

STATE of the SPORT Report

SoCAL-INT Champ

Bob Rowland

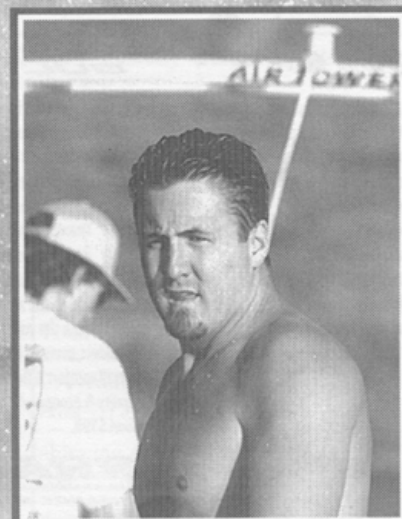
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STATE of the SPORT

Nineteen-Ninety-Nine was a good year for foiling. From riders to equipment,

contests and events, this sport is rising.

Riders

More young riders are getting involved. Ivan Honkala learned to ride the foil (behind the boat, crossing the wakes), at age 3. Marlin Snow (13 years old) has already ridden away from a two backside roll variations.

(Continued on page 5)

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Flight

Sky Ski Camp

By Jon Kattenhorn & Bruce Ware

Nestled deep in the forests of McCall, Idaho, along the shores of beautiful Payette Lake, lies Camp IdaHaven. It is primarily a youth summer camp, but also serves as a retreat center for Christian groups.

Campers stay in 8 modern cabins, dine on the best vegetarian food, and enjoy the beauties of one of the prettiest places in Idaho. A complete assortment of activities are available to all, including horses, challenge course, whitewater rafting, rock climbing, waterfront, basketball, and of course many crafts.

One of the most popular features of Camp IdaHaven is a very strong waterfront program. The camp has four contemporary ski boats, multiple PWCs and an extremely talented staff teaching kids to ski, barefoot, & wakeboard.

The authors have been personally involved with this camp, and its directors (Doug and Darla Roe) for several years. Our kids have attended or worked at the camp, and we have volunteered too. Since hydrofoiling is our most significant and all consuming passion, it seemed most appropriate to expose the camp to this great new sport! Working with WaterSki Pro Shop in Boise, Idaho and directly with Mike Murphy we received a brand new Sky Ski for the camp's use.



On July 21 we went to camp to teach Sky Skiing to the 13-15 year olds! The kids had been prepared and pumped up, and we did a little showy riding and flying to show them what it was all about! Then for two straight days we worked from early morning until evening, taking boatloads of kids out on the lake, strapping them in and giving as many as possible a chance to

ride the Sky Ski! We generally worked two teams, two Sky Skis, and two boats with 4-6 kids in each boat. The teens used their waterfront time, their free time, and their borrowed time for the opportunity to ride.

At the end of each day a full report was given at campfire, detailing who rode, who crashed, who went really high, and who drank the most water! By the end of the second day 29 kids and 4 staff had been exposed to the sport of hydrofoiling and they loved it! Next year should be even bigger.

Since both of us have been riding for about 5 years, we have had the opportunity to teach a lot of friends to hydrofoil. During this time we have discovered techniques to get



Cover Photos: Kelly Kingman

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people started. To a certain extent we have found that when you teach them the fundamentals, the learners quickly fall into three categories.

First, about one-third of people will

just simply pull up and ride, if not the first time, within a half-dozen pulls. Secondly, another one-third of people will struggle, fight balance, fight flying, and end up requiring about three 30 minute sessions before they stabilize and ride on the board. The remaining third will struggle a lot, be discouraged, swallow a lot of water and take much longer to master the start. Just like

other water sports, anyone who masters the start can quickly move onto better things, for starting never seems to be a problem again. We often share with those that are discouraged, that hydrofoiling is not unlike riding a bicycle. They may struggle for a while, but suddenly all the pieces will fall into place and it will seem as "natural" (and unexplainable!) as riding a bicycle.

The kids at camp were no exception. Almost down to hard numbers one-third of them rode well, up on the fin, experimenting with jumping. Another third rode stable and long on the board. The remaining third were still

struggling with starts, but loving every minute.

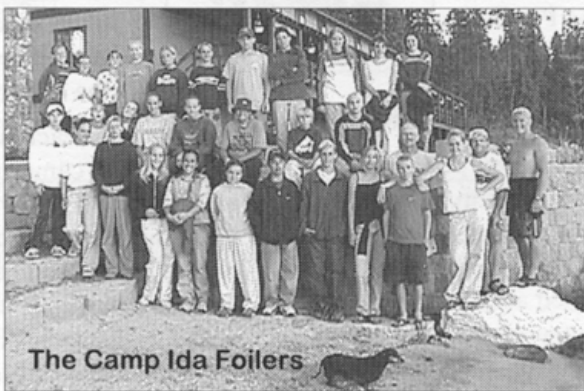
After accomplishing consistent starts, the fun really begins. Seeing the rider's eyes, or hearing the squeals of delight the first time they come up on the fin, under control, is worth everything! A teacher cannot be rewarded any better than that.

By featuring hydrofoiling Camp Ida-Haven has found a great way to promote a fledgling sport! Imagine 30-40 kids each year going

home to dad, "We really need a Sky Ski!" Maybe others out there can do similar things with their organizations to help promote what is proving to be a really great sport!

A few basic pointers got everyone off to a good start:

1. Sit as far forward as practical to minimize unplanned launches.
2. Always teach with a deep-vee handle to help stabilize the board in the water.
3. Lean comfortably back in the water, arms straight, and close to the knees.
4. Try to keep the hands, knees, and handle as a unit as fixed as possible.
5. As the board begins to plane, allow the boat to pull your shoulders forward, keeping the hands relatively low.
6. Keep eyes, hands, and knees pointed at the boat!
7. Keep all movements subtle. Good Luck!



The Camp Ida Foilers

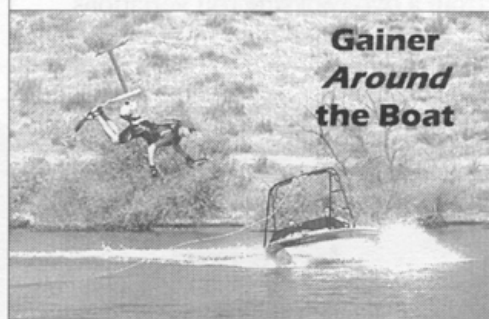
The Leading Edge

This sport just keeps progressing. In addition to the regulars you see here it's nice to see a couple of new names stake their claim with a new move!

Tony Christian: Method McThruster

This move combines two moves into one, which is a great way to come up with a move of your own! First Tony grabs method on the rail near his foot. Next he release and moves his hips forward for the McThruster.

Jake Kinnison: Gainer Around the Boat. Jake has upped the ante, adding a gainer while skiing around the boat.



Gainer Around the Boat

This One Blows Minds!

Geno Yauchler and Damon Moore: 10 Combos. The race is all tied up at double digits. The word is dizzy! 10 consecutive "bounce and throw" BS Rolls without hesitation. Wow!

Jon Wilborn: Flat Spin. This move came from a variation of a backroll done in the flats before getting to the wake. Performed properly the foil spins around the back without getting higher than the rider's head.

Tony Klarich: Triple Combo Dismount. All you have to do for this one is nut up, let go at about 30 mph and go for it. The first dismount gainer is the biggest, while the second and third get smaller. Under-rotate slightly to drive the blade through for the next revolution. **Jump to heli combo.** A wrapped a helicopter immediately follows an air wake jump.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 2-3, 1999 "Fly-In on the Brazos" Weatherford, TX. contact Todd Spitz at: 817.279.0192 or www.airjunky.com/brazos/

Oct. 2-3, 1999 "World's Greatest Skier" contest. Cypress Gardens, FL. 8 events including hydrofoiling.

Oct. 28-31, 1999 (dates tentative) "Sky Ski Fly-In". Parker, AZ
Fall, 2000; "Flight Worlds"
Lake Elsinore, CA

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



State of the Sport

(Continued from page 3)

Not all young riders are going for just wakeboarding! The women continue to advance, with at least 5 ladies now riding away from inverts. More and more older wakeboarders continue to cross over from foiling (see- X-news). It's something fun and different, and it's a lot easier on the knees. Wakeboarding has a lot to offer. There are lots of crossover tricks left like the whirlybird, Raley, and more.

New tricks, both technical and extreme continue to be churned out. The riding level has already moved far beyond last year's Flight Worlds. In general however, most advanced riders have mastered a few rolls, and are trying reverse or air versions of the same trick. Gainers are a common occurrence. Front flips, though uncommon are next in line. Very few riders are working on the technical aspects of simple jumps, or adding style to the basic maneuvers. Today's top trick riders are defined by grabs, combos, helis, and style variations of things like skidders and floaters.

Several top riders make air their priority. With boat speed, guts, and the new equipment, huge jumps clearing 25' are state of the art.

Equipment

The new equipment from Sky Ski is working better than ever. Just about everyone is jumping higher with less effort. The foils come pre-tuned and are ready to fly right out of the box. The Shock Tower was another great breakthrough this year. It has helped the sore backs of many riders while prodding softer landings. Check it out.

While foiling has come a long way there is still quite a journey. There is not currently a stock sized down model built for riders 75-120 lbs. And not just a smaller board, lowered seat tower, or bindings pushed back. The entire device should be scaled down. Can't you just see the day when a 6 year old is tearing it up on a mini foil, landing huge jumps and rolls with a laugh?

As a trick specialist, I believe the big barrier yet to be conquered is the weight issue. Just carry your foil around to know that it weighs a lot. I am looking forward to the time when composite materials help decrease the weight while increasing strength. The only question is, are you willing to pay \$3,000-\$5,000 for a 20-30 lb. unit?

Contests and Events

The Flight Worlds have definitely given riders a lot to think about, and goals to set for 2000. The INT-League has started to include hydrofoiling contests at some stops with increasing turnouts. The Swiss Masters (now in its 5th year) are the European event, and are drawing outstanding talent and spectators galore. Fun events like the Great Canadian Fly In have brought people together to share ideas and good times. Texas and California have Fly-ins scheduled soon.

At a recent demonstration on Lake Arrowhead, the announcer kept questioning the crowd... "Why isn't this sport in the X-games?" The answer is because we now have only 5 riders who have what it takes to put on a good show in any water conditions. The old back roll, front roll is

not going to be enough to break into the X arena. Are you one of the other five who can give us what it takes to make the big time?

The Real Breakthrough

Air Chair was the only ride in town for almost ten years. The product took its time in developing, as there were no competitors to keep things moving..until Sky Ski. In just the past two years this sport has made quantum leaps in design. Competition has bred design improvement. Mike Murphy has led the way at Sky Ski, and will continue to do so.

The real breakthrough will come when there is an open market. Can you imagine 5 companies all going toe to toe to see who can make the lightest, cheapest, or highest flying foil. There will be serious competition for team riders. You will see more advertising in mainstream watersports magazines which will in turn put more tips and stories about foiling on those same pages. Each of these companies will spend money sponsoring events, promoting clinics, and putting on competitions. More videos, more photos, more riders, mo' betta! Ride On,

Tony Klauach, D.C.
publisher

Cheryl Roberts Update

Talk about bad timing, Cheryl went out a couple months ago with a new tower, strap and seat pad. It was a rough and nasty day, but that didn't keep her from going for big air in the flats. Then she fell and slid off the front of the tower. "I have slid off the front a few times before, but never this bad. I just didn't have everything adjusted right, and was riding too hard for the conditions." Her injury was a hematoma/seroma, basically a pocket full of blood and serous fluid over her sacral area. After weeks with no improvement surgical intervention (stitching and cauterization) was required.

Time has healed Roberts now, and

she's started riding again. "I have backed off a bit on the big tricks. I will still go for it, but it's going to be a little slower." Cheryl says she missed her fire-fighting job.

In September, Roberts started over with the Shock Tower, and is already up to 80% consistency.

"I'm going to work on some cheese, and always use my Air Junky Buttraxx and Intensity Wetsuit for traction!"



World Champ Roberts

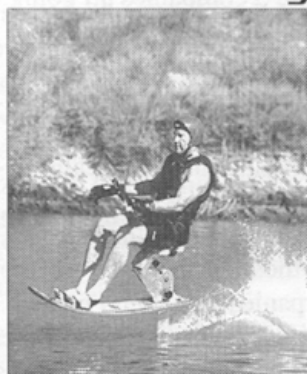
McThruster

Flight

This move was first performed in the early 90s by Mike Mack, and was one of the first, and lasting jump variations. But watch out, too much McThrusting can cause increased pulse, profuse sweating, and heavy breathing! To get ready for your McThruster make sure you are confident with a one hand wide jump. Your landing should be with the foil straight ahead and in control. If you are not confident with these basic, spend time with them before going for this move. Cut out to set up for your jump. It really helps to get wide on the jump so that you have more hang time to hold the maneuver. Concentrate first on getting a good jump. Release your outside hand on the way up. Keep the tip up. As you reach the apex of the jump thrust your hips forward. Notice that the thrust is mostly done by moving the shoulders back.

Your tip may drop down some to accentuate the motion. Avoid the easy pitfall of pushing the tip down with to your feet. This can result in a mud hen (out the front fall). Control the line tension with your hand. Use the line to make slight in flight adjustments and keep you landing straight ahead. Your free hand can move to various positions, as long as it is up and back. I prefer to place my hand on the back of my head as I perform the thrust. Even the thrust itself can be varied. Mack prefers a

Warren Posey



Land in the same direct you are traveling



Thrust by moving your hips forward and shoulders back. Avoid pushing on your feet. Keep your weight back to keep from going over the front.



Don't start the thrust until you get to the apex of your jump. Keep everything in a straight line.

sequence photos: Kingman

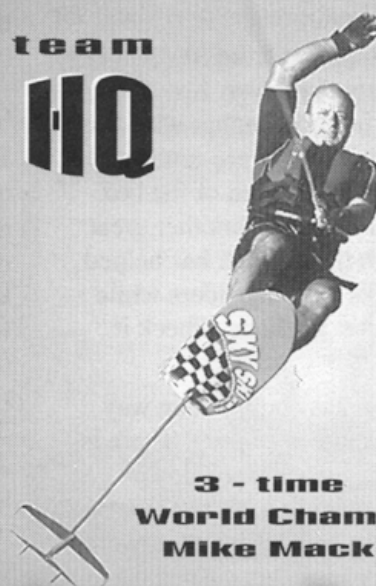
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photo: Kingman

smooth, long stroke, while I like to give a jab. Try a double pump. Stall it out or do it quick. Adding your own style to a move is what free riding is all about. To return to a good landing position, pull your tip up and move your shoulders forward by crunching your stomach. Move the handle in a forward as you land to regain control on the touchdown. *-Tony Klarich*

TROUBLE SHOOTING

PROBLEM: Landing crooked or sideways.

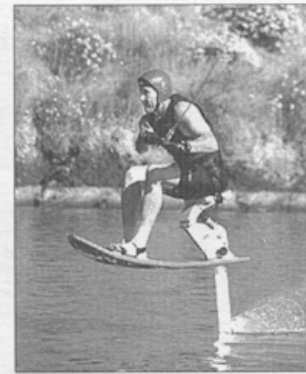
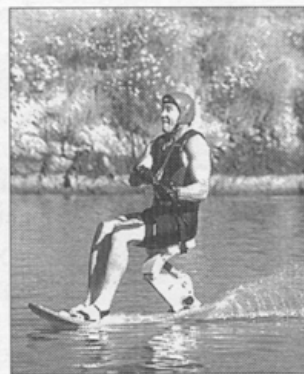
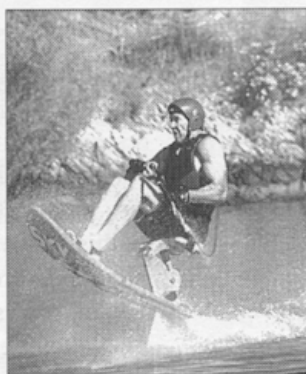
SOLUTION: First, get a wide jump so that the maneuver is performed when there is little tension on the line. Next, be conscious of what the line tension (what little there is) is doing and adjust accordingly.

PROBLEM: Falling out the front.

SOLUTION: Keep your tip up through most of the trick. Avoid pushing your feet excessively for the thrust. Get most of your thrust from moving your hips forward and shoulders back. Keep your line low to avoid being pulled forward.



Concentrate on a good jump first. Get wide.



THE SGMA SPORTS PARTICIPATION TRENDS REPORT

Swimming: 94 million participants!!!

Saltwater Fishing: 15.6 million -2.8%

Jet Skiing: 11.2 million

Waterskiing: 10.2 million (high: 20 M in 1987)

Skateboarding: 7.2 million -12.7%

Snowboarding: 5.4 million +10.5%

Wakeboarding reported 2.2 million participants

Surfing: 1.3 million

Windsurfing: 1.1 million

With wakeboarding new to the list for this year, it may be some time before hydrofoiling is tracked. With over 15,000 foils sold over 10 years, how many riders are out there now? Thanks to Jim Emmons for this update.

COMBO IS KING

by
Tony Klarich
photos: Kelly Kingman

Combos are coming. In fact they are already here. I performed the original backside roll combo in 1994 at the Fly-In on the Colorado River. It was a challenge between myself and Dean Lavelle inspired by the combo rolls done in kneeboarding. While I was first, Lavelle quickly followed with the first triple combo. Today Damon Moore and Geno Yauchler are battling it out to be "King Combo", each having performed ten consecutive rolls without hesitation.

In addition to the basic BS Roll Combo, numerous variations are coming out of the wood work. In fact, there are two distinct styles of combos. The first is the **Swoop Style**. This is when the foil enters the water

tip down and swoops back up. Combos of this type include the back roll, gainer-gainer, gainer-back roll, gainer-jump and more. The other style of combo is newer, and is coming on strong as it opens the door to a whole host of moves. It is called the **Sink Style**. In this the foil lands tip up and the rider does a controlled sink. As soon as the board hits the water the second part of the move is initiated. Example of the Sink Style include Kangaroo Jumps (multiple straight jumps, the Double Barrel (Frontside roll combo), jump to roll, jump to front flip, front flip to skidder, skidder to roll, and *many* more.

Now that you have a bit of background, it time for you to try a few combos yourself.

Kangaroo Jumps

This combo will get you familiar with the basics for the Sink Style combos. Start either behind the boat or just outside either wake. Do a regular wake jump, but not too high. Pay close attention to good jump form: tip up, with your hands in and low. Land your jump with a tip up attitude. Stay back as the foil sinks. About half way down the sink, lean forward to smack the board off the water and initiate your jump. Time your second jump so that you rebound as soon as the board hits the water. On the second

(and successive jumps) it is crucial that you keep the handle in. It is very easy to let the handle get out and take a fall out the front.

When done properly there is a slight pumping motion at the bottom of the sink as you prepare to take off again. This part is a bit hard to explain, but you'll get it on the water.

Skidder to Roll

If you take the time to get comfortable with the Kangaroo jumps, and you are confident with both skidders and air rolls, then this move should be a walk in the park. Do a skidder a few feet outside the wake where you do your air back roll. Release the skidder and control the sink. At first try a few Skidder to jumps to get the timing. When you feel confident let off your skidder and throw it into a roll as the board hits the water.

Jump to Roll

This move is similar to the Skidder to roll. If you are not super comfortable with Skidders this may be a move for you to try. Perform a small jump in the flats where you normally do your air roll. It's not too hard to throw it into a roll off the bounce. As you progress you will be also able to take the first jump higher and maybe add some style elements like a tower grab or poke. As you advance the first jump can be across the wakes. This technique can be used to perform jump-to BS roll and jump-to-FS roll.

2 Skidder

Most inverts can also be done as a "to-Skidder" combo. Do a front roll or back roll, then pop it up into a quick skidder as soon as your board hits the water on your roll landing. I

have seen riders hit this their first try. On the lighter side there is the jump-to-skidder, skidder-to-skidder, and many more.

riders: Stack

Extreme Sink

The cutting edge of Sink Style Combos is with front flips. Mike Murphy came up with the Front flip-to-Skidder combo while Tony Klarich does a double wake jump-to-air front flip. Can a Front Flip combo be far behind?

Swoop, There It Is

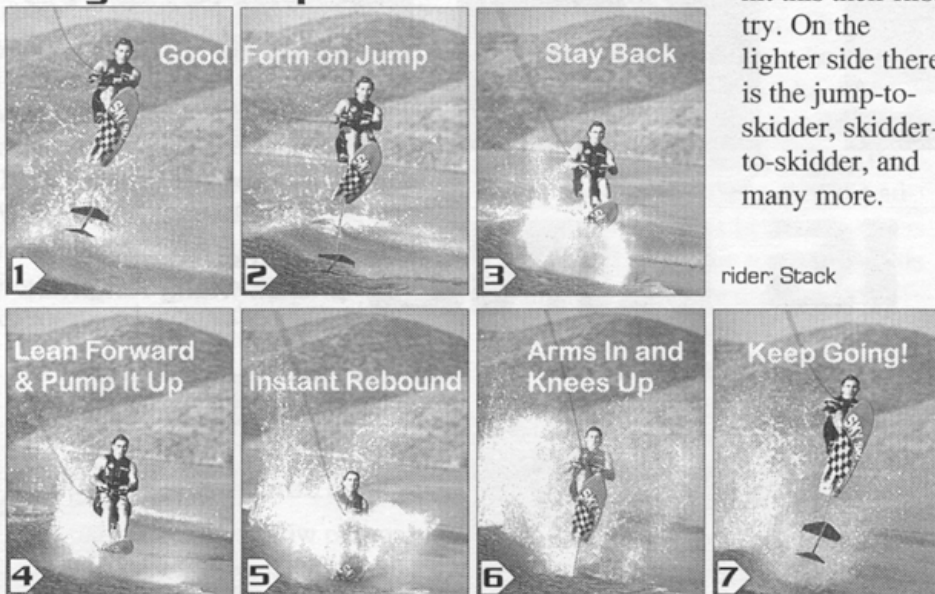
Learning the swoop style takes an entirely different approach. The key to the swoop style is to slightly under rotate the first invert, and let your lower body trail just a bit. As you initiate into the second move drive the lower body through to gain momentum for the next invert.

Gainer-to-Jump

is a great way to get started. Most people can do a jump, and many can do gainers. If you can do both these tricks, you should be able to pull this one with just a little practice. The key to this move is under-rotation and handle control. Do your regular gainers, making sure to get a good spot and keep the handle in. When you are ready for the combo, take a bit off the rotation. You want to land so that the foil can swoop through the landing and into the jump. As you land, pull through with your lower body and keep the handle in. Go easy on the jump.

When you get this one down it's not too hard to throw a gainer-to back-roll. Remember, make sure you have a good rotation on your first invert before attempting the second half of the trick. If it doesn't feel right just wait.

Kangaroo Jumps

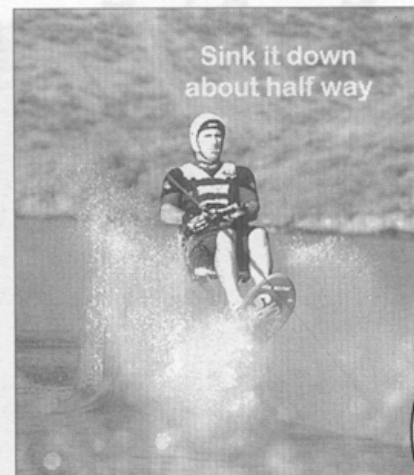
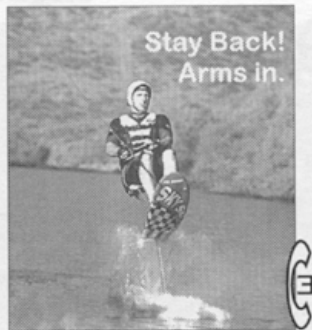
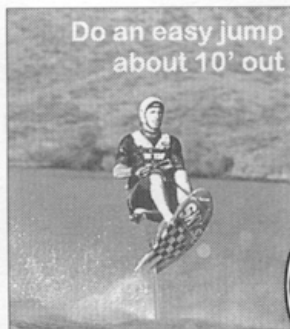


Gainer-to-Jump

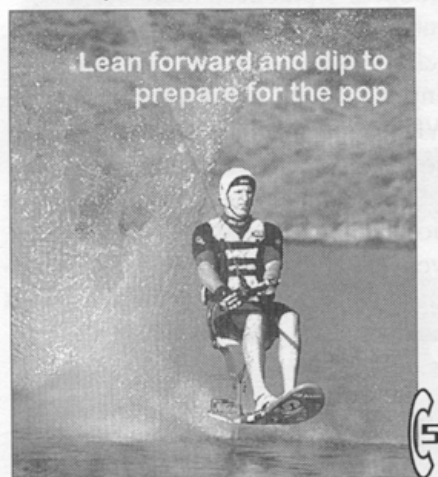


riders: Ron Stack

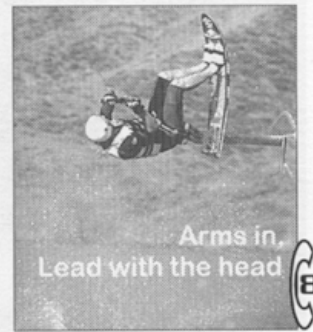
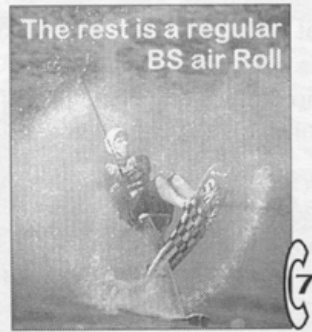
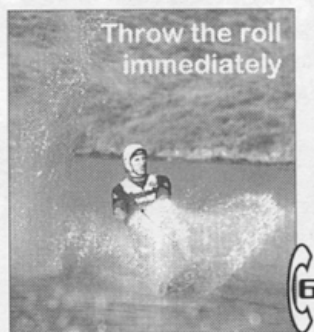
Jump-to-BS Roll



rider: Tony Klarich

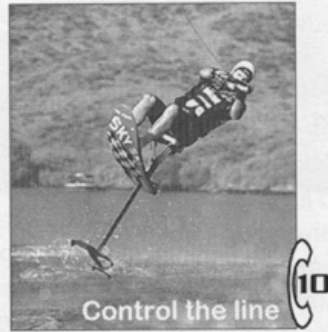


The Key Transition in the Sink Style Combo occurs between photos 4 & 5. You should go from leaning back to dipping.



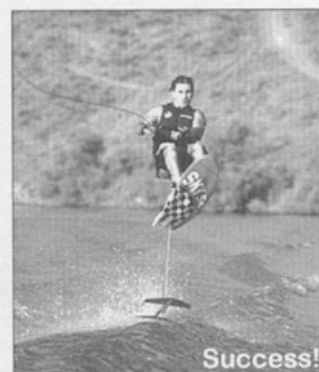
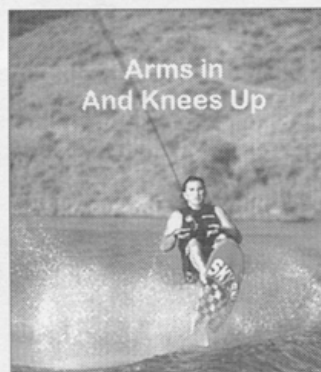
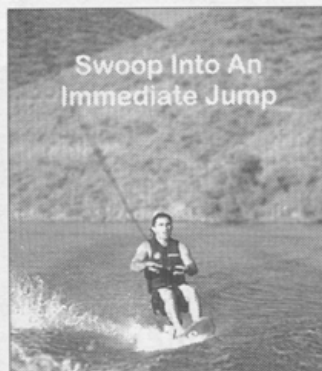
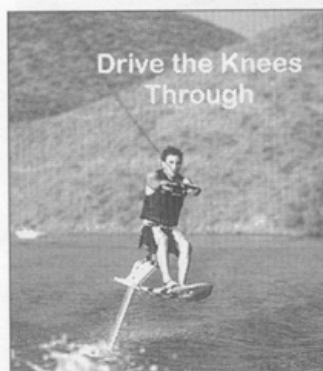
Other moves using the swoop style include, backside roll combos, gainer-gainers, and gainer-backroll

The gainer combo dismount is medium difficulty. Throw your first dismount gainer at a slightly higher speed and a bit higher than normal. (You may want to try this a few times to get the timing down). When you feel comfortable with the bigger gainer, go for a second. The first rotation should be open a bit, with your lower body trailing. Under rotate so that you can drive through for the combo. Be patient. Let the foil take off before throwing the second flip. Tuck to speed your rotation by grabbing your knees or legs.



Combo Trivia 2000

- ∞ Tony Klarich performed the first back roll combo in 1994
- ∞ There are two styles of Combos. The Swoop and the Sink.
- ∞ Moore and Yauchler are today's Combo Kings at 10.
- ∞ There are currently more than 20 combo variations.



First Time Flippers

Teresa Wilborn, Age 39, Administrative Assistant

I began foiling in August, 1996. I first learned to jump the ski directly behind the boat, and soon realized it was much easier for me if I used the wake. Once I felt I had mastered those maneuvers, I bought a helmet and began envisioning the back rolls. My husband Jon said I should work towards this goal by learning the dismount gainer.

I used the wake to help me flip. I would cut out 8-10' from the wake, turn back in, approach the wake with good speed, dip the board, release the handle, and throw my head and shoulders back. As soon as I spotted the water, however, my rotation stopped, and I fell face first. This happened for over a year.

I wanted to learn to do back rolls, so I didn't give up. I went to a gymnasium to practice on a trampoline (with a harness). My gym coach was quick to point out that stretching to look for the water opened me up and stopped my rotation. He said to push my feet up over my head and watch

them all the way around. In other words, stay in the tucked position! The weekend before the 1998 Flight Worlds, I was skiing with Mike Mack. He knew I wanted to land this dismount in the competition. After watching me crash he felt I needed to up my speed. I normally ski at 22 mph, so he sped up to 24. He pulled along side of me and said, "Do you want to win this thing or not?" Of course I said yes! That's when he said, "Then kick that thing!!!" The very next try, I came all the way around and landed on the foil, slowly sinking beautifully into the water! I cannot fully express the sheer joy and happiness I felt at that moment. After so many hours of practice, I finally achieved my goal, and it helped me win the worlds.

I've gotten consistent with the dismount by ending every ride with one. When I decided to try a back roll, I approached the wake in the exact same manner as the dismount, but held on to the rope, instead of tossing the handle. The rotation was then totally different, and I was disoriented for the first 10 tries. After that, I had to learn little things like handle position, getting a good dip, spotting my landing, etc. I skied away from my first back roll after about 80 tries! I now have an 80% consistency rate and just recently landed air rolls and my first gainer (holding onto the handle).

There are many riders who make these tricks look so easy. They're not. The tricks take determination and persistence to learn. Don't give up. With enough practice, virtually everyone can do them.

Bill Lawson, age 48

I felt like I had jumped as high and as far as I was ever going to jump. I watched the videos quite a few times so I had a very good visual image in my mind. I slowed the boat down to 18 mph and went at the wake with the biggest stomp I

could muster. Just by getting a good jump and hanging onto the handle, the Sky Ski began to rotate on its own. After 4 attempts I felt real good and knew I wasn't going to die at this trick. I had the boat speed up to 20 and a little more "air time" developed. By the end of the first session, maybe 10 attempts, I was landing on the foil consistently, but way crooked. I practiced more but without an extended pylon. I was still getting around but I felt the rope hitting the ski and pulling me down. When I returned home I was behind my ProStar 190 with a pylon and things happened fast. My second session out I rode away. The 3 big keys were 1- a big stomp at takeoff, 2- taking off directly at the back of the boat and 3- spotting my landing as early as possible.

I am now landing multiple rolls in succession and enjoying every one. Flying is really great at this level!

Sandy Bertha

I finally landed my first invert hanging on to the rope. It was one of the best feelings of my life. I spent four weeks in New Hampshire throwing hundreds of flips and then wham! The day before I left for California, I landed it. It was fun from beginning to end practicing that invert. Thanks to Tony, Ron, Damon, and Mike Murphy for their great performances

(Continued on page 12)



photo: Kingman

World Champ Wilborn with a picture perfect gainer dismount

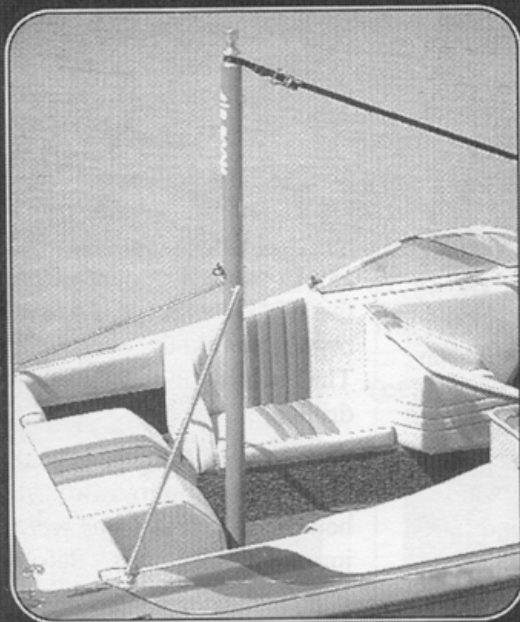


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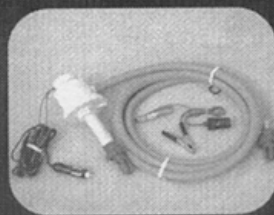
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Europe's Best The Swiss Masters

Every year the Swiss Championships get better and better. This contest, now in its fifth year, is definitely the premier European event, and is attracting hot talent and enthusiastic crowds.

The July 25th tournament took place in picturesque Lachen, Switzerland, in the footsteps of the Alps. More than 30 riders showed up to compete from Switzerland and Italy. The energetic crowd numbered over 600 and came from all over Europe.

Unlike many American water-sports events, the crowd stayed for the entire 4 hour event, showing their support for every rider. Competitors tricked their way through a waterway of screaming and horn-blowing onlookers, some on the shore, and the rest forming a watery passage with wall to wall boats. The competition was tight, and many riders landed invert. The two women who could land rolls gave it a great try, but were unable to land one in the competition. As always the dismount gainers were very popular...with everything from perfect loops to high speed tip first diggers. The youngest rider was only seven. Nino Iodice from Italy is landing himself as the top Euro rider and has dreams of bringing a World Championship home across the sea. He has inspired other riders to start up Italian competitions too.

Americans Damon Moore and David Meyers wowed the crowd with their extreme riding, and both were certainly inspired by the topless spectators on the fancy boats.

This highly successful event could not have been done without the tireless effort of tournament organizer Barbara Laube. Peter Stock also came through with sponsorship from MC Service. Sky Ski

donated the trophies (rear foils) for the top three finisher in each division.

Of course, a huge thanks goes out to Peter Schorno who is the backer of Sky Ski. Schorno loves this sport and has dedicated not only serious cash, but also countless time on the water teaching others and learning himself. The 48 year old entrepreneur has finally mastered his back rolls, in addition to super stylish floaters, jumps, and skidders. He has also put together team boats and matching Jeeps with Sky Ski graphics. The whole event was celebrated in grand fashion with the traditional birthday party for Murphy (who turned 51), and Shorno (their birthdays are on the same day).

Everyone is looking forward to the next Swiss Championships, as like wine, they both get better with age.

Sponsors: Sky Ski, Berner, O'Neill HO Sports, Mobil, MC Service

"Some of the riders found out that it isn't necessarily easy to produce under pressure and some really got lucky. But all in all, everyone had a good time. It was a success."

Barbara Laube - Event Organizer:

Hydrofoil - Masters 1999

25. Juli 1999
Lachen SZ

Beginn: 10.00 Uhr
Show: 12.00 Uhr
Beim Hafen Lachen SZ

Mobil

Einzigartiges Eventprogramm:
Wird die diesjährige Veranstaltung sportlich (Jahreszeiten und Wasser) sein, werden wir das gesamte Programm für die einjährige Teilnahme der Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer mit spannenden Sprüngen, Wogen und Haken, wie es möglich ist, anbieten. Wir werden die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer die Hydrofoil-Sportarten und -techniken kennenlernen und somit ein wenig mehr über die Hydrofoil-Sportarten erfahren. Das Hydrofoil-Feeling ist bei der Teilnahme absolut zu spüren. 20.000 Angehörige gibt es bereits in der USA, und in der Schweiz werden es täglich mehr.

First Time Flippers

(Continued from page 10)

which I watched everyday (Video: High Performance Hydrofoilers) for four weeks while trying to perfect the invert. You guys are awesome. Sky Skiing is the Best! Thanks.

Hi I'm Neil, and I'm a Hydroholic.

I'm 14 and the only invert I had attempted before the Great Canadian Fly-In was a dismount gainer. It was the Friday of the Fly-In that I found myself behind the boat with Kevin Thayer coaching and Bill Curley driving.

That Thursday I found out that a 9 year old was jumping and all I had been doing at the time were wake jumps and air jumps. Before my run Jon Wilborn Jr., Todd Jones (from Nebraska) and myself were standing in the parking lot betting on who would land the first roll. It just happened that I went for a run right after we made that bet.

It started with Kevin telling me to jump and throw a roll the way I thought it should be done. I threw a roll with no jump and an under rotation. Then Kevin told me to make sure I remembered to jump and throw my body a little harder. My second attempt was a huge jump with an over rotation, slapping me into the water. Kevin told me to throw it a little lighter. I landed the roll but was so surprised I let go of the rope. I was already giving high

(Continued on page 18)

SWISS MASTERS RESULTS

Men

- | | |
|------------------|------|
| 1. Nino Iodice | 8300 |
| 2. Karl Sauder | 5050 |
| 3. Peter Schorno | 4750 |

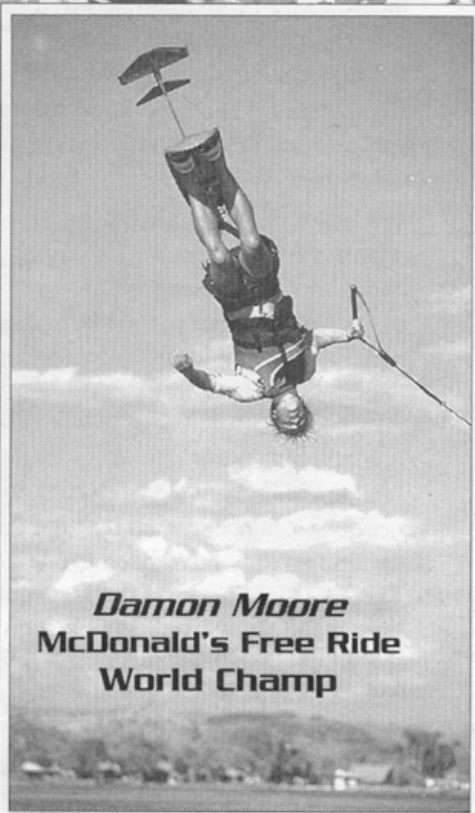
Women

- | | |
|--------------------------|------|
| 1. Barbara Laube | 8575 |
| 2. Brigitte Frischknecht | 6675 |
| 3. Anette Stänz | 6250 |

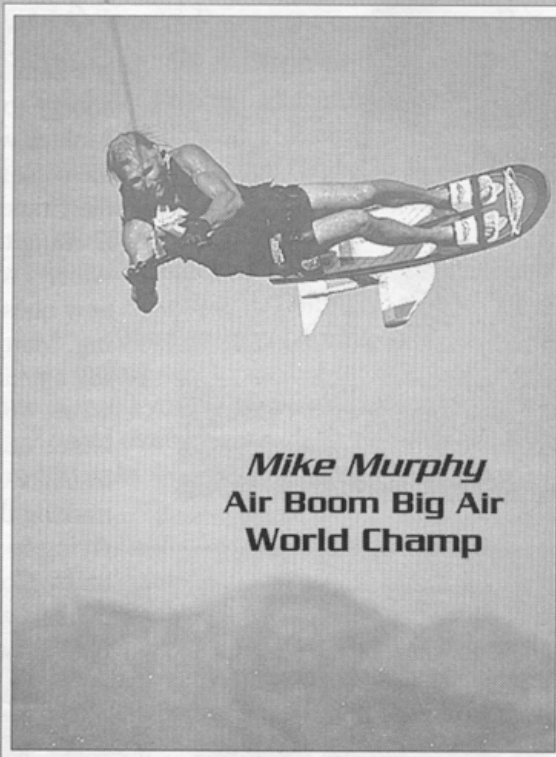
Youth

- | | |
|---------------------------|------|
| 1. Matthias Laube (12) | 8300 |
| 2. Alexander Willi (14) | 3500 |
| 3. Livio Frischknecht (8) | 2750 |

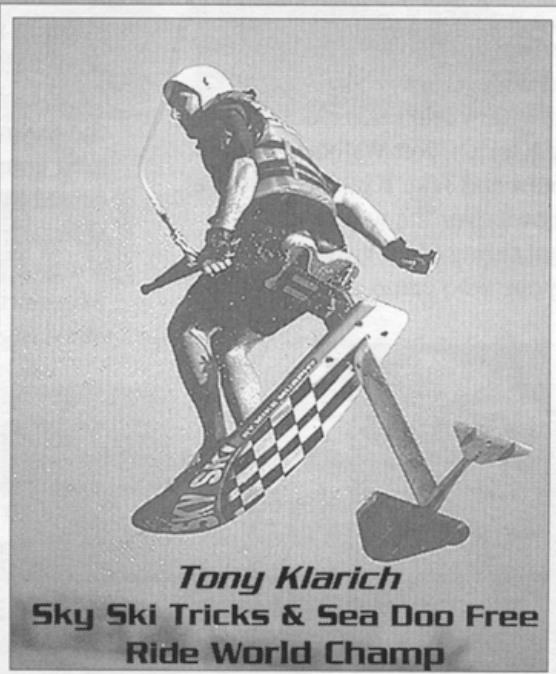
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WORDS AND PHOTOS
IAN LAUDER



It all started with a vision from Ron Young. He was compelled to have hydrofoilers from all over come to Crane Lake. "Build it and they will come" had become his mantra. The plans had been made earlier this year, a web site was built and the Internet was used to spread the word world wide. It was to be a grand event with world class riders like Tony Klarich, Jon Wilborn, Teresa Wilborn and Jake Kinnison putting on shows over the weekend and nothing but riding all day every day for everyone who came.

It's 2am and I can barely muster the energy to crawl out of bed. Air Junkies would soon be rolling into the parking lot to make the trek to the Crane Lake Fly-in. We are heading to a distant lake in northern Alberta to meet old friends, make new ones and spend the week foiling. Many riders seem to be creating a name for themselves somewhere and now it's time for the Crane Lake Hydroholics of Alberta to make themselves known. After making the drive to Vancouver then flying to Edmonton we are picked up by Collette, one of the local Wake Dawgs, and make the three hour drive to Crane Lake.

After meeting our hosts foil bags are unpacked, skis assembled and within a couple hours we are foiling across Crane Lake under sunny skies and on calm water. The evening is spent with our hosts Troy and Lise Gratton who put Jake, Debbie, Jill and myself up for the extended weekend. Over the next couple days the rest of the addicted hydrofoilers have arrived from the U.S. Some have made this a major pilgrimage coming from Missouri, Wisconsin, California, Washington, and Nebraska.

Our Canadian hosts treat us to another great day on the lake Friday. Lucky for us our flights had been on time and our luggage showed up. Some were not so fortunate but in the end it all worked out. A new record is set with 12 hydrofoilers behind a monstrosity of an extended pylon. The riding continues non-stop through the day and the evening is finished off with Pinto and Pinter stories after an outdoor video show of the days events.

We wake up to somewhat inclement weather for the first major day of the event. A typical Seattle day for some of us, but it doesn't stop anyone, boats are taking hydrofoilers around the lake all day, through wind and rain. An attempt at a 14 riders at once is made but to our dismay Norbert's boat doesn't have the bottom end needed. It is speculated that the damaged prop may have been to blame. The weather breaks at the last minute before the show, the sun pokes out, the wind dies down and as we ride past the shore it's lined with hundreds of spectators. One rider after another wows the crowd with an endless array of rolls. The local Wake Dawgs also help with the show with



Family Fun



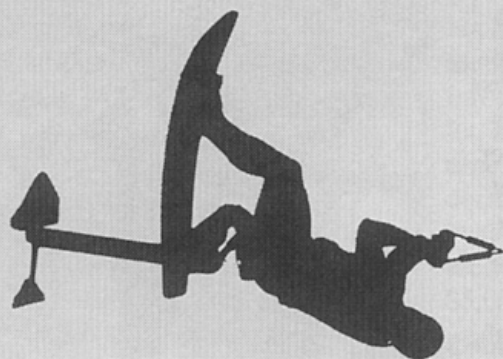
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Web Development & Photography

wakeboarding and swivel skiing by Trevor and Collette. Tony Klarich then shows his style and grace with a host of new moves, the crowd goes wild on Tony's helicopters. Jon 'Airborne' Wilborn stays true to his nickname and the crowd gasps as he attempts the double 'D'. Two full rotations on the dismount before splashing down. He makes it on the third try and the crowd goes off.

The next day brings the same weather, a cold, windy and drizzly morning. It may keep the crowds away for awhile but it doesn't deter the foilers. The boats are running all day long again finding shelter in the coves. The rain actually makes for a better afternoon some think as we get a chance to hang out under the tents signing each others hats and posters and just getting to know each other better off the water. Just as consistently as the day before the sun

comes out and the wind dies down just before show time. The show starts out with five riders behind one boat flanked by boats flying the Canadian and American flags and anthems by Bill and Myrna Leskey. Even more riders get a chance to perform this day and some like nine year old Katy don't want to stop. It all comes together in front of a beautiful sunset as the top riders show their stuff to a shoreline once again packed with hundreds of spectators. The fly-in culminates with a final show of Klarich showing the most impressive and widest array of hydrofoil tricks and Wilborn's impressive double 'D'.

A lot of people helped bring this event together for Ron, Venture Fuels who provided the fuel, all of

the hosts who fed and put up the people that traveled to Crane Lake, the riders who performed for the crowds, Neil the videographer, who risked life and limb on the inner tube and on top of Ron's custom tower and everyone else who came up to make Ron's dream come true. Put the 2001 Great Canadian Fly-In on your calendar, you won't want to miss the next one!

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SKY SKI TEAM RIDERS VISIT LAKE POWELL

In late April, 1999, six team riders for Sky Ski were invited to Lake Powell by fellow Sky Skiers Dale & Rene Hull, and Mitch Barney, from Salt Lake City, Utah for a week of fun in the sun on their 75-foot houseboat, "Shore Thing."

Mike Murphy, Damon Moore, Jake & Debbie Kinnison, my husband Jon Wilborn, and I met up with Dale, Rene and Mitch at Wahweap Marina in Glen Canyon, just outside of Page in northern Arizona. Sky Ski riders, Korrie & Trevor Sudweeks, also from Salt Lake City, joined us the next morning, and we set our course for a cove near "Cookie Jar," a well-known rock formation located on the west shore of Padre Bay. The Lake Powell recreation area stretches hundreds of miles from Lee's Ferry in Arizona to the Orange Cliffs of southern Utah. Someone would need more than a week to see everything on this magnificent lake.

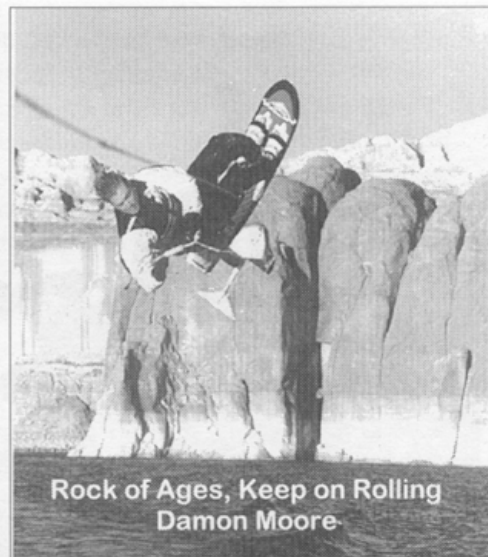
The weather on the lake that week was a mixture of warm and cold temperatures, sunny skies, wind, and, at times, clouds. Everyone had brought their drysuit along, so the elements really didn't bother us that much or stop us from having hours and hours of riding. The more macho members of the group, of course, wore their spring suits. With three ski boats in tow, we didn't have to wait too long to get a ride. The beautiful cove we stayed in not only provided us with a gorgeous beach to camp on, but it also gave us shelter from the gusts of

wind that blew across the lake. We had massive amounts of food and drink on board plus music, games, videos and glass water to ski on, so there was definitely a lot of entertainment to watch out on the water. In the interim, Mike Murphy kept everyone entertained with his version of humorous (and sometimes humorless) jokes and riddles.

One thing I've got to mention is the fact that I have never seen team rider Damon Moore go off on a kneeboard, but when I did, I was totally enthralled. He was great!

On Friday, the group headed north and visited the Rainbow Bridge rock formation and Dangling Rope Marina. Riders took turns skiing back to the houseboat with Jon and Damon riding side-by-side at 30 mph for an incredible 35+ miles, each throwing rolls, gainers, and front flips, one right after the other. Jon's shock tower was definitely put to the test during that run, and yet, again, it proved itself worthy! Mike and Jake skied the canyons together, sometimes right next to each other (and if you've ever been to Powell you can imagine what that must have looked like!). When the opportunity presented itself, they got incredibly massive air off the wakes of the tour boats that constantly crisscross the lake with visitors from literally around the world. According to Dale, who visits Lake Powell a lot, those boats just don't stop for anything. Well, they stopped that day!

The other riders had their share of fun, too. Trevor, known for his marathon rides, had miles and miles of lake to ski on; I think he may have gotten tired once, but if he did, he kept the fact well hidden! Dale and Mitch were both determined riders; their skill levels improved each time they rode. Mitch and Damon



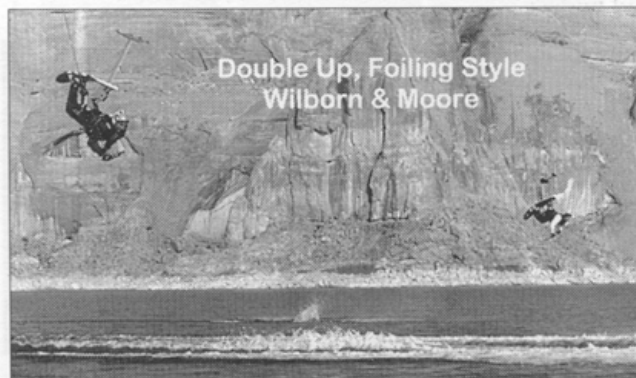
**Rock of Ages, Keep on Rolling
Damon Moore**

were the only ones to actually wakeboard that week and they had excellent water for it. The women riders in the group, Debbie, Korrie and myself, were successful in stealing some ride-time from these guys throughout the week, plus we helped ourselves to hours of skiing as well. It was purely and simply a hydrofoiler's dream come true.

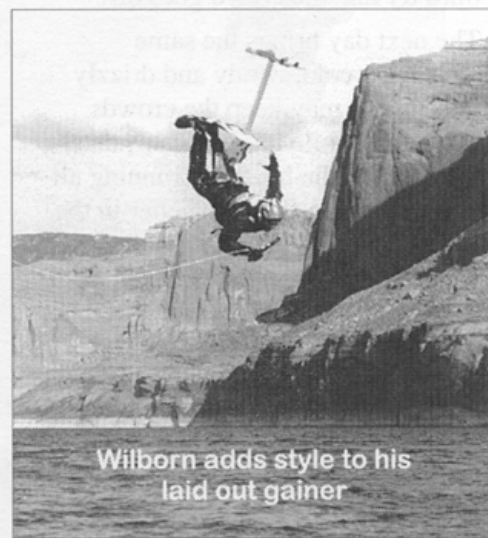
Saturday morning, Dave Tate, a renowned photographer for *Lake Powell Magazine* documented the teams' visit. Conditions were perfect, and the guys rode great. Look for them in the upcoming Fall issue.

Thanks again to our hosts for their hospitality and graciousness. Our first trip to Powell will be unforgettable.

Teresa Wilborn Sky Ski Team Rider



**Double Up, Foiling Style
Wilborn & Moore**



**Wilborn adds style to his
laid out gainer**

Hey all, here is an update on our friend **Dale Hull**, who was injured in a trampoline accident about two months ago. (Shortly after the Lake Powell trip). He broke his neck when he came down off the mat, and was paralyzed from the neck down. I went to see him about two and a half weeks ago, he looked very good. His spirits were quite high in spite of being sick that day, and everything that he's been through. He has been getting movement back very gradually.

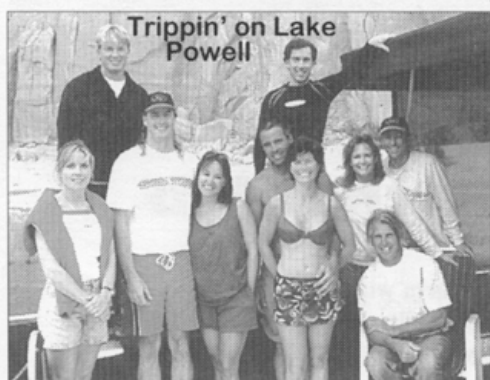
At the time he was able to move both quads, and hamstrings. He could turn his feet in, and out just a bit. He also was able to move one arm just slightly.

I just spoke with him yesterday, and he is doing really well. He is progressing faster than anyone has expected, and already further than anyone thought possible. He is getting a little more movement in his hands, and he told me that he can now sit up by himself, and balance himself while sitting up.

He has been amazed that everyone is thinking about him, and asking about him. I can tell you that it is definitely helping to keep his spirits high to know that everyone is behind him.

I will get his address and keep it at Sky Ski, if you want to send him a card or anything give me a call, I'd be happy to give it to you. His wife's name is Renee, and she is also very amazed and thankful of all the thoughts and prayers.

-Jake Kinnison

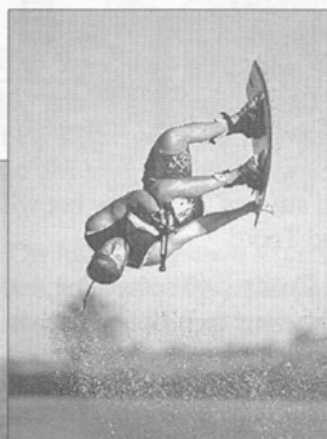
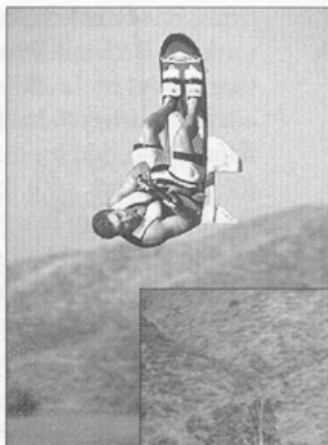


Klaas Action

Damien Klaas is a wakeboarder. He is a very good wakeboarder. In fact, he is the 1998

World Champion in the men 2 division. But lately, the Sky Ski has been catching Damien's attention. Klaas is crossing over

from wakeboarding. Dames spent several summers show skiing in San Diego's Sea World. He laid a foundation in skiing including barefoot, ramp jumping, foiling, and wakeboarding. The Canyon Lake, CA resident got hooked on wakeboarding, and became the best. His style is big and smooth, floating fronts, whirlbirds and mobes. He also does a mean Raley! Klaas came to foiling, partly from his show skiing background, and because he lives in a foiling epicenter. He jumped right in to being an advanced riders, within his first few



Damien Klaas Crossing Over



photos Kingman

sets. "I used to lie in bed at night and just think about wakeboarding, now foiling is what keeps me up", says Klaas. "I want to take more wakeboard moves to the Sky Ski". Klaas figures that whirlbirds and Raleys are in his future. Who knows, maybe even a Moby Dick??!

World Greatest Skier

For the first time, it's here. The World's Greatest Skier competition pits the world's best water skiers in various disciplines against each other to determine the true overall champion of water skiing...the best skier on earth.

The event is patterned after competitions like the World's Strongest Man and Superstars. Invitees include Tony Klarich, Dave Reinhart, Geno Yauchler, Zane Schwenk, Dean Lavelle, Ron Scarpa, Patrice Martin, and more. Foiling was a late addition to the list, replacing kneeboarding by popular demand. Sky Ski is sponsoring the foiling portion of the event. The hydrofoiling event, run late Sat.or Sun. will be a great show in itself. World Champ Klarich will be vying for top honors with Combo King Geno Yauchler. Lavelle and Schwenk have a few trick up their sleeves too. Plus, seeing some of non foilers ride will be interesting. Competitors perform all 8 events in a quest to be the best overall skier in the world.

THE EIGHT EVENTS

Slalom
Trick
Distance Jump
Freestyle Jump
Barefoot
Wakeboard
Hydrofoil
Wild Card
10/2-3/99

Cypress Gardens, FL

First Time Flippers

(Continued from page 12)

praise to the to Air Junkies for getting me this far. It took one more try. I heard the noise of the foil hitting the water, but this time I held on. I rode away from my first roll on my fourth attempt. I won my bet with Jon Jr. and Todd!

Warren Posey, 40 something, has come a long way in foiling. He took up the sport about two years ago, looking for something different than his normal slalom skiing and tricking. It took Warren a full summer to get confident with jumps. He took his time and learned how to ride the foil. The following season he started

Flight

messing around with dismount gainers, feeling more comfortable letting go out wide rather than at the wake. While it took him dozens of tries, with a few hard under rotations, he started nailing the dismounts. Because Warren was letting go out in the flats it was an easy transition to hang on to the handle and ride it out. He needed the most work with the line tension, finally deciding that he wanted just a little tension. Most of the time he turns back into the boat to create a "tensionless" line to throw the gainer. Ultimately, the rope tightens as he lands it, and he uses his inside arm to pull and guide it through.



photo: Kingman

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rider: Brian Vesely / photo: Kelly Kingman

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New Videos Coming Soon

Molsens Golden isn't the only cool import from Canada. Soon there will be more hydrofoiling videos to add to the list. Last Summer's Great Canadian Fly-In is spawning a couple of instructional videos and an event video. Nathaniel Ostashewski is currently hard at work editing down the 40+ hours of raw footage shot at the fly in. These should be available in time for Christmas. Stay tuned!

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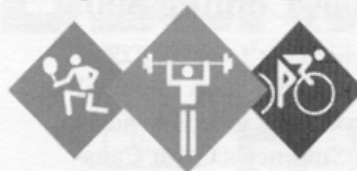
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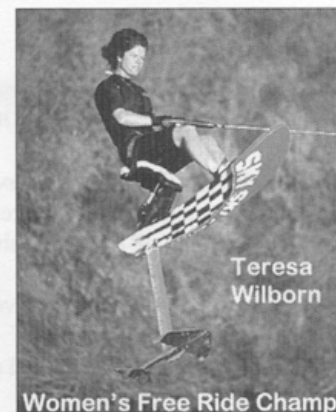
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