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VENYU TRIPLE S INVITATIONAL

Organized by REAL Watersports, the Triple-S Invitational has been around for 10 years and has grown to be one of the largest kiteboarding events in the world. It's one of the only events featuring park style riding. Our sport of kiteboarding is so diverse and park riding with rails and kickers is just one of the growing aspects in kiteboarding. The REAL Slider Park in Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, USA, has always been the epicenter of progressive wake style and park riding. Since the beginning, REAL and their team have been building features and been making noise in the kiteboarding world. In the early 2000's, REAL started an unofficial event – the Glass Masters, which later turned into the Triple-S Invitational in 2006.

Triple S stands for “Surf, Slicks and Sliders” – basically all the best aspects of Cape Hatteras and what the location has to offer for the kiteboarding enthusiast. The event started out small with just a few friends getting together, building features together and having a jam on the water. The event has grown organically as REAL Watersports and the sport of kiteboarding has evolved. The Venyu Triple-S Invitational has now become the pinnacle of wakestyle, and attracts attention worldwide.





An Epic Setup

It takes a few key elements in order to pull off an event such as the Venyu Triple-S: location, organization and people.

The Outer Banks (Cape Hatteras) is basically a sandbar in the middle of the ocean. It's a small sand peninsula off the coast of North Carolina spanning 200 miles. Hatteras receives wind nearly everyday and can work on pretty well every wind direction. Hatteras being an island attached by bridges is easy to get to and also provides some ideal kiteboarding conditions. On the ocean side you have world class waves and on the sound side you have amazing flat water slicks. The small grass islands on the sound side provide the protection from the wind and chop leaving the water buttery smooth.

Kiteboarding in Hatteras wouldn't be the same without REAL Watersports. REAL was founded in 2001 by co-founders Matt Nuzzo and Trip Forman. It started out as a small operation with two spots, one located in village of "Waves" and the other

 **NORTH**
KITEBOARDING



MANUELA JUNGO



ERIK REINESTA



located in Buxton. After a few years the partners decided to focus their efforts on one location. They choose Waves, which is located slightly further north on the island and offers one of the best flatwater spots on the island. The REAL Slick is located in the backyard of REAL Watersports and is the ideal spot for a park setup. The event wouldn't happen without REAL. Over the years, they have grown the event to what it is today. What started out as a jam with friends in their backyard is now a world-class event with \$40,000 on the line. REAL is also the world's largest kite school and shop with all the amenities to go with it. There is a massive two-story store, lesson center, condominiums, 20 Seadoos for lessons, and Waterman's Bar & Grill. With these resources it makes for the best spot to run an event. Over the years they have sunk tens of



"WHAT STARTED OUT AS A JAM WITH FRIENDS IN THEIR BACK YARD IS NOW A WORLD CLASS EVENT WITH \$40 000 ON THE LINE"

thousands of dollars into the REAL Slider Park, and can now safely say they have the best kite park in the world.

The event wouldn't happen without all the people involved. From the ground up you have all the staff at REAL to take care of the logistics and organization: Brian Wheeler and the Worrall brothers for judging, and the riders, the veterans and legends that pioneered the event like Jason Sleazak, Andre Philip, Joby Cook and Davey Blair. Now the rest of the riders come from around the world to showcase their style of riding on the world's best features.

A 10-Year Celebration

The 2015 Triple S was bigger than ever. It was the event's 10th anniversary and they decided to bring the event back to its roots for this year and have just a slider event. \$40,000 was getting divided up over the top 5 men and top 3 women. There was more money on the line than ever before. Like every year, the event took place the first week of June at REAL Watersports on Cape Hatteras island. There were 35 men and 12 women invited to the event with room for one Video Wildcard Winner in the men's and 1 in the women's. The wild card format is a video submission. Riders put



together a showcase of their best park riding and submitted their two-minute video for a panel of judges to vote on. This year it was Oliver Panni for the men and Manual Jungo for the women who earned the spot in the event through the Video Wildcard submission program.

There was also the last-chance qualifier event, The Venyu Triple-S Open, the day before the Invitational, which would guarantee one last male and female a spot into the event. It's a judged event which takes 1 male and 1 female into the main event. This year the Venyu Open was more stacked than ever with riders from all around the world as far away as Australia and Spain to compete in an attempt to make it into the Venyu Triple-S main event.

Unfortunately, mother nature didn't cooperate



"IT WAS 1 WEEK LONG OF PARK RIDER WITH SOME GOOD FRIENDS AND THE WORLD'S BEST IN WAKE STYLE AND PARK RIDING"



COLLEEN CARROL



SENSI GRAVES



for this year's Open and over the course of the 2 days there was no wind to run with kites. Instead the Open was held behind Seadoos. Riders had the opportunity to showcase their stuff on the 3 rails and 2 kickers behind the Seadoos. It was a tight final with young gun Noe Font putting in a solid performance and America's Brandon Bowe stopping some 5's off the kicker. It wasn't until the opening night that we found out which riders made it into the main event from the Venyu Triple-S Open. For the men it was Brandon Bowe and for the women it was Katie Potter all the way from Australia. With the opening night and the announcement of the Open winners, the 2015 Venyu Triple-S was ready to set sail.

The Main Event

It was one week long of park riding, with some good friends and the world's best in wake style and park riding. You can normally count on wind in Hatteras. It's like clockwork most of the time. This year though there was a disturbance with the Bermuda high which caused a lot of light winds over the island. It wasn't until the final day that the wind finally came. It was the Friday and the winds kicked in from the North enough that we were able to run the event on the back

side of the REAL Slick. The winds were fairly light with most of the riders on everything from 12 to 15m kites. They divided the riders in half creating two heats. Then they divided the park into three sections. The first section consisted of the North Rooftop Rail and the KOA Kicker. The second section consisted of the Best Super Kicker and the Liquid Force Reverse Rainbow Rail. Last but not least, the third section, stood the John Wayne Cancer Foundation A-frame Rail.

As we cycled through the first section, there were some hammers coming off the KOA kicker. Tack hit a heelside frontside 720, Sam with a grabbed back 540 and Aaron and Brandon with some clean Moby dicks. It was on to the second section of the course and again the Best kicker was a sight



for the spectator. Again some hammers went off the kicker with Rich Sabo landing his first-ever heelside frontside 720, Sam with a toeside backside 720 and several others. I managed a tootsie roll [toeside front roll, backside 180], which I was pretty amped on. Last but not least it was the John Wayne: An A-frame, one of the tougher features to hit because of its shear size and length. With the wind shifting around, some riders



CHRIS BOBRYK



SAM LIGHT

"SAM LIGHT THE MAN, THE MYTH, THE LEGEND MAN-AGED TO HIT A GAP BACK 3 AND GAP BACK 450 OVER THE FLAT OF THE A FRAME"

weren't able to get full pulls, and were coming off early. Some riders used this to their advantage and busted the up portion of the rail like a kicker and did some passes off. Sam Light the man, the myth, the legend managed to hit a gap backside 360 and gap backside 450 over the flat of the A frame, waxing the entire rail. No doubt, Sam Light had the highest score on that feature.

The riding was done for the week and after waiting seven days for wind everyone was ready to kick back and enjoy some drinks together. It just so happened that the closing day/night of the event fell on my 25th birthday so I was especially excited to have some drinks with friends from around the world. We headed to REAL that night for the closing ceremony and party. The "Dub Plates" played that night and everyone was in an ire mood I would say. Even though we didn't have

much wind that week we were still able to pull off the event and get some solid results. Once again taking the Venyu Triple-S Invitational by storm were the UK's Sam Light, winning for the third year straight, and America's Colleen Carroll, who won for the fourth year straight – more than any other rider in Triple-S's 10-year history.

Every year the Triple S gets bigger and better. I couldn't tell you what's next for the event but I know all the riders, myself included, always look forward to heading back to that sandbar in the middle of the ocean for some action at REAL Watersports and the best kite park in the world.

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TRIPLE S
Pay to the Order of **SAM LIGHT** Date: **6/5/2015**
TWELVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 \$12,000.00
1st PLACE

TRIPLE S
Best
BILLY PARKER

TRIPLE S
6/5/2015
\$15,000.00
BRANDON SCHEID
FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100
1st PLACE

TRIPLE S
6/5/2015
\$15,000.00
CHRISTOPHE TACK
FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100
1st PLACE

TRIPLE S
6/5/2015
\$3,000.00
BO...
USA

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEN'S CHAMPION SAM LIGHT AND WOMEN'S CHAMPION COLLEEN CARROLL!

"EVERY YEAR THE TRIPLE S GETS BIGGER AND BETTER.
I COULDN'T TELL YOU WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE EVENT
BUT I KNOW ALL THE RIDERS MYSELF INCLUDED
ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO HEADING BACK TO THAT
SANDBAR"

CHRISTOPHE TACK

RESULTS FOR THE 2015 VENYU TRIPLE-S INVITATIONAL:

Men's

- 1 - [\$12,000] – Sam Light UK
- 2 - [\$7,500] – Billy Parker USA
- 3 - [\$5,000] – Brandon Scheid USA
- 4 - [\$3,000] – James Boulding UK
- 5 - [\$2,000] – Christophe Tack BEL

Women's

- 1 - [\$4,000] – Colleen Carroll USA
- 2 - [\$2,500] – Sensi Graves USA
- 3 - [\$1,000] – Victoria Soloveykina RUS

Masters's

- 1 - [\$1,000] – Andre Phillip ATG
- 2 - Jason Slezak USA
- 3 - Davey Blair USA

Rookie of the year Award [\$1,000] – Christophe Tack BEL

Best Session Award [\$1,000] – Billy Parker USA

Slickstyle Attitude Award [Prize Pack] – Artem Garashchenko RUS

Best Wipeout Award [Prize Pack] – Craig Cunningham CAN

