

GRACE KELM

Walking On Water

"It's not good to be afraid to jump while waterskiing," warned Grace Kelm. She would know. The president of the Texas State Water Ski Sports Club remembered when she was a kid and scraped the back of one of her ears with her ski while trying to complete a trick move.

THROUGH FIRE AND WATER

This injury didn't deter Kelm, a Texas State accounting junior, from practicing surface tricks the summer before her junior year of high school, but she did flip out.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Kelm has been waterskiing with her family since she was seven and began competing when she was 11. Her dad water-skied in college and, according to Kelm, he has been "obsessed with it ever since."

She and her younger brother have some big skis to fill, but they're proving their salt through various American Water Ski Association and National Collegiate Water Ski Association competitions. The latter organization Kelm competes in as a member of the Texas State Water Ski Sports Club. That's just skimming the surface of the Kelms' water ski history and involvement, though.

LIKE A DUCK TO WATER

Besides her brother being "super good now" (she hopes he'll attend Texas State next year), he's also an AWSA assistant judge. Her mom's also an official water ski competition scorer, although she doesn't ski, and her dad's now a "super high up there" senior judge and registered safety officer.

This man-made lake was developed by the same company that created the San Marcos River Ranch where the Texas State

Water Ski Sports Club practices. It made for an easy transition for Kelm when she joined the club her freshman year at Texas State, where she helps others learn how to water-ski.

LEARNING TOGETHER

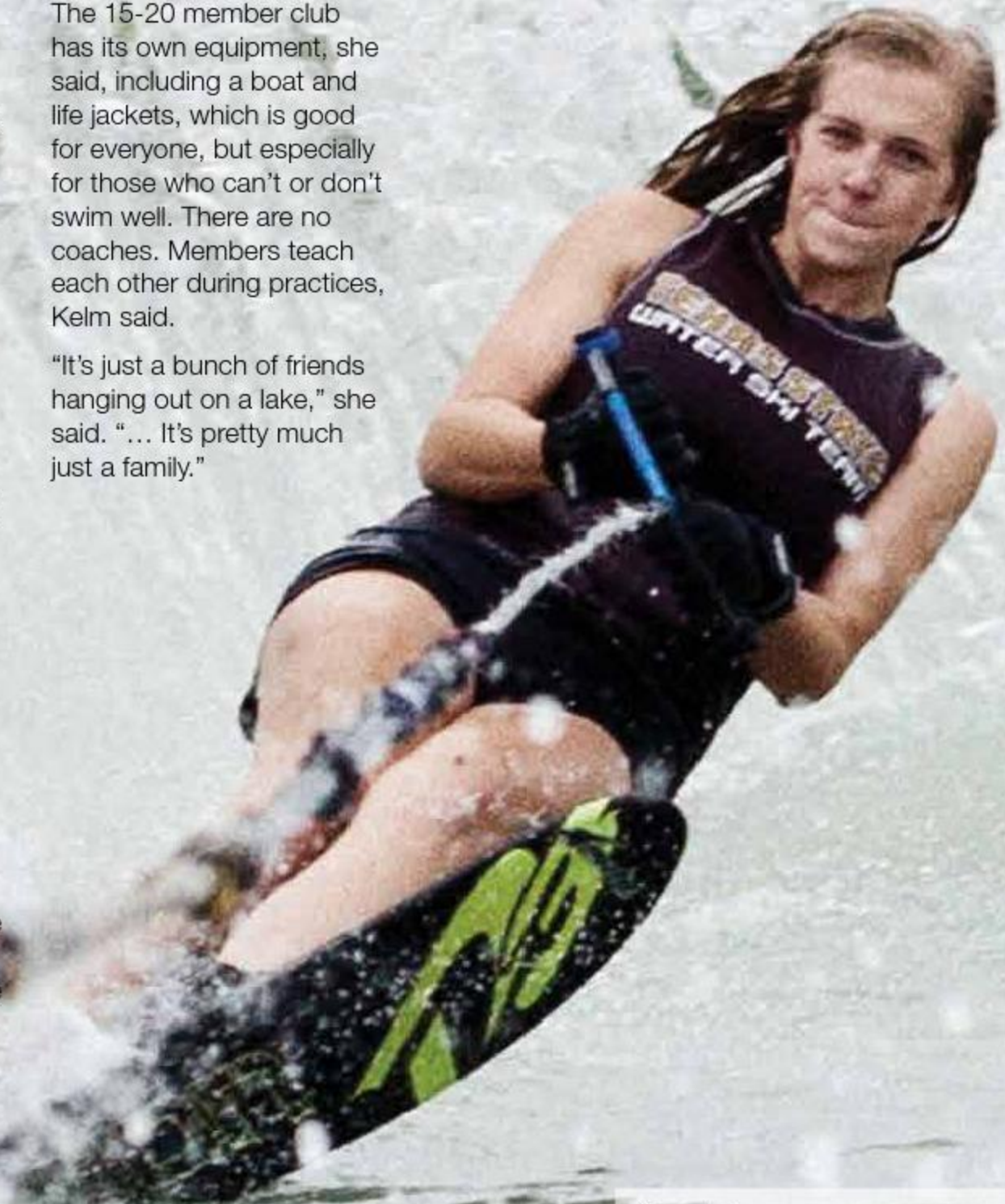
Prospective members that may feel as though they're a fish out of water need not fear, she said: there are no requirements to join the club. "I will teach you," Kelm stated with confidence.

The 15-20 member club has its own equipment, she said, including a boat and life jackets, which is good for everyone, but especially for those who can't or don't swim well. There are no coaches. Members teach each other during practices, Kelm said.

"It's just a bunch of friends hanging out on a lake," she said. "... It's pretty much just a family."



SUBWAY
Profiles



Year: Junior
Studying: Accounting
Hometown: Houston