

## RACE REPORT

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From: PWCOFFSHORE.com

### **The February 27, 2010 Hot Products APBA Mark Hahn Memorial Havasu 300 Team Endurance Championship.**

The best PWC / Jet Ski Endurance Racers in the world gathered once again in Lake Havasu City, Arizona to take on the 6th Annual Mark Hahn Memorial 300 Mile race. Defending champions Mark Gerner and Robert Carreon of PWCOFFSHORE.com Racing were there in force to defend their 2009 title on their Kawasaki ULTRA 250X but would be outmatched by Factory Monster Kawasaki's World Champion Craig Warner and Victor Sheldon who took the win and 2010 Mark Hahn Memorial National Championship in a new record setting time of 4 hours and 42 minutes.

The Mark Hahn Memorial 300 Mile Race is run every year in honor of fallen racer Mark Hahn and is produced by DSM Events with support of promoter Ross Wallach of RPM Racing Enterprises and Mike Follmer of Yamaha Factory Racing. The race can be participated in by a single racer (Iron Man) or in two man/woman teams. Strategy, Pit Crew process, fuel consumption, a racer's endurance training and a fast and extremely reliable craft all play a role in competing in and successful completion of this 300 mile endurance race. What makes this race unique is that the fastest craft does not always win. This race is about finding that point of diminishing return between speed and reliability to complete six hours of full throttle competition. The first racer to complete 30, 10-mile laps wins. The 2010 Mark Hahn Race did not disappoint, the promoters put on yet another great event with an epic banquet.

The weather conditions were forecasted to be rainy, windy and cold; racers were bracing for yet another epic rough water battle that would push racers to the limit as the brutal conditions did at the 2009 Mark Hahn Race. When racers awoke on race day, the conditions were mild and would stay that way throughout the day.

The Grand Prix Start was triggered by a shot gun blast that sent over forty race teams sprinting to their craft to start and throttle up for the 300 mile race. Nicolas Ruis took an early lead in an exciting start, literally walking away from the pack on the fastest Yamaha most including myself have ever seen. Ruis built an enormous lead and a blistering pace on the first lap followed by Kawasaki's Craig Warner, PWCOFFSHORE's Sean Conner and Rick Trevezio. Ruis would experience a mechanical issue with only five laps completed taking him out of the competition. Factory Monster Kawasaki Racer Craig Warner took an early lead and would maintain it throughout the entire race on his Kawasaki ULTRA 260X. The Kawasaki would perform flawlessly throughout the entire race putting in one of the fastest lap times of the day of 8:14.539 for the 10 mile loop. Craig Warner is also the two-time Offshore National Champion, winning both the 2008 and 2009 APBA Long Beach to Catalina and Back Offshore National Championship Race and a closed course World Champion. Warner would not disappoint his fans by putting in yet another spectacular performance on his 260X and a new record time for the event. Craig Warner said "The fastest boat doesn't always win. In endurance racing, being consistent is the best way to go into a race. I have learned over the past few years, sometimes the less you push it on the race course the faster you go!"

Second place overall finisher Mike Follmer and Tony Beck put in an impressive performance on his R&D Yamaha with an emotional finish. Mike Follmer aka "The Chief" is the man behind this race, without him this race would never have happened. Mike would receive a standing ovation at the banquet for his hard work and dedication to the sport. "It has been a year in the making for me" said Mike, "I think we have pushed this event to another level now. This was a great day for our R&D Yamaha team Follmer. Our pit crew teamwork was what made our day so special with 30 second

fuel stops all day and a great team mate Tony Beck. 30 laps and 300 miles with a record time for this year's event and so many great stories by all the racers, what more can you ask for."

Defending Mark Hahn champions Mark Gerner and Robert Carreon showed up with their heavily modified Kawasaki ULTRA250X but would experience a minor hiccup with the Kawasaki prior to the practice lap forcing them to quickly move their transponder over to their backup SeaDoo RXT race craft. PWCOFFSHORE Founder Mark Gerner said "We are pleased to have been able to finish. Our SeaDoo burned through an additional two gallons of oil throughout the race, a reflection of the toll this race takes on race craft and the absolutely magnificent job our Pit Crew did just keeping us running in this race. Robert Carreon said "Gerner and I are honored to have shared the course with so many talented racers and congratulate Craig Warner and Victor Sheldon for their great win and record time on their Kawasaki ULTRA260X." Pat Roque and Paul Pham of Catalina Crew would put in an impressive performance on their 2010 SeaDoo RXTX passing Gerner and Carreon on their ailing SeaDoo to take 3rd place overall. At the end of the day, Gerner and Carreon would take 4th place overall.

Ironman winners for the most solo laps were Steven Leprhon racing 26 laps on his Kawasaki with the Standup Iron man going to racer Peter Yauri putting in an impressive 18 laps on his Yamaha Standup. The Ironman is a special award as most teams race with a partner giving each racer a 35 minute break, these racers have no rest and go it alone. Congratulations are in order for these two racers. Mike Hackler would win the standup class putting in an impressive 19 laps on a standup watercraft.

KMG Racing was there in numbers to take on the challenge and put in an impressive performance with a team of talented racers and aggressive KMG Racing Pit Crew Team. Dave Hardenburger would receive The Mark Hahn Memorial Cup for his support of racing. "Out of my 24 years of racing, receiving the Mark Hahn Memorial Cup means more than any other award I have received." KMG Racing Team member Dave Fekete raised big money for every lap completed in support of The Challenged Athlete Foundation which is an organization that supports athletes who have endured serious injury but continue to compete in various forms of sporting events. Dave Fekete and his team represented the sport with great class at the 2010 Mark Hahn Memorial.

Ross Wallach of RPM Racing Enterprises, the promoter of the Triple Crown of Offshore Racing said "The 2010 Mark Hahn Havasu Memorial 300 was by far the best one of the 6 events. I am so pleased to be affiliated with this great event and to see the best endurance racers in the Country competing at this prestigious event as well as the camaraderie I witnessed throughout the race."

The event's first Best SeaDoo Pit Crew Award was given to the PWCOFFSHORE.com Racing Pit Crew led by Aaron Cress and Russell Libby with additional team members Mike Arnold, Tommy Kolleck, John Feeney and Dave "Pirate" Tew. The team would immediately donate their award money to the Challenged Athlete Foundation.

The banquet and awards were over the top as usual, testament to Follmer's commitment to this race. The highlight of the banquet was the attendance of Mrs. Sandy Hahn, Mark Hahn's wife who gave a brave and emotional speech to the racers. Another fantastic event put on by the promoters! See everyone next year for the 7th Annual 2011 Mark Hahn Memorial Race! Mr. Mark Hahn, your legacy lives on Sir.

Congratulations Kawasaki for their second consecutive win!

The Triple Crown of Offshore Starts on March 28, 2010 at Dana Point, Ca. The series includes the epic Long Beach to Catalina APBA Offshore National Championship Race on July 18, 2010. Go to [www.pwcoffshore.com](http://www.pwcoffshore.com) [www.lb2cat.com](http://www.lb2cat.com) or [www.jetskioffshore.com](http://www.jetskioffshore.com) for more information.