

US. Grand National Watercross Championships

Lakeview, Ohio

Race Recap

Round 1 – 2

May 22nd – 23rd, 2004



(LAKEVIEW, OHIO) What a difference a year makes. Just a year ago the weather dealt us freezing cold temperatures, with a blistering wind. This year on both Saturday and Sunday we had 86 degree temperatures, with 15-20 mph winds all weekend long. The winds made for some difficult race conditions for the riders as they had to deal with choppy waters all weekend long. But the racing was just phenomenal for the 1st race weekend of the year.

ROUND 1 - The very first race of the weekend was the **Novice Women's Ski Class**. This year the class is wide open for several riders to step up and take the 2004 title. After the weekend our expectations would come true as several riders traded positions all weekend long. On Saturday it was **Susan Ramroth** from Haslett, MI on her Fly Racing Kawasaki taking Moto 1 with **Kirsten Hasty** from Cicero, IN finishing in 2nd place. **Tammy Schmidt** from Monroe, MI on her Slippery, Factory Pipe,

Koppels Tool Kawasaki ending up in 3rd. In moto 2, **Kirsten Hasty** edged out Susan Ramroth for the overall win as **Robyn Friederich** from Highland, IL taking 3rd in the moto.

In the **Pro-Am Women's Ski Class** it was all **Nannette Grissom** from Algonquin, IL on her Z-Force Kawasaki winning both moto's for the overall win followed by **Ashlee Hyde** and **Debbie Hyde** from Hide-away-hills, OH placing 2nd and 3rd respectively.

In the **Novice Ski Stock Class** it was all **Billy Marr** from Cicero, IN on his Peoples Check Cashing Polaris walking away from the rest of the field. If Billy keeps up this pace, he will without a doubt be the 2004 overall series champion and would be seriously looking at the Pro-Am Stock Class in 2005. **Cameron Frame** from Charleson, WV rode a solid 2 moto's for a 2nd overall. **Marc Kirovac** from Chesterfield, MI piloted his Kawasaki to a 3rd in moto 2 to give him 3rd place overall for Round 1.

In the **Amateur 14/15 yr Ski Stock Class** there were 5 riders in the class which made for some great racing. **Bryce Miller** from Sugar Grove, OH managed back to back moto wins for the overall win for Round 1. Bryce rode consistently both moto's and has shown improvement from last year. **Nathan Denton** from Burrows, IN on his Race Extreme Kawasaki ended up in 2nd overall. **Dustin Charrier** from Noblesville, IN on his Dean's Team Kawasaki struggled in moto 1 with a 4th place finish but, put it together for a 2nd in moto 2 for a 3rd place overall.

In the **Novice Ski Veteran class**, **Jerry Hommes** from Washington, MI dominated Round 1 with back to back moto wins for 1st overall. **Jeff Binzen** from Osgood, IN on his Water Works Yamaha rode to a consistent 2nd place overall, with **Frank Bryant** from Carmel, IN on his Freelance powered Kawasaki rounding up 3rd place while missing a buoy in moto 1.

In the **Novice Ski Limited Class** it was a Canada 1-2 finish as **Dany Allaro** From Vald'Or, Canada on his Hypertech, A-Perusse, Budweiser powered Kawasaki won both moto's for a flawless performance for the win overall. **Steve Savoie** from Vasjan, Canada rode consistent moto's for 2nd overall edging out **Jeremy Jones** from Birmingham, MI on his Mancino's Pizza and Grinders powered Kawasaki who ended up in 3rd place overall.



In the **Expert R/A 1200 Superstock Class**, **James Hostetter** from Newark, OH on his Maxima, Texas Roadhouse, Slippery Yamaha managed to take the overall win with placing 2nd both moto's. James had everything working on all cylinders as he was looking strong in Round 1. **Jayme Cheney** from West Fargo, ND on his Dean's Team Fly Racing powered Sea-Doo battled with **Ryan Pearson** from

Windsor, Canada on his Maxima, Slippery, Skat Trak powered Kawasaki for 2nd and 3rd respectively.

In the **Novice R/A 800 Stock Class** it was a Canada 1-2-3 sweep. **Vince Danagher** from Oakville, Canada on his Castrol powered Sea-Doo dominated in Round 1 with back to back moto wins. **Paul Leidel** from St. Catharines, Canada rode a consistent race with placing 2nd in both moto's and ended up with 2nd overall. **Gordon Horne** also from St. Catharines, Canada looked new and improved for 2004 jumping out to the lead in moto 1 only to be called for a few missed buoy's. In Moto 2 Gordon rode a hard race as he and Paul Leidel battled side by side in moto 2. Gordon ended up in 3rd place for the overall in Round 1.

The class everybody was waiting for and the last on the schedule was the **Pro Am Ski Stock Class**. With 13 of the best riders on the tour including several Novice riders that moved up, this class provided some great racing throughout the weekend. In Moto 1 **Brad Maloney** from Holland, OH on his Goggle Grip powered Kawasaki jumped out to a very large lead and never looked back. It looked as though Brad took over where he left off from his World Finals performance. **Jerry Schmidt** from Monroe, MI on his Slippery, Factory Pipe, Koppels Tool Kawasaki battled the entire 12 lap moto with **Michael Remar** from Lowell, MI on his Cal Jet, Fly Racing powered

Kawasaki. **Jerry Schmidt** ended up edging out **Michael Remar** for the 2nd position for moto 1. In Moto 2 it would be a different story. After Moto 1, **Michael Remar** vowed to win Moto 2 to the crowd, and he ended up backing it up with a Moto 2 win. However, it wouldn't be easy. From the start **Michael Remar** jumped out to an early lead with **Brad Maloney** slowly catching up. Lap by lap Brad was gaining on Remar and with enough laps left looked like he was going to catch and pass Mike for the win. However, on Lap 10 Brad caught a wave and lost some time as Remar pulled ahead you thought the race was over. But no, Brad rode like a madman and caught up to Remar as quickly as he fell behind. On lap 11, the final lap, Brad was right behind Remar crossing the start/finish line heading into the log jump. As both approached the log jump Remar swung wide, and shut the door on Brad. Then as a result, Brad missed the log jump and had to go back and pick it up. Game over. What a great race for the fans to watch. **Jerry Schmidt** also had a battle on his hands as **James Cook** from Harrison Twp, MI on his Blowsion powered Kawasaki was on Jerry's heels battling for that 3rd position. Jerry eventually hung on for the 3rd place finish in Moto 2. **Brad Maloney** ended up winning the class overall with **Michael Remar** taking 2nd overall, and **Jerry Schmidt** placed 3rd overall. A surprising finish and good ride for Round 1 was **Brian Friederich** from Highland, IL on his Slippery, Klotz powered Kawasaki came back from taking a couple of years off racing, and showed he had some serious speed. Brian ran a consistent pace in both Moto's giving him a 4th overall in the Pro Am Ski Stock Class. This class promises to be provide some great racing excitement for the upcoming year, with several riders having a shot at the Overall Season Title. There were also several Novice riders that moved up to the Pro Am ranks, that discovered they needed to find some extra speed to compete at the top of this class for 2004.



During intermission of Moto 1 and Moto 2 we had some awesome **Freestyle action** that entertained the crowd as the **Team Twangled** boys were in the house with their high flying acrobatic tricks. Winning Round 1 of the **Pro Freestyle Class** was **Greg Brock** from Chicago, IL on his Det-Chi Video, Wamiltons powered Yamaha taking 1st place honors edging out **Gary Burtka** also from Chicago, IL by .2 (tenths) of a point. Gary's primary ski wasn't running for the event so he had to borrow a ski for the competition. It appeared Gary was still trying to get used to the borrowed ski as his turn for competition began. **Mike Hoffman** from Bensonville, IL was also in the house, and ended up placing 3rd place overall in Pro Freestyle. **Team Twangled** also gave out several T-shirts and Det-Chi Video's to the crowd as they watched the Freestyle competition. In the **Amateur Freestyle competition** it was **Devin Hoover**, from Ypsilanti, MI on his Michigan Powersports, Det-Chi Video Kawasaki taking the overall win. **Toby Pinks** from Ada, OH on his Crazyhorse D.J. Service powered Sea-Doo ended up in the 2nd position overall. This was Toby's debut appearance on the U.S. Grand National Tour, and he dazzled the crowd performing trick after trick on

his Sea-Doo GTS.

ROUND 2 - Once again on Sunday the **Novice Women's Ski Class** was 1st up on the schedule of Events. The women took off where they left off on Saturday with some close exciting racing action. Once again **Susan Ramroth** from Haslett, MI on her Fly Racing Kawasaki had back to back wins for the overall win. However, she would have to battle with **Kirsten Hasty** from Cicero, IN and **Britney Charrier** from Noblesville, IN on her Dean's Team Powered Kawaski. All 3 riders were rubbing fiberglass and trading positions throughout Moto 2. Kirsten and Britney traded 2nd and 3rd spots in each moto with Kirsten ending up with 2nd overall with the better finish in Moto 2. The Novice Women's Ski Class is going to be a great class to follow as the season goes on, with anybody having a chance at the overall series title.



In the **Expert Ski Limited Class** the Canadian Flag was flying high again. **Justin Labonte** from Val D'OR, Canada on his A'Perusse Kawasaki managed to take the overall win with a consistent 3-1 finish. **Derek Powell** from Syracuse, IN won the 1st Moto, but with ski problems didn't make the race for Moto 2. **Jeff Clark** from Monroe, MI on his K&J Fabrication powered Kawasaki ended up with a 2nd overall with **Clint Huhn** from Mt. Pleasant, MI on his JSU/UMI Racing, Hydro-Turf powered Kawasaki taking 3rd overall with a great ride in Moto 2 with a 2nd place finish. After having ski problems in Moto 1, **Marvin Bulas** from Eastpointe, MI on his PWCPartship powered Kawaski had an outstanding ride in Moto 2 with a 3rd place finish and a 4th place overall.

In the **14/15 yr Ski Stock Class**, **Jake Zier** from Carmel, IN on his Indy Cycle and Ski powered Kawasaki put it together for the overall win with some solid riding. **Dustin Charrier** from Noblesville, IN on his Dean's Team, Novi powered Kawasaki won the 2nd moto after countless dismounts in the 1st 3 moto's of the weekend and eventually ended up in 2nd place overall. **Bryce Miller** from Sugar Grove, OH rode a consistent both moto's for a 3rd place overall. This class could be very interesting as the year goes on as several riders have the opportunity to become the overall series champion.

In the **Pro Am Women's Ski Class** on Sunday it was **Nannette Grissom** from Algonquin, IL taking the win in Moto 1, with **Ashlee Hyde** from Hide-away-hills, OH on her Rhino Linings powered Kawasaki finishing in 2nd. However, in Moto 2 **Ashlee Hyde** took the win and ended up winning the overall for Round 2. **Debbie Hyde** from Hide-awayhills, OH ended up finishing in 3rd place overall. If Ashlee finds some more power out of her ski, her and **Nannette Grissom** could have a great battle as the season unfolds.



In the **Expert R/A 800 Limited Class** it was a Canadian sweep with **Rob Borycki** from Hamilton, Canada on his Baker Performance Sea-Doo taking the overall win with a 1-1 moto finish. **Rick Maj** from Toronto, Canada on his Castrol Oil, Baker Performance powered Sea-Doo taking 2nd place overall with a 3-3 moto finish. Finishing in 3rd place overall who recently made the jump from Novice to the Expert ranks was **Aaron Ellwood** from Tecumseh, Canada on his Lakeshore Performance powered Sea-Doo with a 5-2 moto finish.

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Probably one of the best races of the weekend was in the **Expert R/A 1200 S/S class**. **Jayme Cheney** from West Fargo, ND on his Dean's Team, Fly Racing Sea-Doo had an intense battle in Moto 2 with **Ryan Pearson** from Windsor, Canada on his Maxima, Skat-Trak powered Kawasaki for a 1-2 finish overall. In Moto 2 Ryan jumped out to an early lead as Jayme was on his tail lap after lap. Late in the 10 lap race Jayme got by Ryan on the outside to take the win in Moto 2. These two riders going at it lap after lap was extremely entertaining, and might just be a preview for the upcoming Can-Am Race. If this is what we have to look forward to, the Can-Am Cup 1200 Event could be a very exciting race to watch.

In Sunday's **Pro Freestyle Event**, **Gary Burtka** from Chicago, IL finally got used to the borrowed ski and put together a solid performance for the overall win. **Greg Brock** also from Chicago, IL had a good routine and barely edged out **Mike Hoffman** from Bensonville, IL by a very close margin of .1 (tenth) of a point. These guys lit up the water with their arial Barrell rolls and high flying tricks as the crowd was in awe. Again Team Twangled gave away free T-shirts, and video's to the crowd.



In the **Pro Am Ski Stock Class** it would be 2 new faces on the awards podium. **Jerry Schmidt** from Monroe, MI on his Slippery, Factory Pipe, Koppels Tool Kawasaki had back to back Moto wins for a 1st place overall. **James Cebulski** from Joliet, IL on his Slippery, Jettrim, Skat-Trak powered Kawasaki led both moto's only to end up with a 3-2 moto finish for 2nd overall. Jim looked strong both moto's and showed to be a real contender for the remaining season. **Brad Maloney** from Holland, OH on his Goggle Grip powered Kawasaki finished the day with a 2-4 moto finish for 3rd place overall. **Jerry Schmidt** and **Brad Maloney** after 2 rounds are now tied for the overall points lead in the Pro Am Stock Ski Class. **Mike Remar** struggled on Sunday with a disappointing 14th place in Moto 1 after literally getting stuck on the log jump. Mike ended up in 10th place overall for Round 2 hurting his overall series points for the season.

It was a great weekend of racing with absolutely georgous weather all weekend long. What a great way to start the 2004 Racing Season. The next race date for the **Sizzlin Summer 2004 will be on June 19th-20th at Wildwood, New Jersey** as part of Round 1 of the **USWRA Triple Crown Challenge Series**. The USWRA Triple Crown Watercross Challenge Series opener will take place in beautiful Wildwood, New Jersey (Oceanside) on June 19th & 20th. Wildwood provides an excellent backdrop for racing with it's dazzling beaches and nearby amusement park. The Oceanside beaches are packed with people during the summer months making it one of the premier vacation spots on the East Coast. The mile wide beaches and the rough waves of the Atlantic Ocean will provide some action packed racing. This is will be a fun event for the entire family as there is something to do for everybody at Wildwood, New Jersey (Oceanside). Along with the **USWRA Triple Crown Watercross Challenge Series**, **Watersports Productions** will also be hosting a Wave Jumping Contest for Leukemia Society following freestyle on Saturday. Also featured that weekend will be an Endurance Race starting at 3:00 pm on Saturday. So with some great Closed Course Watercross Racing, Endurance Racing, and a Wave Jumping Contest this event will provide lots of enjoyment for all Personal Watercraft Enthusiasts. Mark your Calendars, and get a spot on the beach early because it will be packed. For more information visit www.uswra.com or www.watersportproduction.com.

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The next race date for the **U.S. Grand National Watercross Championships Rounds 3 & 4 will be June 26th & 27th at Pontiac, Michigan**. Don't miss this highly popular event as numerous riders from Canada make the yearly trek across the border to participate. For more information visit www.watercross.com.

Hammertime Promotions – Jacque Bryant – Phone (317) 877-0789 – Fax (317) 877-0789 – email – mwctour@iquest.net