

Q&A with Mark Gomez



We caught up with 23-year-old, [Mark Gomez](#) at the 2014 Thrust Innovations Daytona Freeride, and discovered what life was like as a professional jet ski Freerider. Gomez is a World Champion Racer, Universal Studios Stuntman, and has been an avid rider for the past 16 years.

Question: What is your current ride?

Answer: I'm currently riding a Rickter FR2 EVO1, built by [T.C. Freeride](#). It has a Dasa 1000cc billet engine, Skat Trak 155 pump, covered entirely by [Hydro-Turf](#). It's a very unique ski because I also put in Blowsion tubbies, allowing this boat to be a fluid surf riding boat, which is my style. It's actually my sixth ride on it today! I purposely built it to do flat water freestyle. So now, my jet ski can be the best of the best for all styles of riding.

Q: What are some upcoming events that you are involved in?

A: I do about 16-18 events a year, most of them being races, specifically flat-water events. I'm involved in a lot of [local races](#) like the RPM race series, So Cal race series, and I also do the Blowsion Surf Slam, which is a MotoSurf race. I have the ability to do all of that because of my race sponsor, [KMG Racing](#). This year I got to do a national tour stop up in Rio, on my way up to Calgary, Canada. It's been a really eventful year.

Q: What is the main difference between the American and Australian surf?

A: There is no comparison! Australia just thrives on huge, big, gnarly surf. My favorite spot there is called the "Spit", which is where a lot of experienced riders like to go. Overall, its just way more intense the waves are a lot heavier and larger.

Q: What got you started in pro riding?

A: It started out when I was really little, I saw the movie Jet Dreams and it had everything in it, flat-water freestyle, tricks, and submarines. I watched that and just loved it. My dad had a 550 that I would ride during my high school days and one of my friends took me out to the surf with it, and that's when I knew I wanted to ride for the rest of my life! It was really exciting at first, more of a hobby, and then I started meeting guys like Ross Champion and Mike Serlin, the Oceanside crew guys. This made me realize that in this industry, we are all family. They didn't know me, but they treated me like another human being, and that made me realize this is something I wanted to do.

Q: What is your favorite place to ride in the world?

A: Oceanside California, it's home. I would love to ride in Morocco, Mexico and Fiji but when you can drive an hour to a place like Oceanside, its magic. Seeing that "welcome to Oceanside" sign just gives me a certain feeling.

Q: Do you have any other side ventures apart from freestyle riding?

A: I work at Universal Studios Hollywood, at the WaterWorld live stunt show, as a villain character. The show has been going for 18 years, guys like pro rider Mike Serlin, who is the lead character, work there. It's a great industry for stunts. I also work at a jet ski shop, Pacific Motorsports. I have my own Gomez Bomber signature sunglasses, and I coach riders in Abu Dhabi. I just make it happen the best I can. I enjoy everything that I do, and fortunately with these jobs, I have a lot of flexibility. The future is really wide open; I'm available for anything!