

What to do over winter? Boat maintenance is always popular. But some people take it to the extreme. Here is my version of do it yourself, building towers for dummies. You will need access to a tig welder, drop saw lathe and a selection of power tools.

Firstly decide on what type of tower will suit your boat. There are many you can buy off the shelf that are well priced and well constructed. But if you want something else why not build it yourself? Personally I liked the look of the swoop tower style on Sanger boats. Strong, easy to climb to change the rope and folds down for storage.

I started with a picture from the internet. Roughly scaled this to suit my flight craft.

Then I used PVC tube to mock up the deck rails and tower shape. I bought some 2" aircraft alloy grade 6061 which is very strong and hard. Took my picture and the PVC tube to a tube bender to have some rails shaped. I made some base plates out of 100 x 5 flat alloys. Then cut the deck rails to suit. I used 2" solid rod, to turn down inserts for the end of the tubes and 12mm tie rod ends for swivel joints. 16mm Stainless steel threaded rod, to bolt the front of the tower to the Deck rails. All the intermediate rails were hand cut to suit the angles of the two main rails with a hole saw. The towing connection for the top can be turned down but this was fortunately given to me by Phil Leach. All the material to be welded had to be preheated before welding. Make sure to do as much welding in place, or you may find this shrinking when the welds cool and things not fitting. But what is a tower with out a super fly high? I welded a couple of lugs to the top rail to connect the super high to. The same tie rod ends fitted onto turned down rod, welded to the ends of the rails. Another turned fitting for the top rope connection. I had Cooke's make some wire ropes to hold this in place, with a stainless steel racket to tension the front wire. To finish it off, polish the aluminium for a great finish. Of course it is not that simple, but it is possible.



Colin Reed is Back!

The temptation of glass water was too much for veteran Waikato skier Colin Reed last weekend.

After being out of action for the last couple of seasons with a back injury, Colin was back on the water for the first time with local skiers Anthony Hawes & Lewis McNabb at Lake Karapiro.

It was just like riding a bike for 60 year old Colin as he got back on his feet as if he had never stopped skiing.

The only problem was his feet started to burn up after a few long runs!

Good to see you back Colin and watch out the Presidents Division this season!!

Cheers, Anthony



Rob's News

Bevan Kelly has started his season well skiing with Sarah Linton and Matt Forsyth. All three are looking forward to a great season. Matt and Sarah are both going over to Brett Sands for five days for some top coaching on the Murray River, water temperature is a pleasant 27°C. Look forward to updates when you return.

Freddy Groen is going hard out on his road bike and has been seen riding in events around the local area. Andrew has been competing with Fred and has enjoyed whipping his butt. Fred's goal is the Iron Man.

Ryan has finished Uni for the year and is looking forward to skiing hard for the next three months to retain his Open Men's title, however Ben is right behind his heel and is giving Ryan a run for his money.

Tyler Groen landed his first invert jump for about 20m which is fantastic. Now Ben is worried about his junior jump record of 22.4 m as Tyler has many more years in juniors.

Noel and Sam Binns were down skiing with Rob Groen in September for four days and a blast. Sam got backward on the shoe ski and finished his weekend with back ones. Noel went home smiling with a cool back toe on the boom. Look forward to adding it to his trick run at the Regional's.

Stephanie Hamblyn came down last week to watch brother Nick ski. Stephanie is doing well with only seven weeks to go before their baby is born. Good luck for January's delivery and we look forward to another new member soon.

Jeremy Linton has jumped boat and has gone over to live in Australia for two years in Queensland. He will be coming home for the wedding in January. Sorry to see Jeremy go but I am sure there is a spare bed if anyone wants to pop over for a ski. Jeremy hasn't left us completely as he is still wanting to ski at the Worlds in Germany next year for New Zealand.

A few Wellington boys are coming up to Auckland to the Maxout. Wellington want to make sure that Auckland don't not take home that trophy. Should be a great day at the Auckland ski club.

"Do you know anyone wanting to sell a sml mens, barefoot wetsuit, it is to fit a tall skinny 18yrs. Contact is : Caroline Witters 06 8689142 or 021 2220136."

Thanks Rob