

**NSSA Board of Directors Meeting  
November 13-14, 2009  
USA Waterski Headquarters**

**Call to Order** Meeting called to order by President

Introductions (voting members in Bold)

Mike Hanson President, Executive Committee Chair,  
**Gerry Luiting** ,V.P., Awards, & Elite Athlete Rep,  
**Mark Poulos**, Sec./ Treasurer , Publicity, Officials Chair, Cent Region Alt (voting)  
**Cathy Luiting**, Wis. Rep and Individual Acts Committee Chair,  
**Hans Hauschild**- WI Rep  
Kurt Bemman, Grants Chair, Policies and Procedures Chair  
**Bud Ruhl**, MW Rep  
**Roger Gerstad**- Elite Skier Rep  
**Larry Meany** MW Rep,  
Bruce Berg, MW Alternate  
Terry Pasterski, HND,/ TV Productions Chair, Team Development Chair  
**Roger Olson** Elite Skier Rep,  
Kevin Hayes, Nominations Chair, CRSSA President  
Tom Ghiloni, HND  
**Carl Norrell**- Southern Region Rep  
**Garry Stout**-Southern Region Rep  
Kevin Hayes- Nominations Committee Chair,  
**Jim Martin**- Wisconsin Rep  
**Stacy Griffith**- Eastern Region Rep  
JR Wilson- Drivers Committee Chair, HND  
Sherm Schraft, HND, Rules Committee Chair  
**Chris Coupland**, Wis Rep, Difficulty Chair  
Jeff Clark- Lakeland Ski Team

Thanks to Samantha Pinkerton Hayes for extending Southern Hospitality and preparing refreshments and lunch for the meeting. Sam and Kevin extend an invite to attendees for a shrimp boil on Saturday evening.

**Appoint Parliamentarian**- Tom Ghiloni appointed by President Hanson

**Approval of Minutes from August Meeting** – Need a Motion to Approve. Several board members said they did not get the minutes. Mark resends minutes to board members to review and will be discussed later in the meeting.

Move to table by Cathy- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Poulos. Motion approved.

Review of the minutes later in the meeting Motion to approve minutes by Garry Stout, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry, Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report**- Mark presents Financial Report.

\$15,000 in International Competition grant money from Cam McNeill was invested and is still sitting in CD's earning 2.5%.  
2010 Budget was reviewed.

Move to table Garry 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris- Motion Carried

**Return to treasurer's report after lunch.**

**Motion by Garry Stout to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gerry Luiting Motion approved**

**Addition to Agenda**

**Roger Olson wants to talk about a tournament in April**

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

**Central** –Report Submitted. Doug gave highlights from the submitted report Officers were elected. CR adopted new method of selecting competitors for Nationals. All teams competed in a single division. Teams who did not qualify for Division 1 were encouraged to attend Division II.

Lake City will be hosting 3 tournaments in 2010 being the City of Lakes in June, the Central Region Tournament in July, and Division II Nationals during the first weekend in August.

**East-** Stacy gives ER report. Four teams participated in Regional Tournament. There is nothing more to add to the report.

**Midwest** –Bud Ruhl Submits report. Waterhawks will host Kelly tournament in June 2010 on a Saturday before Father's Day (June 19<sup>th</sup> ).

**South Central** –No Report. Skip not present.

**South** – Report Submitted- Garry reviews highlights of the report. Two tournaments held in 09. Southern regional and Sunshine tournament (Florida State) Southern region to hold regional meeting on Sunday 11/15/09 to elect new officers and to approve the bid for the 2011 Regional Tournament. 2010 Regional tournament to be held in in Montgomery, AL. It is tentatively scheduled for the weekend after fathers day which is the traditional weekend for the tournament. (June 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> )

**West** – Short report submitted by Jim Boland who was not present.

**Wisconsin** – Report Submitted-. Chris Coupland wanted to add that registration will be online for the WWSCE. Attendees can go online at [www.waterski.org/](http://www.waterski.org/) to register with a credit card. The date is February 26-28, 2010.

**Committee Reports:**

**National Tournament-** Bruce McCalmon submitted Report but was not present.

**Motion to table vote on Nationals by Chris 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cathy.** Reason was to allow Kwahomot representative time to arrive to present their bid. Motion Carried.

Return to 2011 National Tournament bid presentation:

**Joel Shapiro** - presents bid for D-1 Nationals for Janesville, Rock Aqua Jays. RAJ has put a great deal of time and money into their site following flooding such that the site is better than it was before. The other bid for 2011 was Rockford, No one was present to address bid. Terry said that if it wasn't for Mike Hanson and Bruce McCalmon, there would not have been webcasting in 2009 and that Ski Broncs really had to depend on alumni to make the 2009 tournament work because Ski Broncs were down on their membership numbers. Terry wanted to thank Bruce for everything he did to help make the tournament a success.

Mark asked Roger Gerstad if there was any substance to the talk that Ski Broncs had asked Wonder Lake Ski Team to co-host Division 1 Show Nationals. Roger indicated there had been some discussion but at the time of the meeting there was no commitment from his board.

A paper ballot was taken and Janesville, Rock Aqua Jays, won the bid.

**Division 2-** Kevin Hayes presents Lake City bid. Lake City has hosted D-2 twice in past and has a good site to host this tournament.

**Micky Rocka-** Presents Kwahomot bid- The site is on the Wisconsin River. River would be closed down during the tournament. Boat launch is approximately 2 miles away from ski site. Although there is a low bridge on the site, skiers can still ski safely underneath. Kwahomots have thought about putting in a bid for Division 2 before but were told they should host a smaller tournament first which they have done successfully. Several questions were posed regarding the suitability of the site for Division 2 Show Nationals. The site is approximately 214 miles north of Janesville, Wisconsin. The team is trying to make this economical for teams to travel. There is a soccer field close to the site that can be used for camping.

A paper ballot was taken and Kwahomots won the bid.

Motion by Roger Olson that Terry Pasterski destroy the ballots, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark P.- Motion carried.

**Officials** – Mark Poulos presents report. Surveys will go out before December due back by December 15, 2009. Want to get surveys put on web. Returns on Surveys to Mark Poulos. Ballot will be drawn up and sent out by January with returns from teams sent to Mike Hanson No Later Than Feb 1, 2010. This year along with available dates for Nationals, would also like to include Regional Tournament Information. After the information is compiled, the information will be maintained by Mike Hanson. Tournament Chairs can then contact either should they need officials for 2010.

Motion to appoint a suitable person in the southern Region, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bruce Berg discussion-friendly amendment -Committee-will qualify the instructor rather than just appoint and will present suggestion at WWSCI meeting. Motion passes.

Mark purchased software to enable the scorers to print files to Portable Document Format (PDF) from the scorer's program. Teams will be able to request all documents **from the program** by simply providing a memory stick to the chief scorer with a written request for the documents prior to the tournament start. Once the tournament is complete, the scores are public record. This would not include judges comment sheets. The team would only get the judges sheets for their own team.

Bruce Berg brought up question about what is being done to recruit Judges. Chris replied there were tanks at WWSCI to explain judging and recruit members but that it has not brought in the numbers we had hoped for. The committee is looking to streamline the application process for skiers wanting to transition into judging. Hopefully, there will be a recommendation presented in the spring.

There was some discussion about tournament chairs being required to seat the field of officials for the tournament before they will be sanctioned.

Terry Pasterski mentioned that Ben Schneider had wanted to come to the clinic but was given the wrong date and was flying from Germany. Mark informed Terry and Board that Ben was informed the correct date was the second weekend in November and that the date was also published by Lynn Novakofski on at least two e-mails.

**Tow Boat Drivers-** JR presents report. Discussion on two applications for driver examiner. Two examiner applicants were specifically discussed. The committee Chair detailed the plan of action for the two applicants who had not met the minimum criteria of the Towboat Driver's Committee.

Brint Burrell has resigned as a driver examiner. His resignation will not affect the program.

JR worked with Tom Ghiloni on risk management from USAWS. Discussion on the program called I-drive which is an on-line computer test. The test has 60 questions. JR does not believe the test is practical for water skiing. The test is directed to boaters to determine whether they have any knowledge about boating and might be useful for someone to turn over to their insurance company but it is not good for show ski boat drivers. There is a Thirty dollar fee for this test. It does point out to USA Waterski how the NSSA manages risk. The program is still in committee. Tom Ghiloni has, with JR's help, presented what NSSA has done to manage risk with the tow boat drivers. The chairman of the Risk Management committee is generally satisfied with the training program NSSA has in place for their boat drivers. There was much discussion in the committee at their meeting at Division 1 Nationals in 2009, on how the NSSA manages risk.

With risk management in mind, the Tow Boat Drivers (TBD) Committee sent two recommendations to the Rules committee and a third recommendation with a question mark.

Kurt Bemman informed the board that the TBD committee for the second year, agreed unanimously - People driving a triple rig in a tournament should needs to be tested. There were a couple of triple rig drivers who were on learner's permit and were not driving the boat in a safe manner at the tournament. The committee feels the time the driver should be learning to drive a triple rig on a permit should be at shows and practices and not under the

stress of a tournament. Kurt wanted to know why this was not supported by Rules committee. At Division 2 Show Nationals, there was one team who had one tested driver for the triple rig and that person was skiing while someone else drove the triple rig. The big issue is that controlling a triple rig is much more difficult than a single rig.

There were two rule changes backed by the Tow boat Drivers committee.

Bruce Berg addressed his reason for voting against it in the Rules committee. If a team has one tested triple rig driver and the driver is unable to drive for the tournament, the team is basically out of the tournament. Bruce asks if ALL drivers for a team be tested for a triple rig? JR states that NSSA has to go beyond the point of accommodating the clubs and do what is best for the sport. Bruce thought the driving issue was solved and now feels the committee is proposing more and more mandates and that we are mandating teams right out of tournaments.

JR says that nothing that is being presented is new. It has all been presented before (and turned down). The examiners still believe this is a problem. The committee believes the clubs are trying to slip by on having one tested driver and everyone else on a learner's permit. This is blatantly obvious when the tested driver doesn't even drive but is a skier. So, in that circumstance, every driver is on a learner's permit. The committee tried to enforce the rule that at least the tested driver would be on the highest used boat. Now you can have an A tested driver and everyone else can be on a learner's permit and you have B's (twin) and C's (triple) who are on learner's permits which just isn't practical. If the tested driver is skiing and the driver on the learner's permit has a problem, there is no one to turn to for advice because the tested driver is skiing.

Garry Stout is against the tested driver program and feels the board is trying to fix something that isn't a problem. He indicated he has not seen safety issues with the driving of boats prior to the tested driver program. He believes it is self policing within the club and that a club would not put an incompetent driver in control of an \$80,000.00 boat. He does not believe the NSSA should install another layer of bureaucracy for clubs to meet when there is no apparent problem.

Terry Pasterski indicated there was a problem because she saw a few incidents where the driver wasn't performing well. She saw the problem as the driver who did not have experience with a three boat pattern.

Garry reiterates the exam is basically an eye hand coordination test and does not test common sense and good judgment. Bruce says the test does not measure the ability of a driver to perform under stress. Bruce believes the NSSA has done its part and that we (NSSA) should draw a line in the sand and say that we have done enough to try to make the sport as safe as possible.

Sherm- This is our chance to be proactive on the board before we have a major problem and end up in litigation.. Sherm was shocked that the recommendation didn't pass rules committee.

Garry- Everyone has to have a license but that doesn't stop people from driving drunk. It is the responsibility of the individual driver to operate the boat safely. He feels this just adds a layer of bureaucracy that the sport is already leavened with to the point where people are discouraged from becoming judges or drivers because of all the bureaucracy that goes along with all the hoops they have to jump through. We need to simplify it rather than complicate it.

Roger Olson – Doesn't see where this would enhance safety. He voted against it because he didn't see the justification for the rule. Although JR sent a reply, Roger didn't believe it justified the request for the rule change. Roger believes the testing procedure is cumbersome requiring multiple boats and skiers. Roger indicates that we can't legislate smart (and safe) driving.

JR asked Roger if he was against both rule changes or just one. Roger was against the recommendation on the triple rig. JR said the second recommended change was to require the highest driver be driving rather than skiing. This would provide a direct (radio) link to the other drivers in the event of a question or problem. The skier doesn't have communication with the boat drivers.

Roger Gerstad has driven all the different types of boats and sees little difference in their operation. They require progressive skill levels. He recommends the boat committee come up with a suggestion that will enable the board to be proactive in safety but not handcuff the clubs. The tested driver should be in control of the boat.

Cathy Luiting recommends the Towboat driving committee and Rules committee sit down and prepare a recommendation.

JR thinks learner's permits are simply a person filling out the form and sending it to headquarters. The committee recommends requiring an applicant take a written test before issuing a learners permit. The committee would like to see the test be given on line with rotating questions.

JR- There is no policy for towing NSSA towboat. Gas bill was submitted back to 2007-08-09. The bill was \$889.00 for mileage over the three years. Mark states that he objects to being billed for previous years expenses. The bills should have been submitted during the year in which the expenses were incurred.

Does the board want a policy for towing the boat. Does the board want to pay by mileage or by gas receipts?

JR recommends paying 2009 fees for transferring boat to Nationals but not pay 2007-2008. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry 2009 be reimbursed as requested all future reimbursements are paid for gas only with receipts required. Motion passes.

JR discusses the fee for the NSSA boat. The committee wants to revisit the NSSA charge for the boat. There were clubs who wanted to use the boat for one act but did not want to pay for a whole hour's use. The rate of \$100.00/hr was too much for the teams to use. We do have a contract for the use of the boat now. We received \$1200.00 for rental of the boat which JR said was NOT the norm. The use of the boat was intended for regional and National

Tournament and not as a supplement for one act. Mark informs the board there was \$669.18 in fees for the boat. We will need to keep money available for tires, props (which belong to the Rock Aqua Jays as does one of the lower units.). The intent of the boat was not to be a loaner boat. The intent is to be used in testing, regional tournament, Division 1 and Division 2 Nationals. The board will never bring in enough revenue to sustain the boat.

Motion by committee to break the fee down for the 15 min intervals at a rate of \$25.00 per interval in lieu of the hourly rate. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry Meany. Favor 6 - Opposed 5 passes 6-5 1 abstain.

Kurt presents motion to change 9.01 from current :

At all sanctioned events (including, but not limited to: practices, exhibitions, shows, and tournaments) when more than one boat or a boat with multiple engines is operated, at least one driver must be tested, and all other drivers must be tested or have a learner's permit. When only one class "A" boat is operated, a learner's permit will be sufficient.

After July 1, 2006, the operator of a boat with three or more engines must be a tested driver. After July 1, 2006, any drivers with a class A or B rating who are driving with a Class C boat must have a Class C learner's permit, which will be good for two years.

to  
"At all sanctioned events (including, but not limited to: practices, exhibitions, shows, and tournaments) when more than one boat or a boat with multiple engines is operated, at least one driver must be tested, and all other drivers must be tested or have a learner's permit. When only one class "A" boat is operated, a learner's permit will be sufficient. Any driver with a class "A" or "B" rating who is driving with a Class "C" boat must have a Class "C" learner's permit, which will be good for two years.

At all tournament, at least one driver on the water operating the boat must be tested.

Motion dies for lack of a second

JR would like to table the rest of his report until later in the meeting

### **Resumed discussion after lunch.**

There was additional discussion about wording on the requested rule change.

At all sanctioned events including but not limited to practices, exhibitions, shows, and tournaments when more than one boat or a boat with multiple engines is operated, at least one driver must be tested and all other drivers must be tested or have a learner's permit. When one class A boat is operated, a learner's permit will be sufficient. Any driver with a class A or B rating who are driving a class C boat must have a class C learner's permit which will be good for two years.

At all tournaments, the required driver or drivers must be driving the towboat or towboats.

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Motion by Chris to table the issue and bring it back at the spring meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> by mark.  
Motion carried.

*Motion by Committee to ammend 2<sup>nd</sup> part of Rule 9.01: "For tournaments only a B class tested driver may drive under a c class learner's permit."*  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark

Discussion on this.

Bruce Berg – Without clarification on the first part of the rule, the second part is confusing and should wait until the whole rule is voted on. The committee disagreed.

Motion passes.

Steve Locke- He talks about showskiing biggest supporter, Mark Jackson. Mark has been developing Lake Myrtle complex. This will be a total multi sport complex. The facility is approximately 75 acres with 35 acres being the lake. Mark Jackson wants to develop this into a show skiing venue. There is hope to make it a National venue for show skiing. Steve will give a tour to any board member who wants to see the facility on Saturday. The move of USAWS headquarters to the Lake Myrtle complex has been discussed.

Finances- USAWS will break even this year. This did not come without some sacrifice. Four employees were laid off and salaries were cut for remaining employees. The budget has not been presented to the executive committee at the time of the NSSA meeting. Grants will be cut for next year but it will not affect show.

Webcasting-there were about 1500 unique users. We want to try to introduce show skiing to the general public. NSSA needs to evaluate the value of introducing show skiing to the general public. The primary viewers of Olympics are women. Show skiing is theatrical, so it should appeal more to women. Terry informs board the webcasting is in its second of four years.

**Chris-** 1/3 of budget goes to international competition. The problem is that show skiing doesn't have an opportunity to qualify for that funding. Even though show teams are traveling and competing in other countries, we have not had the opportunity to get it sanctioned and thus eligible for funding. Even though it is something that may occur "down the road", why can't the money (88%) be divided up by allocation and allow the individual sport divisions decide what amounts their particular sport division wants to spend on international competition? Steve responds that the formula was in place prior to his arrival. Steve recommends the board rely on Sherm and Tom to discuss that further and create a resolution to present to USAWS to change the approach in the formula.

Chris did a review of USAWS by-laws and policies and procedures with regard to the board of directors (of USAWS) and how everything was allocated and wondered why does show skiing need to wait 10 years to re-allocate numbers. Chris felt that waiting a decade to re-evaluate the allocation of numbers didn't make sense. He asks Jeff Clark to comment on the rationale.

Jeff Clark- The 10 year evaluation period was done last year based on 2007 membership numbers. That was only to look at all sports disciplines we currently have on line to see if they will continue as a sports discipline. The sports discipline has to have 50% of their inaugural membership numbers to be maintained. All disciplines passed that test. The other portion indicates USAWS re-evaluates the numbers in the sport divisions every two years to determine the number of directors and votes each sport discipline has. That evaluation is done on the odd numbered years and is being done this year. Jeff has run the (membership) numbers and there will be no change in the number of directors for show skiing. AWSA will lose one vote which will be given to Show (NSS). Show will have 22 votes (out of 79 votes) between the two directors when the board meeting convenes in January 2010. When/if show gets 8001 members, it will get 3 directors.

Show skiing has 28% of membership for USAWS but it does not have 28 % of directors. Even though 3 event qualifies for 3 directors (over 8001 members), but they have 5 directors because it was written into the original articles of incorporation that they would have 5 directors. Show had 3 directors for a short period but went back down to two, Chris said there needs to be a mechanism in place to change the number of directors each discipline has. What NSSA would like are more voices on the board. Even though the number of votes are properly allocated, having additional voices can affect the outcome of decisions before the board.

Steve informs the board that up to 2003 there were 123 members of the USOC board of directors. The trend now for not for profit organizations is to have smaller boards. The US Olympic Committee board now has only 9 members. There are constituencies within the board; National Governing Bodies, Athletes, and community based organizations. What has happened now within the Olympic Committee is that the constituency, like the NGB that come to the pool with two members representing all NGBs, two members represent all the athletes, two members represent all the community based organization and the final three members are independent members who are fresh thinking coming from corporate backgrounds. They add something from a different perspective. Smaller boards are more effective but people who sit on the board are reluctant to accept the change because they feel it is taking their power. Jeff Clark adds that the more people a discipline brings to the board, the more it divides the number of votes each person has.

Roger Olson discusses the make up of the AAC and the acting executive director would not allow Show rep to have the four votes entitled.

Disabled has 100 members but has 5 votes. Chris wants to put this issue under new business to discuss the issue and, if necessary, rather than complain, draft a resolution to USAWS board. NSSA has 28.3% of the votes on USAWS.

**Safety-** Gerry presents report- Mark asked if he would e-mail it out so it could be added with the reports at the end of the minutes. Gerry said that he would mail it out when he got all the information. He was still missing reports from the All Star Challenge and the Beaverland Open tournament. There were .0012 injuries per ride. This was less than what we have experienced in the past. There were a couple of tournaments where the Safety Director probably exceeded their authority in the manner in which they did some things. Safety committee only addresses issues regarding tournament injuries. They did not address injuries

that occur on the team level. Jim Martin will be taking over the Safety chair with the goal to complete the transition by WWSCE.

Larry asked when safety test will be updated. Unknown.

Not all teams keep track of the number of rides they have so it is hard to factor the number of injuries per ride.

Garry asked if there were any boat driving issues. Gerry said if he was aware of the issue, he would include it in the report, otherwise it would not be included.

**By Laws-** No changes in current by-laws

**Policies and Procedures-** Kurt Bemman presents report. Two changes were made this year. Changes to insurance and the Honorary National Director. Kurt reminds everyone that the P & P is a committee of the whole.

**Elite Skiers -** Roger Olson presented report. Athletic Advisory Committee does not have a president at this time. If we can get the elite athlete to go to the USAWS board of directors it will bring 4 or 5 more votes. The meeting in October was set on the only date in October that he could not attend.

**Awards** Gerry addresses awards and presents report. We lost the sponsor for the swivel and ballet award. ~~Lake Elmo pulled out but~~ Terry Pastorski being a big fan of swivel and ballet, picked up the sponsorship.

**Grants-** Kurt Bemman presents report. There were \$12,744.00 in grant requests. They were broken down down so that most of the teams would get something from the grants. Of the ten learn to ski clinics approved for grants, only three were returned with receipts. There was trouble getting receipts from those who were awarded grants. Kurt sent out a letter to ask the teams what the problems were with getting receipts back. Most teams had a problem getting the information and receipts together to turn in. The committee wanted to help but it needs to be worked out at the team level.

Many teams are not submitting the names and addresses of the participants in the Learn to Ski program. No new requests were received for grant eligible programs. This was unusual. Mike created a form to help the teams but it has not been presented to the committee. Chris suggests sending an example of how the form should be filled out along with the blank form.

Larry suggested having a seminar at WWSCE to show people how to fill out the form. Terry informs the board there is already a seminar in place for that.

**Nominating-** Kevin Hayes presents report. Elections for 2011 officers are President and Secretary/Treasurer.

Roger Olson's position as Elite Athlete is up in 2011

The committee is presenting Lynn Novakofski is presented by committee for HND.

Garry asked why Skip Gilkerson was never nominated. The reason for this was that Skip is still an active board member. Ballots were passed out. Recommendation that future nomination include a short synopsis as to why the person is being nominated.

### **LRP-No report**

**Rules-**Sherm presents report for rules committee. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark  
Only one recommendation passed committee

Change Rule 1.06 Ammendments:

1. The deadline for rules changes for the November. meeting is Oct. 15.
2. The Rules committee can also bring forward suggested rules changes at the winter meeting. They are due to the rules chair by Jan 15th. and will go through the same process as the fall meeting.

Sherm feels the first proposal would handicap the committee. While it was not a problem this year, there have been times when there was extensive discussion needed. Sherm feels that changing rules in the spring does not allow the board enough time to discuss any proposed changes.

Chris mentioned the rest of the committee felt that with the e-mail and communication that it would not be a big problem. Garry Stout expressed a concern that winter weather might prohibit some directors from attending and would not be able to voice an opinion on a rule change.

Tom Ghiloni said changing rules at the spring meeting could have an affect on the judges clinic.

Mark said he would like to see proposed changes to rules be sent out to regional representatives so that they could inform their respective teams for comment. This would enable the directors to vote in a manner consistent with the desires of their constituents.

Motion Passes

There was thought that this should be in the P&P manual. Tom Ghiloni indicated this was under rule 1.06.

**Publicity-** Report submitted by Mark.- Terry adds that Scott Atkinson said if a team is going to China, call him a month or two before the trip so that he is prepared and can reserve space in the magazine and then do the article and submit the pictures. Mark reminds directors that all pictures should be high resolution pictures. A recommendation that a press packet be put on the web site for clubs to use as a template.

**World/National Records-**There were two records that are being reviewed. They will compile the information and present them at the spring meeting.

**TV / Web Cast Production-**Terry presents report. JR asked if we should reconsider the web cast. Some teams did not come on Sunday because of weather. Lower attendance affects the host and competing teams. It may deter teams from coming to observe the tournament first hand and cut down enthusiasm. Garry said the webcast is beneficial for those clubs in outlying areas cannot come to the tournament and still gets to see the tournament. The webcast cannot be delayed a couple days. Gerry indicated the crowds at Wisconsin state tournament were reduced. We will evaluate the affect it has on the 2010 tournament. Mike says this would be a USOC decision whether the webcast is delayed.

**Team Development- Terry Pasterski submitted report.-**Terry asked if she could carry over the unused portion of her line item which was budgeted for Gerry and Cathy Luiting to go to Holiday Shores in 2008. Mike informs her that she needs to add that amount to her budget request for 2010. Mark informs Terry that she had \$815.00 left over.

Terry informs the board that Grand Rapids and Mona Lake from Kansas will be the teams being brought to WWSCE in 2010.

**Fund Raising- No report**

**Individual Acts- Cathy presents report.**

Chris asks if specialized judges was not a financial issue would it make a difference? How are the specialized judges be chosen.? They would come from within the ranks. Roger O. wants to focus on the current judges for training. Bringing in specialized judges for every event would be cost prohibitive. Cathy reports that if the specialized judges becomes a reality that she would like to see those who judge swivel could judge doubles.

Comment made by Doug Ribley that if a judge isn't good enough to judge individuals, is the judge good enough to judge a team? The judges should be seeing the best the team has to offer. How is this different from individual events competition?

Mark informs the board that a suggestion was made to have an on water clinic for judges to help with training the judges we have. Mark thought this would be a good chance for the Individual Events Committee to help train the judges. The Officials committee sees the problem with Individual Events scores and wants to work to try to correct the problem.

Cathy said she witnessed one swivel competition winner apologize to another competitor because she (the winner) didn't feel she deserved to win.

**Difficulty Committee-** Chris Presents report and adds that after he sent out the report he talked with a few officials who said that they did not get the e-mail he sent out requesting input. Since this is an ongoing issue, he will try to send the e-mail out again.

**Freestyle Committee-** Chris presented report.

**International Show Ski Committee-**Sherm presents report. The president of IWWF informs Sherm of a possible competition in China. Sherm is going to review the rule book and convert it to an international rule book and sending it out one section at a time for approval. There are a couple of countries who are interested. It is unknown how the competitors from the US would be selected. Mike wants NSSA to outfit the team that competes and have that team represents. Speedo offers a program where we can get clothing at cost. Mike would not be opposed to offering this to teams who go to do contract shows in other countries as long as the team wears the NSSA/USAWS logo.

Tom felt the clothing should be only for United States representative for international competition.

Mike had been contacted by an organization in India that was looking for 45 days of performance with two performances per day. Mike will e-mail that out to the board and to USAWS registered clubs who might be interested. The dates will run sometime in April-May.

**Old Business-** WWF requesting variance in 6.02 asking for rosters two weeks prior to the tournament (e-mail or post marked) for the WI state tournament. Mark 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. There was discussion on the issue. Joel Shapiro is asking that the rule committee consider rewording the rule. It also needs to address who is going to check the roster because the team sponsor might have a conflict of interest being a competing team.

Garry asked what prompted the request. The team that sponsors the tournament spends the whole week setting up the site. The request was made by Wisconsin Rapids but was approved by the federation.

Motion passes.

Mark Jackson from Polk County Sports Marketing addresses the board on the Lake Myrtle Sports Complex. Polk county Sports Marketing is the largest in Florida and the 5<sup>th</sup> largest in the country.

**New Business-**

- Carole Lowe wants to do an All Star tournament at Lake Alfred for a tournament at April 10<sup>th</sup> which will be a Swivel, Doubles, Jump.
- E-mail Ballots- Currently there is no policy for e-mail ballots. Tom informs board that NSSA does not have a policy on how we accept e-mail votes. Robert's Rules says you need a majority of those casting votes to pass. If 9 people vote, you only need 5 to pass. USAWS has a policy that failure to vote is counted as a NO vote. Mike will appoint someone to form a policy to present at the spring meeting. Mike will appoint a committee to present this.

Discussion on funding by and representation to USAWS board. AWSA only funds the elite team and junior team. NSSA would have to formulate a proposal. Garry said the funding is already set for international competition. Chris feels the money should go back into the pool

and the individual sports divisions should allocate it as the sport division feels best meets their objectives. Tom feels he is a member of USAWS and as a member he feels there is a loyalty to support USAWS. He is not sure whether the numbers are correct. Chris feels that funding should be decided by each individual sport division and that the money should go into a general pool for all sport divisions. Tom feels his loyalty to support USAWS international competition regardless of what sport division is represented.

AWSA only funds the Elite team and the Junior. This is only the IWWF sanctioned world tournament. Sherm does not know how the other sports disciplines sponsor international competition.

Chris mentions that AWSA gets \$11,000.00, ski race gets \$6,000.00, USA Wakeboard got \$4,200.00, disabled with 88 members gets \$3,000.00. NSSA does not have international competition sanctioned by IWWF.

JR asks if USAWS is aware of how upset show skiers are about the funding ratios? From the time USAWS started, there was major adjustment in the budget. The board approved in 2004 and 2005 . 50, 30, 10, 10. 50% was available according to percentage of membership, 30% to support teams, 10% for a growth over a five year period of a specific sport division, and 10% as discretionary. In 2008 the discretionary funding, sport divisions were told the 10% would be distributed equally and not to expect increase funding in 2009-2010.

NSSA has 22 votes of 79 available votes. Chris wants to know why AWSA still has five voices. This conversation should have occurred prior to 2008. The only thing we can adjust is votes. There was some concern as to why USAWS Executive Director doesn't come to the Show Nationals to try to understand our sport.

How do we get IWWF to recognize show skiing on an international level? Sherm is the chair of the IWWF committee. We are moving into the right direction. Belgium, China, and Australia are all interested in international competition.

**Time and Place Feb 26, 2010 at @ 7:00 AM, Chula Vista, Wisconsin Dells.**

**Adjourn- Motion by Garry Stout 2<sup>nd</sup> by Poulos. Meeting adjourns 5:30 PM**

## **Board Reports**

### **2009 CENTRAL REGION SHOW SKI ASSOCIATION SEASON REPORT SUBMITTED BY: DOUG RIBLEY (NSSA REPRESENTATIVE)**

**I. Tournaments:** Three show ski tournaments took place within the Central Region over the course of the 2009 show ski season. The Lake City Skiers hosted the City of Lakes/Great Lakes Invitational in June, the Backwater Gamblers hosted the Central Regional Tournament in July and the Ski Broncs hosted D-I Nationals in August.

**II. Elections:** Kevin Hayes was re-elected as president and Randy Patrick was re-elected as secretary of the Central Region Show Ski Association. Jake Wilson was elected to fill one of two Central Region NSSA Representative positions.

**III. D-I / D-II National Qualification Criteria:** A committee chaired by Doug Ribley and made up of a cross-section of Central Region leadership evaluated options for sending Central Region teams to national competitions. A recommendation was made to have all teams compete for the D-I spots. Teams that do not qualify to represent the Central Region at the D-I tournament are then eligible to compete at the D-II national tournament. The committee made this recommendation to the Central Region BOD and it was accepted. This revised qualification format was used to place Central Region Teams in the 2009 national tournaments and was implemented without incident.

#### **IV. Team Reports:**

**Chippewa Lake:** Chippewa Lake had a successful 2009 season. Membership numbers remained unchanged from 2008. Fund raising events included the winter dinner auction and Summer Steak Dinner-Ski Show. Community events included participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day ski shows, two home team ski shows, and a Learn to ski program with 75 participants. The competitive team performed 21 shows and competed in the Great Lakes Invitational, Central Regionals, and D-I Nationals. Additionally, the team purchased a ski press, developed a new website and joined/became involved with the local Lion's club and Village Council. Members of the Chippewa Lake team traveled to the Lake City site to perform a joint "end of season" ski show and finally, Chippewa Lake was hired to perform six shows, over two days, at the September Mum Festival in Barberton, Ohio. Members of the Lake City team joined in the fun as well.

**Grand City:** Grand City had a good year again in 2009. Membership numbers stand at just over 50 total members. Some veterans were lost but a number of new families joined. The team competed in three tournaments including...Great Lakes Invitational, Central Regionals and D-II Nationals. A skills clinic was held in the fall, led by Scott and Jessica De Porter from Sea World of Texas. Upcoming plans include an annual New Years Day ski outing and plans to send as many people as possible to the Wisconsin Water Ski Convention & Expo. New officers were elected in October and include: Jeremy Droge...President; Rick DeVries...Vice President; Chelsea Boeve...Treasurer; John Boeve...Secretary; Jill Jolley...Membership; Julie Maskill...Show Director.

**Ski Broncs:** The 2009 season continued to present membership growth challenges. Some veteran members are expected to come back for the 2010 season. D-I Nationals was a success however, as the host site/organization, margins are shrinking as costs creep each year. It would be nice if USAWS refund rates were adjusted accordingly. The Ski Broncs team provided water safety coverage for the Rock River Regatta (rowing tournament). USAWS water safety training made this possible and tournament officials were extremely appreciative of the professionalism and

competence exhibited. Finally, a large scale dock rebuild will take place in the spring and is very necessary.

**Wonder Lake:** The team hosted a safety clinic, driver's clinic, learn to ski for physically challenged kids during the 2009 season. The spring fundraiser was a successful casino event which took place over four Saturday evenings throughout March and April. A new performance platform was purchased and installed at the practice site. Wonder Lake participated in three tournaments throughout the season...Mercury Open, Central Regionals, and D-I Nationals. The team was the Grand Marshal for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade celebrating 50 years of ski shows at Wonder Lake. Additionally, the team celebrated their 50 year anniversary over Labor Day Weekend. During the celebration 6 of the 8 founding members went for a ski ride. Finally, the team held its annual Haunted Hayride in October and a community food drive entitled, Stuff the Ski Team Trailer.

**Reports Not Submitted:** Arch Rivals, Backwater Gamblers, Holiday Shores, Lake City Skiers, Lake Mohawk, Silver Lake, Spray Masters, Whitmore Lake.

## **The Eastern Region Report November 2009**

**Tournament-** The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Eastern region tournament was held July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at the Oxbow, in North Hampton Massachusetts. Four teams competed in the team competition, and 5 teams were represented in the individual act competition. The results of the team competition were as follows: Oxbow Water Ski Show team, US Water Ski Show team, The Holland Aqua Riders, and the Lake Mohawk Ski Hawks.

**One Team Fundraiser-** During the tallying of the judges scores, members off all of the participating teams got together to put a benefit show, skiing as 1 team.

**Learn to Ski-** This year there were 11 learn to ski clinics held in the eastern region, the 11 clinics promoted the sport throughout the East. Approximately 5 new members were gained due to these clinics.

**Driver and Safety Clinics-** There were 2 driver clinics and safety clinics scheduled in the east this season. Both were canceled due to in climate weather. There was 1 successful safety clinic held in Holland Mass.

**Ski Fest-** The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual ski fest was held in early June in Scotia NY. This was a full weekend event; much of Saturday was used for skills clinics (Swivel, Jump, Barefoot, wakeboard) where members from all teams went out to learn from each other. Sunday an all-star show was put on with members from all of the teams skiing together for a local crowd.

2010 Ski Fest is scheduled to be hosted by the Oxbow Water Ski Team the weekend of June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Elections-**

Vice President- Stacy Griffin

Treasurer- Pat Byrne

**2010 Tournament-**

Is to be hosted by the Oxbow Water Ski Team in North Hampton Mass, July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Eastern Region,  
Stacy Griffin

**MIDWEST REGION**

Larry Meany was elected to serve on the NSSA Board for a term of two years. Bruce Berg accepted the alternate position. Bud Ruhl has one year remaining on his two year term.

Election of Officers was held. Mark Bortz was reelected Treasurer and Bud Ruhl was reelected Vice President of the MRSSA. Mike Johnson remains President and Joel Johanningmeier remains Secretary.

The 2010 Midwest Regional Tournament will be hosted by the Bayside Ski Team in Albert Lea, Minnesota on July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The 2011 Midwest Regional Tournament will be hosted by Five Seasons Water Ski Team in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bud Ruhl, Midwest Regional Representative

**Southern Region Report**

The **Sarasota Ski-A-Rees** enjoyed a fantastic 52<sup>nd</sup> season, beginning with their winter season in February and concluding November 8<sup>th</sup> with their fourth annual All-Female Ski Show, featuring skiers from around the southern region with the goal of raising funds for Susan G. Komen for the cure. In June, we finished second in the Southern Regional tournament, scoring over 2,000 points for our 27<sup>th</sup> top-two finish in the region in the past 30 years.

In September, we appeared on "Man vs. Food" on the Discovery Travel channel-our second appearance on the channel in three years and third national television appearance during that span. In October, as the host team for the Sunshine State Invitational Show Ski Tournament, we won the Florida State Championship for the first time since 2005. We look forward to a six-week break, returning to the water the first weekend in January to prepare for 2010.

**Gatorland**, as it has been, is pretty much in a 'mode of change' with a lot of our members scattered, away at college, relocation with jobs, etc. we are maintaining some of the 'old

core group' and attempting to gain some new young members for growth as always. This year we were able to perform at a few venues including several water festival events and also acted as the 'host club' for a UCanSki2 event in Ocala, FL in October. Several members have done individual competitions at tournaments but no club participation.

**The Carolina Show Ski Team** would like to report another successful and safe season. We performed 11 home shows, attended the Southern Regional Tournament, and had two skiers attend D1 Nationals and compete in the swivel and freestyle jump competitions, achieving 6th and 5th places, respectively.

We are currently focusing on updating our website, welcoming some new members to leadership roles, on re-permitting of our performance platform and jump ramp, and hope to make some additional changes to our home site at Windjammer Park, in Tega Cay, SC. We also needed to get rid of a smaller jump ramp, and enjoyed the banter between the swivelers and jumpers during that adventure! A few of our members continue to ski through the winter months - 3 girls were finalists in a Hilton Garden Inn Holiday Kick Start Video Contest for a free 5 day trip to New York City, using some swiveling to make their entry stand out. In addition, several members participated in a new sport for Halloween, with the 1st annual Lake Norman Pumpkin Ski, where after carving some scary pumpkins, they were proudly sported on the water. (see attached photo). If the weather stays warm enough, you may find us in a few Santa's costumes before the year ends! Fund raising continues as always, with the recruitment of any / all sponsors. We are looking forward to a new year, with a new show director, a new theme, and for the fun (and safety) to continue. Our first event scheduled for New Years Day, where we will host the New Years Day Barefoot Challenge, a contest that has been held on Lake Norman for over 30 years.

**Southern Extreme** has competed in two tournaments this year. We have held over 10 learn to ski clinics and skied our first Halloween show and it was a great success. This year we put our third boat together and have been doing a 3 boat show. We have 70 members and are continuing to grow. We hope to get the bid for the State tournament next year to celebrate our 10 year anniversary and are preparing for the Regional Tournament in Alabama.

**The Tampa Bay Water Ski Show Team** is currently over 100 members strong. We had 5 paid road shows this year with one of those being in Ireland. Tampa won the Southern Regional Tournament for the 8th year in a row. Two Tampa members competed at Nationals in Doubles and Swivel, finishing 4th in each event. Tampa also competed in the Florida/Sunshine State Tournament, placing second behind the Sarasota Ski-a-Rees. The team has faced the serious challenge of our injured member Mike Atherton, but Mike is now on his way to recovery and we look forward to his return to the team.

#### **Alabama Report:**

1. The team purchased a new Dynaski Twin Rig in May and used it in the Southern Regional Tournament in June.
2. The team put on a Barefoot Endurance Race in October with teams from Texas,

Missouri, Tennessee and Alabama.

3. The team is making changes to our ski site in anticipation of hosting the 2010 Southern Regional Tournament.

### **Lakeland Water Ski Club**

We hosted our 61<sup>st</sup> annual Lakeland Open in June.

We started our show season Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> with shows every other Sunday.

We are only 20 members total, we have added 5 new high school members, we are slowly growing.

We will be hosting a safety clinic on Nov 7<sup>th</sup>.

We will be participating in the Lakeland Christmas Parade on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted

Kevin Hayes

LWSC President

The Southern Region Board of Directors will be meeting on Sunday, November 15 for the purpose of electing new officers, and to award the hosting of the 2010 Florida/Sunshine State Tournament, and the 2011 Florida Regional Tournament. The 2010 Regional tournament is hosted by the Alabama Water Ski Show Team from Montgomery Alabama, and will be held on June 26-27?

### **Western Region Report submitted by Jim Boland (absent)**

There is not much to report from the Western Front. Not much has changed since last year. The Seattle team is in a building period and are starting to get things together and did a couple small shows this summer, including demonstrations at the Seattle Seafair Hydroplane races.

They need to get some safety course/certification next year and also have asked about getting some drivers certified, Class A. We are working to combine them with the Portland team for both safety and drivers. Both clubs are in a seemingly perpetual building period.

The rest of the west is primarily 3 event and wakeboard. Particularly California, Washington, and Arizona.

### **Wisconsin Region Report**

#### **NSSA Fall Meeting**

**11/13/09**

This was a very busy year for the Wisconsin Region. We had a minimum of 30 Learn To Ski clinics. These clinics taught over 448 participants how to water ski. In addition to these Learn to Ski clinics, teams hosted over 16 Disabled Learn to Ski Clinics, instructing over 195 Disabled skiers. The majority of those were by The Aquanuts who hosted 13 clinics with approximately 180 participants.

The Wisconsin Region took out a new sanction for a show event this year and hosted 6 show tournaments throughout the summer. They were:

1. Northwood's Invitational

a. This is a smaller tournament for the Northern Wisconsin teams. They are traditionally not scored, but critiqued after their performance.

2. Beaver Dam Invitational

3. Mercury Invitational

4. Wisconsin State/Regional Show Tournament

5. Tomahawk All-Star Tournament

a. This is a format similar to the Master Craft Tournaments held in Hamilton, OH. Each team is comprised of 22 individuals.

6. Scott Coley Memorial

a. This was the first annual. In memory of Scott Coley, we had a day where we invited everybody that wanted to come and throw their name in a hat and then we drew equal teams. The winner was selected by donations after the last team was finished. There were also various ski exhibitions between shows.

There were a minimum of 40 special shows last year which included, night shows, road shows, festivals, 4<sup>th</sup> of July shows, to name a few.

The Wisconsin Water Ski Convention and Expo will again be held at Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells. The dates will be Feb. 26-28. We are pleased to announce that the Hall of Fame banquet will be a Wisconsin Picnic in February. We have acquired a large heated tent and it should be exciting. Afterwards there will be a DJ to keep the evening going. Look for new and exciting show clinics, while we also trim some of the less popular clinics as well.

We are also please to present our newly made over website, [www.waterski.org](http://www.waterski.org). We owe a ton of thanks to Joel Shapiro for this huge endeavor. When you check it out, you'll see our newly updated logo as well. We are well on our way to making [www.waterski.org](http://www.waterski.org) a stand alone website for everything you need to know about water skiing.

Along with this update, we are updating our membership program and WWSF members will soon be seeing e-blasts in an effort to increase our communication. In addition, we've integrated an on-line merchant account to make membership and WWSCE registration easier, as well as an outlet to sell WWSF merchandise.

Last summer we were able to Web-Cast our state/regional show tournament. Here are two highlights:

1. 471,200 Hits during the 3 day broadcast.

2. Site visitors from over 2 dozen countries outside the U.S. including; Germany

Netherlands, Russia, Greece, Italy, France, Israel, Canada, Australia, Japan and more.

We wouldn't have been able to accomplish this without the help of Jim Martin who chaired this committee and Terry Pasterski who sat in the trailer for 3 days helping the crew. Our plan is to webcast again in 2010.

Wisconsin water skiers faced some tough times in 2009 and will see them continue in 2010 due to some legislative issues. We had at least 3 separate legal issues affecting water skiers this year, two of which directly affected WWSF show teams. Fortunately, these two situations turned out okay, but only after hundreds of hours of man hours and who knows how many dollars in legal fees.

Wisconsin has also passed a new law that will affect skiers across the state. Boaters are now required to observe the same no wake zone within 100' from shore, piers, and other water craft as PWC's are required to do so now. We are currently in communication with the DNR as to the affect this will have on show teams.

The Wisconsin Water Ski Federation will be celebrating it's 50<sup>th</sup> year next year. We have some great things planned, so stay tuned.

On a side note, we want to congratulate The Tommy Bartlett Show for coming back strong after last years devastating loss of water.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chris Coupland  
Wisconsin NSSA rep

## Committee Reports- National Tournaments- November 13, 2009

To: Mike Hanson – President

Cc: Board of Directors, Honorary Directors, Committee Chairpersons

From: Bruce McCalmon

Subject: National Tournament(s) Committee Report

All Division I & II National Tournament(s) Paperwork will be posted “on-line” for the Teams & Individuals who enter to complete and mail to the National Tournament(s) Director. This is being done to eliminate the cost of mailing this paperwork to all entrants, and to allow the Forms to be completed with “typed” text (thus improving the clarity of the paperwork for the Tournament's Officials). The Committee wants to thank Mike Hanson for converting the existing Forms to Pdf format to facilitate this change.

Following the end of the 2009 National Tournament(s) Entry Deadline (and receipt of all Entry's) Mike Hanson sent out an inquiry to all Division II Teams (those who entered their respective Regional Tournaments as Division II and/or those who probably would best fit into this Tournament) asking why they had not entered the 2009 Division II National Tournament. The following summarizes the Eighteen (18) responses received (1- Southern / 2 – Eastern / 1 – Central / 2 – Midwest / 12 – Wisconsin):

Reasons for Not entering the 2009 Division II National Show Ski Tournament –

1. Cost – universally the respondents mentioned the Cost of attending the Tournament (lack of Fund Raising / cost to members for travel & lodging / need to take more time off from work)
  2. Lack of Pre-Planning – Team did not investigate interest of Team members early enough in the season to adequately plan & budget for attending
  3. Drop in Membership that late in the Season – many respondents mentioned that their available skiers drops drastically following their respective Regional Tournaments because of the start of school and other commitments (lack of commitment to extending season)
- Several other reasons were mentioned on a few of the responses: distance to travel; would want to compete at Division I if they chose to make the time & cost commitment; cost to upgrade their equipment to improve their chances; did not plan early enough in the season; size of Team is seriously affected if only a small number cannot attend; not enough tournament experience; teams that compete at Division I level in their Regional Tournament can drop down to Division II if they do not make the “cut” into the Division I Tournament

The Tournament Committee will take the time to further explore these responses before the February meeting, and come back to the BoD with recommendations on how to offset these reasons if we can find them.

## **Officials**

Officials Committee Report- 11/09

One judge was elevated to Senior Status. (Cheryl Bonert). Two were elevated to regular.

One judge is

being reduced to regular rating due to inactivity over the past three years.

There were six officials complaints which resulted in counseling. One of the complaints was filed and then withdrawn, three were sustained which means the incident did occur and resulted in counseling, two were exonerated meaning in incident did occur but there was a logical reason for the official's actions. The committee chooses not to name the officials at this time.

As a committee we are aware there is still more training needed in individual events judging. One suggestion of implementing peer judges for individual events was presented but not passed by committee. The issue of training was placed in the hands of the individual events committee for further evaluation and recommendation.

There was some concern and some discontent with the implementation of special judges for freestyle jump. Scores on the freestyle jump were closer than in other of the three

events on some of the competitors.

There was an officials clinic held at WWSCE in Wisconsin and one will be held at the end of the November meeting at headquarters. There was also discussion about appointing an instructor in the outlying regions to provide the Officials Clinic in order to provide better service those officials. The instructor would be provided with the power point used at the Wisconsin clinic from the Officials Committee Chair. This would need approval of the board.

Respectfully,  
Mark Poulos  
Official's Chair

## **NSSA Drivers Tested Program**

### **Topics**

#### **Chris Hammer-Midwest Region-Cat Fish Bay, SD**

He would like to pursue in becoming an examiner. The committee review his decision and discussed that he needs to do two practical tests and teach one test, then be reevaluated as an examiner.

#### **Nat Sveta-Midwest Region-Prior Lake, MN**

Has indicated that he would like to become an examiner. Some of you might recognize Nat's name for his well know video "Submarine". This brought some discussion by the committee. I sent a note expressing our concerns to his responsibility to NSSA if he becomes an examiner. He did contact me to discuss.

#### **Brint Burrill**

Resigned from the NSSA Drivers Tested Examiners on April 28,2009

#### **Risk Management**

USA Water-Ski I drive program

#### **Learners Permit**

Committee discussed that people are not meeting their requirements for the Learners permit. One requirement is they need to take the written and safety course before they are issued a learners permit.

#### **10 NSSA Driver Test were given in 2009**

Discuss if someone tows the NSSA boat the policy for gas.

Discuss the NSSA Boat and rental fee

**SAFETY- Pending from Gerry Luiting**

### **BY-Laws**

To: Mike Hanson – President of NSSA

Cc: Board of Directors, Honorary Directors, Committee Chairpersons

From: Bruce McCalmon – Committee Chair, Bylaws Committee

Re: Bylaws Committee Report

No Report – No Changes to the current NSSA Bylaws have been proposed or are necessary at this time

AAC- Elite Skier

The AAC met on October 19. I was unable to attend because of a work conflict. Of the options given for a meeting date, the only date that I could not attend was on October 19. The report I got from the meeting is that almost all of the meeting involved 3 event skiing. That is normal for an AAC meeting since the AAC is a requirement from the USOC.

Roger

## NSSA Grants Report for 2009

2009 has been a challenging year for the Grants Committee again this year.

Because of the economy we were given \$5,500 this year to work with, and we received \$12,744.20 in requests in April.

We received \$5,390 in requests for Learn to Ski, which we approved \$1,066.40. We received \$4,054.20 in requests for the Safety / Drivers clinics, which we approved \$3,055.54. We also received a \$1,000 request for D II National Tournament, \$300 request for the Eastern Regional Tournament, and \$2,000 requests for some specialty clinics. Of these we approved \$500 for the D II National tournament, per the Boards approval.

We did not receive any further requests following everyone's summer activities. So far we have received \$409.21 in receipts for the Learn to Ski, and we have received \$1,326.42 in receipts for the Safety / Drivers clinics, as well as the receipts to more than cover the \$500 for the D II National tournament. As you can see the receipts do not come close to what was approved.

We also used \$228.25 to cover the committee's conference call that we did in April. We also sent out an email to everyone who were involved in the Grants process this year to try to get an idea as to why we were having problems in sending the receipts in and maybe to why we did not receive any other new requests after the summer this year. Except for one team that had to cancel their Drivers clinic due to major boat (twin rig) problems, most of those who did respond stated the dis-organization at the team level as being the major problem. One suggestion that we received was may-be to come up with a standardized form for receipts to help the teams. The Grants committee has not had the chance to talk about that idea yet.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

To: NSSA Board of Directors

From: Kevin Hayes, Nominating Committee Chair

Date: October 28, 2009

Subject: Nominating Committee Report

The following are the nominations for officers and Elite Athletes:

1. NSSA Board of Directors Officers/Elections

Elections for officers will be held at the 2010 Division I Show Nationals Meeting. The President and Secretary/Treasure positions are open for nominations and will be closed at Winter Meeting

2. Elite Athlete Nomination/Election

Nominations for Elite Athlete (Roger Olson's) position is open for nomination and will be closed at Winter Meeting. Notification has been sent to headquarters and has been in the email blast.

3. HND at this time we are presenting Lynn Novakofski for exemplary service to the NSSA

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kevin Hayes  
/kh

## **2010 Proposed Rule Changes**

1. The deadline for rules changes for the Nov. meeting be switched to Oct. 15.

With the use of email and conference calls, this will allow more time for teams or individuals to submit rule changes.

2. The Rules committee can also bring forward suggested rules changes at the winter meeting. They are due to the rules chair by Jan 15th. and will go through the same process as the fall meeting.

New rules would still need to go through the Rules committee, but they would be allowed to be presented at the Nov. meeting. Too many times a potential change is brought up at the fall meeting and then we have to wait a year. Again, with email, and website hosting of the rule book, I can't think of a reason why we can't implement new rules at the winter meeting.

### **PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT- MARK POULOS**

There were three articles submitted, only one is set to be printed. Not much of a report. Since there is not much we can do to control whether the magazine will print the articles we should continue to flood them with stories and PICTURES

Publicity is more outreaching than just the magazine articles though. We (NSSA) received several minutes (That's Right MINUTES) of Television and Radio time collectively. That is huge. When it comes to publicity, we can do more to capitalize on those opportunities.

Getting publicity is easy. The media is hungry for information and opportunities.

Publicity needs to come from every team. It works the same way we treat the magazine. Feed the media sources with special events, starting of a season, family involvement. Send a press release at least two days but not more than a week prior to the event. Two days gives the "desk", the person responsible for assignments, time to plan but not forget. Include a phone number of a contact person who is authorized to go on camera. Remember, the producer will have the interview edited. Feed bits of information YOU want published. You control the interview.

Mark

NSSA National Records Committee  
Report Fall Meeting 11/13/2009

Over the course of the weekend, the National Records Committee will be reviewing 2 records to be submitted by the Rock Aqua Jays for the largest pyramid and the largest front barefoot line.

If you know of any other records that haven't been submitted, please let us know.

Respectfully,

Chris Coupland

NSSA TV REPORT

NOVEMBER 13-14, 2009

By Terry Pasterski, Chairperson

The webcasting company, Echo Entertainment that was secured by USOC for show Nationals was very, very easy to work with. They really listened to Mark Jackson and me, took direction very well, and really enjoyed the weekend.

The webcasting company would not provide a feed to the team's sound as USA water ski has not paid ASCAP or BMI fees. In talking with Steve Upp and Bobbi Razor at HQ this past week, 2009 is the only year this was NOT paid. This was due to miscommunication. I was assured that this will be paid for next year. The cost should be \$50.00 for ASCAP and \$214 for BMI. Also Bobbi says that she has never sent in a music list. Looking over the paperwork that is sent in for both ASCAP and BMI, it is not required.

When Mad City was skiing, the website went down during their show. We had it on tape, but not live feed. Spence tried calling his USOC contact several times. This person was supposed to be available to us the whole time we were live. This person didn't answer. So after Mad City's show he contacted another person at USOC who did respond and got the site up and running.

The trailer that the LOC provided was less than ideal. It was very old and unstable. The flooring right by the door was very, very bad. Every time you walked on it, you were afraid of falling through. The little AC unit couldn't keep the trailer any colder than 83 degrees on Saturday. I asked for a fan also. Finally on Sunday, Gus brought a box fan that we used and finally got the temp down to 74 degrees. Not only was I worried about the equipment, by all of us in the trailer, usually 4 or 5 and sometimes 6 and 7 people. It is really hard to do your best work when we were all so uncomfortable in the heat.

The archives for all 14 teams took until October to get up for viewing. That was delayed

on the USOC end, not the Echo Entertainment part.

The scaffolding that USA water ski paid for was \$350. But the scaffolding I ordered for the Boland's was quoted me at \$400, late fees. Now Gus Rothmaler, the LOC chair, tells me its \$450. Badwater Ski-ers paid \$100 and I am paying the rest.

One thing Kevin, Mark and I would like to bring up to all the competing teams is that we feel the interviews after the shows are important, especially for any good human interest stories that Mark uses. So whether you have a good show or a bad show, please, please have the appropriate people step up to the plate and be interviewed after your show.

Again I want to thank Bruce McCalmon for really helping out big time with all the logistics we needed for the tournament in order to do a good job for webcasting.

## NSSA TEAM DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 13-14, 2009

By Terry Pasterski, Chairperson

The on-water weekend classes with Gerry and Cathy Luiting was not held this year with Holiday Shores. There was a scheduling problem with both the team and the Luiting's to come up with a weekend until too late in the season. Therefore, for next year's budget I would like to have that amount set aside for this. Holiday Shores participated at both their regional's and Div. II nationals.

I visited Grand City Ski Team in Grand Rapids, MI and critiqued one of their shows. They have a show site that is right by a boat launch that they can NOT close down during their shows. So the night I was at their site, there was constant boat traffic coming and going. I talked to them about that and they were in the process at looking into new sites.

They have approached 3 different locals, and all 3 said if they let them ski there, then they would have to let everybody ski on the lake. So therefore they are still looking at different locations. They participated at Great Lakes tournament, their regionals, and

Div. II nationals.

I also visited Chippewa Lake in Ohio. Critiqued a show for them and the night before went over box scores, etc. with them. They are on a private lake, but have to deal with buoys for 3-event skiing.

The team that is coming to next year's WWSCE is Pomona Lake from Kansas. Our committee is also going to ask for applications for teaching again next year, as a couple people have asked to be considered. We thought it was time to review applications again.

## **Individual Acts Committee Report**

**November 2009**

**Committee Members:** Cathy and Gerry Luiting, Gary and Lindsey Geer, Doug Ribley, Ann Tieman, Ginny McGinnis, Chery Orloff, Betty Bonifay, Tom Ghiloni, and Ben Schneider.

**Review Tournament Scores:** This was advised after a complaint was received regarding desultory scores given to a competitor at the Wisconsin State Tournament. These desultory scores impacted the outcome of the tournament, thus giving the appearance of impropriety. Review of the scores given at various tournaments throughout 2009 determined that desultory scores appeared throughout the judging ranks. This was not just an anomaly with one particular judge.

**Review Use of Caller:** The Wisconsin State Tournament was the test grounds for the use of a caller for Individual Acts Competition. Overall the caller had neither a positive or negative impact on Individual Acts Judging. Judges were given a written survey at the completion of the competition. There were both positive and negative comments regarding the use of a caller. Some judges felt use of a caller helped to increase their knowledge of turns/maneuver identification. Others felt it was difficult to impossible to hear the caller over the radios provided. One judge was particularly upset that the caller would not be calling the turns/maneuvers while the competitor(s) were in the show course.

**Review Impact of Withholding Scores until Completion:** This had both positive and negative feedback, pretty much equally. Positive feedback included comments such as competitors felt they were getting scores not influenced by others. Negative comments included such comments as; now judges can change the score they give you, it seems to lack something for the crowd.

#### **Discussion Topics:**

##### **1. Specialized Judges:**

The committee is in favor of the idea of “specialized” judges for Individual Acts Competition. However given the current economic conditions, application of this appears to be impractical. Other thoughts include: show team judges should be able to identify turn/maneuvers in a show competition as they are used in almost every competitive show. Realistically, it would be difficult and cost prohibitive to implement Specialized Judges for 2010. This does merit more thought and discussion.

##### **2. Peer Judges:**

The committee was not in favor of this option.

**Continuing Education for Judges:** The committee feels this is the area that should be the focal point for 2010. Education will include a “skills” test to begin to identify Judges who can correctly categorize turns/maneuvers into the proper difficulty categories. We would like to begin to compile a list of judges who demonstrate the ability to properly categorize turns/maneuvers into the correct difficulty categories

**Difficulty vs. Execution:** The committee will work to come up with a standard to apply to situations where execution is so poor that credit for difficulty should be reduced or removed.

**2009 Nationals DVDs:** Last week received a copy of the Individual Acts Competition for 2009. Jim Boland has again done an excellent job of gathering the footage for our use. We truly appreciate his efforts. These DVD’s will be use to further analyze the scores judges gave each performance. This footage will also be used to continue education.

Fall Meeting 11/13/2009

The Difficulty Committee met recently and went over several things. Prior to the meeting, I sent out an email to all regular and senior judges looking for feedback on the charts that have already been put into use. I was very disappointed that I only received feedback from two officials.

When we met, we went through all of the charts and are worked on verbiage to clarify the usage and intent of each of the charts. We made good headway and will have this completed for the winter meeting.

We also feel that more training is needed in this area, as there were several instances of these charts either not being utilized or not being utilized properly. The officials need to know that this is not an option, but a requirement.

The next act that we will be presenting at the winter meeting will be around the boat.

Respectfully,  
Chris Coupland

NSSA Freestyle Committee  
Report Fall Meeting 11/13/2009

The Freestyle Committee will not be formally meeting until the night before our meeting. Therefore, a more complete report will follow at the winter meeting.

We did however, go through several things via email. The committee felt that while there were some glitches, the overall event was a success for the following reasons:

1. More exposure to freestyle jumping, hopefully leading to growth.
2. Included a new style with the twin tip skis.
3. Participation with a different subset of skiers (twin tip skis).
4. Updated DOD chart.
5. Possibly leading to specialized judging

While we did run into some glitches, we have acknowledged those and are in the process of fixing them. These are:

1. Seemingly running at a slow pace.
  - a. If possible, we will run 4 boats next year.
  - b. Run the event like a show with somebody calling in the boats.
2. Too much down time between skiers.
  - a. Bring in an announcer knowledgeable in freestyle
  - b. Plan music for the event

### 3. Scoring errors

#### a. Work with scoring program.

It is understood that several officials were upset about not being able to judge freestyle. This was not the committees' intent. However, after reviewing the scores, the committee feels that they made the right decision to utilize the specialist judges.

Below are the average differences between high and low for all of the Individual Events. As you will see, bringing in specialty judges is getting us closer to where we need to be.

Swivel 26.9%

Doubles 29.3%

Team Jump 21.5%

Freestyle 14.5%

Respectfully,

Chris Coupland

## **International Show Committee Report**

### **November 13-14, 2009**

There has not been much activity with this committee with the start of the IWWF Show Committee. The only thing I can add is from Kuno Ritchard, the IWWF President. He writes

“Actually Liu Weidong has asked me if China could host next year an international show competition. He hopes to attract 4-5 countries to participate. One team only per country. Maximum 30 persons including drivers and team manager. Travel and accommodation paid.

Eventually even with a small cash prize.”