

## RIDING A PERSONAL WATERCRAFT...

### *Easy As Falling Off A Log Backwards?*



Summer is upon us. Water enthusiasts are appearing with their flashy, fun in the sun, personal watercraft (*PWC*).

Potential buyers visit watercraft dealerships to explore the new models, while existing owners roll out their prior acquisitions. As the operators of the PWC again emerge onto lakes, rivers, and oceans, something else will appear...passengers. Yes, passengers, small and large, young and old, male and female, experienced and novice, will take their place behind the operator of this small, but quick and highly maneuverable vessel. Oh, did I forget to mention the new swimsuit? All is well... or is it? Imagine this....

The operator applies the throttle and off they go. Relaxed, and possibly not so prepared for the acceleration, the passenger suddenly experiences a forward surge comparable to a high performance automobile, but with a greater takeoff angle. ***Foreseeably, the passenger may be ejected rearward*** from the watercraft and fall into the water behind the machine, while in a body position possibly best described as similar to the delivery position of a pregnant mother.

***Unfortunately for the fallen rider, an extremely powerful jet stream*** of high pressure water is now being expelled in the direction and proximity of their groin. At this point, the scenario becomes much too unpleasant to elaborate further, given the horrific rectal/vaginal internal injury that may occur.

***Accidents with similar circumstances*** can and have been occurring to ejected PWC passengers for a number of years. PWC manufacturers warn that passengers should be wearing special protective clothing, such as wetsuits or neoprene shorts, to prevent this injury. ***This warning, however, is predictably ineffective*** as PWC passengers seldom wear such gear for various reasons including comfort, convenience, availability, and casual unawareness.

Furthermore, our ***testing has produced results casting doubt on*** whether the neoprene shorts or wetsuits will adequately protect against the extreme water pressures from the jet nozzle.

Personal Watercraft design can be made ***safer for passengers***. Modified seat designs such as one that includes a seatback, similar to those used on snowmobiles, motorcycles and even all-terrain vehicles, would effectively and safely reduce the ***risk of a rearward ejection injury***. Seatbacks can also be made to move out of the way for ease of boarding from the rear of the watercraft.

For further information, contact Mike Burluson at 1-800-624-0905 or email [charmon@sealcorp.com](mailto:charmon@sealcorp.com)



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