

Biography – Brian Detty

It was around 1967 that Brian's parents bought their first boat, a 16' Starcraft with a 40 HP Evinrude. Summers were spent largely on Lake Monroe with trips to the Ohio River, and in multiple areas around Lake Michigan. The first time Brian got up on a pair of skis which were a pair of Atlas kids combo's, he fell backwards and his life jacket came half off with my head half under water and half out of water. It scared him so much he didn't ski the rest of that year. Brian still has the pair of skis and both of Kati and B'ster their kids, learned to ski on them.

The family bought a new red 20' Sea Ray in 1975. There were very few Sea Ray's then and red ones were even more rare. Ironically, the family always passed another red Sea Ray on Lake Monroe and its family were always kind to wave. It was an open bow and the families two daughters always rode up in the bow. They were little cuties.

Around this time Brian received his first slalom ski for Christmas. It was a red, white and blue Taperflex. He loved the ski but it I didn't have a true concave tunnel and wouldn't throw much spray. It was in the late 70's when he came across his first Spray Magazine. It was read 100 times and it was then he saw the first images of an inboard ski boat. While still in high school, Brian's mom took him to small boat show at Lafayette Square Mall on the west side of Indianapolis. She and his dad bought him a new Jobe Honeycomb which replaced the Taperflex as his prize possession.

Out of college, Brian bought his first ski boat, a new 1985 Ski Nautique. He and his dad went up to Midwest Correct Craft and met Ken Meloon. Ken introduced us to Fox Valley Ski Nautique in Elgin Illinois while we were there. Brian moved up to White River in 1986 where he began barefooting with the Kemna Brothers and some of their friends at the Glendale Body Shop. Randy O'Mallia lived a few doors down and was on the Correct Craft Barefoot Nautique Team at that time.

It was on White River near the Keystone Crossing area where Brian and his buddies built and installed a slalom course in one of the pits just south of the 82nd street bridge and on the River. Mark Qualkinbush also lived a few doors down and he and Kevin McMan built a new ski jump. Brian begged Mark to let him try jumping with him sometime and it was in the late fall of 1986 when he finally got his first jump set in. As it turns out, that would be the first of many over the next 25+ years. Darrel and Nancy Harrison were regulars just downstream from the Yacht Club where you could always find Darrel trick skiing.

Back to barefooting and Lake Monroe. Brian and a few buddies were out footing on Monroe the morning of July 4th and went to the marina afterwards where a boat with a little hottie pulled in. This little hottie, named Kelli wanted to learn to foot. Brian thought he was in heaven. After barefooting, the two made arrangements to meet for fireworks on the lake that night. A few days later, they had their first date, skiing on White River. Let's see. A hottie, she

barefoots, is willing to ski in White River and her mom, with whom he had yet to meet, sent a basket of snacks. He knew he had hit a home-run for sure. As it turns out, Kelli was the little cutie in the red Sea Ray that would pass the Detty family on Lake Monroe ten years earlier.

While at Skiers Edge, the local Indianapolis ski shop, a flyer advertising a ski tournament was posted on the door. He didn't realize it at the time, but Brian was about to meet some lifetime friends at this tournament held at Sugar Creek. The Pattersons, Hobsons, Early's and Threlkelds were all members there. As many know, Mike Patterson was pulling practice when (according to Brian) "He crowded me into shore where I cart-wheeled across the bank".

Just before they were married, Brian and Kelli joined a ski club located near downtown Indianapolis. The club didn't have a name, but Dennis Mann owned the lake and other members included Scott Calahan, Brian and Scott Denny. They were part of that club for three years.

Somehow, Frank Warburg and Brian got introduced in the winter of 1989. By the spring of 1990, Frank and Brian along with Mike Yoder had a deal signed with Dick and Jerry Herr who owned the Fairland Rec Center. It was there a few years later where Brian directed his first State Championship. It was a family affair with all of the Fairland members plus Brian and Kelli's parents manned the grills for over 150 people at the banquet which was held on site. During this era, the Fairland members included, Mark Vincent, Ken Moody, Steve and Debbie Rudick, Dave Tozer, John Clodfelter, Gary Hall, Bill Roach, Eric Detty and Mark and Rhonda Elliott in addition to Frank, Mike and Brian.

While at Fairland, Brian began the process of learning to drive tournaments. He was blessed with a lot of talented, well-known, passionate and patient drivers to help him along. Guys like Steve Helton, Clark Smith, Denny Boetcher and Mike Patterson were great mentors. "It has been rewarding to be a part of something that has tremendously transitioned over the years. Driving and timing tournaments manually was the norm when I began to drive. Today, we basically program a computer and steer the boat with much more precision and consistency due to technological advancements in electronics, engine horsepower and torque along with advancements in hydro-engineering from great boat manufacturers". Today, Brian holds a Senior Driver's Rating in Slalom, Trick and Jump.

In the late 90's, Gary Hall, one of his trusted ski partners and driver will tell you that Brian's efforts on the water mostly focused towards jumping. He crashed a lot, but like an addiction, it was impossible to not keep trying to do better. Then the Truesdale's came along. Tom had been getting jump coaching from Lynette Helton and then Tom passed what he was learning on to Brian. Together along with his brother Eric, they began improving. The three of them decided that to grow the jump event, they needed to teach people to jump, so they founded the Big Rig Jump Team. In addition to a \$5.00 membership fee, they actually had requirements to join, but all the requirements were not necessarily watersports requirements. To join, you had to be an active jumper, a retired jumper with scars to prove it, a gassy boat driver, a high-school wrestler

or above or a hunter. The first clinic was held at Sugar Creek with Bruce Neville as their advanced instructor. Then they the clinic to Meski where one of the Big Rig members and and a buddy to the three was owner of the lake in John Schofield. Then came the next chapter of Big Rig.

Now a family of four, Kelli and Brian moved their family out to Hawthorn Lake in 1999 but they didn't have a jump. Mike Patterson and Brian had purchased a ramp that previously had been on the Pro Tour. One year, the Indianapolis stop got rained out and somehow the tour promoter from Indianapolis had obtained the ramp for his personal lake west of Indianapolis named Wasatch Lake. The Owner, Larry Davis sold the lake and its belongings to Turner Woodard an Indianapolis based real estate investor. After purchasing the jump from Turner, Mike and Brian refurbished the frame, then Hawthorn bought the frame and Mike kept the surface for what would become his new lake, Silent Shores in Thorntown.

Back to Big Rig. The three Big Rig founders re-worked the frame and turned the jump into a skifly jump which was becoming a new phase in ski jumping. There were very few skifly jumps in the country. With the new skifly jump, the Big Rig clinic grew into a two-day event, each year pulling skiers from all over the nation in to train with Scott Ellis on day one, then compete in the Big Rig jump tournament the following day.

Brian became part of the Correct Craft Promo Team in 2001. The 2001 boat was the third Ski Nautique he had purchased. Now in over their 25th year with Nautique, the Dettys continue to enjoy the "promotional" side of the sport. Through Ken and Greg Meloon, Thomas Bates, MD Boats, N3 Boatworks and Jeff and Patty Smith at Silver Spray Sports, the family has been privileged to be part of their team.

Through over 25 years at Hawthorn, Brian has found it to be an honor to say that he has been able to be a part of so many events and has made so many good friends and acquaintances from all over the country. He became the newest recipient of the Rollie Williams Award in 2003 during the State Banquet in Danville. In addition to countless Big Rig Events, Brian served as Hawthorn's president for the first 18 years of its existence. With IWSA, he has been a board member for seven years, secretary for three years and president for two. In addition to being Tournament Director for 14 State Tournaments Brian was fortunate to host two National Disabled Tournaments, a World Police and Fire Games Tournament, multiple Ski Fly Tournaments, a host of Nautique Swervin Days. The Disabled Tournaments where particularly rewarding for many reasons including the relationships formed with so many disabled skiers from around the country. With Kelli's help, the family hosted countless Drivers Clinics, Safety Clinics and TC clinics.

In terms of actual skiing, in his early years, Brian competed in all three events only during State Tournaments. He enjoyed trick skiing but it took a back seat to jump and slalom. Not able to recall what his PB in trick it has been said that it was under 500 points for sure. His slalom scores began to improve once he was forced into semi-retirement from jumping with

atournament PB of 5@35. Brian's best ever jump in traditional jump was 149' in 2001 at Timber Lake during the State Tournament in Men's 3. That became a new State record and still stands today along with State records in jump for Men's 4 (126') set at Hawthorn in 2008 and the Men's 5 State record set in 2016 at Cindonway Shores with a 114' jump.