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CONTACT: LONG BEACH BOAT AND SKI CLUB

www.catalinaskirace.net

GOLDFINGER RACING PRODUCTIONS

Ren Hanami and Jeff Barrus

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Goldfinger Racing in conjunction with Phase One Productions presents the 2nd Annual Jumboscreen/DVD production and the FIRST EVER LIVE internet broadcast of THE 59TH ANNUAL CATALINA WATER SKI RACE

(Long Beach, Calif. - July 21, 2007) - The Catalina Water Ski Race has been running for 59 years, yet remains relatively undiscovered. Jeff Barrus, a member of the Long Beach Boat and Ski Club exposed the race in full to the viewing public and the Water Channel last year by having it broadcast live on a Jumbo-screen at the Long Beach Coast Hotel for the first time. The KABC HD7 Chopper captured the best footage that this race has ever seen. Again this year, there will be over 60 boats charging off the shores of Long Beach to Avalon and back to the finish at the Queen Mary. They all will be towing skiers from 12 years old to 70 years old across one of the most unpredictable water channels in the world. The leaders can average over 70 mph. The crowd starts gathering at 7 a.m. for a pre-race program, games, commercials, sponsor give-aways, the parade of boats, interviews... then the roar of the boats as they take off for the 62 mile round trip race. There are about 20 helicopters covering the race from the sky above Long Beach!

New this year is the addition of LIVE webcast on the web site www.catalinaskirace.net, www.goldfingerracing.com, www.skiracet.net and www.powerboatmagazine.com. Powerboat Magazine is the official sponsor of the Powerfest Weekend portion of the Long Beach Sea Festival which the Catalina Ski Race is part of. Charter Cable is also a sponsor of the Long Beach Sea Festival and will be airing replays of the race on Channel 3 on Saturday night from 6-8 p.m. and LB Community TV on Sunday, July 22 from 5-8 p.m., then offer the full program to its viewers as part of Charter's Video on Demand.



Again this year champions Todd Haig (USA-Men's Open Class) and Kim Lumley (ENG-Women's Open) will be defending their titles. This could be the year Kim breaks the record of 59:08 held by Debbie Nordblad from 1996). Although Todd's main rival Jason Walmsley (AUS), the winner from this year's World Title will not be racing (He and his wife are expecting their baby on July 21), Todd's Nordic Team #191 will face fierce competition from two Australian teams: the Arlen Ness Team #111 with skier Peter Proctor (AUS), and the Security Titles Team #55) with skier Daniel Campbell (AUS). The familiar face of longtime barefoot skier Mike Bemis and his team #433 will be vying for the Expert Men title. A newcomer to the race is Xtreme snow skier Glen Plake and Team Mohawk #310 in the Novice Class.



Expect some drag races from Sam Frey (USA-Team #24), Ben Gulley (AUS-Team #81), Brendon Stout (USA-Team #695) of the Intermediate Men's Class and emerging Junior Boys Cameron King (USA-Team #958) and Brady Hoggins (USA-Team #142). Brady and his father Howard Hoggins are a strong father and son team. Brady is positioned to become the youngest male skier to win the Catalina Water Ski Race. The Women's Open will also provide high energy competition. Katelin Wendt and her Team #797 has a list of people to beat and as she proved last year "first out of the gate," she's a fighter.

WHAT DO THE SKIERS SAY ABOUT CSR?

"People just don't get it" says, 16 year old Cameron King. "This is a team sport. People think the fastest boat wins, but it's not that way. It's also a family sport. My dad has been doing this sport since he was a kid and my grandmother use to ski race." When asked which race he likes the best, Cameron gave the answer which most skiers give, "Definitely Catalina, the Catalina race is in a different league." Ted Hoffman remembers "132 participants in the Catalina race in 1985." What has changed? "The boats are bigger and the boats are faster now." Todd Haig is in a bigger boat this year. "This race is so tough, getting out of the break water, getting lost." Actually Todd's team has never gotten lost. He has won this race 6 out of 7 years. "You try to pace yourself and hopefully get a second wind on the way back." What does a navigator do? Steve Davis, Todd's Navigators say, "You have to have good vision to watch both sides of the boat, what's ahead, the people around and tell the driver which way to go." Jeff Barrus' passion for the sport of water ski racing has inspired him to create many firsts: first to play music in his helmet while racing, first to produce a DVD of ski racing and the Catalina Water Ski Race, first to broadcast the Catalina Ski Race live on a Jumboscreen, first to wear a costume while ski racing (Captain America and Nacho Libre), and now with his team from Goldfinger Racing and Phase One Productions-- first to broadcast the Catalina Ski Race LIVE on the internet for worldwide viewing. "The best is yet to come," says Barrus who will be skiing this year in the Veteran Men's class behind Greg Timmons 41 foot Hustler #77 with Observer Andy Klee and Navigator Steve Ward.

TRIVA

A lot has changed in the technology, but racing 62 miles from Long Beach to Catalina and back is still not for the faint at heart. The teams now use GPS to navigate their way to the turn near the Rigley Casino in Catalina and back to the Queen Mary, but Mike King told his son Cameron that years ago before GPS Chuck Stern's team did get lost. They completely missed Catalina and landed on a navy testing island and had to be towed back. Back then they skiers raced behind 21 foot outboards with hands out in front. The racers who now average over 50mph with the winners often hitting speeds of 70-80mph are equipped with safety gear including head and neck restraints, helmets and safety goggles. Most use the Australian wrap holding both handles in one hand in the small of the back and the other hand out front to give their Observer signals as to when to speed up or slow down.

ABOUT THE CATALINA WATER SKI RACE

The race date is Saturday, July 21, 2007.

The start time of the race is approximately 8:53 a.m. weather permitting.

Best viewing area is in the Jumboscreen viewing area at the Coast Hotel, 700 Queensway Drive; from your boat anchored by the Queen Mary, and on your computer connected to the internet

www.catalinaskirace.net, viewable in Windows Media Player. Mac users can download the player for OSX

here: <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=1e974157-5031-4ac6-840a-6e07547b6aeb&DisplayLang=en> or use flip for mac which plays it back in their existing quicktime player:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=915D874D-D747-4180-A400-5F06B1B5E559&displaylang=en>

All browsers should work fine. This will be a broadband only webcast.



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PRESS RELEASE

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LONG BEACH • CALIFORNIA • USA

Race Date July 21st, 2007

First Start at approx. 8:45am

(Weather permitting)



in conjunction with
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bring you

THE 2nd ANNUAL



JUMBO SCREEN

CATALINA WATER SKI RACE JUMBOSCREEN SHOW

JULY 21, 2007

The Coast Hotel, Long Beach, California

& LIVE on the internet at catalinaskirace.net

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Jumboscreen Show starts 7:00 AM
First Start approx. 8:45 AM



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The Catalina Water Ski Race Jumboscreen show would not be possible without the extraordinary support, technical contributions and good will of Western Technical Services.



The Catalina Water Ski Race is an official event of The Long Beach Sea Festival Powerfest Weekend sponsored by

