



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING

September 14, 1963

The Board of Directors of the WWSF met in Appleton on September 14, for the first time under it's new president, Roger Magoon. Three generalizations can be made about this meeting; (1) It was long. (2) the food was good, (3) we ran out of beer and as a result, accomplished a great deal. Discussion and reporting was the order of the evening. After a couple of weeks rest, all the delegates displayed an unusual amount of energy and hot air. However, when the smoke cleared in the wee small hours of the morning and once a motion for adjournment had finally been made successfully, as a result of our confiscating and burning the paper plate on which AL BUBOLZ had written his notes, the following subjects seemed to merit publication in the FEDERATOR.

A. TOURNAMENT SAFETY

Tournament safety: This single subject consumed the most of our attention and justifiably so, for it is perhaps the single most important aspect of any tournament.

For the most part, every tournament chairman does an adequate job in the area of safety. Pick-up boats are provided, the skiers wear jumping jackets or life belts and there is a safety director and some first aid equipment in the vicinity. But real and complete safety is often the last thing considered by most of us who have planned and directed water ski tournaments.

Safety involves, not only the precautions that we all take at the actual time of the tournament, but it also requires advance preparation. Most of us are so concerned that our tournament might not proceed smoothly that we leave our safety planning until the end and then only provide the minimum of personnel and equipment.

Consequently, as a check list for all future tournament planners in Wisconsin, the following ideas are presented.

1. Pick-up boats. This job, while a tiresome and thankless one, is nevertheless, one of the most crucial and important at any tournament. Paradoxically, it is a job that is often left to younger people, or those who have "nothing else to do". If the safety of the skiers is to be assured, the drivers of the pick-up boats must know skiing, know how to handle a boat and know how to use their heads. They must be accompanied by a good swimmer wearing a life jacket and a swimming suit. This person must be strong enough to handle an injured skier in the water. The boat itself should be wide and low sided, easily maneuvered and capable of rapid speed, if necessary. It should contain some sort of flotation device on which an injured skier can be transported to shore. For this purpose, the Thompson Water Ski Co., Inc. will provide the WWSF with several water

toboggans next season. However, a device like this is just as important in practice as it is in a tournament, so you are advised to have a toboggan or something similar handy for your everyday use during practice. Also, the boat should contain first-aid equipment and a two-way radio, if possible.

When a skier has fallen, approach him at a rapid speed, but slow down when drawing close, so as to not pass him up (or run him over with the boat). If the skier cannot get into the boat under his own power, the rider MUST jump into the water and assist him. Slide the toboggan into the water and pass it under the skier. Then float the skier into shore on the toboggan. Never lift a seriously injured skier into the boat. Go in after him.

At most tournaments, the wakes of the pick-up boats are a real sore spot. In general, the most important thing to remember, is that even a small wake may disrupt a skier. So leave the motor in gear, but creep. When speed is necessary, approach at an angle to the path of the tow-boat if possible. The first concern is the safety of the skier, of course, but the "residue" left by the wake of a careless pick-up boat driver is a bother and a headache to all concerned. Speed, when a skier has fallen is important, so speed up! Don't plow along at $2/3$ speed. Get to the skier quickly and slow down quickly when approaching him. If he signals "all-right" and you are convinced that he is O.K., then creep away. If he needs to be brought into shore in a hurry, do just that, and then get back to your position, slowly.

In sum, the pick-up boat driver who is serious and careful about his job will never be criticized. If he is conscious of the fact that he, alone, is responsible for the safety of the skiers, he will never be wrong.

Everything that applies to tournaments, applies also to shows, and most important, to practice. Many more injuries and accidents occur in practice than in actual competition, and for this reason, safety precautions are very important. The physical conditions are the same in practice as in tournaments, so why not provide equal safety conditions?

Most of us have the intelligence and ability to be good pick-up boat drivers, but very few of us have the patience and concentration that such an important job requires. This job is important, and if it does not make you feel important, just consider for a moment how much the skier on the water is depending on you.

NOTE: For a more complete treatment of pick-up boat driving, every tournament director is urged to contact Al Bubolz and request a copy of his fine article on the subject.

2. THE JUMP. Most of the jumps in the state are in good condition and are well cared for. However, there is a good deal of variation in width and in the length of the jump out of the water.

It is recommended that the jump be fourteen feet wide and required that there be between 20 and 22 feet out of the water. Anyone who has jumped will tell you how tough it is to jump over a ramp that just barely meets these qualifications. Water skiing is one sport in which the "home court advantage" is not a valid consideration. For the safety of all skiers, it is urged that every tournament provide a jump as near to fourteen feet wide and twenty-two feet out of the water, as is possible.

More important than either of these is the size and angle of the side arms. It is recommended by the AWSA that the side arms be the full length of the jump and extend out at an angle of 45°. It is not often that a skier hits the side, but once is usually enough for any of us.

Changes such as these may involve some money, but a few dollars spent in this way becomes very worthwhile when they can prevent a serious accident. The length of the jump, the width of the ramp and the length and angle of the side arms are vital safety considerations, and we urge you to put them at the head of your list when you prepare for the coming season.

3. THE SAFETY CHAIRMAN. "Where is the safety chairman?" How many times have you heard this announced over the P.A. at a tournament? Sometimes the safety chairman is several people, sometimes it is whoever feels like being in charge of safety at a given moment. But it is the job of the safety chairman to oversee all the safety at a given moment. But it is the job of the safety chairman to oversee all the safety precautions of any tournament. This means that he is in charge of the pick-up boats, the condition of the ropes and the life jackets and it is his responsibility to see that each skier's skis are in acceptable condition.

The following check list is provided for tournament directors in selecting and instructing their safety chairman:

- a. Pick someone who knows something about first-aid and safety. He might have an occasion to be of some use.
- b. Have him contact a doctor and have that doctor be available before the running of each event.
- c. An ambulance must be ready and equipped to go into action.
- d. First-aid supplies must be available on shore and in each boat, including the tow boat.
- e. The pick-up boat personnel must be organized and instructed as to their duties by the safety chairman.
- f. Ropes should be checked before each skier goes out.
- g. Life jackets must fit and be secured properly.
- h. Skis must be safe and initialed or marked to indicate that the safety director and no one else has checked them. The safety chairman should be provided with a tournament running order so he can know which skis he has checked and which ones he has not checked.
- i. The safety chairman should station himself at the starting dock during the entire tournament.

This list will, most likely be incomplete for your tournament, but it is a start. Perhaps you can begin to see that the safety chairman is not just the "man who is never around", but, on the contrary, it is someone who can do a great deal to make any tournament run safely and smoothly.

B. TOURNAMENT ENTRIES. Several times this past season there was some controversy over who was officially entered in a tournament and what constituted entrance. In an effort to clear this point up, the Board of Directors amended the by-laws of the WWSF to read as follows, concerning tournament entries: "entries shall be defined as a filled out entry form and the entry fee paid prior to the deadline set by the tournament committee and in any event, prior to the start of the event in which the contestant wishes to enter." It was felt that this wording would clear up any controversies and misunderstandings that would have otherwise come up.

These are some of the more important matters that were discussed at the first meeting of this year's Board of Directors. The subject matter of this meeting came from the thoughts of the Board themselves and while many good things were discussed, it is quite likely that we left many important matters untouched. The only way we can find out about what is important to you, is for you to contact the Board member from your club and let him know of your thoughts. Or if you are not a member of a club, jot your thoughts and ideas on a paper and mail them to the President:

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IF MY MEMORY SERVES ME CORRECTLY

- Tom Beech

There are a variety of theories and folk legends telling of the beginning of the sport of water skiing and each one of these has it's champions. Some say that water skiing began when a snow skier misjudged his speed and distance and ran off a hill onto the water of a half-frozen lake. Others think that the sport has evolved out of aquaplaning. How water skiing really did begin is something no one actually knows and if the truth be known, few people care. What is IMPORTANT, however, is how water skiing began for each of us.

It wasn't too long ago when there were few high-powered boats and few pairs of water skis. Not many people had seen or even heard of water skiing. Gradually, however, the sport began to catch on and soon everyone wanted to give it a try. If proper equipment was not available (and in most cases it wasn't,) folks made use of what they had. The result was often the ridiculous sight of a 200 lb. man wearing shoulder pads and a football helmet trying to get up on a pair of old snow skis behind a 5 H.P. motor. In it's infant stages, water skiing became sort of a community project. One family would have skis, another would provide a boat, and still another might be the proud possessor of a rope and life jacket. Put them all together and you had an afternoon of riotous fun for all concerned.

Here was a new family sport, an exciting experience. The feeling of gliding across the water was indescribable - - and this was one sport that almost anyone could try and succeed at. A love for the water and some sense of balance was all that was necessary. But most important, this was fun.

So this is how it all began for most of us, but how the times have changed. Gone is the 5 H.P. motor's usefulness as a tow boat, and those old turned up skis gather dust in the back of the boat house. In place of those, most people now have high-powered boats and several pair of expensive water skis. The spot-light is focussed on tournaments and professional shows; for water skiing has changed and become more complex. The questions being asked now are not, "Will I get up?" but "Will I be able to perfect by toe-hold wake 360's before the regionals?".

But amidst the hurry to perfect a new trick and under the confusion and tension of a tournament many of us have lost or buried, as the case may be, the one thing which gives this sport or any sport, it's reason for being. We have forgotten that water skiing is meant to be fun just plain fun. Too often our tournaments are only a worry and a confused mess for the judges. Too often true sportsmanship and competition are distorted or forgotten in the wake of the desire for a trophy.

The same is true of amateur and professional shows, for here water skiing is a business and an obligation.

We have learned much about the technical aspects of this sport and we have found ways to make it one of the safest of all sports. But

even with these advances we are robbing ourselves of a great deal when it is merely a business or a headache for us. No one would be foolish enough to say that we ought to go back to the "primitive days" and throw away all that we have learned, but it might be well for many of us to recall once in a while how we first learned to water ski. It might help us to regain perspective as this sport grows so rapidly.

Just as a tree cannot outgrow it's roots, neither can water skiing cast off it's beginning. Water skiing begins every day for hundreds of people as they experience the thrill of learning how to stand up and hang on. There is a world of difference between this shaky beginner and the expert who can jump, slalom and trick ride. In terms of experience and know-how. But where these two meet is that this sport is fun for both of them. What keeps this sport alive is the fact that it is one of the few things left in our lives that we can do "just for the fun of it". I have a feeling however, that water skiing dies a little bit inside each of us (and thus the sport as a whole dies a little bit) when shows and tournaments are all work for us or when we grieve over losing because we've lost a trophy.

BILL CLIFFORD, in a short, but significant speech at the Mid-West Regional Meeting said that water skiing involves two major ingredients people and fun. We have the people but do we still have the fun?

ADDS

FOR SALE: 17' Crestliner Boat, 800 Merc and trailer. Contact DON NEVIN, 1501 Painter, P. O. Box 176, Menomonie, Wisconsin.

FOR SALE: - Magnolia Catamaran. This fine show and tournament boat in very good condition. \$500.00 Capable of holding up to 200 H.P. Contact Phil Franke, Minocqua, Wisc.

FOR SALE: Ramp - Built to AWSA specifications - all marine plywood and 2 x 8" framework. Contact Earl B. KRUGGER, 227 Church St., Algoma, Wisconsin.

FOUND: One jumping jacket. contact Roger Magoon, 709 S. Brewster, Appleton, Wisconsin

WE NEED ARTICLES

If you have done anything either worthy or unworthy of print, send it in. It may make you famous. Send anything you feel that would be printable in the FEDERATOR to:

TOM BEECH
305 S. Vine Ave.
Marshfield, Wisconsin

STARTING NEXT ISSUE - A new feature article. "A funny thing happened to me on the way to the water". This article will tell of amusing and unusual incidents in the lives of Wisconsin water skiers. As yet, however, we have nothing to print in this article. So if you know of, or if you have had something unusual or funny happen to you in connection with your water skiing send it in to TOM BEECH and we will include you in the next issue.

CLUB NEWS

AQUA SKIERS INC.Wisconsin Rapids

One of the highlights of our season was the Novice Tournament we held on July 28. We had a total of 31 entries coming from Appleton, Phillips Milwaukee and Wisconsin Rapids.

Mary and Fred Samples of Appleton came over to help us with the judging.

The Aqua Skiers want answers to the following questions:

If Bev Sowatzke isn't afraid of bears, why did she stay up half the night at Elcho to practice calling tricks?

Why couldn't some of the Aqua Skiers get out of bed til noon Sunday at the State Tournament after partying with some of the Min-Aqua-Bats the night before?

Why was a black with a white stripe so attracted to the Joosten-Albert tent at Three Lakes.

How can our club president get a 39 foot jump while double cutting at the ramp?

Oh - well, I guess we will never know.

KWAHAMOT WATER SKI CLUB.....TomahawkFred Piehl

The Kwahamot Water Ski Club had a very successful season this year. We took in 14 new members at the beginning of the season, making our total active membership climb to 35.

The new members have added new acts to our show, such as the new "beach" barefoot start. This was initiated into the club by GENE WINTER. Now there are several other members who have demonstrated that ability -- GREG GEISS, BRUCE HAXTON, FRED PIEHL and ROBERT HENDERSON. The above skiers are also members of the Barefoot Club.

The Kwahamot Ski Club was proud to say that this year their doubles act went to the National Water Ski Tournament, Long Beach, California. FRED PIEHL and KAY KONGLIEN, who placed first at the Midwest Regionals in Winona, Minn. left via jet for the Nationals and took in the entire tournament. They performed Sunday afternoon, but due to slight difficulties over the ramp, they placed 4th in the nation. I might add, the club also sent their announcer, DAVE ANDERSON out to California with them.

Some of our veteran tournament skiers experienced difficulty at the Midwest Regionals. TOM SEESHAPER on his first pass through the slalom course mistook the guide buoys for the tow boat to be the end gate. Next time TOMMY -- better wear his glasses.

All in all we had a tremendous season, but hope to do even better next year. Our new jump should help us along.

MIN-AQUA-BATS.....Minocqua

New bleachers and lighting helped to make this summer one of our most successful seasons. The crowds were fabulous and they seemed to really enjoy themselves. Though the life of our club necessarily centers around the show, there were some "unrelated" incidents during the summer that might bear unveiling.

It seems that our two favorite cemetery lawn-mowers were working (for a change) one day. Robin went into the tool shed for something and the door closed and locked behind him. DYER didn't hear his cries for a couple of hours. Seems he was sleeping under a tree on the other side of the cemetery.

JACK BECKER finally got us a kite that really works. With the aid of just about every other kite-flyer, mathematician and mechanic in the Midwest, he compiled data and formulae and the thing went up about 100 feet at 26 mph. He even designed a harness and flew the kite while turned around backwards ---- then the wind blew the kite off the club house roof and broke it. Oh well, the old kite works pretty well anyway and besides, it is so faded that you can't see it very well when it gets up over 20 feet.

The performance of our girls in the State Tourney was particularly heartening. They were responsible for a large percentage of our points. Worthy of special mention, however, are PATTY MUNK and NAN BJORK, who placed in the top ten in slalom, even though they missed the starting gate on their first run.

BROWN, ROBOON, CYRUS ARTHRITUS and the WRONG REVEREND T. BEECH competed in a summer-long golf tournament. The results are as follows: COLEMAN lost 84 golf balls; HOAGLUND got a bill from the green's keeper for "divot damages"; BEECH is still looking for his ball which went screaming off the fourth tee, hit a tree and bounced back behind him in the woods and BROWN won the trophy with a 72 hole score of 863.

We were blessed with a swell bunch of junior members this year. They worked hard and ski so well that some of the old timers might lose their jobs.

Coming events - - - - December 31 and New Year's Eve in Minocqua we will ski at Indianhead on the 31st and open some place up for a party that night. Put it on your calendar.

PLUM-SKI-TERS.....Saynor.....Nick Seegert

The Plum-Ski-Ters enjoyed a very successful season in 1963. We purchased a tow boat of our own at the beginning of the season and had very good luck with it all season. We enlarged our show schedule from one show per week to two shows, which we performed every Sunday afternoon and Thursday evenings.

We took in several new members last fall and they skied with us all summer, helping to improve our shows with new acts.

PLUM-SKI-TERS (Cont'd)

We had several trophies brought home to us this year. AL VODICKA, who did not do so well at the Minocqua tourney because of a head injury, brought one home from Elcho instead. Also at the same tournament, CHERYL LAKE took 2nd in slalom.

Three Lakes - MIKE WHITE and JAN WHITE brought home trophies. JAN - 2nd in jumping and MIKE 3rd in Men's Novice jumping.

Election of officers - President - AL VODICKA, Vice President - RON HENNING, Secretary - CHERYL LAKE and Treasurer - PAUL KEMMETER.

It was decided that we would construct bleachers for the '64 season.

THREE LAKES WATER SRI CLUB.....Three Lakes.....Norm Westerhold

Our annual oar wash and chicken fry were both big successes and next time we even hope to make some money. From the money acquired through the sale of our Kat rig and a lot of money donated by our fathers, we were able to purchase a new luxurious 17' Dumphy inboard (powered by a 225 interceptor) and from the receipts of our shows we bought a kite and new AWSA jackets for the club.

In the skiing department, many new achievements were made. DON TINAGLI tried barefoot and on his first run he went almost two minutes before his feet got tired and thus he became our fifth barefoot club member. (LINDA and ANNIE say next summer) After JIM JACOBI earned his wings, he gave many others lessons on how to take off and land with a kite. DAVE VERCH, JACK VERCH, MIKE MARTY, BILL KROEL and myself all went up with the kite.

At the tournaments this summer we did pretty well. At Minocqua, KAREN and LINDA both captured 3rd place trophies and at Elcho both improved enough to win 1st place trophies in jumping. It was here that Gully got into the limelight with an 87' jump and a 3rd place trophy. ANNIE LEATZOW took off her favorite long - sleeve sweatshirt long enough to win a 1st in girls slalom. At Janesville, trophy hunter CARLTON won our only trophy. Next state tournament.

Next state tournament, the party will be held in someone else's room NOT MINE.

The trophy hunting team of CARLTON, CARLTON and CARLTON stole a 1st and two 3rds while the WESTERHOLDS managed to win a 1st and to sneak in a 3rd along with a Century Club patch. After the excitement was over, KAREN went out and got her expert's rating in jumping - to end the season on a happy note for her.

TIM WALKER won our barefoot trophy.

Elections - President - JIM JACOBI, Vice President - TOM WALKER, Secretary - LINDA CARLTON and Treasurer - MIKE MARTY.

Our whole club wants to wish "Bird Dog" BROWN and the rest of the Bats lots of luck with their bid for the regionals.

WATER BUGS.....Milwaukee.....Bill Heiden

SPRING DANCE.....How come the members drink all the beer and the guests win all the prizes?

"SPARNFECKEL".....Chef MARK EDWARDS roasted a whole pig on Memorial Day. No one could stand the sight of the "thing" but there wasn't any left over.

FOURTH OF JULY SHOW.....We received our new Tibado kite the day before. Flying the kite with an instruction book in one hand, the rope broke and down came BILL HEIDEN; anyone interested in a new instruction book?

LAKE WISCONSIN SHOW....Bugs had the pleasure of using a 1923 Soap Box Derby ramp for a jump -- really fast. BOB MIRANDA lost his way home, became A.W.O.L. and the C.O. revoked his liberty card.

CHICAGO SHOW.....Stan MILES and RICK SCHRAM had the pleasure of rounding up the crew after an inclement Saturday night, (moved indoors again). BOB STUMP traded an undisclosed amount of spirits for a seeing eye dog. BUG seen on Rush Street with a sportcoat, tie and bermuda shorts could this be MARK EDWARDS.

ELCHO....Does anyone know of a 99' club...contact BILL HEIDEN. TOM BROWN & Co. - did a wonderful job at the tournament. Said they found the secret of youth.

MEQUON SHOW - CEDAR LAKE SHOW..... HARRY STEMPER fell in love with WALLY BRAUN'S doubles partner, HILDA. Four shows, two firemen's picnics later, the Bugs called it a busy weekend.

GIMBLES-SCHUSTERS SHOW.....Five days running on the scenic Milwaukee River, downtown. Barefooters JACK QUAST and BOB STUMP wore tennis shoes because of the debris, JIM QUAST, our Rodger Ward of the waterways hit bleach bottles, floating logs, cans and assorted goodies. Our SUSIES, GRIMM and RODGERS wanted to wear full length DRY suits for girl's ballet.

THREE LAKES.....Anyone interested in jumping lessons, contact JIM "CRASH" FALKOWSKI who is vying the PAT DYER for total number of stitches in one season.

PAT DYER really stretched for that Joyce Cup, seems the Min-Aqua Bats almost lost it to Illinois this year.

Thanks to TOM KURTH for the use of his Rayson-Craft at so many of our tournaments this year. When it comes to speed, who could ask for anything more.

Our men's division sure put on a fine exhibit of trick riding at Janesville -- with a little prize money maybe we could all put forth more effort -- what 50% won't make a skier do. Who else would attempt a somersault off the ramp but TOM BEECH. What AL BUBOLZ was attempting on the trick skis had everyone guessing -- someone called it a ski-sit-down, but I never could find that one in the rule book.

That is the club news for this issue. Some clubs are conspicuous by their absence, however, and we all would like to enjoy hearing from you. The next issue of the FEDERATOR will be published after the first of the year, so please try and send us an article about yourself or your club. We are not governed by the F.C.C., and so we will print anything you write (almost). So --SEND IT IN!

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Do you think present laws are adequate for state skiers and fishermen? If not, what would you suggest?

Do you feel the problem is a matter of education instead of more laws?

Are you in favor of water zoning laws? If not, why not?

Are you in favor of Townships or counties having authority to pass water useage laws as we now have?

Please describe in detail any local ordinances that have been passed in your area, or areas with which you are familiar.

What lakes or rivers in your area are congested or "problem" water and is this area used principally for a) fishing, b) swimming, c) canoeing, d) speedboating or e) waterskiing?

Is there a water safety patrol boat on the water in your area? If yes, who runs it and what days and hours is this service available?

Can your club provide manpower to aid in a water safety patrol boat?

Do you have a water safety program in your club?

Is the word spread outside of your club, such as newspapers, radio, lectures or television?

Do you have a skiing instruction program within your club that is open to everyone in your area?

If Yes, how much do you charge for instructions and how often is this service available?

Please send the answers to the above questionnaire to: PHIL FRANK
Minocqua, Wisc.

Every member should reply - we expect 100% return.