

Check it out: wakeboard lessons

By *Jamie Dreger*

You finally decided this summer, you're going to get some wakeboard lessons! First, you should have a plan of what you want to learn. Next, you need to find a good wakeboard school, with a good coach. Wakeboard schools seem to be popping up for business more and more every summer. These days you see some punks, with a rich daddy hooking them up (pimped out boat) for their new fun summer business, a wakeboard school. Beware, is the school you're choosing going to give you your money's worth? Here are some hints for finding quality wakeboard lessons.

Who will be coaching you?

Are they qualified? Certified NCCP wakeboard. First aid ticket.

Background of the coach. Are they involved in the sport? Do they wakeboard themselves? Sometimes new schools pop up and say, "Dude, our coach can do flips, he'll teach you everything you need to know!" Caution – good riders don't always make the best coaches. However, often the rider who has struggled a lot learning tricks makes a good coach because they have thought of all kinds of ways to try to make that trick work. Some of the 3-event coaches who also coach wakeboard have really done their homework, even though they may not do a lot of the latest tricks, they can detect and correct because of their past experience.

Value

Now price. Cheaper doesn't always mean you're saving some dough, sometimes you have to pay the price to get a great lesson. Get Grandma to buy you that cool looking rashguard – you save your money for some quality lessons.

Equipment

The boat, what kind will you be pulled by? Now you just bucked up \$50 for a lesson and you're heading down to the dock with the coach as he's bragging about that mobe he was working on, you walk past that pimped out wakeboard boat that you thought was the school's, and the coach says hop in. And it's the next one to it, a 17-foot Zodiac with a barbell fastened on end for a pylon... run for the hills. Good gear makes it easier and safer to learn.

The boat should be driven smooth and professionally.

Lessons

Now if you're learning for the first time, you should expect to get a bit of dry land hints and then get up in a few easy tries.

The good coaches should have you progressing properly. You might figure, "Yeah, right on, 50 bones and 20 minutes later I'll have that Superman thing with a 360 at the end, yeah, baby!" Then the coach finds out you can't even jump both wakes. A good coach would have you go back and learn to walk before you run, but beware of the guys that say OK dude, just cut hard to the wakes and go for it! That's how riders end up being rope honky all summer with a cast on.

At the end of the lesson you should feel like coming back for more or on your way to sticking that new trick.

So when you plan to take some lessons this summer, check things out!