By Sarah Renaghan

With their usual ski lake dried up from the intense drought this year, the Water Ski Club was forced to travel to other lakes in the area, sometimes as far as Conroe and Houston, just to be able to practice. This determination and dedication played out in their favor as they went on to compete in Regionals in San Antonio. In addition to finishing second and subsequently qualifying for Division I Nationals (Whoop!), they won the Spirit Award for the second year in a row after an impressive display of Aggie Spirit as they lined the banks of the lake and hosted their own yell practice. Water Ski went on to Nationals in Monroe, Louisiana where they placed 11th!

When they aren’t competing, Water Ski still goes above and beyond as a Sport Club. They were named October’s “Sport Club of the Month” not only for their success on the water, but also for their outstanding job with paperwork and communicating with the Sport Clubs Staff and Advisors.

The club recently participated in the Bryan/College Station Christmas Parade on December 4. They passed out flyers and drove their boat down the street pulling skiers behind them on roller blades. The group that participate is featured in the picture to the left.

As the club moves into the Spring, they will be hosting their Polar Bear tournament in March!

Cycling Team Dominates in the Land of Enchantment

By Pierce Young

The Texas A&M Cycling Team earned a birth to the USA Cycling Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships with their overall conference victory. This year, the national championships were held in Angel Fire, New Mexico, October 28-30. Fresh snow greeted the Aggies as they arrived the day before the championships. The Aggies sent three intrepid men (Shane Haga, Ben Silva, and Shawn Small) and one dauntless woman (Katelyn Spradley) to test their mettle against the nation’s finest collegiate mountain bike racers. Ben Davis joined the competitors to provide mechanical and moral support. Much of the snow melted prior to the race, turning the course to mud. Factor in the 8400 feet of elevation at Angel Fire, and the Aggies had their work cut out for them. On the first day of racing, the mud was so thick that at times many competitors had to dismount their bicycles and walk through the mire, but no one would give up easily. The challengers were fierce, the obstacles great, but the Aggies put up a fight. Shawn Small finished 39th. Shane Haga finished 42nd. Ben Silva finished 65th.

Have a relaxing holiday break and stay safe!
Men’s Soccer Makes a Run at 2011 Nationals

By Allen Hamilton

The Texas A&M Men’s Soccer Club completed the 2011 regular season with an overall record of 7-3-1; including victories over the University of Texas, Texas Tech, and NCAA Division III powerhouse Trinity University. Their success earned them an at-large bid to the 2011 NCCS National Soccer Championships in Phoenix, Arizona. The tournament draw landed Texas A&M in a group with the Northwestern Wildcats and the Bulldogs of Georgia. First up was Northwestern. After failing to capitalize on some early opportunities the Aggies could not find the back of the net, leaving the match at a 0-0 draw. This created a “must win” situation against UGA. Rising to the occasion, sophomore midfielder, Reagan Haisler tucked away a deflected ball for the game winner. This win put the Aggies through to the Sweet 16 where they were to face a very good Arizona University team. After an early battle, defender Matt Fredericks broke the tie with a brilliant left-footed strike. Senior midfielder Ryne Heath sealed the deal with a late goal, sending A&M to meet regional rivals, Missouri, in the Elite 8. The Aggies came out strong with an onslaught of chances only inches away, but Missouri’s goalkeeper proved solid. With both defenses refusing to yield, the match was to be decided in sudden death overtime. Unfortunately, the Tigers were able to clumsily knock in a loose ball, ending Texas A&M’s 2011 season. Nonetheless, the Ags are proud of their performance, and will begin work to win a national championship in 2012.