April 7, 1964 R. B. DRENNEN, JR 3,127,622

WATER SKI APPARATUS

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FIG. 2

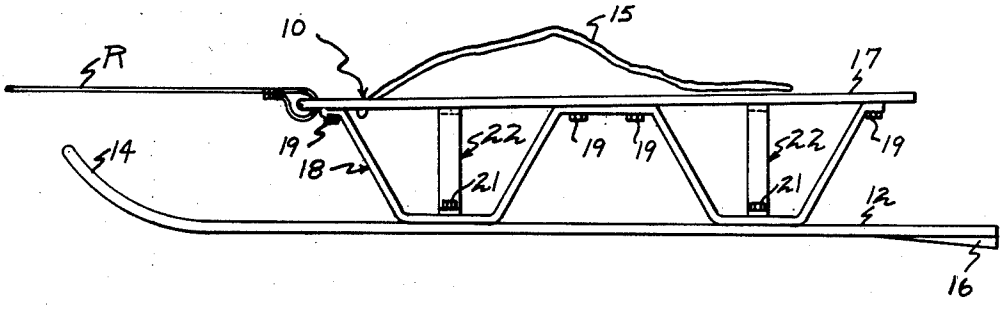
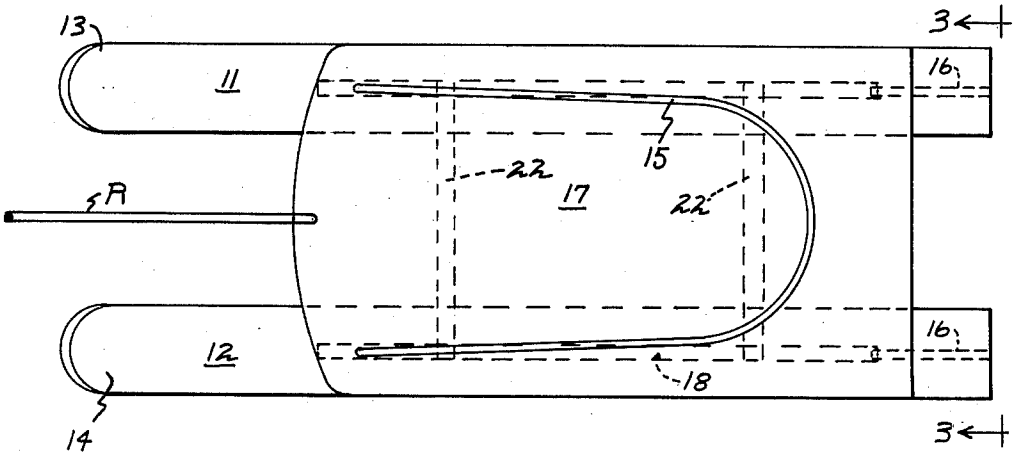


FIG. 1



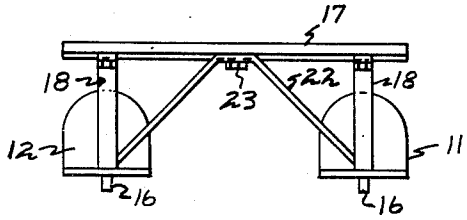


FIG. 3

INVENTOR.
Ralph B. Drennen Jr.
BY
Jennings, Carter & Thompson
Attorneys

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FIG. 4

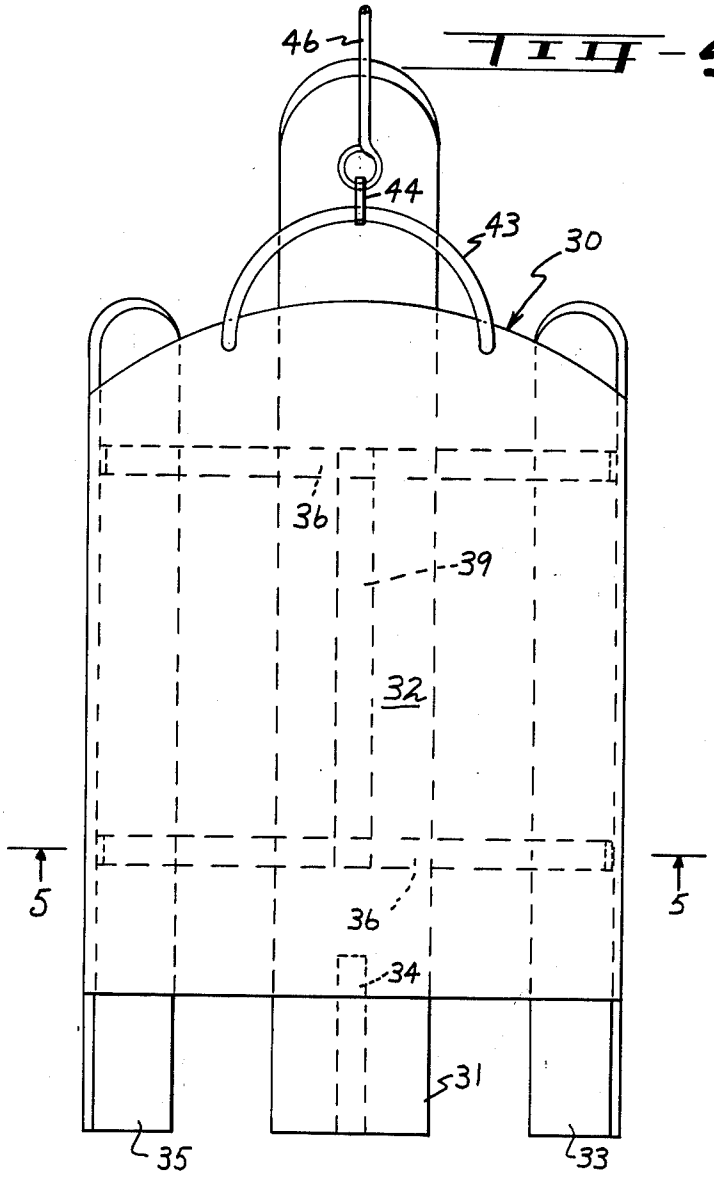
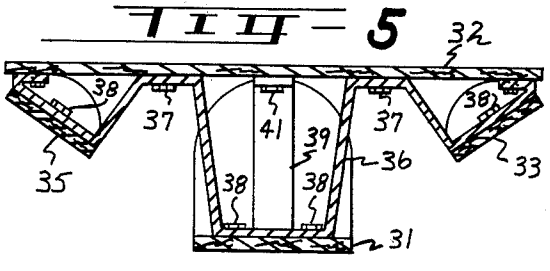


FIG. 5



INVENTOR.
Ralph B. Drennen Jr.
BY
Jennings, Carter & Thompson
Attorneys

United States Patent Office 3,127,622 Patented Apr. 7, 1964

3,127,622

WATER SKI APPARATUS

Ralph B. Drennen, Jr., 1305 Daria St., Birmingham 9, Ala.

Filed Aug. 21, 1961, Ser. No. 132,643
4 Claims. (Cl. 9—310)

This invention relates to water ski apparatus and more particularly to such apparatus in which a platform is supported by at least one water ski.

Heretofore in water skiing it has been common for a person to stand on water skis. It normally becomes tiresome for a skier after a period of time to stand on water skis continuously and skiing requires some degree of skill particularly if the water is not smooth.

It is an object of the present invention to provide water ski apparatus having a platform thereon on which a skier may sit or lie as well as stand, thereby allowing a use of the apparatus to remain thereon for a relatively long period of time without becoming exhausted.

A further object of the invention is to provide water ski apparatus that is easily maneuverable by the mounting of the platform on a single center ski thereby allowing the apparatus to be easily tilted from side to side. A side ski above and on each side of the center ski is provided to engage the water and limit the tilting of the device such as occurs when turns are made or when waves are encountered.

Another object of my invention is to provide a platform over water skis, with support members extending between and secured to the upper surface of the skis and the undersurface of the platform, the platform being spaced from the skis and being of a width substantially the same as the distance between the outer edges of the outer skis.

Apparatus embodying features of my invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this application, in which:

FIG. 1 is a top plan view of an embodiment of my water ski apparatus forming the present invention in which a platform is mounted over a pair of water skis;

FIG. 2 is a side elevational view of the water ski apparatus shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a rear elevational view looking generally along the line 3—3 of FIG. 1 and showing support members connecting the platform and the water skis;

FIG. 4 is a top plan view of a further embodiment of my invention in which a platform is mounted over a center ski with side skis on each side of the center ski at an elevation thereabove; and

FIG. 5 is a sectional view taken generally along the line 5—5 of FIG. 4 and showing the support members extending between and securing the water skis and the platform.

Referring now to the drawings for a better understanding of my invention, and more particularly to the embodiment of my invention in FIGS. 1–3, water ski apparatus is indicated generally by the numeral **10** and is towed by a tow rope R which may be connected to a power boat or the like (not shown). Ski apparatus **10** comprises a pair of water skis **11** and **12** which have upwardly curved forward ends **13** and **14**. A fin **16** is provided on the rear undersurface of skis **11** and **12** to aid in guiding ski apparatus **10**.

An elongated platform **17** is mounted over water skis **11** and **12** and spaced therefrom as shown in FIG. 2. Platform **17** is of a width equal substantially to the distance between the outer edges of water skis **11** and **12**. Tow rope R is secured to platform **17** through an opening therein and is adapted to pull apparatus **10**. A ski rope **15** is also secured to platform **17** through suitable openings so that a user of the apparatus may hold

thereto. Platform **17** has its rear end at an elevation above its forward end and when platform **17** is at rest in the water the forward ends of skis **14** are directed upwardly since platform **17** floats on the level upper surface of the water. Thus, upon pulling of platform **17** from rest, the forward end of the apparatus will tend to be pulled upwardly from the water.

Longitudinal support members **18** for each ski **11** and **12** comprise metal strips rectangular in cross section extending in a direction generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the skis. Support members **18** are secured at **19** by suitable securing means to the undersurface of platform **17** and by securing means **21** to the upper surface of skis **11** and **12**. Transverse support members **22** extend in a direction transversely of the longitudinal axis of skis **11** and **12** and are secured by securing means 23 to the undersurface of platform **17** and by securing means **21** to the upper surface of skis **11** and **12**. Securing means **19, 21, 23** comprise threaded wood screws.

Referring now to FIGS. 4 and 5 a modification of my apparatus is shown in which the apparatus is indicated generally by the numeral **30** and comprises an intermediate or center water ski **31** with a platform **32** positioned centrally over center water ski **31**. A side ski **33** is arranged outwardly of one side of center ski **31** and a side ski **35** is arranged outwardly of the other side of center ski **31**. As shown in FIG. 5, side skis **33** and **35** are at an elevation above the elevation of center ski **31** and in the normal operation of apparatus **30** with platform **32** in a horizontal relation, side skis **33** and **35** do not contact the surface of the water. Center ski **31** has a fin **34** on the underside thereof and is of a width substantially twice the width of side skis **33** and **35**. Also, as shown in FIG. 4, center ski **31** is of a length greater than the length of side skis **33** and **35**.

Transverse support members **36** each comprises a metal strip rectangular in cross section and extending transversely of the direction of travel of apparatus **30**. Securing means **37** secure supports **36** to the undersurface of platform **32** and securing means **38** secure supports **36** to the upper surface of skis **31, 33** and **35**. Support member **39** extends in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of ski **31** and is secured to the undersurface of platform **32** at **41** and to the upper surface of ski **31** by suitable securing means. Support member **39** is similar to the longitudinal supports **18** of the embodiment of the invention shown in FIGS. 1–3. The bottom contact surfaces of side skis **33** and **35** slant with respect to the bottom surface of center ski **31** and are preferably at an angle of around 45° to the water engaging bottom surface of center ski **31**. Angles from 20° to 60° have been found to work satisfactorily.

An arcuate, semi-circular pull bar **43** is secured to the forward end of platform **32**. A pull ring **44** is adapted to slide along bar **43** and pull rope **46** is secured to ring **44**. Rope **46** is in turn secured to a motor boat or the like (not shown). Ring **44** may slide along bar **43** as may occur when turns are made in the water.

The embodiment of the invention shown in FIGS. 4 and 5 is easily maneuverable since it is supported only by a single ski **31** when in normal operation with platform **32** in horizontal relation. It is easy for a person to tilt apparatus **30** by shifting weight from one side of the platform to the other side thereof. It is desirable to tilt apparatus **30** when a turn is made and the tilting thereof facilitates the making of the turn. Also, when waves are encountered, it is possible to ride on the side or crest of the waves by tilting the ski apparatus **30**. When apparatus **30** is tilted on ski **31**, either side ski **33** or side ski **35** will engage the upper surface of the water and thereby limit the tilting of the apparatus. In this position,

apparatus **30** will make the turn or ride the wave and thereafter the platform may be leveled to remove side skis **33** and **35** from the surface of the water.

From the foregoing, it will be understood that I have provided a water ski apparatus having a platform supported by and spaced from water skis which ride on the upper surface of the water. The platform is of sufficient size to allow a user to sit, lie, or stand thereon. Further, one embodiment of my invention provides a platform mounted on a single center ski which allows the apparatus to be easily tilted with side skis engaging the surface of the water when the apparatus is tilted thereby to limit the tilting thereof.

While I have shown my invention in more than one form, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that it is not so limited, but is susceptible of various other changes and modifications without departing from the spirit thereof, and I desire, therefore, that only such limitations shall be placed thereupon as are specifically set forth in the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. In water ski apparatus, an intermediate water ski adapted to be pulled along the surface of water, a side ski positioned on each side of said intermediate ski at an elevation above the intermediate ski, the bottom contact surfaces of said side skis being slanted outwardly at an angle with respect to the bottom contact surface of said intermediate ski, a platform over all of said skis and spaced therefrom, and support members extending between and secured to the undersurface of the platform and the upper surface of the skis, said side skis being of a length greater than the length of said platform.

2. In water ski apparatus, an intermediate water ski adapted to be pulled along the surface of water, a side ski positioned on each side of said intermediate ski at an elevation above the intermediate ski, said side skis being slanted outwardly at an angle of between 20° and 60° with respect to said intermediate ski and adapted to engage the water when the apparatus is tilted or when a wave is contacted, a platform over all of said skis and spaced therefrom, and support members extending transversely of the platform and secured to each of the skis and the underside of the platform.

3. In water ski apparatus as defined in claim 2 in which said intermediate ski is of a width substantially twice the width of the side skis.

4. In ski apparatus, a center ski adapted to slide along a supporting surface, a platform positioned substantially centrally over said center ski and spaced therefrom, a side ski positioned on each side of the center ski at an elevation thereabove and being of a length greater than the length of said platform, and support members extending between and secured to each of said skis and said platform, said side skis being slanted outwardly at an angle between 20° and 60° with respect to the center ski and adapted to engage the supporting surface when the platform is tilted.

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