

The Water Skier

March/April 2004 Volume 54 Number 1

***Catch Him
If You Can!
Part II***

***Jimmy Siemers
Reclaims World
Jumping Record***



Official Publication of USA Water Ski
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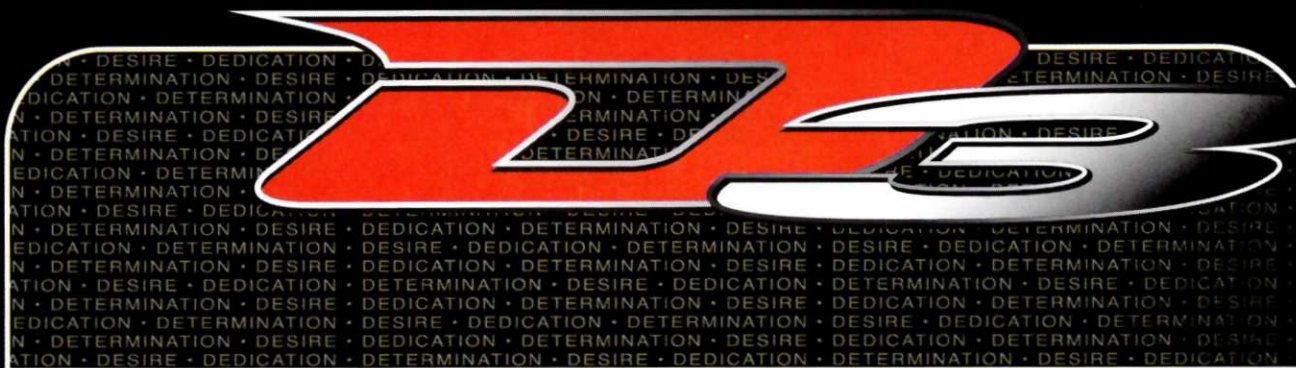
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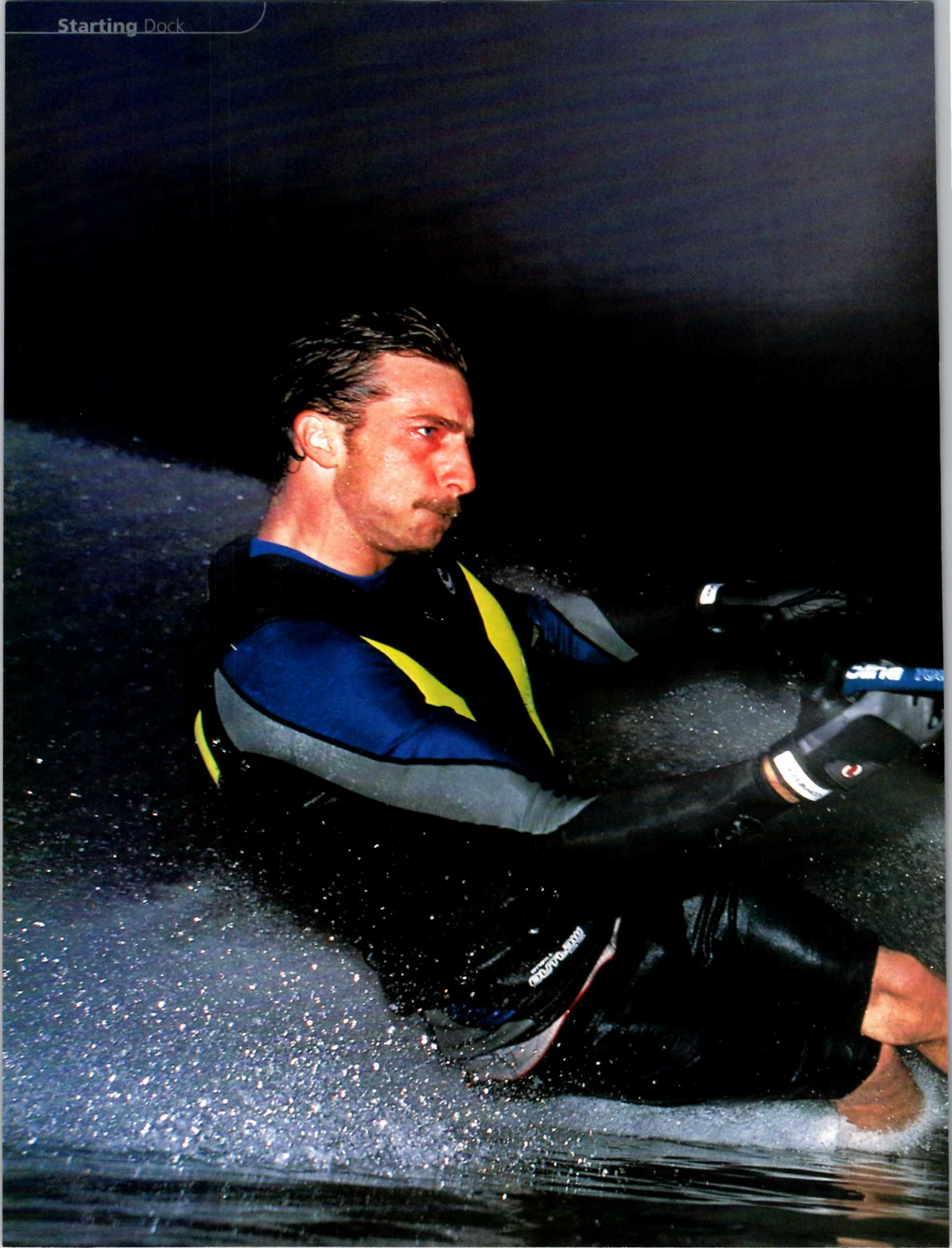
Photograph by Lynn Novakofski

On the Cover

Jimmy Siemers, USA Water Ski's 2003 Male Athlete of the Year, reclaimed the world jumping record last August with a 236-foot leap at the U.S. Open Water Ski Championships.

Photograph by Jeremy Orchard, Memories Ink.



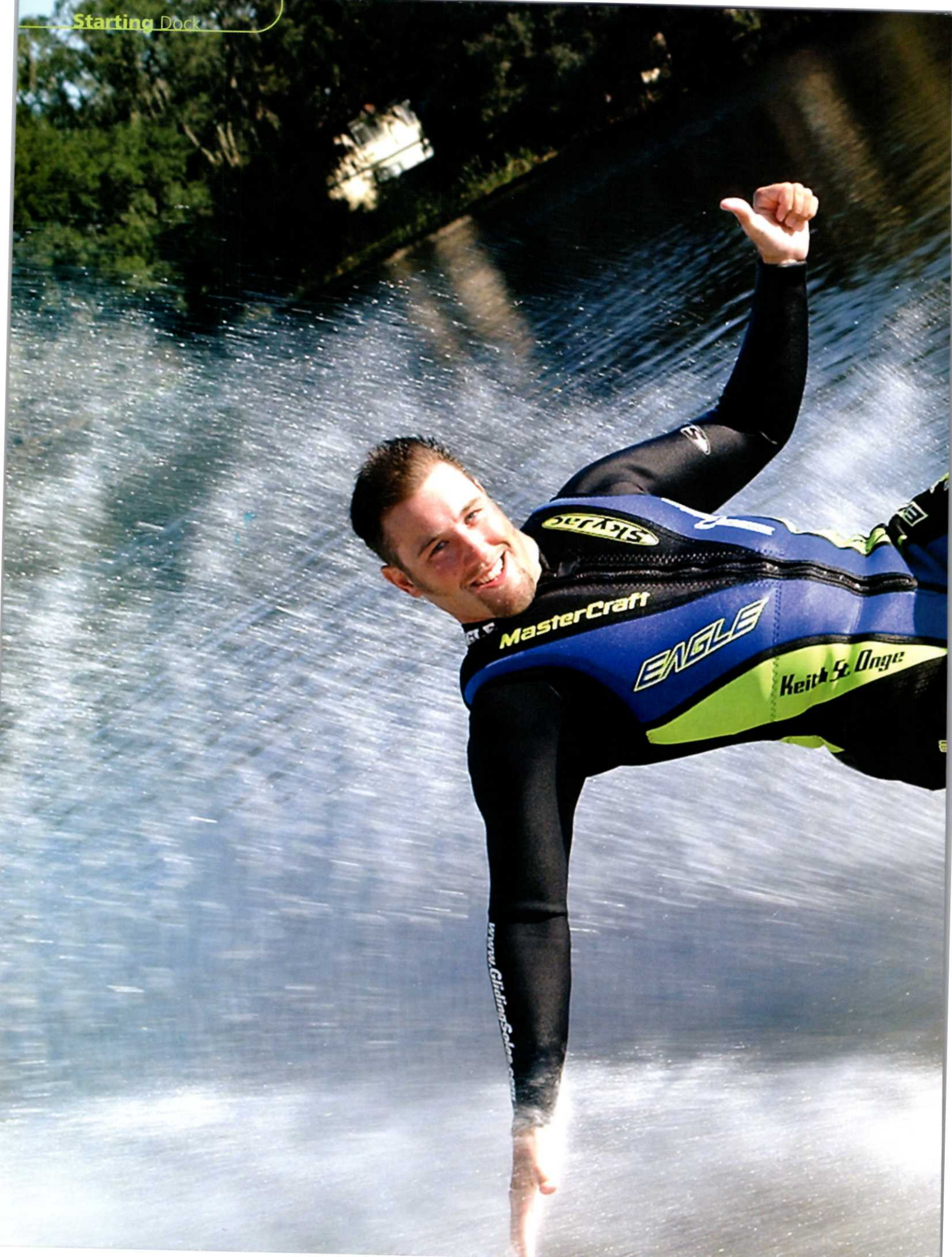


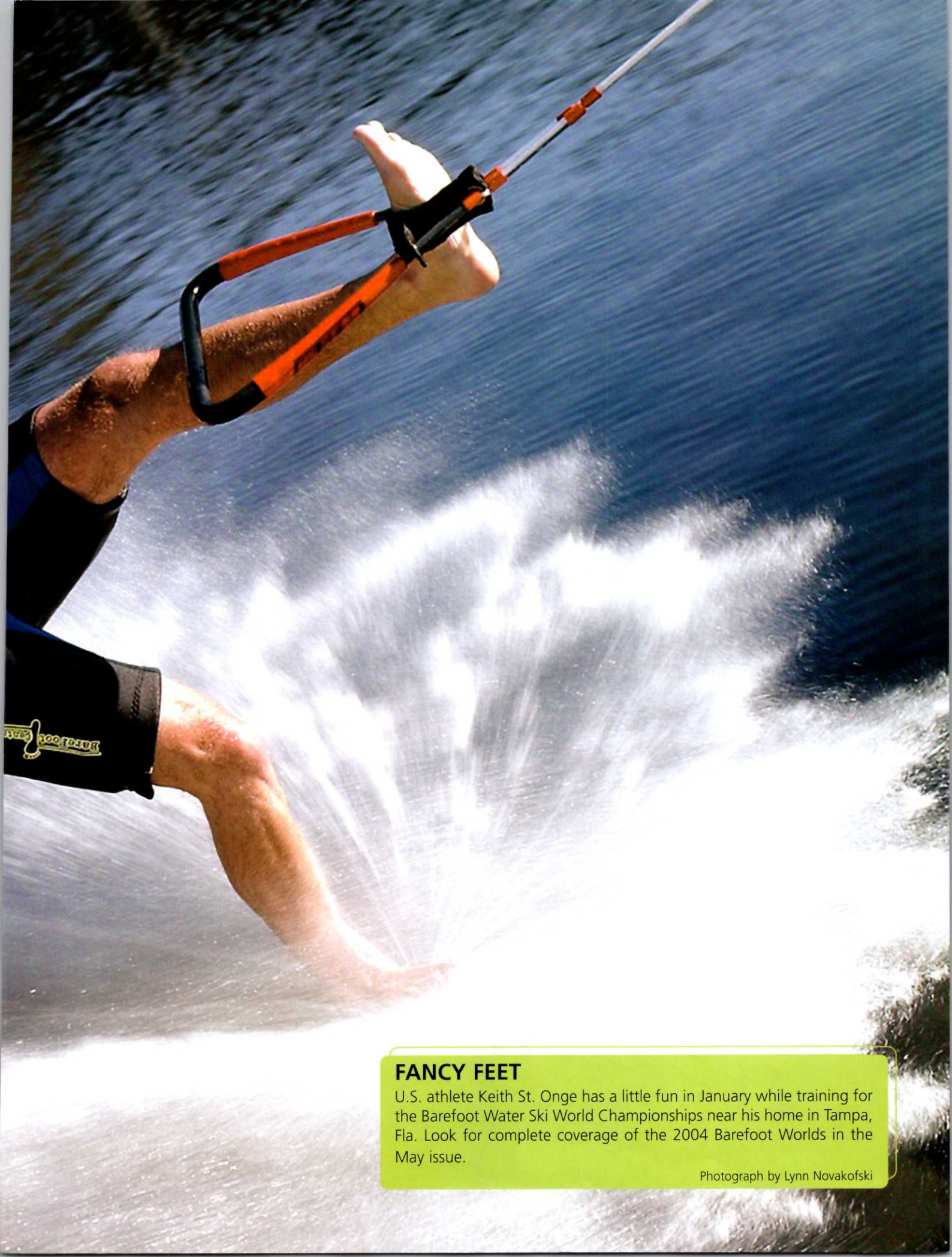
EYE ON THE BALL

U.S. athlete Jamie Beauchesne, who tied the Men's world slalom record in 2003, hopes to add another major slalom title to his resume in 2004.

Photograph by Thomas Gustafson







FANCY FEET

U.S. athlete Keith St. Onge has a little fun in January while training for the Barefoot Water Ski World Championships near his home in Tampa, Fla. Look for complete coverage of the 2004 Barefoot Worlds in the May issue.

Photograph by Lynn Novakofski



SPRING TRAINING

U.S. athlete April Coble-Eller goes through an intense slalom run while training for the upcoming season in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Photograph by Zenon Bilas



What's In Store For 2004?

In some respects, this issue of *The Water Skier* marks the beginning of a new year for headquarters staff and USA Water Ski members. With board meetings behind us and decisions becoming official regarding budget, rules, policies and procedures, and programming initiatives, we are now on the brink of full implementation for 2004. What can we look forward to in 2004?

With participation and Active membership growth being major priorities, USA Water Ski will sanction more than 750 tournaments in 2004. These will include grassroots events such as the National Ski League and National Wakeboard League; state, regional, national and international championships; and multiple cash-prize professional events. Regional and national rankings lists will be assembled to help competitors determine where they stand relative to others in the organization. More than 250 instructional clinics will be conducted for competitors, officials, drivers and safety personnel of all levels. Even with funding from the United States Olympic Committee being reduced by nearly 50 percent since 2002, we will continue to provide the National Junior Team Camp, National Junior Development Camp, U.S. Team travel and elite athlete training stipends.

In addition to having an opportunity to participate in the vast array of USA Water Ski programs, members will once again receive the Regional Guide, discounts on products and services, and assistance in maintaining and preserving rightful access to public waterways. In the seven remaining issues of *The Water Skier*, you will read in-depth feature articles on some of USA Water Ski's top athletes — some of whom are young and some of whom are old, but all of whom are young at heart. *The Water Skier* also will continue to provide complete coverage of USA Water Ski's National Championships Series of Events.

USA Water Ski Athletes of the Month will continue to be selected throughout the year, and at year's end, Club of the Year, Athletes and Teams of the Year and Award of Merit recipients will be announced. Last, but not least, 2004 is a landmark year for USA Water Ski as it celebrates its 65th year of existence!

Putting all of these programs into place takes a tremendous amount of planning and preparation by volunteers and USA Water Ski headquarters staff, and funding is vital to maintaining and expanding upon them each year. The revenue produced through membership dues alone funds only a portion of these programs and services. In recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to find the supplemental revenue necessary for continuing these important programs and, at the same time, offset the rising overhead costs associated with running the organization. For example, participant general liability insurance increased in 2003 by more than 100 percent, resulting in a negative net balance for the year. Not only have we had to seek new sources of revenue, we have had to be extremely creative in controlling expenses. In 2004, headquarters will be operating with two fewer staff members than it did at the beginning of 2003. And, we will be taking every opportunity to be cost-effective in increasing efficiency and productivity through the automation of many programs such as sanctioning, membership processing, tournament registration, electronic newsletters and purchasing new USA Water Ski products online.

In light of many financial and organizational challenges, USA Water Ski has evolved over the past 65 years to be the largest, most successful towed water sports membership organization in the world. Its success can be attributed to many things; most notably, the volunteers, industry partners, board of directors and a hard working, dedicated headquarters' staff. Hopefully, at the end of 2004, we can once again marvel at all of our accomplishments, learn from our mistakes and put in place a plan for 2005 and beyond that sustains even greater membership satisfaction for years to come. Have a great 2004!

2003 Membership Report

Active membership increased for the second consecutive year in 2003. Total membership increased by .4 percent (163 members). The goal in 2004 is to increase Active membership by 3 percent (591 members) for a total of 20,290 Active members.



— Steve McDermeit

The Water Skier

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Master Calendar of Events

March 5-8

Moomba Masters
Melbourne, Australia

April 8-11

Pan American Championships
Lima, Peru

April 23-25

Hall of Fame Weekend
Polk City, Fla.

May 6-9

Collegiate All-Stars & Team Trials
Chico, Calif.

May 28-30

Masters
Pine Mountain, Ga.

June 5-6

Junior U.S. Open
Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.

June 11-13

Malibu Open
Rio Linda, Calif.

July 2-4

U.S. Water Ski Team Trials
Okahumpka, Fla.

July 15-18

Wisconsin State Show Ski Championships
Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.

July 21-24

AWSA Southern Regionals
Mulberry, Fla.

July 21-24

AWSA Western Regionals
Arvin, Calif.

July 22-25

AWSA Midwest Regionals
DuQuoin, Ill.

July 22-25

AWSA South Central Regionals
Cypress, Texas

July 23-26

AWSA Eastern Regionals
Avon, Conn.

July 24-25

International Kneeboard Rider Cup
England

Aug. 3-7

GOODE Water Ski National Championships
West Palm Beach, Fla.

For the complete 2004 calendar of events, go to USAWATERSKI.org.

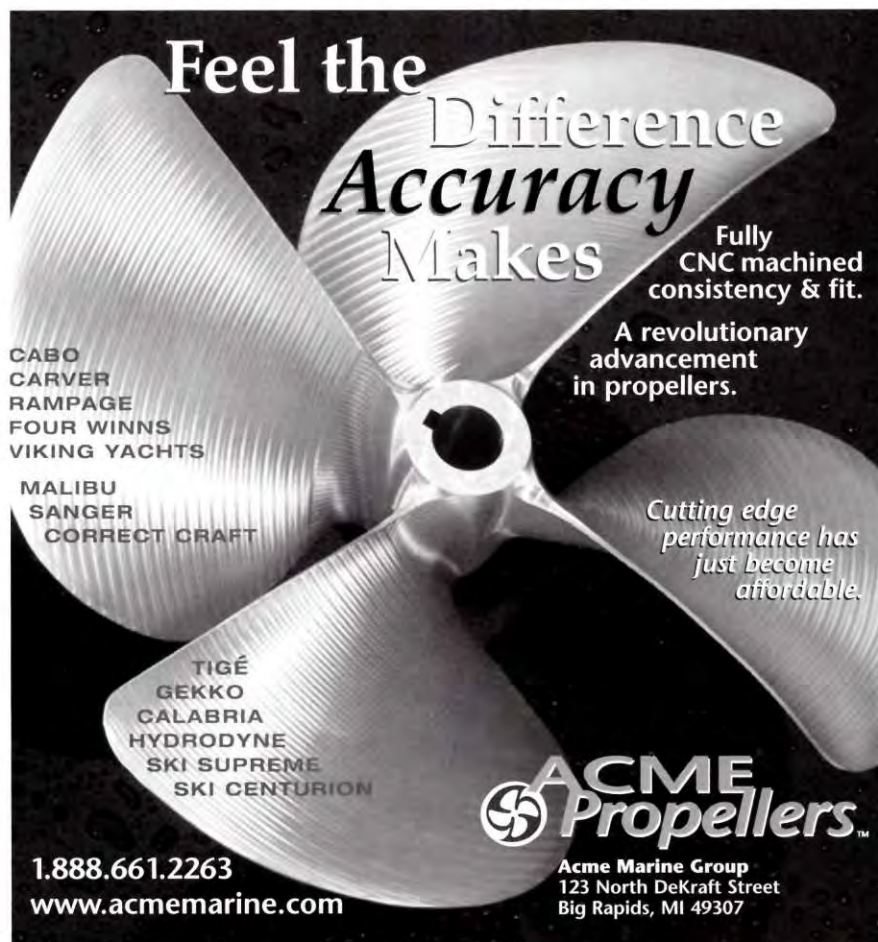


Left to Right: Bronze Medalist, Michelle Simpson (USA); Dave Goode; World Champion, Jeff Rodgers (USA); Silver Medalist, Will Asher (GBR); World Overall Champion, Regina Jaquess (USA)

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OUTSIDE THE WAKE

U.S. Open To Become Fall Classic In West Palm Beach In 2004

The world's top water ski athletes will compete for water skiing's largest cash-prize purse when CCMH Sports hosts the 2004 U.S. Open Water Ski Championships, Oct. 8-10, at Okeeheelee Park in West Palm Beach, Fla. The Palm Beach County Sports Commission is supporting the event with volunteer help from the Ski Club of the Palm Beaches.

The decision to move the U.S. Open from its traditional summer date to October was made by CCMH Sports in accordance with its plan to allow more time to promote and organize the event effectively. CCMH Sports also desired to host the event held during a time of year in which the heat is less oppressive in south Florida.

USA Water Ski and CCMH Sports, a multifaceted event management company specializing in



U.S. athlete Karen Truelove is the two-time defending U.S. Open Women's slalom champion.

high-end sporting events and professional athlete development, reached a licensing agreement for the event last fall. "We are thrilled to be able to bring the U.S. Open to West Palm Beach in 2004," says Steve McDermeit, USA Water Ski's executive director. "West Palm Beach's world-class water ski facilities and amenities make it an ideal location for the sport's most prestigious tournament."

The inaugural U.S. Open was held in West Palm Beach in 1987. Since then, the venue has

revisited West Palm Beach twice, in 1988 and 1994. West Palm Beach has hosted numerous world-record capability, local and grassroots water ski competitions in the past, in addition to the U.S. Open and Water Ski National Championships. It also will host the 2004 GOODE Water Ski National Championships, Aug. 3-7. "Palm Beach County is thrilled to showcase Okeeheelee Park, the premier water ski facility in the United States, at the U.S. Open Water Ski Championships in October," says Graham Morris, director of sports for the Palm Beach County Sports Commission. "The continuing choice to host national and international water ski events here shows that Palm Beach County is truly the best place to play."

Boasting a thriving economic community of more than 1 million residents, an international airport facility and more than 16,000 hotel rooms, Palm Beach County attracts a variety of sports activities and events annually. This, combined with an ideal climate averaging a balmy 75 degrees for year-round sports and the abundance of sporting amenities in the area, has made Palm Beach County one of the premier sports areas in the world. "CCMH Sports is excited to bring the greatest water skiing event to one of the nation's best sites," says Steven Spough, vice president of operations at CCMH Sports. "The American Water Ski Association and Ski Club of the Palm Beaches are two very strong organizations, truly a joy to work with. We are confident the 2004 U.S. Open will be the best to date."

Now in its 18th year, the U.S. Open annually attracts the world's top water ski athletes. Male and female athletes will compete for titles in slalom, tricks and jumping events. Athletes competing in all three events will be eligible for the coveted U.S. Open overall title. MasterCraft Boats, the No. 1 manufacturer of inboard tournament water ski boats, will be the exclusive towboat for the U.S. Open.

Jimmy Siemers soared to a new world jumping record and fellow U.S. athletes Rhoni Barton (Women's overall), Mandy Nightingale (Women's tricks) and Karen Truelove (Women's slalom) won titles at the 2003 U.S. Open in Houston, Texas. Other athletes looking to defend titles at this year's event include Canada's Jaret Llewellyn (Men's jumping and overall), France's Nicolas Le Forestier (Men's tricks), Great Britain's Andy Mapple (Men's slalom) and Australia's Emma Sheers (Women's jumping).

For more information throughout the summer on the 2004 U.S. Open Water Ski Championships, go to USAWATERSKI.org.

Junior U.S. Open To Be Held In Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.

The 2004 Junior U.S. Open Water Ski Championships, a two-round world record capability water ski competition, will take place June 5-6 at the Cory Pickos Water Ski & Wakeboard School in Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. In its fourth year, the event will feature Junior Men and Junior Women divisions (ages 17 to 21), in addition to the Boys and Girls divisions (ages 16 and under). More than 50 of the world's top junior athletes are expected to compete for titles in slalom, tricks, jumping and overall. MasterCraft will serve as the exclusive towboat for the 2004 Junior U.S. Open

Water Ski Championships.

Sanctioned by USA Water Ski, the 2004 Junior U.S. Open Water Ski Championships will feature two rounds: a preliminary round on Saturday and a final round on Sunday. Seven athletes in each of four divisions will compete in each event. Four skiers from each division may advance to the final round of competition in slalom, tricks and jumping. Overall scores will be based upon a skier's best performance in each event from either round.

For more information, go to USAWATERSKI.org.

inside the numbers

3 U.S. athletes — Katie Mawby, Jimmy Siemers and Martie Wells — selected 2003 Athletes of the Year by the International Water Ski Federation in their respective sport divisions

32.2

percentage increase in total members for the American Wakeboard Association between December 2002 and December 2003, the largest increase among USA Water Ski's eight sport divisions

34

awards presented at USA Water Ski's annual awards reception, Jan. 18, in Lakeland, Fla.

Top Men's 34 mph Slalom Skiers Expected To Compete In Big Dawg Challenge



Tim Huston will be one of several top skiers in the 34 mph class that will contend for the title at the first 34 mph Big Dawg Slalom Championship in Warren, Ohio.

Event Set For Aug. 20-22

Who's the best 36 mph slalom skier? Barring any sort of confrontation that NASA's rover Spirit may have on Mars, the overwhelming answer among water ski enthusiasts would be Andy Mapple. But if the question is who's the best Men's 34 mph slalom skier around, any one of a half-dozen names may be mentioned. That debate may be settled in August when the first 34 mph Big Dawg Slalom Championship takes place in Warren, Ohio.

While there will be \$5,000 up for grabs for the top-eight placements, tournament organizers

insist the event won't be about the money, but rather the competition. "The 34 mph skiers are fragmented," says Greg Davis, one of the organizers and a multi-time national slalom competitor. "You have Men 3, 4 and 5, and Masters Men 55k. They only have one important tournament a year — the Nationals — and they compete in four different age divisions. The objective of the Big Dawg is to put all of the top 34 mph skiers together and see just who really is the *Big Dawg!*"

The record-capability event will be held Aug. 20-22 at Bellalago Lake. There will be three rounds of slalom and skiers can choose to ski behind a Malibu, MasterCraft or Nautique. The top-16 skiers

will advance to the finals, which will be a head-to-head seeded format with \$2,000 going to the winner. The tournament is open to anyone, but only skiers who are age 35 or over, and who have not competed in a pro tournament in the last 36 months, are eligible for the cash prize head-to-head event.

According to Davis, several top 34 mph skiers have already committed to competing in the tournament, including Chuck Forrest (8-time Men 3 national champion and 2003 Men 4 national champion), Tim Huston (2003 Masters Men 55k national champion) and Chet Raley (2000 Men 3 national champion). Dr. Jim Michaels, who set the current Men 4 and Masters Men 55k national slalom record with a run of 1 buoy at 43 feet off, says he also plans to compete in the event. "It will be a blast, a lot of fun," Michaels says. "Competing against the very best is what makes these athletes tick," adds Davis. "This is going to be a very special tournament. This will be true head-to-head competition. Big fun!"

The entry fee is \$150 if received by May 1 and \$200 after May 1. Send entries and make checks payable to David Miller, 3170 Bent Oak Trail, Ravenna, OH 44266. Besides boat manufacturers Malibu, MasterCraft and Nautique, GOODE, D3, HO, ACME Propellers, PerfectPass and USA Water Ski also are supporting the event. For more information, go to geocities.com/bellalagolake/bellalago.

Florida Contributes \$11 Million To Save Cypress Gardens

Attraction May Reopen By Memorial Day

The Florida Cabinet voted Jan. 27 to contribute \$11 million toward a 150-acre conservation easement at Cypress Gardens, Florida's oldest tourist attraction. Brokered by the Trust for Public Land, the grant will allow Georgian entrepreneur Kent Buescher to take control of operations at the famed family attraction in Winter Haven, Fla. Buescher hopes to reopen Cypress Gardens for business on Memorial Day weekend.

Cypress Gardens closed abruptly last April after 67 years of operation. Among its many attractions, the park was best known for its botanical gardens, southern belles and water ski shows.

Under the agreed financial package, the Trust for Public Lands will buy Cypress Gardens from its current owner for \$20.5 million and then sell the easement to the state to ensure the property's protection. Buescher will pay \$7 million for the title on 120 acres. Polk County will purchase 30 core acres of the historic gardens for \$2.5 million. Buescher



Cypress Gardens closed April 13, 2003, after a 67-year run as Florida's oldest themed attraction.

"THEY SAID IT"

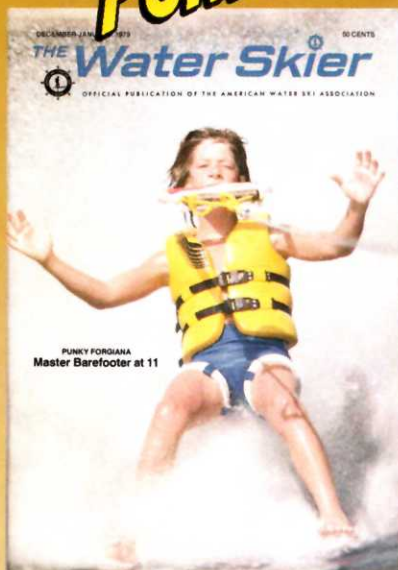
"It's just a macho thing to do — something no one else would do. The first time I fell in the water, I actually had trouble breathing."

— Kurt Ashbaugh of Murfreesboro, Tenn., one of only a few water skiers who wore swimming trunks instead of a wetsuit in the 47-degree water during an annual New Year's Day event held by the Hickory Lake Water Ski & Wakeboard Club and the Music City Water Ski Club

has also agreed to invest \$36 million in the next 18 months to expand and refurbish the park.

Buescher, who owns Wild Adventures in Valdosta, Ga., hopes to upgrade Cypress Gardens to include a themed water park, thrill rides and live entertainment, in addition to its historical attractions.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO... PUNKY FORGIANA



At age 11, Robert "Punky" Forgiana shocked the barefooting world by becoming the youngest barefoot water skier to achieve a Master rating in tricks. Forgiana, pictured here on the cover of the December/January 1979 issue of *The Water Skier*, competed for four U.S. barefoot teams and won multiple national titles before retiring from competition at age 17. Forgiana went on to ski full time for Cypress Gardens, where he

met his wife of 12 years, Ronda. Forgiana left Cypress Gardens in 2002 to join the Winter Haven Police Department, where he currently works as a patrol officer and a member of the Emergency Response Team. Though Forgiana has been known to barefoot with road shows every now and then, the majority of his time on the water is spent pulling his 9-year-old daughter, Jessica, on Winter Haven's chain of lakes.

QUICK PASS

Cold Water, Warm Hearts: The 10th annual Eskimo Escapades Shut Up & Ski event was held Jan. 17 at Volunteer Landing in Knoxville, Tenn. An event-record 124 participants raised money for two local charities by water skiing, wakeboarding, barefooting and kneeboarding. Skiers, riders and sponsors raised more than \$28,000 for the Dream Connection, which fulfills dreams of seriously ill children in East Tennessee,

and The Patricia Neal IRC, which provides recreational opportunities, such as water skiing and wakeboarding, to individuals who have suffered spinal cord or brain injuries. Five participants — Joe Thompson, Harvey Letson, Mike Kelly, Will Robinson and Daniel Funk have participated all 10 years. The 10-year total of money raised is almost \$168,000.

Regional Guides To Be Mailed In March

USA Water Ski's 2004 Regional Tournament Guides will be mailed to members beginning on Monday, March 15. Current members of USA Water Ski and individuals who were members in 2003 are entitled to one guide, which will automatically be mailed to the head of household. Collegiate members, Supporting members and Foreign Active members may receive a guide at no charge, upon request from USA Water Ski headquarters. Additional guides may be purchased from USA Water Ski headquarters for \$15. For an online listing of 2004 tournaments, go to USAWATERSKI.org.

Sunset Lakes To Host Junior Worlds

The 2004 Junior Water Ski World Championships will be held Sept. 2-5 at Jack Travers' Sunset Lakes in Okahumpka, Fla. Organized by the Central Florida Sports Commission with the approval of USA Water Ski, the biennial event will feature the world's top junior water ski athletes competing for world titles in slalom, tricks and jumping events. Athletes competing in all three events will be eligible for the coveted overall titles. The U.S. Junior Water Ski Team will represent the United States in team competition at the 2004 Junior Worlds. Selections to the 2004 Junior Team will be based upon performances at the U.S. Water Ski Team Trials, to be held July 2-4 at Sunset Lakes.

Spain To Host WWC World Championships

The 2004 WWC Wakeboard World Championships will be held Oct. 13-17 in Seville, Spain. The U.S. Wakeboard Team will be looking to win its first world wakeboard team title at the fifth annual event. The United States earned the silver medal at the 2003 WWC Worlds in Brisbane, Australia.

Meddock Announces Retirement

After 26 years of service to Correct Craft and the marine industry, Larry Meddock has announced his retirement as vice president of marketing and special events, effective March 5, 2004. Correct Craft is a Premier Sponsor of USA Water Ski. Meddock has been a part of the Correct Craft organization since 1978. As a part of the Correct Craft family, Meddock has held the positions assistant to the president, director of promotions, director of marketing, and was appointed vice president of marketing and special events in

1986. Over the years, Meddock has served the marine industry and water skiing in many capacities, including chairman of the board of the American Water Ski Educational Foundation, two-time president of the Water Sports Industry Association, as well as tournament director of Callaway Gardens' Masters Water Ski and Wakeboard Tournament. Even though he is retiring, the Correct Craft board has asked Meddock to act as a consultant to the company and its many events and affiliations.

NSL & NWL Coordinators Needed

There is always a need for more National Ski League and National Wakeboard League coordinators. For more information regarding any grassroots-related items in 2004, contact USA Water Ski at (863) 324-4341 or e-mail usawaterski@usawaterski.org.

Correct Craft Honored By J.D. Power

Correct Craft, a premier sponsor of USA Water Ski, received its second consecutive J.D. Power and Associates award for customer satisfaction in the ski/wakeboard segment of its 2003 Boat Competitive Information Study. Correct Craft received highest ratings in every major factor of overall customer satisfaction, including Overall Rating, Quality and Reliability, Value for Money, Exterior, Ride & Handling and Ski & Board usage. It also received the highest rankings in 10 of 12 satisfaction factors in the study.

The J.D. Power and Associates 2003 Boat Competitive Information Study was based on responses from a total of 10,734 owners of 2002 and 2003 model-year boats purchased between January 2002 and February 2003.

Members Can Adopt A Library For 2004

Do you know of a library in your area in desperate need of some water skiing literature? Adopt A Library is a project to get the world of water skiing on the racks and into readers' hands at our public and school libraries. You can help make this dream a reality by sending the gift of *The Water Skier* magazine to a library in your area.

For \$15, one library of your choice will receive a one-year subscription to *The Water Skier* magazine. For \$63.75 (\$12.75 per subscription), five libraries of your choice will receive a one-year subscription to *The Water Skier* magazine. Simply send in sponsor information: name, address and payment; and gift subscription information: name and address. Mail your information and a check made payable to: USA Water Ski Adopt A Library, 1251 Holy Cow Road, Polk City, FL 33868-8200. Visa and MasterCard also are accepted.

Top Juniors Expected To Compete At U.S. Water Ski Team Trials

Unlike the 2003 U.S. Water Ski Team Trials, which saw more than 100 athletes vying for spots on nine U.S. Water Ski Teams, the 2004 U.S. Water Ski Team Trials will see more than 30 U.S. athletes competing for spots on just one team (LONG DASH) the 2004 U.S. Junior Water Ski Team. But that doesn't mean it won't be one of the most competitive tournaments of the year. The team trials, a three-round tournament conducted under International Water Ski Federation rules, will be held July 2-4 at Sunset Lakes in Okahumpka, Fla.

The U.S. Junior Water Ski Team will represent the United States in team competition at the 2004 Junior Worlds, which also will be held at Sunset Lakes, Sept. 2-5. Organized by the Central Florida Sports Commission with the approval of USA Water Ski, the biennial event will feature the world's top

junior water ski athletes competing for world titles in slalom, tricks and jumping events. Athletes competing in all three events will be eligible for the coveted overall titles.

The U.S. Junior Water Ski Team will be comprised of four athletes with a sex distribution of either 3/1 or 2/2. At the 2002 Junior Water Ski World Championships in San Bernardo, Chile, the U.S. Junior Team topped the 20-team field, earning 8,256.0 points for the world team title. Top athletes expected to compete at this year's team trials include Danyelle Bennett, Alex Lauretano, Morgan Pavur, Taylor Pavur, Storm Selsor, Skip Wintter and Michael Young.

For the qualifications and procedures for the 2004 U.S. Junior Water Ski Team, go to USAWATERSKI.org. ♦

TALES FROM THE DOCK

Pumpkin Skiing in the Desert

Several years ago in Lewiston, N.Y., members of the Neptune Ski Club started a local tradition of carving out a pumpkin, adding a face and drain holes, and then skiing down the river with the pumpkin on their head. That tradition moved across the country in 1999 when Neptune members Susan Talarico, Jim Ruzewski and Annemarie Alf relocated to Arizona.

The fun always starts the Saturday night before Halloween with a ton of food and a big outdoor party. This year, most of the 21 families at Lakeside Ski Village in Gila Bend, Ariz., and a few very special guests, got together to continue the tradition.

The great pumpkin carving contest began on Saturday just after sunset. It is always fun to watch the rookies show up with pumpkins bigger than most ski boats. Awards on Sunday ranged from best pumpkin to best costume to the special best buffoon award.

On Sunday, Canadian Women's jumping champion Karissa Wedd based a three-tier pyramid; world overall and tricks champion Jimmy Siemers completed a tricks run that left everyone in awe; and not to be outdone, water ski legend Lucky Lowe ran 28 off. All donned pumpkins on their heads.

The real star in the Lowe family that day, however, was 5-year-old Chance, who became the youngest ever to ski with a pumpkin on his head at the event. Lucky himself was topped that day by local Lakeside skier Steve Ware, who ran 32 off and won the best buffoon award for 2003. John Fumo, another local skier, did a barefoot run with a tumble-up before his pumpkin exploded.

Everyone skied with a pumpkin on his or her head that day, and the truth is, they all loved it. For the past four years, families and friends have come out to enjoy, participate and bond together in a way only water skiers know how.

— Luigi Talarico Jr. & John Fumo
Gila Bend, Ariz.



Nel Lennox

Submit your Tales From The Dock by e-mail to usawsmagazine@usawaterski.org or mail to *The Water Skier*, 1251 Holy Cow Road, Polk City, FL 33868-8200.

McMurtry Embraces The Road To Victory

When Royce Andes himself signs you up for the Disabled Nationals, there's no backing down. That's how Kerri McMurtry got her start in the Water Skiers with Disabilities Association (WSDA). Andes, a pioneer of adaptive water skiing programs in the United States, took it upon himself to coach McMurtry in slalom and tricks skiing during her teens. "One day he said, 'Kerri, you're signed up for Nationals,'" recalls Kerri with a laugh. "That was my first competition. Ever since then, I've been hooked."

McMurtry was born with spinabifida, a congenital disease that affects the nervous system. Although the disease confines her to a wheelchair most of the time, McMurtry has never had much trouble keeping up with the pack. As an undergraduate, McMurtry successfully competed at the Collegiate Nationals and All-Stars as a tricks specialist for Chico State's water ski team. Today, as a grad student pursuing a Masters in exercise physiology, McMurtry no longer competes for Chico, but her college experiences carry over into her WSDA pursuits. "I used to get so nervous at the national disabled competitions," she says. "It wasn't until after I started skiing at college that I learned to harness all that nervous energy and use it to ski well. It taught me how to have fun with it."



Kerri McMurtry secured podium placements in slalom, tricks, jumping and overall at the 2003 Disabled Worlds.

This year, McMurtry is having more fun than ever as the reigning Women's MP3 world overall champion and member of the U.S. Disabled Water Ski Team, the reigning world team champion. "That whole experience was amazing," she says. "The team taking the gold was the best part of it all. I wasn't expecting a lot as far as how I placed, so I was just

blown away that I did so well." McMurtry secured podium finishes in all three events at the Disabled Worlds, just three weeks after winning the Women's MP3 national tricks title.

Of all the things McMurtry loves about water skiing — "the summertime...the heat...the family of skiers...and being in the sun," among them — the travel involved in competitive water skiing is at the top of her list. "Before, I would have never imagined traveling alone, and now I can't get enough of it. I really have a travel bug," she says. Ironically, it's traveling that may keep McMurtry from competing in the 2004 Nationals. A three-week stay in Bosnia and Croatia just sounds too good to pass up, she explains guiltily.

One thing is for certain, McMurtry's love for the road won't keep her off the road to victory. Whether or not she turns up to defend her national title in 2004, rest assured McMurtry is training hard. "My dream is to be one of the first women to do a flip," she says. "Before that happens, there are a few other tricks I need to get down." ♦

— Monica Minnick

Hip Surgery May Spell The End To Overton-Johnson's Illustrious Career

Kristi Overton-Johnson doubts that she'll ever be able to compete again, but she insists that she's leaving her options open. In January, Overton-Johnson, 34, underwent the first of two operations to correct a hip disorder she has had since birth. The second surgery is scheduled for July. The procedures likely will keep Overton-Johnson off of skis for at least a year, and most likely will result in her eventual retirement from competitive water skiing. "I've known I was going to need these surgeries since I was about 15," says Overton-Johnson, who only competed in one professional tournament in 2003. "My hip sockets never really developed. I've been dealing with the pain for a long time, but it has really, really bothered me the last few years. I'm having the procedure done now to keep from having to have artificial hips."

Overton-Johnson has held the Women's world slalom record of 1 buoy at 41 feet since 1996, and she remains the only woman to have ever run the 39-1/2 off pass in a sanctioned event. She has won nearly every Women's slalom title imaginable, including the 1999 Pan American Games and Water Ski World Championships. She is a four-time U.S. Open champion and six-time Masters' champion.



But over the course of the past two years, Overton-Johnson has seen fellow competitors and close friends Susi Graham-McCormick and Toni Neville retire, and she has battled through the pain as much as she could. "I miss the camaraderie that existed when Susi and Toni were still competing. I just don't enjoy [competing at tournaments] as much anymore," she says. "I still feel like I haven't reached my potential, but I haven't been able to practice at 39-1/2 off the last two years. To go to a tournament knowing that I won't be able to ski my best is not a lot of fun."

But just because Overton-Johnson won't be on skis in 2004, doesn't mean she won't remain active in water skiing. Last September, Broadman & Holman Publishers released Overton-Johnson's first book — *Running The Course, Becoming a Champion in God's Eyes*. As the founder and president of In His Wakes, a multifaceted ministry, Overton-Johnson shares insights in the book gained from her life as a Christian, focusing on the rigorous demands of her life as an athlete and the rewards of living the Christian lifestyle in a challenging world. The book is available at all major bookstores as well as through

kristioverton.com and inhiswakes.com.

Meanwhile, for the second consecutive year, Overton-Johnson will oversee the In His Wakes ministry, which introduces people to Jesus Christ through the use of water sports. Included in this ministry is the Making The Cut Tour, which travels to cities across the country offering Christian-based water sports clinics and exhibitions. "It's been a whirlwind year, even though I haven't skied," Overton-Johnson says. "I'm excited about the ministry and everything surrounding it. Do I expect to compete again? No. But I'm leaving my options open. I've accomplished everything and now I want to give back. I'm at peace with whatever I do." ♦

— Scott Atkinson



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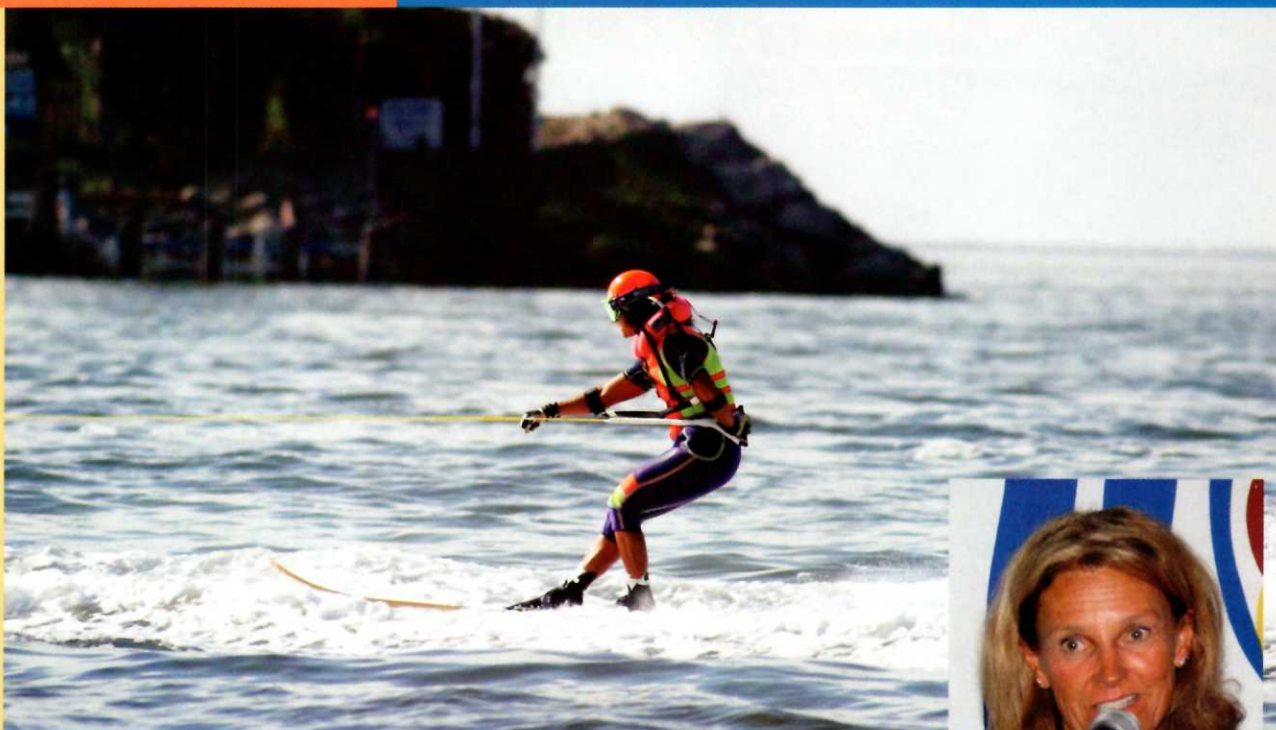
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On The Dock With... Debbie Nordblad

Debbie Nordblad says it's time to slow down a little. In October, Nordblad clinched her 12th consecutive top-five finish at the Water Ski Racing World Championships in Long Beach, Calif. Nordblad, 50, won two world titles, three world silver medals and three world bronze medals during her illustrious career. While she insists she will continue to race in the famed Catalina Ski Race and a select number of other tournaments, Nordblad says she wants to take a break from the pressures of qualifying for the U.S. Elite Water Ski Racing Team. She discusses her career with *The Water Skier*.

TWS: Congratulations on another top-five finish at the Water Ski Racing World Championships. How much did it mean to you to finish in the top five for the 12th consecutive time in your last year competing at the Worlds?

DN: Of course my two gold medals, three silver medals and three bronze medals meant a lot to me, but I have to be happy that at the age of 50 I am still able to compete with the younger skiers.

TWS: Would you say winning the two world titles (1985 and 1991) are your greatest accomplishments of your career?

DN: Winning two gold medals is like a dream. There's nothing like standing on

the podium with your country's national anthem being played for you. But I also would have to say that the consistency I have had throughout my whole career is a great accomplishment. I have been lucky to win every competition I have entered at least once.

TWS: What would you say has been your single greatest accomplishment in your water ski racing career?

DN: I am fortunate to have accomplished so many things in my water ski racing career. It's hard to single out just one. For me, every title, record and win has been a great accomplishment. Water ski racing is so demanding; a win doesn't usually happen without some exhaustion. When you're skiing for 45 minutes to 1 hour in any type of water condition at 60 to 90 mph, you have to be as tough mentally as you are physically. If you come across the checkered flag No. 1, it's a great accomplishment.

TWS: Do any particular races stand out in your mind?

DN: One time I will never forget — I was racing the Giro del Lario, a race in Italy. There was a huge storm. Three boats actually sunk. It was probably the biggest water I have ever raced in. Out of the 30 or 40 starters of the race, I was one of two who finished the race. The race normally takes about one hour to complete. We raced for more than three

hours. It was amazing to cross the finish line. But what I'll never forget was the reception and applause I received from my Italian friends when I walked into the Moregallo Club. I felt like a hero. It's times like those that make it all worth it.

TWS: How and when did you get started in water ski racing?

DN: It all started as family fun time together. My dad took me to my first race at age 8. He pulled me behind our family outboard and I won. My dad was hooked on the sport. My mom, dad, sister, Donna, and I all raced for years. They finally got out of the sport when I was about 17, but I continued on. At that time there weren't world championships. We only had two marathon races in the United States at that time — Catalina and the Lake Mead 50/75 miler. I was 17 when the United States held its first national championships. It was held at Clear Lake where I competed in the Women's Open and placed second.

TWS: What was competing in your first race like?

DN: The race was in San Diego. At that time the girls and boys raced together in the 0-9 age class. All the other kids were on two skis. I was the only one on a single ski. I won by a large margin. By the next race, most of the other kids showed

up on a single ski. I continued to win and the next season the 0-9 was split into 0-9 girls and 0-9 boys.

TWS: Who were some of the people that have helped you throughout your career, and that you owe some of your success to?

DN: Definitely mom and dad in my earlier days. Even in the later years they were always there to help with my training along with my sister, Donna, and brother-in-law, Doug. My good friend Shelby Guardalabene, who is the owner of Rex Marine, along with her husband, Mike, helped me with a Rex Marine sponsorship for many years.

TWS: Wasn't Shelby a training partner, too?

DN: Shelby and I were great training partners until her retirement from ski racing about seven years ago. We skied three to four days a week with her Hallett twin engine outboard, making countless trips back and forth from Long Beach to Catalina and back. In the past five years, my daughters, Lacey and Mallory, have been my training partners along with my boyfriend and observer, Mike King, and Shelby on occasion. Having the opportunity to train on the water is invaluable in water ski racing. The sport is very demanding.

TWS: How important is the team aspect in water ski racing?

DN: I owe a lot of my success to my great drivers and observers throughout the years. Water ski racing is a team effort. It is so important that the team (driver, observer and skier) all work together. Ron Tesarski was my driver for many years and I feel he is one of the best drivers in the sport. He is the best at reading the water and is always able to pick the best line when working his way through traffic. I owe a lot to his expert driving. Two great observers that I owe my success to are Mike King and Dusty Schulz. They watch me with a close eye and let the driver know how I'm doing and if we can go faster or not. They help me get through a grueling and tiring race feeling safe — well, as safe as you can feel at 85 mph — while pushing me as hard as I can be pushed. I owe a lot of gratitude to these three guys for many years of success. I have raced behind a number of other drivers along the way who have also done a great job for me, but I raced with Ron the longest. I've also had a lot of help from my sponsors, like Columbia Steel, and from my good friend, Carl Johnson. It would be difficult to keep the boat full of fuel for as many miles as I train without their help.

TWS: While you've said you are retiring from ski racing from the standpoint of qualifying and competing at the world championships, you are still going to compete in some races. What is your schedule going to be like in 2004?

DN: I don't have any definite plans for my race schedule in 2004 except that I plan to race the Catalina Ski Race. I have spent so many years basically putting my life on hold while I prepare for the next race, which during the season is about every three weeks. I love the sport of water ski racing and would hate to retire completely from it. My plan is just to slow down a bit and pick a couple of marathons to race in. When you're concerned about qualifying for Worlds, you need to race at every marathon, and when you're not racing, you need to spend those weekends practicing. I live about one hour from the water so just to get a one-hour ski ride it takes about five hours of my day between driving to and from the water, launching, idling out to where you can ski at speed and washing the boat.

TWS: Your daughters have experienced some early success in ski racing. Tell us about them and what it means to you to have them racing?

DN: Lacey and Mallory are both great water ski racers. They are both naturals. I've enjoyed the fact that they have been interested in racing because it has been a chance for us to stay close as a family with common interests. The three of us have spent countless hours, days and weeks together at the lake skiing. We enjoy pushing each other to do our best. We also spend time together at the gym, track and cycling. I'm excited that Lacey and Mallory are interested in attempting to qualify for the 2005 U.S. Water Ski Racing Team. I would love to train them and give them as much support as they have given me throughout the years.

TWS: What is it about the sport of ski racing, or Debbie Nordblad for that matter, that brings out such a competitive spirit in you at age 50?

DN: I don't know if it's because I've been competing for so many years that it's ingrained in me, but it seems to be the way I am with everything I do. I hate to lose. I hate to tire out, to quit. So I push myself constantly. I feel good when I'm doing well and figure I will continue to push myself as long as I can. It's what I know. I love the excitement of the speed in ski racing.

TWS: What kind of fitness program do you take part in to stay in such phenomenal shape?

DN: I teach spinning classes at the gym. I spend an hour on a spinning bike almost every day. I'm not a good runner, but I will push myself to go to the track with my daughters to run and to climb the bleachers. I lift weights four to five days a week and ride my mountain bike around what we call "the loop," which is a one-hour ride near the base of Mount Baldy. Of course I ski as much as possible, too, even if it's on my social ski. It seems that everything I do to exercise, I do it for one hour always working on cardio as well as strength.

TWS: Do you have any advice for up-and-coming water ski racers?

DN: Try to get together with a driver and observer that you can work together with for years. You will do a lot better when you're all working as one. Your equipment is important, especially your ski. If you're struggling, you may need to change something on your ski, like binding placement. I also think cardio and strength training are both important. 💧

Interview & Photography by Scott Atkinson

Vital Stats

Birthdate: March 7, 1953

Hometown: Claremont, Calif.

Began water skiing: age 6

Began water ski racing: age 8

Career highlights: 12-time member of the U.S. Elite Water Ski Racing Team; two-time Open Women's world champion; nine-time national champion; Catalina Ski Race Women's record holder (59 minutes, 8 seconds); first woman to win Catalina in under 1 hour

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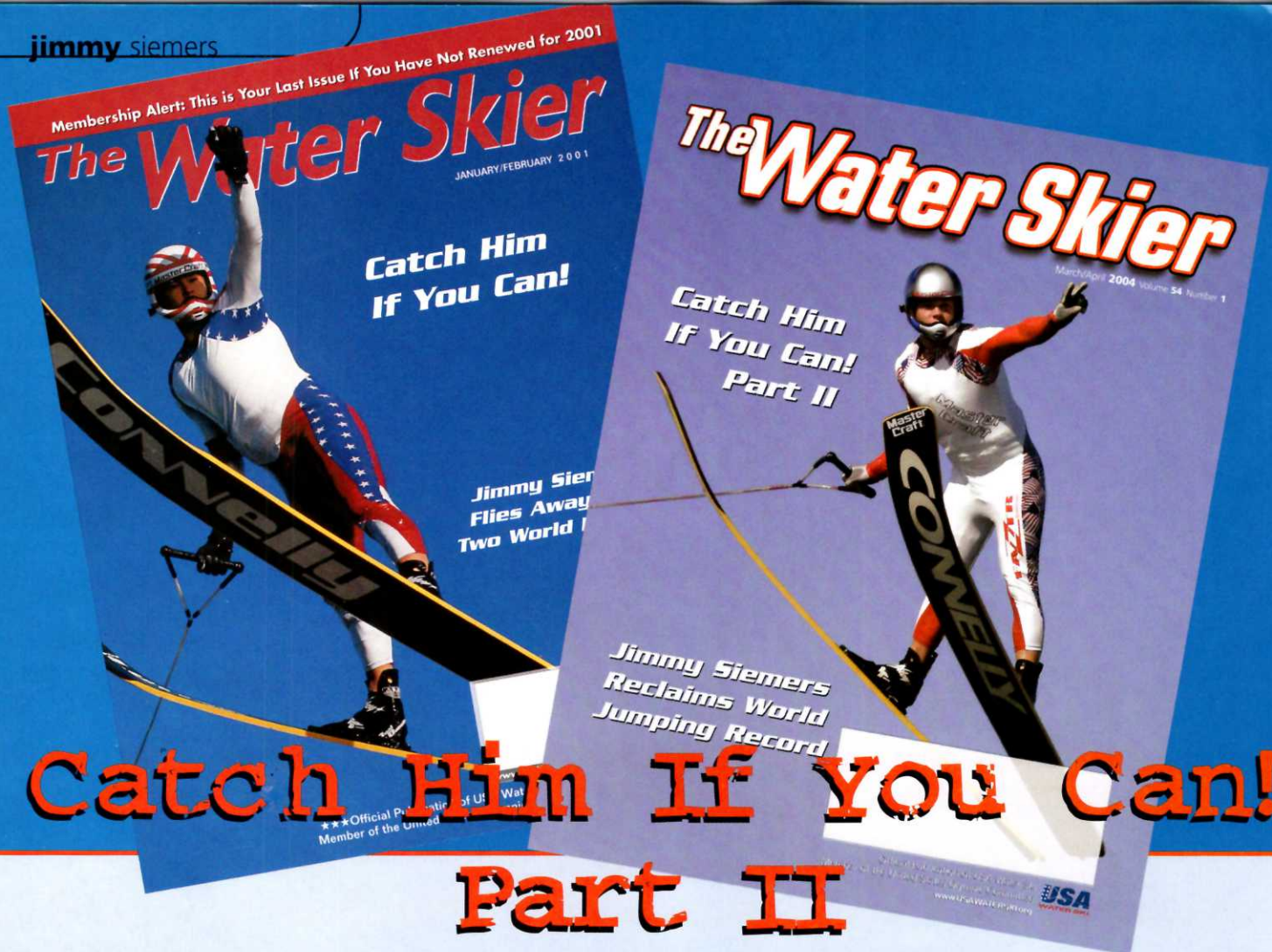
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Catch Him If You Can!

Part II

In the midst of his best season in his relatively young water skiing career, Jimmy Siemers reclaimed the world jumping record in 2003 and stamped his name among the greatest of all time

Written by Scott Atkinson

If the first few weeks of the new year were any indication of what lays ahead in 2004, then Jimmy Siemers is in for a long season. Shortly after a photo shoot in 40-degree temperatures for a national water ski publication, Siemers developed a nasty virus attributed to a combination of a whirlwind schedule that he had been keeping since last spring and some uncharacteristic chilly weather in central Florida. The illness set in just as Siemers, 21, was to enjoy a weeklong cruise in the Caribbean with his parents, grandparents and brother, Eric. "I don't think I've ever felt so bad in my life," Siemers says. "It was horrible." Siemers says he ended up sleeping the first five days of the cruise and didn't eat for nine days. He lost 20 pounds in 17 days. Apparently, there is something out there that can beat Jimmy Siemers. That certainly wasn't the case in 2003.

Siemers started off by winning

Men's jumping at the MasterCraft Pro Water Ski Championships in May and followed that up by winning Men's tricks, jumping and overall at the Collegiate All-Stars. In July he tied the Open Men national jumping record with his winning leap of 233 feet at the Malibu Open. He upped that mark in August at the Overton's U.S. Open Water Ski Championships, where he broke the Men's world jumping record with a leap of 236 feet. The next week he won national titles in Open Men's tricks, jumping and overall at the 2003 GOODE Water Ski National Championships. Competing in his first Water Ski World Championships in September, he set four world championships' records in tricks, jumping and overall on his way to winning world titles in Men's tricks and overall. In October, he won Men's tricks at the Collegiate Nationals. In November he secured gold medals in tricks, jumping and overall at the 21 and Under Water



Jimmy Siemers was named USA Water Ski's 2003 Male Athlete of the Year.

Ski World Championships. It was no surprise that he was named USA Water Ski's 2003 Male Athlete of the Year and the International Water Ski Federation's Male Water Ski Athlete of the Year. "Looking back at it all, it's kind of scary," Siemers said in late January, still trying to get his strength back. "I've kind of [accomplished] everything now. What's left? My No. 1

A Chip Off The Old Block

If young water skiers want to model themselves after an athlete, Jimmy Siemers wouldn't be a bad choice. If parents of young water skiers want to model themselves after a parent, Jim Siemers wouldn't be a bad choice.

Jim rarely misses any of Jimmy's major tournaments, but rather than act as promotional manager and cheerleader, he is a key behind-the-scenes supporter, more often playing the role of unofficial equipment manager and travel agent. "I'm not the most organized person in the world,"



Photo courtesy of the Siemers family

Despite crashing on his very first jump attempt, 7-year-old Jimmy landed his next two, and this photo shared the front page of the local sports section in the following day's newspaper.

Jimmy admits. "Dad takes care of a lot of my travel itinerary and just keeps me on the right track with things. He also is a very relaxed person and I think that is why I am so relaxed at tournaments. I think my approach to skiing has a lot to do with my dad. He's never pushed me. He has always let me make my decisions. I've just always tried to go out and have fun."

Jim's introduction to water skiing dates back more than 40 years. Henry and Liz Siemers used to take their son for ski rides on Center Hill Lake in Smithville, Tenn. The family even-

tually joined the Tennessee Ski Club in Nashville and all three began skiing in the club's traveling show. "Dad was the clown, mom did ballet and I tricked and performed in the slalom act," Jim says. "Eventually dad retired as a pilot from the air force and we moved to Iowa."

Although he didn't consider himself a competitor, Jim joined the Waterloo Ski Club in 1976 and became one of the state's top jumpers. He later won Men's jumping at the Iowa State Championships with a personal best leap of 125 feet. But his jumping career was cut short in 1979 when he broke his ankle in three places. "I'll never forget that," says Jim, who still has a plate and three screws in his foot. "It happened on Memorial Day. That's when I started tricking."

That's also when he decided to buy an A-frame house on a private lake so the family would have a place to ski on the weekends. If there was any doubt in Jim's mind that young Jimmy was a natural on skis, the proof came at two tournaments in 1989. At one, 7-year-old Jimmy convinced his father he was ready to go over the jump ramp for the first time. After going out the back on his very first attempt, Jimmy landed and rode out his next two attempts and shared the front page of the next day's local sports section with the British Open golf tournament leaders. At the other, he tallied 1,500 points in tricks and easily outscored Jim, who had been working on his tricks for more than a decade. "I smoked him!" a prideful Jimmy recalls some 14 years later. Adds Jim [laughing]: "I couldn't believe it. I had been working on tricks for 10 years and Jimmy just comes out to this tournament and beats me. I decided to quit right there. I just said to myself, 'I'm done!'"



Photo courtesy of the Siemers family

Jim Siemers was an Iowa state jumping champion in the 1970s.

While he reluctantly stepped aside from actively participating as a water skier, he dove right into being a proud parent and supporter. "From the beginning, I told Jimmy and his younger brother, Eric, that I'll support them with whatever they want to do with their lives," Jim says. "I've seen so many parents live their life through their kids, and they end up pushing their kids too much. I told my sons that if they want to water ski, they'll want to water ski for them, not me."

Eric, who was a national-level tricks skier in the junior ranks, quit skiing several years ago and is now in the Business program at the University of Texas. Jimmy, a junior at Arizona State, seriously contemplated quitting four years ago, but couldn't stay away from the lake for more than a week. "He was just tired of it all at the time," Jim says. "Jimmy told me he just wanted to be a normal kid. He missed a lot of school and wanted to do the other stuff kids do. I told him to do it. He took some time off, but he never really quit." Adds Jimmy: "I missed the lake too much and became bored. It just didn't feel right. I think I made the right decision."

goal in water skiing was to win the world overall title. I've done that now. That's the ultimate in water skiing."

He admits it will be tough to top last year's performances and that this year may be more of a struggle at first. The virus forced him to take some time off and cancel his plans to travel to Australia in March to compete in the season-opening Moomba Masters. His first major tournament will likely be as a member of the U.S. Elite Water Ski Team at the Pan American Water Ski Championships in April in Lima, Peru. "My goals for 2004 will remain the same as they have always been," he says. "I want to show up at every tournament, have fun, be competitive and try to win." ♦



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Kristi Williams: Destination In Sight

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles focusing on the accomplishments and goals of some of USA Water Ski's youngest champions.

Written by Monica Minnick

For the first time in her life, Kristi Williams couldn't wait for the national championships in 2002. Unlike most, her enthusiasm had nothing to do with water skiing and everything to do with Schlitterbahn, a top-rated water park in New Braunfels, Texas. As far as Kristi was concerned, watching her brother, Ryan, compete at Nationals was the downside of otherwise fun-filled family vacations. The Williamses had plans to follow-up the 2002 Nationals with a trip to Schlitterbahn, and Kristi was beside herself with anticipation. But then the unthinkable happened.

In May, a skateboard accident put an early halt to Ryan's summer plans, and doctors were doubtful that Ryan would recover in time for the Nationals. It took a few days before Kristi came to the awful realization — no Nationals meant no Schlitterbahn. That's when the determination set in. "If I qualify for Nationals, can we still go to Schlitterbahn?" she asked her father. "At the time, Kristi never really skied. But I didn't have the heart to say, 'Well, honey, you have to water ski to qualify for Nationals,' so I said sure," recalls Ken Williams. "She said right then, 'Well, you call Ms. Linda. I want to start training.'"

Her parents didn't expect her to last the week at Linda Giddens' Ski School. But when a month had passed and Kristi still hadn't returned home, they knew she meant business. "Her determination sets her apart from everybody else," Giddens says. "She's focused on what she wants to learn. If she has someone to compete against, she pushes even harder."

Sure enough, Kristi won her ticket to Schlitterbahn. She qualified for Nationals by performing her first surface 360 on a slalom tricks ski — just one day after learning to get up on a single trick ski. She went on to respectable performances in the national competition.

With Schlitterbahn out of her system, Kristi's parents wondered if she would continue to ski in 2003. "Up until her first Nationals, she could take skiing or leave it," says Becky Williams, Kristi's mom. But after competing at the 2002 Nationals, Kristi had a new destination in mind — the Nationals' podium.



Skiing since: Age 4
Favorite Event: Tricks
Favorite Pro: Regina Jaquess
Coaches: Linda Giddens & Dad
Hobbies: Soccer & Basketball

Once again, Giddens played a key role in initiating Kristi's game plan. "I sat down with her and told her what we were going to do, and she had the determination and goals to really work at it. Every time she could get on the water, she was on it," Giddens says. "By the Regionals I said if you can learn three more toe turns, you could win the Nationals."

True to form, Kristi went to work without a moment's hesitation. "She didn't do any toe tricks all year and then in three days, she was doing toe-wake-backs and toe-wake-fronts. "To me, that was pretty phenomenal," Ken says. Barring a close call mid-pass at the 2003 Nationals, Kristi executed her prestigious line-up cleanly. She took Girls 1 by surprise with her new-and-improved tricks pass, earning bronze medals in tricks (1,310 points) and slalom (2.5 buoys at 15-off) for her first national overall victory.

"Me and Ms. Linda added it all up and we were assuming if I didn't fall I could probably place first," recalls Kristi. "In tricks, I got a personal best. I was really excited because I had always bombed in tricks." "To me, if you do the best that you can do and you succeed at that, you can't ask for more," adds Ken. "Kristi did everything she knew how to do, so I was extremely happy for her."

Though Kristi has shifted her

attention to soccer during the off-season, she's determined to return to the Water Ski Nationals in 2004, this time in Girls 2. "There's going to be some really good girls from Girls 2 that will still be there, so I'd really like to get at least fourth overall," she says. In light of the tough competition, Kristi, who takes pride in the fact that her name is spelled the same as Kristi Overton-Johnson's, has set her goals high for 2004. She's aiming for 28 off in slalom, 2,500 in tricks and 90 feet (more than double her current personal best) in jumping. "She'll be a contender in the next couple years in jumping," predicts Giddens. "Last summer, she wanted to jump a lot, but she couldn't really do it in tournaments so I didn't push her in it. This year, she'll get pretty fired up about it. She has a lot of potential because she's not afraid of it."

If Nationals aren't motivation enough, Kristi has a little extra incentive to meet her water skiing goals this year. "My dad makes these deals with me one time a year, and if I reach those goals, he gets me what I want," she explains. A quick learner, Kristi has accumulated quite a toy box during her short career. A giant stuffed dog, a gas scooter and Oakley sunglasses are among her prized possessions. But as an aspiring veterinarian, Kristi now has her sights set on a horse of her own. Ken assures the stakes will be high, but he knows his daughter's drive all too well. With water skiing season just around the corner, Kristi is already preparing to saddle up. 🐾

Haywood McDonald: Full-Throttle Ahead

Written by Monica Minnick

It's 5 a.m. and Haywood McDonald is already full-throttle. "I like getting up at five in the morning. You get to play all day," he explains. The early morning ritual began two summers ago when Jimmy Siemers first came to town to coach Haywood and the rest of the Fayetteville gang in water skiing. But this month, it's duck hunting that spurs him out of bed before the earliest beams of light spill over the horizon.

It's not every 10-year-old who tops his Christmas list with decoys, but Haywood is the exception. "You use a call, and they come in and you blow the mess out of the them," explains. Haywood who now devotes his Friday nights to Outdoor Life Network's "Ducks Unlimited," showcasing the latest water fowling tips and tactics. "He's got me duck-hunting to death," says Greg McDonald, Haywood's father, exasperatingly. "He gets excited about things pretty easily; it's keeping him interested that's the trouble. Next winter, it might be ice skating. When he gets into something he's 100 percent gung-ho."

Despite the excitement surrounding his latest sport of choice, when the weather warms up, you can bet that Haywood will find his way out of camouflage and into neoprene. Haywood's kicks are as diverse as they are plentiful, but if there's anything that has held his attention over the years, it's been water skiing. Ask him what he does with his summers, and he'll sum it up in three words: "chill, ski, ski."

Haywood was only 3 years old when he strapped on his first pair of water skis. A mere two years later, he became the youngest athlete to compete at the 1999 Nationals and again at the 2000 Nationals. "He's never been afraid of the water," says Lynette McDonald, Haywood's mother. "He and Olivia always used to stand on the dock and fight over who'd ski next. They'd wear a boat driver out."

If the name Olivia McDonald sounds familiar, it probably is. Haywood's 13-year-old sister, Olivia, is quite a rising star. In fact, she has dominated the Girls 2 overall event at the past two national championships. Haywood joined his sister atop the podium this year by winning the Boys 1 national tricks and overall titles. The 2003 national championships marked Haywood's fifth consecutive year competing in Boys 1 and the first year that he has seized the overall title.

Though Haywood is self-admitted-



Skiing since: Age 3
Favorite Event: Jumping
Favorite Pro: Jimmy Siemers
Coaches: Mark Bedsole, Jimmy Siemers & Dad
Hobbies: Duck Hunting, Basketball, Soccer & Golf

ly behind his sister in terms of overall skill-level, Siemers believes

his protégé is gaining ground. "I'm waiting for Haywood to push Olivia. I can't wait for that day," he says. "Olivia has had an easy ride so far, but this summer when she saw Haywood go 80 feet, she learned how to jump after that. She was like 'I am not letting this little crap beat me in jump this year.' She gained about 20 feet in jumping after that."

Despite a tinge of sibling rivalry, Haywood will be the first to tell you that his sister will go pro. As for him, he says the money is just not there. After all, "she likes it better than me," Haywood rationalizes, quickly adding that he can learn tricks faster. "Olivia is our determined child that will practice, practice, practice; Haywood is our talented child," Greg says. "If I could get him to ski all the time, he'd just be incredible. He's just got his mind on a bunch of things, whereas Olivia is very focused."

Focused or not, Haywood is winning and winning big. In tricks, Haywood's specialty, he came within two tricks of the Boys 1 national record at the 2003 Nationals. "If I would've done my whole run, I would have broken it by 100 points. I was pretty bummed, but I got over it," says Haywood, who nearly tripled the tricks score of his nearest competitor.

Haywood also set Southern Regional Championships records in Boys 1 slalom (1 at 32 off, 30 mph) and tricks (3,290 points) in 2003.

As for jumping, Haywood missed the Boys 2 Nationals cut-off by one place, but then again, he's only just begun. "My dad wouldn't let me jump until I tricked 3,000, but I broke his rule [last year] at Mark Bedsole's," Haywood says. As his new favorite event, Haywood has high hopes of jumping to the 100-foot mark next season. According to his coach, quite an authority on the subject, the potential is there. "He has respect for the ramp, but he's not afraid of it," Siemers says. "He'll attack it if he needs to." Case in point: Last summer, Haywood increased his personal best by 15 feet in a single leap by jumping the wakes to a one-ski landing while coming into the ramp on his first try. "That's a pretty difficult task for someone that small and someone who hasn't ridden their jump skis much. It was unreal!" recalls Siemers, referring to Haywood as a "typical 10-year-old nut."

When he's not skiing or duck-hunting, there's always plenty of basketballs to be dribbled, golf clubs to be swung and soccer matches to be played.

In typical Haywood fashion, young Mr. McDonald is most passionate about his newfound athletic endeavors. "I like trying new sports and new events, and I like the ones that I haven't been doing for a long time," he says. But if the world of water skiing is lucky, Haywood just might decide to stick around for the long haul. 🌊

All Year Strong

When the temperature drops, on-water training is not always an option. And even when it is an option, sometimes you just need to mix things up! This issue, *The Water Skier* asked some top athletes what they have been doing to keep in tip-top condition over the off-season. Here's what they had to say:



Mike Cameron, Columbus, Ohio
BOWLING

Up here in northern Ohio we have a very long off-season. In order to keep in good mental and physical shape, I like to participate in any kind of competition. I am currently involved in a bowling league with a few friends. This helps me keep mentally focused, knowing that each ball I roll could be the difference between winning and losing.



Freddy Krueger, Winter Garden, Fla.
GOLF

I have had to lay off basketball to assure a full recovery from a bone bruise I fought all last season. So this winter I've been looking for non-impact sports, like trying to learn the game of golf and using it as a mental toughness tool. (Figuring I haven't broken one club this winter, I must be getting more mentally tough!) I really don't worry about working specific muscles for skiing because I don't know that you can find those muscles. Every time I think I find an exercise that will get me fit for skiing, I take my first slalom set and can't raise my arms above my head for a week.



Nikki Soubliere, Howell, Mich.
KICKBOXING

I've been kickboxing about twice a week during the off-season. It's a great way to keep your whole body in shape. In a typical kickboxing class, you move non-stop for an entire hour, so it's great for building endurance.



Tara Hamilton, Lake Worth, Fla.
SURFING

I surf here in West Palm Beach because the winter is the season for the waves. It keeps me in the water and keeps me in shape. The paddling works my upper body, and riding the waves helps my balance for wakeboarding. You stand on a surfboard the same as a wakeboard, but you don't have the rope there for stability, so you do have to balance more with just your legs. Yes, it is shark season all year and I am very afraid of them!



Tino Santori, Greenwood Village, Colo.
SNOWBOARDING

I get into snowboarding in the winter — the snowboard park and the half pipe and just riding the big mountain. I go about twice or three times per week and try to push myself real hard. It helps my style and keeps me in shape.



Craig Timm, Lindstrom, Minn.
RUNNING

My off-season sport of choice is running. Hill training and quarter mile or half mile repeats increase my anaerobic capacity and reduces my recovery time between passes and sets. Hill training also strengthens many of the same muscles used when jumping. These anaerobic activities are similar to the output required when taking a ski set (focused anaerobic intervals with rest/recovery intervals in between). Distance running — 10 miles plus — is more about mental endurance than physical preparation. Positive thoughts and visualization are a must to get you from mile 20 to the finish line in a marathon. I use the same strategies during water ski competitions.



Rachel George, Houston, Texas
DANCING

During the off-season I enjoy dancing because it keeps me in great shape. Up until the middle of November I was dancing with a professional company. Dancing really helps me with my balance and coordination. It uses different muscles than barefooting, which is good because it gives my body a break while keeping me in shape.



Billy Brzoza, Coventry, R.I.
DRY-LAND PRACTICE

Dry-land practice is more important in the off-season. I usually try to do at least 30 minutes of dry-land training four days a week or more, if possible. I usually start my dry-land session by going through my trick runs and new tricks. Next I simulate wake slalom and positioning for jumping. I think dry-land helps to train your body for the movements you will do on the water. It also is a good isometric exercise to help keep the muscles you otherwise wouldn't be using in condition.



Lori Krueger, Loudon, Tenn.
RACQUETBALL

I've been playing racquetball since I was in high school. In Illinois, I competed in racquetball, and after I moved south I continued to use it to train in the off-season. Racquetball, like slalom skiing, uses short bursts of energy, so the two sports kind of coincide. Although I haven't competed in a couple years, I usually play about three times per week.



Jimmy Siemers, Tempe, Ariz.
MOUNTAIN RUNNING

In Phoenix, you can run up the mountains, and it's a killer workout. There are sections where every step you take, you're having to step up two feet in elevation. Do that for a couple hundred yards and you're just wasted! I've been doing a lot of that to stay in shape, and I've been doing it with my dog, Caley. It's perfect for me because she's always a couple steps ahead of me, so I'm always just kind of chasing my dog up the mountain.



Mandy Nightingale, Sapulpa, Okla.
WEIGHT LIFTING

Since I've lifted weights for the past five years with basketball, it's just become a habit in the off-season. In Colorado, we focused on lifting heavy weights with less reps because we were trying to build muscle. But right now, I'm just trying to maintain my strength, so I usually lift light weights with a lot of repetitions about four times a week. Although I haven't tested my max in awhile, I used to be able to squat 400 pounds.



Natalie Hamrick, Tampa, Fla.
ASHTANGA YOGA

I've been practicing Ashtanga yoga at Yogani in Tampa over the winter in preparation for the coming season. It is a challenge for both the mind and body as focus must be maintained on breath while your arms and legs are contorted in some rather compromising positions. The overall strength, focus and balance that I am learning are my newest aides for development in the slalom course.



Kris LaPoint, Montverde, Fla.
BIKING

I like to do some bike riding on the open road in the country. Biking is excellent exercise for the lungs, the legs and the ankles, without the impact of running. A lot of skiing is having the ability to not only to hold loads with your legs, but to be able to relax the legs for the edge-change and the turns. Your legs have to be in better shape in order to relax them. When the legs are out of shape, they tend to be tight all the time, making turns more difficult.



Karen Truelove, Winter Garden, Fla.
VARIETY

Variety is the key to my off-season training. Like most people, I can get really bored doing the same activity over and over (with skiing being the exception of course!). I try to vary my workouts by running, biking, swimming, inline skating, weight-lifting, ply metrics, balance exercises, etc. Mixing things up keeps me more motivated, and using my muscles in different ways reduces my chances of overuse injuries. After recovering from two ACL surgeries, I truly understand how important it is to make sure that your muscles are as well balanced as possible.



Terry Winter, Bend, Ore.
SNOW SKIING

I've been spending a lot of time on the slopes this winter. Two things make snow skiing one of the best off-season training activities: It's an absolute blast, and the fundamentals parallel water skiing. What better way is there to strengthen your muscles and practice your slalom technique? If you want to experience the effects of counter-rotation and controlling skis by driving with your hips, head to the mountain this winter.



Chris Sullivan, Zachary, La.
ROCK CLIMBING

I have been trying to rock climb whenever I can. It's a great upper-body crusher, and it allows me to use my body in a relaxed state for the most strength. It's practicing the power of a position. This is very similar to the way I'm trying to ski. I am allowed to think through the climbing workout, which is a great concentration tool as well.



Bill Bowness, Truckee, Calif.
SLED HOCKEY

Sled Hockey, or sledge hockey as it is called in Europe, is ice hockey for individuals that cannot stand to skate. Since February 2003, I have played at every opportunity and was recently selected to the U.S. Sled Hockey Team. Sled hockey is a fantastic cross-training tool for water skiing. I am terrible about getting into the gym, so I need fun activities to keep me in shape in the off-season. Hockey fits that bill nicely. It is a wonderful cardio workout and keeps my upper body strong.



Doug Rogerson, Plaquemine, La.
ICE SKATING

My favorite off-season activity is ice skating. It provides a good workout and requires concentration for good edge control and balance. Learning a new skill on ice takes the same mental preparation and repetitive practice as on the water.

Skionee Board Team Earns 2003 Club of the Year Honors

The Skionee Board Team of Davie, Fla., was selected USA Water Ski's 2003 Club of the Year in December. It marked the second consecutive year that the south Florida club had won the contest. The Club of the Year contest is an effort to recognize and reward the hardest working USA Water Ski-affiliated club in the United States. It rewards clubs that host water ski events that provide opportunities for newcomers to the sport to participate and become active members of USA Water Ski. Points were given to clubs for various events and elements that created, publicized and increased water skiing opportunities.

The Skionee Board Team, which also won Southern Region Club of the Year honors, finished with a whopping 12,125 points, nearly doubling the amount of points it tallied in winning the 2002 contest. The Rock Aqua Jays Water Ski Club of Janesville, Wis., which won the award in 1999 and 2000, finished second with 7,825 points. The Ski Broncs of Rockford, Ill., rounded out the top-three placements with 5,150 points. There are nearly 700 affiliated clubs. "We had a dream... we followed that dream and look where we are today... at the top of this country's ski clubs," says Kathy Conner.

The San Diego Mission Bay Boat & Ski Team of San Diego, Calif., the 2001 national club of the year winner, was selected the Western Region Club of the Year. The Rock Aqua Jays (Midwest),



Members of the Skionee Board Team accept the Club of the Year award from USA Water Ski Executive Director Steve McDermeit (second from left) during USA Water Ski's annual awards reception in January.

New York State Water Ski Federation (Eastern), and the College Station Water Ski Club of College Station, Texas (South Central), also earned regional club of the year honors.

During the 2003 season, the Skionees held nine clinics and 16 tournaments, and hosted the Kneeboard National Championships in Altamonte Springs, Fla. The Rider Cup, the sport's first international kneeboard event, also was hosted by the Skionees in Lake Placid, Fla.

The Skionee Board Team will receive a plaque an Insta-Slalom course, an OJ prop, a Clarion audio system from Discount Inboard Marine,

Speedo products and Straight Line ropes and handles. The team's name will also be engraved on a trophy housed at the Water Ski Hall of

Fame in Polk City, Fla. The regional winners receive free USA Water Ski and American Water Ski Educational Foundation memberships for one year, while the club of the year receives the same memberships for five years. The Skionee Board Team and all of the regional winners will be recognized at the Water Ski Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, April 23-25, in Polk City, Fla.

The Skionee Board Team was formed in 2001 and grew from the members of the old MAP Kneeboard Team that was founded in 1988. Skionee founders George and Doris Rohner, along with Danny and Kathy Conner, planned to increase exposure to competitive kneeboarding through USA Water Ski's grassroots program. Their objective was to grow kneeboarding back to what it was years ago. This dream is coming alive by focusing on young competitors and working to keep their interest in the sport in areas other than competing. The Skionees also have been working to get club members rated as officials. Along with this effort is time spent training kids to be officials and encouraging them to get involved in this area.

Plans for the 2004 season include eight clinics and 14 tournaments, including two record class tournaments. The Skionees also plans to help sponsor a U.S. Kneeboard Team to compete at the second International Rider Cup in England, July 24-25. Several fund-raising ideas are in the works to assist the team with travel expenses. "Three things — volunteers, teamwork

and enthusiasm — seem to be the glue holding the club together," Doris Rohner says. "All are equally important and complement the others.

The club members have been working together like one big family and care about each other and their kids. It is a very special feeling we all get when we see the individual accomplishments of each child. This is what we've been working toward and we love it. The Skionee Board Team is proud to acknowledge that we have been turning recreational skiers into champions."

For more information on the Skionee Board Team, go to kneeboard.us.



Siblings Regina and Jared Bohlen were a big part of the Skionee Board Team in 2003.

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Malibu Boats... A Step Beyond

Malibu Boats has always been a product-driven company, not a company founded on hype. Malibu's extraordinary success and industry recognition, winning 10 of the last 12 Boat of the Year awards, achieving more than eight industry-altering innovations and securing three U.S. Patents, has resulted from this devotion to producing, quite simply, a superior boat.

From precise mold construction to engineering excellence, every detail of every Malibu is scrutinized, supervised and approved by a devoted team of boat builders. "A Step Beyond," is more than a tag line. It is an oath and a standard that the employee-owners of Malibu Boats believe they are bound to uphold.

When asked about the secret behind Malibu Boats' success, President and CEO Bob Alkema simply states, "We have a sincere passion for building the best boat we can and for offering our customers the best ownership experience possible." That passion has shattered 11 world records and launched Malibu Boats into the No. 1 position in the water sports industry. And yet, even in the presence of so much accomplishment, the people of Malibu Boats are constantly striving for that next step. That drive has something to do with the high caliber of people Malibu Boats is associated with.

In 1986, Alkema introduced an Employee Stock Ownership Program (ESOP) designed to give employees a vested interest in the success of the company. The first of its kind in the ski

boat industry, this program has eliminated employee turnover, created a higher quality of craftsmanship and hurled, already high moral, through the roof. By making the employees the owners, Malibu essentially employs an entire workforce of quality assurance officials. Boats are scrutinized with employee-owner pride before they leave the factory. Paul Singer, Malibu Boats' vice president of sales & marketing, describes this phenomenon in one statement: "We all have one goal, one cause; to do the best we can."

To further that goal, in November 1992, Malibu Boats became the first and only towboat manufacturer to operate multiple production facilities. The Loudon, Tenn., plant was built to ease transportation costs and at the same time make Malibu Boats more accessible to the east coast. Led by John Sisson, vice president of Tennessee Operations, Malibu Boats Tennessee has expanded twice since the first Echelon rolled off the line 11 years ago. Today, Malibu's Tennessee plant enjoys the same production potential as its California headquarters.

But Tennessee isn't the only land where Malibu broke new ground. In 1995, Malibu made another history making move by partnering with an established boat manufacturer to build Malibu boats in Australia. This agreement brought the design efforts and technology of Malibu to a growing market with unlimited potential, while creating a shorter delivery route to other growing international markets. Headed by Xavier West, this company is young and energetic and very closely mirrors the entrepreneurial spirit that drives Malibu Boats stateside. Today, Malibu Boats Australia is the largest custom ski boat manufacturer Down Under.

The accomplishments that spur this insane growth begin and end with the boats and the people who build them. Design is a never-ending process at Malibu Boats. Well-worn footpaths between the computer aided drawing board and construction are the signature of Malibu innovation. Along these trails Malibu engineers have introduced the

first on-board computer system, the patented swivel head pylon, the patented Fiberglass Engine Chassis System, perfectly machine CNC propellers, the Wedge and smoother riding hull designs. These precedent-breaking milestones were achieved by adjusting manufacturing procedures on the fly to take advantage of the latest technologies.

Precision Computer Aid Design (CAD) has allowed Malibu engineers to become more efficient while improving finished product accuracy. Not only are components of a Malibu designed digitally and machined within 1/1000th of an inch, the entire hull and deck master plugs are carved by huge computerized cutting machines. Technology spurs precise processes like these and Malibu Boats takes full advantage.

Malibu's present domination continues to propel it even further ahead. In their 22nd year, the employee-owners at Malibu have introduced more unique products and processes. 2004 marked the introduction of four totally redesigned 23-foot Malibu models — the Wakesetter LSV and 23 Xti, the Sunscape 23 LSV and the Sunsetter 23 XTi. Other 2004 innovations joining these new models include accessories like the new Illusion X wakeboard tower, Malibu's new Gorilla Fins, and a slew of comforting amenities like Malibu's new Italian-made Isotta Steering wheel and throttle knob. Malibu refuses to fall victim to complacency. That hunger for uncharted territory becomes clear when Singer says, "Let's break a rule. Let's make something new. Let's do something better."

Malibu Boats is standing firmly a step beyond the competition with the help of vested employee-owners and industry first enduring designs. That is how Malibu Boats has served up more innovations in the water sports industry than any other boat company. As the king of the mountain, Malibu could be looking down to intercept the up and comers, but instead the eyes of Malibu are gazing skyward and continuing to set their sites on the next step. Malibu Boats... A Step Beyond. ♦



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NICE THROTTLE



Editor's note: This is the first of a series of articles by Brent Larsen analyzing movement as it pertains to three-event water skiing.

Written by Brent Larsen
with input from Dr. Jim Michaels

If a snow ski coach told you he could make you a better slalom skier by teaching you to move, would it spark your curiosity? Skiing is about sensations, the rush, and dynamic energy, almost a hypnotic workout. Without these feelings you wouldn't keep coming back for more. If you understand what it means to move and can feel movements in both water and snow skiing, you will improve quickly.

What is it that we see in the best snow skiers that stops the eye of a coach and demands all of his or her attention? The first thing we see is how they flow on the mountain, how fluid and seamlessly they move, making turn after turn. This is what separates intermediate skiers from the best. Looking closer, we then observe where the skier's movements are coming from. They are dynamically balanced; their center mass area around the hips is quiet; their upper body is disciplined; and their lower body is doing the work. Looking down at the skiers' feet we can see how they regulate, adapt and manage the forces as their ski interacts with the snow. Specifically, we see how they release, transfer and engage the skis' edges. We observe how these primary movements are made to control edge and pressure. Overall, we notice how the skiers are stacked, angulated, aligned, countered, and how they use extension and flexion to be adaptable and versatile to the ever changing terrain and snow conditions. Yes, we first see the whole skier, but then we evaluate everything they are doing from the snow up, to see how movements affect center mass flow. It's really about learning to think from the surface (snow or water) on up.

Right now, for water skiers, many of the concepts and terminology used in snow skiing (such as those used in the previous paragraph) may seem overly technical or scientific. But although it may take time to explain and clarify concepts, we're not talking rocket science.

In many ways snow skiing is far ahead of the rest of the sports' world in dealing with coaching and instruction. Understanding snow ski concepts and terminology can also be meaningful for water skiers, making it easier to understand what is being felt and seen. Hopefully, this will also make it possible for you to quickly sift through different perspectives on how to ski and evaluate your own biomechanics.

Center Mas



Freddy Krueger (above) and Billy Susi (right) demonstrate skeletal alignment and stacking as it applies to jumping and slalom, respectively.

The Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) defines skiing as dynamic balance in motion. For this article, let's concentrate on trying to understand what skier movement means while in motion.

Let's consider an analogy to understand the difference between movements and motion. In a boat, movements made by the observers and driver can benefit or interfere with the boat's motion in a slalom course. In the same way, when a skier is on the water, his or her own specific movements can benefit or interfere with the ski's motion in relationship to the water. Many skiers can sense when the boat was not properly balanced or split times were off by 100th of a second. But even more important than the boats' motions are the skiers' own individual movements — how they themselves affect the ski's motion and its interaction with the water. By contrast, the top snow skiers focus only on interaction between their own movements, skis and the snow. They rely on knowing how their skis will interact with the snow by making an effective, efficient adjustment.

PSIA has deeply influenced my coaching and instruction. I have used movement analysis to identify skiers' fundamental movements, strengths and weaknesses. It's a systematic analytical approach of breaking down overall movements into simple movements that can be practiced repeatedly to

reach desired outcomes. As a snow ski instructor we first like to use a static (non-motion) demonstration to explain movements. In water skiing, it's referred to as dry-land practice.

We know that 80 percent of the movements that are demonstrated by students on dry land will be the same motor movements used on the water. For the instructor, dry land is easier to clarify, monitor and adjust to the skiers' needs. Skiers benefit because they are able to slow everything down enough to correctly perform movements before being in motion on the slopes or on the water. Hopefully, by using some of the exercises used in snow skiing, water skiers can avoid old habits that are hard to break and can practice new, correct movements that are easily transferable to the water.

Now, let's get back to our desired outcome of understanding how to move center mass fluidly. Let's think of snow skiing like walking down a hill. We can use walking to explain snow skiing and hopefully transfer this knowledge to explain water skiing.

Stand in an athletic stance, where you are balanced and able to walk or move in almost any direction quickly. It's important to understand that when you take your first step, your center mass needs to move first, otherwise your foot would move out from underneath your upper body mass and you'd fall down backward.

Before taking that first step, you

Fluidity



flex at the ankle ever so slightly allowing center mass to move forward. You might also feel a softening, relaxing of the thigh muscle. You will become aware that this is a release — a release of muscle tension in the ankle joint and muscle tension in the thigh, which enables your center mass to move forward first, before the foot steps forward and catches up.

For our purposes, this exercise is just to make us aware of the relationship between our hips and feet and how and where these movements interact. It shows us that these are primary movements starting at the feet with a release of the ankle joint to allow center mass to move.

Now walk in the pattern of a slalom course: four steps diagonally, several steps to make a turn, four steps to traverse, and so on. When you've finished, contemplate what you were aware of. What felt comfortable?

You will realize that you kept moving and never paused or hesitated. Your center mass, hips and waist area stayed relaxed as you moved, and your hips moved squarely to each step. You will notice that you remained in balance and flowed at a steady speed — not speeding up or slowing down. You maintained a strong skeletal alignment of the body, which supports your body mass, and you were always making little subtle adjustments in your feet and ankles to keep you balanced as you walked. Hopefully, you forgot that you were walking and instead were just moving and sensing your balance,

keeping your center mass moving effortlessly.

Now let's take these static exercises to the water. Try free skiing outside the course making turns. Swing arcs to see if you are continuously flowing without hesitation or if glitches appear. Can you sense that you are balanced and that your center mass is moving with you all the time? What are your hips doing in relation to the directional path of the skis? Next, go only as wide as you sense you can while continuously moving and flowing without any hesitation. This will let you know how you relate to the width of a slalom course. This is not about going out and loading the line and pulling hard. It's just about moving continuously.

Through these exercises, we are trying to make you aware of feelings, allowing you to sense your feet, your core, your hips, your waist and your center mass. Do you sense pressure under your feet and where the pressure is located as water pushes up against the bottom of your ski? Are you aware of the movement of your ankles, or even more specifically movements under your feet, and in the stronger muscle group tension in your thighs? At the end of the turn do you notice a glitch or a pause, or can you make it seamless?

For now, put your emphasis on being smooth through the wakes. Like a snow skier, you want a strong skeletal alignment as you ski through both wakes in both directions. This skeletal alignment is referred to as stacking. Think of stacking a number of boxes on

top of one another. You don't want the boxes to fall over, so you stack them so they are stable and can't easily be knocked over. In snow skiing, we think of each segment of our body as a box. The largest box segment is the upper body, while your feet, legs, head, etc. make up smaller segments. To understand balance, stance and stacking of the body segments, you need only take your rear foot out of the binding and continue to ski through the slalom course.

The best snow skiers all know that to ski well, they must be able to stand primarily on only one leg, their outside leg, to withstand the forces that build through the turn. Because you are in motion while skiing, you are being acted on by external forces. For snow skiers, momentum is the result of the pull of gravity. The parallel for water skiers is the momentum of the boat. Centrifugal forces and centripetal forces act upon all skiers, whether on the water or on the snow. As you slalom ski on one leg, you will likely sense that it is difficult to keep your upper body aligned over the base of support under your foot. If your hips and upper body are wobbling and bobbing, you are not in a strong skeletal stack or stance on the ski, and as your core area of center mass will reveal, you can't be concerned with being fluid until you are stable and stacked. If you are stacked properly as you ski through the wakes and turns and can sense your hip movements, center mass fluidity and feeling in your feet, you will heighten your ability to improve. You can easily transfer these techniques to your normal two-foot slalom stance.

So what does it mean to move? It's being aware of yourself and how your movements interact to manage and regulate the ski in the water. First, it is very important to be balanced and stacked on the ski. Then while in motion, be aware of your hips, the forces upon your ski and your center mass and how it flows.

When snow skier Jean Claude Killy was asked how he won three gold medals at the Olympics, he simply said that he had "intelligent feet." Hopefully you can now understand the word "movement" and its importance in being able to ski like the best. By applying these concepts to your water skiing, may you develop "intelligent feet" as well! ♦

Brent Larsen is a certified professional snow ski instructor, specializing in Primary Movements Teaching System (PMTS). Larsen has been actively involved in water skiing for more than 40 years as a competitor and coach.

Front Flip on the Hydrofoil

Written by Geno Yauchler

Photography by Lynn Novakofski

Before attempting a front flip, you first need to be able to ride very comfortably on the hydrofoil and be able to perform a minimum of at least one other invert, like a back roll or a gainer. If you feel you are ready for the front flip, don't go jumping into the water just yet. I recommend that you learn the flip on a trampoline with a rope tied to something solid, so as to simulate the pull of the boat.

I personally have a 4x4 post with a pulley and a weight tied to the rope so there is never any slack in the line. I have it rigged so that I can clip on my desired weight, depending on the weight of the person training and the type of trick being performed. The weight needs to provide enough resistance to simulate being on the water. This set up works well for any type of water sports where learning an invert is your goal.

I recommend stretching before you do anything physical, including hydrofoiling. I have seen and had personal experiences with injuries because people did not warm up properly. The most important stretches, believe it or not, are the hamstring stretches. *Why, you ask? After all, you are sitting down! What could hamstrings have to do with hydrofoiling?* Well, your hamstrings have a direct effect on your back. The next time your back is sore, try stretching those hammys for relief. In addition to your hamstrings, stretch your shoulders and biceps before hydrofoiling. This will make a big difference in your longevity.

Now that you are all set up, you

first want to perform the trick without the rope, whether you are on the trampoline or behind the boat. Get a feel for performing the front flip and landing on your feet or the foil first, so that you know where you are in the air. Once you feel comfortable with the trick and are completing it rope-less, it is time to grab the string and go for the make.

The idea is to ride up the wake on the foil, get the air as you rock your shoulders back (loading the line), and then thrust your head forward when you get to your peak of height. The most difficult aspect of this trick is that it is blind. This is why I recommend learning a back roll or gainer first — they are easier because you can spot your landing before you hit the water.

Not so with the front flip, thus making air sense so important. Once you are able to rotate all the way around and land with ease, the next step is holding onto the rope.

When holding onto the rope throughout the entire trick, a few important tips will be helpful. As you load the line, you want to keep both hands on the handle and in the center of your body until you get to the top of your altitude. As you begin to thrust your head forward, raise your handle to about eye level. By placing your handle here, in addition to thrusting your head forward, you are creating the rotation needed to complete the front flip.

Once you begin your rotation, it is then acceptable, but not necessary, to let go with the hand that is furthest away from the boat. Keep both hands

on the handle until you reach the top of your altitude, as it will help to keep you square in the air. Some people find it easier to hold onto the handle with both hands throughout the entire flip. If you must let go with one hand, it is important to keep your elbow close to your hip and not to let the handle get away from you, so that you can re-grab the handle just before you land. This will allow some give when the rope comes tight upon landing. If you feel a tremendous tug on the rope in the air with only one hand on the handle, it means you need to hang on longer with both hands. A common mistake is to let go too early, which will cause you to be pulled out the side. Let go with the far hand only after the tension has subsided.

As for the approach, you want to





start just outside of the spray bubbles with a nice easy cut into the wake. Be sure to stay on the same angle of attack when climbing up the wake and into the air. Many beginners let off of their edge when the flip starts to happen. This is the worst thing you can do because it will cause you to fall off-axis, similar to what happens when you let go too early. If you continue to lean away from the boat with your trailing shoulder (furthest from the boat) lower than your leading shoulder (closest to the boat), you will notice that it is much easier to keep your balance in the air.

If you find that you are landing hard on the back of the foil, you are under-rotating and need to throw the trick harder. Personally, I would rather over-rotate the front flip because it's possible to slow down the rotation when

you get to the point where you have rotated enough. If you under-rotate, you will have a harder time adjusting your entry position and riding away.

I recommend using non- or low-stretch rope for the front flip. There is so much tension on the rope during this trick that a stretchy rope may give you a huge amount of slack. If you try to hang on to a tough landing with a stretchy rope, you may actually put the rope into the boat, which is dangerous for the passengers and driver.

I also recommend using a trick release and having an experienced operator at the controls. A late pin can mean an early trip to the ER. Helmets are also an option for people who feel the need for extra protection and a bit more security for extra confidence. Feeling comfortable is very important.

If you are not comfortable with your surroundings, it can cause you to perform poorly. A coast guard approved life preserver also will help when sitting in the water waiting to be picked up.

For more help on this trick or any other water skiing hurdles, feel free to contact me at angeleeno@aol.com. I offer tips via e-mail, as well as lessons at my home. Have fun, and remember, safety first! ♦

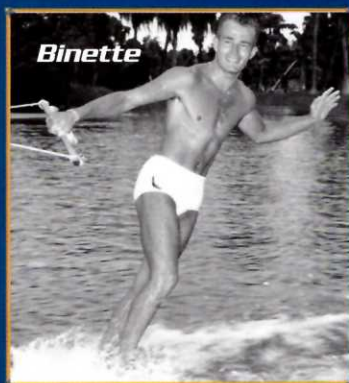
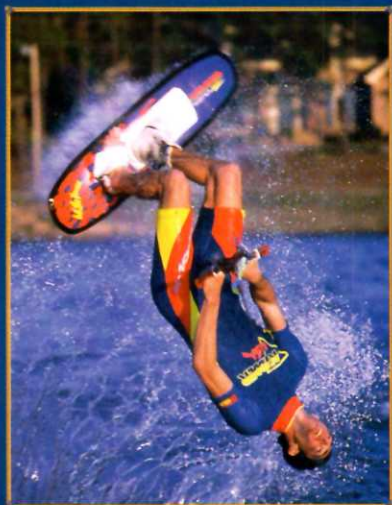
Geno Yauchler was the 2002 Pro Hydrofoil Tour Champion and the 2003 Hydrofoil World Champion. He was the No.1-ranked hydrofoiler in 2003. Yauchler's sponsors include Air Chair, MasterCraft, and Overton's.



Hall of Fame Weekend

April 23-25

Hall of Fame Inductee Tory Baggiano



Binette

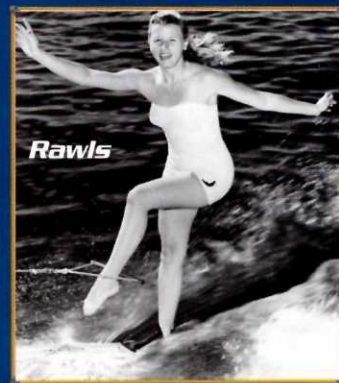
Award of Distinction Recipients

Leah Rawls-Atkins

Dick Binette

Gary Krupa

Ken White
(posthumously)



Rawls



White



Krupa

Hall of Fame Activities

Friday, April 23

8:30 a.m. - Golf tournament

6:30 p.m. - Social

Saturday, April 24

11 a.m.-2 p.m. - Open House

6:45 p.m. - Induction Banquet

Sunday, April 25

8 a.m. - AWSEF Membership &
Board Meeting

For more information, go to:
waterskihalloffame.com

The AWSEF is developing a water ski lake adjacent to the Hall of Fame & Museum. Once the lake itself is completed, funds and volunteer help will still be needed to complete the project. Some of the essential items needed include a paved road; architectural plans for a pavilion; construction of a boat ramp; and landscaping materials. You can help with in-kind or financial donations. Please complete the form below and send in your donation today. A special thanks is extended to the following donors.

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AWSA Regions:
Eastern Individuals
Midwest
Southern
Western



Trivia Question

These are the mixed doubles competitors in the 1960 Southern Regional Championships in Birmingham, Ala. What is unusual about one couple in particular? Answer on page 50

Lake Contribution Form

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Send to: **Carole Lowe, AWSEF, 1251 Holy Cow Road, Polk City, FL 33868-8200**

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Wade's World

U.S. athlete Wade Cox carves through the slalom course near his home in Orlando, Fla.

Photograph by Thomas Gustafson

Athletes, Teams & Volunteers Honored For Accomplishments

USA Water Ski and its eight sport divisions recognized some of the top accomplishments of U.S. athletes, teams and volunteers in January at USA Water Ski's annual Mid-Winter Board Meeting in Polk City, Fla.

Honored by USA Water Ski were Will Bush (Award of Merit), the U.S. Elite Water Ski Team (Team of the Year), Jimmy Siemers and Regina Jaquess (Athletes of the Year and James E. Sullivan Award nominees), Mike Meek (National Coach of the Year), David Dammann (Developmental Coach of the Year) and John Kniesly (Volunteer Coach of the Year).

The American Water Ski Association also honored Siemers (Male Athlete of the Year and Jumper of the Year); Jaquess (Female Athlete of the Year and Overall Skier of the Year); the U.S. Elite Water Ski Team (Team of the Year); Jeff Rodgers (Slalom Skier of the Year); Mandy Nightingale (Tricks Skier of the Year); Michelle Simpson (Rising Superstar) and Wayne Canfield (Volunteer of the Year).

The Rock Aqua Jays Water Ski Club was the recipient of the National Show Ski Association's Team of the Year award.

The National Collegiate Water Ski Association honored the University of Louisiana-Lafayette as Team of the Year.

The American Barefoot Club selected Al Morrison and Dawn Farrell as its Male and Female Athletes of the Year.

The American Kneeboard Association selected Kevin Felver and Alisa Piper as its Male and Female Athletes of Year.

The National Water Ski Racing Association tabbed Martie Wells and Janine Doherty its Male and Female Athletes of the Year.



Will Bush (right) accepts the Award of Merit from USA Water Ski President Sherm Schraft.



Regina Jaquess, USA Water Ski's 2003 Female Athlete of the Year, addresses guests at the annual awards reception, Jan. 17, in Lakeland, Fla.

The Water Skiers with Disabilities Association honored Joe Ray and Katie Mawby as its Male and Female Athletes of the Year.

The American Wakeboard Association honored Chris Laske as its Athlete of the Year.

USA Water Ski Board Approves Bylaws Changes

At the meeting of the USA Water Ski board of directors on Jan. 18, the following changes were approved and are being brought to members' attention for review per Article XI Amendments of the USA Water Ski Bylaws. These changes will become effective on March 19, 2004, unless a referendum is called for per Article XI Amendments of the USA Water Ski Bylaws. To view the full version of the current bylaws, go to USAWATERSKI.org.

Change 1:

Changed the name of the Executive and Finance Committee to the *Executive Committee*. This is to have the name consistent throughout the organization so that when we refer to the Executive Committee the wording will be understood and consistent throughout, without having to define each acronym that has been used in the past by the Sports Disciplines.

Change 2:

Added a new Section F to Article IX defining a protected event as it relates to the athlete. This is required by the USOC to further protect all of our athletes in protected competitions.

F The USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply when the event is an Olympic event, Pan Am event or a protected event sanctioned or approved by USA Water Ski. A protected event is defined as an individual event that will produce a result or score on a currently recognized International Standings List (as approved and recognized by the NGB) that can be used to qualify for Team selection by the athlete.

Change 3:

Added a new Section G to Article IX that will extend any disciplinary actions to include all of the Sports Disciplines of USA Water Ski.

G The final decision rendered by the USA Water Ski board of directors and/or the USOC on an Appeal, Grievance or Disciplinary Action involving a member shall apply to his/her membership in all of the Sports Disciplines of USA Water Ski.

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Region Roundup



Eastern

Mid-Winter Meeting & Clinics Held

The 2004 Eastern Region's annual winter meetings and clinics were held Jan. 10-11. There was a lot of productive dialogue on many topics at the meeting on Saturday, and the clinics were well attended on Sunday. Clinics were held for judges, scorers, drivers and safety personnel. A clinic on speed control also was held. Special thanks are extended to Ralph Hall for his informative presentation on speed control; Dean Rudy, Roger Hammel and Steve Lohr for administering the judges clinic; Ann Lohr for administering the scorers clinic; Suzan Andrews and Pat Byrne for conducting the safety clinic; and Gary Noll for coordinating all of the meetings and clinics.

Remembering Gertha Hancock

The Eastern Region lost a dedicated official a fine person and friend to all when Gertha Hancock died in January after suffering a brain aneurism. Gertha served as the chief scorer of the 2000 Regionals at Lake Holly, and was deservedly awarded the James Sylvester Award for sportsmanship and integrity that year. Along with her husband, James, she scored many local tournaments in the Eastern Region as well as many Eastern Regional Championships. Gertha's extended water ski family in Virginia and throughout the Eastern Region will miss her friendly smile, helpful nature and warm demeanor.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to serve on the Junior Development Committee, Membership Development Committee, and to assist Leslie Carr as guidebook coordinator. Please contact Doug Robbins at (724) 816-1995 or drobbs96@comcast.net.

— Doug Robbins
drobbs96@comcast.net

Southern Region

Dammann Honored

Congratulations to Dave Dammann of Tennessee for being awarded the 2003 Developmental Coach of the Year Award by the American Water Ski Association. Dave has been a leader in junior development in the Southern Region for years.

Membership Growth A Priority

The Southern Region is making a major effort to increase our membership this year. It is looking at ways to make tournaments more fun, such as adopting the 5-Star sanctioning process at most Class C tournaments. The region also is working on some new ideas to promote the sport.

Searching For Club of the Year

AWSA Southern Region clubs are planning an all-out effort to win the 2004 USA Water Ski Club of the Year contest. Any ski club in the region interested in participating should contact Jim Jaquess.

— Jim Jaquess
jjaquess@bellsouth.net

Midwest

Region Council Meeting Held

The mid-winter meeting of the Midwest Region Council was held in Chicago on Jan. 10. We had 100 percent attendance from the state council representatives as well as national directors. The council welcomed Pat Cook, new councilperson from Iowa. The council also approved the following officials for the 2004 Regionals in DuQuoin, Ill.: Larry Smith (chief judge), Diana Woodland (chief scorer) and Greg Chapman (chief driver). Officials selected for the 2004 Nationals in West Palm Beach, Fla., are: Larry Smith and Bill Murbach (appointed judges); Janice Prociw, Kelly Dlugosh and Don Bucher (assigned judges); Janet Piercy, and Kate Knafla (appointed scorers); and Dean Chappell and Greg Chapman (appointed drivers).

— Don Bucher
dbucher@kconline.com

South Central

Winter Meeting Held

The South Central winter membership and council meetings took place Jan. 10-11 in Shreveport, La. One of the major issues discussed was the classification of the 2004 South Central Regional Championships that will be held at the Lakes of Cypress Hills. After an in-depth discussion the region decided to run all divisions of the Regionals as Class E. The region also elected to lower regional entry qualifications for Boys 3 and Men 1 from a Masters to Expert.

Judges Tabbed For Regionals & Nationals

The South Central Region appointed the following officials to the 2004 Regionals: Gary Weidman (chief judge), Jeran Hooten (assistant chief judge), T. Caldwell (assistant chief judge), Mike Lee (appointed judge), Phil Chase (appointed judge), Mary Gaile Holcomb (appointed judge), Margaret Ann Woodard (appointed judge), Mark Peterson (appointed judge), Jerry Bautsch (chief driver), David West (assistant chief driver), Darren Landry (appointed driver), Pat Holland (appointed driver), Chip Chipman (appointed driver), Tim Cost (appointed driver), Ralph Armstrong (alternate driver), David Bebee (alternate driver), Denise Caldwell (chief scorer), Robert Howerton (assistant chief scorer), Janet Hooten (appointed scorer), Jerry Woodard (appointed scorer), Darren Tepe (appointed scorer), Kenneth Tanner (chief safety director), Tim Robinson (chief technical controller), Tom Dusen (assistant chief technical controller), Melissa Peterson (assignments coordinator) and Tony Lightfoot (announcer).

The following officials have been appointed to the Nationals: Tim Robinson (appointed judge), Phil Chase (appointed judge), Bob Mayhew (appointed judge), Jeffery Armstrong (appointed judge), Jeran Hooten (appointed judge), Jerry Bautsch (appointed driver), Tim Cost (appointed driver), Terrie West (appointed scorer) and Robert Howerton (appointed scorer).

— Peter Chase
peteski@ev1.net

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ABC
Footnotes

Board Holds Winter Meeting

The American Barefoot Club's board of directors and honorary members held the 2004 winter board meeting, Jan. 17-18, in Polk City, Fla.

The first day of the board meeting focused on general discussion, regional reports and committee reports. The second day focused on strategic planning. Directors from all five regions were represented. Voting members unanimously approved Mike Hartman of South Central Region as acting chairman of the board until the summer board Meeting in August.

Board Thanks Donors

The ABC thanks the people who have contributed more than \$3,200 to the U.S. Barefoot Teams and encourages those who have not yet donated to do so to help us meet our goal of \$25,000. All of our members and friends can and do make a difference. We appreciate your continued generosity. Please make your checks payable to the American Barefoot Club and mail them to: Kerry Ross, P.O. Box 1203, Frederick, CO 80530.

ABC Clothing For Sale

ABC sweatshirts and polo shirts will soon be available at barefoot.org. Please visit the Web site often for all of the latest news, schedules of events and information.

— Kerri Ross
kerri.ross@lmco.com

AKA
Backrap

Committee Chairs Announced

AKA committee chairpersons for 2004 have been announced. The board listens and acts upon proposals of the committees. Let your voice be heard by contacting any of the following members: Paula Felver, Backrap (paula@felver.com); George Rohner, Bylaws-Financial (TR672GR@aol.com); Doris Rohner, International Activities (Kneeboardus@aol.com); Chestley Vann, Manufacturers Liaison (Cavann3@aol.com); Suzanne Kimrey, National Registrar-Membership Development (suzannek@stis.net); Kenny Stuart, Nominating (kstank@tds.net); Andy Ladda, Officials and Drivers (Aladda@aol.com); Anita McDonner, Records Performance-Statistician (kneeboardmama@cox-internet.com); and Lisa Caldes, Rules (Lisacaldes@hotmail.com).

AKA Board Holds Meeting

The AKA board held its annual Mid-Winter Board Meeting, Jan. 17, at USA Water Ski headquarters in Polk City, Fla. The board unanimously voted to support Team USA financially on its mission to secure the Rider Cup at the second International Kneeboard Rider Cup, July 24-25, in London, England.

The board also ratified proposals to bring grievance and disciplinary measures in com-

pliance to USA Water Ski mandate. Voting rights have been changed from 13 to 18 years old

Two Tricks Approved

Competitors now may receive credit for a tick tock (TT) and its reverse (RTT). Ken Stuart of Blue Ridge, Ga., submitted the tricks, and each trick will be scored 100 points. The skier uses the wake for lift. While in the air, the skier rotates the tip of the board 90 degrees from its original direction and back to its original direction before landing. The reverse requires the skier to rotate the board in the opposite direction and back before landing. Grab bonus points will apply provided all other criteria for grab points are met.

— Doris Rohner
Kneeboardus@aol.com

Junior
Development

National

Opinions Welcome

If you have questions or comments regarding anything concerning junior development, please contact the Junior Development Committee. Your comments and questions will be answered or redirected to the appropriate person. We want to hear your opinions. Please e-mail deblamb2838580@cs.com.

— Debbie Lamb
Deblamb2838580@cs.com

South Central

Junior Development Camp Planned

For the third consecutive year, Bennett's Water Ski School in Zachary, La., will host a junior development camp, June 14-18, for the South Central Region's junior skiers. If you know of a skier who would be interested in attending, please have them contact Bennett's at 1-800-869-7297.

Ski Haven To Host Event

The 2004 Junior Development Clinic and Tournament will be held July 9-11, at Ski Haven in Justin, Texas. The clinic will be held on Friday and the two-round Class C tournament will be on Saturday and Sunday. Look for additional details in the 2004 South Central Regional Tournament Guide.

Junior Raffle Planned

The Junior Development Committee will once again raffle a brand new slalom or trick ski at this year's Regionals' banquet in Houston. Tickets are \$20 each and only 120 will be sold. Contact a Junior Development Committee member in your area for tickets, or send \$20 per ticket to: SCR JD Raffle, P.O. Box 5208, Shreveport, LA 71135.

— Joe Darwin
joe.darwin@dhl.com

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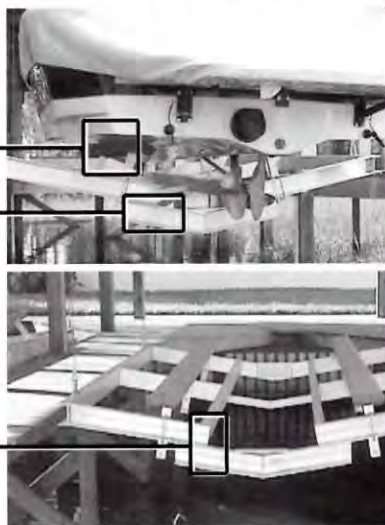
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AWSA
Competition**AWSA Rules Changes Announced**

For a complete summary of AWSA rules changes, please visit USAWATERSKI.org

New Membership Numbers Issued

All members will receive new membership numbers starting with the 2004 calendar year. Your new membership number must be used when entering tournaments. Old membership numbers (SS or 999) are no longer valid. Please bring your membership card to all tournaments to ensure your scores are imported correctly into the seeding program and that you are given credit for officiating.

Skier-List Sharing Discontinued

Tournament directors, registrars, and scorers are asked to discontinue the use of "skier-list sharing." While this has long been a labor-saving approach for registrars and scorers, it leads to the perpetuation of inaccurate information and old membership numbers, which are no longer accurate.

Officials' Ratings Must Be Maintained

All AWSA judges and scorers are reminded that 2004 is the second year of the two-year renewal cycle. All judges and scorers must work at least four tournaments between Jan. 1, 2003 and Dec. 31, 2004, to maintain their officials' rating.

— Chris Prunty
cprunty@usawaterski.org

NCWSA
Collegiate**Annual Board Meeting Held**

The National Collegiate Water Ski Association's board of directors met on Jan. 16 in Lakeland, Fla. Some of the major discussions at the meeting included preparation of new Nationals and All-Stars' standards; scholarship applications and awards procedures; two-division versus one-division Nationals; team development; and membership growth. The one major change approved by the board involved the method of scoring at collegiate tournaments. Beginning in the spring, all skiers in each event will have value whether they score or not. Instead of first place being 10 times the number of skiers that score in an event, the new rule will be simply 10 times the number of skiers in the event.

In other news, Robert Thayer was reelected NCWSA secretary and Troy Hamilton was reelected treasurer. Elections also were held for the new position of NCWSA honorary director for life. Elected to those positions were: Carole Walker, Barbara Stailing, Dr. Bob King, Bill Schneiderwind, Troy Hamilton and Phil Chase. The board also selected Chase as coach of the U.S. Team that will represent the United States at the FISU World Championships in Balakovo, Russia. Jeff Surdej, who managed the U.S. Team that won the collegiate world championships in Tianjin, China, was again selected as team manager.

Scholarship Applications Being Finalized

The new Correct Craft, MasterCraft and ED Walker scholarships will have an application deadline of May 1, 2004, and will be funded in September. Details were not finalized at press time, however, everything will be posted on ncwsa.com as soon as they become available. In addition to established students (sophomores and above), these scholarships will be available to incoming freshman who have been recruited to ski for NCWSA member teams. They will be used to motivate our junior development skiers in addition to making many teams more competitive.

NCRdb-15 Available

The 15th edition of the National Recruitment Database is now complete and available to NCWSA teams. If you are nearing the end of your junior development career, make sure you log onto NCWSA.com and fill out the form so our teams will know who you are, what you can do and when you will be coming to school.

— Phil Chase
philchase@aol.com

NSSA
Show Ski**Division 2 Nationals Seeks Teams**

The 2004 Division 2 MasterCraft Show Ski National Championships will be held Aug. 6-8 in Evansdale, Iowa. This marks the fourth year for the national tournament that was

established to give teams that didn't qualify to compete at the Division 1 Nationals an opportunity to still show their stuff on a national stage. The Division 2 Nationals also has individual competitions with doubles, swivel and team jumping.

For more information, including the registration deadline and rules, please contact Bill Dunkelberger at billdunk1@hotmail.com.

— Mark Poulos
mp1100@msn.com

USHA
Hydrofoil**2004 Fly-Ins Scheduled**

The following Fly Ins are scheduled for 2004: 5th Annual Florida Fly In, April 1-4, Lake Placid, Fla.; 5th Annual Tennessee Fly In, June 17-20, Dale Hollow Lake, Tenn.; 4th Annual Great Lakes Fly In, Sept. 10-12.; 6th Annual Texas Fly In, Sept. 24-27, on the Brazos River; Parker, Ariz.; Fly In, Oct. 8-11.; and 2nd Annual False River Fly In, Oct. 22-24.

— Brad Scott
brad@airjunky.com

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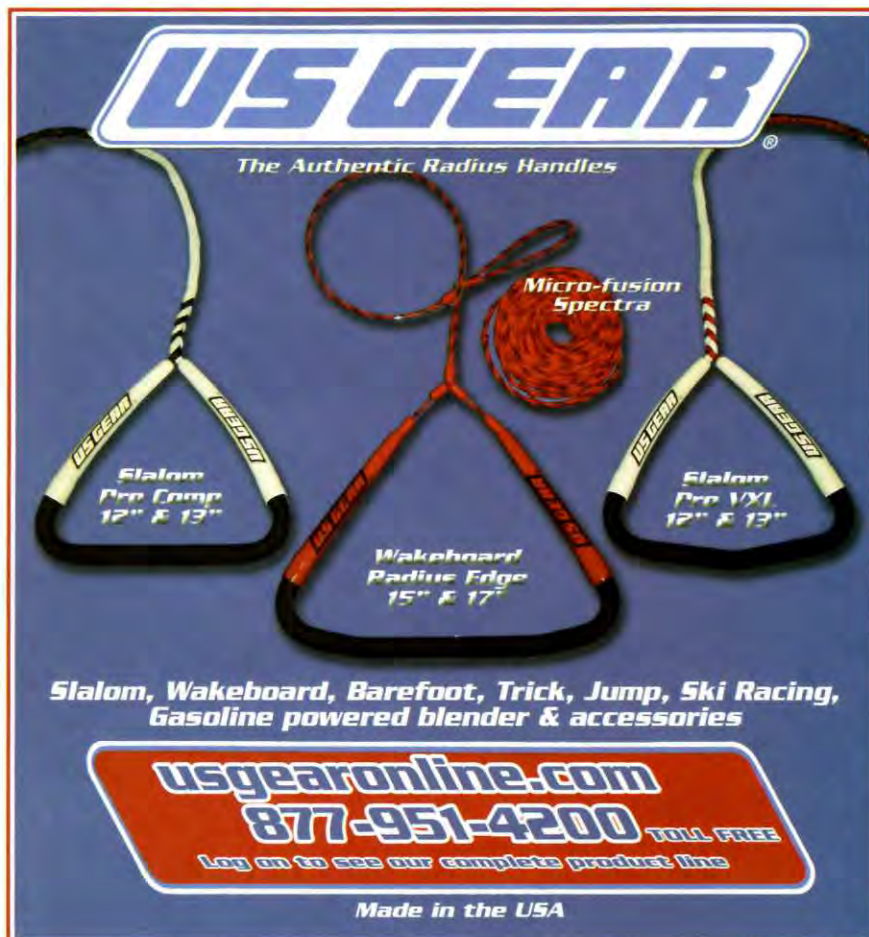
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2002 ZX-1 Promo, Natural hull w/red accent, PerfectPass, Bimini top, rear seats, Factory single axle trailer with brakes, Excellent condition, Approximately 100 hrs. Delivery possible. Price reduced \$23,000. Tom Dusin (281) 255-8782, tdusin@earthlink.net. TX

MALIBU

2003 Malibu Response 365HP Hammerhead Engine, PerfectPass 6.4, wedge bracket, ssp, red/gray/black, stainless under gear and exhaust, lifting eye hook, heater, hot water shower, jump seats, matching trailer w/ brakes and swing away hitch. 200 hours, garaged w/ great maintenance records. \$27,900 Call Brian 406-443-7996 or heeney@mt.net

2003 Malibu Sportster LX, 375HP with wedge plate and trailer. Only 100 hours. Asking \$26,450. For further information, contact Chuck Bender at (920) 731-9550 (WI) or e-mail barefootcharlieb@aol.com

2003 Malibu Sportster LX, 310HP with wedge plate and trailer. Only 100 hours. Asking \$23,000. For further information, contact Chuck Bender at (920) 731-9550 (WI) or e-mail barefootcharlieb@aol.com

2003 Malibu LX(i). All options. Just completed "10 hour service." Please call George. 214-559-4908

1998 Malibu Response. Closed bow. Wedge, CD, depth finder, clock, cover, trailer. 325HP fuel injected, green, single owner. Very clean, 451 hours \$18,000 negotiable, Truman Lake, Missouri. Email for photos: Elmoreac@umr.edu.

MASTERCRAFT

2003 MasterCraft Prostar 197, power slot, open bow, PerfectPass, Boat Cover, red and white with matching trailer. Less than 200 hours. \$31,000. Call Tom at 205-348-6795 or 205-339-2376 (h).

2002 MasterCraft Tournament Team 197, Open bow, PerfectPass, Heater, CD player, Cadillac Northstar engine, Tandem trailer, 4 wheel disc brakes, Tower, Bimini top, Other accessories. Transferable warranty. Asking \$32,000. Contact Richard at (209) 874-3136

1995 MasterCraft ProStar 195. Excellent Condition. Always Garaged. New CD Player. Includes a 2002 MasterCraft Trailer. Will let go for \$16,900. Well below book value. <http://photos.yahoo.com/rjkeetch> or call (702) 455-5003 or (509) 879-1142

1991 MasterCraft Prostar 190 Powerslot, Red/White, MC Trailer, PerfectPass, Back Seat, Heater, Cover, Bimini, Stereo, Spare Tire, Original Owner. \$12,500. (260) 439-2227 or e-mail paul.goldman@indsys.ge.com

1989 MasterCraft ProStar 190, 1050 hours on one owner boat, galvanized trailer w/ spare tire, clean, gel coat still shiny priced to sell at \$7,500. (301) 428-1043 or svsvsv@aol.com

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2002 Ski Nautique, Neutral w/black/gray stripe. GT-40, 6.4 PerfectPass w/ jump & slalom switches. Tan bimini top, CD stereo, rear seat, Ramlin trailer, 220 fresh water hours. Excellent condition! A great price, only \$26,700. Georgia. Call Bill at 478-994-4911 or 478-335-5566 Email: southH20@aol.com

2000 Ski Nautique, gray on white w/red striping, GT-40, PerfectPass Pro, red/white stripe bimini, cover, Eagle galvanized trailer w/brakes, burglar alarm. Private fresh water lake only, excellent condition! Will accept deposit for spring delivery, priced to sell at \$19,500 (Maryland) 301-428-1043 or e-mail svsvsv@aol.com for pictures

2000 Correct Craft Ski Nautique, GT-40, PerfectPass Digital Pro 6.4, low hours, stereo, very clean, stored in boathouse on freshwater lake, off-white/Masters green, rear seat, bimini top, cover, galvanized trailer (hardly used) \$22,900. Phil (850) 994-1143 (Pensacola, FL area)

SANGER

2003 Barefoot Sanger DX II. Blue/white w/checkerboard graphics. 330HP Black Scorpion, Digital package, depth gauge, hot water shower, heater, barefoot package, custom cover, skylon, trailer w/brakes & break-away tongue. \$28,500. Call (404) 403-2778 Atlanta, GA

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Counter rotating lower units: one to fit 2.5 Block Mercury 200HP Outboard. \$1,500. Two units to fit Evinrude, 150HP, 1998-2003. \$1,200. For further information, contact Chuck Bender at (920) 731-9550 (WI) or e-mail barefootcharlie@aol.com

'03, D3 bought Sept., like new, KD inserts, flexes available, \$500+ shipping; Call Roger @ (863) 956-1418 or skiingjapdogs@msn.com

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Trivia Answer

Mixed doubles has moved from the classic three event tournaments to show ski tournaments, but many of the basics remain the same, a skit, costumes, music, and a boy and girl. In many of the "modern era" tournaments there are some great, big guy/small girl, usually, father/daughter competitors, but what is unusual in the picture is that in 1960, Barb Cooper - third from left - competed as a "big" girl with "small" boy, Warren Wolfe. Barb remembers "Warren was so small and light that I carried him and we did tricks, lifts

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and I was the school teacher and he was the student in our skit."

Others in the picture, left to right, are Suzy Logan & Bobby Kirtley, Barb and Warren, Norine Bardill & Howard Ennis and Janie Sims & Eugene Bobo.

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