

**NSSA Board of Directors Meeting  
February 28, 2009**

Call to Order

Introductions

Mike Hanson President, Executive Committee Chair,  
Gerry Luiting ,V.P. Chair Safety, Awards, & Elite Athlete Rep,  
Mark Poulos, Sec./ Treasurer , Publicity, Officials Chair, Cent Region Rep  
Cathy Luiting, Wis. Rep and Individual Judging Committee Chair,  
Hans Hauschild- WI Rep  
Bruce McCalmon, , National Tournament Chair, By Laws Chair  
Kurt Bemman, Cent Rep Alternate (voting), Grants Chair, Policies and Procedures Chair  
Bud Ruhl, MW  
Roger Gerstad- Elite Skier Rep  
Larry Meany MW, alternate  
Bruce Berg, MW  
Terry Pasterski, HND,/ TV Productions Chair, Team Development Chair  
Roger Olson Elite Skier Rep,  
Kevin Hayes, Nominations Chair, CRSSA President  
Tom Ghiloni, HND  
Sherm Schraft- USAWS Rep, HND, Rules Chair, International  
Mark Newberger- Southern Region  
Kevin Hayes- CRSSA President  
Jim Martin- Wisconsin Rep  
Jeff Clark-Alternate Southern Rep  
Stacy Griffith- Eastern Region Rep  
JR Wilson- Drivers Committee Chair, HND

Mike Hanson informs board that members who did not submit a report prior to the meeting will not be allowed to discuss their line items.

**Appoint Parliamentarian-** Sherm Schraft appointed by President Hanson

**Approval of Minutes from November** meeting – Motion to accept by Kurt Bemman 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Bruce Berg Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report-** Mark presents report and discusses budget adjustments. There will be some adjustments to line items for the 2009 budget. Of note, money held for International Competition has been placed in certificates of deposit. \$5,000.00 has been placed in a 10 month maturity at 3.15% and \$12,000.00 has been placed in an 18 month CD at 3.5%. The money was in short enough term to be available before Division 1 Show Nationals if needed and can be reinvested at the prevailing rate at the pleasure of the board. Rates ranged from 1% to 3.5% for short maturities and is completely safe.

**Additions to Agenda –**  
Risk Management

**Regional Reports – Submitted reports at end of minutes**

**Central** –Report Submitted. Kurt presents report for the region .

**East-** Report Submitted Stacy gives report

**Midwest** –Report Submitted.

**South Central** – No report. Not much activity in South Central Region

**South** – Report Submitted- Garry Stout reports 3 tournaments all on original dates and original locations.

**West** – No Report was sent in. Jim Boland could not make the meeting.

**Wisconsin** – Report Submitted-Cathy presents report

**Committee Reports:**

**National Tournament- No Report Submitted before meeting**  
**DII Steering Committee- No Report Submitted before meeting**  
**Officials - No Report Submitted before meeting**

**Towboat drivers** – Report was submitted. JR discusses.

Question as to whether the NSSA towboat can be used for other than national tournaments. Boat will be stored at RAJ site. Boat must be returned in two days unless otherwise approved by Towboat Chair.

Hourly rate for use of boat. Club that uses the boat has to pay for minimum of one hour. Recommended price per hour is \$40.00

The club that uses the boat is responsible for any damage that occurs.

NSSA to pay for transfer to Division 1-Division 2.

Much discussion on setting fees. Fees need to cover expenses related to the boat including maintenance, insurance, and operating expenses. The Board reviewed historical data on the boat to determine a fair rate.

Not wanting to make money on the boat.

**Motion by Chris Coupland to charge \$100.00 per hour (minimum of one hour) for use of NSSA towboat. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruhl motion passed.**

This rate will apply for individual events as well as show.

JR informs board the propellers on the boat are the property of Rock Aqua Jays.

Mark makes motion to purchase two spare props for the NSSA boat. Retail is approximately \$700.00 for two props (One for the right and one for left since they are different due to the

counter rotating props). Tabled until we get a price on the props. The President will call for an e-mail ballot once the cost can be determined.

NSSA needs to have a signed contract for the use of the boat. Kevin has a contract that he will review for use of the boat. We also need a checklist to check the boat to document any discrepancies.

One of the lower units on the boat is also property of RAJ.

The team using the boat will be responsible to getting the boat in the water and making sure it is fueled and has oil.

Boat is currently in Indiana but will be taken for RAJ for storage.

JR will keep track of the expenses on the boat. The boat is to be returned to RAJ within two days of the end of the tournament.

Discussion on Safety clinic portion of the driver rating requirement. Gerry Luiting will work with Jim Babcock on this.

NSSA examiners are authorized to give the USAWS trained driver program.

Discussion on the I-Drive program through USAWS. Four people took advantage of taking the training on the WEB. The applicant has to sign up and pay \$30.00 and are given a password to access the test. This is not for NSSA drivers.

Discussion on the tournament sponsored boat.  
Steve Upp is responsible for getting tournament sponsored boat.

Mike Hanson has been working on getting a tournament sponsored boat.

Concern about what to do if Steve Upp doesn't get a promotional boat? USAWS needs to held accountable. Not a lot of promo boats out there.

The promo boat is not in the contract. It needs to be in the contract. The promo boat needs to be on site on Thursday morning of Division 1 Show Nationals. One of the things USAWS needs to be held accountable for is that if USAWS is going to continue to take a large percentage of sponsor income, they need to be responsible for providing the promo boat. HQ did not have a title sponsor for NSSA Division 1 Show Nationals until two weeks before the tournament.

Often times the title sponsor is not known until the last hour. This needs to be addressed with Steve Locke. The NSSA board needs to mandate that the Executive Committee handle concerns and needs of NSSA with headquarters. Sherm suggest that when we take concerns to Steve Locke, we (the board) also need to suggest viable solutions.

**Motion by Bud Ruhl that HQ be responsible for the two tournament supplied (inboard) boats necessary for National tournaments whether or not there is a tournament sponsor. Berg 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Discussion Boat needs to be on site on Thursday for Division 1 and Friday for Division 2 and need to have a trick release. Jeff says the towboat owner will not deliver a boat with a trick release. Jeff discusses the promo program. The promo program boats are privately owned. None of the individuals will deliver the boat with a trick release on the boat. The boat will not come to the boat with a trick release.

Mike says the trick releases are a moot item. The problem lies with the pylon. There is a liability issue. NSSA can arrange for a trick release. Some concerns as to who is liable when the trick release is place on the boat.

Mark to talk with attorney to get answers for liability issues with the trick release and getting the contract drawn for the boat.

Roger Olson asks what happens when HQ fails to get the boat to the tournament. Mike will work with Steve Locke on getting a contract.

**Motion passes**

**Safety- No Report Submitted before meeting**

**By Laws- No Report Submitted before meeting See Attachment.**

**Policies and Procedures- No Report Submitted before meeting**

**Elite Skiers- No Report Submitted before meeting**

**Awards- No Report Submitted before meeting**

**Grants Committee Report** – Kurt presents report. \$5,000.00 allocated for grants. The committee will not pay out Learn To Ski grants until the club submits Name, address, and other information for the participants. Drivers and Safety clinic will be funded as possible. Kurt asks whether the Grants should support D-2 with up to \$1,000.00.

**Motion by Chris that Grants allocate \$500.00 earmarked for growing the participation in D-2. Second by Roger Gersted.**

Discussion on what determines growth?

Kurt called for the question. Passes

**Motion passes. 2 opposed.**

Fax number for grants has changed to (248-475-3839)

**Rules-Report submitted.**

**Nominating Committee Report-** Kevin- elections for Officers at Nationals USAWS representative. Sherm  
 Nominations for Elite- Gerry Luiting and Roger Olson  
 Nominations for NSSA VP- Gerry Luiting.

By-laws report addresses HND- Jeff addresses the HND interpretation. Service tenure requirements were separated from the exemplary service portion of the requirements for HND. **Motion by Committee to accept the recommendation to change the language in the By-laws.** 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark. Motion Passes

**Long Rang Planning- No Report Submitted before meeting**

**Rules-** Sherm reports there has been no activity in the rules committee since November.

**Publicity- No Report Submitted before meeting**

**World/National Records- No Report**

**TV- Production-** Terry Pasterski- **Motion by committee to approve use of NSSA radios at Wi State.** 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roger Olson. Motion carried.

**Team Development-** Holiday Shores, and Grand City are sponsored team. 1045-1245 on Saturday for luncheon in room C. Representatives from the region are going to be present.

**Fund Raising-** No Report

**Individual Act Judging-** No Report Submitted before the meeting.

Cathy asks if any funding is available to help Jim Boland to come to Nationals to take videos.  
*Side Note: Justin Landers from North Carolina made a contribution to NSSA for \$300.00 to help defray travel costs for Jim Boland*

**International Competition Committee-** Sherm submitted report. He is also chair of IWSF committee. A show committee is formed in Australia.

**Difficulty-** Chris gives report.  
 Jump.:

## Jump Difficulty

Trick	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25
Heli	Single Heli	Double Heli	Triple Heli	Quad Heli	Five-man Heli
720				2 ski 720	1 ski 720

	Single front	2 front front	3	4 fronts	5+ fronts
Two ski front flip					
Single ski front flip				1 Ski Front	2+ 1Ski Front
Two ski gainer	Single Gainer			Double Gainers	Triple Gainers
Single ski gainer		Single 1 Ski Gainer	Single 1 Ski Gainer		Triple 1 Ski Gainers
				Double 1 Ski Gainer	
Two Ski Mobe (B/F)				Single 2 Ski Back Mobe	
One Ski Mobe (B/F)					Single One Ski Mobe
Miscellaneous			Two Ski Pinwheel		Single Ski Pinwheel
			Double Heli-Front	Double Heli-Double Front	Gainer-Flip-Gainer
				Flip-gainer-flip	
				an	Insane Man
					Organ Donor
				Widow Maker	
				Decapitator	

**Jumpers must be on the ramp at the same time!**  
 Hang Man: Flip over Heli  
 Decapitator: Flip over Flip and Heli  
 Widow Maker: Gainer over Flip  
 Organ Donor: Gainer under Heli and over Flip  
 Pinwheel: Heli, Flip, Gainer  
 Insane Man: Gainer over Heli, Flip over All

- 1) The jump difficulty matrix is to be used as a tool and resource when scoring the difficulty category of a given jump act. The matrix is NOT intended to be used when scoring the categories of flow, execution, or spectator appeal.
- 2) A given jump act is to have a minimum number of three jumps. If a team chooses to utilize fewer than three jumps, they will be assessed a zero for each jump less than three they do not perform. The three jumps may be part of a continuous act.
- 3) For all jumps completed successfully, the given judge can use the attached difficulty matrix as a resource in formulating a score for the difficulty category based on an average of the jumps performed.
- 4) After figuring the average of the jumps completed, the judge will skew the score within a 1 to 3 point range toward the highest jump completed successfully.

Not all jumps possible were listed. This was just listed as a reference to give the judges guidance.

- \*\*\* Ballet- Difficulty
- 0-5- One complete Rotation:  
 Skiing with 2 arms braced;  
 Routine performed mostly Staggered Movements  
 Unbroken Landing  
 1-7 Skiers
- 6-10 2 Complete Revolutions

Skating 1&2 Arms Braced  
Routine performed with a combination of staggered and unison movements  
Rope held between legs  
8-11 skiers

11-15 3-Complete Revolutions  
Skating 1 arm braced  
Routine performed with more precision movements in unison.  
Unbroken Landing  
12-17 Skiers

16-20 3 Complete Revolutions  
Skating 1 pass unbraced  
Routine performed with movements in unison incorporating more moves (2 arms used in routine)  
Rope held with heel or toe hold and seat hold  
Unbroken Landing  
18-21 Skiers

21-25 3 Complete Revolutions  
Skating 1-2 passes unbraced  
Routing performed with movements in unison incorporating more moves. (2 arms used in routine for bo unbraced passes)  
Rope held with heel or toe hold and seat hold  
Unbroken Landing  
22+ Skiers

NOTES: Variable that could enhance your difficulty scores include:

- Intricate Choreography on the water
- Continuous moves in unison throughout the revolutions
- Props incorporated effectively in routine
- Straight-Arm Unbroken Landing

Motion to approve by Committee:

2<sup>nd</sup> by Bud Ruhl.

Motion passes.

Mark will contact Chief Judges make sure they discuss this with the judges at tournaments if the Chief Judges are identified for specific tournaments.

**Old Business-** None

**New Business-**

Rules exception: Motion by Chris to empower the Region Officers to deal with any “issues” outside the competition area. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cathy, Motion Passes.

Cathy asks if there is any way to work with other sport divisions to make sure our National tournaments don't conflict. Barefoot Nationals has moved their competition weekend for 2009 that is the week after Show Nationals. This causes conflict with HQ staff and some judges.

Show is the only sports division that has a set weekend. We also have the largest cross over with the other disciplines because Show does it all.

Tom Ghiloni encourages us to work with other sport divisions to determine when each will have their National Tournament.

Mark presents the Judging staff for D-1 and D-2 as a motion.

No candidate for Timer / Staging Marshall

2<sup>nd</sup> by Kurt Bemman approved for D-1 Motion Carried

Mark wants direction on who to ask for Timer/Staging Marshall and suggests offering it to Garry Stout if he wants it. Approved to be handled by the Officials committee chair.

Motion to accept the nominees for D-2

2<sup>nd</sup> by Bruce Motion Carried

In the future, as a policy of the board, all voting will be handled by the president or his designee when the Officials committee Chair is on the ballot.

Roger Olson- Hall of fame in Lakeland. Lynn Novakofski. Discussion on whether to fund \$1,250.00 for a table at the banquet. Will check on available funds. Pending board approval, WWSF will match donations from other regions up to half.

**Motion by Bruce berg to approve NSSA funds for the amount not donated for the sponsor table by the individual regions. Second by Roger Olson Motion Carried.**

Freestyle Jumping-

**Motion by Chris to bring back freestyle jumping for 2009 Division 1 National Show Tournament. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cathy Luiting. Motion approved.**

The 50/50 raffle this weekend will be to benefit the Scott Cooley memorial fund.

New Clinic on Saturday is called Risk Management. 8-9:45 Mike encourages board members to get their teams to attend.

Time and Place Nationals in Rockford. 8 AM on Friday Morning. 7 00 AM at the Park

November meeting will be November 7, 2009, @ 8:00 AM at USA WS.

Motion to Adjourn by Mark 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roger Gersted  
Mtg adjourned at. 11:30 AM



# REPORTS

**Central Region Report-** As most know the Central Region, like the Midwest Region, was beset with natural disasters causing many events to be re-scheduled or cancelled. Central Region tournament was held at Lake City Skiers site.

Doug Ribley, Ohio, was elected as the new representative for the Central Region. Lake City Skiers really stepped up to the plate and became the Division II Show Nationals site due to flooding conditions.

Holiday Shores Ski Team, Edwardsville, IL, ( northeast of East St. Louis) has become active after 30 years of not competing. They have obtained a twin rig and are wanting to get back into the game as a competing team. They did participate in the 2008 Central Region Tournament which was the highlight of their season. The Club has numerous maintenance activities planned for this winter such as re-surfacing the main dock, completing work on a motorized barge and general equipment maintenance. They also have plans to build a landing area at their ski site in early spring.

Spray Masters, (Michigan held a Safety Clinic on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, with members of Grand City and Silver Lake joining also participating. Jim Babcock was the instructor. Spray Masters also perform the new act “2-1 Pyramid Around the Boat”. It took almost a year for them to be able to accomplish this act, changing some of the variables in the act as they worked through each problem they encountered. This was the Spray Masters 20<sup>th</sup> year. Backwater Gamblers held an adaptive ski clinic in August. Those who participated performed behind private boats during the intermission of one of the ski shows. This has been a tradition in cooperation with Genesis Medical Center. Backwater will host the 2009 Central Region Tournament the second weekend in July. Ski Broncs will host the Division 1 Show Nationals.

## **Eastern Region Report**

### **Tournament:**

The 2009 Eastern regionals are scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, being hosted by the Oxbow Waterski Team in North Hampton MA.

### **Learn to Ski:**

As of now there are 6 learn to ski clinics scheduled in the north east for the 2009 summer.

### **Ski Fest:**

The third annual Ski Fest is being hosted this year by the X-Squad in Scotia NY the weekend of June 20<sup>th</sup>. This is a weekend where all the teams in the region are invited to get together to ski for a fun non-competitive weekend. There is usually a show put on that Sunday as a fundraiser for a local charity.

## **The Wisconsin Region Report**

### **February 2009**

#### **Attached with document:**

- EMBRACE LIFE Organization Award presented to Crivitz Ski Cats
- Summary of Rock Aqua Jays Trip to DAB

### **Learn- To-Ski Program Highlights**

- 113 members from the Wisconsin Region joined as result of Learn-To-Ski
- 50 Learn-To-Ski programs are currently being planned for summer of 2009

### **Plans for 2009:**

- Wisconsin Water Ski Convention and Expo Feb 27-Mar 1
- Ski Camp June 13 - June 14
- Northern Ski Camp TBD
- Beaverland Open June 20<sup>th</sup>
- Mercury Open June 27<sup>th</sup> – June 28<sup>th</sup>
- Northwoods Invitational July 5<sup>th</sup>
- Wisconsin State Regional July 16<sup>th</sup>-July 19<sup>th</sup>
- Tomahawk All Star Tournament August 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Kwahamots to host Disabled Nationals TBD

### **Driver Programs**

1. Twin Bridge would like to host one in June

### **Safety Clinics**

2. March 14<sup>th</sup> - Waterboard Warriors
3. March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Chetek/Ski Sprites
4. Spring - Lauderdale Aqua Skiers
5. May 2<sup>nd</sup> -Shawano Ski Sharks
6. TBD - Wisconsin Rapids Aqua Skiers

### **Wisconsin State Regional Tournament Web cast 2009:**

A committee is being formed under the direction of Jim Martin (Committee Chair) to provide individual shows for online viewing and downloading. Details are being worked out; potential sponsors are being identified and contacted.

### **Clean -up Recovery continue:**

Lake Delton to be filled in March! Tommy Bartlett's will open this summer. The WWSF is planning a day in the Dells June 6th to show our support.

### **Division I Show Nationals and Barefoot Nationals scheduled for same weekend:**

This issue is still unresolved.

### **EMBRACE LIFE Organization Award presented to CRIVITZ SKI**

#### **CAT WATERSKI TEAM:**

Suicide Prevention Network, serving counties of Marinette WI and Menominee MI, selected the recipient of their 2008 EMBRACE LIFE Organization Award winner, The Crivitz Ski Cat Waterski Team. The award was presented at the EMBRACE LIFE Community Family Walk October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008. This year the walkers and sponsors raised **\$1475**. Monies raised will support the EMBRACE LIFE Scholarships, which will be distributed in 2008-2009 as grants to students or groups submitting a project for Suicide

Prevention, Intervention or Postvention for their school, church or community to be held during March 2009 BE A LIFE SAVER Month. Also funded through the Community Family Walk is the EMBRACE LIFE \$500 Graduating Senior Essay Scholarship, as well as the ASIST Best Practice Training Program Scholarships. All forms for scholarships and grants are available on their website [www.suicide-prevent.org](http://www.suicide-prevent.org).

The 2008 EMBRACE LIFE winner is Crivitz Ski Cats who are a "special group of recreation enthusiasts". They may be one of the best kept secrets in Marinette County, if not the region.

The focus of the "Embrace Life" Organization Award is to recognize organizations in Marinette or Menominee Counties who are involved in suicide prevention and healthful activities in their community. The Suicide Prevention Network sponsors this award during October, Depression Awareness month. The Crivitz Ski Cats were presented a cash award \$50.00 and a framed certificate award, donated by Heider Wallpaper Paint and Art Supplies.

"EMBRACE LIFE" Organization Awardee is recognized for one or more of the following criteria: Community volunteer work in the area of suicide prevention, intervention or postvention; or Demonstrates exceptional leadership skills; or Special endeavors/non-traditional activities in the area of prevention. This year's recipient, The Crivitz Ski Cats provide a positive atmosphere for youth from all over the state to be part of a team that learns lifelong skills and friendship - it teaches them the joy of "Embracing Life".

The Crivitz Ski Cats team consists of members ranging from 4 years to 60-something, working together as a family friendly team to entertain all who come to watch their shows. People who come to see the show will witness thrilling water ski acts from jumping, bare footing, tricks, ballet line, swivel & 4 tier pyramids, along with skits and dancing on land, along with countless volunteer hours put in by adults and family members behind the scenes from boat driving, writing the shows, music and sound, and continuous efforts to fund raise.

In a 46-year run, thousands of vacationers visiting the cozy resort on Lake Noquebay and its surrounding region have watched them do their stunts on water skis. From a modest beginning, the Cats built a reputation over the years that ranks them as the best at what they do in our regions. The club has gone from sponsored exhibitions by Thompson Boat Co. of Peshtigo, to colorful shows hosted by the Crivitz Lions Club. The organization has grown in stature over the years. The original skiers who established the program have now watched their children and grandchildren carry on with the entertaining shows. It is with the help of businessmen and other friendly sponsors along with club members who have stepped forward to keep the "show on the water".

President Lance Gezella states, "we're always seeking new members to join our "Ski Cat Family". Suicide Prevention Network is honored to present the 2008 EMBRACE LIFE Organization Award to the Crivitz Ski Cats who are an exemplary recipient. For more information on the EMBRACE LIFE scholarships and grants, please see our website at [www.suicide-prevent.org](http://www.suicide-prevent.org) or call 715-923-9549.

The Rock Aqua Jays Water Ski Show Team had cancelled about 31 consecutive ski shows going back to the 2007 season, so the team was willing to go to great lengths,

travel just about anywhere, to ski a show, and "anywhere" they did travel. Sixteen members of the team were fortunate enough to travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to perform a ski show in the city of Abu Dhabi for one of the final two stops of the Formula 1 Boat Race series. After nearly 32 hours of travel, the Rock Aqua Jays found themselves in one of the driest regions of the world (it typically rains 6 days a year) in the middle of a rain storm, of course. It was 90 degrees of "dry heat" prior to the day we landed.

With a day to acclimate ourselves to the new time zone, great Lebanese food, and "dry heat", we were ready to hit the water of the Persian Gulf for an hour of practice. Are rain drops supposed to be associated with "dry heat?" During our practice time, the guys hit the jump and probably jumped more during this one practice than the entire 2008 summer. We were treated to many combinations of flips, gainers, and heli's. It appeared as if the guys had actually skied all season, they were beaming! Then of course it was time for the ladies to shake the dust off the swivel skis. Oh, by the way, did I mention the sun had set on the Persian Gulf just as the guys were hitting the jump for "one last jump". Some things never change; on this side of the earth or that side of the earth. Jump is always followed by swivel and strap doubles in the dark!

After a fun practice, we had a dinner meeting at the local Pizza Hut. It was a remarkable feeling to be together again with friends after a fun practice, but we still had work to do. We had to fix a few rough spots, hand out costumes, and make final plans for the show the next day.

We gathered the next morning for breakfast with the excitement of a big day ahead of us. After months of being denied the opportunity to ski a relaxed ski show for an audience, we finally had our moment. We assembled our equipment to the order of our show. Meticulously rewound and preset our ropes. Strategically placed our costumes for the quick changes we would need, and then patiently waited through the noon prayer for our opportunity in the sun. Yes, it was finally sunny and hot! We were a bit on edge before the start of our show. It had been months. We had traveled half way around the world. We certainly didn't want to disappoint our audience. Joel Williams had a challenge ahead of him using a 22' wakeboard boat to pull the show. The show music started and the familiar voice of Brian Cullen filled the air adding a finishing touch to the show. As the first lines came tight, the butterflies ceased, we were off to a great start with Ian Stapelmann doing a flying front and Dave Rezin doing his trademark back barefoot smack-start from a bridge high between the grandstands. The girls wrapped up the act with a little footin' of their own. The audience was thrilled. Once we began, it was just like riding a bike. The desert sun added an extra sparkle to the full length costumes of the ballet girls moving in unison. The twists and turns of Dave on tricks and Matt on shoes were crisp and clean. The antics of Billy Slatter, our painted face clown, won over the hearts of the children in the audience, while others were thrilled with Ginny (Rezin) McGinnis's multiple 720's on her swivel ski. Gerry and Cathy blew off the dust and completed a few 720's of their own in doubles to the delight of the audience. The guys were in a zone with Troy flying high on his wakeboard and Jeff Cook inverting on the sky ski. The jumpers dazzled the

audience with an array of tricks and inverts. The great day of skiing came to a climax with the first 4 tier ever skied on the Persian Gulf.

Our hosts enjoyed our show so much that we were invited to dinner at the Emirates Palace Hotel with the rest of the Formula 1 Boat Race contingent. It was an unbelievable evening with an outdoor dinner, belly dancers, and Arabian dinner music. It was a "pinch me" moment. One of those moments where you say to yourself "I can't believe I'm here because I show ski"

With our job done, it was time to see Dubai. What can we say; Dubai is everything you've seen on TV and then some. We were treated to seeing the Burj Dubai Skyscraper - the world's tallest building, the world's largest shopping mall- the one with the snow ski hill in it, the Palm Jumeirah Dubai - man-made islands in the shape of giant palm trees, and the Burj Al Arab Hotel- a 7-star hotel shaped like a giant sailboat hanging out over the Persian Gulf. No, we didn't stay there, but we did get off the bus and take pictures.

On day two of our tour, our wonderful host, Bassam, took us into the desert and up to the top of a mountain - Jebel Hafeet. The path up the mountain took us through a round-about, which our driver bravely entered - going the wrong way; similar to the movie European Vacation, with Chevy Chase driving in the round-about only backwards. At the top of the mountain was a beautiful resort hotel where we were treated to an outdoor barbeque, more great Lebanese food, and a breathtaking view of the desert below. On the way back through the desert, we convinced the driver to pull over so we could get off the bus one more time for a photo opportunity with a few camels. Once we had our pictures of the camels, Matt Klay (Putty) convinced us that sand dunes could really be fun, especially rolling in them and footing down them. Out came the cameras again, and a few more photo opportunities, a glance at the bus driver told us he was equally entertained. He was taking his own pictures of us playing in the sand. We should have taken photos of him in the round-about!

It was time to shower off the sand and pack up our suitcases. We were off to the airport and a sad farewell to our new friends in the Middle East. During our 36 hours of travel back to the US, we came up with a new fund raising idea. We are pretty sure we can bring rain to drought stricken areas of the world. Just invite us to perform a show! With this came the finale to our 2008 season. We are truly looking forward to our first practice of 2009, wherever it may be!

Cathy and Gerry Luiting

### **NSSA Twin Rig**

The uses of the boat is for Division I and Division II, Regionals, Sanction NSSA Drivers Test and local tournaments (?).

The boat will be kept at the Rock Aqua Jays warehouse in Janesville, WI. and subject to change by the NSSA board.

The club using the NSSA boat is responsible for any damages caused to the boat or trailer.

There will be an hourly rate for the use of the boat determined at the spring NSSA meeting. There will be a minimum of a one hour rate with gas and oil included, based on 15 minute increments.

Questions

1. Who pays for tailoring of the boat to Division I and Division II? (Div I, Div II NSSA)
2. Regionals covered by the host club or the club wanting to use the boat?
3. Who is responsible for the boat at Division I and Division II as far as keeping it gassed and launching?
4. Minimum rate \$40.00 per hour.
5. Can an individual or club use the boat for individual competition?
6. The boat must be returned to Janesville, WI, within two days after the event.(?)
7. At the present time the left hand lower unit and two props are the property of the Rock Aqua Jays.
8. I would recommend the props to be RAV 4 with 17 pitch.

### 2009 Grants Committee Report

As with everyone else today, the Grants Committee will have to try to do more with less this year. The amount of funds available to the Grants Committee has not been decided yet, but I expect a decrease from the \$7,500 that we were given last year.

The Grant Committee's direction has not changed, our main goal is still and always will be funding ways to help the NSSA increase our membership numbers. The decision in November to keep "Learn to Ski" events as the highest priority of the events that we are asked to fund will stay that way. We will look at each Grant request to see that our main goal of increasing membership is kept in mind.

It has been decided that for Grant moneys to be paid out for the "Learn to Ski" clinics, besides sending in the receipts for the event, the NSSA is requiring a information list of each person participating in the "Learn to Ski" that gives the person's name, age, and address, be turned into the Grant Committee Chairperson. This list will be forwarded on to USA Water Ski headquarters.

We know that we will also have to keep funding the NSSA required clinics are also

funded if at all possible. Those clinics are Safety, and Drivers.

I am asking all of the Directors to *Please* help inform the Teams in your Regions of the NSSA's main goal of using Grant funds for membership growth, as well as the new requirement from the NSSA for the lists of those that participate in the Learn to Ski clinics. Also the fax number needed to send in the Grant request is now **248-475-3839**. This is listed on the revised forms that can be found on the USA Water Ski's web site. I will also accept the requests by email or snail mail.

Kurt Bemman  
[kebemman@comcast.net](mailto:kebemman@comcast.net)

## Nominating Committee Report

To: NSSA Board of Directors

From: Kevin Hayes, Nominating Committee Chair

Date: February 5, 2009

Subject: Nominating Committee Report

This is what we are recommending to the NSSA Board of Directors.  
They are as follows:

1. NSSA Board of Directors Officers/Elections  
Elections for officers will be held at the 2009 Division I Show Nationals Meeting in August. Roger Olson has nominated Gerry Luiting for the office of Vice President.
2. Elite Athlete Nomination/Election  
Roger Olson has nominated Gerry Luiting and Roger Gerstad for Elite Athlete.  
All nominations will be closed at this Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kevin Hayes  
/kh

## **NSSA Rules Committee Report**

**February 20, 2009**

**Sherm Schraft- Chair**

There has been no committee activity since the November meeting.

## **TV PRODUCTION REPORT**

**NSSA 2-27-09**

**Terry Pasterski, Chairperson**

Webcast-TV still has the team's shows up on archives. I have called Steve Upp several times to get the current number of hits. He has contacted Tom Grey at Webcast-TV and he still hasn't responded with this information.

Steve Upp says that he is recommending webcasting companies to the USOC for a final decision on who the webcast company will be for 2009 Show Nationals.

Wisconsin State Show Tournament is webcasting the tournament this year. They are using Watersports Webcast Company. We will be using the forms that we use for Div. I Nationals.

I would like to use the radios that NSSA purchased, with the board's permission.

## **Team Development Report**

**NSSA Meeting 2/27/09**

**Terry Pasterski, Chairperson**

Two teams are coming to Wisconsin Water Ski Convention and Expo (Think Tank). They are Holiday Shores from Illinois, and Grand City from Michigan. Holiday Shores is bringing 24 people, of which 18 are coming on grant money. Grand City is bringing 15, of which 4 are coming on grant money.

Holiday Shores is working on setting up a time for the on water clinic this summer. The Central and Midwest regions are paying for the luncheon on Saturday for the teams for their Q & A session with the Rock Aqua Jays.

I have received the DVD's from Jim Boland to distribute to the teams from last year's Think Tank. The Learn to Ski clinic is being taped again this year as there was some

inaccurate information given in this tank. Jim will then enhance and make copies for us.

**NSSA International Competition  
Committee Report  
February 20, 2009**

There has been no committee activity since the November meeting. I have been working on the IWSF Show Committee and wanted to have some things established before we got back to work with this committee.

**Officials Committee Report**  
Mark Poulos- Chair

This has been a difficult year to fill both Division 1 and Division 2 National Show Tournaments. Return of the survey was poor. The survey was placed on the web and an e-mail with the survey was sent out to judges of record. We lost three senior judges to retirement.

The Committee presents the following candidates for approval for 2009 Division 1 With 20 possible ballots, 19 ballots were cast. Voting was cut off at 9:00 PM on Monday 2/23/09 after multiple attempts were made to get everyone to vote.

Chief Judge	Andy Snow	Chief Scorer	Barb Snow
Scoring Judge	Tom Ghiloni Skip Gilkerson Jeff Henke Cam McNeill Duane Snow Jane Henke Nancy Dull	Scorers	Mark Poulos Brad Springbrum
		Chief Safety	Steve Hahner
		<b>Safety</b>	Kurtis McMillan Heike Pehler
Secretary	Cheryl Bonert Deb Franke Polly Nemeč Sandi Oleson Pam Poulos Ellen Sachs Casey Weakly	Driver	JR Wilson
		Timer / Staging	No Candidate

As you can see the Board will need to break the tie for Safety and will need to appoint a Timer/Staging Marshall. There was one Senior judge who did not get elected from the list of candidates.

The following is a list of candidates who received a majority of votes

Chief Judge	Andy Snow	Chief Scorer: Kay Babcock
Scoring Judge	Nancy Dull Deb Farra Terry Pasterski Mark Poulos Ellen Sachs	Scorer: Brad Springbrum
Secretaries	Kurt Bemman* Gary Hawblitzel Joel Johanningmeier Pam Poulos (Need One)	Driver : TBD
Chief Safety	Heike Pehler	Timer/ Staging - Matt Pehler
Safety	Gus Rothmaler	Announcer: Tournament Supplied

#### Officials Clinic:

New format for WWSCE Officials clinic. Individual events committee chair Cathy Luiting, and Difficulty committee chair, Chris Coupland have agreed to participate in the presentation of the clinic. This will give a fresher look and hopefully make the clinic more enjoyable.

Requests for clinics have been received from the Midwest, Southern and Eastern regions. Those are pending depending the number of participants who commit to attending.