

**NORTH CAROLINA WATER SKI ASSOCIATION  
HALL OF FAME  
NOMINATION FORM**

**Name:** Robbie Parks  
**Address:** Lexington, NC  
**Phone:** 336 309 0137  
**Email:** whocanublx@gmail.com

**Category:** Competitor, Pioneer & Official

**Qualifications:**

The sport of water skiing has been around for over 100 years, so it is amazing that an individual should be honored as a Competitor, Pioneer and Official in the year 2024, yet Robbie Parks is the perfect example of how this can happen. The Sports Discipline of Adaptive Water Skiing has been around a bit but is still in its growth stages as it continues to develop and become more popular.

Robbie was injured in 1982 in an automobile accident where he broke his neck, a C-7 injury leaving him paralyzed. Recreational water skiing and barefooting had been a big part of his early life and in 1997 he got back on the water and skied on sit ski for the very first time. From there, he formerly joined ASAP (Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program) from 2005-2007 as a participant. His skills were noticed, and he was sent to train with Bill and Denise Bowness for competitive water skiing.

**Competitor:**

In 2008 he competed in his first Nationals. That year he was the Recipient of the Royce Andes Award - Presented to the most promising new skier at Nationals. He was selected to represent the US National Team at the World Championships in 2011 and has been selected as a US Team member every year until Covid canceled many world events. In total he represented the US in five world championships, bringing home Team Gold in four of those years.

- 2011 – West Chester, OH (US Team Gold)
- 2013 – Milan, Italy (US Team Gold)
- 2015 – Elk Grove, CA (US Team Gold)
- 2017 – Myuna Bay, NSW, Australia
- 2019 – Skarnes, Norway (US Team Gold)

As an individual competitor he has also earned his share of awards.

- Silver (2) and Bronze Medalist in National Water Ski Championships 2008, 2011, 2012
- 2016 WSDA Nationals Overall Jump Champion

**Pioneer:**

Robbie has also developed equipment to suit the demand of adaptive skiers. Early on he understood the lack of specialized equipment that met the specific needs of the individual Athletes. He knew the importance of designing and adjusting equipment to match the injury level on a one-on-one basis. First, he began to modify current equipment being used, then started to design sit cages, providing a better fit and utility for skier performance. He created fit and performance into multiple sit cages and did it so well that some began to copy and manufacture his designs. His most current accomplishment is in designing and building customized slalom skis which is always a big need for Adaptive Competitors.

**Official:**

Looking at the "Eligibility for Officials" it is very apparent that Robbie fits solidly within this category. To highlight his contributions...

- Coach - ASAP Water Ski Team - Level 1 Instructor with over 23 years Coaching/training/developing individuals and teams.
- Certified Trained Driver for the ASAP competitive program and volunteers as driver for physically challenged kids and adults ski program - (Lake Norman YMCA)
- Elected and contributed to various Board of Director roles.
  - USA Water Ski & Wake Sports (parent organization) as a WSDA US Athlete Advisor (AAC)
  - USA Adaptive Water Ski & Wake Sports
  - North Carolina Water Ski Association Council
- 2018 Recipient of the Phil Martin Award. Presented at the USA Adaptive Water Ski National Championships. National recognition and appreciation of outstanding contributions and dedication to the advancement of adaptive water skiing.

Senders Name: Bob Archambeau  
Address: 236 Collingswood Rd  
Mooresville, NC 28117  
Phone: 513 673 6079  
Email: [cut2dramp@gmail.com](mailto:cut2dramp@gmail.com)