



Andrew French of Lake Lottawatta won the overall title for the 2012 Buckeye Buoy Tour.

# GRASSROOTS – CHASING BUOYS

**It was another successful season in Ohio for the Buckeye Buoy Tour, which celebrated its fourth season in 2012**

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**I**t was another successful season in Ohio for the 2012 Buckeye Buoy Tour (“BBT”). Completing its fourth season, the BBT saw more than 125 skiers competing for titles in slalom, tricks, jumping and overall. The season consisted of six tour stops at six separate lakes with six separate fun formats.

Connor Nelson of Lake Lottawatta took the 2012 slalom title and with it a brand new D3 X7 donated by D3 Skis and autographed by Nate Smith. Andrew French of Lake Lottawatta brought home the title for the season in both tricks and jumping, which ultimately gave him enough points to take overall as well. In the end, the

podium finishers from each event ranged from ages 6 to 60. Thanks are extended to our many sponsors that provided prizes at every event for the top finishers.

**Stop No. 1:  
Run The Gamut**

Run The Gamut, held at Lake Bee’s

& Ski’s in northwest Ohio, was a new team format for the 2012 season. Skiers were split into teams based on seeding and given colored bandanas to distinguish themselves as a team throughout the day. In rounds 1 and 2, teams competed for points that would ultimately determine their seeding for the finals. In the finals, each team was required to ski eight passes as a team in the order of 28 mph, 30 mph, 32 mph, 34 mph, 36 mph, 22 off, 28 off, and 32 off. The team that ran all eight passes in the shortest amount of time was crowned the champion. The team

of Connor Nelson, Kayla McClure, Keri McClure, Kristen Dammeyer and Curtis Kolb were the winners.

### **Stop No. 2: Dottie T Spin It to Win It**

In memory of the late Dottie Troeger, Spin It to Win It was held at Skier's Runway in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was modeled after the old spin it to win it competition that *WATERSKI* magazine held a few years ago. Starting with a head-to-head format, skiers worked their way through the brackets to make the final 15 and a chance at the spin it to win it finals. In the finals, skiers had to go off the dock one pass below their average (an average of 2 at 35 off means you had to spin it to win it at 32 off). Skiers had to spin on each end until they missed a pass. Laura Boehm of the University of Cincinnati was the champion, running 2 full passes and a ½-buoy on pass No. 3. Emily Van Treese of Miami University took first place in tricks and Erica Bensman of Ohio State University took first place in jumping.

### **Stop No. 3: Lottawatta Top Cat Challenge**

The Lottawatta Top Cat Challenge was held as part of the Buckeye Buoy Tour for the fourth consecutive year at Lake Lottawatta in Hamilton, Ohio. The original fun format tournament is always a pleaser with three rounds of qualifying and a 15-person finals. This year, Gil Ruehl of Skier's Runway held on to the top spot in the finals to win his first BBT event. Peyton Crowthers won tricks and Andrew French of Lake Lottawatta won jumping.

### **Stop No. 4: State Dualtastic Encounter**

For the first time in BBT history a tour stop was held at dual sites on the same day. Spaced about 25 miles apart, Pleasant Shores in Van Wert, Ohio, and Shortline Shores in St Marys, Ohio, each sponsored the event. The single-event slalom skiers all went to Shortline Shores and the 3-event skiers went to Pleasant Shores. The 3-eventers competed in slalom, tricks and jumping with the top-four slalom skiers advancing to the finals. The slalom skiers at Shortline Shores

competed against each other and they too sent four slalom skiers to the finals. The eight-person head-to-head finals was held at Pleasant Shores that evening just prior to the OWSA Summer Meeting, which was followed up the next day with the Ohio State Championships. Kinsey Barhorst of Sunsite Lakes came out on top in slalom with her first career BBT win. Keri McClure of Pleasant Shores won tricks and Madison Schneider of Columbus Aqua Ski Club won jumping.

### **Stop No. 5: Skier's Tug-of-War**

Skier's Cove in Columbiana, Ohio, held its first tour stop with a double-elimination head-to-head tournament format called "Tug-of-War." It was a grueling multi-round day for the winners, who skied as many as six rounds and were forced to leave the dock just one pass below their average in the later rounds. Connor Nelson sealed his season title at this event, taking first place and skiing into shortline for the first time in his tournament career!

### **Stop No. 6: Shortline Pick Your Poison**

Quickly becoming a BBT favorite, Shortline Shores in St Marys, Ohio, hosted the Pick Your Poison for the third time. Pick Your Poison is a head-to-head format run with two boats. The winner of round one chooses who they want to ski against in round two from the pool of losers that came out of round one. Once you win two head-to-head match-ups, you advance to the finals. If you lose twice you're out! 2011 BBT Tricks Champion AJ Koett of the University of Cincinnati brought home the gold for the final stop of the season. UC alum Kacy Clifton took first place in tricks and Greg Kuenning of Extreme Watersports Center took first in jumping.

The Ohio Water Ski Association would like to thank the tournament directors, officials, and BBT organizers for another great season in 2012. On top of that we would like to give a huge thank you to our Buckeye Buoy Tour sponsors, which included BallofSpray.com, Beacon Orthopedics, Broodle Brands, Cincinnati MasterCraft, D3 Skis, Fin Firkin, H2OProShop.com, HO Syndicate Skis, Honu Sandals, KD Farms, Kerns Auto Group, No Wake Marine, and Seth Stisher's Waterski Training.

If you would like more information on the Buckeye Buoy Tour or how you can get a Buoy Tour started in your state, email [info@skiowsa.com](mailto:info@skiowsa.com).



**Buckeye Buoy Tour slalom champions Kristen Dammeyer, Connor Nelson and Mary Nelson.**



**Spin It to Win It finalists pose for a group photo.**