



THE FUN PART OF SKIING IS PULLING HARD BEHIND THE BOAT. WHILE IT MAY SEEM LIKE THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO TRY AND BEAT THE BOAT AT TUG-OF-WAR, TRUST ME THAT YOU CAN PROBABLY BE DOING IT MORE EFFICIENTLY.



# PATIENT TURNS AND AGGRESSIVE PULLS

Written by Brooks Wilson • Photography by Scott N. Atkinson

**T**he basic theory behind everything I am trying to do on the water can be described by being patient to generate angle in the turn followed by working as hard as I can to get across the course as quickly and efficiently as possible. This mindset can go a long way to skiing a much easier line through the course and help bring better rhythm and flow to your skiing. However, the majority of skiers from my experience do the exact opposite of what I have just described. Being patient in the turn allows you to maximize the speed and angle you are able to carry, while being aggressive gets you through the wakes and enables you to take more outbound direction with a tighter line. Let's break down the two pieces and then bring them back together.

pointed across the course as your free hand comes back on the handle. You are now locked, loaded and ready to work hard behind the boat.

### Aggressive Pulls

The fun part of skiing is pulling hard behind the boat. While it may seem like there's only one way to try and beat the boat at tug-of-war, trust me that you can probably be doing it more efficiently. Think about the second wake as your stopping point. No matter what, you have to be done pulling by then, anything past that is just giving you more down course speed, not additional width. Secondly, think about your balance of speed. You want to be building your speed as you cut. It is not feasible to



pull as hard as you can off of the buoy and hold it through both wakes. Try to start strong and build so you are going your fastest as you exit the wakes. From this point, you can continue your outbound line into the turn. It is crucial to have your ski placed between yourself and the boat. If your shoulders are in front of your feet, it will cause you to potentially go head over heels off the second wake. The most crucial aspect of your lean is the direction you are traveling. Most people come out

of a turn and lean back against the line, essentially plowing as they cut. You want to lean in the direction you are going. Take two ball for instance; when you turn two you want to be driving away from the boat and toward three ball. It is a very precise movement, but mastering it could lead you to conquer your most difficult pass. Linking these strong pulls and patient turns will ultimately lead to skiing with less slack and more speed. The more speed you are able to carry in the course

allows you to reach higher widths on the boat and, ultimately, to much easier turns as you navigate your way through the slalom course. MasterCraft Boats, Radar Skis, O'Neill Wetsuits and Performance Ski & Surf sponsor Brooks. Follow @The\_Wilson\_Bros on Instagram and Twitter and check out his website - thewilsonbros.com. Brooks coaches at The Boarding School in Orlando. For booking, email brooks@thewilsonbros.com.

### Patient Turns

This is definitely the hardest part of this scenario and the more difficult of the two to grasp. Not to be mistaken with slow, round turns, patient turns can be better described as waiting to start pulling until you have finished turning. Being impatient in the turn means that, while you are still rounding the buoy,

you have reached back to the handle and started your pull, all the while not realizing that you have prevented yourself from generating more angle. Ideally, in the turn, your outside hip and hand will stay close. From this point, you can move them back in at the same time. Keep moving your hips and ski under the line until simultaneously your ski is