

Woodham Ferrers Waterski Club

waterski, wakeboard, kneeboard



Hello Everyone,

The warm weather is rapidly moving South and the day light with it, its that time of year when some of us begin thinking of the cooler weeks to come and of words like winterise and storage, others may begin thinking of dry suits, winter gloves, heaters, full body warmers and hot showers. I am sure we can all agree that this summer although a little windy at times gave us some really lovely and fun social days out on the water, including our August camping weekend which ran very smoothly and was good fun. A big thank you to all those who helped make it an enjoyable weekend.

Before we get down to business, I thought some of you may find this bit of trivia interesting.....

A patent for a water ski was given to a constructor in Sweden already in 1841, but whether it ever came into use is unclear. The word water ski (Swedish: vattenskida) occurs in the encyclopedia Nordisk Familjebok in 1921. The American Water Ski Association states that water skiing began in 1922 when Ralph Samuelson used two boards as skis and a clothesline as a tow rope on Lake Pepin in Lake City, Minnesota, the Guinness Book of Records of 1974 also stated that a Mr Storrey won a 'plank-gliding' event at a Regatta in Scarborough, North Yorkshire in 1914. The sport remained a little-known activity for several years. Samuelson began taking his "stunts" on the road, performing shows from Michigan to Florida. Numerous claims began to surface as to who was the first water skier, but in 1966 the American Water Ski Association formally acknowledged Samuelson as the first on record. Samuelson has also been credited as the first ski racer, first to go over a jump ramp, first to slalom ski and the first put on a water ski show. Katherine Lomerson of Union Lake, Michigan has been credited as the first woman to water ski, in 1924.

Water skiers have their own unique terms such as: "Take me for a rip: "Take me for a pull" "Give me a tow" "I want to go for a rip 'n ride" & "Hit It"

Upcoming Events

Although most of us may be winding down our waterskiing activity for the year it doesn't mean the fun and duties stop. There are two upcoming events that everyone should be aware of:

Ski Boat Drivers Award (SBDA)

Firstly for those members wishing to take or complete their SBDA, the 2nd and 3rd of October are scheduled to accommodate you in achieving this. Tim Cooke and Leah Cook will be providing the course on the Friday evening from 8pm at the Clubhouse, then on Saturday morning the practical begins at 10:30am at the Clements Creek Pontoon, please try to arrive a few minutes earlier to avoid delaying the theory as there is quite a bit to cover before you write the multiple choice test paper that same evening.

Dinner and Dance

The second event is the Clubs well established annual Dinner & Dance taking place the evening of October 24th. This is a very popular club event as it represents the last club organised event for the year and is filled with much fun, laughter, good food and good company with a disco thrown in for good measure. The tickets for this event are £30.00 each and available from Sue Morrell, you can contact Sue on 07875106724 or email events@wfwsc.co.uk. There is a 3 course dinner with wine and a paying bar. You can see the menu by opening the attachment sent with this Newsletter or open it from our website in the members area.

Safety News

Once again there are some important safety items and developments to take note of when using your boat on the river. As a committee we don't like to harp on at our members about rules and regulations but your safety is our primary concern and we like to think we provide you with enough information and insight to stay safe on the water and enjoy your sport.

We operate our boats on one of the fastest flowing rivers in the country and as such need to be extra cautious in or on top of the water. Sadly in the last week or so, two people lost their lives in the vicinity of our slipway with the tidal movements being a contributing factor to their demise, so please ensure you are armed with a buoyancy aid or life jacket for all the people on your boat at all times. It is preferable/safer to be wearing a buoyancy aid or life jacket at all times and we would like to insist that children are wearing their jackets at all times.

Another reminder to all boat drivers that upon entering Clements Creek you must enter the Creek on the right hand side of the pink buoy at idle speed to avoid obstructing the path of the boat using the creek and the creating of a large wake.

The department of transport has for the passed two years been planning to introduce an alcohol limit for "leisure mariners" operating craft of more than 7 meters in length or capable of speeds exceeding 7 knots. There are indications these new regulations could come into force before the end of 2009. In light of this development this topic was discussed at some length at a recent committee meeting and as a result of the discussions we would like to ask all our members to act responsibly when it comes to consuming alcohol whilst in control of your boat or water skiing. A majority of the RNLI incidents reported this year were alcohol related, an impaired judgment whilst driving a boat or water skiing can be fatal.

Website News

There are a few more developments on our Club website. Newsletters are now published on the website so those few members that do not often look at or have email but do look at the website will be able to see previous or the latest newsletters in the members area. In the members area I have included a few more links to make checking the weather in our area a little easier so each site is now just a click away. You will have noticed by now that the gallery is now taking shape with the inclusion of a video clip (Thanks Jason!). It is my intention to take a few more videos and photos, but those of you who want your video taken or already have video or photographs and want them published on the website please let us know by submitting a request through the contact page on our website. If you have any suggestion for improvements to the website please also send them through the contact page.

That's all I have at the moment, I hope to see all "plank gliders" at the **Dinner and Dance** in October

Peter Holman
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