

## **Gary Mahler**

Gary graduated from New England College in 1977 and went to work for MasterCraft Boat Company where he worked for three years as National Promotional Team Coordinator, National Sales Manager of Master Craft Skis and in Research and Development. He was involved in the innovation of the "Power Slot" and wrote an article about this hull change and its benefits for the 1980 Volume 4, Issue 4 of Spray Magazine that featured a cover of Joel McClintock.

He left Tennessee after three years and founded Master Mark Hot Air Systems which were the original boat heaters used in competition ski boats. He also was involved in the Satellite TV Business at that time. He later sold the heater business to George Taylor.

At one time, Gary was a member of the Greater Miami Ski Club, Ski Club of the Palm Beaches and the Gold Coast Ski Club. He became a Senior Judge and a Senior Driver, Designated Driver Examiner and he remains an Emeritus Driver. Gary was a Chief Driver of two Southern Regionals, drove the Junior Worlds in Greece, the Americas challenge in Edmonton and also Winnipeg and the Pam American's in Santiago, Chile.

He served many years as councilman for the state of Florida, and is an Honorary National Director after serving for six years as a Director of the Southern Region. He also served four years as an alternate for AWSA to the USOC and was Vice President of AWSA for two years.

Gary was President of the Ski Club of the Palm Beaches in 1989, which was the year the World Championships were held in West Palm

Gary started Infinity Ski Boats in 1989 with Rob Shirley, Kris LaPoint and Mike Shirley and built the first boat to ever qualify for the National Championships in its first year of production. The company closed in 2002.

Gary's water ski accomplishments include running 2 at 38 feet off in the Bakersfield Nationals and Gary was a part of the team that has the record for skiing the most courses in one day behind the same boat! (17 or 18 courses?) Over the years Gary skied in numerous National tournaments.

Gary retired from water skiing in 2005 but supports AWSEF and goes to Hall of Fame functions whenever old friends or acquaintances are honored. He has donated several items to the HOF, including a mirror etched with a MasterCraft that includes pictures of the team skiers.