

# JET-SKI IRELAND 360

## TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

### **Neil Laughton - Team Leader / SEA-DOO Rider**



Neil Laughton became a Royal Marine Commando at the age of 19 and went on to serve as a Special Forces Officer. His entrepreneurial outlook has also seen him take up a dozen business directorships and he is a serial entrepreneur.

His passion has always been sport, travel and exploration. He has organised and led over thirty international adventurous expeditions on all seven continents and by land, sea and in the air. With Tim Maw and Bear Grylls, he was the first to circumnavigate mainland Britain on a jet-ski, he has climb the 7 Summits (highest mountain on each continent including Mt Everest) and led ski-touring expeditions to the North & South Poles.

One of his finest achievements was in 2009, when he led a team who succeeded in designing and building the world's first road legal flying car and then completed a 10,000 km fly-drive journey from London to Timbuktu. This 46 day expedition with 12 people included a North to South traverse of the Sahara Desert.

In 2015 he led a team back to climb Mt Everest and to set a world record for the highest formal dinner party but was thwarted due to the devastating earthquake. He will go back in 2018. In 2016 he attempted to Ski-Kayak across the Bering Strait in winter. In January 2017 he led a team into the remote Sierra Nevada jungles of Columbia and successfully climbed the country's highest mountain. In 2018 he will attempt a circumnavigation of Easter Island in the Pacific Ocean by inflatable Stand up Paddle-board.

## Tim Maw - Deputy Team Leader / SEA-DOO Rider / Logistics



Tim Maw has travelled in nearly 50 countries on five continents. He completed the first circumnavigation of mainland Britain by Jetski with Neil Laughton and Bear Grylls in the summer of 2000.

He rode a motorbike from London to Kathmandu in the aftermath of 9/11 and spent over two years leading overland expeditions in the Middle East and Africa from London to Cape Town.

Again with Neil Laughton, he rode a motorbike From London to Timbuktu in support of the SkyCar Expedition, the ultimate road test for the World's first road legal flying car.

## Rory Mackenzie - Charity Fundraiser / SEA-DOO Rider



Born in South Africa, Rory Mackenzie served in the British Army as a Combat Medical Technician for nine years. However in 2007 Rory was a victim to a road-side bomb; the device killed a fellow soldier, and forced the amputation of Rory's right leg. Despite initially falling into a cycle of decline, with weeks of operations and a loss of hope, Rory, with the support from his family, started to show signs of recovery. After a further 7 months at Headley Court, including many hours in the prosthetics department, Rory made a complete physical recovery.

At first Rory felt defeated by what had happened, but when Help for Heroes invited him to try adaptive skiing in Germany, through a programme called Battle Back, Rory began to understand that all was not lost. The freedom and exhilaration of skiing allowed him to forget his disability, and gave him the confidence to approach life with a genuinely positive outlook.

In 2012, Rory and a team of former servicemen (two able-bodied and four injured) successfully crossed the Atlantic in a rowing boat. This took them on a 3000 mile journey from La Go Mera in the Canaries to Barbados, the team also reached their the goal of raising £1m for wounded soldiers as part of the Row2Recovery campaign.

Rory took part in the closing ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympics, where he gave a truly inspirational speech at the Olympic Stadium in front of a worldwide audience of millions and a live audience of 80 000 people. Praise for his presentation was plentiful when he "delivered that rousing, scene-setting prologue to the Festival of the Flame" London Evening Standard.

## Mark Shoosmith - Mechanic / SEA-DOO Rider



Mark Shoosmith built go carts and buggies to have races with neighbours as a youngster. Then after leaving Seaford College he went to Chelsea College of Aeronautical and Automobile Engineering based at Shoreham Airfield for a 3 year engineering degree which he completed in 2 years.

He then went onto run the sales team in a new VW dealership near Horsham and had 3 years teaching lock smithing all over the country until took over Gaston Gate Garage.

Mark is passionate about rallying and in the 1990's competed in the British Championships in a 4 wheel drive Mazda then moving on to a Mitsubishi Evo. He progressed to 24 hour races on the Nuremberg Ring in Germany, driving a Caterham fitted with a motorbike engine. Also whilst doing the circuit racing he had 5 years racing a motorbike all over Europe.

Mark was one of the original Wet-bike racers of the 1980's, competing in London's East India Docks!