

THE PULSE:



BACK TO THE FUTURE

THE TIGÉ US PRO-AM WILL BRING PROGRESSION BACK TO THE FLORIDA KEYS

It has been more than a decade since the world of wakeboarding was rocked in the Florida Keys. In 1994 Scott Byerly and Gator Lutgert, armed with the first twin-tip wakeboards, went out and decimated the field, winning the World and National championships and, in the process, forever changing the way we ride. It's high time to return to the ancestral grounds of modern wakeboarding, and Tigé plans to celebrate the region's heritage with

the biggest event of the 2005 wakeboarding season.

The Tigé US Pro-Am, slated for Oct. 21-23 in Marathon in the Florida Keys, is for the world's best professional and amateur riders, opening the door to virtually every rider who enjoys competing. The pro classes include men's and women's wakeboarding as well as wakeskating. There are amateur classes for boys, junior men, open men, women and wakeskating.

The gorgeous resort site of Sombrero

Indmar Performance Award this year. The award is given to the top pro women's rider on the Pro Wakeboard Tour each year. Friday also won the award in 2003 and 2004. ... The WWA Executive Board named former pro rider **Shannon Starling** its newest member. Starling most

recently served as WWA Executive Director, and has been responsible for more than 435 days of grass-roots events, wakeboard clinics and bus-tours over the past eight years. ... **Trevor Hansen** will look to defend his 2004 title when the 2005 edition of the Gravity Games H2O

returns to Perth, Australia, Oct. 6-9. In all, 24 men and eight women will compete on the famous Swan River for a share of the AUD \$110,000 prize. There'll be plenty of non-wake action to check out as well: freestyle motocross, BMX, and skate and inline vert exhibitions throughout the three-day

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Beach will make the event a great family getaway. Beautiful white sand beaches, world-class snorkeling and deep-sea fishing are just a few of the area's activities. This event will also conclude the King of Wake Competition, which is the nine-event World Sports and Marketing series also comprising the five Pro Tour stops, the X Games, the WWA National Championships and the Pan American Wakeboarding Championships. With the parity among the riders already evident in the 2005 season, it's going to be a close race going into the Tigé US Pro-Am, and a series winner likely won't be decided until the event's final competitors ride. This will undoubtedly make for a dramatic conclusion to the 2005 pro riding season.

"Tigé is pumped to have a premier event like the Tigé US Pro-Am to showcase the quality of our boats and bring the pro and amateur wakeboarding community together in such a unique, beautiful

location," said Tigé CEO Charlie Pigeon. "We are completely aware this area was the site for some historic performances in the history of wakeboarding, and we're ready to make some memorable moments of our own that will continue the region's legacy of evolutionary riding."

Now in its third incarnation, the Tigé US Pro-Am has a history laced with progressive formats and epic contest venues. The 2004 contest in Kauai was the first to use the now standard head-to-head competition, and the event is remembered as having the most spectacular contest venue ever. This year's event is shaping up to be no different, and rumors of a brand-spanking-new competition format could forever change the competitive wakeboarding scene again. Whether you're a pro or an amateur, or simply enjoy a good contest environment, start planning your trip down to Marathon to be a part of what's sure to be a history-making event.

— JEFF BARTON



event. For more information, check out olntv.com/actionsports. ... Young athletes from across the country showed up at the Texas Ski Ranch in New Braunfels, Texas, for the second annual junior Tri-X, a three-day competition with six different events. Austin Hair took home the

\$2,000 overall prize after placing first in the wakeskating and rock-climbing competitions and third in the wakeboarding event. For more info, check out texasiskiranch.com. ... Feeling a little low since the Pro Tour ended? Check out the Outdoor Life Networks's coverage of the Portland

stop Sept. 6 and 10 for a quick pick-me-up. Go to prowakeboardtour.com for show times and updates. ... Four days remain in the NorCal WWA's series of wakeskate and slider competitions at Lake Villa Lagos in Red Bluff, California. The action starts at 10 a.m. on Sept. 17 and 18