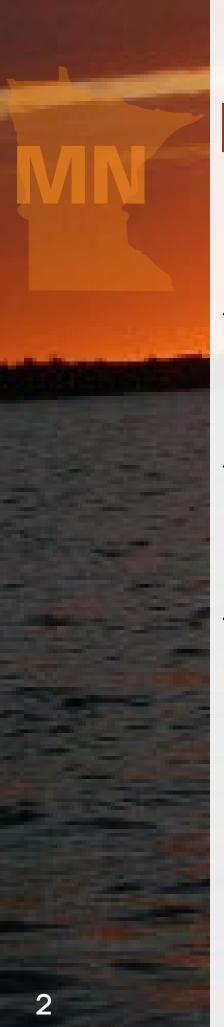






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One-On-One With Jamie McCaulty

By Arun Frances

N Wakeboard interviews a very talented 16-year old rider from Illinois who recently participated in the Jr. Pro Tour.

MW: How about a little introduction?

JM: Hi, my name is Jamie McCauley. I'm 16 years old. I'm from Lake Villa, Illinois. I've been wakeboarding for eight years now, but it was more of an every other weekend thing until about three years ago. I started taking it seriously and that's the year when I landed my first invert, a tantrum. This year I rode on the Jr. Pro Tour. I'm honored to be riding alongside these great riders.

MW: Do you remember the first day you stood on a wakeboard?

JM: Yeah, I remember it pretty clearly actually. I remember I saw one of my dad's friends doing it behind their boat and I told him that I wanted to try it. The next day we went to a pro shop and picked up a wakeboard and I actually got up first try. That's all I remember from it.

MW: What is the name of the lake that you splash around in?

JM: For the most part I ride on a lake called Long Lake. It's about 10 minutes from our house. Other than that it doesn't really matter. I'll ride anywhere



Jamie shows off for the camera by landing a toe 9. Photo By: Don Lemastus.

where there's water and a boat.

MW: Is wakeboarding a hobby for you or more of a lifestyle?

JM: Wakeboarding is definitely a lifestyle for me now. My whole life revolves around it. I'm actually hoping to move down to Florida this summer to help me improve my riding and take it to the next level.

MW: Do you ride with a set crew of people or do you mix it up a little?

JM: I mean, there are certain people I ride with more than others, but I'll ride with anyone. I'm not too picky. If you've got gas money, you're welcome to come ride with us.

MW: What kind of boat are you getting dragged behind?

JM: Right now we have a 2013 Supra SA450. It's pretty awesome, haha!

MW: What is your wakeboard setup looking like? **JM:** Well, for this year I rode the Liquid Force B.O.B. with Shane boots, but for next year I'm going to be on the Harley again.

MW: What gets you excited most about wakeboarding?

JM: I can't really pick one thing that I like most about wakeboarding. It's between the feeling of being free and not having to worry about a thing and the adrenaline rush that it gives. There's nothing not to like about it...besides the falls.

MW: Are there any tricks that you are working on or want to work on?

JM: As of recently I just landed a couple toe 9's and crow 5's, but other than that I'm really about working on my consistency now.

MW: What would your ideal day be like? **JM:** My ideal day would consist of

-Waking up at around 11 or noon

-Head to the lake

- Take a couple sets with some friends - Grab something to eat

- Win the lottery or something awesome like that

- Spend the rest of the day on the boat

- Go to bed

- Repeat

MW: What is your favorite wakeboard flick? **JM:** Probably Defy. I've probably seen it close to 20 times. Just the way the video is put together and all of the riders in it. I think Kilgus did an awesome job.

MN WAKEBOARD | NOVEMBER 2013



McNulty enjoys the view of a sunset on Lake Villa after a day of riding. Photo by: Don Lemastus

MW: Do you have any riders that you look up to? **IM:** I look up to a couple riders; Bob Soven, Harley and Raph. Bob has crazy style and he's just a funny guy, Harley can land almost every trick and Raph because he's an amazing all around rider.

MW: Are there any spots that you would like to

IM:I think it'd be awesome to ride Blue Lake from Defy. I think that lake is quite possibly the coolest lake I've ever seen and it would be an honor to ride on it.

MW: I am guessing that you are looking to turn pro

JM: Going pro is definitely something I am shooting for. It's my ultimate goal and I am going to do everything in my power to make it happen.

MW: Do you do any training outside of your regular riding?

JM: During the winter (we don't have all-year riding here) I snowboard a bunch and I workout every now and then. That and school keep me pretty busy.

MW: Have you had any injuries?

JM: Aside from a couple concussions and a groin injury, I've been blessed by staying injury free (knock on wood).

MW: Do you think wakeboarding will ever be an

JM: I really would like to see wakeboarding as an

Olympic sport. If not the Olympics then back in the X-Games. I mean, if snowboarding and skateboarding are in, why not wakeboarding?

MW: If you were given the power to make a major 1change within the wakeboard industry, what would that change be?

JM: If I could make one change instantly to the sport of wakeboarding, it would be to have the sport have the popularity and participation of snowboarding. Honestly, wakeboarding is such an awesome sport and it deserves more recognition than it gets.

MW: Are you getting some sponsor support? JM: I'm very grateful to have some great support from Supra Boats, Liquid Force and Boat House Chicago. Overton's, of course, sponsors all the Jr. Pro riders and I'm grateful not only for the support but for all they do at the tour stops. This is a tough sport to participate in without sponsor support and they've really helped me get a start to my career.

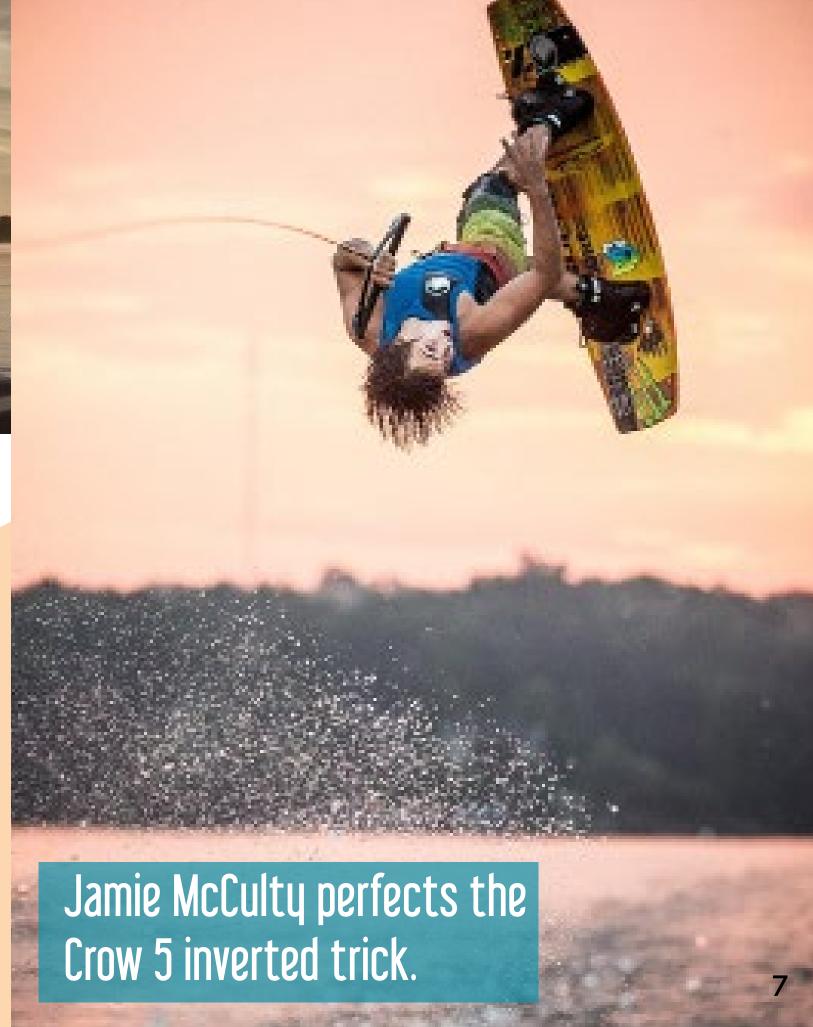
MW: What do you do to keep your sponsors

JM: Pretty much I do everything I can. I try to always promote them whether it's wearing their clothes, talking up their brands, etc. I'm also big into social media and I try to promote them there as much as possible. I put out some videos each year. I work boat shows, etc. Basically, I do everything I can to make them happy, because without them I wouldn't be able to participate in this sport.

MW: Is there any advice that you were given when you started that may help someone that is just starting out?

JM: I think the most important thing for someone starting out is to take the time to learn the basics. The mistake I made was to jump into tricks before learning all the building blocks. Sure I could do them, but when I wanted to progress the trick to the next level I didn't have the skills I needed to do it. In the end I had to go back and learn those building blocks anyway. It also helps reduce the hard falls and keep the sport fun.

MW: You know what they say -gratitude is the best attitude. Who would you like to thank? **JM:** Well there's been a lot of people this year that have helped me a ton. First, I'd like to thank God for the amazing opportunity to participate in this sport and the talent to be able to do it. Next, I'd like to thank my parents. Without them I wouldn't have a boat, wakeboard or anything of the sort. I'd also like to thank my sponsors; Liquid Force, Supra and Boat House Chicago. My coaches, Trevor Hansen and Tarah and Cobe Mikacich. There have been a lot of other people that have helped me out the last few years; Nick Cankar, Tom Pazerunas, Timmy Burnier, Ethan Rau, my brother Zach, Lisa Roller and Whitney Rupp (amazing photographers), Corbin Blanton, Spencer Liautaud and Ryan Murphy for sick videos and Tony Duffy of All Action Sports. I'm sure I'm forgetting some and I apologize to those I've missed.



COLLEGIATE WAKEBOARDING'S TOP

Bv. R I Pabon

ollegiate wakeboarding erupted back in the early 2000's in the southeast region with the University of Florida winning the very first title. Back in the early stages of collegiate wakeboarding they were just considered titles, not nationals because they were invitational events mostly taking place in Florida. After a few years of this, word of the collegiate wakeboard scene spread across the entire country like wild fire. Schools from Carolina to Washington to Wisconsin to Texas started getting in on the action of this amazing sport.

The first true nationals were held at Lake Havasu, Arizona in the spring of 2005 where Western Washington claimed the first national title led by Mike and Nick Ennen. The Collegiate scene has brought up many other big name riders through the years such as Josh Palma from Rollins College, Bryan Hutton from Southern Florida, Scott Hopkins from University of Florida and Jimmy Wolf from Arizona State, just to name a few. Every year collegiate wakeboarding is growing bigger and bigger with fewer teams folding because of bad management. There are now two different leagues, Empire Wake (Collegiate Wake Series) and USA Wakeboard (Alt Games), which are helping the sport grow to the next level.

This past year I have noticed how many amazing riders there are in collegiate wakeboarding, with few of them getting the recognition that they deserve. I decided to create a list of this year's top 10 collegiate wakeboarders to give credit to their great riding and help them receive acknowledgment from the wakeboard community. In creating this, I have talked to team presidents from all around the country to compile a list of shredders that are deserving. After a long time of contemplating, I have finally compiled the top 10 collegiate wakeboarders of the 2012-2013 school year.

#10 - Joel Wagner

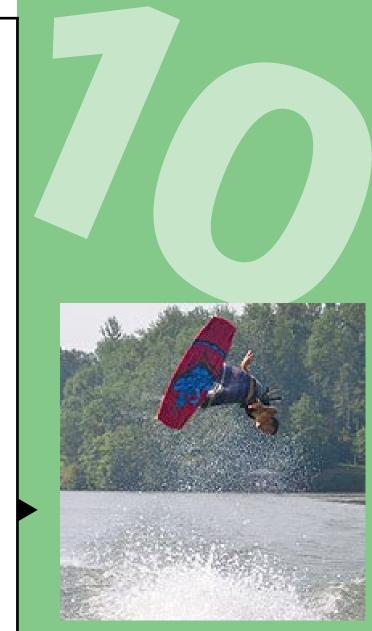
Joel is a senior this year at Virginia Tech University and has been shredding the wake for 12 years at Smith Mountain Lake in his hometown of Moneta, Virginia. He is sponsored by Liquid Force and Wake Zone Watersports and rides the Watson Hybrid with Watson Boots.

Joel has been a big name in the collegiate wake scene for the past few years and has always been a contender at Nationals. With his whirly, switch whirly, Moby Dick and switch tantrum to revert, to name a few, he is a tough contender in any competition. Any trick that Joel can do regular he likes to try to take it switch, which is a tough challenge for most people, but he has been pretty successful at it so far. This year Joel is trying to get back 5's and toe 7's down to add some tech spins to his bag of tricks. Joel was not able to attend any of the collegiate competitions this year, but you can plan on seeing him as a tough contender this year at the Alt Games Nationals in Shreveport, Louisiana.

#9 - Justin Payton

Justin Payton is a junior at Chico State University. He is out of Discovery Bay, California and has been a big name in Nor Cal wakeboarding for the past few years. Living in Discovery Bay means he gets to shred the California Delta, which is without a doubt one of the best wakeboarding spots in the nation. Justin is sponsored by CWB and Jetpilot, and rides the CWB Marius with Faction bindings.

Justin has great style and a lot of great tech in his riding. He can do many different mobe variations from dum-dum's to KGB's and can land them all consistently. Justin is an amazing competitive rider. He can stick the big tricks when it counts. He killed it at the USA Wakeboard Western Regionals this last fall, landing five different mobes in his finals run! Justin also led Chico State to a National title last spring at the Collegiate Wake Series Nationals at Lake Las Vegas, having stand up runs through the whole competition. Plan on seeing Justin again in Vegas as he attempts to help Chico win back-to-back titles.





#8 - John Zdeblick

John is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in Electrical Engineering with a 3.8 grade point average. He is from Middleton, Wisconsin and has been wakeboarding for nine years. John's sponsors include Ronix, Redline Watersports and Backside 5 clothing. His boat of preference is any MasterCraft X Series and he rides the Ronix One set up.

John has a huge bag of tricks and is arguably one of the best collegiate competition riders around. No matter how solid a competitor's run goes, he usually finds a way to top it. John loves throwing his nose grab back roll, Pete Rose and nose grab heelside backside 180. He also has a heelside and toeside 7 and a batwing to blind. When the ice thaws in Wisconsin, John wants to start working on Pete 5's, whirly 5's and heel back 7's.

#7- Kevin Wipplinger

Kevin is a senior at Florida Gulf Coast University and has been wakeboarding for 14 years. He loves riding at Mill Pond, Markham and Revolution Cable Park in his home town of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Kevin is sponsored by Liquid Force and shreds the Super Trip, which he is super stoked on. His favorite wakeboarding memory is learning his first invert behind a 15-foot Boston Whaler.

Kevin has definitely come a long way since then with boat choice and tricks. He goes big on all of his tricks like his grabbed Pete Rose, stalefish to late blind and his heel 7 off the double-up. He also has great concentration on all of his grabs, being able to make them look exactly how he wants and poke them out in different variations of style. He is a very fun boarder to watch ride.

Unfortunately, Kevin tore his ACL and had surgery last February, so he was out of commission for a while. Nevertheless, he was back in time to ride in the USA Wakeboard Southeast Regional event this past December. Kevin also won the USA Wakeboard Nationals back in 2010 and hopes to claim the title again this year in Shreveport.

#6 - Thomas Olson

Central Washington University Thomas Olson Thomas is a senior at Central Washington University and has been one of the leaders of the wakeboard team for four years now. He is from Gig Harbor, Washington and has been wakeboarding for 11 years. Tom's favorite place to ride is Lake Steilacoom, Washington behind the Nautique G23. He is sponsored by CWB, Proline, Imperial Motion Clothing and he shreds the CWB DB9 with the JT bindings.

Tom goes HUGE on all of his tricks and has super clean riding style. He has beautiful toe 9's, an ideal method crow mobe and his hoochie glides off the double-up are out of this world big. For being 6'2", he sure does make all of his tricks look easy.

#5 - Chase Schuster

Texas State University Chase Schuster Chase is a senior at Texas State University majoring in Business management with a 3.89 grade point average. Chase is from Priddy, Texas and has been wakeboarding for eight years. He loves riding on his fiancé's Super Air Nautique 230 on Caddo Lake, a hidden paradise, rocking the Watson Classic and Watson Boots.

Chase competed in two collegiate competitions this year. At Red Bull Boarder Wars he was in second going into finals, but he pulled his pectoral muscle, so he was not able to ride to his full potential in the finals. Chase also competed in the Empire Wake Dallas stop where he took first in the worst conditions ever. He was able to stick his KGB with ease in 25 mph winds and terrible white-capping water. Chase is definitely a hidden talent that most people do not know about. He has big tricks, such as a skeezer 540, heel 7, switch roll to blind, big tail cab glide and many more. He is even starting to work on the very challenging whirly dick, which very few people can do. Chase currently has no sponsors, which is insane, so companies get at this kid because he is getting real good real fast!









#4 - Nick Vaccari

Louisiana State UniversityNick VaccariNick is a sophomore at Louisiana State University from Covington, Louisiana and has been wakeboarding for nine years. His favorite place to ride is the Tchefuncta River behind the X-Star with the Harley set up. His sponsors include Liquid Force and Rukus Board Sports.

Nick rode in Wake Games this past year and took fourth place in Jr. Men. He also competed in four collegiate competitions this year including a second place finish at an LSU spring comp and three first place finishes at Red Bull Boarder Wars and two Louisiana Tour stops. Nick has some beautiful style with all of his tricks, grabbing everything! He has sick late grab heel back 5's and heel off-axis melon 180's. He is also currently working on a crow 5, whirly 5 and a switch back

#3 - Ben Allbright

Southeastern Louisiana University Ben Allbright (pic
· Joseph Large) Ben is a junior at Southeastern Louisiana University and has been shredding the bayou for 10 years. He also loves riding on the Tchefunte River behind the Malibu MXZ in his hometown of Mandeville, Louisiana. At the age of 11 he landed his first back roll and has been sold on the sport ever since. His sponsors include Hyperlite and Rukus Board Sports and he has been switching off riding the Byerly AR1 and the Hyperlite Franchise with System bindings and AJ boots. Some of you may have heard his name before at a few Pro Tour stops.

Ben has awesome style with his methods and grabbed toe back 3's. He can take just about any trick to blind and land it like a normal wake-to-wake jump, like his whirly 5's. Ben is currently working on getting his toe and heel 9's more consistent and has just started breaking into the rewind tricks. He competed in two collegiate wake contests this year, one at LSU and the USA Wakeboard Southern Regionals, taking first place in both of them. As you can see, Ben Allbright and Nick Vaccari have a lot in common and are really fun to watch compete against each other!

#2 - Nick Kamper

University of Central FloridaNick KamperNick is a senior at the University of Central Florida. He is from Fort Lauderdale, Florida and has been shredding the wake for eight years now. Nick rides for Hyperlite and Attain Clothing. This kid has style for days with some of the sickest glides around. His toeside 9's are super clean and he has a beautiful roll to late blind.

Nick also kills it on the cable, working at Orlando Water Complex and riding there all the time. He is definitely the best collegiate cable rider out there right now with his mobe 5 and S-mobe. Nick took first place in the Empire Wake cable competition at OWC this past December and also took first in a collegiate boat competition at Ski World. You can plan on seeing Nick at both Nationals this year helping Central Florida try to get more national titles under their belt.

#1 - Freddie Waune

University of FloridaFreddie Wayne (pic-Chris Garrison)Freddie is just a freshman at the University of Florida and, arguably, the best rider to hit the collegiate wake scene so far. He is originally from Orlando, Florida and loves tearing up Lake Whippoorwill, Many of you may already know this skilled rider from the Junior Pro King of Wake Tour where he placed at multiple stops. He also killed it at Wake Games the past few years!

Freddie rocks the 137 Murray with System bindings and Webb boots and is sponsored by Hyperlite, Malibu Boats, Performance Ski and Surf, Body Glove, Shred Ready and Liquid Sports Marine. He attended three collegiate competitions this year and absolutely destroyed it. He took first overall in Empire Wake's Atlanta and Orlando stops and also took first at USA Wakeboard's Southeast Regionals. With Freddie's big nose grab heel 9, toeside roll to blind, backside 7 and all of his great style and tech, he is hard for any rider to take down. He is currently working on an indy double tantrum, which is one of the most difficult tricks in the sport. You can definitely plan on seeing Freddie at the Empire Wake nationals in Vegas and at the Alt Games. This kid is definitely going places in the sport!









'm glad there's a day set out each year to remind us to reflect on that for which we are thankful. Hopefully, it's not the only time you grab the opportunity to appreciate what you have because it's easy to take things for granted no matter what your circumstances.

I've got so much to be thankful for that it would take a book to cover it all. Since Thanksgiving comes in a little less than 12 hours and I really need to get this article done. I'm going to bypass the book thing and just focus on the top wake-related things for which I'm thankful. I'm just three days out from one of the best wakeboarding weekends I've had in a long time and it went a long way towards highlighting everything listed below.

SUN

This one is glaringly (pun intended) obvious, so it has to lead the list. Not only does the sun sustain all life as we know it (which is nice), but it keeps us warm when we're wearing hardly anything out on the boat all day. It's also responsible for those golden tans that make those scantily clad bodies look so good.

Most importantly, the sun shines down on the water which is the basis of our very sport and it beats back the sting of the cold. We're thankful that we have wetsuits and drusuits to deal with cold water when we have to, but how much better is wakeboarding when you can rock it with just your boardshorts or bikini?

BUTTER

Let's face, it's not required for a fun day on the water? That's the beauty of our sport; even if the wakeboarding conditions suck, it's still possible to have a great day out on the water. That being said, when you add a glassy water surface to the formula, it's almost like magic. If you haven't experienced a Zen moment staring at the reflection of the landscape in your favorite watering hole, then you must be new to the sport (i.e. you'll have your moment soon) or you're just not paying attention.







Sometimes I look at the boats that are coming out these daus and wonder how things got so crazy then I go out on the lake and take advantage of all the creature comforts in my boat and wonder how I could ever survive without them. Speed control, automatic ballast, ridiculous stereos, plenty of luxurious seating, trash cans (yes, I'm throwing the awesomeness of a trash can into this list), touch screen controls and so much more. I'm sure I'm not the only one who has spent hours just sitting in one place floating with friends on their boat.

BIG WAKES

This one might belong under the Boats category above, but it's a topic of its own for a couple of reasons. First, it's not actually in the boat it's about 75 feet behind it (or directly behind it for you wakesurfers). Second, it's certainly the most important feature of the boat if you're looking to include some wakesports in your day. The Who once released an album called Meaty Beaty Big and Bouncy and that, in my humble opinion, is the bestdescription I've ever heard for the perfect wake. Most of you can picture your wake approach in your head right now the curve, the lip (be it peaked or rounded), the size. When it's just right, you hardly have to do anything beyond pointing your board at it.

KIDS

Whether they belong to you or they are someone else's responsibility, watching kids grow up within the wakeboarding lifestyle is not only amazing, but it is the best reminder of why we got into the sport in the first place and why we should be thankful. Kids don't care about the wake being unbalanced, they won't notice if the speed control isn't working, they don't ask if we can top off the gas tanks in order to get maximum ballast and they don't punch the water and scream if they can't land a trick. If it's windu, they're just as happy getting on a tube and taking advantage of the chop while the adults all grumble about a little

If you ever find yourself frustrated, angry or down while you're out for a day on the water, find a kid and ask yourself why they're having so much fun. That should slap you out of your funk and get you back into thankful mode.



RAILS

I'm from California, so I don't get the opportunity to hit rails that much. Outside of my occasional visits to cable parks in Florida, I can count on my hands how many rails I've hit. However, the little taste I've gotten has convinced me that I want a whole mouthful. In fact. I yow that 2013 will be the uear that I build and hit a rail of mu own making!

I have a great admiration for those that build rails and continue to do so in innovative and creative ways. I'm especially fond of rails formed at little or no cost utilizing parts pulled from or "borrowed" from the local environment. Nothing is better than watching somebody slay a contraption that they threw together with chewing gum, duct tape and whatever else they could get their hands on.

FRIENDS

Our sport is unique in that it's not something you do for 60 or 90 minutes and then head home. Unless you drove to the cable park alone, it's not something you can do by yourself either. It's truly a lifestyle and is as much about the stuff you do in between sets as it is about the actual time you spend with a handle in your hand. For you to enjoy the sport over a long period of time, uou almost have to have a crew of friends with whom uou can

Think about all the stuff you do with friends on wake trips when you're not hitting a wake. BBQ, campfires, music, horseshoes, swimming, potato guns, fireworks, floating, napping, rope swings, slip n' slides, building rails, tweaking your gear or jumping a tiny boat across someone else's wake! The entire sport is built around hanging out with your friends. Like I always say, even if you take the wakeboarding out of wakeboarding, you're still left with a pretty decent day hanging with friends.

THERE YOU GO. NOW JUST PRIOR TO SHOVELING RIDICLOUS AMOUNTS OF TURKEY, MASHED POTATOES AND PUMPKIN PIE DOWN YOUR GULLET ON THIS DAY, YOU CAN BOW YOUR HEAD AND BE THANKFUL FOR EVERYTHING I'VE LISTED ABOVE. YOU'RE **WELCOME!**