

NEW 2027 KAWASAKI JET SKI® SX-X™ 160 AND 2027 JET SKI® SX-R™ 160 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

EXHILARATION

In 1986, Kawasaki introduced the JET SKI® X-2, a stand-up personal watercraft with a short hull and fixed handlebar that quickly gained popularity for its fun-to-ride character. The JET SKI X-2 saw several model updates over the years, notably moving from a 650cc-class to an 800cc-class 2-stroke engine. When it was discontinued in the late 2000s, dedicated fans who appreciated the fixed handlebar and its fun-to-ride concept kept it a firm favorite.

Now, for 2027, the X is making a comeback with the mission of expanding the fanbase of the JET SKI® personal watercraft. Kawasaki is proud to offer the new JET SKI® SX-X™ 160, (pronounced “SX-Cross”) featuring the fixed-handlebar stand-up riding style users already love, paired with a proven engine, excellent ergonomics and a sharp-cornering hull. The 2027 model lineup also marks the reintroduction of the JET SKI® SX-R™ 160, giving riders another option for stand-up personal watercraft performance and fun on the water.



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Traditional stand-up-style personal watercraft—including Kawasaki’s JET SKI® SX-R 160—require the rider to shift their weight forward and backward and side to side to corner. What the JET SKI SX-X delivers, however, is a steering arrangement with a fixed handlebar, making steering simpler while still providing an engaging and extremely enjoyable ride.

For riders in search of the classic fixed-handlebar style, those wanting to try fixed-handlebar riding for the first time, or those interested in stand-up personal watercraft but who may not be comfortable riding a traditional stand-up watercraft, Kawasaki is bringing a fan favorite back to the water in the form of the new JET SKI SX-X 160. With the reintroduction of the JET SKI SX-R 160 alongside it, Kawasaki’s 2027 stand-up personal watercraft lineup offers riders two distinct ways to experience the fun of stand-up riding.

JET SKI® SX-X™ 160 KEY FEATURES

- Rider-Friendly Power Delivery
- Stunning Acceleration
- Kawasaki Smart Steering® System
- Highly Accessible Stand-Up Fun
- Unique Riding Position
- Freedom of Movement for Rider-Active Control
- Superb Cornering Performance
- Stable Platform
- Sleek, Flowing Styling

JET SKI® SX-X™ 160**ENGINE**

With a displacement of 1,498cc, the engine in the JET SKI SX-X 160 delivers ample power well-suited to the sporty stand-up riding this JET SKI is designed for. The smooth, 4-stroke power delivery is linear and highly manageable, making it easy to enjoy. The DOHC, 16-valve, fuel-injected, 4-stroke in-line four-cylinder engine features an 83.0 x 69.2 mm bore and stroke, with a 10.6:1 compression ratio. Electronic fuel injection delivers hard-hitting throttle response while providing easy, hassle-free starting at the push of a button. A 60 mm throttle body ensures quick response and strong power output throughout the rpm range. Valve sizes measure 33.4 mm (IN) and 28.3 mm (EX), while narrow valve angles of 12° (IN) and 13° (EX) contribute to a highly efficient combustion chamber shape. The all-aluminum cylinder features electroplated bores for reduced weight, long wear life, and superior heat dispersion. Coolant water is force-fed from the jet pump, with a filter at the inlet helping prevent debris from entering the system.

A front cam drive allows for a tight valve angle for efficient engine breathing. With the drive located at the front end of the crankshaft, the short, highly rigid crankshaft provides tremendous torsional rigidity while allowing for smaller bearing journal sizes to help reduce frictional losses. The forged crankshaft rides on five plain bearings, while a silent cam chain helps reduce mechanical noise. 1,498cc 4-stroke in-line 4-cylinder marine engine. Designed specifically to fit within a stand-up hull, the slim and compact water muffler contributes to low weight. A double-walled, water-cooled exhaust manifold provides efficient cooling, while a sound-absorbing box inside the water muffler helps reduce exhaust noise. A plastic intake manifold developed with feedback from JET SKI® ULTRA® 310 Series models contributes to strong low-rpm acceleration and throttle response, while the large-capacity airbox helps reduce intake noise for quieter operation.

PROPULSION (JET PUMP / IMPELLER)

The high-rpm jet pump contributes to the impressive acceleration and top speed of the JET SKI SX-X 160. Water enters through a special low-resistance stainless-steel intake grate, while the 148 mm, oval-edged, 3-blade, cast stainless-steel impeller delivers strong acceleration, high efficiency and reduced cavitation. The durable cast stainless-steel aerofoil is less susceptible to damage, helping reduce cavitation erosion. The jet pump driveline features a large rubber damper that absorbs shock loads from the powerful engine while also helping reduce driveline noise. A strong drive shaft complements the engine's power and is supported by a sealed bearing. A cast-aluminum 102 mm-long and 87 mm-diameter steering nozzle transfers engine thrust, providing the light steering operation ideal for a stand-up machine.

KAWASAKI SMART STEERING

The Kawasaki Smart Steering supplementary steering system is designed to assist new riders as they learn to turn and maneuver a personal watercraft. Under certain conditions, the KSS system provides turning action even when the throttle is not being applied. The system detects the rider's steering input and operating speed, then automatically increases engine speed to provide additional thrust when needed.

By continuously monitoring engine rpm, this advanced computerized system determines whether the personal watercraft is being operated at low or high speed. At low speeds, the system does not operate. At higher speeds, the system can activate even after the throttle has been released and the engine has returned to idle.

For those learning to negotiate turns and maneuver a personal watercraft, the Kawasaki Smart Steering system is there to provide additional assistance when needed.

HULL

The lightweight hull is designed to deliver confident cornering performance. The hull design is shared with the JET SKI SX-R 160 and offers an ideal combination of high stability and excellent cornering performance. Extensive knowledge gained from previous stand-up JET SKI models and race machines was incorporated into the hull's development.

Turning performance is exceptional, with the JET SKI SX-X 160 accommodating a variety of riding styles and allowing riders to choose between deeply banked turns or cornering with less lean angle. The SX-X's strong power and excellent corner grip enable quick corner exits. This corner grip comes from the hull's design, which draws on years of stand-up personal watercraft development and extensive feedback from racing. When exiting a corner, the hull effectively uses its grip to hook around the turn without losing driving force.

The hull is constructed from strong yet lightweight spray-up fiberglass and uses a V-shape design to achieve an ideal balance of agility and stability. Injection-molded sponsons contribute to overall stability while providing sharp, clean turning performance and a solid feel when banking. The engine is positioned as low and as far aft as possible, closer to the rider, contributing to the JET SKI SX-X 160's high level of stability. The large hull also sits high in the water, contributing to stability when stopped or traveling at very low speeds and facilitating boarding.

The hull features a Kawasaki Splash Deflector (KSD), a lateral strip on the forward section of the hull that reduces water splash, especially at speed and in rough water.

DECK

The deck is designed to provide the rider with the ideal amount of space and support while riding, with a shape specifically suited to a fixed-handlebar stand-up model. A forward slant and high side deck fins provide additional support for the rider's legs during acceleration and cornering.

Proportional with its large hull, the deck features a large, wide floor area, particularly toward the front, providing excellent freedom of movement. The forward-slanting deck helps riders brace themselves against the strong acceleration of the JET SKI SX-X 160. The high side deck fins provide a point of leverage for the legs while cornering, while pads on the inside and over the tops of the fins add grip and comfort as the rider shifts their weight to the sides while maneuvering. The deck fins also serve as convenient handholds when reboarding the watercraft, as the handlebar is positioned too high to reach from the water.

UNIQUE RIDING POSITION

The fixed handlebar setup allows riders to turn and control the watercraft from a central position, helping to facilitate handling. Because the handlebar does not move up and down, it provides added stability.

The fixed handlebar allows the rider to adopt a sporty yet relaxed riding position, with their back slightly bent, one leg positioned in front of the other, and their arms extended forward. Unlike the JET SKI SX-R 160, the handlebar on the JET SKI SX-X 160 does not move up and down, allowing riders to place weight on the handlebars for added stability and confidence. The rounded grips provide a simple handhold, while the handlebar cover features an all-new shape and design.

CONVENIENCE AND PRACTICAL FEATURES

Combined with the efficient 4-stroke engine, the 6-gallon fuel tank provides excellent range. Engine and fuel warning lamps built into the base of the handlebars provide at-a-glance information, while a key-operated magnetic ignition switch helps discourage theft. A wrist lanyard connected to the engine stop switch automatically stops the engine if the rider falls overboard. Bilge drain plugs in the hull make after-use draining easy, while integrated flotation cells help provide buoyancy.

SLEEK AND SHARP STYLING

The JET SKI SX-X 160 inherits styling cues from the JET SKI SX-R 160, with a sleek, integrated design that gives the watercraft a sharp, sporty appearance. The large handlebar cover is shaped to appear as compact as possible, contributing to the SX-X's streamlined look. The handlebar is smoothly integrated into the hood for a clean, cohesive appearance, while the MX-style handlebar features a sporty pad that adds to the ski's racy look.

The sleek and sharp styling of the JET SKI SX-X 160 follows the design essence of the JET SKI SX-R 160, with carefully crafted lines that give the machine a distinct Kawasaki look, particularly from the front, while contributing to a compact appearance. The engine hood not only enhances the overall styling but also provides easy access to the engine compartment for installing parts and performing maintenance. Constructed of SMC (Sheet Moulding Compound), the hood features a lockable hinge mechanism for easy opening and closing, along with an integrated mesh holder for small items.

A full-circumference bumper adds to the aggressive appearance while helping protect the hull. Race-inspired graphics complete the sleek styling while hinting at the high level of performance of the JET SKI SX-X 160.

2027 JET SKI® SX-R™ 160

Whether used for weekend fun or competition, the JET SKI SX-R 160 delivers strong thrust and agile, rider-active handling from its V-shaped hull, with abundant low- to mid-range torque from its 1,498 cc 4-stroke engine. Its long, wide hull adds stability that helps make stand-up riding approachable.

Model Variations

JET SKI® SX-X™ 160

Color: Ebony

MSRP: \$11,999

Availability: Spring 2027

JET SKI® SX-R™ 160

Color: Lime Green/Ebony

MSRP: \$11,999

Availability: Spring 2027

To download high-resolution images, log on or register for the Kawasaki media site at <http://kawasakimedia.com>.

ABOUT KAWASAKI

Kawasaki started full-scale production of motorcycles over a half century ago. The first Kawasaki motorcycle engine was designed based on technical know-how garnered from the development and production of aircraft engines, and Kawasaki's entry into the motorcycle industry was driven by the company's constant effort to develop new technologies. Numerous new Kawasaki models introduced over the years have helped shape the market, and in the process have created enduring legends based on their unique engineering, power, design and riding pleasure. In the future, Kawasaki Motors, Ltd. is committed to maintaining and furthering these strengths which will surely give birth to new legends.

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. markets and distributes Kawasaki motorcycles, ATVs, side x sides, and JET SKI® watercraft through a network of approximately 1,100 independent retailers, with close to an additional 7,700 retailers specializing in general purpose engines. Kawasaki and its affiliates employ nearly 3,100 people in the United States, with approximately 260 of them located at Kawasaki's Foothill Ranch, California headquarters.

Kawasaki's tagline, "Let the Good Times Roll.®", is recognized worldwide. The Kawasaki brand is synonymous with powerful, stylish and category-leading vehicles. Information about Kawasaki's complete line of powersports products and Kawasaki affiliates can be found on the Internet at www.kawasaki.com.