

### ***Free Rider***

**World Champ**

***Damon Moore***

**Hangs It High**

### **Interview with Mike Mack**

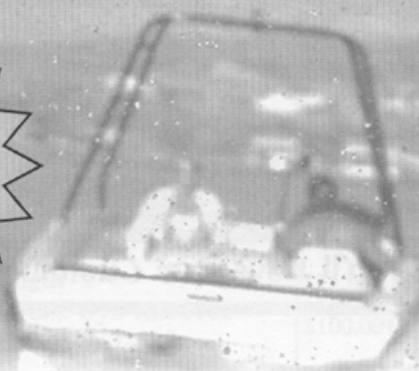
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photo: Kingman



**A**nother season is just around the corner. This quarter's *Flight* is filled with instruction to get you tuned up and ready for the action. You will find lots of tips on 5 inverts in this issue. People are finally starting to figure out that it's easier to get inverted on a foil than just about anything else (plus, it's not nearly as hard on your body as wakeboarding).

The equipment is getting better, riding levels are going up, and more people are riding. This sport is on its way!

*Tony Klauich, D.C.*  
publisher

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New! - Sky Ski Video

New! - Sky Ski T-Shirt

## Sky Ski Moves

Sky Ski has opened the doors of its new shop in Lake Elsinore, California. There should now always be a live person answering phones for orders and technical support.

East Coasters will be happy to hear that the lines are scheduled to be open early. While the skis are still being made by HO Sports in Washington, the rest of the parts are now assembled and shipped from the new Southern California shop. Hopefully this new streamlining of the company will make everyone happy!

The full-time lineup is now Mike Murphy (owner, sales, clinics, road warrior), and Jon Wilborn (inventory production and control). A special edition to the Sky Ski team is Air Junky Jake Kinnison. Jake and his girlfriend moved down from the Seattle area so Jake could live out his foiling dreams and "make a difference".

Jake will be in charge of shipping, taking orders, and answering technical questions. Look for more good stuff about Jake in the next issue of *Flight*.

### Sky Ski

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### The Suit is Over?

Many readers of *Flight* and foilers in general have been aware of the lawsuit between Mike Murphy (Sky Ski) and RBM (Air Chair). Most everyone will be happy to know that the suit is now tentatively over! While the specific details are undisclosed, one important thing is now known. Both Sky Ski and Air Chair will be able to produce hydrofoils competitively! With the time, energy, and stress of a legal battle now fading, the involved parties can get back to the business of making better products for everyone. Consumers are sure to win from this new battle for your business.



photo: Ian Lauder

**Jake Kinnison is Movin' On**

**Cover Photo: Kelly Kingman**

(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued from page 3)

Already both companies have introduced their hydrofoils for 1999. The newcomer, Sky Ski, has redesigned and strengthened its foil. They have also gone to a stronger seat tower that is now color powder coated. The popular graphics have remained the same; red with yellow accent and a checkerboard-racing theme. Of course last year's standard features of a pre-tuned foil, larger front blade, oversized seat with tailbone cut out, and orthotic foot beds are still in place.

Air Chair has totally redesigned its performance chair. The foil has been strengthened and now comes pre-tuned. Three different rear blades are available for the different levels of riding. The seat tower has been streamlined with tailbone cutout and a thick, contoured seat pad. Air Chair has also introduced Power-Wedges™ to shim the foils (instead of using a washer or dime). The all new "Tame the Gorilla" graphics feature a clawed Big-Foot character in brown and teal.

## Canadian Fly-In

Everything is full steam ahead for the Canadian Fly-In on July 24-25, 1999. Up here we don't have a lot of weather that compares to California, but that week should! The bottom line is that for US visitors flying in to Edmonton, we look after you from the time you touch down to the time you take off. Canadian participants who drive out should bring a tent. The weekend just makes up the formal days, we are already making plans for people arriving the week before, and some leaving a week later. We have been encouraging people to hold off booking flights until next month, when the Summer seat sale prices come out from the airlines. We plan on putting on an event that will enter local folklore!!

-Ron Young

## What's Age Got to Do With It?

Kelly Ferrin's new book highlights the amazing achievements of some energetic elders. Foiling favorites "Catalina Queen" Mary Murphy and Banana George join a host of others including Jack LaLanne. These inspirational stories are motivational to young and old alike. Read about "faith, attitude and fun"; "swim, stretch, and strength"; the "secrets of staying young"; and much more.

## TV Time

The 1998 Florida State Championships (see Winter '98 *Flight*) will be televised soon. The event is in post production now. Check out the *Flight* E-mailer for up to the minute info on this TV event.

## "1999 Nationals"

Good news for you foiling competitors out there. Motor Sports Marketing (Tad Whitten) has reached a tentative agreement to hold the 1999 Hydrofoiling National on Mission Bay in San Diego on October 12-17<sup>th</sup>. The really exciting thing about the time and place is that it will be held in conjunction with the IJSBA's (International Jet Sports Boating Association) World Final. The IJSBA Worlds have previously been held on Lake Havasu, but are moving to Southern California this year.

Contact Tad Whitten at MSM for additional info 940-891-1281.

## Canadian Fly-In Info

**July 24-25, 1999**

Ron Young  
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## Team Boat

Mike Murphy has joined forces with the best hydrofoilers and wakeboarders to design a boat specifically for their needs.

This innovative boat will be unveiled soon, with a host of cool features and personalized graphics of your choice (there are special spots in the graphics for placement of individual logos).

Features for hydrofoiling include a 6 foot long swimstep to be able to put your foil on while staying dry, an oversized strut hole through the platform to teach a person how to fly. (the instructor stands on the swim step holding on to the rider). Special Astrodeck non skid padding covers the swimstep. There is also an Air Tower with a rack to hold a hydrofoil with ski, fully instrumented dash with depth gauge, heater, and a ski locker big enough to accommodate two Sky Skis without their foils.

For wakeboarders it is basically the same boat with patent pending ballast system built into the bottom of the boat that self fills and empties quickly (no pumps needed). There are also racks for wakeboards.

For more info contact Sky Ski.

Got questions or comments? Send your thoughts and words to *Flight* via mail or E-mail: [hopro@ez2.net](mailto:hopro@ez2.net)





# SHOCKING NEWS



The New "Shock Tower" from Sky Ski is a Major Design Breakthrough

Are you ready to sit on the *hot seat*? Sky Ski has introduced the first spring seat "Shock Tower" designed to reduce impact to the lower back on landings. Extreme rider Jon Wilborn developed the first prototype in late 1998 with world champion race car driver Bobby Taylor.

Wilborn's balls out riding style had him pushing the limits of speed and height. Unfortunately for Jon he found his limit, injuring his back in Switzerland after hundreds of rolls towering 20 feet and higher. With a herniated disc in his back it looked like Jon would be sidelined for months.

A few weeks after returning home, Jon got a call from Bobby suggesting a shock-absorbing seat so that Jon could continue riding. Jon had envisioned this type of seat for many years, as he comes from a downhill mountain bike background (where shock seats are common) and wanted to incorporate a shock into his own seat. Jon's vision, along with Bobby's mechanical and engineering talents produced this extremely advanced seat tower. Risse Racing's helped with the valving of the shocks for the Sky Ski application, and has provided the finishing touches for an unbelievably smooth ride.

Most test riders have found it takes a few sets to get used to the spring-like mechanism, but once they do, they claim it's the smoothest ride they've had. The only drawback to this groundbreaking design innovation is the price: now about \$800!



Wilborn and Taylor designed the Shock Tower

photo: Kingman / rider: Wilborn

## LOW BOY

I was sitting at home (on my favorite reading throne), I started envisioning myself riding with my seat at this height (no kidding). At first it was just a short grab for the TP, then I realized how easy it was to touch my feet. This was my dry-land practice.

I told Jon Wilborn and Mike Murphy at Sky Ski my idea and they ran with it. Wilborn figured out how to cut down the seat tower so that it would be lower, but still structurally sound. A few weeks later they asked me to go for a ride, and to my surprise, when I showed up, my new throne was ready for a coronation.

### Here's the low-down:

This requires two seat towers: The upper half of the lower tower is cut off just before the bends (see photo). The lower half of the upper tower is cut off before the flare outs (near the bottom of the tower). File and sand your cuts for safety.

Sandwich all four halves together using the existing upper through bolt hole with the wing nut. Use the pilot holes in the upper part of your tower (outer) to drill through and create a new lower bolt hole with wing nut.

This process will drop your tower about two inches. This is great for anyone with shorter legs. Here's how to determine if you might need such a seat. Sit on your existing seat tower. If your knee caps are much lower than your thighs, you may benefit from this.

I will admit that my grabs became easier, but my main benefit was that it was now easier for me to control my board. A lot of foilers overlook the importance of good lower body control, and I found that mine was much better with my center of gravity lower and knees higher.

Well, I'm wiped out for now after revealing my latest riding secret. Don't forget to put your seat down.

-Ron Stack



Stack's Low Rider Tower is About 2" Lower...Driving the Sport with Another Design Innovation

photo: Klarich

# Top Tips FOR Ten Tricks

Everyone has a different way of expressing how to do a move. Everyone learns a little differently. On these next pages you will find the top tips on ten tricks. Most of the time the tips agree, but may be worded in a way that is easier for you to understand. Sometimes these riders disagree with methods. The key is that within these tips you may find the key that helps you to nail a new trick. Read and learn..PHOTOS: KELLY KINGMAN..

**Introducing your instructors:**  
**Mike Murphy:** the Legend. First to go inverted on a foil. Big Air World Champ.  
**Tony Klarich:** Innovator of more than 30 foiling moves. 5 time World Champ.  
**Mike Mack:** Style and power describe his riding. 3 time veterans World Champ.  
**Ron Stack:** Redefining foiling with his crossover style. '96 mens World Champ.  
**Damon Moore:** Holds nothing back on the water. Goes Huge. World Champ.  
**Geno Yauchler:** A top pro rider. 1,416 consecutive rolls. Consistency counts.  
**Dean Lavelle:** All around water man and wakeboarding legend. Dean does it all!

## Wake to Wake Jump

### Murphy

- Pull your feet up to get angle on the blade when you jump.
- Do not lean back with shoulders, rather pull up on your feet. Lead with your feet not your shoulders.
- Keep the handle low - about 2 to 3 inches over your knees. Don't pull on the rope.

### Mack

- Pull out wide for a comfortable jump.. about 45 degrees.
- As you start to the wake concentrate on the wake itself.
- Keep your shoulders forward as you think about the wake.

### Klarich

- Get a consistent approach to the wake.
- Don't push on your feet!
- Keep your board and momentum pointed in the direction you are travelling.



rider: Peter Shomo

**Perfect Form  
Across the Wakes**

### Lavelle

- Do a gradual approach to help with timing.
- Pull the handle into your hips and lean back a little.
- Stay in that position the whole time until you land.

### Moore

- Keep the handle at your knees
- Look up at the horizon the whole time throughout the trick.
- Don't take a hard cut at the wake, you can easily clear it with just a little angle.

### Yauchler

- Start out with a small hop & land in the bubbles.
- Next, go wider outside the wake, and do a progressive carve into the wake.
- Land with the board's nose up.

## Wide Air Jump

### Moore

- Take a hard cut from the other side of the wake and get the foil out of the water as fast as possible.
- Make sure with a hard cut that you turn into the boat right before you leave the water.
- Remember that the way you leave the water is the way you are going to land so make sure the handle is low and you have good form when you leave the water.



**Cut Out Wide & Lean  
Forward to Get Set**

### Klarich

- Make sure you get out past 45 degrees from the back of the boat.
- Flatten out briefly before popping and lean forward to keep the blade down.
- Keep your handle in near your hip and land pointing straight ahead.

### Murphy

- Get as wide as possible.
- Keep your knees and feet pulled up for a soft landing.

- Come in high on the foil, dive it to increase foil speed, without hitting water and losing the speed you just gained.

### Yauchler

- First, be very comfortable crossing the wakes.
- Start on the opposite side you intend to jump on, and then carve through the wakes, holding your edge the entire time.
- To go higher, you should put more umff into the launch.

### Mack

- Create line tension on the way out.
- Envision a wake in the flats.
- Keep your eyes on the water until you jump.



# Tweaks

## Stack

- Jump into the direction you are going to tweak it. Don't jump then tweak.
- Keep a tight line with constant pressure so you can recover.
- Keep your stomach tight. You use your abs a lot as you move the board around.

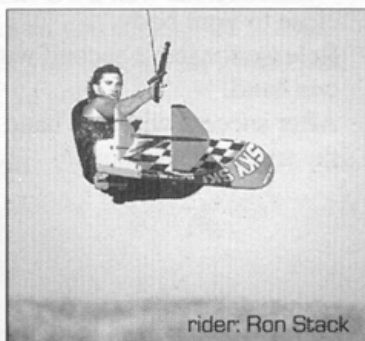
## Mack

- Practice outside jumps first.
- Get used to maximum air.
- Start a simple turn with your knees to the inside then back to the front position to land.

## Klarich

- The easiest tweak is a wide shifty. After the nose turns into the boat, use the handle to get it pointed straight before landing.

- Build up progressively.
- Keep your upper body the same as for your regular jump. Tweak it with only your lower body until you get comfortable.



rider: Ron Stack

## Handle Control on a Stiffy

## Moore

- Get the foil out of the water before you try to tweak.
- On the Sky Ski, unlike other

water toys like the kneeboard, wakeboard, and slalom ski, you have plenty of time to do the move so don't rush it.

- Keep your head up and handle still throughout the entire move.

## Murphy

- The wider you go, the easier it is to get a tweak.
- Lead with your head, follow with the rest of your body.
- Try to straighten the ski back out before you land!

## Yauchler

- If you want to add a little style to your jump, try turning your hips towards the wake on take off.
- Keep the handle low, and push it towards the wake to get the board back in line for landing.
- Let go with one hand, and use that arm to thrust your body back in line.

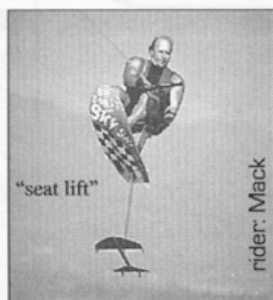
# Grabs

## Stack - (grab master!)

- Bring the board to you rather than reaching.
- Know every rail on your board. You can do this on dry land or while floating in the water.
- Initiate your grab on the way up so you have plenty of time.

## Klarich

- Build it up in this progression: one hand wide jump, seat lift, tower grab, and McThruster. Then go for a tail grab.
- The wide tail grab is a good one



"seat lift"

rider: Mack



"tail grab"

rider: Moore

## Start With Simple Grabs and Work Up

to start with. Grab it on the inside for the best viewing.

- Concentrate a good jump first, then go for the grab.

## Mack

- Start with simple, attainable grabs.

- I like to grab the seat tower next to my hip.
- Make sure that you jump first. Exit the wake then reach for your grab.

## Moore

- Think of the grab happening at the end of the trick not the beginning.
- Make sure there's enough slack in the line so the handle doesn't get pulled out of your hand.
- The grab is part of the move, so remember this as you do your grab to look fluid and stylish.

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# Floater

Stack (invented the move)

- Pull your hips under the handle on the way up.
- Give some rope back to the boat by extending your arms as you release.
- Use your peripheral vision to recover handle while spotting your landing.

Moore

- Jump heading into the rope.
- Pull in on the handle without pulling yourself out the front.
- Don't rush the release.

Klarich

- Practice some wide jumps first, feeling and learning the line tension while in the air.
- Let go some time after the apex of the move when there is no (zero) tension.

- Start with the handle low and outside so it can float longer up and across your body.

Mack

- As you jump the wake think about keeping the handle in close to your body.
- Release for just a second with one hand.
- After success with one hand the try to release both.



The Key to the Floater  
is Zero Line Tension

# Skidder

Klarich (invented the move)

- Try skidders 5-10 minutes EVERY ride! These take practice.
- Imagine your foil riding on top of the water. (Get a visual image).
- Be very slow and deliberate as you transition from regular riding to skidding.

Moore

- Don't do a big hop to get the foil on top of the water.
- Set the foil on the water easily and lean back.
- Keep the handle at your knees.

Murphy

- Lean forward with handle high to bury your ski on water.
- Slide your butt off back of seat.
- As the blade comes to the surface get a "zero" angle of attack to keep your ski from oscillating left to right.

Yauchler

- To start, ride the foil almost all the way up. When you are ready to skid, push the handle down and lean back.
- When the foil lands on the water, be sure to keep the handle low while lifting up on your feet.
- Use your balance. Keep your eyes on the boat and try not to move too much.

Mack

- Position yourself back on the seat.
- Don't jump into the skidder.
- Let the foil come up to the surface, then push out with your feet.



Keep Your Handle Low and  
Lean Back to Hold a Skidder

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# Gainers

## Dismount Gainer

Klarich

- Use the same set up every time. Cut out, dip down, and let go of the rope as you initiate the trick.
- Be careful not to spin the foil into the rope. Spin outside the rope.
- Wear a helmet! Your feet often come out and the foil can spin around to your noggin.

Mack

- I like to start with the wake as a take off.
- Concentrate on the jump first.
- After the foil releases from the wake throw the trick.

Moore

- Look forward or at the back of the boat.
- Hold on to the handle until you're done riding away.

Lavelle

- Make sure you have enough speed before throwing it
- Lean far forward as you let go or the foil will rise up on you.
- Really reach with your head to see the water.
- Once you are  $\frac{3}{4}$  around and you see the water, pull the knees to your chest to bring the ski underneath you.
- With the rope or without is really the same. With the rope cut in to create slack so that it is the same as an air gainer.

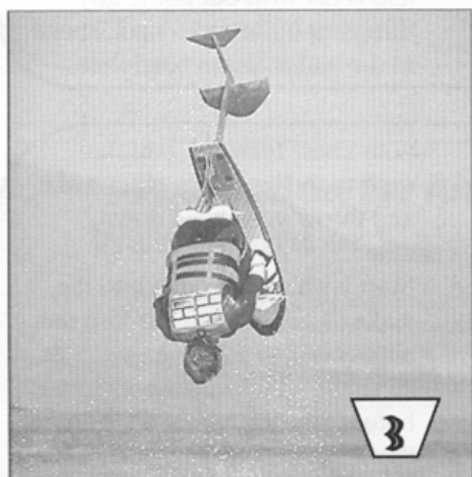
## Air Gainer (wide with rope)

Moore

- Make sure you have an even smooth progressive cut to the outside of the boat.
- Throw the flip when you are at the end of the line.
- Throw slightly into the boat.

Klarich

- Get consistent with the gainer landing first.
- Practice the set up over and over until you know exactly when and where you will throw it.
- The boat driver can help you at first backing off on the throttle as you land the move.



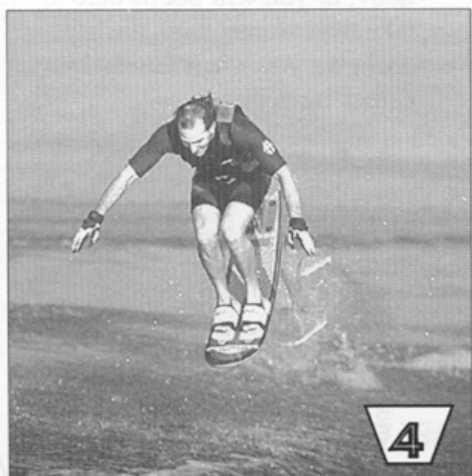
Grabbing Your Thighs or Seat Can Help You Spin Faster.



Bring Your Knees to Your Chest **NOT** the Other Way Around



Dismount Gainer: Lead With Your Head and Shoulders

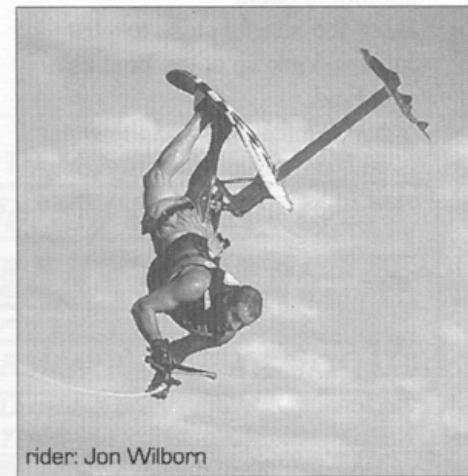


Keep Your Head Up to Spot the Landing



rider: Klarich

You Can Perform Wide Gainers with a Tuck or Laid Out



rider: Jon Wilborn

# Backside Roll

Murphy (invented the move)

- The most important thing is to dive the ski to pick up foil speed.
- Watch the ski go down towards the wake - keep your eyes and head forward.
- Wait until the ski almost hits the water, then throw your roll.
- If you over rotate: keep slowing the boat down, down, down.

Stack

- Before you try this move, go through it on a rotating chair with a rope and handle.
- Lead with your hips away from the boat through the take-off.
- Control the rotation of the board with your lower body. i.e, don't let your board just swing around.

Mack

- Make a nice approach to the wake keeping your shoulders forward.
- Be patient on the jump (make sure to jump first).
- Keep a tight line.



rider: Cheryl Roberts

**Keep a Tight Line and Control Your Lower Body**

Klarich

- Learn this one at 20-23 mph. You don't need much boat speed.
- Let the foil ride up the wake before you snap the roll by quickly leaning back.
- Lead with your head and shoulders. Know your line tension. With these two you can learn to adjust your rotation for a perfect landing every time.

Moore

- Lead the wake so you don't crash into it and lose all your height energy.
- Don't throw the rotation too hard; you'll have plenty of time.
- Use a PROGRESSIVE cut. If you don't know what that is practice cutting across the wake back and forth with out doing any thing but building to max. speed at the wake; like a pendulum.

# Front Flip

Murphy

- Throw back hard on the take-off to keep the rope tight.
- Keep your hands in close through the whole flip.
- Keep your shoulders facing at the angle you took off. Do not throw it towards the boat.

Moore

- Make a big jump and snap your shoulders back.
- Keep the handle close to your hip and look up at the boat as you land.
- When the foil hits and the water is coming to the board (landing), start to let your hand away from your hip.

Klarich

- Get plenty of land practice first on a trampoline or springboard diving. Aerial awareness is critical for this move.
- Keep the handle in near your hip or stomach through the rotation.



rider: Klarich

**Keep the Handle Near Your Hip**

- Land in the same direction you take off from. If you relax off your path across the wakes then your inside shoulder will drop and you will fall into the boat.

Lavelle

- Only start a few feet from the wake. Speed has nothing to do with this trick.
- Do a regular jump first and let your handle out.
- Throw just outside rope as opposed to at it.
- When the line gets tight throw

your chest forward, pull the rope to the hip away from wake and throw your head down.

Yauchler

- Start with a mild edge into the wake. Launch yourself into the air as high as possible.
- Grab the handle with both hands before landing, and try to spot the water before impact.
- The hardest part about the front flip is the landing. Land with the handle in the center of your body, or you will not be able to take the extreme yank the boat will give you when the slack comes tight.



rider: Yauchler

**Spin Outside the Rope and Stay on Line**



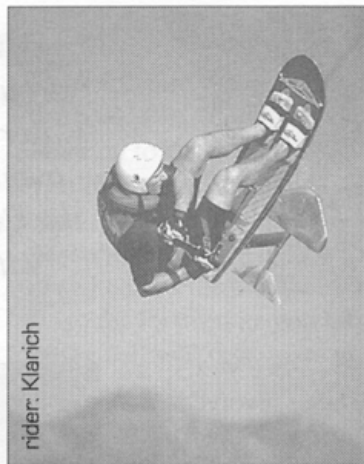
# Frontside Roll

Klarich (invented the move)

- Some people find this roll easier than the backside roll. Try a few of these as your first roll.
- Get lift before you throw the roll. Be patient.
- Do not pull the handle across your body or the board will turn back in to the boat.

Moore

- Throw the flip early enough so you don't hit the rope on the tip of the board. I've done it more than once...ouch!
- Put the handle to your inside hip that is closest to the boat (the one facing the wake).



Once you are Over the Top,  
Pull the Handle to Your  
Inside Hip and Keep It There

- Finish the flip about two to three feet before you land and look outside the boat.

Stack

- Twist very early in the trick to avoid catching the rope.
- Throw you leading shoulder down after your foil clears the wake.
- Spot the boat *but* continue travelling across the wakes for a good rotation.

Murphy

- Use a very small angle of attack at the wake.
- Wait until you get to the apex of your jump before throwing the roll.
- Do not pull on rope. Keep your hands in front of you.

Mack

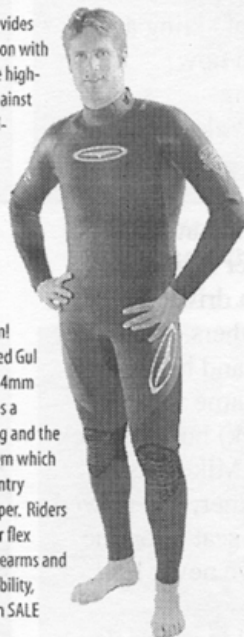
- Make a jump first.
- After you jump push your elbow away from the wake.
- Spot your landing.

## Protection for Air Chair, Wakeboard or Slalom Skiing



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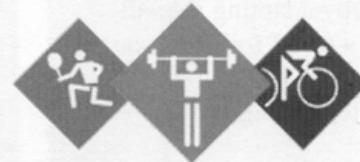
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# MIKE MACK

## Man with a Plan

*Mike Mack is one of the West's all around top water men. From surfing to water skiing, instructing, and then finally owning his own ski shop and resort on the Colorado River, Mack has succeeded with good old fashioned hard work.*

**Flight:** How does a hard core surfer get turned on to water skiing and hydrofoiling?

**Mack:** It all starts with the family. We have been going to the beach all my life. One Sunday we went skiing and the next we went to the beach to play in the surf (on rafts). As I got older I used to water ski at the Marine Stadium in Long Beach, and after skiing I would paddle through the harbor to the ocean and surf the rest of the day. Foiling came a lot later.

**Flight:** How does surfing relate to hydrofoiling?

**Mack:** Well I made surfing relate to hydrofoiling by adapting a small surfboard to a set of foils and started air boarding. You lean into the turn and accelerate; it's big fun!

**Flight:** How do the other types of skiing you do relate to hydrofoiling?

**Mack:** Foiling relates to all the other styles of skiing I do, because it fits into show or exhibition skiing. Foiling entertains people and gets them excited about the sport.

**Flight:** What types of skiing have you enjoyed through the years?

**Mack:** Hot dog skiing has always been my favorite. Learning tricks on the slalom ski was always my ultimate ride. Then came wakeboarding, which I feel is like hot dogging, so I got into that too. Show skiing has always been there too. I have been performing in shows on the Colorado River for more than 15 years.

**Flight:** Since you have been involved with show skiing for so long, what is the connection between show skiing and hydrofoiling?

**Mack:** Hydrofoiling is a crowd pleaser! Most people have never seen anything like it, so at first sight it blows them away with excitement. Your first pass is just flying by, and that alone pleases the crowd.

**Flight:** What types of skiing are you concentrating on now?

**Mack:** 3- event skiing!  
1. Hydrofoiling. 2. Wakeboarding  
3. Hot dog slalom.

**Flight:** Tell us a bit about your history in teaching water skiing.

**Mack:** I started as a driver for the famous Murphy brothers. After watching, listening, and hours of driving my chance came when one of the Murphys (Nick) hurt his back and needed a break. Mike was on the road for the summer, so I moved up from the driver's seat to on the water. Since then I've never left!

**Flight:** What special methods do you use to teach?

**Mack:** With kids I get into the water and ski along side. It seems to take a lot of fear out of the first time. As an instructor in the water

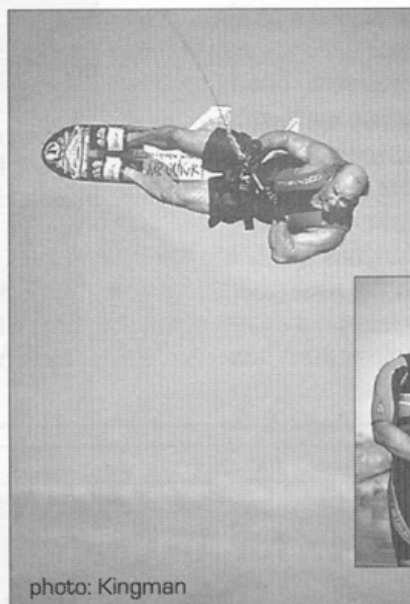


photo: Kingman

**Mike Mack Displays His World Champion Form**



photo: Klarich

you are able to balance them for the take-off. I like to get them up right away and teach them to ski first, then learn their starts after. If they understand the ski position it's easier to learn the start because they understand when they are supposed to stand up.

**Flight:** Your ski school is the premier site for hydrofoiling. Why is that, and what do you feel you offer differently than other schools?

**Mack:** I've been involved with hydrofoiling for a long time. From stand up foils on skis to kneeboard foils to the air chair to the hydrofoil wakeboard, so I can teach from experience. One thing I offer that other schools might not do is to customize foils to your exact needs. I can also teach you how to tune your own equipment.



**Flight:** You are now the a 3-time (and current) Flight Worlds Champ in the Veterans division (40+). What advice can you give other riders who are your age and older?

**Mack:** It's been a life dream to be a World Champ... it only took what, 20 years! Ha ha! As you get older I feel it's easier to focus on what you want. I finally realized that I don't need to compete with the 20 year-olds. Now I set goals for myself, make plans and take one trick at a time.

**Flight:** The backside roll on a hydrofoil was the first invert you learned (in skiing). Tell us about how you mastered it.

**Mack:** First I got my ass kicked! Ha ha! The trick to mastering the backside roll is to have a master teach you. Mike Murphy is the guy who set the plan. Knowing that I was scared to throw it Mike started me at 15 mph and told me to let go as I jumped the wake and throw back. I made 3 at 15 mph, 3 at 16, 3 at 17 and so on. When the time came to hold on to the rope it was also time to commit to the trick. The first time you hang on is the most exciting move in your skiing life. You will never be the same.

**Flight:** What advice can you give others who also may be taking some time progressing up to the "big moment" that they throw a roll and try to hang on.

**Mack:** Take your time and try to watch some video tapes of rolls. Set a plan of attack and then follow

through with it. You can roll and you will attain a sense of fulfillment.

**Flight:** What advice can you give on being consistent?

**Mack:** Do a new trick as many times as you can: 10-20 in a set. Once you develop air awareness, you've got it!

**Flight:** What advice can you give on personal training outside of skiing? What do you do?

**Mack:** As you get the "air" bug you will want to go higher and higher. Now it's time to take it to the gym. I weight train every other day. I trampoline for air time, and treadmill for my wind. This is my best combo for better performance and bigger air.

**Flight:** You wife Vicki has been a great support with the hotel and Ski School. How has her foiling been progressing?

**Mack:** Without the support of my wife Vicki there would be no hotel and school. She definitely makes it happen. I use Vicki a lot in the school for beginning jumpers and skidders, she has perfect form on those tricks. She had made a few back gainer landings and decided that her thrill is the big jumps and skidders. She loves to fly.

**Flight:** What progressions in equipment do you see in the next 5-10 years?

**Mack:** Equipment is only going to get better. We are already playing with fiberglass and new shapes. The material will make equipment lighter, but shapes will make the difference. Look for air boarding too. It is up and coming!

**Flight:** What advancements have you made, that you offer.

**Mack:** I have started to add fiberglass to my foil and I am constantly working on my back wings, which I feel make a big difference in performance.



photo: Rick Doyle

**Above:**  
A Classic  
Body  
Slide

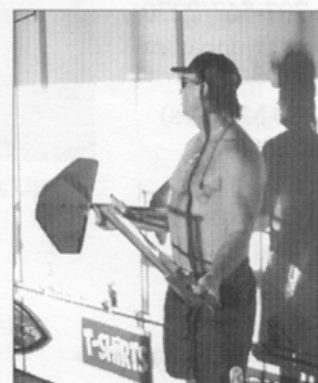
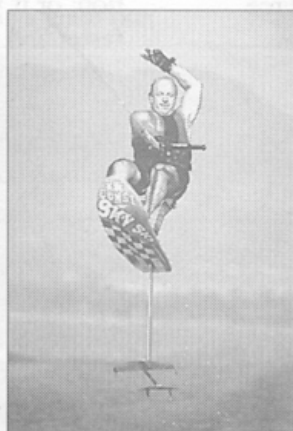


photo: Klarich

**Left:**  
Mack is  
Arguably  
the Best  
Foil Tuner



photos: Kingman

**Mack Is Always Ready to Spread the Peace**

## Personal Stats

**Birthplace:** East L.A. **Age:** 47  
**Height:** 5'11" **Weight:** 210 pounds  
**Years skiing:** 40 **Years hydrofoiling:** 15  
**Riding speed and rope length:** 28 mph, 70 foot.  
**Special equipment:** custom seat pad with Astrodeck, Gath helmet, tuned foil with Rainbow fin rear wings.  
**Best hydrofoiling move:** Backside Roll  
**Best other move:** Body Slide on a Slalom Ski  
**Titles:** 3-time Veterans Flight Worlds Champ  
**Sponsors:** HO Sports, O'Neill, Nautique Boats

# 1999 Learn To Foil

More and more schools and individuals are offering instruction on hydrofoils. Here's your guide to the top picks.

## The Skiing Center

Peter Fleck, Evert Aartsen  
PO Box 409 Windermere, FL 34786  
Phone 407-521-0512  
Fax 407-876-6028  
E-mail pkfleck@aol.com  
www.intensitysports.com/theskiingcenter

### Rates

1/2 day: \$60, 1 day: \$120,  
week: \$450 (M-F)  
week (all inclusive) \$700 (M-F) with  
airport pick up, food, lodging, skiing

### Accommodations

Apartment with camp atmosphere.  
3-4 per room bunk beds

### Nearest Airports

Orlando Int.: about 30 min.

Close major Orlando attractions, the Skiing Center started as a barefoot school. It has since branched into teaching all types of skiing, with a strong foundation from professional show skiing. Peter Fleck, two time X-games gold medallist, is also the show director for World Entertainment Services, providing skiers for shows including Sea World. Peter has also worked off and on as a skier for Sea World for the past 15 years. The Skiing center has been teaching foiling for 4 years.

**Foiling Specific:** Most people are learning to jump. We also focus on getting to inverts without getting hurt. For more advanced

riders we can bring in special Sea World instructors, but this must be booked in advance.

**Qualifications of Instructors:** Peter Fleck says, "My school has been open since 1986, so we have been instructing for quite awhile. We have been teaching foiling for the past 4 years. The team is now much better at teaching it. Just doing a flip doesn't mean you can teach it. Our experience gives us better communication for teaching."

**Also available:** Bunji Spotting Rig: tuned Air Chair, all equipment including extended pylon, wetsuit, helmets. etc., but bring your own if you have it!

## California Boarders

1508 Milton Road Napa, CA 94559  
707-255-8141 or 707-567-2270  
E-mail: calboarders@juno.com

**Rates:** \$40 a set (20 Minutes)

Daily: starting at \$200.

### Accommodations:

I come to you or local hotel.

### Nearest Airports:

San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento

**Transportation:** Rent a car.

About California Boarders from Damon Moore: "I teach a lot of people by traveling to them. They pay for my expenses and for the lessons. That seems to work a lot better.

And besides, when you do that you are learning in your home lake and behind your boat that you're used to. This helps my students learn faster because they know the conditions every time they ride. When you go home you don't have to relearn the trick because you're not used to the wake, water, etc."

**Foil Specific:** If you have the guts to try it I can teach it.

### Qualifications of Instructors:

Damon Moore: Pro Mens Free Ride champion: 1998 Flight Worlds.  
Dave Meyers: Master's Free Ride champions: 1998 Flight Worlds.

From Damon: "This is my fifth year riding and third year teaching and I love the water and people having a good time on it with their hydrofoils. This is the watersport where none can go higher with the least amount of effort. I work on that as much as I can and I found that tricks come easy after that. There's a few basic skills that help everyone from the beginner to the pro and if you're not riding every day all year it's hard to pick these skills up on your own. Since most riders are weekenders it really helps to have good instruction; or if you just want to learn faster and see some one do all the flips and tricks that can help you a lot too. These are the two main reasons why people ask me to give them lessons."

## Geno Yauchler's Haven

503 Lake Bonny Dr. E.  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
Phone: 941-686-5597  
Fax 941-687-0613  
E-mail: Angeleeno@aol.com

**Rates:** Call for information, group discounts available.

### Accommodations:

Lots of hotels, call for info.

**Nearest Airports:** Tampa, Orlando

**Transportation:** Rent a car, or a limo. Pick ups available only in a foil emergency!



(Continued from page 14)

Geno Yauchler teaches all of the foiling lessons. Mostly on the weekends, with week long sessions available for groups of 4 or more. Located on Lake Bonny in the city limits of Lakeland. Hot tub available, trampoline, pool table, darts, and a

few other extras. The boat is always on the lift!

**Specific Foiling:** All. Not just foiling; Barefoot, jump, wakeboard, tricks, and extreme tubing!

**Instructor:** Geno Yauchler:

1996 skier of the year at Cypress Gardens. Top ranking at the hydrofoil Worlds. Teaching since 1993. World record holder for most consecutive inverts (1,416). Has taught many to get up for the first time, and taught many to get inverted.

## **Mike Mack's**

9388 Riverside Drive  
Parker, AZ 85344  
520-667-4399  
fax 520-667-3985  
mikemack@redrivernet.com

### **Call for Rates**

**Accommodations:** 11 room Hotel on the Colorado River

**Airports:** Phoenix (2 1/2 hour drive), Lake Havasu City (45 min)

**Transportation:** Rent a car from the airport.

From Mack: "I have been teaching on the River for over 15 years. Not only do we teach foiling, but we also offer hot dog skiing and wakeboarding from beginner to advanced. My resort and shop is located on the Parker Strip of the Colorado River, the birthplace of the sit down hydrofoil. You see more foilers here than anyplace else, and we are proud to be a big part of that. My shop is also the hangout for many

of the world's top foilers including Murphy, Klarich, Stack, Damon Moore, and Jon Wilborn".

**Foiling Instruction:** We teach the first time flyer to the first jump to the first flip. After time with us you will have plenty of homework!

**Instructor's qualifications:** 15 years of foiling experience. Innovators of new teaching methods new tricks and, and new equipment. We have a deep understanding of tuning foils and getting your ride set to perfection. Come fly with us!

# Mike Mack's **HYDROFOILING HEADQUARTERS**

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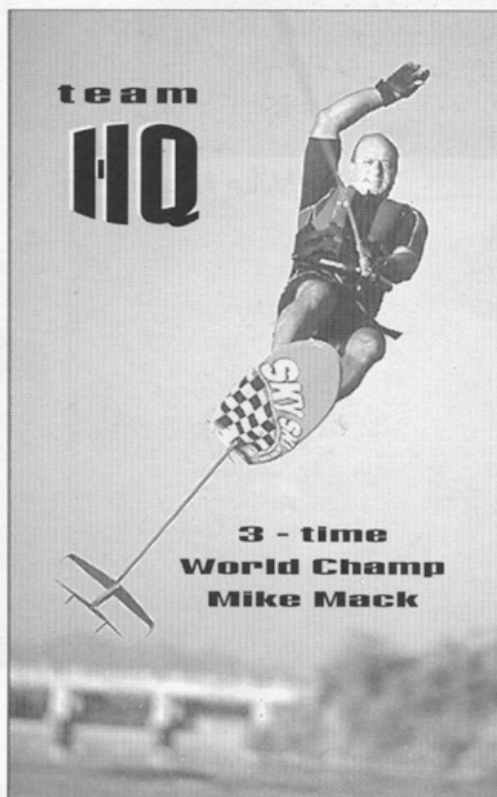


photo: Kingman



## NEXT GENERATION

Mike Murphy has been a water skiing innovator for 41 years. Always pushing the limits, Murphy co-invented the kneeboard in 1972 and sit down hydrofoil in 1991. An Extremist - Mike is regarded as the world's best in his field as a show skier, kneeboarder, hot dog slalom skier, and hydrofoiler. Now Mike introduces a new company designed to raise hydrofoiling to new heights. Mike has been riding hydrofoils since 1966 and is now using all of his riding and design knowledge to produce the best product ever, the Sky Ski.

Mike Murphy



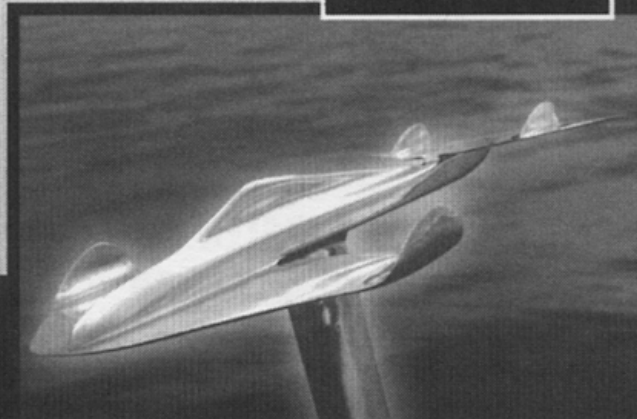
**Sky Ski by Mike Murphy**  
 1204 West Flint Street  
 Lake Elsinore, CA 92530  
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Pilot Peter Schorno +  
 Photo Kingman



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# Extreme X News

with Tony Klarich

## Watercross

Snowmobiles on water? Yes, and it's even a competitive sport. I first saw this unique watersport in Moscow, Russia while performing in an extreme watersports show. Rene Gagnon was the Canadian rider who seemed to defy the laws of physics by riding his "winter" sled on the water.

This extreme watersport has probably been around since the 50s, but it has been only about ten years since competitions have been held. I spoke with Gordon Yancey, 5-year president of the New York State Watercross Association to get some of the details.

**Drags**- 4 riders head to head. The first across the finish line wins. Speeds of 30-40 mph in the stock class and up to 70 mph for modifieds.

**Ovals** - Up to 4 riders circle a 3/8 to 1/2 mile oval series buoys - 4 lap heats, 6 lap finals. Steering is done less with the handle bars and more with Body English.

**Figure-8s** - A single watercrosser performs 2 figure-8s. Best time wins.

**Jumping** - a special pontoon boat with ramp awaits those who dare. The crowd picks a winner based on style.

Starts are made from shore where the riders need only a short run up to get to speed. These heavier-than-water craft do often sink, especially in the first turn of the ovals and during figure-8s. Riders carry a buoy with attached ski line that gets tossed out as they go down. An overhead hoist or ATV from shore retrieves the underwater snowmobile. Good guys can get their rigs running again in less than 10 minutes, providing they cut the motor before they go down.

The special modifications for watercross include removing the seat gas tank and excess weight, recalibrating the jet clutching, and gearing for optimum summer performance.



**Rene Gagnon Throttles his Snowmobile in Moscow**

photo: Klarich

The NYSWCA has about 75-100 members who compete in the summer circuit. Yancey says, "you don't have to be crazy but it helps!"

*For More Info:*

Gordon Yancey- Flat Rack Inn  
315-376-2332

PO Box 22, Lowville, NY 13367  
[www.snowmobilingusa.com](http://www.snowmobilingusa.com)

## NYSWCA 1999 Series

*Flat Rack, New York*

June 11-13, July 9-11, Aug 13-15

*Canada, Near Victoriaville*

Aug-28-29

*Epping, New Hampshire*

Oct 9-10

## Behind the Boat

I just got a chance to check out Buoy Dog production's latest instructional video, "Behind the Boat". This 48 minute video takes you through the basics of water-skiing, wakeboarding, and foiling. It is well made with lots of good info for people new to the sport. It's easy to tell that Paul Vitucci (the main instructor) has experience in teaching. The hydrofoiling section only goes through the basics but is a good start for beginners. I recommend this video to anyone new to the sport. Endorsed by the AWSA. [buoydogs@aol.com](mailto:buoydogs@aol.com) or available from the main mail order houses.

## Rick Doyle Update

Extreme watersports photographer Rick Doyle has made a living snapping skiers, surfers, wakeboarders, and the San Diego Chargers. He has found his way into numerous publications including *Sports Illustrated*, *Surfer*, *Water Ski*, *Flight*, and many more. Doyle's specialty is big waves and finding innovative places to mount cameras. He was also one of the pioneers of photo CD-ROMs. Now Doyle is taking his skills and connections to the next level....FILM.



**A Classic Doyle Photo: Ski Cam 1987**

Doyle says, "After 20 years of shooting stills I needed another challenge, so in 1997 I bought a Arri IIC 35 mm camera". His plans were to shoot stock footage for TV commercials and feature films.

In January of 1998 Doyle flew to Hawaii to film waves for stock footage. He says, "I was lucky enough to capture the biggest swells to hit the islands since 1969." With this great big wave footage Doyle decided to make a movie. "Red Water" is his film debut. It is a moving tribute to Rell Sunn. She was a well respected Hawaiian surfer who personified the aloha spirit.

With his strong start Doyle is now working his way into being a DP (director of photography) for feature films. He has already done work on some upcoming films and has sold stock footage to the likes of Cadillac the Weather Channel, and more through his stock footage agency.

*Contact Rick Doyle at:*

619-481-6792 [rddi@zweb.com](mailto:rddi@zweb.com)  
[www.zweb.com/rddi/](http://www.zweb.com/rddi/)  
<http://facs.scripts.edu/surf/rdoyle.html>  
Energy Film Library 818-508-1444

# All New Sky Ski Video: HIGH PERFORMANCE HYDROFOILERS

In the Fall of 1998, team Sky Ski trekked across the California desert to gather on the Parker Strip. The headquarters for the 1999 Sky Ski promotional video "High Performance Hydrofoilers" was Mike Mack's on the River.

The weather was perfect, with temps 80-90, smooth water, and very little wind. The team included ringleader Mike Murphy, Peter Shorno, Mike & Vicki Mack, Tony Klarich, Damon Moore, Cheryl Roberts, Ron Stack, Teresa & Jon Wilborn, the

Farmer Brothers, Mary Murphy, Brian Vesely, and Sandy Bertha. Everyone was relaxed and ready to ride. The pressure of the Flight Worlds was off, and now it was time to show off!

Jeff Claire was the man with the Beta video camera, while Kelly Kingman shot still photos.

Numerous new moves were captured on video for the first time. It's amazing how fast this sport is progressing! Ron Stack pulled off his Method Floater, Spinner, and inverted grabs. Klarich also nailed gainer combo landings, a triple barrel, and a gainer floater.

Murphy added wake jump skid-

ders and a super long submarine.

Other highlights include vintage foiling footage and Wilborn's new Shock Tower in action.

Originally produced as a boat show sales video, this tape has plenty to keep you hitting the rewind at home!

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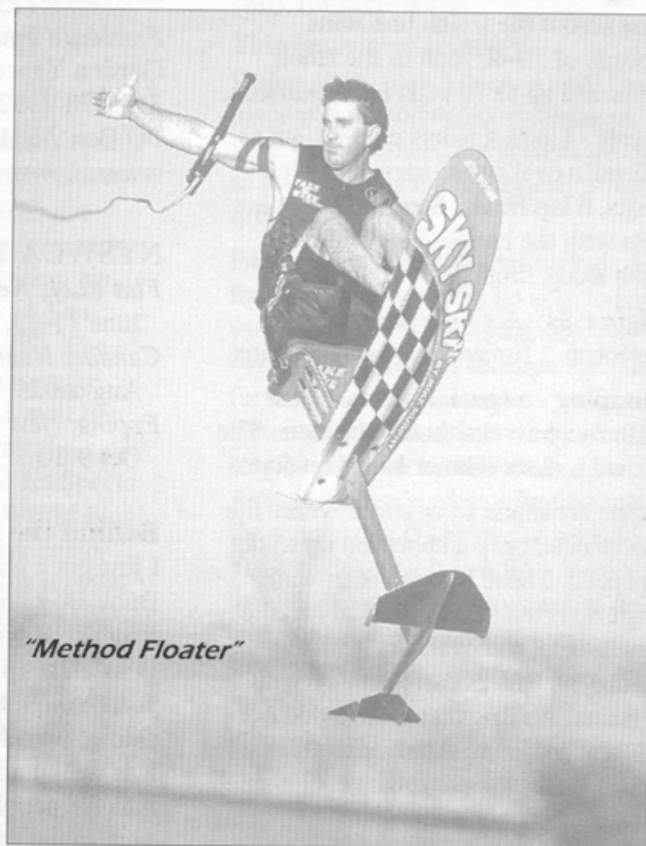
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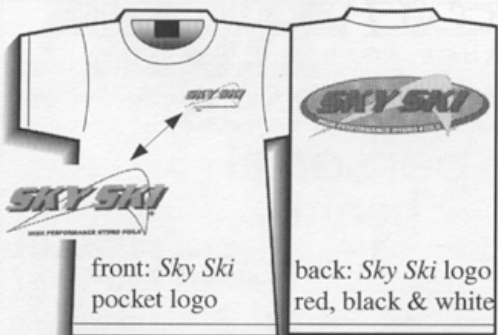
"Method Floater"

rider: Ron "Air Boom" Stack / photo: Kelly Kingman

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- ♦ **Exhibitions.** More than just competition, the Worlds were entertainment too. From skydiving to speed skiing and the Hyperlite Invitational, world class riders like Klaas, Crocker, and Saunders showed their stuff.
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