



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Powerboat P1 Racing Returns To Kissimmee/St. Cloud on May 20

P1 returns to Kissimmee/St. Cloud's East Lake Tohopekaliga on Saturday, May 20, featuring the AquaX Amateur Enduro Florida Championship and the first race of the 2017 P1 SuperStock USA Series presented by Mercury Racing. The event is free to the public from 10 am til 4 pm, serving up a day of fast, furious and exhilarating action on the water featuring eight P1 Panther race boats powered by Mercury Racing 300XS outboards and more than forty AquaX (personal watercraft) riders. St. Cloud sits on the southern shore of the nearly circular lake, providing great viewing for the huge crowds expected to line the award-winning lakefront.

“Our P1 SuperStock powerboat series, presented by Mercury Racing, continues to gain momentum and recognition and it boasts the most extensive television package in powerboat racing with coverage in more than 150 countries,” says Azam Rangoonwala, Managing Director of P1 USA. “With St. Cloud’s long history of powerboat racing this is a great venue to launch the new season, and the double bill of P1 SuperStock action and AquaX racing will serve up a feast of top class marine motorsport entertainment for all the family.” Returning SuperStock race teams include GEICO, SouthEastern Lighting Solutions, Visit Jacksonville, and Frank & Al’s Pizza. Fox Sports will again be covering this year’s race and the broadcast will be aired in June.

“For the sixth consecutive year we are thrilled to welcome back the action-packed Powerboat P1 racing to Kissimmee,” said John Poole, Kissimmee Sports Commission Director of Sports Marketing and Development. “This event is just one example of Kissimmee’s diverse sporting industry that directly impacts local economic development. We hope to continue growing this partnership for years to come.” St. Cloud’s City Manager, Joe Helfenberger, is also thrilled that the event is returning, and he commented: “We are so excited about the return of P1 SuperStock to St. Cloud. This event is a great highlight for our community”.

The partnership between Mercury Racing and Powerboat P1 seemed fitting knowing the racing history of Kissimmee/St. Cloud's East Lake Tohopekaliga, and nearby Lake X. The Outboard Performance Craft Category of the American Power Boat Association, was the outgrowth of boat racing enthusiasts' desire in the 50's and early 60's to compete in their family boats with standard mass produced outboard motors larger than 40 cubic inches. This desire led in 1961 to the hugely successful race for APBA on Lake Tohopekaliga organized by E. C. Kiekhaefer, the legendary founder of Mercury Marine, under rules prepared by Mr. Kiekhaefer’s lead engineer Charlie Strang. Only twenty minutes away is Lake X which has also been a legend in the U.S. boating industry. For 47 years, the Lake served as the secret testing facility in central Florida for Mercury Marine's latest products. It was the site where the company often ran engines 24 hours a day, six days a week, to test their endurance. Two United State Auto Club certified 25,000 mile endurance runs were held there.

The P1 race season kicks off April 22-23 with AquaX racing in Daytona Beach and runs through to December, when Key West will host the P1 AquaX World Championship. Suncoast Charities for Children is the official charity partner for Powerboat P1 USA. For more information about this upcoming event visit: [P1aquax.com](http://P1aquax.com) - [P1superstock.com](http://P1superstock.com) - [powerboatp1.com](http://powerboatp1.com)