

# The Unsung Hero

These unsung heroes both women and men are the backbone of a Waterski Tournament. They are always behind the scenes. They began their tournament at 8:00 am at the first pull of the first skier be it Jr. Boys or Men. They sit silent and confirm buoys for all divisions in the slalom event. It could be four hours and never once do you hear a complaint and sometimes even longer. As drivers and judges you get assigned and event to work, you work it and you get out of the boat or tower and are free until needed again. Sometimes your break is two or three hours, but as a Scorer you are never really off. Sometimes you are lucky and get a volunteer to help you out and that is always very much appreciated. As the scorer you are still in charge and on call every second of the day. Even when a potty break is needed you may have to even go with radio, pencil and paper in hand still confirming buoys until all three events are completed. Many Scorers will recheck after hours to be sure they recorded, totaled and verified each entry correctly or entered the numbers in the computer right.

I want to tell you a little about the person I feel has been one of these people. I came to know her and her husband many years ago, back in the middle to late seventies. She is soft spoken and very encouraging to all that crosses her path. She is always a kind soul and loving spirit. She had to be talked into becoming a scorer in the "Old School Days" when there were no computers to total scores or figure NOPS points. Everything we did and she did was done manually. Remember all those rating that had to be signed at the end of the tournament. She began working on her rating with Brenda Hargis and Debbie Bradley. She became an Assistant Score in 1979. She was and is always calm and steady! Never to get flustered always calming me (Brenda) and letting skiers know what their trick scores were. Even you too, Susanne Evans! Who was from White Lake. She became a Regular Scorer in 1980. Working every tournament that N.C. had as well as skied some. She skied the slalom event mostly, but at one NC State Championships, the "Ski Mites Ski Club" talked her into tricking. They wanted all those club points for the Club Trophy and of course she did it for them! After many more local North Carolina tournaments, and doing all the requirements

placed by AWSA, she became a Senior Scorer in 1983. She went on to help score at Regionals at Lake Walmead in Ga., as well as the Nationals in West Palm and Destin, Florida.

She was very supportive to her husband as he traveled and competed in all levels from local to states to regionals and nationals. As well as helping out when she was needed whether appointed or just to relieve a fellow co-worker to take a bathroom break or eat lunch. She has traveled to Miami and to Du Quoin, Ill and lots of stops in between, many of road miles to share and work in a sport we all love.

This lady has become someone dear to my heart. She has always been there for me and my family during the happy times, as well as those that were sad. She gave me a tearful word of encouragement when I lost my Dad, back in 2001. She was always there supporting us at all the Angier tournaments moons ago and holding my hand and helping Johnny and Jerry when Tammy got hurt jumping in practice at the Pond in Sanford. She missed the State Banquet, to stay with us at the hospital in Lexington, the jump injury that ended Tammy's jumping. Thanks for all your love and compassion to all the ski world families, but most of all your hard work and for being an Unsung Hero to our sport. Without you many could not have continued to have tournaments that we all in North Carolina love. But most of all thanks for the love you show all the skiing families.

She has given 36 years to scoring tournaments both big and small.

She is wife, mother, grandmother and mother-in-law The Unsung Hero that I am nominating to be inducted into the North Carolina Water Ski Hall of Fame as an Official is none other than, ANN HARRINGTON.

Ps We love the pictures we find in our Christmas cards each year!!