

'Livin' the Dream'

If you go ...

What: End-of-the-season performances of the Tommy Bartlett Show
When: Daily, through Labor Day, rain or shine, at 4:30 and 8:30 p.m.
Where: Lake Delton, Wisconsin Dells
Cost: Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$16 for seniors and \$10 for children ages 6-11; children 5 and younger attend free if they sit on an adult's lap. Each show is 90 minutes with a 15-minute intermission.
For more information: Call (608) 254-2525 or visit www.tommybartlett.com.



Kristin Armstrong



Marc Meike

Stars of the Tommy Bartlett Show get their feet wet on Lauderdale Lakes

By Cynthia Walker
CORRESPONDENT

Delivering the goods – distance jumping, fast-paced trick skiing, flips, pyramids, swivel ballet, wakeboarding, jet skiing, backward bare footing and high-powered boat maneuvers – are a few of the thrilling stunts Marc Meike and Kristin Armstrong are known to execute on the water.

These two world-class skiers and performers launched their careers in professional water skiing with the Lauderdale Lakes Aqua Skiers, and have been "Livin' the Dream" ever since.

"Livin' the Dream" is the theme for this year's Tommy Bartlett Show in Wisconsin Dells, where Kristin and Marc are currently performing.

Kristin's spouse Jeremy is the show's director with Marc at his side assisting, in addition to taking the aqua stage, performing his favorite skiing stunts and boating maneuvers to crowds upward of 10,000 spectators daily.

"At the heart of it, Tommy Bartlett has always been about

top-notch waterskiing," Jeremy Armstrong said. "More than half of our skiers have performed in shows throughout the world and hold titles in distance jumping, trick skiing, swivel ballet and bare footing."

Holding a number of these titles are the two skiers from Elkhorn who first got their feet wet in and around Don Jean Bay.

Hitting the waves since the age of 7, Kristin, now 30, has won the national title for swivel skiing in 2008, and was also pegged as Wisconsin State Swivel champion in 2008 and 2009.

Her peers in the Tommy Bartlett Show voted her MVP Female in 2006 and 2007 and Hardest Working Female Skier in 2006, 2007 and 2009.

In addition to skiing with the Aqua Skiers, she has teamed up with the Minneiska Ski Team in Whitewater and Mad-City Ski Team in Madison.

Her talent on the water has brought her around the world, competing in professional shows in Germany, China, India and Australia, as well as nation-



Kristin Armstrong, a water skier who hails from Elkhorn, performs with other world-class skiers in the Tommy Bartlett Show, making up the team's signature pyramid. Armstrong is on the second tier, second woman from the left. Her last performances of the season will take place this weekend into Labor Day.

PHOTO SUBMITTED Elkhorn Independent

ally to states such as California, Georgia and Indiana.

Her love for the sport also landed her true love.

In 2003 while skiing in a

show at Marine World in California, she met Jeremy, a fellow skier also from Wisconsin.

Their relationship developed over time as they worked together and bonded over their shared love of the sport.

"It just made sense to be together," said Kristin, "because of our shared interests and the time we can spend together."

Even as Kristin studies to become a teacher, another opportunity has presented itself to ski professionally at Legoland in Winterhaven, Fla., where she and Jeremy are headed after their last performance in the Dells.

The couple will remain in the Sunshine State until May 1, when they head back to the Dairyland to begin the 2012 season with Tommy Bartlett.

Elkhornite Marc Meike performs with the Tommy Bartlett ski jumpers in Wisconsin Dells. Meike, a world-class water skier, first got his start performing with the Lauderdale Lakes Aqua Skiers.

Kristin considers herself blessed to have made a career of something she loves doing.

"Waterskiing has made my life what it is today, and I wouldn't change it for the world," she said.

Marc's mean moves on the water are equally impressive. He put his first pair of skis on at 5, encouraged by his father, Thomas Meike, who taught him the old-fashioned way.

There weren't any fancy training skis back then, he said, so every time he fell in the water his father would swim over and put him back on the skis, while mom Louise, and grandpa Frank manned the boat.

It was a family affair.

Marc's mom, who also water skied competitively, was instrumental in his success on the water as well.

She coached and encouraged Marc, now 39, until he was 16 and skilled enough to stack up to Aqua Skier status.

His brother Alan learned along side him, and today performs with his wife and kids for the Aqua Skiers.

Training was a daily routine, he recalled.

"There was no sleeping in like other kids," he said, "I had to wake up and ski."

His diligence paid off.

In 1986 and 1987, he won the Wisconsin Backward Barefooting title and MVP of the Tommy Bartlett Show in 2007.

Despite their national notoriety in the world of water sports, both Kristin and Marc stay close to their inland lake roots.

During the off-season, Marc enjoys working at Custom Parts & Service in Elkhorn where he gets to be close to his family and friends.

"I'm going to keep skiing as long as I can," Marc said, "but the break is good during the winter."

With the season wrapping up, the two hope to have a big crowd come out Labor Day weekend to cheer them on.

"Come and see the show and find out what 'Living the Dream' is all about—non-stop action," Marc said.



PHOTO SUBMITTED Elkhorn Independent

• Counseling

(Continued from front page)

Using WISCareers, an interactive career exploration and planning website, students within the district main-

tain and build upon resumes that stay with them even after high school.

Getting students to think

about their futures at an early age, according to educators, will help them to understand how their academic experiences prepare them to be successful in the world of work, in their interpersonal relationships, and in the community.

Students will also acquire the self-knowledge necessary

to make informed career decisions.

Kueht said as the new model moves into its second year, he looks forward to seeing more success.

"I think those positive results are going to grow and grow," he said, adding, "It's a lot of work, but it's definitely worth the effort."

County-owned property now on sale

Shane Crawford, deputy county administrator of central services, announced Monday that county-owned properties are on sale through next month.

Sealed bids will be accepted by Walworth County Department of Public Works, Purchasing Division, W4097 County Road NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121, until 1 p.m., Sept. 12. For a complete property listing

and bidding forms, visit www.co.walworth.wi.us.

Properties are located in the cities of Delavan, Elkhorn and Lake Geneva; towns of Bloomfield, Geneva, LaGrange, Linn, Richmond, Spring Prairie, Sugar Creek, Richmond, and Whitewater; and the village of Fontana.

For more information, call Kris McGill, senior buyer, (262) 741-7266.

30+ SPECIAL EVENTS...
continue for fall

September 3-4	Pickles Preserves and Produce
September 3	Farmhand Buffet and After-Hours Barn Dance
September 10, 17, 24	Saturdays in September
September 18	Sunday in the Garden: Schulz Farm*
October 1-2; 8-9	Autumn on the Farms
October 14-30	Halloween Dinner Theater: Dracula by Steven Dietz*

*Reservations required

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