

# News

A NEWSLETTER FOR **ESI EMPLOYEES** WORLDWIDE

## ESI PORTLAND EMPLOYEE GETS A LIFT FROM WATER-SKIING

Watching ESI Portland employee **Jim Boland** perform on water-skis, you'd never guess he didn't learn to swim until he was in college. Now Jim shows off his skills with the Portland Water Spectacular, a water-ski show team that performs and competes all over the west.

It all began when Jim and his daughter, who was in high school at the time, saw a ski club display at a boat show. His daughter thought it looked like fun, so Jim began taking her to practice sessions. Soon Jim was pressed into service, and before long found he was really enjoying himself. His daughter soon discovered it wasn't her type of skiing, but Jim became more and more involved.

Jim's specialty is the adagio, or pairs, performance. Many of these moves are similar to what you would see in ice skating—with a few obvious differences. As you can imagine, lots of practice—and trust—is involved between Jim and his partner, Cammy. During the off-season, the group practices out of the water in gyms or in indoor pools. Jim also lends a hand as part of the "base" when his club builds pyramids. In fact, the Portland Water Spectacular is the only group west of the Mississippi that performs a four-tier pyramid—something you won't see even at Sea World or Marine World.

The Portland Water Spectacular has performed in Seattle, Woodland, Ashland, Astoria, Salem, and Coeur d'Alene, among other locales. The group even qualified last year to attend the national competition, which was held in Wisconsin. How did they do? Well, replies Jim with a smile, they had fun—and that's what really matters, right? You can see more pictures of Jim and the Portland Water Spectacular at <http://members.aol.com/pwsshowski>.

