

Special Issue: Boat Buyer's Guide 2015 SEE INSIDE 

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# NEW BOATS!

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JANUARY 2015 boatingworld.com



**Get a consistent 1080. Do more wrapped tricks so I can hold grabs longer.**  
- Josh Twelker

## I Resolve To...

AS THE CALENDAR TURNS, WE HAVE SOME WATERSPORTS RESOLUTIONS YOU CAN USE.

**H**appy New Year, everyone. Whether you're ready for it or not, another year is upon us. The calendar waits for no human. For many of you — maybe most — the watersports season is several months away, but that doesn't mean we can't think about it and begin planning for it. With that in mind, we asked several watersports professionals for their New Year's Resolutions, either for themselves or for the weekend warrior.

We'll take the first one: Wear a life jacket. The pros wear PFDs, and they're very likely better swimmers than you are. Take a look at the rest of our list and see which items you can add to yours.

## WSIA (WATER SPORTS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION)

Happy New Year from WSIA headquarters in sunny Orlando, Fla. We want to make it clear that knowing the fundamental "rules of the road" will ensure many safe and fun days on the water. In addition:

- Know the local rules that govern your lake or preferred waterway. It is your responsibility. Should you be stopped, ignorance of the law is no excuse.
- Take a look at WSIA's Responsibility Code ([wsia.net/responsibility-code](http://wsia.net/responsibility-code)). It's a great quick reference for you to become a safer watersports enthusiast.
- Respect your wake. You are responsible for it.
- Teach someone to wakeboard, wakesurf or waterski. You will find it rewarding, and you will have contributed to the growing world of towed watersports.

## ZENON BILAS, SEVEN-TIME U.S. BARE-FOOT CHAMPION AND CURRENT COACH

Learn a skill the right way the first time. Based on my 40 years of experience as a waterskier, I believe in the importance of having a plan and learning a skill the right way the first time. Skiers who attempt to learn by trial and error risk acquiring bad habits that become difficult to break. Working with a coach or going to a training center is ideal, but there are other options, such as Internet videos or coaching tips in magazines or online. This way, whether you are learning to get up on skis, run the slalom course or barefoot, you'll have correct technique, body position and success from the start.

## TOM KOHL, TEAM KNEEBOARD RIDER AND SHOW SKIER FOR O'BRIEN

Spend as many days on the water as possible. Up in the frozen north, our lakes are solid ice, or almost ice, longer than they are skiable, so we need to take our water time seriously! My goal every summer is to spend as many days on the water as possible (five or

six days a week). Watching my 4-year-old son and 2-year-old daughter fall in love with the water has become the most fulfilling part of my life, and that is all I want to do this year!

### For weekend warriors, resolve to:

- Get out on weekdays when the lakes are not as crowded.
- Progress your riding. Step out of your comfort zone to try a new trick and stick with it until you stick it.
- Get your family off the tube and onto skis or a board.
- Spend less time with a can in your hand and more time with a handle in your hand.
- Practice launching your boat a few times in the spring, so you are confident in front of a crowd at a busy launch.

## CONNELLY TEAM RIDERS

**Josh Twelker:** Get a consistent 1080. Do more wrapped tricks so I can hold grabs longer.

**Daniel Powers:** Ride with a more unique style and bring that into contests.

**Mike Dowdy:** Stay healthy and keep pushing the innovation of the sport.

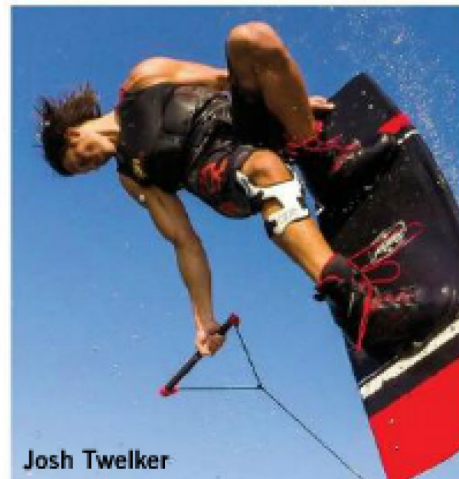
As you can tell, even the riders performing at the highest levels are always looking to improve, so that leads to the easiest — and probably most difficult — resolution of all: Get better. Whether you want to follow that up with learning a specific trick or simply riding more often and practicing a lot is up to you.

## RAIMI MERRITT, TWO-TIME WORLD AND 10-TIME WORLD CUP STOP CHAMPION

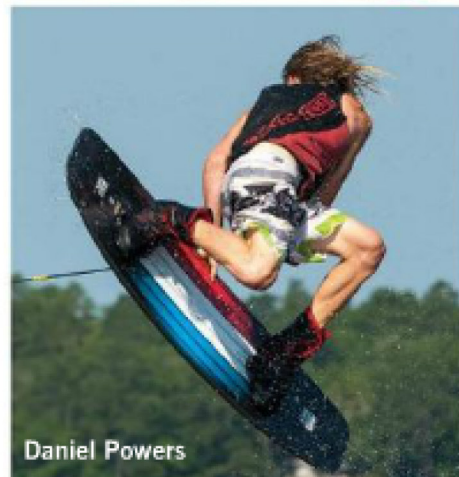
My advice to any rider no matter the level is to focus on getting the equipment that best fits your size and riding style and then focus on standing balanced over the bindings. The combination of the right equipment with a balanced stance over the bindings will create great success for your riding in 2015. **BW**



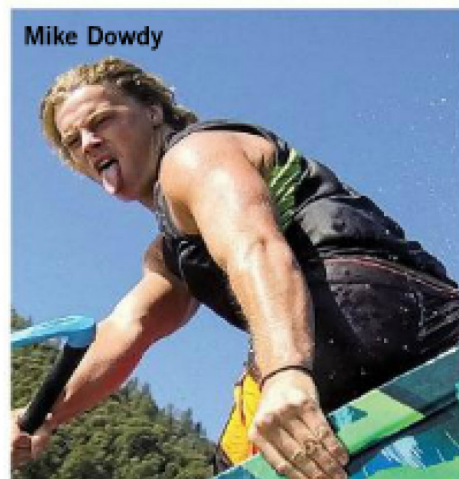
Raimi Merritt



Josh Twelker



Daniel Powers



Mike Dowdy