



WHERE TO WATER-SKI

Water-ski schools offer the boat-less amateur the easiest way to get on the water. The definition of "school" is fairly loose. Most schools have USA Water Ski-sanctioned instructors, and many offer boats and drivers at hourly rates.

"You don't have to take lessons at a ski school," says water-ski legend Mark Jackson. "If you call or walk in the door wanting to ski, most schools are going to be pretty flexible, depending on your level of experience."

USA Water Ski, the governing body of water-skiing in America, has a website with links to schools around the country. The list below, which includes a few recommendations in Polk County, Florida, and beyond, should get you started.

- www.usawaterski.org (USA Water Ski)
- www.usawaterski.org/pages/schools/2001Menu.htm (listing of water-ski schools throughout the country)

Selected ski schools and day-trip operators:

FLORIDA

- **Bonifay Ski School** (510 S. Ramona Avenue, Lake Alfred; 863-956-0360; www.Bonifay.net)
- **Ron Scarpa Watersports and Barefoot Training Center** (740 Avenue A SW, Winter Haven; 800-292-3668 or 863-299-7094; www.ronscarpa.com)
- **Ski-Away Wakeboard & Water Ski School** (2450 Highway 92, Winter Haven; 941-326-1754; <http://home1.gte.net/skiaway/wx.html>)
- **Lake Hamilton Watersports Ski School** (110 U.S. 27 South, Lake Hamilton; 863-439-6628; www.h20skischool.com)

WISCONSIN

- **Gordy Bubolz Water Ski School and Wake Board Camps** (807 Prospect Avenue, Appleton; 920-734-0254; www.usawaterski.org/pages/schools/2001/G8Bubolz.htm)

CALIFORNIA

- **Jones Valley Resort** (on Lake Shasta, near Redding; 530-275-7950)
- **Thompson Ski Ranch Water Ski/Sports Camp** (10658 Round Mountain Road, Bakersfield; 661-393-5253; www.iexposure.com/thompson)

NEVADA

- **Adventure Las Vegas** (trips on Lake Mead; 888-846-4747; www.adventurelasvegas.com/tours/sea_tours/wakeboard)