



“Bigger & Better” Rollo’s Marine Yamaha

Bridge to Bridge in 2010

The Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic is back for its 27th running in 2010 and will be held a month later than usual, on the weekend of November 27 & 28 2010. This year, Rollo’s Marine and Yamaha Motor NZ will once again be on board as naming rights sponsors, which is fantastic for the support of the event. The racing takes place in many forms over the weekend and is held on the Waikato River and is the premier event of the year for water ski racers in New Zealand.

The event has 7 components, the pinnacle of which is the Long race that is an 82km flat out sprint, against the clock from Cambridge to Taupiri and back to Hamilton. This race attracts the best ski racers from North and South Islands as well as plenty of Australians from across the ditch. This year there are strong rumours of Boats (yes, that is plural) coming over from Australia for the event. So watch this space, as we will be seeing some of the best ski racers and their boats featuring this year, out of Australia.

Last year’s winner ‘Force Fed’ of Auckland will be back again, but with a new pairing of skiers and will be looking to repeat their performance of 2009. ‘Warlord’ will also be back for another shot at the race that the boat has won, a record 10 times. There are also several other ‘Open Class’ boats that will be lining and looking to take line honours in 2010.



Gary Dutton, Director of Rollo’s Marine is proud along with Yamaha NZ to have a long association this great event and says that “It is fantastic to see that the Bridge to Bridge is building every year to become a more exciting and classic event, and we are very happy to be supporting it as it take another step up in 2010.”

Chairman of the Bridge to Bridge organising committee, Brendan Macpherson is extremely excited about the prospects of the race this year and believes this will be “the biggest and best Bridge to Bridge ever, and it is all thanks to our amazing group of sponsors and our dedicated and enthusiastic competitors.”

The event starts on Friday night in central Hamilton, on Hood Street with the Ebbett Prestige Show & Shine. This runs from 5pm until 7:30pm and is a static display of the hottest powerboats that will be competing in the event. Come check out the horsepower, the airbrushing, the shiny bits and the entertainment.

On Saturday morning we have the first ski race of the weekend when the Novice, Masters and Sub Juniors hit the water running from Hamilton to Taupiri and return. The next event of the weekend is the Family & Social Class Event which is a 20km ski on an ordinary slalom ski/wake board/wake skate and handle from Ngaruawahia to Hamilton. This is a race that is long enough to be challenging, but short enough for everyone to give it a go. Any type of boat can be used for this event with a range of classes. So if you know how to ski, you should be giving this race a go. Get training now!

Saturday afternoon brings the Time Trial for the Long Race, which is the crowds first opportunity to see the big boys in action and gives the competitors a chance to gain top seeding for Sunday's main event. This runs from Hamilton to Ngaruawahia and return.



The last event on Saturday afternoon is the Poker Run, an event that can be enjoyed by any boat owner. A fun cruise up the river from Ngaruawahia to Hamilton with stops along the way to collect cards which at the end you submit as a poker hand. This is not a race as the last boat to the finish line could end taking the cash prize away. There are plenty of spot prizes just for turning up and putting the boat in the water – and just remember that boat could be an aluminium fishing boat or a cabin cruiser (or anything in between).

Sunday morning brings the Powerboat Sprints, Thundercats and Jetskis. We would also like to see as many the powerboaters, offshore, circuit, jet boats, tunnel boats etc, etc to come and compete in the Powerboat Sprints that take place from Hamilton to Ngaruawahia and return on the Saturday of the event. The more the merrier in this field and again there will be some very fast and competitive racing.

Last but not least is the main event kicking off at 1pm. There is only one place you will want to be, and that is at Grantham Street Boat ramp staring at the Big Screen, watching the starts in Cambridge, the boats in person screaming through Hamilton City Centre and then catching the finishes in Taupiri also. Boats and skiers will be travelling in excess of 100MPH (160 KPH) so you will have to be paying full attention.

The Rollo's Marine Yamaha Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic promises to again be a great event and it is thanks to the support of all the sponsors including Rollo's Marine, Yamaha Motor NZ, Hamilton, Grass Roots Trust, The Cook Cafe & Bar, Ebbett Prestige, Radio Hauraki, Waikato Security, Altitude Bar, Challenge & Tryepower Naylor St, Waikato Times & Propeller Magazine.

Make sure you stay up to date and enter the event by visiting www.skirace.co.nz . Entries are open from 1st of October until the 12th of November.

Photos supplied by Timbo Photographic

