114-253. XR 3,051,118 SR

OSS REFERENCE SEARCH ROOM

TY 2562

Aug. 28, 1962 O. D. CALK ET AL 3,051,118

SAFETY SKI BAR

Filed Aug. 18, 1960

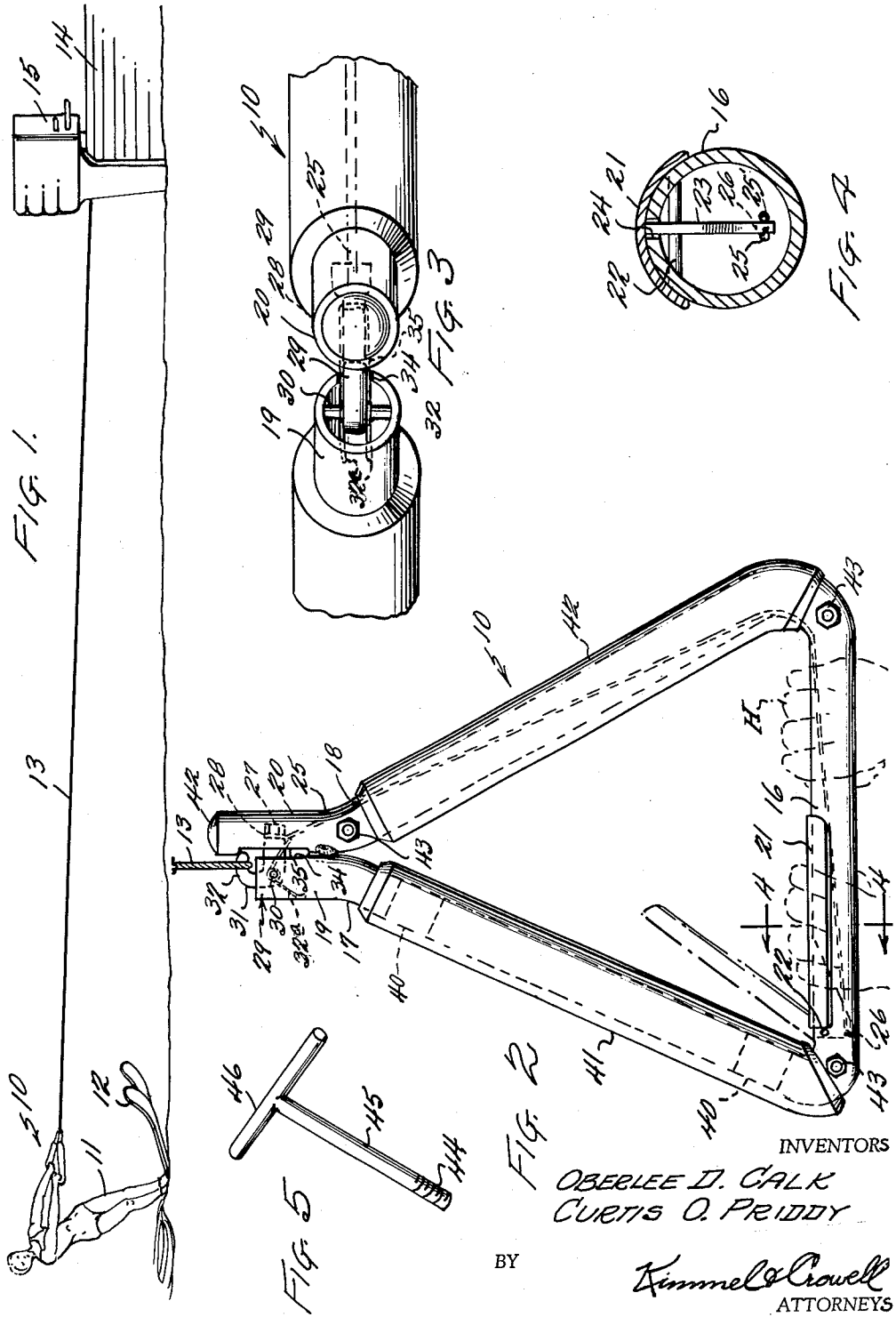


FIG. 1.

FIG. 3

FIG. 4

FIG. 2

FIG. 5

INVENTORS

OBERLEE D. CALK

CURTIS O. PRIDDY

BY

Kimmel & Crowell

ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office 3,051,118 Patented Aug. 28, 1962

3,051,118

SAFETY SKI BAR

Oberlee D. Calk, 1345 Pioneer Drive, and Curtis O. Priddy, 1234 Willis St., both of Abilene, Tex.

Filed Aug. 18, 1960, Ser. No. 50,415
5 Claims. (Cl. 115—6.1)

This invention relates to a safety ski bar, and more particularly to such a device adapted for the use of water skiers.

A primary object of this invention is the provision of an improved tow bar for water skiers characterized by means whereby upon release of the skier's hand grip the tow rope is automatically released from the bar, thus obviating the possibility of entanglement in the tow rope, with resulting injury to the water skier.

An additional object of the invention is the provision of a device of this character which, when released, will stay afloat in the immediate vicinity of the water skier, and will serve as an auxiliary or supplemental safety device.

An additional object of the invention is the provision of means in association with the ski bar whereby the water skier may release himself from the tow line and keep the ski bar in his possession, thus eliminating the drag on the boat occasioned by the towed ski bar until reeled in with the boat.

A further object of the invention is the provision of means in association with the ski bar whereby it may be employed for storing the ski tow rope as an individual unit.

Still other objects reside in the combinations of elements, arrangements of parts, and features of construction, all as will be more fully pointed out hereinafter, and disclosed in the accompflanying drawings wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a diagrammatic view showing the ski bar of the instant invention in a position of use;

FIGURE 2 is a plan view of the ski bar of the instant invention;

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged end elevational view of the ski bar;

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken substantially along the line 4—4 of FIG. 2; and

FIGURE 5 is a perspective view of an auxiliary attachment.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

Having reference now to the drawings in detail, the device of the instant invention, generally indicated at **10**, is generally triangular in form, and is adapted to be grasped at its base by a water skier **11** mounted on water skis **12**. A tow rope **13** is releasably connected to the apex of the triangular member in a manner to be more fully described hereinafter, and extends to a conventional tow boat **14** of any desired type, which may be provided with either an outboard motor **15** as shown, or an inboard motor or any desired conventional propulsive medium.

The ski bar of the instant invention includes a base **16** from which extend a pair of converging legs **17** and **18**, which are provided at their apex with offset portions **19** and **20**, respectively. The base **16** is adapted to be grasped by the hands H of the water skier **11**, and one hand engages a release lever **21**, which is pivotally mounted on a pivot pin **22** adjacent one end of the base **16**. As best shown in FIG. 4, lever **21** is arcuate in cross-section to conform with the tubular configuration of base **16**, and has an inwardly projecting plate **23** positioned on the concave side thereof, the plate extending through a longitudinal slot **24** in the top or inner side of base **16**. The end **25'** of a flexible cord **25** is knotted through a suitable opening **26** in the lower end of the plate **23**, the cord extending across the full length of the base and up through tubular leg **18** into the offset end portion **20**, at which point it is secured by means of a nut **27** to the shank **28** of a hook member

generally indicated at **29**. The hook is generally L-shaped in configuration and is pivotally mounted on a pivot pin **30** which extends across the offset end portion **19** of leg **17**. Hook member **29** also includes a bight portion **31** and a hooked end **32** which engages in a suitable loop in the end of tow rope **13**. The hook extends through complementary confronting slots **34** and **35** in offset portions **19** and **20**, respectively.

The arrangement is thus obviously such that as long as the lever or handle **21** is pressed firmly against the base **16** by the grasp of the skier's hand the hooked portion **32** tightly engages tow rope **13**. However, release of the hand grip immediately causes the force of the tow rope to swing hook **32** about its pivot **30**, positive release being assured by a coil spring **32***a* surrounding pivot **30** normally biasing hook **32** to disengaged position, the handle **21** moving to the dotted line position of FIG. 1, whereupon the tow rope is released from the hook, and the ski bar is either retained in possession of the skier, or falls nearby.

The device is preferably made of hollow material, such as tubular aluminum, light plastic, light tubular steel or the like, and is adapted to float, suitable plugs **40** being positioned in spaced relation in leg **17** to render that portion of the device airtight to serve as a float. Sleeves **41** and **42** are positioned on legs **17** and **18**, respectively, and are comprised of suitable buoyant material such as cork, or expanded, unicellular foam-type material sold under the trademark Styrofoam, or the like.

A plug **42** of cork, wood, plastic, or similar material, is adapted to be inserted in the open end of offset portion **20**, and serves as a closure member to some extent to prevent the free flow of water. Obviously, the slots **34** and **35** must be open, and the end of leg **18** must also be open to permit passage of the cord **25**.

Means are provided for coiling the tow rope **13** about the frame of the ski bar, and comprise nuts **43** which are suitably secured, as by welding, brazing, or the like adjacent the angles of the triangular member, and are adapted for the reception of the threaded ends **44** of the stems **45** of T members which are provided with cross heads **46**. When the three T members are suitably screwed with the nuts **43**, the tow rope **13** may be coiled thereabout and the device stored for use.

From the foregoing it will now be seen that there is herein provided an improved ski bar which accomplishes all the objects of this invention, and others, including many advantages of great practical utility and commercial importance.

As many embodiments may be made of this inventive concept, and as many modifications may be made in the embodiment hereinbefore shown and described, it is to be understood that all matter herein is to be interpreted merely as illustrative, and not in a limiting sense.

We claim:

1. A ski bar comprising a tubular member of generally triangular configuration, a hook pivotally mounted at the apex of the triangle adapted to releasably engage a tow rope, a lever pivotally mounted on the base of the triangle adapted to be grasped and held against the base by the skier's hands and a cord connection extending from said lever to said hook whereby release of said handle permits said hook to swing about its pivot to release said tow rope.

2. A ski bar comprising a tubular member of generally triangular configuration, a hook pivotally mounted at the apex of the triangle adapted to releasably engage a tow rope, a lever pivotally mounted on the base of the triangle adapted to be grasped and held against the base by the skier's hands and a cord connection extending from said lever to said hook whereby release of said handle permits said hook to swing about its pivot to release said tow rope, said cord extending through said tubular member.

3. A ski bar comprising a tubular member of generally triangular configuration, a hook pivotally mounted at the apex of the triangle adapted to releasably engage a tow rope, a lever pivotally mounted on the base of the triangle adapted to be grasped and held against the base by the skier's hands, a cord connection extending from said lever to said hook whereby release of said handle permits said hook to swing about its pivot to release said tow rope, said cord extending through said tubular member, and portions of said tubular member defining an airtight flotation chamber.

4. A ski bar comprising a tubular member of generally triangular configuration, a hook pivotally mounted at the apex of the triangle adapted to releasably engage a tow rope, a lever pivotally mounted on the base of the triangle adapted to be grasped and held against the base by the skier's hands, a cord extension extending from said lever to said hook and secured thereto whereby release of said handle permits said hook to swing about its pivot to release said tow rope, said cord extending through said tubular member, portions of said tubular member defining an airtight flotation chamber and sleeves of buoyant material on said tubular member.

5. A ski bar comprising a tubular member of generally triangular configuration, a hook pivotally mounted at the

apex of the triangle adapted to releasably engage a tow rope, a handle pivotally mounted on the base of the triangle adapted to be grasped and held against the base by the skier's hands, a cord extension extending from said handle to said hook and secured thereto whereby release of said handle permits said hook to swing about its pivot to release said tow rope, said cord extending through said tubular member, portions of said tubular member defining an airtight flotation chamber, sleeves of buoyant material on said tubular member, and means releasably carried by said tubular member for winding a tow rope thereon.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

1,373,746	Lewis et al.	Apr. 5, 1921
2,342,868	King	Feb. 29, 1944
2,690,152	Riccio	Sept. 28, 1954
2,721,088	Ritter	Oct. 18, 1955
2,943,591	Schneider	July 5, 1960
2,944,507	Beal	July 12, 1960
2,998,797	Risney	Sept. 5, 1961

FOREIGN PATENTS

13,115	Great Britain	June 24, 1905