

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FINAL RACE A SUCCESS IN THE NAVMAN MAUI SPEED CHALLENGE SERIES

Maui, Hawaii (USA) -- The 6th and final round of the Navman Maui Speed Challenge Series may have lacked strong winds and series leader Anders Bringdal. But the blue skies and party atmosphere at the new location, Kanaha Canoe Halau, made for a great day on and off the water. In the Open class, with Anders out of action, there was a new face in the top spot, Matt Daniels. Matt's fastest speed of 32.7kts may not have been enough to win him any records, but it was enough to beat Alex Aguera (32.2kts) and Erik Beale (31.4kts), the two men battling for the runners-up position on the series podium with Anders. As noticeable as the absence of a bedridden Anders was the increase in the number of competitors in the Kite and Fun divisions. These included young kilters Shawn and Jesse Richman, who notched up top speeds of 31.9kts and 30.4kts respectively. The brothers showed no mercy against series leader Dave Dorn, whose sub-30kts put him in third place this round.



Out for some Fun – or was it the thought of the free food and drink at the final party? – were a few new faces and some welcome returnees. Series leader Carl Grundy got the top speed with 27.60kts, but he lost the round to newcomer Sven Zedlick, whose average of 26.95kts just pipped Carl's 26.90kts. Carl was demoted to second place this time, with third going to Niels Van Wessem (26.40kts average). If only Sven, who lives in Germany much of the year, had been here for the previous five rounds, he may well have given Carl a speed run for his money.

Another latecomer who no doubt regrets missing the earlier rounds is Ashley Baxter, winner of the Women's division for the third time in a row. Her top speed of 25.8kts was more than 2kts faster than second-placed Paulina Pease (23.6kts), but Paulina still sails away with the overall title thanks to her consistent results. Finishing third this round was Kristen Orth, with a top speed of 20.9kts. And making her debut was Kanza Stott, the youngest in her class, who came in fourth with 19.8kts.

Sticking with the young guns, the Menehune division saw the usual battle between Jake Golm and Baker Grant. It was Jake's turn to take first place – and the overall series title – with a top speed of 26.4kts against Baker's 25.5kts. Not too far behind those two was Zane Schweitzer (22.4kts) and the series' youngest competitor, Bernd Roediger (16.9kts), who turns nine on October 7.

In the Junior division, lone Skyler Haywood raced against himself once again. But with a top speed of 28.2kts, he proved he'll be up there with the good guys by the time he's 18!

At the opposite end of the age spectrum, the Masters division also saw just one sailor on the water. Even so, Jeff Fagerholm's top speed of 30.6kts was fifth fastest out of all the divisions, a befitting result for the Masters series winner.

For once, Marc Lefebvre had competition in the Men's class. But, with an average speed of 28.3kts, he proved he is worthy of his championship prize by beating Elon Wong (27.6kts) and latecomer Ken Orth (23.6kts).

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.

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)

