

Sonni Hönscheid of Germany and Michael Booth of Australia capture elite titles in Carolina Cup

The Quiksilver Waterman Carolina Cup, April 18-22, Blockade Runner Beach Resort, Wrightsville Beach, NC

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH, NC, USA, April 23, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Choppy seas and high winds did not faze paddleboard elites Sonni Hönscheid of Germany or Michael Booth of Australia, crowned champions of the punishing 13-mile Graveyard Race at the Quiksilver Waterman Carolina Cup, held April 18-22, in Wrightsville Beach.

"I had a good start, which is rare for me, and was third around the first buoy. I am super happy with that," said Hönscheid, the fifth-ranked women's paddler in the world. "I tried to gain distance in the downwind before the first inlet. Fiona was in front of me, but I knew I could catch her in the flatwater, and I did. She was behind me for a while so, I kept my pace out there. Once I returned to the ocean for the final leg, I felt relaxed, had a good time and a good race."

"Interestingly, some of the athletes that are ocean paddlers loved the conditions," said race director Mark Schmidt. "The race had a strong side-shore wind angling from the Northeast and mainly East. Racers who knew how to work the waves and the runners had no problem, but for some, it was a problem."

"In previous times the wind worked against me because I didn't have the skills to compete at that level," said fourth-ranked men's pro Michael Booth. "But, we've been working hard back home in Perth, and the conditions for the Wrightsville Beach race are the same as I train in every day. When I looked out the morning of the race, I thought, 'This is just like home. You can do this.' To have it pay off, in the end, is really great."



Sonni Hönscheid runs to the finish line at The Carolina Cup Graveyard Race – Courtesy Robert B. Butler



Michael Booth at The Carolina Cup Awards Ceremony – Courtesy Robert B. Butler

"It feels fantastic to win the Graveyard. Ever since I joined this sport I've really wanted to win this race," said Booth. "This is such a major race in the sport, to have my name on the list of champions is really special."

Following his victory in the elite standup paddleboard category, Booth captured a second Graveyard Race title in the surfski class. Due to growing demand, an elite Graveyard Race was added to the 2018 schedule to include surfski, double-ski, OC-1, and OC-2 (see media site for results). All races for the week originated and ended at Blockade Runner Beach Resort, the official resort of the Carolina Cup.



Michael Booth captures standup paddleboard and OC-1 victories at The Carolina Cup – Courtesy Robert B Butler

Organized by the Wrightsville Beach Paddle Club, affiliated with the newly formed Paddle League, and sanctioned by the World Paddle Association (WPA), the Quiksilver Waterman Carolina Cup attracted paddlers from more than 20 countries and most US states. About 20-percent of the athletes were from North Carolina – a rough estimate provided by Schmidt. Competitors included Olympians, world-record holders, champions, professionals, amateurs, and first-time paddlers.

A partial list of winners:

The Graveyard Race – SUP

Men's Elite (13-miles / 21km)

- 1st: Michael Booth (2:03:14) Australia
- 2nd: Travis Grant (2:03:21) Australia
- 3rd: Mo Freitas (2:03:27) Hawaii, USA
- 4th: Titouan Puyo (2:03:43) New Caledonia, France
- 5th: Georges Cronsteadt (2:03:49) Tahiti
- 6th: Marcus Hansen (2:04:51) New Zealand
- 7th: Lincoln Dews (2:05:02) Australia
- 8th: Niuhihi Buillard (2:05:25) Tahiti
- 9th: Bruno Hasulyo (2:05:30) Hungary
- 10th: Danny Ching (2:05:35) CA, USA

Women's Elite (13-miles / 21km)

- 1st: Sonni Hönscheid (2:20:35) Germany
- 2nd: Olivia Piana (2:23:38) France
- 3rd: Fiona Wylde (2:25:19) Oregon, USA
- 4th: April Zilg (2:28:26) NC native, now lives in CA, USA
- 5th: Seychelle Webster (2:29:22) FL, USA
- 6th: Candice Appleby (2:30:39) CA, USA
- 7th: Terrene Black (2:30:40) Australia
- 8th: Shae Foudy (2:31:32) USA
- 9th: Yuka Sato (2:34:34) Japan
- 10th: Laura Quetglas (2:37:19) Spain

The Harbor Island Recreational Race – SUP

Harbor Island Men (3-mile open race)

- 1st: David Young – Wilmington, NC
- 2nd: Jeff Berry – Rochester, NY
- 3rd: Dylan Henry – Satellite Beach, FL
- 4th: Campbell Carter – Wilmington, NC
- 5th: Mitch Cherry – Atlanta, GA

Harbor Island Women (3-mile open race)

- 1st: Tabitha Price – Tuscaloosa, AL
- 2nd: Samantha Stewart – Annapolis, MD
- 3rd: Elle Newkirk – Wrightsville Beach, NC
- 4th: Stella Gan – Ontario, Canada
- 5th: Erin Fitzpatrick – Wrightsville Beach, NC

The Money Island Open – SUP

Money Island Men (6-mile open race)

- 1st: Jeremy Whitted – Charleston, SC
- 2nd: David Slemph – St. Augustine, FL
- 3rd: Justin Schaay – Charleston, SC
- 4th: Steve Phillips – Surfside Beach, SC
- 5th: Mike Taber – Ontario, Canada

Money Island Women (6-mile open race)

- 1st: Heilani Cronsteadt – Tahiti
- 2nd: Kim Hillhouse – Lanikai, Hawaii
- 3rd: John Deriggi – Washington, DC
- 4th: Meg Bosi – Bonita Springs, FL
- 5th: Lindsay Cook – Annapolis, MD

[Photo Gallery, Media Archive, Race Information](#)

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