

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Water Ski Educational Foundation Water Ski Hall of Fame & Museum Announces 2009 Award Of Distinction Recipients

POLK CITY, Fla. -- The American Water Ski Educational Foundation (AWSEF) Water Ski Hall of Fame Selection Committee has announced the 2009 recipients of its prestigious Award of Distinction. Chuck Dees, Carlos Maciel, Johnnie Matranga, Mike Murphy and Jaap Suyderhoud (posthumously) Each will receive the award in recognition of their water ski accomplishments and contributions to the water skiing community. They will be honored, along with 2009 Hall of Fame inductees Lucky Lowe and Lynn Novakofski, both reside in Polk County, at the AWSEF's 27th annual Water Ski Hall of Fame induction ceremony on April 18 at the Lakeland Center in Lakeland, Fla. Recipients may include tournament skiers, innovators, industry leaders, officials and others responsible for landmark achievements in the development of water skiing as well as those whose long periods of dedication and service deserve special recognition. The recipients will be officially recognized at the AWSEF's annual Hall of Fame banquet on Saturday, April 18, at The Lakeland Center in Lakeland, Florida.

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Dees has been in the ski school business since 1952, starting on Lake Hollingsworth in Lakeland, Fla. Many top skiers have trained with him, including Camille and Sammy Duvall in their younger days. Dees' son, Frankie, also is one of the notables; still setting records and winning national titles in his age division. Dees also once skied as a Cypress Gardens show skier and also ran small ski shows.

Maciel is believed to be the youngest of his era to be both a senior judge and senior driver at a claimed age of 20. He drove many Eastern Region tournaments, several Eastern Regionals, and the 1976 Nationals. He was a promotional boat distributor for the Northeast in the late 1970s. He joined Rob Shirley and MasterCraft around 1981 to work as marketing director, promotional coordinator, and also manager of MasterCraft Skis. When Shirley started the Pro Tour, Maciel was involved from the start with the planning and production of the events.

Matranga has been water skiing since 1952 and an American Water Ski Association supporter since 1955. He has contributed as an extremely hard worker, driver, judge, coach, ambassador and talented competitor. He has been a regional slalom champion and regional record holder several times. He was a senior driver for 15 years and a regular judge for 25 years. He also is a past AWSA director, executive vice president and councilperson.

Murphy was a show skier, ski racer, coach, traditional skier, freestyle jumper, and innovator. He is considered to be the co-inventor of the kneeboard and the seated hydrofoil. He also operated a popular ski school in Parker, Ariz.

Snyderhoud is known for organizing the Cal Cup, reportedly the first regular professional tournament that ran for about 10 years at Berkeley Aquatic Park. Many notable skiers participated, and the list of the overall winners is a who's who. While other professional tournaments may have consisted of one or two events, the Cal Cup featured slalom, tricks, jumping and overall. Snyderhoud also ran a ski school in California and later in Hawaii. He also developed the Accufloat floating course in response to the technical challenge of deep and varying water on Lake Shasta.

For a detailed schedule of Hall of Fame weekend events, please contact the Hall of Fame at (863)324-2472 or visit the Web site - waterskihalloffame.com.

The American Water Ski Educational Foundation, parent organization of the Water Ski Hall of Fame and Museum, was founded in 1968 as a not-for-profit foundation dedicated to the preservation of the traditions of one of America's most popular family recreational activities and to the encouragement of and education in the safe enjoyment of water skiing.