

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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BRINGDAL STILL ON TOP AS THE NAVMAN MAUI SPEED CHALLENGE SERIES RETURNS IN A FURY

Maui, Hawaii (USA) – Words are not enough to describe the furious wind and water conditions at Race 4 of the Navman Maui Speed Challenge Series. After a two-week hiatus due to weak trade winds caused by a hurricane passing by offshore, the winds returned with a vengeance, with gusts breaking 30kts and wave and chop running close to waist high. Race 4 also brought about some new faces from the international windsurfing community, including Ross Williams, Ben Van Der Steen, and Peter Bijl, who all clocked in some amazing knots in near-impossible conditions.



Jacques Pauvert threw down the gauntlet early on in heat 1 with 38.8 kts. But when it came down to the wire, it was Anders Bringdal who once again pulled together a perfect run posting an event record of 39kts, edging ever closer to the 40kt barrier in the radical conditions. Hopes were running high in breaking 40kts this day but it was not to be with the steep chop and waves, although many of the top contenders felt that one good puff near the "bone yards" would have put them over the edge. Alex Aguera, sporting around 15lbs in his weight jacket, pushed Anders as well, clocking a top speed of 38.6kts. The increasing wind conditions were a boon for some, posting personal bests in the 37kt range, while others were pushed to the limits. Spectacular wipeouts could be seen from the beach as sailors battled the elements. In all cases, the Navman GPS units once again withstood the physical abuse thrown at them.

In the Kite Division, David Dorn really put the pedal to the metal and posted an event best for the kite division with a speed of 35.2kts, passing the previous record of 33.4kts produced by Shawn Richman. "The key to speedy times was in picking your line," said Dorn. "If you found yourself on the peaks, you were in trouble; whereas, if you stayed in the troughs and carved to maintain your line, it was smooth and good speed resulted."

In the Men's Division, Marc Lefebvre matched his personal best of 30.7kts, finding his goal of 33kts elusive. "I felt like I had the right gear, the right setup for better speeds but I think the fear factor was the limiting factor for me," said Lefebvre.

Taking first place in the Women's Division was event newcomer Ashley Baxter, who is 14 years old. She posted a top speed of 26.9kts and beat Paulina Pease, Linda Cherry and Kristen Orth.

In the Master's Division, Mike Yasak found some really smooth water on port tack on the upper side of kite beach and posted some blazing speeds of 34.7kts. "Inside of the Bone Yards was my secret spot on port and I found my fastest times there," said Yasak. Hot on his heels was Jeff Fagerholm, of Vector Fins fame, who twice posted a speed of 32.2kts.

Skylar Haywood, the only Junior Division competitor, hit a top speed of 32.5kts, surpassing many in the Men, Open and Masters Divisions. It is obvious the apple does not fall far from the tree.

In the Fun Division, Carl Grundy handled the crazy conditions on his classic plastic Tiga 257, and found a top speed of 30.1kts. That board surely helped keep things under control when the chop got out of hand.

Last but not least, the Menehune Division saw some scary speeds and fierce competition. In the end, it was Jake Golm who once again dominated with a top speed of 29.5kts. Not too far behind was Baker Grant with a top speed of 27.7kts; and Connor Baxter, who managed 26.1kts on his new Starboard Speed Board, the fastest he has ever sailed in his life.

OFFICIAL EVENT WEBSITE: www.mauispeed.com

PHOTOS: Photos available on the website.

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.

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