wet-suits going at it at 50 mph just gets the whole beach on their feet. No disappointment here, as the ladies put on a show that will be talked about for many moons. Bursting on the scene and immediately serving notice was Emi Kanamori, from Roland Heights, CA, on the Kawasaki/Slippery sponsored SXR800. Her super smooth riding style kept her just in front of the always amazingly fast Red Bull backed Niky Goudreau. The two ladies battled the entire race, and at times it looked like Niky could make it happen, but Emi always seemed to have something up her sleeve and snatched the win from Niky's grasp. Rounding out the top three was Lark Schmitt, promoting her larksoldmine.com business in fine fashion.

Gritting your teeth and learning how to be a champion is what the Novice class is all about, and this year's crop of new riders appeared to be well on their way to earning some championships. In Novice Ski Stock, it was Justin Root, of Grand Terrace, CA, battling to the end with Hot Product's Scott Schnieder. Root held onto his lead despite hard charges by Schneider as they crossed the line one-two. Just behind the leaders was Huntington Beach's Rhys Hardih in third, followed by Jet World's "Jayrod" Dunn and mini rocket Adam Barton in fourth and fifth respectively.

Next to the line was the Amateur Runabout Limited class, which is always a tight race since the craft are fairly equal in horsepower. Proving he knows the fast way around the track was Freddy Vaca. He made the long trip from Dallas, TX, well worth it, by bringing home the gold for his proud sponsors Sims Racing and American Airlines. Sea Doo-mounted Robert Smith tore it up and snagged a second on the day, while Chad Cole took his Stubrik's machine to a respectable third place finish.

The racing action stepped up a notch in the Expert Ski Limited class, a fierce battle between longtime rivals and some first-year hot shots. Just flat-out killing it was Joey Micali from Henderson, Nevada. Micali was in a class of his own on Sunday, pulling in his first of two big wins. Always-fast Todd Clark from Las Vegas rode smoothly and skillfully to finish in second place, just ahead of Go Fast-sponsored Greg Matta, also of Las Vegas. The two rookies looked well-prepared for the Expert ranks. Nathan Moore took his TBM machine to fourth place; 2004 Novice Ski Limited World Champion Masashi Ito crossed the line in fifth. Masashi looked very fast and seemed to have it going his way until the log jump ended his lead. This was our first taste of the jump, which seemed to stand a full two feet out of the water and had no mercy. The beach crowd loved it, and with TV cameras rolling it was time to go big and make a splash.

The Veteran Ski class may sound like a bunch of Geritol-popping cronies in some friendly competition, but it is anything but that. These guys are seasoned racers and they play for keeps. Novice Vets was won