

PERSONAL

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# WATERCRAFT

ILLUSTRATED

## WORLD FINALS

FOUR-STROKE  
CAPTURES  
WORLD TITLE



PRO  
RUNABOUT  
WORLD  
CHAMPION  
CHRIS  
MACCLUGGAGE

2005 BUYER'S GUIDE  
FULL DETAILS ON ALL OF  
THIS YEAR'S CRAFT



*In its 23rd year, the IJSBA World Finals may have undergone a few changes, but it still offered plenty of great action*

# REFORM

BY THE STAFF OF PWI

As the saying goes, the more things change, the more they stay the same. This little axiom especially applies to the 23rd annual World Finals, sponsored by Dos Equis and held during the first week in October at the Crazy Horse Campground in Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

Dos Equis and promotion agency IMG brought new vigor to the event with a laundry list of cool ancillary activities, including BMX, skateboarding and freestyle motocross exhibitions - not to mention the return of a mini-moto motorcycle race for the second year.

Other changes included a few things taken from European racing, such as alterations in the race-course design, length of course, moto format and more. The split section was marked with blue and green buoys to minimize the confusion that dogged racers in the past, and an additional straight was added just after the splits to give spectators a little more action to watch. The course was also considerably longer than recent World Finals racecourses, so race organizers cut down on the number of laps, but the longer course forced racers to concentrate and always be prepared for the next buoy.

Another change that came over from Europe (keep in mind that Frenchman Yves Van Heers was again the race director for the event) was a switch to a three-moto format for Pro Ski and Pro Runabout 1200. With three motos on the final day of racing on Sunday, October 10, spectators had added reason to stick to their seats to see who would become the new World Champion.

Freestyle competition also received a new twist. Along with the traditional two-minute routine was a final opportunity to pull one killer trick off a double wake created by two wakeboard boats. The rider would be allowed to thread the needle between the

two boats and whip out some high-flying action for the pleasure of the surging crowd on land.

Arguably the most important thing to happen during the event was the future of sit-down racing realized in full color: Kawasaki Team Green saddled its top three runabout riders on supercharged four-stroke STX-15F watercraft, purported to be rated at about 320 hp. In the end, Chris MacClugage took the top spot on the podium in Pro Runabout 1200 with a solid victory, won from the seat of a four-stroke watercraft - quite a little piece of history (and one we'll investigate much closer in our February Issues with a story about this very boat). The other top winners were Kawasaki's Steven Daullach in Pro Ski and Eric Malone on a Polaris Octane in Pro Freestyle.

What didn't change, thankfully, was the simple fact that the World Finals provided an improved showcase for the finest watercraft racing in the world - something it has done for 23 years in a row right there in Lake Havasu. All the big names from across the globe were in attendance, and many of the less known managed to become better known with improved performances compared to years past.

Fans and spectators were not forgotten in the mix, with plenty of action provided during breaks in the racing. And those who wanted to get out on the water themselves had the option of participating in the World Finals poker run, which was sanctioned by the American Watercraft Association and included stops at some of Lake Havasu's best-known locations.

So while all the focus was on what was new at the 23rd annual World Finals - and there's plenty to talk about as you will see in full color in the pages that follow - the overall impression of the event was much the same as it has always been: awesome racing, awesome watercraft and awesome people.

# MAT



Kawasaki

Chris MacClugage had a rough start to his weekend. On Saturday during Pro Runabout qualifying, MacClugage and teammate Dustin Farthing missed a buoy in their heat. Farthing, who finished just ahead of Mac, went to the finals in the last qualifying spot while MacClugage had to get through via the last chance qualifier. To start off Sunday, MacClugage's ski broke in Pro Ski, so he decided to focus on Runabout, which paid off, as the "Mac Attack" won the first two motos and took second in the third to win the overall. Oh yeah, and he did it all on a supercharged four-stroke STX-15F.

Dustin Farthing looked really strong in the qualifying races and the Pro-Am Modified class, in which he raced a supercharged four-stroke Kawasaki race craft and won. In Pro Runabout, Farthing raced hard aboard his two-stroke-powered craft, but he couldn't manage to get around MacClugage and had to settle for second overall.



There's always plenty of eye candy in Havasu.



The WFWA ramp was at the World Finals, and WFWA riders Josh and Brad Lusic performed some crazy tricks off the 10-foot ramp over the final weekend.



There were numerous skateboarding and BMX demos throughout the weekend as part of the Dos Equis Desert XX.