

John Worden

December 15, 1959 ~ July 27, 2014

John Worden's love of waterskiing started as a college student at Florida State University in 1980. He was fortunate enough to befriend John McElyea (eventual slalom world record holder) and Greg Galloway while attending school. They encouraged him to come skiing with them at Lake Jackson and learn how to ski the slalom course.

After returning home from Tallahassee, he had the opportunity to ski on a lake in Deltona where he met the May family. Walter May, the MasterCraft Southern Region promo coordinator liked him enough to approve and loan him the money to buy his first promo boat. Shortly thereafter, he met and married Brenda May who was competing at the national and world level. John and Brenda traveled throughout the state with their promo boat where John picked up the skills of driving after learning there was a shortage of drivers around central Florida to meet the tournament demand.

John and Brenda had their son, Zack in 1991 and their daughter Sydney in 1995 and quickly taught them how to ski when they were each 2 years old. The entire family would travel to tournaments every weekend during the summer.

Soon John realized that there was a lack of qualified technical controllers and started offering to help setup sites with Gene Davis and Jerry Jackson, learning the ropes along the way. John loved this work and the technical aspect of the job was right in John's wheelhouse as a math geek and audio / video guru.

The more John learned about TC'ing, the more word got out of his extensive knowledge, calm demeanor, "can-do" attitude, and being an advocate for the skiers when setting up sites. He was quickly brought in to lead course and jump setup for numerous pro events where his tenacity to do things right shined through. There was never a site or event where he told someone he might not be able to make it happen. His catch phrase in all situations was "We Got This!" even when the tournament organizers were having their own doubts. John Worden always made it happen, on time and he did it perfectly. In John's tenure as a TC, he never had a submitted world or national record rejected which included the Open Men and Open Women's World Jump Records.

John's legacy continues with the John Worden Educational Foundation. This foundation was spearheaded by Brenda, Zack, and Sydney Worden, and supports the development and education of current and new technical controllers and surveyors for the sport of waterskiing.

John will be missed dearly by the worldwide waterski community.