

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**HIGH WINDS AND HIGH SPEEDS
AT THE FIRST ROUND OF
THE NAVMAN MAUI SPEED CHALLENGE SERIES**



Maui, Hawaii – Blue skies, strong winds and a fantastic atmosphere blessed the opening round of the first-ever Navman Maui Speed Challenge Series, held today (Sunday, July 17) from Maui's Kite Beach. With more than 30 windsurfers and kitesurfers entered, the 'open water' event was a huge success. Pro sailors included Anders Bringdal and former speed world record holder Erik Beale. Each competitor was provided with a Navman Sport.Tool M300 GPS unit. But, while no records were broken, Anders still pulled off an impressive average speed of 36.63 knots, making him the clear winner of the Open class. In second place was Alex Aguera, with 35.5 knots, closely followed by Jacques Puavert, with 34.8 knots.

"I feel very good, awesome," says a delighted Anders Bringdal. "The whole event was really cool – I enjoyed it a lot. I did the World Cup for years, and traveled to many countries, but now I feel it has been culminating to this event. "It's a fantastic competition format – you just go out and sail. Simple. And the Navman GPS unit is so easy to use, and seems to me to work well. "The cool thing is that it's great for the windsurf industry, as it'll spur people to look at their equipment and think about how they can tune it – better sails, boards etc – for next time. I definitely plan to do more, hopefully most of the series, and will try to get some other pros to enter."

The event wasn't just about the pro sailors – other classes out on the water were Men, Masters, Juniors, Menehune, Fun and Kite. And the kitesurfers proved they were no slouches when it came to fast speeds.

Kite winner Peter Hasler's speed of 32.63 knots beat many of the windsurfers. Hot on his fins was Shawn Richman, with 32.47 knots; and Reinhardt Elischka was third, with 31.5 knots.

Another top speed came from the winner of the Masters category, Michael Warmuth. He recorded an average of 32.93 knots – not bad for an old-timer!

As for the up-and-coming stars, 11-year-old Jake Golm ruled the Menehune class, winning every one of his four heats and clocking an average speed of 27.53 knots. Second place went to Connor Baxter (25 knots), with third going to Zane Schweitzer (21.37 knots).

"It felt good because I was going really fast but I didn't know if I was going fast enough to beat Connor," says Jake. "But then when I found out I did, I was really happy. It was fun because I think I went the fastest I've ever gone. Now I'm looking forward to doing the rest of the series."

Youngest competitor was Berndt Roediger, who's just eight years of age. He managed 17.57 knots, but more importantly he had a great time in the process. "I really enjoyed myself," he says. "I was pleased with how fast I went today; it was awesome to find out how fast I can go. Now I want to buy one of those GPS units and go out practicing when there aren't so many waves."

The only female to compete was 14-year-old Paulina Pease, who was up against fellow Junior Mark Boersma. While Paulina pulled off a respectable 22.63 knots, she didn't get anywhere near Mark – hardly surprising, though, as his average speed of 32.93 knots was faster than many of the adults on the water.

In the Men's category, Elon Wong took first, recording an average speed of 33.03 knots; followed by Carl Grundy (29.37 knots).

And in the final class, Fun, Niels Van Wessem took top honors, with 29.8 knots. Second place went to Ben George (28.13 knots), who says: "The whole day was great fun. It has made me more conscious of my equipment. What I love most is the buzz I get from racing – and from socialising with other competitors."

OFFICIAL EVENT WEBSITE: www.mauispeed.com

EVENT INFORMATION:

Dates for the Navman Maui Speed Challenge Series are July 17 and 24, August 7 and 21, and September 11 and 25, to be held from Maui's Kite Beach, near Kanaha Beach Park. Each competitor will be provided with a Sport.Tool M300 GPS unit, provided by main sponsor Navman. The competition is open to the following categories: Open Class (in which those with specialized speed sailing equipment will compete), Men, Women, Masters, Juniors, Menehune, Fun and Kite.

For more information on the Navman Sport.Tool M300, visit www.navmanusa.com and www.sport-tool.com.

EVENT SPONSORS: Navman, Hot Sails Maui, Fred Haywood Realty, WindsurfingClassifieds.Com, Kanaha Kai, Freestyle, Ray Masters, Waki Jaki and THE POINT, WestGroup Marketing Communications, Maui Custom Kats, Ocean 7, Maui Sports Net, Sign Solutions, and David and Debbie Blyth.

CONTACTS:

Event Director: Marc Lefebvre (lefebvre@iwavesolutions.com)

Race Director: Tom Hammerton (tom@hotsailsmaui.com)

Promotions: Nancy Wilhelms (nancyw@teamwestgroup.com)

Media Director: Debbie Blyth (mauiblyths@verizon.net)

Navman PR: Andrew Golden (agolden@andrewgolden.com)

