

# First tracks

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*Sawidoff*  
*Cool Water*

## The flying Dutchman

THE CONCENTRATION IS PALPABLE. Moments before Merijn Vunderink of the Netherlands competes in a speed event in April 2007, he's captured psyching himself up to travel at over 200kph. "At the start I think only of being the fastest down the track," he says. "I focus on the perfect run – and make sure I enjoy the ride."

One of the top racers in the world, the fastest speed Merijn has achieved is a scorching 243.9kph – but he does wear a fire retardant back protector, so he doesn't burn should he fall.

Photography **Adrian Myers**  
Rider **Merijn Vunderink**  
Location **Les Arcs, France**