

Congratulations to our Volunteer of the Year.



This recipient has been active in many aspects of WSWA, for many years. He sits on the Board of Directors. He works on various committees. What makes him an excellent choice to be our 2016 Volunteer of the Year is his work on the Alberta Wake Tour.

Jeff Blanchard has been involved in the Wake Tour for years, but in 2016 he took on the role of Chairperson for the Wake Tour committee. This meant working on plans and budgets, sponsorships, prizing, endless paperwork, and chasing other committee members in the months before the Tour started.

Picture this.

2 days before the Wake Stop, the weather forecast is grim. This forces the decision to reschedule the event from Saturday to Sunday. You get on the phone to make the arrangements, a chore that takes most of the next two days.

Saturday night, close to midnight, you get the call that the truck bringing the competition boat has a jammed hitch, and can't hook up the boat. It is the wee hours of Sunday morning before a solution is found.

Sunday, you show up with a truckload of equipment. Make sure everything is set up. Make sure your volunteers are on site and prepared. Arrange categories and riding orders. Give a briefing. Organise the officials and dock starters and drivers. Make sure prizing is ready. Consult on results. Oh yeah, you are also the chief official! Afterward, you direct the clean up, loading up gear and the boat for the drive home.

Now, do this 5 times in 12 weeks, all over Alberta.

Jeff Blanchard is the backbone of the Alberta Wake Tour. His commitment to the Tour, and to the success of wakeboard competition in Alberta, is evident in his dedicated and endless hard work. Congratulations Jeff!