

Mercury Marine SRV Point Score #3 Lake Bullen-Merri. October 18 & 19th, 2009

It has been a very busy commencement to the 2009/2010 season for many Victorian crews with two Point Scores at Lake Charm under their belts, along with some big road trips to the Hawkesbury 120 and Grafton. Moving into mid October, there was a new Point Score venue to explore at Lake Bullen-Merri at Camperdown in Western Victoria.

Many crews were totally unaware what to expect from the new venue and were pleasantly surprised when they drove into the 'stadium like' surroundings with crater walls around the entire lake perimeter. There was plenty of room to move around in the park area, with quite a few crews deciding to camp here as well. The Camperdown locals were keen to give us a good impression of the Lake, and they certainly did not disappoint us.

The Venue Management crew did a sensational job of arriving early on the Friday to get the course laid out and having all Judges Facilities and PA equipment in order. A great effort by Graham French, Dave Bishop, Brett Dominguez and Michael Brooks. Special thanks to Camperdown PreMix Concrete for their assistance on the Friday with equipment and services.

Conditions were cool and cloudy on the Saturday morning, which is expected at this time of year in South Western Victoria. A good turnout of crews for the first racing of the weekend, being the 2up events.

Some new boats appeared for the first time this season, and one notable addition was Australian team boat from the Belgium World Titles being 'White Noiz'. This beautifully prepared Bernico powered by a 1075 Mercruiser from the Hogben stable of boats was a sight to see on the lake and generated plenty of interest. The boat was only unloaded from the container a couple of days prior to this race, a great job by the crew to have it ready in time for the weekend.

SATURDAY RACING

Inboard 2up - First place was Hellrazor with Mark Cranny driving, Damien Matthews observing and Peter Proctor and Paul Robertson skiing. Second place was White Noiz getting a podium in its first race in Victoria with Steve Shipp steering, Robbie Henderson observing and James Hogben and Aiden Cuff on the rails out the back. Third place was the 21 foot Everingham of Fast Cash with Greg Gunther driving, Graeme "The General" Watts looking backwards and keeping Mick Gunther and Chris Taylor safe on those skis.

Junior 2up - First place after a tough 30 minute run was Out 4 Revenge with Travis Cuff driving, Jeff Howard observing and Dylan Cuff and Lloyd Woolman skiing. Second place was Stalker Evinrude with Brad Groves driving, Shaun Williams observing and Will Groves and Clinton Stratton out the back. The Superclass hull of 99 Psycho Clowns with Daniel McMahon driving, Ian Baker giving the ski a rest and observing for Mitch Mulcahy and Jacob Hinterholz.

Outboard 2up - The win went to MOC boat Category 5 with John Bruce Vesley driving, Scotty Owbridge Observing and Troy Barends and Steven Berry skiing. Second place was Team SBR with Carpo driving, Hendo observing and Justin Cadden and Chris Mansfield skiing. Third was Smoke n Mirrors with Ash Cox driving, Matt Fallon observing and brothers Trav and Jamie Oliver out the back.

Under 10 boys - Cameron Nix decided to give it another go in Under 10 boys and he didn't disappoint finishing the race and taking the win behind Gro Up.

Under 10 Girls – There was 2 boats to greet the starter and it was Phoenix taking the win with Brooke Hammond skiing. Second place was Thudernuts with Emma Barnes out the back.

Sub Junior Boys – Omen F2 took the win with regular team Omen Junior skier Jackson Hammond, Second was Swine Flew with Sean Stevens and Third was Top Toy with Shannon Daldy in tow.

Sub Junior Girls – What a close race this was with First place going to Stalker Evinrude with Jade Groves, second place was Shipprek with Tayla Stent skiing and Third was Rogue towing Tayla Hinterholz. A fantastic race and well done to the crews for keeping the girls safe.

Novice Social – – It was great to see the 19 foot Force Lethal down at Bullen Merri and they took the win with Phil Muratore skiing, Second was Category 5 with Ben Embleton skiing and Third was No Rules with Ash Horman out the back.

Social Women – Team SBR took out another win in Social Women with Jacqui Cadden skiing, second was Thudernuts with Cara Jochinke and Third was Smoke n Mirrors with Chelsea Blight in tow.

60mph Social – Longshot took the win with Christopher Maher skiing, Second was Ballistic with Andrew Hinterholz and third was Viscious Rumours with Matt Couzens.

Stock 6 Litre – First place was Jagged Edge with Mark Boyer getting another win, Second was Gro Up with Adrian Nix skiing and Third was Solid Gold with Noel Cartledge skiing.

Formula 2 – I would consider this race the most entertaining of the weekend. All crews you could say were having a crack big time, and a few team members may have needed to check their heart rates after this one. First place was Marcus Cranny's Air Force One with Tom Smith skiing, second was Stalker Evinrude with Justin Cadden out the back and Third was Smoken Mirrors with Jamie Oliver. The water chopped up and it may have caught a few drivers (and one skier in particular, OUCH that hurt) by surprise.

2.5 Outboard – Messy Racing took the win with Andrew Morgan skiing

Under 30 Women – Another very entertaining race and the pace was fast and furious. White Noiz captured its first race win back in Australia with Cara Jochinke skiing. Second was Chelsea Blight behind Hellrazor and Third was Maddi Boyer behind Carpy's Team SBR.

Social Men – Another big field greeted the starter and it was a great battle for the win with Robbie Skennerton behind Air Force One, second was Aiden Cuff behind the family boat Out For Revenge and third was Shipprek with Stu Cox. A very entertaining race and a great battle for the win.

Under 25 Mens – ORSM took his first win of the weekend with Kane Howard skiing, Second was Hellrazor having a ding dong battle with them towing Chris Mansfield. Third was Super Slak Racing with Dylan Stevenson skiing.

Under 25 Women - First place was Chelsea Blight behind Team SBR keeping up a consistent pace for the entire 5 laps, second was Shipprek with Chloe Shipp and Third was Smoke n Mirrors with Zoe Stratton.

Under 19 Girls –First place was Maddi Boyer behind White Noiz, second was Synthetic towing Chelsea Kelly and Third was Toey As with Tara Wright skiing.

Under 30 Mens - Hellrazor took a solid win with Peter Proctor skiing but they were pushed all the way by Luke Watts behind the Nissan powered ORSM, and third was a consistent run by Burkies No Rules with Ben Pearce skiing.

There was a scheduled 'heroes' 2up event planned with Junior and Senior skiers as the last race of the day, but due to time getting away from us we had to postpone this event to the first race on the Saturday of Vic Titles at Lake Charm.

SUNDAY RACING

60mph Expert – First place was Ballistic towing Andrew Hinterholz, second was Swine Flew with Benjamin Miller and third was Ina Nutshell with Kirsten Tindel skiing.

First Year Novice, First place was Phil Muratore skiing behind Lethal. Second was Total Kaos with Sam Mather and third was 99 Psycho Clowns with Peter McDonald out the back.

Under 19 Boys – One of the biggest entry lists for the weekend and it was Hellrazor with Ben Pearse getting the win, second was Aiden Cuff behind ORSM and third was WhiteNoiz with James Hogben by only one second.

Open Men – Another great win to the Hellrazor team with Peter Proctor skiing and making it 3 from 3 in Mens for this season. Second place was ORSM with Troy Barends out the back and Third was Team SBR with the ever reliable Justin Cadden.

Open Women – White Noiz took the win with regular skier Cara Jochinke out back. Second place was Team SBR with Maddison Boyer and third place was Smoke n Mirrors with Chelsea Blight.

SMOC - This race was a nail biter from the time they dropped the flag and a great win to the Viscious Rumours crew with Wayne Duggan skiing, Second was No Rules with Justin Cadden and Third was Stalker Evinrude with Gerard Atkins. There was only 4 seconds between first and third.

6 Litre – There was just 3 finishers in this race but the quality of the field made for great racing. First place was Ralphy's Cinders towing Chris Mansfield, Second place was Jagged Edge with Steve Berry and Third was Synthetic with Mark Boyer.

Junior Boys – A great battle between the lads, and a great win to Smoke n Mirrors with Clinton Stratton, Second was Will Groves behind Stalker Evinrude and Third was White Noiz with Lloyd Woolman skiing out the back.

Junior Girls - First place was a great ski by Tara Wright behind the Stevens boat Toey As. Second was Out 4 Revenge with Ashlee Cuff and Third was Shipprek with Tayla Stent.

Novice Men – It was another Novice win for the Lethal crew with Phil Muratore skiing, second was No Rules with Ash Horman and Third was Category 5 with Ben Embleton skiing.

Novice Women – Three starters and three finishers, it was Tantrum taking the win with Jennifer Linaker skiing, Second was Runnin Wild with Janine Batchelor and Third was Stalker Evinrude with Vikki Groves skiing.

Senior Men – The over 30 year old blokes were next on the water and it was Hellrazor taking another win with Paul Robertson skiing. Second was White Noiz with Mark Boyer out the back and Third was Team SBR towing Justin Cadden.

Senior Women – Taking a strong win was Stalker Evinrude with Jacqui Cadden out the back. Second was Rogue with Sharnee Glover and Third was Shipprek with the President having a drive and Vikki Shipp skiing.

MOC – First place went to the Mercury powered Category 5 with Steven Berry skiing, Second was The Specimen with Rhys Duggan in tow and Third was Stalker Evinrude with Gerard Atkins out the back.

8 Litre – Cinders made the trip down from Echuca worthwhile with a 6 and 8 litre double with Chris Mansfield skiing, Second only 6 seconds back was the bullet boat stern drive of Super Slak Racing with Dylan Stevenson and Third was another Bullet, Synthetic with Damian Payne.

There was a huge crowd of spectators there on Sunday, with interested locals still arriving at the lake as the last race was being run. We also had some great exposure for our sport in the area with a local media contingent reporting on the weekend's events. Thanks to all competitors for putting on a great show for them.

The feedback on the course and the venue from Competitors was extremely positive, and the SRV Committee will investigate the options of further racing at Lake Bullen-Merri in the future.

A special thanks to the following people for their hard work and making the weekend a success; Lou Mudgway, (Chief Judge), Jamie Jones (Race Controller). PA duties of regulars Dave Bishop and Richard Partington, with a special guest appearance on the PA from the effervescent Brett Dominguez.

We had an excellent crew of helpers and assistants in the entries and substitutions tent, with a very special thank you to Vicki Shipp, Tracey Cranny, Suzie Cuff and Elise Batchelor for their great assistance all weekend.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered in the judges tent, buoy boat, rescue boat, course and start boats. We did struggle a bit for helpers a few times during the weekend. If your name is on the helpers roster, please ensure that you are available when called up.

Apologies if I have missed anyone in the “thank you’s”, the SRV committee really do appreciate your help.

Special thanks to the Lake Bullen-Merri Foreshore Committee for their assistance in organizing the event with SRV, and the Camperdown Motorcycle Club for use of their clubrooms for judging and race control. Also a big thanks to the people who donated their time and boats for use as buoy boats all weekend.

Next Race will be the Victorian Titles back at Lake Charm on December 5th and 6th. Remember that entries close on Wednesday November 25th and no late entries will be accepted. Fax your entries to (03) 54 80 0670.

See you there.

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*** Special Thanks to Vicki Groves for the photos**