

### **SIMRAD TAKE OUT GEELONG CLASSIC**

Defending offshore champions Simrad opened up their 2007 account with a brilliant win at the Geelong Classic on Corio Bay this afternoon as thousands flocked to the foreshore to catch glimpse of the 250km/h speed machines.

After being lead by the Acme team for the opening laps Simrad duo Ross Willaton and Luke Durman powered home to win their second Geelong Classic in a row.

"We lost our starboard engine twice during the race so we were very pleased to come away with the victory," said Simrad driver Ross Willaton.

"It's going to be a very interesting year, all the Class- 1 boats had great pace today, so when we all manage to finish it will make for some brilliant racing", he said.

Many Class- 1 teams encountered various problems during the race and were forced to withdraw with mechanical failures.

Maritimo encountered a host of obstacles throughout race weekend, including a blown engine during Saturday's practice session, a driver change on race morning and finally an electrical problem forcing them to retire during the opening lap of race proceedings.

Acme Racing had a promising start, leading the race until a blown blower belt during the sixth lap slowed them considerably, eventually forcing their retirement after the completion of 8 laps.

"Disappointing to be forced out in that fashion, but the boat was smoking up until that point so we are really looking forward to next week at Williamstown.

Smorgon Steel continue to battle with mechanical problems, continuing on from a disappointing 2006 with piston problems forcing a DNF today.

"It's quite disappointing, but we will keep plugging away until we get it right", said Smorgon boat owner Tony Low.

Blade Custom boats had an impressive debut race as a new entry and lone ranger in the Class 3- six litre field, this afternoon.

Hogs Breath Racing notched up yet another victory in the Class 3- four litre category after a thrilling battle with Kwozzy.

"It was great to open the season with a win, both Kwozzy and new entry 'Shaken Not Stirred' had terrific races, it will be a very close season," said Paul Gibbs of Hogs Breath.

The Production Class belonged to Andrew Pike and Sean Halloran of team Slick, with an impressive showing beating home Airborne for category honours.

Acme racing's Chris Searle and Chris Jatkonis won the Haines Signature one make class.

The series moves to a brand new location for the 2007 calendar at Williamstown next weekend.

2007 Australian Offshore Powerboat Series proudly sponsored by Acme Fibreglass Supplies, Navman, Nautilus Marine, Urban Angles and APBE.

### **OUTRIGHT ROUND RESULTS (PROVISIONAL) - GEELONG CLASSIC**

- |    |                    |                               |
|----|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | SIMRAD             | Luke Durman/ Ross Willaton    |
| 2. | ACME RACING        | Steve and Andrew Searle       |
| 3. | Blade Custom Boats | Cameron Davis and Gryff Ethol |
| 4. | Hogs Breath        | Paul Gibbs and Paul Fowlds    |
| 5. | Shaken Not Stirred | Mike Beil and Garry Smith     |

### **CLASS WINNERS- GEELONG CLASSIC**

Class One	SIMRAD
Class 3-6 litre	BLADE CUSTOM BOATS
Class 3-4 litre	HOGS BREATH
Production	SLICK
Haines- Signature/ Suzuki	ACME

Visit these websites:

[www.aopc.com.au](http://www.aopc.com.au)