

tips&tricks: Get Good Fast Top Tips for 10 Tricks

Skidder Floater Wake Jump B5 Roll F5 Roll Gainer Gainer-to-Jump Combo Front Flip Wrapped Heli B5 Roll Combo

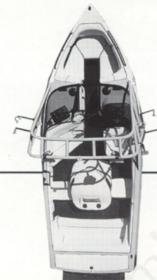


Be a Team Rider p.13
Mike Murphy p.15
Parker Fly-In p.19
Inland Surfing p.21

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hange is in the air! I have been doing just about everything for Flight for the past four years, and now help has arrived. As we enter our 5th year, I would like to introduce Mary Ann Rudnick as our new managing editor. Mary Ann has a background in writing, editing, and watersports, and has done a great job with her debut issue. We tried to include all the things our readers asked for in this magazine. More tips & instruction, stories about newsworthy riders, and travel. It's all in here. You will also find that we now have more people than ever appearing on the pages of this magazine. We have finally moved from a backyard sport to now the cover a diversity of the riders throughout the world.

Another person I would like to introduce is Ian Lauder. The man behind the lens and computer has taken over as our senior photographer this year. That means that he is responsible for getting together all the pictures needed for each issue. He'll be looking for you this year to get great foiling photos!

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Cover: Scott Honkala

Foiling continues to move forward. There are several Fly-Ins this year, all promising a great time. Florida, Tennessee, Texas, Canada, and Parker to name the majors. Insurance for these events has been worked out too which is great news.

Designs continue to improve.
The Shock Tower has gotten
lighter, and Sky Ski is putting
some final touches on their new
limited edition ski. It's an all new
T-bar, lighter board and all the
best innovations to date.

The riding continues to grow in a steady pace. Riders are crossing over from lots of towed watersports. We are just starting to reach our stride, but who knows what is possible for foiling?!

Tony Klarich, D.C. publisher

photo: Ian Lauder

Flight World

Publisher, Design
Tony Klarich, D.C.

Managing Editor
Mary Ann Rudnick

Writers
Nick Dear
Brett Erdman
Bill Kinnison
Todd Kyser
Hugh & Bob
Nathan LaRusso
Matt Legge
Glenn Mitchell
Rob Plamondon
Chip Reihl
Mary Ann Rudnick
Jerry Wood

Senior Photographer lan Lauder

Photographers Jason Gunstenson Kelly Kingman

Flight
31566 RR Cyn Rd, #101
Canyon Lake, CA, 92587-9446
phone: 909-244-6723
fax: 909-246-9640
Email: info@flightworlds.com

For advertising contact: Tony Klarich 909-244-6723

For info about the Flight Worlds: www.flightworlds.com

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Riders' Advice: How to Get Good Fast

Recently, the following question was posed to the Internet-based hydrofoiling discussion group: "What advice can you give to novice hydrofoilers who are looking to improve their riding skills in a short period of time?" We received a great response, and following are selected pieces of good advice that should help for every beginning hydrofoiler out there. Thank you to everyone who took the time to e-mail your advice. I am sure your fellow hydrofoilers, and those who are looking to get into the sport, appreciate your expertise.

-Editor

While they say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, imitation is also the fastest way to improve your hydrofoiling. If you want to ski like a pro, go skiing with a pro, attend fly-ins and watch all the videos. I have had the opportunity to ski in Texas with pros like [Todd] Kyser and [Thomas] Freeman, and it has really improved my trick list and given me a mental picture of how the tricks are supposed to be done correctly.



Study a Pro Rider Like Todd Kyser

- Nick Dear, Texas

The best advice I can give is to work on your jumps; more precisely, nailing the mechanics of a good "pop," which allows you to clear both wakes instead of one wake. For an advanced beginner, the first time you clear both wakes is one of the best feelings you'll ever have. If you can't get the initial jump down, you'll have an extremely hard time doing aerial tricks. My friends and I have seen a lot of people try a gainer without having the initial height in their jumps. They were all rushed and they usually under rotated, which results in head and face plants galore!

While my friends and I usually jump over the wake with aerials, jumps can be performed anywhere: inside the wake, outside the wake, on the approach to the wake or during the cut to the outside. We've found this to be a good method for advanced beginners to start getting really good air — five to six feet above the water. To get better air, the "pop" is done with the foil a bit higher out of the water. Make sure you have the basics of jumping down pat before trying this.

Start with about one-third of the foil in the water during the approach to the wake. Prior to your normal jump point, where you angle the blades up, dip down toward the water, slap the tip of the board lightly against the water and lean back. This pogo effect will allow you to jump at least twice as high as when you began. When you try this, don't get scared and lean forward in the air as this will lead to a nose-down crash. Maintain the forty-five degree pull backwards until you've landed. If you've done this properly, you'll have had more air. When you engage a bit more aggressive angle of attack toward the wake, you'll be clearing both wakes with the jump.

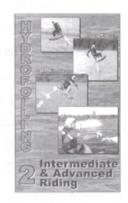
Practice this kind of jump until it is second nature. When you progress to gainers and flips, you want to concentrate on the trick, not worrying about having enough height.

- Matt Legge

Classroom instruction is very important. There is a lot to say about knowing what to do and how you're going to do it *before* you get in the water. Study whatever instructional videos you can get your hands on. Watch and learn from videos of any other more advanced rider. Select a rider and study his/her style and technique. If you can, ride with other foilers more advanced than yourself. Mimic them! Most of the learning curve is mental. Being

able to see yourself perform the maneuver in your head has a big effect on how you're going to do it in the water. There are many foiling maneuvers that are intimidating to beginning and novice riders. After few attempts, you find it's not so brutal, but just scary. That's where the rush and addiction comes from. You have to overcome these fears to progress. Good luck!

- Jerry Wood



Watching Videos
is a Great Key
to Success

The best advice for anybody wanting to improve their riding can be summarized very easily. First, get the Hydrofoiling 2 video and watch it frame by frame. Second, be active on the hydrofoiling member community (www.groups.yahoo.com, search for hydrofoil) because we are always trading hundreds of good tips. And third, get the right gear (ankle straps, helmet, rope, Cinch belt) and go out and practice as often as you can. Time in the

saddle is key once you can visualize the moves.

- Hugh

Just slow down. You don't have two ski faster than 24 to 25 miles per hour to make any of the most common tricks.

-Bobby

Practice, practice with someone who knows what to do.

- Bob Oliver

In order to become "good," you have to become a fluid rider, with smooth, controlled movements. That perfectly smooth look is common with the best performers in any sport. When you watch someone do a perfect maneuver, it looks effortless. Watch the trick and break it down into its main components. By studying these components — approach, dip, pop, throw, spotting and landing — we begin to learn a trick. Once we have the mechanics of the trick understood, learning proper timing becomes the key to consistency. When you can consistently execute the components of the trick, then you can become fluid. Practice. Practice. Practice. Don't throw a new trick once at the end of a ride. Make that new trick the whole point of the ride. Finally, ride with a "pro-caliber" level rider. The right teacher will cut the learning time drastically.

- Chip Reihl

Never *try* a new trick, *DO* a new trick. If you just "try" a new trick, you're not ready for it. Visualize the trick over and over in your head until you feel totally confident about it, and then DO it. Secondly, always go big —throw a huge jump and go for it — don't let the fear of a crash hold you back. My most painful crashes happened when I either a) "tried" a new trick, or b) threw a half hearted jump, thinking that less air would equal a less painful crash...when in reality, less air means under-rotation...ouch.

— Brett Erdmann

Upcoming Events

June 8-12, 2001 "The Tennessee Fly-In"

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July 27-29, 2001 "Great Canadian Fly-In" Crane Lake Hydroholics, Alberta Canada Ron Young: 780-594-2542 www.coldlake.com/hydrofoil

Sept. 14-17, 2001 "3nd Annual Texas Fly-In"
Brazos River just South of Weatherford, TX
Todd Spitz: 817- 475-3753 (days)
Todd Kyser: 903-566-2793 (evenings)
dizzyair@hotmail.com www.texasflyin.com
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2002 "Flight Worlds" Lake Elsinore, CA hydrofoil, surf, wakeboard

Events subject to change. Contact the organizers directly to confirm dates and locations!!!

2001 Tennessee State INT Event Schedule

- May 19-20, Old Hickory Lake Spring Fling Gallatin All Classes & Hydrofoil
- · May 26, Free Wakeboard Clinic Fayetteville
- June 2-3, Melton Hill Ski & Board Bonanza Oak Ridge All Classes & Hydrofoil
- June 23-24, Cleveland Family Fun Festival Cleveland All Classes
- June 30-July 1, Dickson Wake & Ski Spree Dickson All Classes & Hydrofoil
- July 14-15, Estill Springs H2O Extravaganza Estill Springs All Classes & Hydrofoil
- August 4-5, Warriors Path Fun & Sun Challenge -Kingsport All Classes & Hydrofoil
- August 18-19, TN State Championships Dickson All Classes & Hydrofoil

As the TN-INT season starts to gear up, I wanted to personally invite all you folks to come TN and participate in the INT. I will have 7 events this year and 6 will include hydrofoiling. So if you want to come out meet some new folks and compete in a friendly atmosphere, I'd encourage you to come out!

Since there will be no Worlds this year... this might be a great opportunity for you guys to hook up with some fellow foilers and practice for next year. Last year we started at 6 hydrofoilers and ended the season with 17! I hope we can exceed those numbers this year!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me or call me at the numbers below. You can also go to my web site at www.intleague.com/tennessee.

Hope to see all of you folks at my events!!

Glen Mitchell TN State INT Coordinator 615.882.7563 (day) 615.824.7593 (evening)

TOP Tips Ten Tricks We recently asked two expert hydrofoilers for their advice on 10 popular foiling tricks. Here is the wisdom that our own Bill Kinnison and Todd Kyser have chosen to impart on our readers. (As always, make sure that you use proper gear).

Skidder

The skidder can be done on any foil, tuned, polished or not, but is easiest done on a foil with front winglets in light wind-chopped water. You should have a good grasp of where you are on the foil (1/2 way up, almost to the top, etc.). Slow the boat down to 18 or 20 mph. Cut to the outside of the wake about 5 feet and slowly ride up to the top of the foil. As the wings approach the water's surface, plant the handle down on your knees, lean WAY BACK and curl your toes to the sky! This will make you almost push your feet out the front and up. If you push down with your feet you likely will push the front wing down and the foil will "fall off" the



Lean Back & Keep the Handle Down to Skid

skidder. You can also scoot your butt back on the seat to help push your weight back. Keep that handle planted down on your knees! Use your feet to push one way or another to steer. -*BK*

Floater

The floater is an easy trick once you have the wake jump down pat. You don't have to go big or let go for long, although that's when it gets really stylish. A non-stretch rope, handle and extended pylon strap will help keep the rope snap to a minimum. Slow the boat down to 18 or 20 mph. Just do your wake jump and release the handle at the peak of your jump. You can lightly toss the handle up slightly to extend the amount of time you have before you have to re-grab it. Tons of variations can be done with this trick, including grabbing the seat, the board or even the t-bar. Put your hands behind your head for a Lazy Boy. Spin the handle when you toss it. Do it out in the flats. -BK



ider: Stack / photo: Lauder

The Lazy Boy: a Cool Floater Variation

Wake Jump

The wake jump is one of the first tricks a rider should learn and the basis for almost every inverted trick out there. You should forget everything you know about jumping on a wakeboard or water ski. And most of all, FORGET the old handle up/foil down, handle down/foil up routine. Learn to ride the foil with your elbows in to your side and the handle a few inches above your knees. Lean forward and backward to adjust your foil height.

Slow the boat down to 18 or 20 mph, cut 3 to 5 feet outside of the wake and ride to about halfway up on the foil. GENTLY cut back into the wake, keeping your handle low and in. As you approach the wake, lean forward slightly to make a dip before the wake, just barely kissing the ski to the water. Two feet before the wake, lean back and pull your feet up slightly. KEEP THE HANDLE DOWN and IN! Maintain your leaning back position through the jump in the air until the foil re-enters the water. As the foil lands, lean forward SLIGHTLY and DO NOT push on your feet! If

you have the handle down and keep your foot action to a minimum, the foil will settle down easily. If the handle is all over or your feet are pushing and pulling, you're going to either dig the tip of the ski or bounce and do a quick second jump. You'll know a perfect wake jump when you do it correctly. If your foil exits the wake on the crest, you'll feel a "POP" and it will kick you in the air! It's all in the timing of your dip and leaning back just PRIOR to the wake crest. Keep practicing the timing and have your spotter tell you to jump "sooner" or "later." -BK







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Backside Roll

The backside roll is most riders' first inverted trick. A good wake jump and a good landing are ABSO-LUTELY necessary to pull it off. Cut 5 feet out of the wake. Cut back in slowly, do your dip as you approach the wake, keep your handle low and in, JUMP and look up and over your shoulder closest to the wake. Where the head goes, the body will follow, so over-exaggerate when you look. If you are cutting in from the right side of the wake, look up over your left shoulder. The foil will have so much swing weight that you will easily roll around. Keep your handle low and in and focus on the boat. As you land, sit back up in your natural riding position and LOOK at the boat! Keep your handle low and in. Putting handle in (or to the right in this case) to the wake



Where the Head Goes, the Body Will Follow

will cause you to speed up your rotation. To the outside of the roll (the left) will slow it down. If you are watching the boat and jumping on the wake, you will be able to adjust your rotation in mid air for perfect landings every time! Air back rolls are even easier because the timing issue with your dip at the wake is non-existent. Try them, if you are landing them on the wake you'll land air back rolls easily. -BK

Frontside Roll

The front roll is basically the same rotation as the backside roll, except for it is done from the opposite side of the wake. It's called a "front" roll because you are leading with your head and shoulders in relation to the wake. Slow the boat down to 18 or 20 mph and make your approach in the same way as back roll, slow and easy from 5 feet outside of the wake. Make your dip, JUMP, keep your handle low and in and after the foil clears the water, throw your upper body sideways into the wake. Watch the boat - you may lose it midrotation — but stretch to look for it. As you come around, keep the handle low and in and stick it! Be careful doing an air front roll as you will have to strain to roll the tip of the ski up and around the rope. If the tip does hit, it will likely stall the rotation and the crash is gonna be spectacular! -BK

Gainer

The gainer can be done either in the

flats or over the wake. To try a gainer in the flats, practice cutting out hard and doing a big air jump with the handle in your inside hand. When your percentage of successful landings increases, cut out, do your dip, put your handle to your inside hip, JUMP, and after the foil exits the water, throw your head back. The ski will come around three-fourths of the way pretty easily. The trick is crunching your gut to suck the tip of the ski around in time

to land it. Then just re-grab the handle and ride it away! If you are not quite making a full rotation and digging the tip of the ski, JUMP and CRUNCH your abs to get it around faster!



From Here, Crunch to Pull It Around

Gainer-to-Jump Combo

Most riders would probably agree that the gainer-to-jump combo is one of the easiest inverted combos. Chances are, if you've learned gainers, you've probably done a few by accident. Learning to do them on purpose just takes a bit of concentration and a little practice. Naturally, you should be very consistent with both gainers and jumps before attempting gainer-to-jump combos.

The key to any swoop-style combo is the landing. You want to slightly under-rotate so that the foil enters cleanly, nose down. Throw your gainer in the flats as you normally would, then lay it out slightly and spot your landing as soon as possible. Keep the handle in close and re-grab with your outside hand just before you land. Having both hands on the handle will give you more control for the jump, but grabbing the handle af-

ter you land will throw your timing off. As you land, bring your knees up toward your chest from the laid out position and let the foil come around and

and let the foil come around and back up for the jump (This is where the term *swoop-style* comes from). Pay close attention to handle position as you go for the jump. It is very important to keep the handle in close and low.

Your first jumps should be just a few inches high. As you become more comfortable and consistent, you can begin to be more aggressive with the jump. Once you can consistently land gainer jump combos, experiment with different tricks. Start with fashion airs and method grabs and work your way up to floaters, nose grabs, undertakers, etc. Practically any jump trick can be done as a gainer-to trick. -TK

Combo - two or more of the same or different tricks linked together to make one continuous move.

Front Flip

The front flip is an impressive move that is surprisingly easy to throw. Unfortunately, it's also hard to land. Front flips take mental preparation and total commitment. Approach the wake with a moderate cut, similar to a wake-to-wake jump. Dip and pop more aggressively than you would for a plain jump and don't lean back as you normally would. This is where you must commit. It's either all or nothing, and there is no such thing as a small front flip. AFTER the jump, throw your shoulders forward (across the wake, not toward the boat) and pull the handle in. Stomping a good hard jump will increase the line tension and help you get around. Lean away from the boat slightly to keep the rope from pulling you off axis. The way I do this is to use a baseball grip. Front flips are the only time I use this grip and I always have my inside hand

palm up (If I'm going left-to-right, my right hand will be palm up. If I'm going right-to-left, my left hand will be palm up.). This causes me to dip my inside shoulder and helps to counteract the rope's tendency to pull me off axis.

As you go over the top, hold the handle in the hand closest to the boat and keep it near your hip. Now for the tough part — the landing - it's hard to spot the landing for a front flip, which is what makes it difficult to land. The main key for all inverts is spotting the landing. Tuck your chin to your chest and concentrate on what you are able to see. Chances are, you won't see much at first, but you will see more and more as you gain experience. In previous tips, Tony Klarich described looking over his shoulder as an advanced way to spot the landing. I first learned to spot the landing by looking under my

armpit. I now rely more on my peripheral vision to see first the horizon and then the water. Experiment and see which method works for you. As you come around for the landing, grab the handle with your free hand so that you land with both hands. Also bring your shoulders forward as you land to prevent the dreaded relaunch, which is often followed by a nasty face-plant. If you tend to under-rotate, jump harder

and pull harder on the rope. If you are overrotating, lay it out a little to slow the rotation.

-TK



Keep the Handle In When Going Over the Top

Wrapped Heli

To do a wrapped helicopter you first need to be wrapped up. Start just outside the wake to the side on which you plan to do the heli. Cut out into the flats and then turn back toward the wake to generate slack in the rope. Let go with your outside hand, reach behind your back and grab the handle near your inside hip. As soon as you have the handle in your outside hand quickly grab the wrap handle with your inside hand. During this process, steer with your knees to maintain just enough slack to grab the handle behind your back. Turn in toward the wake for more slack, cut out for less.

Once you have mastered the art of wrapping up and are comfortable riding in the wrapped position, it's time to go for it. Start just outside the wake and make a moderate cut out wide. Ease off of your cut, line up

with the boat, then dip and jump. As the foil leaves the water, bring your knees up toward your chest into a slight tuck position. Once you are in the air and in the tuck position, release the wrap handle with your inside hand and look over your outside shoulder to initiate the spin. Keep the handle in close and as low as possible as you bring it around and into your lap. Keep the nose up as you re-grab the handle and prepare to land.

One of the most common mistakes is to let go and try to spin too early. This can cause you to go out the

front, fall to the side, or just totally lose control. Have someone in the boat watching to make sure you are well out of the water before you release the wrap handle. This is a tough trick and falls can be very brutal. Wear a helmet with good ear protection to prevent a blown eardrum from sideways landings. -TK



Handle In for Helis

BS Roll Combo

Like the gainer-to-jump combo, the key to the backside roll combo is to get a good early spot and a clean, nose-down landing. Throwing your normal air roll just a little more straight back helps to get the landing you need. Lay it out slightly, get an early spot, and keep the handle in close. As you land, let the foil flow through and back up for the second roll. Throw your shoulders back and lift with your feet to generate pop. Once the foil is in the air,

initiate the second roll and look for the landing. Many riders' combos are much lower than their air rolls, but with practice you can learn to concentrate on the landing and jump between each roll and make your combos almost as high as your air rolls. -TK

King of the Delta

Although George Gallegos, age 35, is a mild-mannered software salesman for Siebel Systems during the week, on the weekends he transforms into an adrenaline junky, regardless of the season. When the weather is sunny or mild, one can find him on the Sacramento Delta, where he loves to spend his weekends with his wife, Vicki, and his

three children, ages 7, 5 and 10 months. He and his wife are also teaching his five- and seven-year-old to hydrofoil, which he says they enjoy. His watersports portfolio includes hydrofoiling, which his wife also enjoys, and windsurfing and kitesurfing and kiteboarding. In the winter, he switches to snowboarding.

"I usually ride every weekend, but I scale it back in the winter," says Gallegos. "That's when I usually snowboard be-



Gallegos Grabs Two World Titles

cause we get some pretty good snow up here in the mountains. His current snowboard of choice is an Avalanche, but he is considering changing to another brand.

While he began hydrofoiling about five years ago using an Air Chair, his buddy Damon Moore introduced him to the Sky Ski, and Gallegos bought one shortly after they debuted on the market. He now owns four Sky Skis: a Rock Tower, a Shock Tower, the child's version and he recently ordered Sky Ski's limited edition.

Gallegos usually rides the Sacramento Delta behind his brand new MasterCraft X-30, which is similar to a Mas-

> terCraft MariStar, he says. "It's weighted down pretty good and throws an awesome wake. The boat has a great ballast system and a 65-gallon gas tank, and I added about 600 pounds of lead as well."

The tricks that Gallegos throws pretty consistently include front flips, back rolls, gainers, helis, combos, some grabs and front rolls. He is currently working on his double flips, additional combos, especially triple combos and an offside heli.

The riders that he learns from include Damon Moore and Dave Meyers. "I usually ride with about six local people from the Bay area, and we get together on the weekends." But his favorite riders to watch include Damon Moore, for his consistency, and Thomas Freeman, for his "radical cowboy style," says Gallegos.

Apparently, all of that time on the water has paid off for Gallegos — he placed first at the Flight Worlds 2000 event in the master's division for both tricks and freeride.

And if he could live anywhere in the world, where would it be? "Exactly where I am," he says. "I've ridden on a lot of different water in a lot of different places, but the Delta is by far the best. I haven't been able to find any better water yet."

-Mary Ann Rudnick

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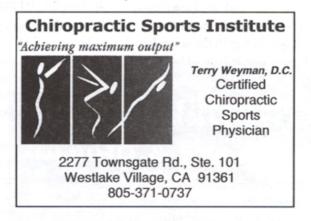
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A Well-Traveled Young Lady

Katy Haulotte is pretty much your average kid in every respect — she has a mom and dad and a younger brother, Bobby, she is in the sixth grate at Sacred Heart, a private school near her home in Sedalia Missouri, and her favorite subject is history. However, what makes her unique is that this 11-year-old girl has been hydrofoiling since she was eight.

"My family and I ride at Truman Lake, which is about 30 to 40 minutes away from our house," she says. "During the summer, we ride every weekend, and during the winter, we ride about two times a month."

Hydrofoiling is definitely a family affair for the Haulotte's, says Katy. "My mom, dad and I all do it, and we have been trying to get my brother, who is only six years old, up on the hydrofoil, but he hasn't gotten up yet."

And while her favorite tricks are the ones that include grabs, she is also pretty consistent when she throws her floaters and jumps. She is currently working on her dismount gainers, "but I haven't landed any yet," she says.

For someone of such a young age, she has certainly trav-

eled across the country quite a bit. "We have gone to flyins in Canada, Parker, Tennessee and we have gone to Texas twice. I really liked the surroundings and the water conditions in Tennessee." But one of her favorite trips was in her home state. "We went to the St. Louis Arch at the Mississippi River on New Year's Day 2000," she said. "It was a lot of fun."

Her dad is her primary coach, and she rides behind the



Katy Haulotte is an 11 Year-Old Up and Coming Female Rider

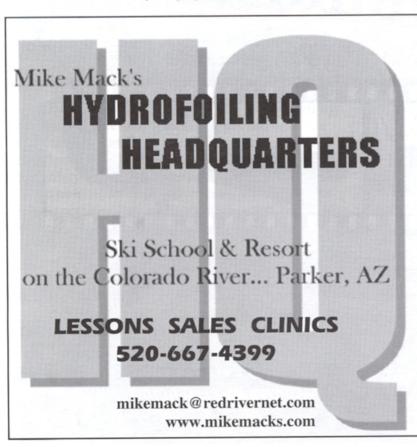
family's Regal sports boat.

"I'm hoping to learn a gainer and more grabs, and I hope to compete in the Flight Worlds 2002 with a lot more new tricks," she says. "Sometimes my friends get to come with us to Truman Lake, but Lauren and Abby (her friends) haven't been able to get up on the hydrofoil yet."

"I'd like to thank the people at the fly-ins who have helped me with my riding, and of course, my dad, who's spent a lot of time teaching me."

"I just really love to hydrofoil, it's a lot of fun," says Katy. With her attitude and ambition, she is almost guaranteed a podium spot at Flight World's 2002.

-Mary Ann Rudnick





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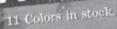
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Everyone Winswith Team Riders

By Mary Ann Rudnick

Every manufacturer of water sport equipment has team riders for one main reason: to get the word out on their product with as much variety as possible.

Bob Woolley, co-inventor and president of Air Chair (Lake Havasu City, Arizona) says he has about seven team riders presently, and chooses quality of riders over quantity of riders.

"Before I select any team rider, I have to see how they ride, so I ask them to provide me with video clips and a biography of their accomplishments," says Woolley. "These tools provide me with a pretty good idea of their potential."

Woolley's team riders, of which he has seven to date, receive great perquisites, including free equipment and gear, as well as pay incentives for favorable articles in the press, hosting demonstrations and other types of rewards.

"We have scheduled a houseboat trip this June on Lake Shasta for our team riders, and have offered to pay all of their airfare, as well as give them a place to stay on the houseboat," says Woolley. "While we will do a little video and photography work of the team, the trip was scheduled basically for the riders to have a good time. It will be a very unstructured trip."

Mike Murphy, president of Sky Ski (Lake Elsinore, California), has two types of team riders — those who receive their equipment at cost and receive free hats, t-shirts, videos and other types of gear — and those that Murphy calls "contracted riders," or those who receive their hydrofoils and other such gear as helmets and vests "on loan," and can turn them in each year for new gear, or if they choose to sell or keep the equipment, they can just repay Murphy the cost of the equipment. Murphy's contracted team riders also receive photo and video incentives, appearance fees and monetary rewards for positive press coverage. All told, including both types of riders, Murphy currently is sponsoring about 20 people.

So what do the companies get out of this sponsorship deal? Murphy says he reaps great benefits from his team riders. "It's very rewarding to see my team riders out there winning tournaments, to see my product on television and in magazines," he says. "And when you provide incentives to your riders, it gives them more ambition to go bigger and to win more tournaments. All in all, it's quite conducive to promoting the sport."

Murphy says that his team riders also provide him with a good source of R&D testing. One team rider, Thomas

Flight



Ryan Stenderup is One of Sky Ski's Top Young Guns



Air Chair's #1 Rider, Geno Yauchler

Freeman, 22, of Garland, Texas, will be coming out shortly to help Murphy test some new equipment. "In exchange for a place to stay and a boat to ride behind, Thomas will give me valuable input as to what he likes about the equipment, how it performs and the strength of the equipment. My goal is to manufacture a hydrofoil that no one can break."

While Murphy's and Woolley's sponsorship styles are a little different, they are very much alike regarding the type of rider they are looking for.

"I am looking for a rider that is going to win when they compete and make the product as well as the team look good," says Murphy. They also must have the ability to communicate well with others and must talk positively about the sport of hydrofoiling.

"I'm not looking necessarily for someone who only talks about themselves and how good they are, but someone who is interested in promoting the sport and is looking into making a living hydrofoiling," says Murphy. "They need to be able to get up early enough in the morning to do photo shoots without having to wear a dry suit, show up with a polished foil and not come in hung over from the night before."

Woolley looks for riders who act in a professional manner at all times. "My team riders must promote Air Chair as being the original and best product on the market," he says. "They must be willing to give test rides and be clean-cut family-type of people. We don't want ex-drug addicts or long-hairs here, we want people who will represent the sport of hydrofoiling in a professional way."

Geno Yauchler, 29, of Lakeland Florida, is one of Woolley's team riders. "Bob made me a team rider when I broke the world's record for the most consecutive flips (he did 1,416 in one ride without stopping)," says Yauchler. "There are many benefits of being a team rider. I receive recognition for who I am and what I do. As one ex-

(Continued on page 14)

Team Riders

(Continued from page 13) ample, Bob has put me in the Overton's catalog, which has gotten me great exposure. Bob and Jan really take care of me well."

Murphy says Billy Rossini, an ex-kneeboarder, is a perfect example of what a team rider should be. "I knew he would make it as a team rider even before he knew how to do inverts. He had the ability to learn, he can talk in a professional manner, he shows up with a nice clean boat with nice graphics, and a matching vehicle," he says. "He looks at from a professional standpoint and wants to promote the sport and be a world champion."

Freeman, who has been riding for Sky Ski for almost a

year now, has been hydrofoiling for about six years. "My favorite part of being a team rider is that I get to meet and ride with a bunch of different people from all over the world," he says. "It's great to ride with so many different people, because we can trade tips and teach each other new things. The financial incentives are pretty cool, too."

Freeman really talks up the sport of hydrofoiling and tries to sell Sky Skis to as many people as he can. He feels that the type of people who make great team riders are those who can make up new tricks and are willing to teach or help other riders, no matter whose name is on their foil. "Above all, a team rider has to have a good attitude and a lot of patience with new riders. It takes a lot of thinking to become a good hydrofoiler, because the foils aren't that easy to master."

Freeman's advice to someone who wishes to become a team rider? "It takes a lot of practice, determination and guts to try new things," he says. "You just want to have to be the best."

Yauchler feels that riding ability is a major factor in becoming a successful team rider, in any sport. "It's also really important to be able to help promote the product and to have a good attitude all the time. A team rider has

> to be assertive, but also humble, and must promote the sport in general, not just the specific company for which you are riding."

And promoting the sport of hydrofoiling is really what it's all about, regarding whose team you are on. While Woolley and Murphy may not agree on much else, they will agree on that point. That and the fact that hydrofoiling is a really addictive sport.

Mary Ann Rudnick is Flight World's managing editor. Reach her at 909-245-5259 or mededitor@aol.com.



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An Interview with "Father Time"

Mike Murphy is always coming up with something new on the water. From the kneeboard and PureVertTM Wake Enhancement System to hot-dogging and dozens of new moves, Murphy has been a driving force in watersports innovation for over 40 years.

Flight: What water sports did you participate in before you began hydrofoiling?

Murphy: Just about everything. I've done trick, slalom, barefoot and jump skiing, ski racing, quarter-mile drags, marathon and hot dog skiing, kneeboarding (Bud Hulst and I developed the first kneeboard in 1972), show skiing and I was also a water ski instructor.

Flight: You and Bob Woolley co-created the Air Chair. How did that partnership begin?

Murphy: I had an idea to put a hydrofoil on a kneeboard, to make it ride smoother, and Bob made it. We then sold it to a kneeboard company, which forbid us to ride a hydrofoiled kneeboard, so I attached the hydrofoil to a pair of standup skis. Then Bob attached one to a sit ski, which turned out to be a really hot ticket. I liked the concept of sitting, but didn't like the water knocking my gonads so hard together. I suggested to push the two skis together, which worked great, but after I got nailed with the foil a couple of times, I attached a seat belt, which ended up being the birth of the Air Chair and Sky Ski. However, in reality, neither one of us "invented" the hydrofoil. A man named Emmanuel invented the first hydrofoil to be towed behind a boat on a pair of stand-up water skis. We really just modified it to make a new device, and we redesigned the hydrofoil to make it more efficient. While both Bob and I can say that we each invented it, my opinion is that every component that was used to create the hydrofoil

Flight



Mike Murphy Legendary Innovator

was already available. In fact, about 99% of inventions today are made of existing products.

Flight: There seems to be a quite serious and public rift between you and Bob. Are you interested in patching it up with him? How do you think it will be best accomplished?

Murphy: Yes, there is. I think that for the business aspect of it, I am 100% in favor of mending the rift between us, but as a personal issue, I am not interested in mending it. I think it's best for us to patch it up for the benefit of the sport of hydrofoiling and

for the athletes. They shouldn't have to listen to all of the bitterness between us, and Bob should get the benefit out of what he has done — he should be a hall-of-famer — but his bitterness prevents that. I also think that Air Chair and Bob should take advantage of the fly-ins, because Sky Skiers would welcome Air Chair riders. The only animosity is between us, not the riders. The riders all get along with one another.

Flight: You are an institution in the hydrofoiling world and have invented many of the tricks that are commonly performed now. Who do you think will be the next innovators of the sport?

Murphy: I think Tony Klarich, Damon Moore, Thomas Freeman and Billy Rossini will have great influence now and in the future of the sport. Billy is bringing a lot of tricks over from kneeboarding. I also think that we have to look over to the Aussies. Whenever people talk about the innovators, the usual suspects are always mentioned — Tony, Damon and Thomas — but we seem to overlook the Aussies. They are really into the sport of hydrofoiling, and if we don't watch out, they have the power to overtake the U.S. in this sport.

(Continued on page 16)





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(Continued from page 15)

Flight: What advice do you have for someone who wants to begin hydrofoiling?

Murphy: The first thing people need to understand is that even though they are holding a ski rope and are being towed behind a boat, they are not water-skiing. Throw away everything you ever learned about water-skiing, because it just doesn't apply. To turn a water ski you have to lean on an edge. To turn on a hydrofoil, you steer with your knees. It's basically learning a whole new sport. Pilots have a much better and a much easier time learning to hydrofoil, because many of the concepts of flying a plane are the same with flying a hydrofoil. It's also important for the boat driver to remember to pull hydrofoilers at about half the speed that is used for water-skiing.

It's also very important to really study the instructional videos. Air Chair has one, Sky Ski has one, and many independent people are producing them as well. Many people want to learn how to fly right away, but you won't be able to do that well unless you have the basics down pat. Start out by learning how to control the hydrofoil and taxi on the water. Learn how to steer it until it becomes muscle memory, and then learn how to fly. I can't say it enough — go slow, slow, slow — the learning curve is much faster if you go slow and master the basics first. Also, know your placement on the seat. Always make a butt-check to make sure you are in the correct position.

Flight: In what other sports do you participate?

Murphy: I don't have much free time to do anything right now, because we are in production mode. If I had the time, I would like to get back into hang gliding and kite skiing. Here in Lake Elsinore we are in the perfect position to become involved in both air and water sports.

Flight: What advice do you have for someone who is learning a new trick?

Murphy: There are two key concepts to keep in mind. First, know your handle position. Ninety-nine percent of all falls are caused by poor handle position. Always keep you handle low at the center of your gravity. Second, know how to jump correctly.

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Flight: How are things going at the factory? Any new ideas in the works? How long have you been in business with Sky Ski?

Murphy:

Things are great! We are always coming up with new ideas. We just debuted our new Limited Edition ski, and also are working on a patent for the Inflatable (a device that goes around the ski to float the rider and to prevent deep water starts) and also a new seat restraint to keep the athletes from slipping out of the seat. Next year I want to change the graphics on the ski, and will change some things on the 2002 model. We're starting our fourth season now.

Flight: Are you currently working on any new tricks?

Murphy: No, right now we are focusing on product development. My riding time is usually in November and December. Once the water sport season begins, all of my water time is spent testing and developing new products.

Flight: They call you "Father Time." What advice can you impart to those in their 50s who want to begin hydrofoiling?

Murphy: Well, when you are 50 you are still young, so my advice to those people is the same as it would be to a 15-year-old. This is a great sport for everyone — people

in their golden years, young people, and even paraplegics — Anyone can do it.

Flight: Any last words?

Murphy: I guess the tail is wagging the dog.



Murphy has taught thousands how to foil. Here he is with 4 year-old Ivan Honkala.



Hydrofoiling Levels the Playing Field for Disabled Riders

By Nick Dear

Twenty-five years ago Albert Pruitt was an avid water skier. He learned to ski when he was five years old and he loved to slice up the water on his slalom ski. But in 1976 when he was just 15, Pruitt's life changed forever — he was involved in a motorcycle accident that left him with a spinal cord injury. While he wasn't sure what the future held for him, Pruitt says his father is the one who would not let him give up on life, and pushed him to live up to his potential.

Flash forward to the 2000 Sky Ski Flight Worlds in Lake Elsinore, California. When the dust cleared, Pruitt was crowned the new world champion in a new class created for disabled hydrofoilers! We all love the sport of hydrofoiling, but this sport means so much more to Pruitt and others with physical disabilities.

"This sport provides a lot of potential for people with such limitations as mine. I've played wheelchair basketball and tennis, but there is no comparison to the freedom and adrenaline rush that I get from my Sky Ski," says Pruitt. "My limitation put up barriers that didn't allow me to run and play football and do all the normal 'Dad stuff' with my son, Robert. The Sky Ski has allowed me to participate in a sport with my son, on the same level, and he loves it just as much as I do."

Pruitt was introduced to the hydrofoil in 1999, when he was looking to participate in a sport more exciting than the kneeboard or the sit ski. One evening Mark Hutchins told him about a ski he should try, and the next day, they went out on Lake Murray, Oklahoma, where Pruitt fell in love with the hydrofoil. The 1999 Texas fly-in was Pruitt's next stop, were he met other Texas hydrofoilers, and bought a Sky Ski.

"The next year I worked my butt off," says Pruitt. I have pulled him a few times myself on Lake Worth, Texas, and I can tell you, he won't get back in the boat until he is

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completely exhausted. His practice and determination have obviously paid off.

But Pruitt won't take all the credit for his championship title himself. "I definitely want to thank Jake Kinnison for all the support and tips, and Sky Ski for providing a product that makes it possible for people in my situation to push the limits further than ever imagined," he says.

In fact, the disabled division is the brainchild of Mike Murphy, who is convinced that the hydrofoil is perfect for people with physical limitations. "Hydrofoiling works so well for disabled people, that it's almost like a natural extension for them," says Murphy. "The learning curve for disabled riders is no more difficult than it is for anyone else. A disabled person almost has an advantage. Just because you are disabled doesn't mean you can't fly the Sky Ski. We can show anyone how to fly, come out to Canyon Lake and we'll show you how easy it is."

Murphy is so committed to helping disabled riders that several new accessories are in the prototype stages of R&D, including an inflatable flotation system that will eliminate deep water starts and a seat with extra support.

What is in store for the future for the disabled division? Murphy says that it is only a matter of time until we see people throwing inverts in this class. Pruitt has been working on perfecting his dismount gainers and is ready to defend his title in 2002. If anyone can pull an invert in this class, Pruitt's the man to do it.





Albert Pruitt

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This year was filled with all sorts of foiling. With flyins all over the country and the 2000 Flight Worlds in Lake Elsinore, California, what better way to end the year than with a weekend full of foiling under the hot sun of Parker, Arizona. The event was held for the second consecutive year at the beautiful Blue Water Resort and Casino, September 14 through 17. There was a great turnout with the added bonus of extra boats, which helped to get everybody rides throughout the week-

Parker Fly-In 2000 photos: Ian Lauder

2000 Parker Fly-In Plays Host to Fun.

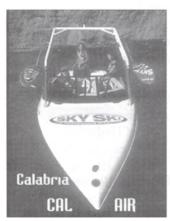
Riding and Stunning Sunsets!

By Nathan La Russo

end. Although the sun was hot, the casino provided quick access to the water with their conveniently large marina. With all the boats we had this year, we were lucky to have enough room to dock them.

Thursday was mostly setup, and as the foilers arrived, they were checked in. While the cost for the fly-in was \$50, it was well worth it. Included in the fee was an awe-some t-shirt (featuring Big Air Champ Brian Vesely) and a great dinner on Saturday night. As people settled in, the boats began to fill and the fly-in started to get underway. Thursday's water conditions were warm and calm, but an afternoon breeze started to cause small wind chop on the water.

The water conditions of the fly-in were good for the most part. With the exception of afternoon winds and anticipated afternoon boat traffic, the water was great. Morning sessions were enjoyed by those who were willing to wake up early for the glass, although, it was tough to wake up









Hanging On the Docks was a Great Way to Get Tuned In and Tuned Up!

after talking with fellow foilers late into the night. As the day progressed, so did the boat traffic. While the water conditions were less than ideal for afternoon riding, the cheers of spectators in the surrounding boats, which were present all weekend, rewarded the riders who attempted to tackle the rather large chop. Once evening arrived, conditions settled down, allowing many riders to get a set in under the gorgeous sunsets.

To kick things off Saturday night, a phenomenal ski show was held in water that was barely skiable. Including such riders as Wilborn, Freeman, Roberts, and Stenderup, the ski show was amazing, showcasing many of the new champions from the 2000 Flight Worlds, which was held the previous week. At one point, a large boat buzzed by Road Runner, the sight of that night's dinner and ski show, towing a man skiing...NAKED! It was shocking! After the ski show, the boats were docked and we all sat down to a delicious prime rib dinner. At that time the flyin t-shirts were distributed, as well as some awards. The night was action packed, and was the perfect end to an incredible day of foiling.

Sunday was clean up day, and as Murphy's Law dictates (the OTHER Murphy), the last day is always the nicest. After getting in some morning rides, most people packed up and prepared for the trip home. The skiing Sunday was

great all day. All in all, the fly-in was a great success. Many people left with new skills or tricks that they learned over the course of the weekend. I would personally like to thank those who put forth the hard work to make the fly-in possible. I had a great time and I think I speak for all when I say I look forward to next year's event!



TENNESSEE: A WATERSPORTS MECCA!

By Rob Plamondon

When you think about hot spots to ride, ski or wakeboard, Tennessee is probably not on your short list. Most people think of Florida, California or Texas. This article will hopefully change that perception for you. Enter our little bit of watersports heaven...Tennessee.

Our story begins with a little bit of history. On May 18, 1933, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Act, which was created to manage power production, navigation, flood control, malaria prevention, reforestation and erosion control in the Tennessee River Valley. The Tennessee River flows through several states and meets the Ohio River just before the Mississippi.

The TVA Act was responsible for the creation of 29 hydroelectric dams, 21 of which are located in Tennessee. These dams were created to bring low-cost electrical power to poor, rural parts of the country. Electric lights and modern appliances made life easier and farms more productive, helping the country dig out of the Great Depression. Of course, with dams come reservoirs and/or man-made lakes.

Interstate 65 splits Tennessee in half, east and west, and travels right through the middle of Nashville. The eastern side of the state from Nashville all the way to Bristol is full of beautiful lakes. There is no shortage of good water to ride on here, but let's cut to the chase....

The jewels are Dale Hollow, Center Hill, Norris and Tim's Ford lakes. These four are mountain lakes that possess the best qualities of smooth, deep, clear water, limited development and protection from the wind. Except for Norris, which is just 20 miles north of Knoxville, these lakes are far removed from large cities and do not get crowded on the weekends. Glass can be had even on

Memorial or Labor Day weekends.

Because these lakes are flooded mountain ranges, there are many long, narrow, deepwater creeks in which to ride. The shorelines rise steeply from the water on all sides, protecting the water from any wind chop. TVA has also halted the issuance of any additional private boat dock permits, which keeps the development at bay and the natural environment in tact. These lakes are the perfect getaway for the watersports enthusiast looking to relax and not have to worry about getting up at 6 a.m. just to catch some smooth water.

Norris Lake is a large lake twenty miles north of Knoxville. It has many long creeks that provide great long, straight runs that allow you have a lengthy ride before you have to turn around. This lake is unique in that there are many boat docks placed like islands in the middle of the lake for use by the public. You will see boaters tied up to them and having a picnic on them.

Tim's Ford Lake is a small mountain lake at the base of Monteagle Mountain, every Tennessee Trucker's night-mare. It is located about halfway between Nashville and Chattanooga. It's a very clean lake that has some relatively flat lots on it and is one of the few nice lakes that you can have a boat dock on in Tennessee. This lake is located next to the small town of Winchester, Tennessee, and the people are good ol' country folks.

Center Hill Lake is located 60 miles east of Nashville near the town of Smithville. It is a very nice lake and is probably the best lake to ride on if it's windy. The creeks on Center Hill have a lot of turns and cubbyholes for you to hide in and you can find flat water any day of the year. Center Hill is also the lake that is home to the most hydrofoilers in the state. Many famous people frequent Center Hill Lake, including. Alan Jackson, Clint Black, Billy Dean, Aaron Tippin, John Anderson and even Al Gore keeps a MasterCraft at Hurricane Marina.

If you asked watersports enthusiasts across the state of Tennessee to name Tennessee's best lake, they would almost universally say Dale Hollow Lake, located on the Tennessee/Kentucky border, halfway between Nashville and Knoxville, and a two-hour drive from the nearest large city. It is quite literally in the middle of nowhere. But that's what makes it special!

Dale Hollow Lake is also located very close to the houseboat building capitol of the world, Somerset, Kentucky. You will find an abundance of large, beautiful houseboats on Dale Hollow. There are also many commercial marinas on the lake that rent houseboats. The premier Marina, Sunset Marina and Resort, is the home base for the Tennessee Fly-In. (www.sunsetmarina.com)

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Parker strip in 1996, it has this hydrofoil junky's dream to host a fly-in at Dale Hollow Lake with all the riders staying on houseboats. In June of 2000 that dream came true, will be repeated June 7 through 11 of 2001, and hopefully will become a Tennessee tradition for years to come.

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Inland Surfing Lands

Let's go surfing now...on the River! While riding the wave of a boat on a surfboard is nothing new (it has probably been done since the 30s), what's new is the boats used to create the endless wakes

Wakeboarding has spawned monster boats with monster wakes. We're talking walls and walls of water. These new wave making machines have made it easier than ever to catch endless waves. Surfers do a deepwater start with a towline about 10-15 feet long. The boat

speeds up to about 7 mph. Next, the surfer holds on to the rope for a few moments to find the sweet spot. Toss the handle to the boat and the surf's up!

Mike Mack, long time surfer / skier turned hydrofoiler, has been spending time on the Colorado River perfecting



Inland Surfing will be at the Next Flight Worlds

his technique. Lately the crew has been using two big boats to kick up a a perfect bowl. The wave is about 2-3 high, 20 feet wide, and about 20 feet long.

Recently the first ever "Inland Surfing Contest" was held in Austin, Texas. Todd Weatherill and Jimmy Redmon are leading the way in organizing the sport, and they have even had talks with Tommy Phillips about forming a new organization, the ISA (Inland Surfing Association).

Scoring was based on Time of Ride, Composition, and Overall Impression. The laid back event drew first time riders and experts alike who all found the "groove".

Flight Worlds 2002 will be adding Inland Surfing to it's list of events next year (replacing FMX). The rides are sure to be a favorite for participants and spectators.

Flight Worlds 2000 Event Video Hits the Mark with Quality

By Mary Ann Rudnick

In case you missed the event of the season in person, the Flight Worlds 2000 Event Video provides interesting music and exciting visuals of every event that occurred at the Flight Worlds 2000 extravaganza. The video begins by acknowledging the event's sponsors: Sky Ski, Master-Craft, Elsinore Motor Sports, Fox, Air Boom, Hyperlite Wakeboards, Hansen's, Palomar Mountain Spring Water, Bluetorch and Lake Elsinore Ford.

The action starts with highlights of all the events that participated in the Flight Worlds 2000, including freestyle motocross, hydrofoiling, wakeboarding, air blading, arm wrestling competitions that were open to anybody, and extreme watersports that included a jet skier that was set on fire, trick slalom skiing, Banana George and more.

The cinematography of this video is par none — one could even venture to say that the Flight Worlds 2000 Event Video could be used by beginning hydrofoilers as an instructional video — all tricks were called with great accuracy, and there were many slow-mo shots that the viewer could observe on their VCR's slow motion setting to break down the trick for better visualization.

The events portion of the tape begins with pro men's tricks and shows highlights of the top riders and ends with the stats of who won first, second and third places for each event, including pro women's tricks, junior tricks, men's tricks

(which was entered by people from the U.S., Canada and Australia), masters, veterans, and disabled events. Interviews were also conducted with many of the top three riders in each division.

The video was interspersed with brief commercials from each of the sponsors, which were done quite tastefully and were not intrusive at all. What sets this video apart from other watersport videos is that the background music is

just that — background music — and does not overpower the video shots or the riders. The selected music ranged from classical to rap and everything in between.

The video ends with a montage of excellent, if not sometimes painful, crashes, as well as a heart-tugging rendition of the "The Star-Spangled Banner." All in all, this video rates right up there with other high-quality watersports videos and should appeal to all audiences, whatever their watersport preference or age.



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