

KELLY OGLE MEMORIAL

SAFETY
AWARD

Awarded to an individual or organization
for significant contributions
to guest and employee safety
in the water attractions industry.



Kevin Rowland

WHIRLIN' WATERS

NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, U.S.A.



Kevin Rowland began his career in the waterpark industry at the age of 15 when he started working as a lifeguard for the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission at Splash Island. Seventeen years and many adventures later, Rowland's journey has seen him manage all three of Charleston County's waterparks: Splash Island, Splash Zone and Whirlin' Waters.

Rowland currently manages all operations of Whirlin' Waters Adventure Waterpark and has held that position since 2008. As the Whirlin' Waters Manager, Rowland oversees a staff of over 200 employees and strives to provide innovative training for them all.

In 2011, Rowland began searching for a better way to get his lifeguards' attention during their initial training. He wanted something that would illustrate the importance of their job and why they must remain vigilant at all times. He began searching online for videos of guards making real life rescues but quickly realized there were none to be found. Rowland's solution was to create his own. That summer he began filming rescues at his wave pool and sharing them with his staff. These videos became an invaluable tool to show his guard staff exactly what they are looking for when a guest was in distress or drowning. Rowland realized that he had something he wanted to share with the entire waterpark industry, so he presented his videos at the 2012 WWA Show in Las Vegas. He received such a great response from his peers that he began uploading his rescue videos to his YouTube channel (www.YouTube.com/LifeguardRescue) in 2013.

Since then, Rowland's videos have garnered significant attention from the media, celebrities and those in the aquatics industry. They have been viewed millions of times and featured on programs such as "Good Morning America," "The Today Show," "Fox and Friends" and numerous other media outlets. They represent lifeguards in a positive light and spark important discussions on swimmer safety, parental responsibility and the importance of learning how to swim. Rowland's videos are used around the world to train lifeguards and to improve victim recognition. Rowland has received countless comments and emails from people who tell him that his videos are the reason they enrolled their child in swimming lessons, that they are making a positive difference in their lifeguard training program or that they are making parents keep a closer eye on their kids when they are around the water.

When he isn't at work, Rowland enjoys spending time with his wife, Marian and their beautiful 18-month-old daughter, Madison. He recently finished his B.A. in psychology from Limestone College and is also an Emergency Medical Technician. Rowland continues to be an advocate for drowning prevention which shows in his support for Charleston County Park's Genesis Project, which aims to reduce the number of drownings in Charleston County by providing access to pools in the rural communities for swimming instruction and water safety classes.

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Andreas Tanzer

PROSLIDE TECHNOLOGY INC.

OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA



Water has been a recurring theme throughout Andreas Tanzer' life. His father, Johann Tanzer, was a master boat builder who grew Tanzer Industries into one of the largest sailboat manufacturers in Canada. It was knowledge from his father's pioneering work with fiberglass—a ground-breaking new material at that time—as well as his commitment to proper design practices and a focus on safety that Tanzer took with him into the work world.

As Director of Research & Design, Tanzer has been with ProSlide Technology since its inception, almost 30 years ago. In his 30 years with ProSlide, Tanzer has held progressively more senior roles in water ride design and development. He started as a slide designer, introducing computer-aided design (CAD) to the company. In his first 25 years, Tanzer worked closely with Rick Hunter, ProSlide's CEO and owner, putting his vision and innovation "on paper" and moving it into the engineering and manufacturing stages. Tanzer has worked side by side with Hunter on notable award-winning industry changing rides like the ProSlide "MAMMOTH," "TORNADO," "BehemothBOWL," "ProRACER" and, most recently, the "HydroMAGNETIC Coaster" to ensure that safety and excitement were maintained.

One of the most satisfying elements of his career has been the opportunity to meet the pioneers of the waterpark industry and share their passion for safety in the industry. A particular highlight was a ten day, twenty-two-park road trip in 2002 that he embarked on with his wife Louise, daughter Sarah and son Xavier.

It was prompted by his desire to reconnect with the grass roots of the industry and to recharge his creativity. Visiting two or three parks a day across North America that summer did just that! It also reconfirmed the passion that park owners have for delivering a thrilling, safe experience.

"We build excitement into every element of our rides. Every turn, drop, curve—absolutely everything—contributes to ride performance while maintaining safety," said Tanzer.

With his passion for safe designs, Tanzer joined ASTM in 2003. He began working with the F24 Committee on Amusement Rides and Devices just as initial efforts were underway to create a new waterslide standard. Currently, Tanzer is the Task Group Chair for ASTM on waterslides, which created and published the ASTM F2376 standard for waterslides in 2006, which is now used in North America and accepted internationally. In addition, Tanzer was the ASTM Task Group chair for Aquatic Play Structures, which also became the ASTM F2461 Standard for Aquatic Play structures (For this work, Tanzer and this ASTM task group received the Kelly Ogle Memorial Safety Award from the WWA Board of Directors in 2009). Tanzer currently sits as the Secretary of the ASTM F24 Executive Committee as well as the Sub-Committee chair for ASTM F24.70 for all Water Related Amusement Rides and Devices, ensuring that the water leisure industry and its overall safety is well represented and informed.

Now a grandfather, Tanzer has even more reason to make sure that the industry grows and thrives so his grandson Kieran can enjoy it as much as he and his children still do!

Water Safety Products Inc.

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BIGEASY MASK

INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH, FLORIDA, U.S.A.



In 2012, the water leisure industry faced an equipment crisis when Philips Medical decided they would no longer manufacture the SealEasy Mask (the most popular type of CPR mask in aquatics). Knowing the loss of this product from Philips would be a big blow to in-water rescue breathing protocol and performance, Water Safety Products took several steps to ensure that the industry would not be negatively impacted.

First, Water Safety Products immediately purchased all the inventory that Philips Medical had on hand, but they did not stop there. Instead, they began the long task of figuring out what could replace the SealEasy. After testing other products on the market with the help of lifeguard training agencies, the Water Safety Products team realized that none of them met the performance requirements for lifeguards for in-water rescue breathing. At this point, Water Safety Products felt it was their responsibility to produce a reliable product that met the needs of lifeguards around the world.

With approximately two years of inventory on hand, Water Safety Products took the next step to reverse engineer the SealEasy and get FDA approval. The company partnered with a medical manufacturing company in the U.S., with the process starting in January 2014.

As with any great undertaking, there were challenges to overcome. Reverse engineering meant not only reproducing the form and function of an existing product, but it also required meeting the standards for this classification of product. The new product would have to meet the requirements of the FDA and ISO. In addition, Water Safety Products saw an opportunity to improve the product with updates, such as a single unit one-way valve with a built in O₂ port (this reduced the product from three pieces to two). This update in particular would increase the speed and efficiency at which a lifeguard can administer supplemental oxygen while providing rescue breathing with the BigEasy (the name selected for the new product). Other updates included additional grip and durability.

It took 8 months to develop and test the product under FDA guidelines. It was then submitted to the FDA for approval, which took another 6 months. Throughout this long process, Water Safety Products knew that existing inventory was nearing depletion and the industry was in great need of the new product. Also, preparing for FDA approval meant building inventory, holding that inventory and taking a great risk in the hope that the BigEasy product would obtain the approval.

Water Safety Products received approval from the FDA in March 2015. Every piece of inventory was shipped immediately to meet the demand of parks' trainings and openings. Thanks to the efforts of the Water Safety Products team, not only were parks able to open with rescue-ready lifeguards for the 2015 season, but parks will have a safe and reliable product for years to come.