

# GRESHAM OUTLOOK

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Waterskiing experts

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## Gresham skiers star on stunt squad

*Ken Quinby showcases jump skills, and Jim Boland builds pyramids*

BY DAVID BALL  
staff writer

He thought he could do most anything on the water. Shortly after buying his first motorboat, Gresham's Jim Boland quickly took to water skiing and before long he was whipping back and forth through buoys on a slalom course. Confident in his skills, he joined the Portland Water Spectacular stunt squad. That's when things got tough.

"I thought I was a pretty good skier, then they sat me on a dock and strapped a girl on my back," Boland said. "They didn't really tell you how to do it — it was a lot of trial and error. We crashed a lot at first, but once it started clicking it was easy."

Boland is part of the team's pyramid squad, working often with a single partner, who he twirls around over his head while being pulled across the water. Other stunts include forming two- and three-tier pyramids in various formations.

"It's very similar to pairs figure skating," Boland said. "We do the same thing, just on water."

Boland drives an airport shuttle and works weekends as a television engineer for KATU.

He is joined on the 15-20 person team by Ken Quinby of Fairview, who showcases his skills mostly in jumps and an exercise called "round the boat." Quinby learned to ski in his early 30s on boat trips with his ex-wife's family.

"I ran out of friends that liked to ski as much as I do, so I went to a water ski school and learned how to jump," Quinby said. "I'd see photos of people doing jumps in magazines and it looked like it would be fun."

He still remembers flying through the air his first time off a ramp in the Willamette River.

"It's quite a rush being up in the air with just a handle in your hand," Quinby said. "I landed that first one and sped away, but it must have been a miracle because I crashed the next 20 times."

While flying through the air at 40 miles per hour is dangerous enough, his "round the boat" trick appears even riskier. Many times, this involves about five people behind the boat with the driver spinning the boat to whip the skiers into a circle going different directions.



STAFF PHOTO BY CAROLE ARCHER  
Jim Boland of Gresham, left, and Ken Quinby of Fairview are members of the Portland Water Spectacular ski stunt team, which puts on shows in the Northwest throughout the summer.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY KEN QUINBY  
Fairview's Ken Quinby sails through the air during the jump portion of a ski show last summer.

"Everyone has a different length of rope, so your ducking and weaving your way through them," Quinby said. "It can get kind of scary."

Quinby is a property manager and a city councilor in Fairview.

The water ski club performs at various festivals and private events throughout the summer and practices almost year-around. The team's final performance is this weekend (see box) at the West Linn Old Fashioned Fair.

For more information about the club visit online at [www.portlandwaterspectacular.com](http://www.portlandwaterspectacular.com).

Sports Editor David Ball can be reached at 503-492-5125 or by e-mail at [dball@theoutlookonline.com](mailto:dball@theoutlookonline.com).