



*The*  
**WATER SKIER**

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**No. 1**





# From the Mailbox

Dear Ed:

For several years now I have been concerned over the matter of the best way for a skier to signal that he is all right after falling, whether after a jump, on the slalom course or just recreational skiing.

At present we say the fallen skier should wave his hand if he is all right. But I have seen quite a few skiers who were NOT all right and perhaps thrashing around in the water trying to orient themselves or trying to catch the breath that had been knocked out of them and I've noticed that these injured skiers apparently waved a hand.

I would like to suggest that the AWSA seriously consider adopting the following signal if a fallen skier is all right:

If a fallen skier is all right, he should raise BOTH arms above his head and clasp his hands. If a skier CAN do this, it is almost certain that he is O.K.

Perhaps you might get this suggestion into the *Water Skier* sometime and see if it meets with the approval of our members.

Cordially,  
Laurence C. Brown  
Honorary Vice-President

Dear Mr. Biersach:

After a meeting with Mr. Dick Pope, Jr. and Earl Hollowell of the newly formed Job Placement Committee of the American Water Ski Association, the following is our recommendation as a procedure for informing our membership of employment that is available.

First we suggest that the publication *The Water Skier* carry all information regarding possible employment and let our members correspond directly with the person or persons interested in hiring

instructors, boat drivers, ski show performers, or other types of jobs which our members would be capable of fulfilling. This would eliminate the AWSA attempt to carry an up to date file on personnel available.

Secondly we suggest that a means of direct mail through the Association be available to the organizations that are willing to pay for the service rendered. On the direct mailing we feel as though the organization requesting such service provide application blanks, pay for the envelopes, pay for the addressograph charges, postage and the labor involved in assembling the applications.

Mr. Biersach, may I suggest that in the next issue of *The Water Skier* you inform the membership of the Job Placement Committee and ask them to be on the look out for job opportunities that will appear in future issues. Also would you be so kind as to notify anyone interested in employing personnel associated with water skiing that they contact me at the above address and I will in turn notify you through proper channels.

Hope that the above meets with the approval of all concerned and that we will be in a position of placing a lot of people with work.

Richard L. Rowe  
Tommy Bartlett's Deer Ranch  
Silver Springs, Florida

Dear Mr. Biersach:

I thought you might like a few comments and observations on Michigan's First State Championships. First, it was recognized that Michigan, from an organized standpoint, is not yet awake as to the interest in and for water skiing. So, in the back of my mind, I have used the State

(Continued on page 17)

# The Water Skier

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1958

Editors: Edward S. Spanke

Len Hilts

## THE COVER

An uncommonly fine portrait of youth and beauty—Vicki Van Hook, National Girls Water Ski Champion, who captured her title at the 1957 National Water Ski Championships at San Diego, Calif., with a total of 1,300 points.

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# Thirty-Five Plus "X"

By Larry Brown

Five thousand people held their breath. One lone skier held their attention. One boy on a pair of water skis hit the ramp, bounced, and seemingly suspended on invisible wires, sailed out and out and out against the sky. He landed safely and the feeling of relief was a tangible sigh as the crowd started breathing again.

Water ski jumping is as thrilling as a bull fight, as poignant as a jet plane in flight and as daring as youth itself. These past five years have seen the sport of jumping on water skis take tremendous strides.

In 1952 the world's record was 93 feet and it was that year that such fellows as Warren Witherell, Dick Binette and Alfredo Mendoza started playing with the Double Cut.

Both the World Water Ski Federation

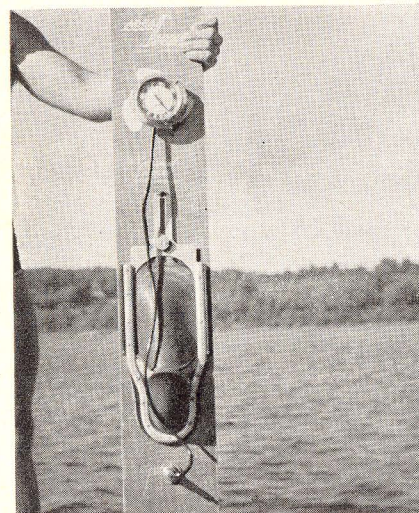
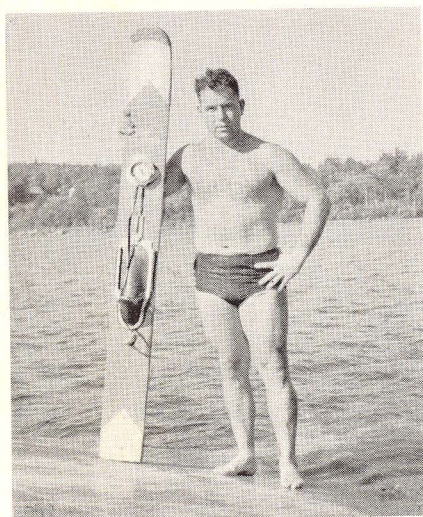
and the American Water Ski Association have the same rules for jumping. For Men's Division, the boat speed shall be 35 M.P.H. plus or minus one mile. The ski line shall be 75 feet long. The boat shall travel in a straight line parallel to the side of the jump.

With these fixed factors, there seemed to be only one way to go and that was—OUT. So the boys started asking the boat drivers to pass the jump 30 feet out, then 35, then 40, and some jumpers today have the driver "in the slot" 52 feet away. Having only a 75 foot line this of course meant that the skier had to swing to even reach the jump. Today, with the world's record at 126 feet, the skiers use the magnificent Double-Cut style of jumping. As the boat comes down the course, the skier swings far out to the side away from the ramp. He poises out there until his judgment tells him its time to "go" and then he does just that. Cutting his skis as hard as possible, pulling against the speeding boat, he swings across both boat wakes and hits the jump on a swinging arc.

How fast was he going? Well, I've heard all kinds of guesses from 40 M.P.H. to 140. So I decided to find out.

Vin Callahan, our local Century Boat dealer (he kept the boats in tip top shape during our National Tournament here at Laconia, New Hampshire in 1954), very kindly loaned me a thoroughly tested aquameter which calibrated up to 60 M.P.H.

**Sonny Cantin of the Weirs Ski Club, member of the Century Club, with two jumps in competition of 110 feet, made the test runs.**



**Close-up of the jumping ski with aqua meter mounted forward with binding.**



**Sonny Cantin points to the pitot tube set forward of the skeg on the ski bottom.**

The pictures show how I mounted this device on a jumping ski. I bored a hole through the ski just forward of the fin or skeg and bolted the pitot tube in place. I figured that by placing the pitot just aft of the skier's heel it would always be deep in the water and free from turbulence.

A plastic tube went forward close to the skier's foot and to the Aquameter which was mounted forward on the ski so that the skier could look and read the dial. Obviously, the ski could not be used on the jump itself so I arranged for the skier to make a series of simulated Double-Cuts. The boat was a Century 16-foot Resorter equipped with two aquameters: one in the boat itself and one I installed temporarily.

We checked the boat through a slalom course with a skier behind and found one meter 1 M.P.H. slow and one 2 M.P.H. fast. Then at the corrected boat speed, we took the skier twice through the course and the aquameter on the ski read a steady 35 M.P.H.

I was particularly lucky to have Sonny Cantin to do the skiing for me on these

tests. Last summer in the Massachusetts Tournament, he had two magnificent jumps of 110 feet each and if he had the time to practice I dare say he could go much further.

With myself and the driver in the boat and Sonny on "the string" we started down Paugus Bay on Lake Winnepesaukee one beautiful Sunday afternoon in September. There was quite a ripple on the water (see pictures) and Sonny told me later that he perhaps could have skied a bit faster under ideal smooth water conditions.

We made four runs each way with Sonny making two simulated jump-cuts each run. He would signal the speed with his fingers after each cut. Now to end the suspense here is a tabulation of the eight "cuts":

- |    |                |
|----|----------------|
| 1. | 45 M.P.H.      |
| 2. | 43 M.P.H.      |
| 3. | 45 M.P.H.      |
| 4. | 47 M.P.H.      |
| 5. | 48 M.P.H. plus |
| 6. | 44 M.P.H.      |

*(Continued on page 14)*



## Searching for Gold

By Bob Triplett

One of the greatest pleasures that those of us in the Veterans Class have is searching for hidden water ski talent. Although we have not yet reached a state of desuetude proper for canonization, and we enjoy entering tournaments as competitors, nevertheless our main skiing pleasure comes from serving as official judges in water ski tournaments and helping younger people enjoy the sport. When we discover a natural born water skier, of tournament calibre and get him interested in that most fascinating facet of water skiing—a sanctioned tournament—it is almost as if we have won the trophies ourselves.

Thus it was with great personal satisfaction that I uncovered Charlie Almeida skiing around in our Potomac river last year. Charlie skied purely for the fun of it. He had a good boat and had collected good water skis for every event—although his interest in water ski tournament was negligible. However, with his great natural enthusiasm for water skiing, he had surrounded himself with a retinue of fellow fanatics who could hardly wait until the whistle blew at the close of a work day so they could head for the Potomac. There they had built a jump and slalom course. Charlie worked hard at both events.

One day Charlie showed me his trick run. Before my jaw was back in place, Charlie had run off about 750 points with some of the most artful toehold one-heights I have ever seen. I therefore, without hesitation, figuratively got down on my knees and pleaded with him to try his luck in the 1957 Eastern. Charlie was noncommittal.

Came the summer of 1957 and I resolved to get Charlie up to Lake George

if I had to carry him piggy-back. After beating him on the head with a 16-lb. maul and applying more stripes to his back with my cat o' nine tails than received by Saul of Tarsus, I managed to get him into my convertible for the Lake George trip. I brought along one of our Washington, D. C. practice judges, Ruth Wasli, to keep her eye on Charlie so he wouldn't escape and ride the rails back to Washington.

Ruth did her job well, and Charlie did a great job at the Easterns. He finished fourth in slalom, fifth in tricks, and fifth in jumping for an overall finish of second place. One of our leading water skiers of the Eastern Region told me that he considered Charlie the best natural water skier he had ever seen. Charlie is now a confirmed tournament addict. (Of course, the beauty of Lake George and fine hospitality of Warren Witherell and his crew was a factor in Charlie's conversion.)

The saga of Charlie Almeida and his first encounter with water ski tournaments could well end here. However, it illustrates to me an important point: that there are many strictly amateur water skiers in the United States, possessed of great natural talent, who could make up a fine team for entry into the 1960 Olympics if we could get water skiing accepted as an Olympic sport.

I have frequently heard it said that we could not assemble a suitable team for Olympic competition because virtually all good skiers are professional or semi-professional.

This of course is nonsense. In all parts of the United States there are fine skiers who have never profited commercially from the sport of water skiing. In fact,

many of them have participated in water skiing at considerable financial sacrifice. However, even if every water skier in the United States today was actually a professional, we could, by 1960, assemble a completely amateur team, water skiing is growing so fast as a sport.

Although I have the greatest reverence for long time Olympic events such as the running hop, step and jump, three-toed walk, archery, etc., I think that most people would freely admit that both as a spectator sport and as a sport in which to compete, our sport of water skiing is more interesting. Water skiing is now an international sport. It is time for it to be a part of the Olympic games.

### AWSA Establishes Ski School Committee

A new committee was recently appointed to study ski schools and the subject of how AWSA might help them

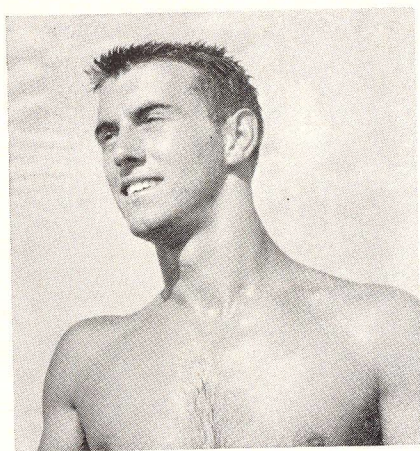
develop, improve, be safe and expand. We may also find a method of AWSA approving certain schools who meet high and exacting standards of teaching and safety. We are also contemplating a directory of schools for the future. Besides the five members of the committee, we need help from each of you. We need your names, addresses, location of the schools, whether they are AWSA affiliated already, when you operate in terms of time of year, days and hours, tips on smoother operation and teaching, safety ideas, equipment used and preferred and any other ideas you might have such as insurance (Do you carry it? Where do you get yours; how much does it cost?), problems you might have and suggestions as to how we might be able to help you and all other schools. At least, send your school and address to the

Ski School Committee  
Stew McDonald  
6314½ South Harold Avenue  
Tempall, Florida

**Mickey Amsbury in full flight at the 1957 National Water Ski Championships, San Diego. Mickey took third place in the overall at the World Water Ski Tournament at Cypress Gardens.**







### World Record Holder

Joe Cash, of Winter Haven, Fla., traveled to San Diego to compete in the 1957 National Water Ski Tournament, and came away as co-holder of a world record. He jumped 126 feet, bettering the meet record of 125 feet, which had been set by Butch Rosenberg in 1955 and tying the record set by Alan Bromberg at the 1957 Southern Regionals held at Shipley, Ga.

In the overall at the Nationals, Cash was second with 887 points, while Chuck Stearns, Bellflower, Calif., was first with 1,105 points. Stearns was first in slalom and second in tricks.

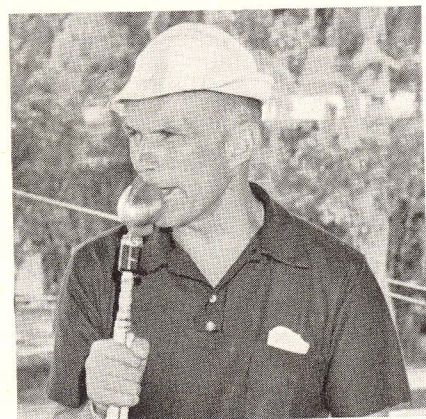
### Another Youngest Member

David C. Crockett of Warwick, Va., writes "In your November-December issue of *The Water Skier* you printed the picture of a young AWSA member believed to be the youngest in the club. Enclosed is a picture of my son David C. Crockett, Jr., who has been a member of your club since he was 3 years old. He has not been on skis yet but he loves the water and rides in the boat while we are skiing. His uncle is one of the AWSA judges, Al Crockett of Jacksonville, Fla."

### Sligh is AWSA Chairman

In the September-October issue of *The Water Skier*, the new AWSA officers, elected at the annual meeting held in conjunction with the National Water Ski Tournament at San Diego, Calif., were named.

Unfortunately, editorial-type gremlins worked over the copy before it went to press, causing one very important name to be left out of the list. The name overlooked was that of Charles R. Sligh, Jr., who was elected Chairman of the Board of the AWSA.



Above, left, Henry Holmes and his son, of Palm Beach, Fla. Above, right, the cutest New Year card of the year, sent out by Cypress Gardens. Mr. 1958 is Jack Watkins, Jr., grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Pope, Sr. Below, a scene shot from the water toward the beach at the National Water Ski Tournament, San Diego.





## Regional Correspondents Appointed

With every new issue of *The Water Skier*, we include a list of new clubs which have become affiliated with the AWSA. It seems that the list grows longer with each succeeding issue, proving that water skiing is growing rapidly—and is becoming a better-organized sport.

The following are the latest additions to the list of water ski clubs to affiliate with the AWSA:

Houston Water Ski Association (local club unit), Channelview, Texas

Marysville Aqua Skiers, Marysville, Michigan

Caloosa Water Ski Club of Fort Myers, Fort Myers, Florida

Snug Harbor Ski Team, St. Charles, Ill.

Casper Water Ski Club, Casper, Wyo.

Mississippi Valley Ski Bee's Moline, Ill.

Monterey Peninsula Water Ski Club, Monterey, California

Cobra Ski Club, Cincinnati 2, Ohio

Breeze-Way Ski Club, Pensacola, Fla.

Western Hills Ski Club, Cincinnati, Ohio

Greenwood Lake Water Club, Rutherford, New Jersey

Tampa Ski Bees, Tampa 4, Florida

Dayton Water Ski Club, Dayton, Ohio

Warrior Ski Club, Birmingham, Ala.

tournament was held at the Ski School and the following participants won first and second place honors:

Men's Tricks: 1st Place, H. Provo, 2nd Place, A. Horrocks

Women's Tricks: 1st Place, L. Callejo, 2nd Place, M. Miller

Men's Slalom: 1st Place, J. Ambrogio, 2nd Place, D. Keppler

Women's Slalom: 1st Place, I. Sonnichsen, 2nd Place, M. Daly

Mixed Doubles: 1st Place, J. Alsdorg, G. Cappadoro; 2nd Place, J. Fox, O. Ireland.

Honorable mention is made of R. Trezise, the young son of a Republic employee who enthusiastically competed in the events.

## Montgomery Boating Club

We are happy to report that the Montgomery Boating Club is growing by leaps and bounds. Also our boat ramp has been given the final approval and work is to resume as soon as the weather permits. We think this project is something which everyone in the club has worked hard for and is something which will be enjoyed by anyone who appreciates boating or fishing in this part of the Alabama River. When completed, we will have a formal opening with Mayor W. A. Gayle cutting the ribbons.

## New Official Tournament Rules

The new 1958 "Official Tournament Rules," as established by the AWSA Rules Committee, are now being printed in booklet form, and will be available before the end of March.

There will be no general distribution to the membership, but any member who wishes a copy can obtain one without charge by writing to AWSA headquarters.

## Industry Goes Skiing

The employee-recreation program offered by Republic Aviation Corporation, Farmingdale, L. I., has recently included water skiing on its list of activities.

The Long Island Water Ski School, located in Copiague, L. I., under direction of Skip Field, is responsible for the capable recovery of many novice "growing pains." Enthusiasm is evidenced by the seasonal participation of employees in classes conducted three nights a week.

On September 21st a Republic-sponsored

## More Clubs Affiliate With AWSA

In order to provide a better flow of news for *The Water Skier*, five regional correspondents are being appointed. These correspondents will keep their fingers on the pulse of water skiing activities in their regions, keep in touch with the clubs in these regions, and generally report anything of interest to the sport.

With the help of these new correspondents *The Water Skier* should be able to bring you more news quicker and provide more complete coverage than in the past. If you have some news which you intend to pass along to *The Water Skier* please keep these deadlines in mind: the book is mailed on the first day of the second month shown on the cover. Thus the March-April issue would be mailed on the first day of April. News to be included in this issue must reach the editor's desk one month prior to this mailing date.

The regional correspondents thus far appointed are as follows:

Anthony "Cappy" Caplia, 17150 Brady, Detroit, Michigan (Mid-west region); William P. Barlow, Jr., 105 Nova Drive, Piedmont 10, California (Western Region); Robert S. Triplett, Jr., 2801 Quebec St., N. W. Washington, D. C. (Eastern region); Mrs. Mildred Astom, Rt. 2, Box 219-A, Fort Worth, Texas (Central region).

Our new correspondent from the Southern region had not been appointed as we went to press. As soon as his name is known we will publish it.

## New AWSA Judges Named

The following new judges have been appointed official AWSA judges:

Jerry Williams, 8 Sandpoint Rd., Tampa, Fla.

W. D. Martin, P. O. Box 728, Orlando, Fla.

Edith Teachout, 504 Hillside Drive, Lakeland, Fla.

Charles A. Atkins, Jr., 6118 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville, Fla.

Charles A. Powers, III, 4757 Beverly Circle, E., Jacksonville, Fla.

Larry Teague, 5836 Lone Pine Road, Jacksonville, Fla.

Lambert G. (Sonny) Vogel, 3734 Rendale Drive, Jacksonville, Fla.

Fred Jester, 952 Wolfe St., Jacksonville, Fla.

Burl McCarty, 636—37th Avenue, S., St. Petersburg, Fla.

William S. Nall, 1307 Eckles St., Tampa, Fla.

Capt. Hank Williamson, 3511 Kensington, Tampa, Fla.

Mrs. Cortney (Sandy) Lecklider, 2492 Dorchester, Birmingham, Mich.

Father Ralph B. Davis, C.S.C., Dept. of Chemistry, Univ. of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana.

Arnie Neergaard, 221 North 4th Street, St. Charles, Ill.

## World Tournament Correction

In the last issue of *The Water Skier*, a picture from the World Water Ski Tournament, held at Cypress Gardens, Fla., identified Piera Castelvetri of Italy as winner of third place in overall scoring in the Women's Division, and stated that Emilio Zamudie, Mexico, won third place in the Men's Overall class.

The picture actually showed the winners of the slalom event, and the winners listed in the caption are correct for that event.

Winners of third places in the overall list should have been shown as Mickey Amsbury in the Men's Division, and Nancie Rideout in the Women's Division.



# Open Letter to Larry Brown

Dear Larry:

I don't care what people say about me, just as long as they mention my name. And when they misquote me, it's even better, because then I can answer them.

Your article "100 Feet On Water Skis" is just about the best that has ever appeared in "The Water Skier." In it you quote me as saying "there are no aerodynamical advantages to planing the body and skis." That isn't what I said. I said that I believed the effect was minor—and I was still wrong, and here are the calculations to prove it.

The skis of a jumper are essentially a pair of low aspect ratio wings whose lift curve slope seems to be about .0235 (Ref: Aerodynamic Drag—S. F. Hoerner—Page 130). The curve presented in this reference goes to 30° without any stall being evident, so the jumper should hold his skis at the highest angle of attack possible.

The human body also can produce lift. Some work has been done on snow skiers, and assuming the water skier can hold the same approximate position, a lift coefficient of 0.43 can be expected.

Summing these up:

Total lift = Lift of skis + Lift of Body.

Assuming for the skis, a lift curve slope of .0235, an angle of attack of 30°, ski area of 5 square feet for two, add a speed of 50 mph,

Lift of skis =  $.0235 \times 30 \times 5 \times \frac{50^2}{391} = 22.5$  lbs.

Assuming for the man a lift coefficient of 0.43, a frontal area of about 8 sq. ft. and a speed of 50 mph,

Lift of Body =  $0.43 \times 8 \times \frac{50^2}{391} = 22$  lbs.

Total lift =  $22.5 + 22 = 44.5$  lbs.

Now for the jump: The time in the air

at 50 mph (73 feet per second) to jump 100 feet is  $\frac{100}{73} = 1.37$  sec. Assuming the gravitational constant is 32.2 and that the skier and skis total 180 lbs., the apparent gravitational constant becomes  $32.2 \times \frac{180 - 44.5}{180} = 24.25$ . As a result,

the time in the air becomes  $1.37 \times \frac{32.2}{24.25} =$

1.82 sec. The jump distance then becomes  $73 \times 1.82 = 133$  ft. In other words, doing everything the same, but in one case "planing" through the air, and in the other not using the air lift, we find that "planing" will increase a 100 foot jump by 33 feet.

It is important that you realize that these calculations are rough and approximate, but they do indicate a trend. As will be noted from the calculations, a change in weight or size will affect the answer. No effect of aerodynamic drag has been used, since the planing arrangement probably has about the same drag as the upright position.

Now for a few hints from an aerodynamicist who doesn't jump. I believe the maximum lifting effect from the body would occur with legs straight and arms held tightly against the body. The skier should lean forward as far as possible (not exceeding 45° lean) and should be slightly bent at the waist. As for the skis, probably tilting them up to a maximum of 45°, holding them parallel, preferably with no space between them, and directly into the wind will give maximum lift. Keep the skis and body as far apart as possible, i.e.—don't lie on the skis.

I'm probably as wrong on the proper position as I was on the effect of planing—I give up.

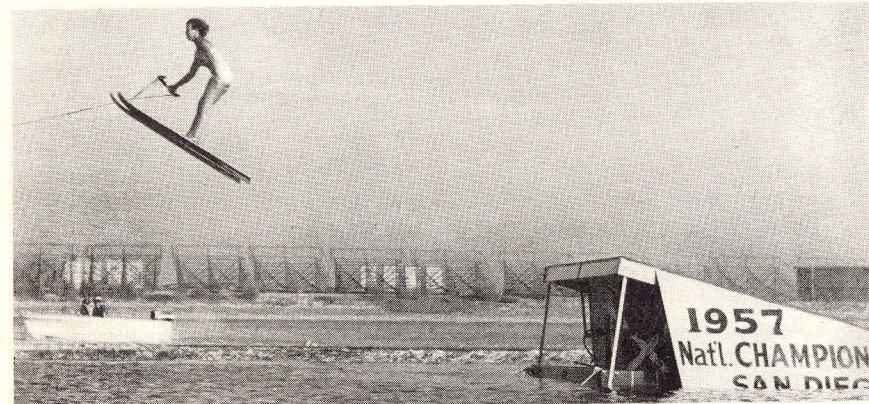
Sincerely yours,  
Charles Tilgner, Jr.

## Aqualock Ski Club

The Aqualock Ski Club was incorporated June 1, 1956, at Lock's Landing, Richardson's Resort, Lake Tahoe, Calif. It has over 80 members at present and plans to go much further. We have a competition meet every summer for all members of the club. Our officers are as

follows: Emery Johnson, President; Ed Richmond, Vice President; Sue Brady, Secretary; Steve Proffett, Treasurer; Harold Shanks, Sergeant At Arms.

Ed Richmond  
Aqualock Ski Club



Nancie Rideout, above, is caught by the camera as she makes her record-breaking jump of 76 feet at the 1957 Nationals at San Diego.

Below, Leah Marie Atkins, of Birmingham, Ala., came away from the 1957 Nationals with firsts in Tricks, Slalom and Overall, Women's Division.





## Water Ski Meets for 1958

The tournament schedule for the Summer of 1958 is beginning to fill up and shows promise of providing a most interesting year for water skiers. The following is a list of tournaments brought up-to-date. AWSA sanctions for some are pending.

### Dixie Tournament

Florida Cypress Gardens

April 11-13, 1958

Contact: R. D. Pope, Cypress Gardens, Winter Haven, Fla.

### Michigan State Championship Tournament (Sanctioned)

Lake Sherwood, Milford, Mich.

August 1-3, 1958

Sponsor: Lake Sherwood Ski Club and Milford Junior Chamber of Commerce  
Contact: Dwight Holton, 4045 E. Commerce Rd., Milford, Mich.

### New Jersey Water Ski Championships

Marine Park, Red Bank, N. J.

July 5-6, 1958

Sponsor: Long Branch Water Ski Club  
Contact: M. Charles Stout, 350 Bath Ave., Long Branch, N. J.

### Festivals of the Americas Water Ski Championship

Miami, Fla.

June 20-22, 1958

Sponsor: Greater Miami Ski Club

Contact: David J. Craig, Pres., 2255 Coral Way, Miami, Fla.

### California State Championships (Open) (Sanctioned)

Lake Washington Annex, W. Sacramento, Calif.

July 12-13, 1958

Sponsor: Sacramento Water Ski Club

Contact: Floyd Vance, 1022 Lochbrae Rd., N. Sacramento, Calif.

### AWSA 1958 Western Regional Water Ski Championships (Closed)

Gardener Lake, Medford Lake, Ore.

August 1-3, 1958

Sponsor: Gardener Lake Ski Club

Contact: Lon Skinner, 30 Portland, Medford, Ore.

### Ohio State Water Ski Tournament

Miami Shores—5 miles south of Dayton  
July 19-20, 1958

Sponsor: Dayton Water Ski Club

c/o Harold L. Robinson, 5353 Little Richmond Rd., Dayton, Ohio

### Soda Bay Water Ski Tournament (Sanctioned)

Edgewater Resort, Clear Lake, Calif.

June 7-8, 1958

Sponsor: Golden Gate Water Ski Club

Contact: Ethel Pattee, Sec'y., 2426 Easy St., San Leandro, Calif.

### 1958 "Rickshaw" Tournament

In or around Amarillo, Texas

July 19-20, 1958

Sponsor: Panhandle Boat and Ski Club

Contact: Dick Shaw, P. O. Box 7073, Amarillo, Texas.

## Thirty-Five Plus "X"

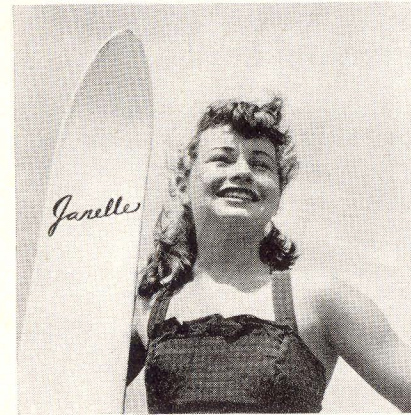
(Continued)

- |    |           |
|----|-----------|
| 7. | 48 M.P.H. |
| 8. | 47 M.P.H. |

Sonny told me that he was not able to take a reading until some distance past the second wake and that he felt that he was actually starting to slow down when he took the readings. Perhaps someone could come up with a fixed hand aqua-meter that records the highest speed attained and we would get even more accurate figures.

However, from these experiments I think we can safely say that any jumper using the Double-Cut and jumping over 120 feet is travelling across the water at 50 M.P.H.

## Looking Back at San Diego



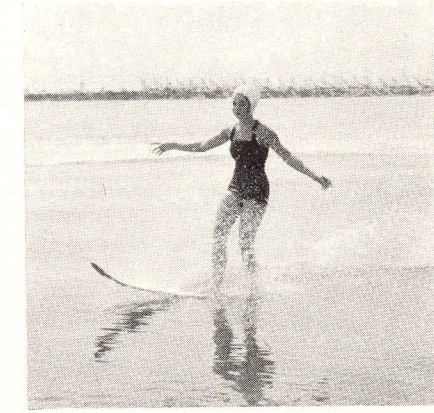
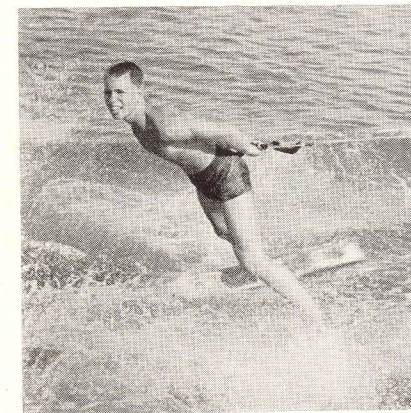
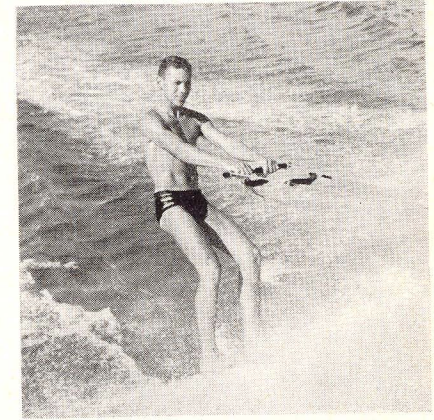
Janelle Kirtley, Birmingham, Ala., took third in the Girls' Overall, and first in the Slalom.

First in the Slalom and third in the Boys' Overall, Glenn Sperry came from Fort Worth, Texas.

Traveling across the country from West Palm Beach, Fla., Mary Ann Moenert was fourth in Women's Overall.

A pretty picture of Janelle Kirtley coming up to the beach with the spray flying around her.

Teddy Morris, a coming youngster from Laconia, N. H., took sixth in the Boys' Overall.





# News from the Midwest Region

By Cappy Caplia

Michigan will hold its first sanctioned AWSA tournament this summer at Lake Sherwood, Milford, Mich. Details will follow in coming issues.

All members and clubs of the Midwestern States: Let's make Midwest strong. Encourage all of your friends who are skiing buddies to join the AWSA now! Members make better skiers, better skiers make clubs, and clubs give you better companionship; and these in turn give you more strength and working knowledge to give our sport a good reputation.

## Results From Gator Bowl Tournament

The second annual Gator Bowl Water Ski Tournament was held December 29, 1957, on the Ortega River at Jacksonville, Fla. It was co-sponsored by the Jacksonville Water Ski Club and the Gator Bowl Regatta Committee in connection with the nationally famous Gator Bowl football game.

The meet was limited to contestants living in the District 2 area of the Florida Water Ski Federation but was conducted as a non-sanctioned tournament to encourage novice participation and thereby create interest in competitive skiing—and in the AWSA and the FWSF.

There were over fifty entries and the meet was high-lighted by two jumps of over 100 feet. Nathan Travassos jumped 110 feet and Henry Nicholson was runner-up with a jump of 103 feet.

The results:

### Men's Division

Slalom: Larry Teague, first; Charles Atkins, second; Nathan Travassos, third. Jumping: Nathan Travassos, first; Henry Nicholson, second; Charles Atkins, third.

You Midwest skiers who have been thinking of club tournaments and need help planning such, please write. We'll gladly send any information or refer you to other clubs with such information.

Our congratulations to Bud Fuller, Detroit, Mich., who succeeded in jumping 100 feet or better. We believe Bud is the oldest member to do so—34 years of age—so you see, folks, you can do it too.

Calling all associated clubs and members—send all of your news items to me, Cappy Caplia, 17150 Brady, Detroit 40, Mich.

Tricks: Eddie Cavin, first; Charles Atkins, second; Teddy Mayhew, third.

### Junior Boys' Division

Slalom: Geoffrey Wolfe, first; Larry Haddock, second; Hardy Vick, third. Jumping: Geoffrey Wolfe, first; Hardy Vick, second; Warren Wolfe, third. Tricks: Geoffrey Wolfe, first; Hardy Vick, second; Warren Wolfe, third.

### Women's Division

Slalom: Judy Sheldon, first; Dottie Gallie, second; Mary Ann Ware, third. Tricks: Mary Ann Ware, first; Kathy Vogel second; Judy Sheldon, third.

### Veterans' Division

Slalom: Louis Cobb, first; Sonny Vogel, second; Ken Cantrell, third. Jumping: Louis Cobb, first; Ken Cantrell and Sonny Vogel, tied for second.

### Mixed Doubles

Kathy Vogel and Teddy Mayhew, first; Mary Ann Ware and Sonny Vogel, second; Judy Sheldon and Henry Nicholson, third.

## From the Mailbox (Cont'd)

Meet as a means to strengthen interest in water skiing among those who can help mold and influence the public acceptance of this sport.

Specifically, by bringing in the Jaycees of Milford (Mich.), we brought stability of an established organization to co-sponsor the meet. The door is now open to state-wide support of the Jaycees Clubs. Incidentally, this may be enhanced considerably if the Milford Jaycees win the Annual State Jaycee award for Civic Betterment.

Second, it was recognized that our Radio and TV, Sports and Disc Jockeys reach into more homes and influence more people than newspapers and written media. Therefore, in our promotion, the incentive for these folks was to put Michigan out in front as the Water Wonderland State and friendly competitor of Florida and California. And, if we did a good job this year, possibly 1958 could bring the Midwest Regionals to Michigan.

The success of the state meet proved to many important people that there were enough individuals, both skiers and civic-minded non-skiers, who would work together and do a coordinated job. In fact, I believe many people were surprised.

The Lake Sherwood Ski Club authorized Butch Wright, a talented amateur photographer, to take 16 mm. color movies both days—better than 1,500 feet were taken. This film is now being edited and will be used for showings to ski clubs and interested groups such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, PTA, Chambers of Commerce, etc., to help promote local and state-wide interest in skiing. There will be a nominal charge for use of this film to defray the original cost. The film will be made into two shows: (1) The state meet and (2) an instructional film on do's and don'ts of water skiing. For this latter portion, another 500 feet was shot with more to come. I'll give you more information on this later.

To promote skiing as a recognized water sport in Michigan and to organize individuals and clubs into a coordinated group of outdoor sportsmen, I am organizing the "Michigan Water Ski Association." As the master plan unfolds, I will request your further advice and recommendations. The one basic idea is for all Michigan, AWSA-sanctioned tournaments to have prior sanction by the MWSA.

The Association will offer, as it grows:

1. Official tournament equipment, meters, tow lines, boat hooks, etc., to sanctioned tournaments free of charge.

2. Complete plans for promoting, financing and running of a local tournament.

3. Training of local skiers as judges, secretaries, etc.

4. State-wide public relations for area tournaments and recognition of water skiing as a public attraction.

5. Utilize existing state and local resort associations to mold or coordinate a state-wide sports program.

Offer a ski team for civic events in the state.

Plans for the 1958 State Championship meet have been approved by the Regional AWSA Vice President, to be held again at Lake Sherwood, August 1, 2, 3, 1958. We scheduled the meet earlier than last year so that winners could compete in the Mid-West Regionals and still have time to enter the Nationals.

Well, there is the story from Michigan. 1958 looks even better as our planning committees go to work.

Sincerely,

Dwight Holton  
General Chairman  
Michigan Water Ski State  
Championship Meet

Dear Hugo:

I wondered what kind of material, if any, you might have which could be used on a table to advertise the AWSA. I am



planning on "appearing" at a local Sporting Goods store in Birmingham to push their water skis, and also to try to get some new members for our struggling new water ski club and also for the AWSA. Any old or extra copies of THE WATER SKIER, or pamphlets—anything that might help me. I still have some AWSA application blanks.

Sincerely,  
Leah Atkins

## Judge Drops From List

Robert L. Sligh, official AWSA judge from Holland, Mich., has informed the committee that for business and personal reasons he will be unable to officiate at water ski tournaments in the future. His name should be removed from official lists.

## Jamaican Tourney

The Morgan's Harbor Ski Club of Jamaica B.W.I., staged the first Jamaican water ski championships under the direction of club president, Sir Anthony Jenkinson. Barbara Pratt, who forwarded the information to AWSA, stated that the club is following the rules and tournament regulations of AWSA.

Flambeau Boating Club transports Sisters of St. Mary's. A fleet of Flambeau Boating Club boats added much to the enjoyment of the Fourth of July picnic of St. Mary's. The boats transported 95 Sisters from St. Mary's Hospital to their farm, approximately five miles downstream, where they enjoyed their outing. The pictures above show Sisters "climbing aboard" at the dock located on the north bank of the Flambeau River directly south of the hospital. In the foreground Commander Klake has secured his passengers with life preservers and is preparing to get under way, while Vice-Commodore Jim Armstrong is waiting for his passengers. In the distant background two boats are already under way to the picnic area. Members of the club that participated in the cruise were: Bob Klake, Jim Armstrong, Dr. A. W. Schultz,

## Golden Gate Ski Club

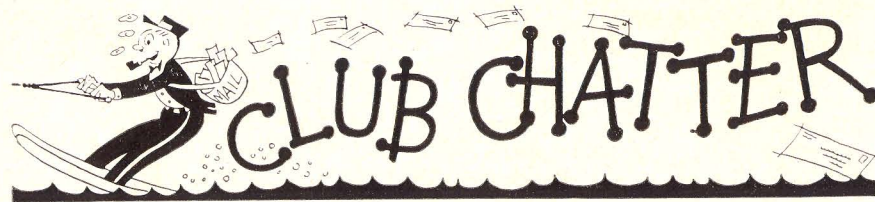
Last November the Golden Gate Water Ski Club had a fashion show on the shores of Lake Merritt—it was the first fashion show I ever attended and I presume the first for many of the male members. We all enjoyed it very much, especially the shorts, bathing suits and lingerie. "Wow!" The club made \$93.00 on this affair.

Fifteen of us went together and bought an ark on the Estuary. We tore out the partitions and converted it into a clubhouse. This spring we expect to drive piles for our floats. We also own a 12 by 24-foot jump. I believe we are the only ski club on the Pacific Coast with our own clubhouse—and on the water, too. We have limited our membership to 25, and it now costs \$25 to get it. I think this summer we will be sold out. We expect to raise our initiation fee to \$50 or \$100; our dues are \$7 per month. This covers payments on the buildings and leaves a little for improvements. Our club is called the Alameda Boat and Ski Club.

Paul Gutleben

Evidence of the growing popularity of water skiing comes from the Bahama Islands where a recently issued four penny postage stamp shows a group of water skiers.

George Hunt, Ray Perkins, Rad Childs, "Inky" Larson, Reggie Vosz, Don Haasl and George Fosshim.



## Tampa Ski Bees

The Tampa Ski Bees have come a long way in the first ten months of their reorganization, after a two year dormant period. After several months of organizing and of putting on a ten-to-fifteen act ski show every Sunday afternoon at their Ralston Beach Headquarters, their first big effort (of three) was the sponsorship and operation of a 50-mile Ski-A-Thon last Labor Day. This was attended by over 150 participants in over 50 outboard boats, competing before several thousand spectators, ranged along the seven mile course around Davis Islands in downtown Tampa. The event was run simultaneously for all eight horsepower classes, with delayed starts for the higher powered boats. Each boat was also required to carry a safety observer and close scrutiny plus rules by the combined interests of the Coast Guard, its auxiliary, the Tampa River Police and the Ski Bees made the entire affair a 100 per cent no-accident one. Overall winner was Jim Rusing of Sunshine Springs skiing behind a Crosby powered by two Mercury Marks 75s. The event, enthusiastically received by the Chamber of Commerce and the City fathers, is now on the Tampa calendar as an annual event.

Thanksgiving weekend saw us produce our first major ski show, as we sold tickets for weeks to a Chicken Bar-B-Que and show at Ralston Beach. With several guest performers from the Lakeland Ski Club, Lake Maggior's Ski Club and world's champion Joe Cash from Cypress Gardens and the loan of a twin Mark 75 Mercury rig from their proving grounds, we put on a two hour, twenty-three act ski show to

over 500 people. The show included every type of water skiing act or feat that has ever been done anywhere in show or competition, with the exception of the jitterboard and deep water start on barefoot.

Elections took place the first of the year, with our kite-flying Chuck Brainerd elected the new president. Serving under him include Vice Presidents Freddie Burges and Hank Williamson; Secretary, Bob Witt; Treasurer, Cecil Drake; Corresponding Secretary, Sylvia Bennett; Member-at-Large, Julian Kessler; Show Director, Bill Nell; Program Director, Tom Depolis.

Probably our greatest accomplishment so far just ended this week, with three big 'firsts' for us and possibly for all clubs. Planning it for months, we produced a 17-act, one-hour water ski show to take place in the area of and just before the annual invasion of the Jose Gaspar Pirate Ship and Ye Mystic Crews, the beginning of a two week Gasperilla Celebration, incorporating the Florida State Fair. This is probably the largest festival in Florida throughout the year, with over 100,000 people participating and seeing it. We performed our ski show before a crowd that estimates have run from 20 to 50 thousand, lining sea walls and bridges for over a mile and half perimeter of the show area. We feel this is the largest crowd for a club and maybe for the professionals, too. Secondly, we gave a highly successful press party on Saturday night before the show, which we also feel is another first for a ski club. Fifty members of the press, radio and television attended and we have lots planned with them for the future. During the many releases about us (including TV of our show), we somehow



managed to get a full half-page coverage in one of the two dailies in their Society Section, again another possible first for ski clubs. Now we are just plain resting and getting ready for the Spring tournaments. We are also formulating plans to give a regular AWSA open of our own this Spring sometime.

The Ski Bees now boast 90 members and meet first and third Mondays at Ralston Beach.

## Whitmore Lake Ski Club

Last Sunday eight members of the Whitmore Lake Ski Club met at the lake and worked on a project. It was a perfect day for skating, ice fishing, ice boating and other winter sports, but our efforts were consumed by hauling anchors and spudding holes. Our slalom course took a beating this past summer and it had been decided that we needed a new one. Materials were bought and donated by members. Saturday we built the anchors and underwater floats. The anchors weigh over 200 pounds and were made by using one 12-inch cement block placed on top of a round wood cheese container. Both were filled with concrete and held together by a fence post.

Our course is located in the shallow area, ranging in depth from 6 to 8 feet with a soft bottom. The underwater floats were made of styrofoam 7 inches thick and triangular in shape. The styrofoam float was attached to the anchor with chains. We found 3 feet a good depth for the styrofoam. The chain is attached to the float with a snap fastener which is good when the water level drops in the fall.

We laid the course out on the ice with a tape and transit. This assured us of a perfect course with the least amount of trouble. A hole spudded directly around each buoy and gate large enough to accommodate both anchor and styrofoam float. The water depth was checked and the anchor chain set so that the styrofoam

would be approximately 2 feet under water. The hole was then covered and marked.

On Saturday we spent five hours making the anchors and collecting the material. Sunday we finished up in four hours. A total of nine hours and \$30.00 invested, and our course was completed.

I realize that some areas in the country do not have this kind of opportunity to set their course, but for the areas that do, this is one of the easiest ways of obtaining a perfect course.

Ray Fullerton, President  
Whitmore Lake Ski Club

## Jacksonville Water Ski Club

The Jacksonville Water Ski Club elected new officers at its annual meeting, January 27. Our new president is Al Crockett. He is a charter member of JWSC, an AWSA judge and a top notch competitive skier. Al, a navy chief, is presently serving aboard the aircraft carrier USS Roosevelt and will assume his new duties when he returns early in February.

Our other officers for 1958 are Fred Jester, Vice President; Charles A. Powers III, Treasurer; Betty Sue Powers, Secretary; and Ned Hanson, Tournament Director.

Fred Jester  
Publicity Director

## Etex Water Ski Club

The Etex Water Ski Club continues to move along with progress shown in individual skiing proficiency, club cooperation, community interest and participation and increase in membership. During the month of October, all but four of the members have passed their skiing proficiency tests as set down in the By Laws of the club, four male members have been making consistent improvement in jumping

from five and six feet levels, as well as double jumping, and two new members were admitted. These new members are B. J. Hoisenington and Bernell DeLaney.

The community interest and participation of each and every member has been excellent. During the Gala Parade which precedes the opening of the Annual Farmers Fair at Jacksonville, Texas, members of the club decorated Frank Rains new Texas Maid boat and Mark 75 Mercury motor in the fashion of a float and entered it in the parade. Although we did not come in first in the float competition, we had one of the better floats in the parade. The officials with the Chambers of Commerce wrote us a thank you letter for our entry.

In addition, several members of the club have just completed the first phase of an American Red Cross First Aid course. We decided, since we were delegated through our By Laws to assist in rescue and search when called upon and to promote water ski safety, it would be well for as many members as possible to have knowledge of first aid as sponsored by the American Red Cross. Mrs. Jean Shearwood was our instructor and we feel very fortunate to have had her instructions and patience.

The progress of the ski jumpers has been good. Frank Rains, Dub Burleson and Sidney Rook, all of whom had not jumped prior to becoming members of this club, have been making five and six foot jumps with good regularity and should be capable of participating in tournament competition by July 1958. John Kibbe and Dub Burleson have been doing quite a lot of double jumping and are improving with each and every jump.

Of the lady members, Peggy Steele has chanced going over the jump at five foot level twice and it is felt that next year she will be making good progress towards the art of ski jumping.

On the 12 of December, 1957, we held

a dinner meeting at the Liberty Hotel at Jacksonville, Texas. We had as our speaker and guest Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Aston from Ft. Worth, Texas. Mr. Aston gave us a talk on the organization of the American Water Ski Association and showed films on the National Water Ski Tournament this year and other skiing exhibitions. In addition, plans were discussed by our president for the coming year and mention was made of the tentative plans for a sanctioned tournament in July or August, 1958.

We are attaching copies of the newspaper coverage on the above various activities. The picture displaying our float entry in the Gala Parade at Jacksonville, Texas, was on the front page of the Jacksonville local newspaper. Mr. Frank Rains is the pirate on the skis. In addition, there is the coverage of our first aid activity and dinner meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Aston visiting us at our meeting.

In conclusion, with the Winter months coming on, our skiing activities will be made up of building take-off docks, ski tow equipment and soliciting new members. When Spring gets here, we plan to be ready for many hard hours of practice to continue to keep Jacksonville, Texas the water ski capital of East Texas.

Peggy Steele  
Corresponding Secretary

## Caloosa Water Ski Club

The club was organized in July of 1957 and we now have approximately 60 members. Located in Fort Myers, Fla., on the Caloosahatchee River in southwest Florida, we have good skiing weather most of the year. We ski either in the river or the Gulf of Mexico at Fort Myers Beach. Since organizing last year we have built a ski jump and put on several ski shows for the public which usually draw a crowd of around 1500 persons. Our biggest project to date will be a ski show which we are scheduled to put on February



9, 1958 in connection with the Edison Pageant of Light. This Pageant, running for one week, draws nationwide attention. We have a good ski show made up entirely of local folks. We have single, double and triple jumping, barefoot skiing, pyramids, shoe-ski turn-about and right now in the test stage, a kite. We think we have accomplished a lot in the six months we have been organized and we have great plans for the future.

## Enterprise Water Sports Club

Winter finds the members of the EWSC, Inc. of Elcho, Wisc., scattered throughout the mid-west at various colleges and at various jobs; but, nevertheless, quite a few managed to get together for a reunion at Elcho during their Christmas vacation. Things sure were a lot different from the way we left them last summer. I'm sure that water skiing was about the furthest thing from anyone's mind at the time, for we had below zero weather the entire time we were in Elcho. A few of us, however, did do some snow skiing.

The officers got together for an informal discussion on plans for the coming summer season. It is expected that the program for the summer season of 1958 will be even more interesting and diversified for those interested in water skiing and water sports activities than any other previous season.

The club is very proud of the fact that Mr. Lew Connors, chairman of the EWSC safety committee, has just recently been appointed, by Governor Vernon Thompson of Wisconsin, to a seven-man boating safety and water use committee, known as the State Marine Committee.

Since our club is quite active in conservation work, we are also very pleased that Mr. Les Fuhrman, a director of the EWSC, together with Mr. Charles Borth, a club member, have been appointed as area coordinators, to work with the Con-

servation Department on Fish Management for the Elcho area.

At the termination of this vacation period, Allen Bubolz, President of EWSC, returned to his senior studies at Valparaiso Univ. at Valparaiso, Ind. Milly Bubolz, Treas. of EWSC, returned with her brother to Valparaiso where she is a sophomore. Vice Pres., Chuck Handeyside is expecting to enter the Armed Forces. Patty Vaughn, Sec. of EWSC, returned to De Pauw Univ. at Greencastle, Ind., where she is a sophomore.

Let's hope the new year brings even more water skiing fun!

Sincerely,  
Patty Vaughn  
Sec. of EWSC

## Fort Meadow Ski Club

Members of the Fort Meadow Ski Club of Marlboro, Mass., sponsored a float which participated in the Labor Day Parade in their city. The float was decorated in the colors of the club, red and white, and was built on a flat-bed truck and flat trailer. It depicted members of the club skiing and jumping.

The tow boat was carried on the truck and was manned by members of the club in their red and white jackets. A small ski jump was built on the trailer and five skiers from the club, in bathing suits and jackets and on skis, stood on the trailer in water skiing positions.

The local newspaper called the float the most colorful and unusual display in the parade.

The club also reports that they are in the process of getting a charter and that they plan to build a second jump, in addition to the one which they built to AWSA standards and which is used in exhibitions. This jump is to be made smaller for the younger group so they may become accustomed to jumping before graduating to the larger one.

## If Your Address Has Changed Recently . . .

If your address has changed recently, or will change in the near future, be sure to notify THE WATER SKIER so that you will continue to receive your copy.

Name .....

New Address .....

City.....State.....

PLEASE CLIP THIS COUPON AND MAIL IT. YOUR PRESENT ADDRESS, AS IT APPEARS IN THE AWSA LISTS, IS ON THE BACK.

## Dayton Water Ski Club

Our activities for 1957 are over. But to some members, they are still going on in regards to water skiing. To these members the weather is no problem as long as there is no ice in the river. They are using frog suits to ski—insulated with warm clothing underneath, making it comfortable to ski regardless of the weather. These suits are proving useful and we hope the rest of the Dayton Water Ski Club members will be able to follow suit next year and thus ski the year 'round.

On January 5, 1958, our annual elections were held and the following officers were elected.

President: Phil Gregory  
Vice President: Jim Wagoner  
Secretary: Kathleen Dircksen  
Treasurer: Pat Turner  
Membership Chairman: Carl Christmas  
Sergeant at Arms: Lee Sharp  
John Kovacs.

With our newly-elected officers, our club is looking forward to a big year.

Best regards,  
John Solomon  
Publicity Chairman

## Official AWSA Meter

The Johnson meter has been selected as the only official AWSA meter to be used in all sanctioned tournaments.

In all other tournaments the use of the Johnson meter is optional. However, no records will be recognized as official world's records unless they are established in a sanctioned tournament where the jumps are measured by the use of the Johnson meter.

Records now in existence will not be affected by this ruling.



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