

2008 kicked off with a bang in Tennessee Mid-Winter Report

1. The Old Hickory Lake Ski Club had it's annual New Year's Day Ski Outing. The weather was a balmy 34 degrees with 35 mph winds. The event was sponsored by TNT WaterSports. A large time was had by all and chili and beverages were served afterwards.
2. Caroline Hensley, competed on the US Team in the Under 21 World Championships in Santiago, Chile. The team brought home the Silver medal.
3. The Skiers of Knoxville, hosted the. Eskimo Escapades Ski Freeze (Shut Up N'Ski). To benefit 3 different Knoxville, charities.
4. February brought in the Groundhawg, General Beauregard E. Lee. The General is a Southern Groundhog with a much better track record than the Yankee Groundhog, Phil. Team Tennessee endorses the General and respects his prognostications. The General predicted an early Spring and earned our respect.
5. Two of our Jr. Development Coordinators, Tony and Melissa Nicholson, ran in a marathon in Jacksonville, Florida to benefit Breast Cancer Awareness.
6. Our illustrious EVP, Carey Zimlich, had the Southern Region Guide, up and online by February 13th, That is the earliest ever! Great job.
7. 24 members of Team Tennessee invaded Ogden Valley, Utah for the 10th annual Nasty Boys Snow Ski Trip. It was Huge!
8. March 9th brought love and happiness with Daylight Savings Time.
9. March 20th brought the 1st Day of Spring.
10. In April, the Patriotic Ski Club was named Water Ski Magazine's Ski Club of the Month!
11. May brought the first Jr Development clinic as well as the Junior Masters where Haley Runion and Caroline Hensley competed and did a great job. It was on national web TV.
12. Speed control wars saw Zero-Off purchase PerfectPass.
13. Performance Marine and the Music City Water Ski Club hosted a slalom clinic with pro skier, Marcus Brown.
14. There were tournaments in Memphis,(Hilliard Crews), Chattanooga (No-Wake) and Manchester (Soggy Bottom Skiers).
15. July brought a great state championships in conjunction with a 2 day jr. clinic at Lake Pryor. A slalom tournament at Soggy Bottom, another slalom tournament at No-Wake.
16. The 2008 Regionals was held at Jack Traver's Sunset Lakes in Okahumpka, Florida. 36 Tennessee skiers produced 45 medals. Greg Webb was the Chief Driver for the tournament and Ham Wallace was an appointed driver.

17. The 2008 Nationals was held at Okeeheelee Park in West Palm Beach, Florida. 29 Tennessee skiers brought home 27 medals. Ham Wallace was an appointed driver.
18. Caroline Hensley made the cover of Water Ski Magazine.
19. Steve Raybourne and John Carder went to Spain for the Senior World Championships. Steve scored a 3rd Overall. He had a 5th in tricks, 3rd in jump and 10th in slalom to clinch the award for the US.
20. Caroline Hensley, continued her ways with a new state slalom record and tied the National Girls 3 record with 4@38 off. Dr. Bob Drake tied the Men 7 slalom record with 5@38 off. No Wake Lake Magic still exists!
21. Skitenn.com was out for a while getting restructured. Hopefully all your favorite information will be back online soon.
22. Brad Stewart had taken the year off from competition to prepare for matrimony. He has since married (up, I must say) and says that he'll be back in 2009.
23. John Carder finally got the leaks repaired in his an Dennis Kelley's new lake and on November 10th, took the first jump.
24. 10 Tennessee skiers made the National Ranking List Champions. Caroline Hensley topped the list with a clean sweep, Haley Runion made it in 2 events, as did Tommy Newman and Matt Curmi, Others were Zack "Shaggy" MacIntyre, Kara MacIntyre, Brie Carter, Garret Stallings, Zane Nicholson and Ham Wallace
25. The Old Hickory Lake Ski Club held a boat parade of lights on December 6th.
26. There were snow flurries in Nashville.
27. Brian and Kristen Sparks', beloved golden retriever, Cody passed away. Cody had been a fixture at many ski tournaments for over a decade.
28. 12/21 Brought the first day of winter. (the days will be getting longer from here).
29. Caroline Hensley is heading to Lima, Peru for the Junior World Championships.
30. I hope that everyone has a safe and peaceful New Year and I hope to see ya'll on New Years' Day at Old Hickory Lake for 2009 Kick Off!

Ham Wallace