



2017 Water Skier Bios

ROBBY ALLEN - Batavia, IL

Robby Allen can be seen both on the water as a skier and on the Tommy Bartlett stage as one of our Show announcers. This is his third summer performing here. Tagging along with this family, Robby began show skiing at age three, for the Lauderdale Aqua Skiers in Southeastern Wisconsin, and went on to ski and announce for other clubs as well. Robby attended college in the United Kingdom for training in music production and business. Along with his love for waterskiing, Robby's love for being a DJ and emcee is the driving force behind his dream of becoming the next Ryan Seacrest.

CODY COFFEY – Medinah, IL

Cody Coffey has travelled all the way to China to compete in the sport, but his favorite waterskiing moment is performing the five-man, one-ski front flip here at the Tommy Bartlett Show. Cody was an early starter in the sport, learning to ski at age three on Silver Lake in Southeastern Wisconsin. This is his third season with the Tommy Bartlett Show, where he is an all-around performer – doing jumps, barefoot, doubles, wakeboarding, race boat driving and an awesome long distance front flip! Off the water, Cody also competes in drag racing.

KAILA COFFEY – Medinah, IL

This is Kaila Coffey's first year as a Tommy Bartlett water-skier, where she joins her older brother, Cody. Kaila cut her teeth in the sport with the Aquanuts ski club in Southeastern Wisconsin, where she performed since the age of ten. In 2015, Kaila won the Flaunt It California swivel ski competition and earlier this summer she took home 3rd place in the 2017 Flaunt It Wisconsin contest. She also had the traveled to China in 2016 to learn about a new culture and share her love of show skiing. Kaila is a student at Florida Atlantic University.

MADISON HAGEMANN – Janesville, WI

Madison Hagemann joins the Tommy Bartlett Show this season as an accomplished swivel ski performer and the reigning 2016 Wisconsin State Swivel Ski Champion. She just recently earned 1st place in the 2017 Flaunt It Wisconsin swivel competition. In 2016, she also won the Flaunt It Swivel Tour competitions in Wisconsin and Ohio. Madison learned to ski at the age of seven and perfected her skills with the Rock Aqua Jays Water Ski Show Team in her hometown of Janesville, WI. She had the chance to travel with the club to China in 2012 for a record pyramid attempt. Off the water, Madison is a hockey player for the Rock County Fury.



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GILLES HARDY – Ieper, Belgium

Gilles Hardy has traveled here the past four summers, from across the ocean, to show off his ski skills in the Tommy Bartlett Show. Gilles began skiing at the age of six in his home country of Belgium, where his parents were major skiers for the West Vlaams Show Team near the historical city of Bruges. Gilles has skied on club teams in Belgium, as well as Wisconsin and Minnesota. He holds multiple titles in Freestyle Jumping. Gilles is studying for his master's degree in Construction Engineering and is still in awe that a kid from Belgium made it all the way across the globe to ski professionally, in Wisconsin.

TYLER HYATT – Sioux Falls, SD

Along with his ski accolades, Tyler Hyatt is a Guinness World Record holder, for being a part of the “most water skiers to do a front flip off a waterski ramp (nine).” Tyler developed his skill beginning at age five at the Catfish Bay Waterski Club in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. His professional skiing experience has taken him overseas to Germany, Georgia and Australia. He has also skied in Canada and at Legoland in Winter Haven, FL. Now, in his fourth summer with the Tommy Bartlett Show, Tyler is an all-around great skier who hopes to work in the water sports industry and waterski into his senior years.

LIAM KLOTZBACH – Muskego, WI

This is Liam's first year as a member of the Tommy Bartlett Ski Team. He began waterskiing at the age of 14 when he joined the Muskego Waterbugs club team. Last summer, Liam was part of the Canadian National Water Ski Show Team, where he skied in exhibitions and at the 2016 World Water Ski Show Tournament. You will see Liam launching off the ski jumps and performing barefoot skiing in our Show. Liam studies Mechanical Engineering at University of Wisconsin-Platteville and is a snow ski instructor at Alpine Valley Resort in the winter.

JAMIE KUMLIEN – Janesville, WI

It was an all-for-one deal for Jamie when his sister became interested in waterskiing. His parents said, “let's all learn to ski,” and so he started learning the sport at the age of eight. Jamie skied for the Rock Aqua Jays club team where he became a skilled barefooter, winning 3rd place at the World Barefoot Tournament in 2009. He has also traveled to China, New Zealand and Lebanon to for ski exhibitions and has skied professionally at Legoland in Florida. During the off-season, he coaches wrestling and, in the future, plans to be an elementary school teacher.

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CATHY LUITING – Janesville, WI

With numerous awards and titles, and extensive travels for the sport of waterskiing, Cathy Luiting is one of the most accomplished water-ski team members of the Tommy Bartlett Show. She first dipped her toe into waterskiing at age six, then went on to polish her talent as a graceful ballet and swivel skier throughout her 32-year waterskiing career, the last seven of which have been with the Tommy Bartlett organization. Cathy is an accomplished doubles skier, paired with her husband Gerry, another esteemed skier and member our team. Together they've won seven USA National Doubles championships. Cathy has skied across the globe in competitions and shows, from the Middle East and Asia, to the Caribbean and back home in the Midwest. In 2016, Cathy and Gerry were inducted into the USA Water Ski Hall of Fame for their outstanding skill in doubles skiing and their dedication to bringing the sport of water skiing to audiences around the world.

GERRY LUITING – Janesville, WI

The highlight of Gerry's waterskiing career, he says, is meeting his wife and ski partner, Cathy, through the sport. The two met at the Tommy Bartlett Show site many years ago, when they were here for a competition; however, they did not reconnect as ski partners, and eventually husband and wife, until years later. Gerry is an accomplished water-skier, earning many titles, including seven times as USA National Doubles champions with Cathy and twice as a USA National Team Jump Champion. The Luitings were inducted into the USA Water Ski Hall of Fame in 2016 and have been on the USA World Team three times. Gerry has traveled across the country and around the globe for ski shows and competitions including Japan, China, Lebanon and Australia, but his heart belongs to Wisconsin, where gets to ski with his family and continues to volunteer his time to promote waterskiing as a lifelong sport.

MARC MEIKE (assistant water ski show director) – Elkhorn, WI

Marc was just six years old when he learned to ski and, by age 16, was skiing professionally and traveling overseas to ski in shows in Italy, Japan, Australia and Holland. He has been with the Tommy Bartlett Ski Team for 13 years, mastering all the ski tricks that are featured each summer on Lake Delton. Marc lists his greatest ski accomplishment as being part of Team USA in the 2014 World Water Ski competition. He is most proud of being able to share waterskiing with his daughter, Cassidy, who would hang out and ski with dad as a youngster, and is now a Tommy Bartlett Show skier herself. The two even performed the barefoot act together in the Show – a totally unique dad-and-daughter experience.

BAILEY NADEAU – Naples, FL

Bailey Nadeau holds the honor of being the first female wakeboarder to perform in the Tommy Bartlett Show. Like many on the team, life on the water is second nature to Bailey who grew up in Naples, Florida, where she learned to ski at age 10 and performed with the Southern Extreme Waterski Show Team. This is her second season with the Tommy Bartlett Show. She has skied previously at Legoland, in Winter Haven, FL, and has traveled to Lebanon for a ski exhibition. Off the water, Bailey is pursuing a career in nursing, having graduated last spring from the University of South Florida.



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MATT OAKLAND – Menomonie, WI

Matt Oakland joined the Tommy Bartlett ski team four years ago and is a great all-around skier. You can see him barefooting, taking on the jumps and performing on the water propelled FlyBoard. Matt began waterskiing at age seven in his hometown of Menomonie, WI, where he still performs with his college team at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Matt says someday he would like to travel to another country to ski in a show. For now, he enjoys his Tommy Bartlett family and has fond memories of the special complimentary show the organization puts on each August for thousands of people with disabilities, the elderly, their families and caretakers.

JOE SAWASKA – Oldsmar, FL

Joe Sawaska learned to ski at the age of 15 in his hometown of Tampa, Florida. He was awarded “Rookie of the Year” honors after skiing his first season at the Tommy Bartlett Show eight years ago and has mastered all of the ski tricks of the trade. Joe is also one of the voices of the Tommy Bartlett Show, emceeing for his second summer. Joe earned honors as the National Freestyle Jump Champion in 2012 and skied on Team USA in 2012, 2014 and 2016. Previously, he has skied in shows at Cypress Gardens, Universal Studios and Legoland. While he has even traveled overseas to perform, Joe’s most memorable ski experience was performing a seven-man front flip off the 14-ft wide Tommy Bartlett Show jumps!

BRANDON SCHLEICHER – Geneva, IL

This is Brandon’s first season skiing at the Tommy Bartlett Show, and like many of his teammates, he says he is *Living the Dream*. Brandon’s waterskiing career began at the early age of 2½, when his grandfather propped him up on skis near his hometown of Geneva, Illinois. It is a true family affair – many of his relatives ski, including his parents and grandparents. Brandon’s favorite ski maneuver is performing the Whirly Bird spin and flip on the wakeboard. During the off-season, he attends the University of Wisconsin-Platteville for Mechanical Engineering. He hopes to have a career related to water skiing by someday working for a boat or motor company.

ERIC SCHROEDER – Greenville, WI

This is Eric Schroeder’s eighth year as a Tommy Bartlett skier, and while he performs many of the ski tricks in the Show, freestyle jumping is his favorite. He cut his teeth in show skiing with the Webfooters Ski Club near his hometown of Greenville, WI. Waterskiing has given him the opportunity to travel to Germany and China for shows. When he’s not on the water, you might catch Eric playing frisbee golf or whipping up a batch of his favorite cookies.

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ALISHA STEWART – Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Alisha Stewart traveled all the way from Melbourne, Australia to ski in the Tommy Bartlett Show, a dream come true. As a first-year skier, Alisha brings to the Show grace and skill as an accomplished swivel skier. Earlier this summer, she earned 2nd place in the 2017 Flaunt It Wisconsin swivel ski competition. She was named the 2017 Australian Swivel Champion and was the 2016 Australian winner in Women's II in barefooting. Growing up and learning to ski alongside her siblings and cousins sparked her competitive spirit in the sport. She has also skied professionally at shows in Canada and has represented Australia several times at the Tri Challenge in China and at the World Ski Show Tournament.

GABRIELLE TASCHWER – McFarland, WI

Gabrielle Taschwer's love for skiing started at three years old, with her dad dangling her toes in the water, holding her while he skied. That was the beginning of a ski career that has taken her to China three times. This summer marks her sixth as a Tommy Bartlett Show water skier. Gabbie honed her skills with the Mad City Ski Team in Madison, near her hometown of McFarland, WI. Her latest favorite ski maneuver is taking on the jumps. Earlier this summer, she earned 2nd place in the 360-degree division at the 2017 Flaunt It Wisconsin swivel ski competition. She is currently working on a Kinesiology Degree from the University of Wisconsin and plans to pursue a master's degree in Physical Therapy.

AUSTIN WALSTAD – Zumbrota, MN

Like many of his teammates, Austin Walstad comes from a waterskiing family and he began skiing at age four. Now in year four with the Bartlett Show, he is one of our star barefooters. His favorite move – back barefooting, and he is solid! Before turning pro with the Tommy Bartlett Show, he sharpened his ski skills at the Ski Dox club in his hometown of Zumbrota, MN. In 2014 and 2015, Austin traveled overseas to perform at the Lebanon Water Festival.

CASSIDY MEIKE WINKLER – Elkhorn, WI

Cassidy's first "doubles" skiing experience came at the wee age of three months old, when a family friend took her out on the water. From an avid water-ski family, she began to ski on her own at age eight, and soon after would visit the Tommy Bartlett Show with her dad, Marc Meike, who is the assistant ski show director. Growing up, Cassidy hung out on the dock to learn from the best in the sport and became a Tommy Bartlett skier in 2014 at the age of 15. She is a graceful ballet skier and placed 3rd and 2nd, respectively, in the 2015 and 2016 Flaunt It Wisconsin swivel ski competitions.