

CHECK OUT THE HOT (AND COLD) SPOTS TO RACE IN '98



VR SPORTS **POWERBOAT** *Racing*™

SPECIAL EXCLUSIVE:

LET'S GO RACING!

**The In's-And-
Out's of Piloting
Your First
Competition
Powerboat!**

The Official VR Sports Powerboat Racing Publication

Fasten Your Seatbelts As We Review

**THE WORLD'S FASTEST
POWERBOATS &
CATAMARANS!**

PLUS:

Check Out This Season's Hottest
New Sound Setup



BONUS!

**Racing Champion Sandy
Speeden: "How to Sink the Competition"**

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10



HEAD OVER HEELS FOR RACING

First of all, I love your magazine. I bought a powerboat about three months ago and am really into this racing stuff. But every time I go to take a jump, my boat flips out on me. I'm either spinning in the air and wipe out, or I'm making like a submarine when I hit the water. Haven't suffered any serious injuries, but all my racing buddies laugh and call me names, and don't want me playing in any of their racing games. They don't seem to have any problems with their jumps. What can I do?

Billy Bob
Miami, FL

Well, BB, powertrimming is the key to keeping your jumps in control. As racing veterans ourselves, we've found that it helps to trim down just before you take a jump, and then quickly trim up before landing. That helps to balance your boat out when in mid air. It takes a lot of practice to get it right, though. Good luck! Your friends shouldn't be laughing for too much longer.

INTELLECTUALLY STIMULATING

I just want to say that all this talk about the print media becoming oversensationalized just isn't true when it comes to VR Sports Powerboat Racing magazine! The journalistic integrity displayed in your magazine renews my faith in the newsworld. Take for instance, last month's article on whether knot-tying competitions should become an olympic sport—you guys provided fair coverage on the pros and cons of a very controversial, yet very important topic. And while we're on the subject, I say "Go for the Gold!" Why deny the

Trim down just before you take a jump, and then quickly trim up before landing.

world a sport that would obviously make so many people so very happy?

David Dudely
Long Beach, CA

Thanks for the words of encouragement, Dave, we'll try to keep up the good work!

MAKE IT A SINGLE

I'm new to powerboating, and I am really interested in buying one. As I understand it, there are two major kinds of powerboats that I could buy, a monohull, or a catamaran, but I don't know much about them. Is one better than the other?

Tim Hopeless
New York, NY

It just so happens that in this issue (pages 10-13 to be exact) we did an article on the newest and greatest powerboats to be released this year. Check it out! But to help answer your question, the main differences are the size of the engines and number of hulls. Monohulls have an 850cc engine and a single hull, while the cats have a 2000cc engine and two hulls (which are needed to stabilize the larger engine). Is one better than the other? Cats are faster, but much harder to control. If you're new to this, we would recommend starting off with a monohull and getting some experience under your belt. Hope that helps!

Send letters to: VR Sports 16815 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, CA 92606

Be sure to include an SASE if you think you'll miss your letter really, really bad and you want us to return it to you.

Off The Ramp **OFF THE RAMP**

Maximizing Your Sound: ~~Maximizing Your Sound:~~

All powerboats come equipped with the Deenen-50 audio system featuring FPPS (Full Positional Stereo Sound). You can access this through the options menu on your onboard computer.

Effects:

Controls how loud the sounds in your powerboat are. Better than a muffler!

CD Audio:

Allows you to switch groovy tunes on and off.



CD Track Choice:

If this is on, you can select the tune you want to hear before starting a race.

Stereo Swap:

This swaps the stereo channels so that the sounds come out of the correct speaker, or the incorrect speaker depending on how warped you want to be.

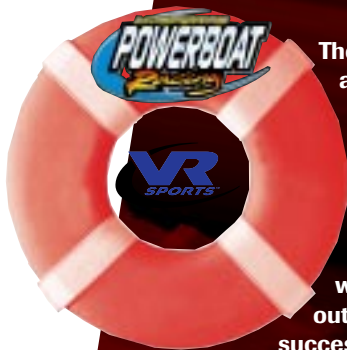
OKAY, SO NOBODY'S PERFECT!

Here at VR Sports Powerboat Racing we always strive for the utmost in accuracy, but sometimes we make a few minor mistakes. So here is a correction to an error that a reader brought to our attention:

CORRECTION:

Last issue we reported in our article, "The Dangers of Powerboat Racing," that "a gazillion people are injured each year because they don't practice proper safety procedures." We'd like to retract that statement, since a gazillion technically isn't really a number, and we simply made it up. In all honesty, we're not sure how many people are injured every year because they don't practice proper safety procedures, but we wanted to leave an impact on the readers. We might even say a "billion", but that would be inaccurate as well. So let's just leave it at: "most likely, a lot of people." Kay?

VR SPORTS Hosts Boat Safety Day!



The fifth annual Boat Safety Day hosted by VR Sports was an outstanding success this

year. Over 1,000

attended the event in Miami, Florida and were entertained and educated by seminars like 101 Ways to Clean your Boat with a Toothbrush and How to Speak with Dolphins. We'd tell you more about it, but the staff we sent to cover it got bored after the first hour and decided the food wasn't worth the small loan we had to take out in order to pay the entry fee. So they hit the beach and played volleyball all week. But they did manage to bring back a nifty Boat Safety Day calender!

Part 1 Special Report

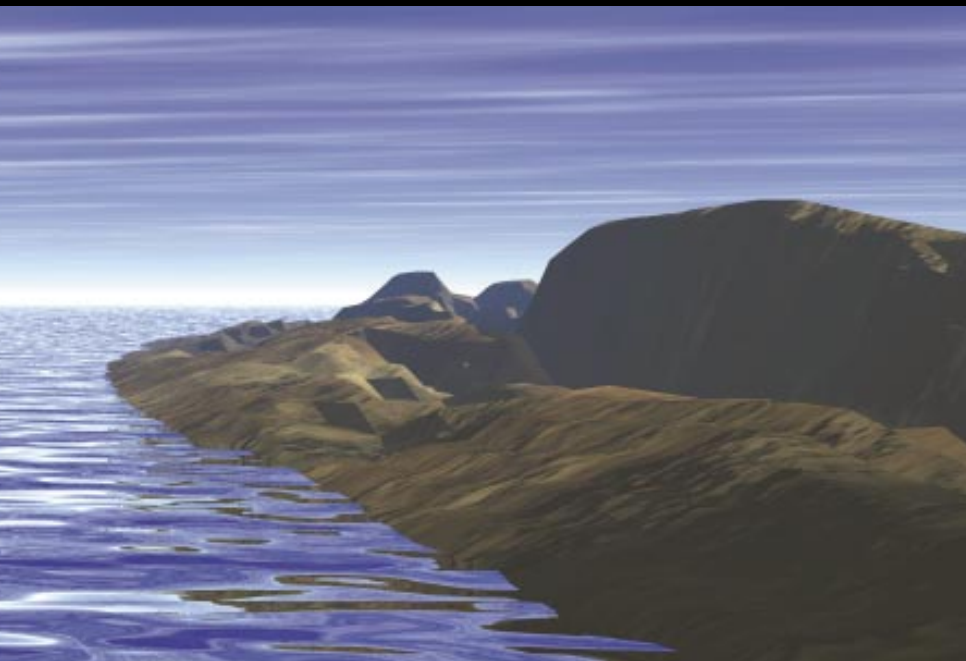
Getting Started In Powerboat Racing



Racing Champion Rictor Roscoe talks about the

FIRE UP YOUR

There's nothing quite like your first time driving a powerboat. For most of you it will be with a monohull fresh off the assembly line and still new to the waters. For others with more experience it may be attempting to handle a trickier, more powerful catamaran. No matter what your situation, the process works the same. Here are some hints to ensure one exciting ride...



thrill of his first time in a powerboat.

ENGINES!

Know Your Gear

Your powerboat is equipped with an onboard computer. To start the engine process, insert the powerboat racing CD into the computer's CD-ROM drive. After a short while, the autorun menu appears. Select the install option and follow the on screen instructions.

When installation is complete, start your engine either by selecting "Start" off the autorun

menu or selecting "Powerboat Racing" in the Program menu. At this time you'll be asked to select a display driver, and whether or not you want to use 3D acceleration if you have applicable 3D accelerator cards.

The Main Menu

Use the Up/Down arrow keys to highlight the items on the main menu and press the RETURN key to select

them. If left unattended, your powerboat will enter demo mode and ride itself until you return. Press any key and the game will return to the main menu.

From the Main Menu you may opt to...

START:

Grab the wheel of your boat and get ready to take it for the ride of your life!

LOAD CHAMPIONSHIP:

If you are currently in the running for a place on the Powerboat season podium, you'll need to plug in where you are up to from here.

Part 1

Special Report



OPTIONS:

You can customize the finer things about your boat from this option, as described in greater detail later on.

NETWORKING:

If you have an IPX network, then you and up to five other friends can play VR Sports Powerboat Racing together. See the section on Network games on page 17 for more information.

STATISTICS:

The greatest Powerboat records of all time are stored in memory so you can boast your ego if you're one of them, or remind yourself of the bullies who beat you out.



PASSWORDS:

This is where you can enter the passwords that you have collected after completing various game modes which enables you to drive catamarans or race in Championship or Slalom races.

CREDITS:

The brave men and women who risked life and limb to see that your powerboat is running smoothly.

RESET CHALLENGES:

Choose this to set all challenge times back to their pre-set values.

Customizing Your Powerboat Experience

You can customize your new powerboat to fit your needs through the Options Menu on your on-board computer. Options included are 3D, Game, Audio (see "Maximizing Your Sound" on page 5) and Control.

VISUALS:

Correction length: Ensures that everything on the track is corrected at the right time.

Smoothing: Rounds the edges off the trackside.



Clip depth: Sets how far into the distance you can see.

Transparencies: Turns water transparencies on or off. (Pretty neat feature to come with your boat, aye?)

Reflections: Turns water reflections on or off.

Auto Detection: If this option is turned on the game will automatically select the best program settings for your machine the next time you play VR Sports Powerboat Racing. (Not applicable if you have a 3D card.)

GAME:

Weather: Weather can be on, off or random. **Note:** Weather can only be accessed if you have 24 Meg or more of memory.

Full Sky: Turn Full Sky on for maximum sky detail.

Track Detail: Sets the detail level for the track side objects.

Lens Flare: Toggles lens flare on or off.

Camera Swing: This determines the amount

of swing your camera man (following in a chopper) has behind the boat. When set to low, it remains rigidly behind the boat. When set to high, the camera will swing out past the boat when a corner is turned. Camera swing is down to personal preference so just experiment to see which level suits you best. The default value is set to low (recommended.)

CONTROL:

Player: Select which control device you are going to use in your powerboat. (Our recommendation is below.)

CPU Boats On/Off: Turns the CPU boats on or off. This only effects Championship, Shootout and Network games.

Steer Like The Pros

This months' product tip concerns the age old quest for better control over your powerboat. Instead of using your reliable yet awkward keyboard control, might we suggest investing in a steering wheel and pedal setup. It can be installed into any boat, Cat or Mono, and offers smooth and easy steering like never before. This is especially true for Catamarans, as they have a nasty tendency to roll over in tight corners. In competitions where mere fractions of a second make the difference between winning and losing, smooth steering can make all the difference!



LASERBUOY

102mph

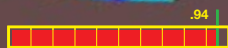


Acceleration

QUICK ACCELERATION

FALCON RACING

102mph



Acceleration

“DRIVE THE DREAMBOATS WITH POWER!”

Back by popular demand, VR Sports Powerboat Racing ranks the world's fastest monohulls and catamarans! The competition was pretty stiff this year, but whether you're racing in the Minnow Class, or running with the Barracudas, you'll want to check these babies out!

HOLD ON AS WE REVIEW THE

PACER

104mph



Acceleration

TIGHT HANDLING

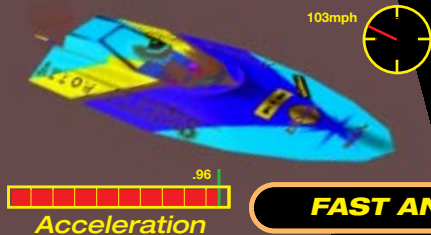
STAG

104mph

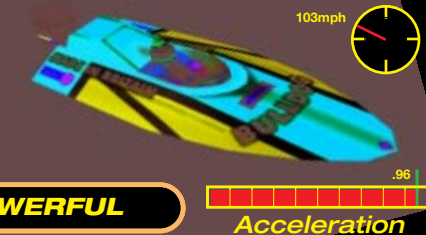


Acceleration

ARROW



BULLDOGGZ



FAST AND POWERFUL

MONOHULLS

Lighter and more powerful than ever before, these are the world's best in single hull powerboating.

Xena Corp's Laserbuoy and Boatorama's Falcon Racing are easily among the fastest ships around. Though their top speeds may not be as impressive as the other models introduced this year, but their acceleration time more than makes up for it, both boast-

ing an impressive .94! These are the boats that win races on windy tracks with lots of obstacles.

Looking for the perfect mix of power and top speed? We highly recommend Lost Mariner's Arrow, or Beached Whale Boats' newly revamped Bulldog. Boasting top speeds of 103, they also harbor an impressive .96 acceleration.

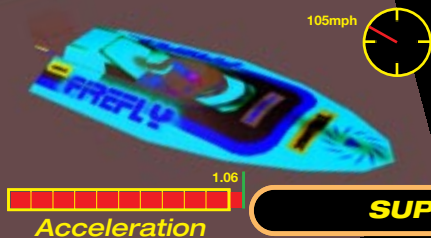
Easy on the Throttle, Extra on the Speed: If 103 just isn't quick enough for you, and you don't mind skimping a little more on the acceleration factor, then try

out Manta Ray's '98 Pacer or Boatorama's higher end model-the Stag! Both handle amazingly well and offer a good balance of speed and power.

THE FASTEST! If you've got nothing but ocean blue ahead of you, and want to run out of it faster than anyone, then Zebramatic's Firefly and Salty Dog Unlimited's Prometheus are the powerboats for you. They may be a little slow in reaching their top speed, but when they do, they're screaming across the waters at an unheard of 105 miles an hour!

HOTTEST POWERBOATS OF THE SEASON!

FIREFLY



PROMETHEUS

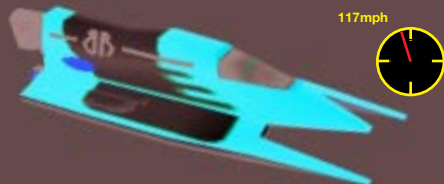


SUPER SPEED

SPORT



BAUER RACCAR



QUICK AND NIMBLE

**Cats Are Tricky.
Only A Pro Can Handle These.**

CATS

One hull just not good enough? Then try out these more powerful twin hull Catamarans.

If you're looking for maneuverability, then try out Boatorama's Sport and Wicked Water's Bauer Rac-car. The fastest acceleration of the bunch that we tested, their top speed of 117 is nothing to sniff at.

Still can't make up your mind? Then Riff Raff's Ken-com, Cruiseline's Carhall,

Boatorama's Team Harwood and Lipton Enterprises' Energy are the catamaran's to check out. All models sport impressive accelerations and top speeds ranging from 118-119 miles an hour. You're sure to make some wakes!

BLISTERING SPEED! Wicked Water's Rising Sun and VR Sports come in this year as the fastest models ever. Both handle a little sluggishly, but we doubt you'll be wanting to turn tight corners at a whopping 120 miles an hour!

So there you have it, the

latest and greatest boats of 1998! At this time, we'd like to thank all of the boating corporations for donating their prototypes to our contest so we could try them out. We'd also like to thank Salty Dog Unlimited for the free super bowl tickets, Beached Whale Boats for the whale watching tickets, Xena Corp for the new sports car (vroom vroom!) and Lost Mariner for the year's supply of SPAM. And remember, for those powerboat manufacturers who didn't make this year's list—we could all use a vacation in the Tropics!

IF IT'S SPEED, HANDLING OR ACCELERATION YOU

TEAM HARWOOD



ENERGY



FAST AND AGILE

KENCOM

118mph



.88



Acceleration

CARHALL

118mph



.88



Acceleration

WELL BALANCED**Handling Your New Craft...**

After slapping down the big bucks for your new speed demon, it might help to know how to drive it.

Player 1: Accelerate



Left



Right

Trim Up



Trim Down



Change View



or

TV Camera



Toggle Map On/Off

(Only works in views where map is defaulted to "on.")



Player 2: Accelerate



Left



Right

Trim Up



Trim Down



Zoom Map



or

Pause



Cycle View
Between Boats



Exit Race



Engine Volume



or

Help



ARE LOOKING FOR, WE'VE GOT THE BOATS FOR YOU!

RISING SUN

120mph



.96



Acceleration

VR SPORTS

120mph



.96



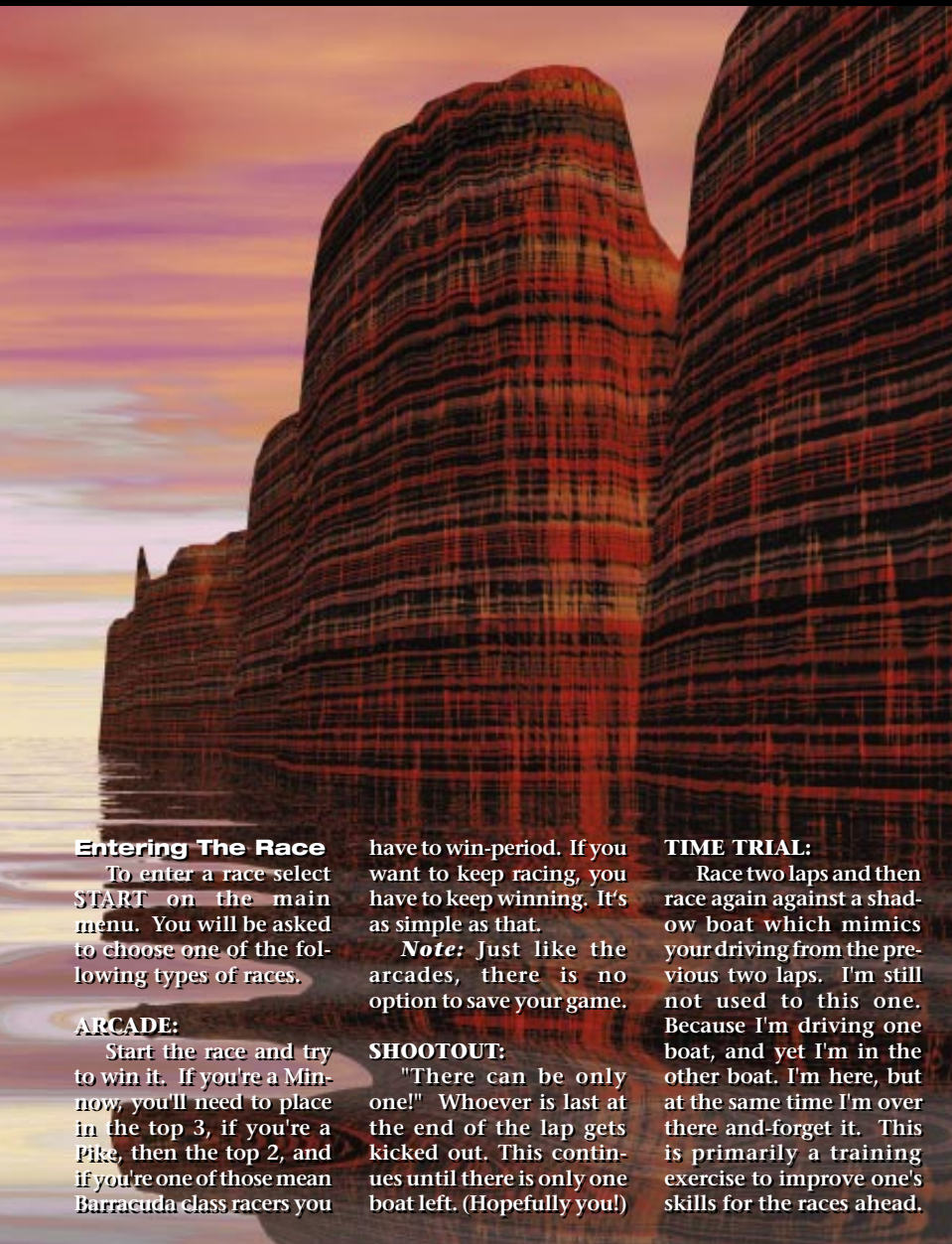
Acceleration

BLISTERING SPEED

RACING WITH THE BIG FISH

VR Sports Powerboat Racing Editor and Boating Legend Terry “Twistin” Turner takes us through the finer points of competition boating

Powerboat racing takes an intense amount of concentration, skill and most importantly, practice. But you don't get any better at it without some real competition. As a former racer myself, I know how scary it can be when entering your first race. So we at **VR SPORTS POWERBOAT RACING** have compiled a list of helpful tips to keep in mind.



Entering The Race

To enter a race select **START** on the main menu. You will be asked to choose one of the following types of races.

ARCADE:

Start the race and try to win it. If you're a Minnow, you'll need to place in the top 3, if you're a Pike, then the top 2, and if you're one of those mean Barracuda class racers you

have to win-period. If you want to keep racing, you have to keep winning. It's as simple as that.

Note: Just like the arcades, there is no option to save your game.

SHOOTOUT:

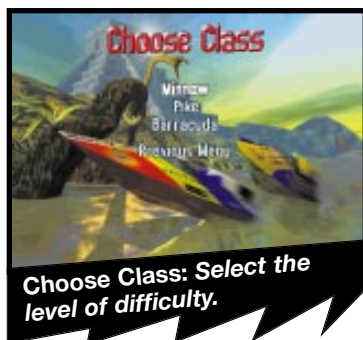
"There can be only one!" Whoever is last at the end of the lap gets kicked out. This continues until there is only one boat left. (Hopefully you!)

TIME TRIAL:

Race two laps and then race again against a shadow boat which mimics your driving from the previous two laps. I'm still not used to this one. Because I'm driving one boat, and yet I'm in the other boat. I'm here, but at the same time I'm over there and-forget it. This is primarily a training exercise to improve one's skills for the races ahead.

Part 2

Special Report



CHALLENGE:

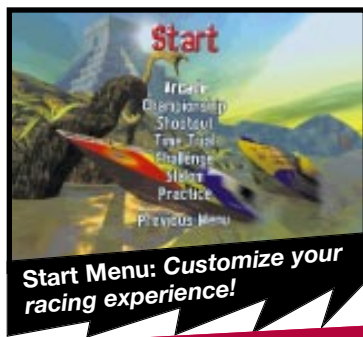
2 laps of the track, the start lap and the flying lap. If you have the quickest time at the end of two laps you win the challenge. If you beat the challenge and race again you will see your lap times and be able to race against the shadow boat (don't get me started).

PRACTICE:

Use the practice time to try out different boats and see how they handle. Also get used to the layout of the tracks so that you can learn where to shave those seconds off your lap time.

CHAMPIONSHIP:

Here you race a set amount of tracks and laps until the season is finished.



Before you enter a championship, you must select the type of championship you want to race. You can choose from the following.

Number of Tracks	
Novice	3 Tracks
Amateur	6 Tracks
Pro	8 Tracks

Skill Level	
Minnow	3 Laps
Pike	4 Laps
Barracuda	5 Laps

Championship season scoring is as follows:

Scoring			
1 st	6 pts.	4 th	2 pts.
2 nd	4 pts.	5 th	1 pts.
3 rd	3 pts.	6 th	0 pts.

As you win professional championships, more options will become available to you.

Catamarans are unavailable until you win your first professional championship with a Barracuda-class powerboat. Only by winning the first three tracks

SLALOM:

You have 1 lap of the track to get around as quickly as possible while ziping around water buoys on the correct side to avoid penalty points. Pass the blue buoys on the left side and the red buoys on the right side. This is a great way to learn control and speed.

Racing With Your Buddies

Though I personally don't recommend racing against "friends" due to the ego-factor (I have no friends left!), it's still pretty cool if you can all keep control of your temper.

Up to 6 people can play on an IPX network game of Powerboat Racing. To play Multiplayer, everybody must have installed Powerboat Racing. The driver who has the disc in their CD-ROM drive is the Host and everybody else who is playing is a Guest.

If you're the control freak who insisted on being the Host player then start the game and select Network. After entering your name, select the type and class of boats to race. You will be given a choice of Shootout, and Arcade (3,6 or 9 laps). Boat details will reveal themselves as people join in. Pressing F5 will update the screen in case everyone is not on the screen. When all are ready, the race can begin. And if all are not ready, tough cookies because you're the Host!

If you opted to be a Guest, the only options available are Network and Options. Select Network and enter your name. Then choose which boat you want to race. *(Note that you cannot have two of the same boats in a Network game.)*

You may also have up to 4 players playing VR Sports Powerboat Racing on the same screen. To do this, please note that only 2 players will be able to use the key-

board. All other players must use either joysticks or steering wheels.

To enter how many people are playing, go to Control in the options menu. Then go to the appropriate player and select which control device they are using. Set up the game as normal and the screen will split for the appropriate number of players.

To alter the split in-game from horizontal to vertical splits use the F4/F5 key. *(Note that only the Arcade, Championship and Shootout modes are available in split-screen mode.)*

And there you have it! All the information you'll ever need to becoming a powerboat racer like myself!

The Code of the Elite

A powerboat racer has to prove themselves worthy before the more advanced options, challenges and boats become available to them. This is done by completing tracks and winning races. As you complete tracks, you will be given passwords that unlock more options. Be sure to write these down! These passwords are your key to the life of an elite racer. Only the most experienced racers are allowed to pilot the Catamarans, or enter the Slalom and Championship challenges. And who knows, maybe one day you'll be able to join the "underground" on a course open only to champions!



Split-Screen: Don't upset your friends. They're sitting next to you!

PACK YOUR BAGS AND JOIN US AS WE VISIT...

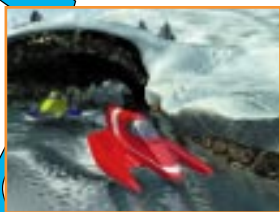
The World's Hottest (And Coolest) Racing Tracks!

So you bought your dream powerboat and filled it to the rim with options, got a kicking paint job and attracted a corporate sponsor willing to pay you a gazillion bucks to put their name all over the fiberglass. Now it's time to prove you're worth all the fuss. Our correspondents Jim Bondless and Dave Penn travelled the world to seek out the hottest and coolest racing tracks to feed your ego, starting with...



NORWAY

Jimbo: Definitely a winner. The tracks here are chock full of cool ice caves. But beware of small bergs—they're tough to handle and can tear up the bottom of your boat. Norway is one of the more scenic tracks we found, and if you're watching closely, you might find yourself racing alongside a whale!



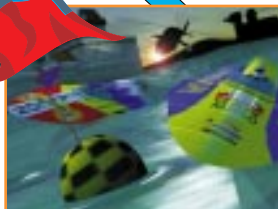
Penn:
I got trounced by a killer whale!



RUSSIAN HARBORS

Jimbo: Mother Russia has created some mother tracks around their old submarine harbors. Races provide some of the best entertainment a rubel can buy, but keep a look out for nuclear waste spills.

Penn: I found a shortcut on this track.



NEVADA, USA

Jimbo: A truly inspiring area to race. The tracks run at the bottom of huge desert canyons complete with gorgeous waterfalls. Sometimes it's a tight squeeze through certain waterways, so make sure you're leading the pack.

Penn: I went hang-gliding in the canyon.



JAPAN

Jimbo:

The mystic orient offers a wide variety of tracks where hi-tech and classic Japanese architecture blend seamlessly together. One minute you're speeding under the fountain of a stone dragon, the next minute you're bombarded with billboards.

Penn: I raced the bullet train.



MONACO

Jimbo: Monaco has beautiful crystal blue harbors that offer wide open spaces to maneuver. These tracks are a great place

to start if you're new to the racing biz.

Penn: I spent all of my money.



Jimbo:

Some of the best tracks yet. You'll be racing

through the waterways in the countryside near a hot air balloon landing field. Occasionally you might even find yourself racing neck and neck with a biplane in addition to your competition.

Penn: Watch out for the sandbars by the Start line.

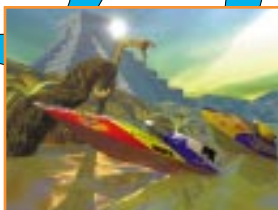
ENGLAND



THE AMAZON

Jimbo: These tracks are well worth the hour and a half chopper ride that brings you into the heart of the amazon jungle. You'll be immersed in the sounds of South American wildlife as you race around the site of ancient Incan ruins.

Penn: Beware of leeches and falling tree branches.



NEW YORK, USA

Jimbo: You've got to love the Big Apple. Whether you're zipping around the Statue of Liberty at a 105 miles per hour, or past kids break dancing on the docks there is always something to catch your attention. New York's waterways seem a little cluttered but make for an exciting race.

Penn: Watch out for crazy taxi drivers!



The Last Word

THE LAST WORD

How to Sink the Competition!

Racing Tips by Champion Sandy Speeden

Interview by Ed Rubel

Don't talk about boat racing being a "man's sport" around Sandy Speeden. With three national titles at the Barracuda level under her belt, and one international title, Sandy isn't your typical boating competitor. I had the pleasure of interviewing her last December at her home in Santa Monica, CA, where she elaborated on her secret to success.

**"The key
is to
balance
your
trim-
ming"**

VRPBR: *You've had a tremendous amount of success as a racer. What is your secret?*

Speeden: A lot of people only think about speed and power when racing. Yah, there's that, but the secret lies in powertrimming. This is the act of controlling the angle of the nose in the boat's hull. A good powerboat racer gets as much of the boat up out of the water without flipping it over – that sucks out loud when that happens.

Trim up, and the nose of the boat rises, trim down and it drops back into the water. You'll have less control of the boat when the trim is up, but you'll go a lot faster.

VRPBR: *Is it better to mostly trim up or down?*

Speeden: The key is to

balance your trimming. A simple rule to remember is to trim up for the straight waterway sections and trim down for bends and turns. Only practice will show you the best use of powertrimming, but if you master it, you'll be winning championships left and right.

VRPBR: *Any other advice?*

Speeden: Just keep at it. The more you race, the better you'll get, and the more windows of opportunity will be open to you. Just don't feel bad if you're never as good as I am. I mean—come on, here. It's ME. You're just YOU. And YOU are certainly not ME. Got it?

VRPBR: *Uhhhhh, sure. Thanks again.*

Speeden: No problem! Good luck racing!

Warranty/Support

WARRANTY/SUPPORT

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VR Sports, 16815 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, CA 92606
Attn: Customer Service.

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