



*For Immediate Release*  
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## **WATERCRAFT RACES RETURN TO THE HARBOR BEACH MARITIME FESTIVAL**

### **THREE EVENTS COMBINE TO CREATE THE MUST ATTEND EVENT OF THE SUMMER**

If there is one race you ever watch or race in, the Harbor Beach, Michigan event is one race you should experience. The whole week of the event includes many great activities making it truly an epic event. It's fun for the entire family with live bands on the beach, fireworks, camping on beautiful Lake Huron, food and vendor tents, raffles, watercraft racing, watercraft recreational events and lots of other exciting events. With the event being the combination of three of the best watercraft events in the country including the HYDRO-TURF APBA National Tour, the Monster Energy Midwest Watercross Tour and the U.S vs. Canada Can-Am Cup events, this year's event it promises to be bigger than ever.

The Harbor Beach Watercross Nationals/Midwest Monster Energy Midwest Watercross Tour/Can-Am Cup event is run in conjunction with the 8th Annual Harbor Beach Maritime Festival in Harbor Beach, Michigan. This is definitely one of the racer's favorite sites year after year as the Harbor Beach locals put on an outstanding event and show tremendous hospitality. The event will take place in their Harbor on Lake Huron, and is a perfect site for a watercraft race, and guaranteed to be a lot of fun. The 1,015 foot long pier provides great viewing for the thousands of spectators that come to watch the United States and Canada's finest watercraft racers.

The Maritime Festival in Harbor Beach, Michigan has become one of the largest spectator events of Personal Watercraft Racing in the country. Over 5,000 spectators will be on hand to watch the hot racing action that weekend making the pier standing room only. All during the day the best racers from across the United States compete in the HYDRO-TURF APBA National Tour events. The crowd is electrified all weekend long with the top Pros competing on the National Tour as well as Saturday Night during the Budweiser / Novi Can-Am Cup as thousands of spectators wildly cheer for their favorite team. Last year's Can-Am Cup was won by the U.S.A., but this year's event promises to be even more exciting as the Canadian's will be coming in full force to take back the Can-Am Cup.

The weekend festivities gets under way as a growing and popular recreational event will be taking place on Friday night. The 6th Annual H & R Block / Honda Aquatrax Invitational will be in full swing as local personal watercraft enthusiasts will compete in Team Competition on the same race course run by the racers. Each Team will consist of 4 Riders that will each run 1 lap in a Timed Event. All scored times from each individual of each team will then be tabulated, and the Team that has the best overall time will be the H & R Block / Honda Aquatrax Invitational Champion. This event has grown from 4 Teams Total in 2002 to 35 Teams in 2007 and 140 riders in 2007.



**HYDRO-TURF APBA Watercross National Tour** - The nation's top Professional and Expert riders from across the country will descend on Harbor Beach to compete on the APBA National Tour. The 2008 HYDRO-TURF APBA Watercross National Tour, presented by Sea-Doo, features a six-event, eleven-round series that will determine the U.S. National Tour Champions in eleven Pro-Am and Expert racing classes including Women's classes. For two full days you will see the best closed course racers and teams from around the United States converge on Harbor Beach to continue the chase for the coveted 2008 APBA Watercross National Tour Championships. The challenging rough waters of Lake Huron can give even the most seasoned veteran racer a run for his or her money. All the United States top racers are expected to be in attendance in Harbor Beach including Erminio Iantosca, Eric Lagopoulos, Eric Francis, Chris MacClugage, Jeff

Troegner, Billy Dearman, Rick Sherker, Brian Baldwin, Leanne Falvey, Amy Green, Dennis Mack, Rob Greenwald, and Jason Stoyer to name a few. With these great riders as well as up-and-coming stars including Dustin Charrier, Ben Swanson and Keifer King, it is going to be some great racing action in Harbor Beach.



**Budweiser/Novi-Tec Can-Am Cup!** Awe, the Budweiser / Novi-Tec Can-Am Cup. As you stand on the line next to your ski as the National Anthem is played your heart starts to pound as you realize you are in one of the biggest races of the country, and without a doubt will be one of the most enjoyable races you participate in of your career. The riders

are announced one by one for their parade lap in front of the 5,000 spectators. Now it's your turn. You fire up your ski and head to pier for your parade lap. As you ride past all those spectators you realize there are tons of people there to watch a Jet-Ski Race and at that moment they are all looking at you! You come back to the line and get ready for the start of your race. As you put your goggles on and fire up your ski it seems like slow motion as the 2 card goes high in the air. You hear the rumble of 19 other ski's as each are started and cleaned out. This is it. You then turn to the starter as your heart feels like it's going to burst out of your chest and as you look at the starter you now have tunnel vision clearly focused on the starter. You think to yourself, you deserve to be there. You had to qualify to make the main event. You are representing your country in a race against another country. It's not just another race. This one is special. It's not just about winning; it's about the winner being the one who gets to proudly wave the flag of their country in front of the 5,000 spectators that only you can experience. That's what it's all about!



**Monster Energy Midwest Watercross Tour** - The Monster Energy Midwest Watercross Tour is one of the nation's top regional racing circuits. The Harbor Beach race will count toward points toward the Monster Energy Tour and bring with it those regional racers following that circuit. Being part of the Monster tour will provide lots of great giveaways from Monster Energy – the best Energy drink ever made. The Monster Energy Tour has some excellent regional racers and some exciting new classes like the new Vintage Ski class that has been creating some excitement

## Highlights for 2008!

- 2008 APBA National Tour Round 7 will be held on Saturday, Round 8 will be held on Sunday.
- The event will be a double round for all classes this year. Saturday all National Tour classes will run two motos and all regional classes will run one long moto. Sunday all classes will run two motos.
- The event will count toward points for the APBA HYDRO-TURF Watercross National Tour, the Monster Energy Midwest Watercross Tour and APBA National Highpoints.
- Sea-Doo contingency will be available to racers of Sea-Doo brand watercraft.
- Hot Products will be giving away bikes to the top three riders in the Junior Can-Am Cup main event.
- Novi-Tec will be giving away carbs!
- Skat-Trak will be giving away props!
- Monster Energy will be giving away cases of Monster!
- Great Awards for all the National Tour and regional classes!
- Special large Cups to the Budweiser / Novi-Tec Can-Am Cup Winners!
- Harbor Beach Maritime Festival will be raffling off a chance to win either a Kawasaki 650 Brute Force 4x4, Kawasaki 800 SX-R Jet-Ski, a 2008 Harley 883 Sportster or \$2500.00 cash. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place drawing winner will receive \$500.00 cash. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place drawing winner will receive \$250.00 cash. The drawing will be held Sunday Afternoon, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 2:00pm during the Dueling Pianos show under the big top.
- The H & R Block / Honda Aquatrax Invitational on Friday!
- Live Bands on the Beach, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Nights!
- Huge Fireworks Display on the Beach Saturday Night!
- Indy Al's Cookout on Friday Night – All Racers are Invited!
- Awesome Food Tent and lots of Vendors.
- Log Jump and Ramp Jump!
- The gracious hospitality of the City of Harbor Beach!

**2008 Race Format – ALL CLASSES WILL RUN BOTH DAYS THIS YEAR.** All of the National Tour classes (all the Expert, Pro-Am and Women's Runabout classes) will run two motos each day. For all other classes we will bump up the laps and you will run one long moto on Saturday. All classes will run two regular motos on Sunday.

**2008 Budweiser / Novi-Tec Can-Am Cup Format -** There are 4 Classes that make up the Budweiser / Novi-Tec Can-Am Cup. There is the Ski Limited, Junior 10-15yr Ski Stock, 800 Runabout Open, and the Runabout Open classes. Novice, Expert, and Pro riders are eligible to participate in all classes of the Budweiser / Novi Can-Am Cup. All Riders will have to qualify for Saturday night's main events. Heat Races will be run on Saturday morning taking the top 9 Riders from each country for Saturday evening's main events. Each of the Main Event's will have 18 Riders participating, 9 from Canada, and 9 from U.S.A., who will be scoring Team Points towards the overall Budweiser / Novi Can-Am Cup Championship. **Note:** The Junior 10-15yr old Ski Stock Class will have 6 riders from each country totaling 12 for the main event. We will have a 20 point scoring system for each Class that contributes to the Overall Team's score toward the Can-Am Cup Championship. A running score will be kept after each of the main events, showing which country is currently leading in points. Since the U.S. normally has more racers only the same number of Canada riders will count toward points toward the Can-Am Cup (i.e.: If Canada only has 6 riders in Runabout Open only the top 6 U.S. scores will be counted).

**Hot Products Junior Can-Am Cup Shootout** – On behalf of Hot Products, bicycles will be awarded to the top 3 finishers in the Junior class at the Can-Am Cup. Special thanks to Ken at Hot Products for the great sponsorship of the Junior class and our sport.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Thursday July 10, 2008

6:00 pm - 11:00 pm      Live Band on the Beach

### Friday July 11, 2008

12:00 pm - 8:00 pm      H&R Block / Honda Aquatrax Invitational Event  
3:00 pm – 6:00 pm      Racer Late Registration and Check-In  
7:30 pm – 8:00 pm      **MANDATORY DRIVERS MEETING**  
8:00 pm                  Indy AI's Cookout  
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm      Live Band on the Beach

### Saturday June 12, 2008 - Schedule of Events - Round 7

6:45 am - 8:00 am      Technical Inspection & Rider Check In/Late Registration  
8:00 am - 9:30 am      Closed Course Practice  
9:30 am - 1:00 pm      Closed Course Qualifying  
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm      Freestyle  
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm      Closed Course Finals  
5:00 pm                  Riders Meeting – Can-Am Cup  
5:30 pm                  National Anthems  
5:40 pm                  Can-Am Runabout Open Rider Introductions and Race  
6:20 pm                  Can-Am Junior Class Rider Introductions and Race  
6:50 pm                  Can-Am Runabout 800 Class Rider Introductions and Race  
7:30 pm                  Can-Am Ski Stock Class Rider Introductions and Race  
8:00 pm                  Awards Ceremony  
8:30 pm                  Live Concert  
10:00 pm                  Fireworks Show  
10:30 pm                  Live Bands

### Sunday July 13, 2008 - Schedule of Events - Round 8

7:15 am - 8:00 am      Technical Inspection & Rider Check In  
8:00 am - 8:15 am      Mandatory Riders Meeting  
8:15 am - 10:00 am      Closed Course Practice  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm      Closed Course Qualifying  
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm      Freestyle  
1:30 pm - end            Closed Course Finals  
5:00 pm                  Sunday's Awards Ceremony

### DIRECTIONS TO SITE

**From Detroit:** Take I-94 to Port Huron. Then follow M-25 North (approximately 61 mile) to Harbor Beach. Right before you get to the middle of town Turn Right on Trescott Street and follow that to Bathing Beach Park. Pit parking is in big field on the right.

**From South:** Take M-53 North for approximately 60 miles. Stay straight and go onto MI-142. Take that 17 miles to Harbor Beach to stop light (only one in town). Once in Harbor Beach Turn Right on Huron Ave. Go 2 blocks and Turn Left on Trescott Street and follow that to Bathing Beach Park. Pit parking is in big field on the right.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The race site of all race sites. The Grand Daddy of them all! This is what every rider waits for every year, coming to Harbor Beach, Michigan. Harbor Beach and the Maritime Festival roll out the red carpet every year in welcoming spectators, friends, and family. This is a perfect race site to camp at as the huge refreshment tent open late at night is right next to the grassy pit area. Live Bands Thursday thru Saturday right on the beach adds plenty of entertainment for the weekend. Every year there is a huge spectacular fireworks display from the Lighthouse that dazzles the crowd on Saturday night. Not to mention the outstanding racing action of HYDRO-TURF APBA Watercross National Tour and the Budweiser / Novi Can-Am Cup. There is no substitute, this is the real deal and as good as it gets. You will find no better race in the country to attend hands down.

There will be Watercross racing, Historic Tours, and a Cruise Night, fireworks, local rock bands Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and a dueling pianos show. There will be Maritime speakers, live entertainment and fun kid's events. A fun filled weekend for all so bring all your friends and family to this great event. The event is sponsored by Bud Light, Budweiser, Novi-Tec, Skat-Trak, Hydro-Turf, Monster Energy, Hot Products, Riva Racing, Bomber Eyewear, Ray C's Extreme Motor Sports, Smith Distributing, H&R Block, Air Advantage, AVCI.net, Citizens First, The Corner Store, The Lakeshore Guardian, the Harbor Beach Chamber of Commerce, Harbor Beach Audio, DTE Energy, Cellular One, Thumb Cellular, Sensient, Wade Trim, the American Legion, Top of the Hill Collision, Thrievent Financial, Harbor Drug, Good Neighbor Pharmacy, Eastern Huron Ambulance, Zion Lutheran School, Harbor Beach Community Hospital, Bobs Royal Scoops and Dollar House, Valley Gear and Machine, DOW Agro Sciences, Harbor Beach Times, Russes Body Shop, Ramsey Funeral Home, Sally's Bar and Grill, Ernesto's Pizzeria, Custom Coatings, Comcast, Classy Threadz and Signature Bank.

For more information on contact Patrick Mell at (586) 598-2856.



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