PRO WAKESURF TOUR: SEAN SILVEIRA GOES FOR THE THREE-PEAT

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EVERYTHING ELSE IS CHILD’S PLAY
If you had to describe Nic Rapa in one word, “determined” might be the most apt. Two years in a row, he had the overall lead on the Supra Boats Pro Wakeboard Tour heading into the final stop. And two years in a row, he saw the title taken from him—first by Harley Clifford, then by Cory Teunissen. Undeterred, Rapa came into 2019 as focused as ever, and it paid off big time for the Australian, who can now add his name to a very distinguished list of PWT champions.

Photo: Garrett Cortese
Sean Silveira might be the oldest competitor on the Supra Boats Pro Wakesurf Tour, but you wouldn’t know it from the way he rides—or the guitars he’s collected along the way. As the two-time reigning champ, Silveira heads into 2020 looking for the elusive three-peat. It’s never been done on the Pro Wakesurf Tour and has only been done twice on the Pro Wakeboard Tour—by Darin Shapiro and Dallas Friday, who each won four times in a row.

Photo: Garrett Cortese
One of the favorite aspects of the Supra Boats PWT each year are the custom SA 550 boats created for both the wakeboarding and wakesurfing divisions. Not only do they look unlike any other boat on the water, but they also help propel the most progressive and competitive riding in the world. For 2020, that tradition continues—in epic fashion. Of course, the SA 550 is much more than just good-looking. The level of competition and progression has exploded at a breakneck pace over the past five years, thanks in large part to the perfectly shaped wakes and waves of the boat pulling the top athletes.

Photo: Devin Tatro
MADE FOR THIS.

MOOMBA BOATS
A nother winter has come and gone. Another offseason is fading away in our rearview mirror as we drive forward into the upcoming 2020 wake season. I personally could not be more excited for the next year of wake to start. I absolutely love spending time on the water with my friends and family. I anticipate trying and learning new tricks on the wakeboard and wakesurf board. I get giddy with excitement thinking about the contests and events, the fans, the riders, and the atmosphere. I have no doubt we are going to witness the highest level of riding that has ever been seen on this year’s Supra Boats Pro Wakeboard and Pro Wakesurf tours. Looking ahead at what is to come is always exciting.

But let’s not forget about looking back. Sometimes, in order to fully appreciate how far you’ve come, it is necessary to glance behind you and remember the steps you took to get here. Reflecting and remembering the men and women who have paved the way for the sport you love only makes you more thankful for the current state of wake. From the humble beginnings of the Pro Tour back in 1992, with athletes such as Darin Shapiro, Scott Byerly and Erik “Gar- tor” Lutgert setting the pace for the first generation of PWT athletes, to the second generation of talent featuring Parks Bonifay, Shaun Murray and Josh Sanders, just to name a few. All these riders have laid the foundation for our current generation of riders to stand on. Even just a short decade ago—when names such as Harley Clifford and Phil Soven first entered into the pro ranks—we had no idea of the incredible impact these young riders would eventually have on the sport.

And now: a new class of riders. The youngest field of competitors that the PWT has ever seen is ready to take to the stage. Some of them have already made a name for themselves and left their mark on the sport, while others are hungry to prove themselves and leave behind a legacy that will always be remembered. All of them are sure to play an important role in the furthering of the towed watersports we love.

Throughout its history, the PWT has visited some spectacular locations, such as Mantua, Utah, this past year.

Within these pages, you will get the chance to look ahead and build your excitement, as well as glance behind to remember the past. I sincerely hope this magazine brings you joy and an appreciation for the entirety of both wakeboarding and wakesurfing. Past, present and future.
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| The World’s Premium Boat Mirrors |
Tyler Higham's rise to the top of the professional wakeboarding world has been years in the making, and the 2018 Supra Boats PWT Rookie of the Year is showing no signs of slowing up. Over the past few years, Higham has turned heads and garnered praise from the sport's biggest icons with his unique, progressive style. The kid from Oregon has an ability to do tricks unlike anybody else, and he's turned that into success in both the freeriding realm and the PWT circuit. Look for that to continue this year and beyond.
For the past five seasons, the voice behind the Supra Boats PWT has been that of Mark Heger, aka “Mark on the Mic.” Not only is Mark a seasoned veteran and fan of the sports, but he also gets one of the best seats in the house to the most progressive competitive riding in the world. We reached out to the announcer extraordinaire to get some of his predictions for what we might see go down in 2020.

WAKEBOARDING
• Aussies have swept the overall podium the past three seasons, but that will change in 2020, thanks to progressive, creative riding from the likes of Tyler Higham, Guenther Oka, Massi Piffaretti, Shota Tezuka or Noah Flegel.

• With his improved consistency and insanely unique bag of tricks, Sam Brown will make his first PWT podium in 2020.

• Unlike this past year’s prediction, we will actually see the crowd help a rider win a stop this year.

• Nic Rapa will use his newfound switch toeside 1080 to defend his 2019 overall title.

• Hungry after this past year’s strong finish, Noah Flegel will win at least two of the stops on the Pro Wakesurf Tour.

• In an effort to stand out to the judges, more riders will try more unique tricks on the PWT, such as board transfers and doing tricks while switching surf sides in the middle of their runs.

• Defending champ Sean Silveira will unveil a new trick that will help propel him to victory in 2020.

Follow along with the Supra Boats PWT by connecting with all of the social channels. You can keep up with all the latest info—and also see if Mark’s predictions come true. Of course, be sure to send support and cheer on your favorite riders. All of their Instagram accounts are listed in our “Pro-Files” article.
Just set your speed and go. That’s how simple Zero Off’s patented GPS speed control technology is to set your perfect target speed. Used by professionals and enthusiasts alike, Zero Off is the best way to have the smoothest wakeboard, wakesurf, slalom or trick skiing run. Because after all, it’s about enjoying the ride.
2019 Recap

AFTER TWO YEARS OF HEARTBREAK, AUSTRALIAN NIC RAPA CEMENTS HIS PLACE IN SUPRA BOATS PRO WAKEBOARD TOUR HISTORY.

W: Mark Hager
P: Garrett Cortese

This past year, we saw the youngest field of competitors to ever take the Supra Boats Pro Wakeboard Tour stage. Armed with unbelievable talent and nothing-to-lose attitudes, those young athletes put down some of the best riding we have ever seen in the history of the PWT.

Stop 1: Katy, Texas

Despite some rainy weather, the athletes put on a stellar performance. Nic Rapa took the win with three double flips, two different 900s and multiple mobes in his flawless final run. This win early in the season put Nic in the lead for what would eventually earn him the 2019 overall title.

1st: Nic Rapa
2nd: Tony Lacconi
3rd: Shota Tezuka

Stop 2: Mantua, Utah

Coming from the flatlands of Texas, the mountain-laced backdrop of beautiful Mantua was the picturesque scene for the second stop. After barely missing the podium in Katy, Cory Teunissen came out with guns blazing in this final round. Landing a half-cab double back roll, a double indy toeside back roll and a switch 1080 sealed the deal for the young Australian prodigy and gave Cory his first win of the season.

1st: Cory Teunissen
2nd: Nic Rapa
3rd: Tony Lacconi

Stop 3: Ypsilanti, Michigan

Not even the strong winds could stop the pros from blowing people’s minds during the third stop of the PWT. Just minutes from where former champ Mike Dowdy grew up, the crowd came out in record numbers to watch the riders duke it out. Once again, Nic Rapa came out on top with an incredible technical run, followed by two Americans, Noah Flegel and Tyler Higham, who celebrated their first podiums of the 2019 season.

1st: Nic Rapa
2nd: Noah Flegel
3rd: Tyler Higham

Stop 4: Boise, Idaho

For the final stop of the 2019 tour, we headed to Broadside Lakes in Boise. These private lakes provided perfect conditions for the athletes to showcase their best riding. With Rapa in a commanding lead of the overall points, Cory knew he had to ride exceptionally well. And that is exactly what he did. Landing a near-perfect run, Cory Teunissen took the win, but it wasn’t enough to overtake Nic Rapa in the overall title.

1st: Cory Teunissen
2nd: Shota Tezuka
3rd: Mike Dowdy

2019 Overall Standings

1st: Nic Rapa
2nd: Cory Teunissen
3rd: Tony Lacconi

PWT Rookie of the Year

Sam Brown
Once again, the most competitive wakesurfing series in the world was as action-packed as ever, with the top riders battling it out all summer long for the 2019 Supra Boats Pro Wakesurf Tour title. With a heavy field of competitors and a wide variety of riding styles, Sean Silveira had his work cut out for him to defend his 2018 overall title. But in the end, winning three out of the four stops, Sean once again proved to all his fans and peers that he is a force to be reckoned with. As a two-time Pro Wakesurf Tour champion, will Silveira continue to dominate the tour in 2020? Be sure to follow along all summer and find out.

STOP 1: KATY, TEXAS
1st: Sean Silveira
2nd: Parker Payne
3rd: John Akerman

STOP 2: MANTUA, UTAH
1st: Sean Silveira
2nd: Parker Payne
3rd: John Akerman

STOP 3: YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN
1st: Sean Silveira
2nd: Jake Caster
3rd: Noah Flegel

STOP 4: BOISE, IDAHO
1st: Noah Flegel
2nd: Parker Payne
3rd: Sean Silveira

OVERALL
1st: Sean Silveira
2nd: Parker Payne
3rd: Noah Flegel
Innovation Inspired by Experiences

Triton Strapless Board Racks

Sharing a vision with Moomba that’s committed to the core, our towers, racks, and biminis are here to make a statement and ensure your ride is unforgettable. The award-winning, patented Triton Rack was created for boards of all shapes and sizes, ensuring the days of watching your quiver chatter across the water are over. Vertical orientation and telescopic grab arms secure boards up to 23” wide and 2.75” thick while directing water droplets away from your crew. Attack the day with everything you’ve got and arm your boat with innovation that leaves nothing at the dock.
THE FORMAT – WAKESURFING

THE SUPRA BOATS PRO WAKESURF TOUR FEATURES ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUE CONTEST FORMATS IN THE SPORT, AND IT BRINGS A DIFFERENT LEVEL OF FUN AND EXCITEMENT TO THE WATER.

Garrett Cortese

While most wakesurfing contests feature two separate divisions—one for skim-style riders and one for surf-style riders—the Supra Boats PWT has foregone that route and combined the two. Not only does it save on time for the actual PWT events, but it brings a whole new element of strategy to the contest because competitors must figure out unique ways to showcase their skills for the judges.

FORMAT

Two rounds: semifinals and finals

Each surfer gets one run consisting of two passes, down and back, in a set course size. During each pass, the rider is allowed to choose their board, which side of the wave to surf, and perform unlimited tricks that will count toward their total score. Riders are allowed to switch boards between passes, or even do a “board transfer” as a trick. There are no falls allowed during a pass. If a surfer falls on a trick during their first pass, the judges will only count the tricks that were landed prior to the fall, and the surfer will be able to continue their second pass.

STRATEGY

The Pro Wakesurf Tour is where you’ll see top wakesurfers get as creative as possible in a contest, thanks to the combined surf-and-skim format. Several top riders, including Parker Payne and Noah Flegel, will regularly switch boards between their two passes. This allows them to showcase their all-around prowess on both styles of boards. Flegel has been known to utilize the board transfer as a trick too. He’ll start on one board, carrying the other in his arms, and do a trick where he jumps off his original board and puts the second one under his feet to ride away and continue the pass.

For two-time defending champ Sean Silveira, strategy comes a bit differently. With an extensive background in professional flowboard riding, Silveira sticks to what he knows best in skim-style boards. But Silveira takes his unique flowboard skills and applies them to wakesurfing by linking more technical tricks together in ways many other competitors cannot.

Noah Flegel (above) is one of the most versatile riders on the PWT. He uses the format to his advantage to showcase his skills on skim- and surf-style boards. Up-and-comer Beaux Wildman (below) wows fans, and judges, with big tricks.
THE FORMAT – WAKEBOARDING

THE STRUCTURE OF THE CONTEST ON THE SUPRA BOATS PWT, ALONG WITH THE JUDGING, HELPS MAKE IT THE MOST COMPETITIVE AND ENTERTAINING EVENT SERIES IN THE SPORT.

Garrett Cortese

What truly helps the Supra Boats Pro Wakeboard Tour stand out is the format of the contest itself. With just 16 of the best riders in the world at each stop and three rounds of action, the competition is already fierce. Limit those top riders to eight tricks total, and you’re going to see some serious action. Here’s a look at how the PWT is structured, as well as the strategies riders can use to impress the judges and advance as far as possible.

FORMAT

Three rounds: quarterfinals, semis and finals

In the quarters and semis, each rider gets one run consisting of two passes, down and back. During each pass, the rider is allowed to perform four tricks that will count toward their total eight-trick run. Each rider is allowed one fall during their run. If a rider falls on a trick, as long as they are not past the three-quarter buoy of the predetermined course (boat path), they will be allowed to get back up and continue their run wherever. Falls don’t count against your score.

After those rounds, the six-man “super final” of the PWT is one of the most unique formats in the sport. Each rider is given two runs—two passes per run, with four tricks per pass—but no falls are allowed. The best of the two runs is used for the riders’ final scores.

JUDGING

The three judges on the PWT score each run subjectively on a zero-to-100 point scale. The average of the three scores is the rider’s final score. Within each run, the judges are looking at several factors: trick variety, a “wow” factor and execution.

STRATEGY

Strategy will vary from rider to rider because they most often play to their strengths and consistencies, but that can change based on how the competition performs in a heat. Down at the starting dock, you’ll notice riders in a heat paying close attention to how each rider is doing. Falls or missed tricks in a run mean an easier path (and less-risky tricks) for another rider. But a good run, maybe with a surprise trick or two, ups the ante for everybody else.

To appeal to the judges, riders attempt to include as much variety in their eight-trick runs as possible. You’ll see a mix of spins (in multiple directions), flips and switch tricks. To stand out from other competitors, riders mix up their riding by grabbing tricks different ways, taking them bigger and into the flats, or doing tricks few other riders can do. Of course, execution matters. Judges pay particular attention to bobbed landings or missed grabs.

The “superfinal” sees even more strategy, as the riders are given two runs. Oftentimes, you’ll see a rider put down a run they know they can stand up (not fall) in the first go-round. This allows them to go for something extra in their second run and try to improve their score.
For the top riders on the Supra Boats PWT, it’s all about balance. Being able to juggle the pressure of performing at the highest level while still having fun and interacting with fans is no simple task, but they all manage to make it look easy.
EXPERIENCES FOR ENTHUSIASTS

BONNIER EVENTS
As we enter the 29th season of the Pro Wakeboard Tour, and we think ahead to all of the amazing riding that is going to take place, we know that one rider will end up on top and win the 2020 overall PWT title. This rider will join the elite list of athletes who have won the PWT and be crowned the “King of Wake.” But did you know that in 28 seasons of the PWT, there are just four riders who account for 21 overall victories? These riders’ names have become synonymous with the sport of wakeboarding, and each has left their own unique legacy on the competitive side of the wake. Here’s a look back at the four riders whose indelible marks on the PWT will never be forgotten.

**Darin Shapiro, USA**

**PWT Titles:** 6


**What he was known for:** Darin Shapiro, aka “the Scud,” was the first athlete to dominate the PWT. His explosive style of riding and his massive raley-based maneuvers took the sport to new heights. In addition to his consistently huge tricks during his contest passes, he was the first rider to land a double flip in a competition with his signature heelside double front flip, “the Speedball.” This trick would often seal the deal for Darin whenever he landed it off the double-up at the end of his two regulation passes.
Parks Bonifay, USA
PWT Titles: 5
What he was known for: Parks Bonifay is probably the most well-known name in all of wakeboarding. A child prodigy from Lake Alfred, Florida, Parks held the record for the youngest water-skier at 6 months and 29 days old. By the time Parks made the transition from skis to a wakeboard, he had already spent more time on the water than anyone his age. Armed with confidence, control and the largest quiver of tricks the world had ever seen, Parks was the absolute perfect competitor.

Phil Soven, USA
PWT Titles: 5
What he was known for: Phil Soven turned pro way back in 2001, when he was only 12 years old. Despite consistently being the youngest athlete in the field, Phil’s skills always exceeded everyone’s expectations. Phil was a machine. His run was always dialed, and he rarely made a mistake. For many competitors of his generation (and for those a generation prior), they knew that if Phil was in the contest, he was more than likely to end up on the podium.
Harley Clifford, AUS
PWT Titles: 5
What he was known for: Harley is called “the Phenom” for a reason. Since he was 15 years old, Harley has been a fixture on the PWT podium. As the most talented rider of his generation, Harley had not only all the tricks to win but also the intelligence to know how to edge out the other riders. He was the first rider to ever land a 1080 in a contest, and he was the first—and only—rider to score a perfect 100-point score in a contest.
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Erik Ruck ('02), USA
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Danny Harf ('06), USA
Mike Dowdy ('16), USA
Cory Teunissen ('18), AUS
Nic Rapa ('19), AUS
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WANT TO QUALIFY FOR THE SUPRA BOATS PRO WAKEBOARD TOUR SOME DAY? START HERE.
After just missing out on the overall Supra Boats PWT title in 2017 and 2018, young Australian Nic Rapa achieved his goal in 2019 and added his name to one of the most distinguished lists in wakeboarding: Pro Wakeboard Tour champion. It’s a testament to Rapa’s dogged determination and unbelievable consistency as a rider.

In the past four years of riding on tour, his focus has always been singular—win. Put it this way, in his rookie year in 2016, Rapa finished fourth overall. Since then, he’s placed second, second, then first. That’s an incredible way to start a competitive career. More than ever in 2020, with young riders changing the game with progressive moves and new styles, Rapa will need that deep bag of tricks and tenacity to defend his title.
1. **What is your full name?**
Nicholas Daniel Rapa, but obviously, I just go by Nic.

2. **What was the first invert you learned on a wakeboard?**
My first invert was a tantrum when I was about 13 years old.

3. **How old were you when you went pro?**
I went pro when I was 18.

4. **What was your first major win?**
My first major win was at the Wakeboard World Series in Brazil in 2017. I was absolutely over the moon with it. After making some podiums in my rookie year, it felt like it had finally all come together when I finally won a stop.

5. **What are your favorite things about Australia?**
Oh, man, there are so many things I love about Australia. But if you’re going to make me choose, I’d have to say my friends and family, the food, and the scenery. Australia is such a beautiful place with a lot to offer.

6. **What are your favorite things about America?**
My favorite thing about America is the lifestyle I get to live while I’m here. I get to ride every day, hang out with my friends and compete in the sport I love. I also love my house in Clermont, Florida—it’s God’s country!

7. **Who was your favorite wakeboarder growing up?**
I would say Parks [Bonifay], Danny [Harf] and Rusty [Malinoski]. Those guys were always my favorites and each helped push wakeboarding to crazy new heights in their own unique ways.
8. After two years in a row of finishing second overall, what does it feel like to be a Pro Wakeboard Tour champion?
It feels so good. I set out to achieve it so long ago, and I am so excited to be in the small group of people who have ever done it. It’s by far my biggest achievement to date.

9. Who was the first person you called after you won the overall title this past year?
My mum, dad and my fiancée were all together. I called them after the first round at the final stop because I knew I had already won it. They were overjoyed.

10. What setup are you riding this year?
For 2020, I’m riding the Ronix One Time Bomb with One Carbitex boots. It’s a killer combo—super lightweight with tons of pop. Danny’s boards have always been incredible.

11. What’s your boat of choice?
I’m lucky enough to get a Supra SA 550 of my own. I am so pumped for my 2020 to arrive any day now.

12. Who do you normally ride with?
It varies a bit, but the Clermont crew is pretty strong. Most days, I’m riding with Billy Allen, Tyler Worrall, Sean Silveira and, of course, my fiancée, Georgia.

13. What is your favorite trick to do right now?
Probably switch toe 10s. They are so freaking hard, but I’m really stoked on that trick.

14. Who is your favorite rider to watch right now?
Kai and Ulf Ditsch. Those boys are doing things so differently, and it is so refreshing to watch them ride. They make you think about your own riding in totally new ways.

15. What was the last song you listened to?
“Life Is Good” by Future

16. What was the last meal you ate?
Sean and I made these awesome beef fajitas for lunch. They were lit.

17. If you could wakeboard anywhere in the world, where would it be?
My favorite place to ride that I’ve been to is the Hawkesbury River in New South Wales, Australia, but if it has to be somewhere I’ve never been before, then I really want to go to ride the blue water in Turks and Caicos.

18. If you weren’t a pro wakeboarder, what job would you have?
I would probably be building houses or something back in Australia.

19. Who would you like to thank?
I would like to thank my whole family for being so supportive. It’s been a wild ride, and I couldn’t have done it without them. My fiancée, Georgia. She is absolutely awesome and has been amazing throughout this entire journey, and I cannot think of a better person to spend the rest of my life with. And, obviously, my sponsors: Supra Boats, Ronix, Rockstar, TeamLTD, Marine Products, Lead Wake and JL Audio.

Despite his relative youth in terms of a competitive career (many of the other top riders on the PWT have years more experience), Rapa’s consistency is among the best. He used that to his advantage in 2019, and rumor has it he has more tricks in his bag for 2020.
Throughout his four-year career on the Supra Boats Pro Wakeboard Tour, Nic Rapa has collected plenty of first-place guitar trophies, but until this past year, the final one—that for the overall champion—had eluded him. Now, the young Australian has the ultimate guitar amongst his accolades, and he'll look to add to the collection this season.
If you’ve been following the sport of wakeboarding for the past few years, then you have certainly come across the names Tyler Higham and Massi Piffaretti. While both are active contest riders, it isn’t their contest results that put them under the spotlight. Both of these riders are known by both peers and fans alike for having insane amounts of style, thanks in large part to their individual creativity. But what is “style”? How is it measured, and what do these two riders do to make their riding look so unique? We decided to go right to the source to find out.

In this day and age of ultra-competitive riding, it takes a lot of skill—as well as creativity—to stand out from the pack.

W: Mark Heger
D: Garrett Cortese
Tyler Higham and Massi Piffaretti are known worldwide for their free-riding capabilities and unique tricks, but over the last couple of years they’ve been able to translate those elements to their competitive riding. The results on the Supra Boats PWT speak for themselves, as last year the two finished 6th and 8th overall, respectively.

What is style to each of you?

Tyler Higham: That’s a hard question, but I think that style is the way that anybody does something. Everybody has their own style, and some people might really like your style and others might not. But at the end of the day, you ride how you want to ride—regardless of what anyone else thinks. I think everybody should ride however they want to ride as long as they are having fun.

Massi Piffaretti: I think everybody has style. It’s a way to express your riding, and you show people the way that you think wakeboarding should look. To me, style is all about preference. It’s like your personality.

How would you describe your own style?

MP: I don’t know. I just do whatever I think is cool at the time. I like to mix it up and change it up. I like to do some of the more uncommon grabs because, sometimes, changing the grab on a trick can make it look like a totally different trick. I always want my riding to look like it’s outside the box.

TH: I always want my style to reflect having fun, doing things the way I like to do them. I try to focus on making sure that things feel good and look different from what everybody else is doing.

You both are influencing the sport with your own styles, but who influenced your style?

MP: It might sound weird, but I get influenced by every single rider I watch. I love watching other riders and taking something cool that they are doing and making it my own. Sometimes, I see somebody do a trick on the cable, and I think about trying it behind the boat. I love watching guys like Dom Hernler, Austin Pratt or Marc..
KEEPING IT CREATIVE
Thanks to the creativity of young up-and-coming stars Sam Brown (left) and Luca Kidd, the future riding of the Supra Boats PWT looks to be as bright and unique as ever. Whether it’s with unique grabs or even incorporating one-footer tricks, these two know how to stand out from the crowd (while also keeping the crowd entertained).

TH: I moved in with Josh Twelker’s family when I was, like, 12—so obviously, he influenced my style a ton. And in my mind, he is one of the most stylish riders ever, so at first, I just wanted to steal all his tricks. But then I knew that I had to differentiate myself so people wouldn’t always think of me as Twelker 2.0. I wanted to be known for my own riding, you know? I also really looked up to Ben Greenwood and his Pete Rose and Erik Ruck with his mute mobe landing in-wrapped. Being from Oregon, I also watched a lot of snowboarding and got inspiration from some of the guys like Danny Davis or Torstein Horgmo. I have a lot of tricks I want to bring to the water that I have seen some of the snowboarders doing.

What about you, Massi? Has your riding been influenced by other sports?

MP: Growing up in Europe, I spent a lot of time snowboard-
Growing up in Northern Italy and competing in snowboard events at a young age influenced Massi Piffaretti in a major way, which has carried over to his professional wakeboarding. His style has made him one of the most recognized riders in the sport.

How do you begin thinking about new tricks and riding differently?

MP: I fall asleep thinking about tricks all the time, and when you spend so much time thinking through a trick, it doesn’t usually take that long to put it together. I usually try to break the trick down into sections and try to wrap my mind around it in a step-by-step process.

TH: Yeah, man. If you can visualize it in your head, then you have the ability to do it on the water. You know it’s possible. Some tricks turn out differently than you had it in your head, but you never know until you start trying it.

Has there ever been a trick that you had in your head that didn’t work out the way you planned?

TH: The heelside double back roll! I hate that trick. [Mike] Dowdy does it so easy, and Cory [Teunissen] has such a good one. So I always thought that I would be able to get it no problem. But for some reason, it is just so much harder than I had it in my head, and I could never get it to feel good for me.

What is the trick you are most proud of how it turned out?

MP: For me, I was trying some weird wrapped roll-to-blind—kind of like Trever [Maur] was doing—and they just didn’t feel the way I wanted them to. So I decided to scrap it and just move on to something else.

TH: I feel like my rewind tricks have come a long way because I have put a lot of work into them. In my mind, that is one of the most technical tricks you can do. You’re spinning one direction, and then you stop yourself and start spinning in the other direction. I used to do my 3-2-1s with an indy grab, and then I switched it to a tail grab, and I really like the way that trick has turned out.

Tyler, as a former PWT Rookie of the Year, do you feel the pressure to create new tricks and set yourself apart?

TH: I don’t feel too much pressure because I still have a ton of tricks that I want to
Originally hailing from Bend, Oregon, Tyler Higham (below) spent many of his teenage years on the California Delta, under the tutelage of two of the sport’s biggest style icons: Josh Twelker and Trever Maur. That influence helped push Higham to make his riding different from everybody else’s, and it shows.

At just 17 years old, Sam Brown is one of the youngest riders on the Supra Boats PWT, but he already has the attention of the biggest names in the game. When several of the top pros were asked who they were watching for heading into the 2020 season, all of them mentioned Brown.
learn and a lot of goals to accomplish. Even though people don’t necessarily see me as a strict contest rider, I still want to do really well in all the contests. I am super competitive, but at the same time, I only want to do the tricks that I want to do in the contests. So I wouldn’t say that I feel pressure from other people, but I definitely put a lot of pressure on myself to do well in contests and stay true to my style of riding.

How do you think your riding style helps or hurts you in a contest scenario?

TH: Style can help, for sure. If I put together the eight tricks that I want, then it separates myself and can give me the edge over the other riders. If my riding looks different, then the judges are going to be able to remember it. But sometimes, the risk of doing tricks differently can hurt you. Sometimes comparing two different tricks is really difficult. A stylish trick that might look “simple” but is actually really technical can sometimes get overshadowed by a big-banger trick. The judges have a really hard job to do, and I am super thankful for the hard work they put into every riders’ score.

MP: I grew up doing contests my whole life, and I have always wanted to prove myself and to be the best. But at the same time, I think it’s cool to ride differently than all the other competitors. At the end of the day, I can’t say that my tricks are harder or easier than anybody else’s. But I am going to continue pushing for the style that I enjoy.

Massi, who are some of the young riders that you are stoked on?

MP: There are so many young kids who are so good right now. The younger generation of riders is really pushing it. Two of the kids I really like watching are Kai and Ulf Ditsch. Those guys are bomb. They go all-out every time they hit the water, and I really respect that.

What advice would you give to up-and-coming riders who are wanting to develop their own style?

MP: I would tell them to focus on the little tiny movements and not necessarily the hardest, most technical stuff. Once you perfect all the details of a trick, you can move on. But most important, I would tell them to have as much fun as you can.

TH: Absolutely. Having fun has got to be number one. If you concentrate more on having fun and worry less about the names of the tricks you want to add to your list, then you’ll be a much better rider. And if you get your fundamentals dialed, then the harder tricks will come much easier.

For a number of his signature tricks, Tyler Higham [above, top] utilizes a wrap handle. This allows him to do rotations a different way or grab the board longer.

Massi Piffaretti’s style and fun-loving personality have made him a fan favorite at the PWT and beyond.
At the end of the day, I can’t say if my tricks are harder or easier than anybody else’s. But I am going to continue pushing for the style that I enjoy.
The Supra Boats Pro Wakeboard Tour and Pro Wakesurf Tour play host to not only the best riders in the world but also some of the coolest and most fun, as well. Yes, the competition is fierce, but what makes wakeboarders so unique in the world of action sports is how much they root for each other to do well. That fun-loving attitude carries over to the fans too. Each rider is more than happy to interact with any of you lucky enough to come watch them ride at a Supra Boats PWT stop. Don’t hesitate to walk up to them, ask for a photo or chat about wakeboarding. Be sure to give them a follow on social media too.
THINGS TO LOOK FOR: After two years in a row as runner-up, Nic Rapa is now the reigning Supra Boats PWT champion, and he is going to be fighting tooth and nail to defend his title. Look for multiple double flips and huge moves out into the flats during his run. Word on the street is, his switch toeside 1080 is on lock now too, so he’ll definitely look to use that to his advantage.

NICKNAME: RAP-O
DOB: 7/24/1997
RESIDES: CLERMONT, FLORIDA
HOMETOWN: HAWKESBURY, AUSTRALIA
STANCE: GOOFY
FIRST YEAR ON PWT: 2016
2019 PWT FINISH: 1ST
BEST PWT FINISH: OVERALL CHAMP 2019

FOLLOW
INSTAGRAM: @NICRAPA
CORY TEUNISSEN

PROFILES WAKEBOARDING
GET TO KNOW THE TOP RIDERS ON THE SUPRA BOATS PWT

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Cory might have the biggest bag of tricks of any wake athlete, and he has the consistency to land almost any of those tricks whenever needed. With double flips and 1080s, tricks into the flats and switch tricks, Cory has got it all. And as a former PWT champion, Cory knows what he has to do to get to the top of the podium.

NICKNAME: TUNA
DOB: 9/29/1997
RESIDES: ORLANDO, FLORIDA
HOMETOWN: BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA
STANCE: GOOFY
FIRST YEAR ON PWT: 2015
2019 PWT FINISH: 2ND
BEST PWT FINISH: OVERALL CHAMP 2018

FOLLOW
INSTAGRAM:@CORYTEUNISSEN
TONY IACCONI

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Ti has consistently made his way into almost every PWT final for the past four years. It’s a testament to not only his consistency but also his ability to continually step up his game year after year. Iacconi definitely has the necessary tools to come out on top and take the win with his switch-front-mobe variations and all-around clean riding.

NICKNAME: Ti
DOB: 11/13/1996
RESIDES: ORLANDO, FLORIDA
HOMETOWN: NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA
STANCE: REGULAR
FIRST YEAR ON PWT: 2014
2019 PWT FINISH: 3RD
BEST PWT FINISH: 3RD OVERALL 2019

INSTAGRAM: @TONYIACCONI
THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Shota’s riding is the perfect combination of “silky smooth” and “going huge.” There is nobody who rides with as much style while going as big as Shota, and he’s been a fan favorite because of it. Now in his ninth season, Shota is a seasoned vet on the tour, but he’s still progressing. Look for his huge 1080 to drop this year when he needs a big score.

NICKNAME: SHOWTIME
DOB: 12/13/1993
RESIDES: ORLANDO, FLORIDA
HOMETOWN: SHIZUOKA, JAPAN
STANCE: REGULAR
FIRST YEAR ON PWT: 2012
2018 PWT FINISH: 5TH
BEST PWT FINISH: 3RD OVERALL 2014
NICKNAME: TY
DOB: 4/27/1999
RESIDES: ORLANDO, FLORIDA
HOMETOWN: BEND, OREGON
STANCE: REGULAR
FIRST YEAR ON PWT: 2018
2019 FINISH: 6TH
BEST PWT FINISH: 6TH OVERALL 2018, 2019

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Tyler is leading the next generation of wake riders. His creativity and unique style are the key components to his riding. His standout all-around year in 2019 earned him the Wake Award for Best Boat Rider. He’s the only rider to have ever landed a mute double mobe off the wake, and with his rewind tricks and other creative skills, he’s a threat anytime he’s on the water.

FOLLOW

INSTAGRAM: @TYLERHIGHAM
THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Sam is the youngest athlete in the field of competitors, but don’t mistake his age for a lack of experience. As the 2019 Rookie of the Year, Sam has made an impression on the rest of the riders that he is a force to be reckoned with. To top it off, Sam has tricks up his sleeve that no other pro can land. Sam’s riding looks like no other, and that’s what’s made him a staple on tour at a young age.

NICKNAME: SAMBO
DOB: 08/31/2002
RESIDES: ORLANDO, FLORIDA
HOMETOWN: SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
STANCE: REGULAR
FIRST YEAR ON PWT: 2018
2019 FINISH: 7TH
BEST PWT FINISH: 7TH OVERALL 2019
07 MASSIMILIANO PIFFARETTI

NICKNAME: PIFFA/THE PIZZA BOY
DOB: 4/12/1994
RESIDES: ORLANDO, FLORIDA
HOMETOWN: LAKE COMO, ITALY
STANCE: REGULAR
FIRST YEAR ON PWT: 2014
2019 FINISH: 8TH
BEST PWT FINISH: 8TH OVERALL 2019

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Massi, aka “the Pizza Boy,” is the rider that all the other riders want to watch. His creativity and style are unmatched, and his aerial awareness is absolutely mind-blowing. Plus, he’s a fan favorite, always taking time to have fun with everybody in the crowd. Be sure to watch for some of his unique rewind tricks and crossbody-grab variations.

FOLLOW

INSTAGRAM: @M ASSIPIFFA
THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Noah Flegel might be the most talented watersports athlete to ever stand on a board. From wakeboarding to wakesurfing to wakeskating to foiling and more, Noah excels in every single category. Be sure to watch him in both disciplines, wakeboarding and wakesurfing, and don’t be surprised to find him atop the podium in both—he’s that good.

NICKNAME: FLEEGS
DOB: 9/12/1997
RESIDES: ORLANDO, FLORIDA
HOMETOWN: FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
STANCE: REGULAR
FIRST YEAR ON PWT: 2014
2019 FINISH: 9TH
BEST PWT FINISH: 9TH OVERALL 2019

FOLLOW
INSTAGRAM: @NOAHFLEGEL
THING TO LOOK FOR: Harley Clifford has been the most dominant competitor in wakeboarding over the past decade, and he’s single-handedly rewritten the book on “staying one step ahead of the competition.” Even as a seasoned veteran these days, he’s still as good as ever, with the tricks and consistency to pull off a victory anytime he’s on the water. Newly married, he might be as motivated as ever.

NICKNAME: CHARLEY/THE PHENOM
DOB: 9/14/1993
RESIDES: ORLANDO, FLORIDA
HOMETOWN: REDLAND BAY, AUSTRALIA
STANCE: REGULAR
FIRST YEAR ON PWT: 2009
2019 FINISH: 10TH OVERALL

FOLLOW
INSTAGRAM: @HARLEYCLIFFORD

09 HARLEY CLIFFORD
THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Like his nickname says, Jake Pelot is as steady a rider as they come. His riding stands out for its precision, smooth flow and consistency. That has helped Jake climb the ranks since his rookie year in 2017. Look for his rewind spins and, if he’s feeling extra risky, the elusive “osmosis 540”—a rotation where Jake releases the handle, completes the spin and catches it out of midair as he comes back around.

NICKNAME: OLD RELIABLE/JAKE THE SNAKE
DOB: 10/22/1997
RESIDES: ORLANDO, FLORIDA
HOMETOWN: ORLANDO, FLORIDA
STANCE: REGULAR
FIRST YEAR ON PWT: 2017
2019 FINISH: TIED 11TH
BEST PWT FINISH: 5TH OVERALL 2018

FOLLOW

INSTAGRAM: @JAKE_PELOT
NICKNAME: THE SLIV
RESIDES: ORLANDO, FLORIDA
HOMETOWN: ORLANDO, FLORIDA
STANCE: REGULAR
FIRST YEAR ON PWT: 2017
2019 FINISH: 1ST
BEST PWT FINISH: OVERALL CHAMP 2019, 2018

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Now the two-time defending Supra Boats Pro Wakesurf Tour champ, Sean Silveira definitely has a target on his back. While he might be the oldest competitor in the field, don’t expect Sean to lay off the gas. He is as motivated as ever and constantly finds ways to step up his game and stay ahead of the pack. His switch and backside riding are unrivaled in wakesurfing.
Parker Payne

Things to Look For: Parker has been a part of the Supra Boats Pro Wakesurf Tour since its inception, and he’s always finished in the top three. The Texan’s consistency is mind-blowing, and when you realize he’s as proficient at skim style as he is at surf style, it’s easy to understand how he’s been so successful.

Nickname: Payne Killer
DOB: 8/31/1999
Resides: Richardson, Texas
Hometown: Richardson, Texas
Stance: Regular
First Year on PWT: 2015
2019 Finish: 2nd
Best PWT Finish: 2nd Overall 2018, 2019

Follow
Instagram: @parkerpaynesurf
THINGS TO LOOK FOR:  Yep, Noah is in here twice. He’s the only athlete to compete in both divisions, and as you can see, he’s among the best at both. A two-time champ of the Supra Boats Pro Wakesurf Tour, Noah’s bag of tricks is second to none, and he’s as consistent as they come. He missed the first stop of 2019 with an injury and still finished third overall. Look for him to come out firing in 2020.

NICKNAME: FLEEGS
DOB: 9/12/1997
RESIDES: ORLANDO, FLORIDA
HOMETOWN: FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
STANCE: REGULAR
FIRST YEAR ON PWT: 20015
2019 FINISH: 3RD
BEST PWT FINISH: OVERALL CHAMP 2017, 2016

FOLLOW
INSTAGRAM: @NOAHFLEGEL

03 NOAH FLEGEL
THE BOLD AND THE BLUE-TIFUL

THIS YEAR’S SPECIAL PWT EDITION OF THE SUPRA SA 550 IS VERY DIFFERENT—AND VERY AWESOME.

W: GARRETT CORTES 
P: DEVIN TATRO
Since Supra began pulling the Pro Wakeboard Tour and Pro Wakesurf Tour in 2015, each season has been highlighted by the special-edition PWT boats. Featuring fully customized graphics packages, interior color combinations and PWT badging, the boats have been fan favorites. Each year, though, the boats have been some variation of red, white and gray—the colors of the PWT. This year, Supra has taken that combo and flipped it on its head.
Working in lockstep with partners such as PTM Edge, JL Audio, GatorStep, ZDecals and Boatmate Trailers, the 2020 PWT-edition SA 550 is a work of customized beauty. The result is this electric blue-and-black stunner that we can say looks even better in person than it does here in these pages.

ALL-NEW FOR 2020
While the Supra SA has helped set records and launch the PWT into the stratosphere the past five years, Supra saw room for improvement. Sounds crazy, right? But for 2020, one of the best boats on the market has gotten even better. In fact, from the full test we put the 2020 SA through this past fall, we’re confident in saying that it is the best all-around 22-foot wakeboat on the market.

For starters, the running surface has been updated to produce even cleaner wakes and waves, while still retaining their world-class shape and power. Above the water, you’ll notice new running lines, which give the SA a sleeker, longer look, while keeping the aggressive stance it’s become famous for.

COMFORT ABOUNDS
Throughout the SA, you’ll find design cues and features aimed at providing as much comfort and convenience as possible. The upholstery is plush, but more than that, it stays cool, thanks to Supra’s Chill Tech Vinyl. Even on the hottest days—and even in black—the seats stay cool to the touch. Wherever you or any passenger needs to step, you’ll find GatorStep flooring. Another touch that adds not only a level of customization and comfort but also protection to your SA’s interior.

Seating is also customizable, with a flip-up bolster on the port side and a convertible rear bench that can transition into a table, as well as a rear-facing seat for watching all the on-water action. Other creature comforts passengers will appreciate are two areas for trash-can access: one in the bow walk-through and another in the floor of the main cabin. With the included heater setup, the crew can stay warm with retractable vent hoses. For when you need shade from the sun, the oversize Bimini has you covered—literally. There’s plenty of headroom for your tallest friends, but it’s also easy to fold up should you want to let some of that vitamin D warm everybody up.

At the transom, the extra level of comfort continues with the pop-up backrests in the sun deck. It turns the whole transom into a lounge area, complete with cup holders, stereo controls and more. And about that stereo:
It's next level. The folks at JL Audio pulled out all the stops to set up an unbelievable audio experience in the SA—and every Supra, for that matter. Audio engineers used high-end equipment to measure the space of each Supra and designed audio-performance packages catered to each. In the cabin of the SA, you’ll notice speakers don’t just point straight into the middle but rather are at a specific angle. That’s for a reason, and when you crank the volume, you’ll appreciate it that much more.

ROOM FOR EVERYBODY
In a 22-foot boat with room for 16, you’re going to need room for a lot of gear. Thanks to its subfloor ballast and creative designs, the SA has plenty. From the deep storage areas beneath each seat to the giant rear compartments and versatile surf locker, the SA can carry plenty. Of course, you also have the convenience (and killer looks) of the FxOne Power Folding Tower. Equipped with PTM Edge clamping board racks and surf storage on top of the Bimini, you’ve got the ability to hold six boards.

THE HELM
The most important seat in the house is the captain’s, and on the SA 550, it’s a treat. Not only is it both comfortable and customizable with power adjustments, but it’s also heated. Plus, every control over all the boat’s array of technologies is at the tip of your fingers.

The Vision Control System consists of three screens: two at the dash and one next to the passenger glove box. The main screen above the steering wheel shows the boat’s vitals, while being able to toggle between rearview-camera displays, navigation, media and AutoWake. The second screen, to the right of the helm, can display a variety of information and allow the captain to control ballast, rider presets, media and a GoPro camera. This feature is particularly slick. Pair your GoPro camera to your Vision Control System, mount it to the transom (Supra has built-in mounting points on both sides), and the driver can control everything from the dash, so you never miss getting your best action clips.

Redundant controls are housed on the steering wheel, allowing for changes to boat speed, wake-plate settings, surfing port or starboard, audio, AutoWake, and much more without having to touch a screen. For an added bonus, the helm is also equipped with a wireless phone charger. Drop yours in, and you don’t have to worry about draining your battery while playing your favorite Spotify jams.
AUTOWAKE

The star of the SA—and every Supra, for that matter—is undoubtedly AutoWake, Supra’s patented wake-optimization technology. Think of AutoWake as autopilot for your wakes and waves. Here’s how it works:

AutoWake consists of four patented onboard systems that measure the pitch, roll, yaw and displacement of the boat. It takes control of the boat’s onboard ballast system to automatically optimize the boat’s riding attitude and works alongside wake-shaping technologies—SmartPlate and Swell Surf 3.0—to create the desired wakes and waves. This means that even as passengers move about the boat, AutoWake’s sensors will allow it to compensate to keep the wake or wave at the ideal setting.

Let’s say you’ve got a beginner rider who wants to learn to surf on the port side of the boat. Select the preset in the AutoWake page of the dash, and the boat does the rest. It will adjust ballast as needed to optimize what you want. The same goes for an advanced wakeboarder who wants the biggest wakes possible. Anytime a rider finds a wake or wave setting they really like, it can be saved as a customized preset, so you don’t have to worry about figuring out which parts of the ballast system to fill, and how much, the next time you hit the water.

On top of that, AutoWake features predictive-state capabilities. Select the wake or wave settings you want while still at the dock, and AutoWake will prep the boat, so it’s ready to go when you are. Much of this happens quicker than you’d think, thanks in large part to the Mega Velocity Ballast System. By using six high-output pumps (two per ballast zone), the SA’s ballast fills up quickly. Of course, if the wake or wave are not dialed in as the rider gets up, AutoWake will continue making adjustments until it’s just right.

New for 2020 is an automatic leveling feature. Designed for cruising speeds, AutoWake will utilize the Swell surf plate as needed to keep the boat level. Now when you’re done for the day and ready to head back to the dock, you don’t have to worry about moving people around to level the boat, AutoWake will do it for you.

Supra SA 550 specs:
- Length: 22'5"
- Beam: 8'6"
- Seats: 16
- Draft: 2'4"
- Fuel: 63 gal.
- Dry weight: 5,800 lb.
- Ballast: 3,500 lb.
- Engine: 575 6.2 L Ford Roushcharged Raptor by Indmar
- Torque: 580 ft-lb.
AutoWake is one of the most unique and convenient technologies ever installed in a wakeboarding and wakesurfing boat. It’s helped longtime Supra team riders such as Shota Tezuka (above) and Reed Hansen dial in pro-level wakes and waves for years, but it’s also helped take the frustration out of setting up a new boat for beginners.
WHILE THE ON-WATER ACTION TAKES CENTER STAGE AT THE SUPRA BOATS PWT, THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES MOMENTS ARE OFTEN JUST AS FUN.

P: Garrett Cortese
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