

KSURF!

ISSUE 49

FEB / MAR 15

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 49 of the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! It's another huge issue once again with some amazing images, videos and stories from around the globe! Sam Light drops by to talk about finding your flow on the water,

Indonesia Roars and Tuva Jensen and Bertrand Fleury are right in the thick of it, plus Liam Whaley is the come back kid! Sensi Graves and Tom Hebert are inside too along with the technique, tests and lots more, be sure to check it out!

ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE!



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INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

KSURF!



FIND YOUR FLOW

KITESURFING'S QUIET COUPLE THE COMEBACK KID

SENSI GRAVES // TESTS // TECHNIQUE // & MUCH MORE!

// THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURF MAGAZINE //



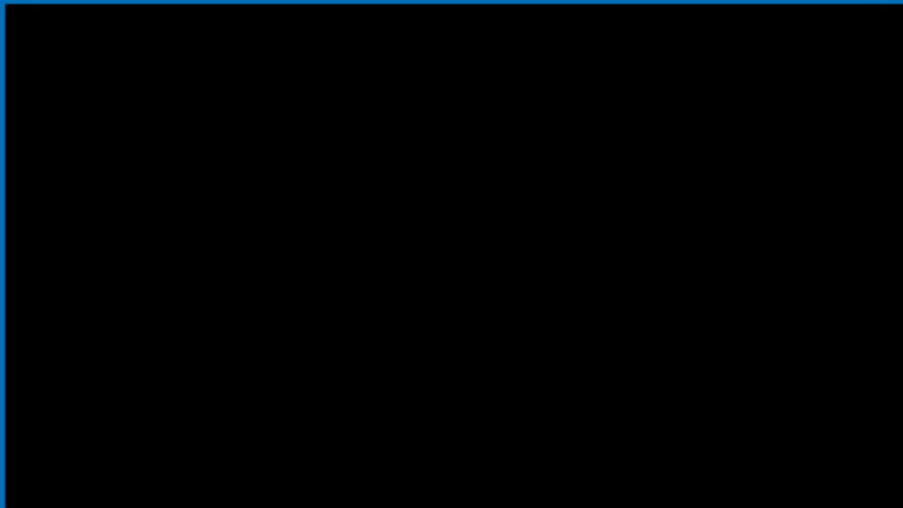
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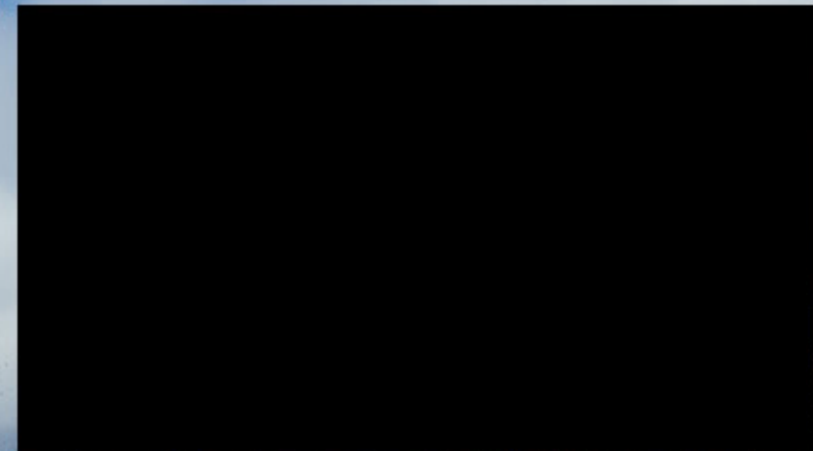
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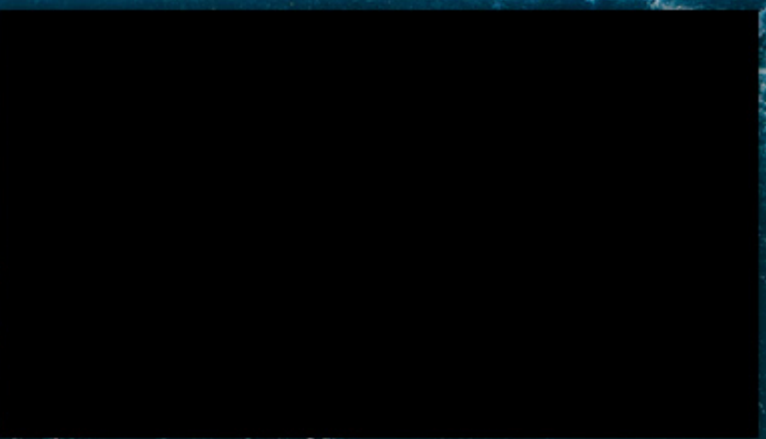


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- SIZES
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 - 13
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FRONT COVER SAM LIGHT KEEPING IT REAL AMONGST THE MANGROVES
FRONT COVER PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON

15 COMPETITION

17 EDITORIAL

21 KITESURFINGS QUIET COUPLE

45 FIND YOUR FLOW

65 BEHIND THE BRAND

89 TECHNIQUE

115 THE COMEBACK KID

131 TEST

149 SURF SANCTUARY PRESENTS...

163 TEN QUESTIONS

173 MOVIE NIGHT

175 LIGHTROOM

189 FEMALE FOCUS

199 READERS GALLERY

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CONTENTS

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RYLAND BLAKENEY RIDING AT THE LANCELIN OCEAN
CLASSIC IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA WHERE HE CAME
SECOND IN THE MEN'S WAVE RIDING EVENT
PHOTO JOHN CARTER



WIN

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Slingshot have teamed up with us this issue to offer one of their fantastic Vision twin tips. This was one of our favourite rides last year and it is packed with their leading technology! Features such as the Naca Tech channels and Fusion Sidewalls are unique to Slingshot and the Fast Track binding system will allow you to get the perfect stance set up.

All the Slingshot twin tips are handmade in the US at their factory in Hood River, this means they can produce boards to extremely exacting standards whilst using techniques that they have developed in house. The Vision is the perfect board for Freestyle and Freeride performance and it looks good enough to eat!

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It's hard out there being a girl...

Unless you have been living under a rock, you won't have failed to notice the controversy that Hannah Whiteley innocently caused with her high heels kiting video recently. If you haven't seen it, then it features in our movie night section so be sure to check it out. Anyway, the furore that was created by it was mostly marketing genius and a bit of fun, coupled with a touch of downright nastiness.

It seems the gender gap in kitesurfing looms ever larger with guys routinely placing pointless scantily clad women in videos with little to no comeback from the kite industry. Yet, when Hannah performed her marketing stunt and bit of fun, some sections of the kite world rallied against her.

Feminism, it seemed, was rearing its head, yet feminism, put simply, is a movement for the acceptance of women to be on the same playing field as men. To call out Hannah in a personal manner and not call out all the guys who, in my opinion, do far more to degrade the projection of women in our sport seemed somewhat hypocritical to me.

It seems like the guys in our sport get a free pass to do whatever the hell they want. Crazy kite tow ups, one-kite-three-rider stunts, jump off huge objects and, worse still, put scantily clad women in videos for no reason at all. Yet when a girl does something of her own volition a lot of people get their knickers in a twist.

Jodie Marsh summed it up perfectly for me recently when talking about the demise of Page 3 in the Sun Newspaper. (In the UK this paper has published a topless women on Page 3 and had done since the 70's, due to outside pressure it has now stopped).

"So called feminists really annoy me. Telling girls they shouldn't do Page 3 is NOT being a feminist; women should do WHATEVER they want!" – Jodie Marsh

Isn't it about time we let the girls do whatever they want to do in the sport, be supportive of them and sing their praises for doing so?

Rou Chater

Publishing Editor



EDITORIAL

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BY NERKAN JANGI

BERTRAND GETS BEHIND THE VELVET CURTAIN!



KITESURFING'S QUIET COUPLE

Bertrand Fleury and Tuva Jansen were well placed to enjoy one of the best seasons for wind and waves that Indonesia has ever seen. Their house overlooks one of the best breaks and over the last 5 years the kite camps they have been running there have gained quite a following...

WORDS ROU CHATER
PHOTOS JASON WOLCOTT





We felt it was a good time to catch up with them and find out about their amazing wave training camps, their perfect location in Indonesia and the arrival of their baby daughter, Aya...

How was the season in Indo this year, is it getting busier as more and more people find out about it?

This year was definitely the most consistent year we have ever had for waves, we kept getting swell after swell, not always big, but always some waves to play around with. The wind kicked in a bit later in the season, but then it was properly on and we had so many unreal sessions. Some years have been more crowded than others, but it is still not too bad. It is a bit of a long way to travel to get there, so I guess that

“ IT WAS PROPERLY ON AND WE HAD SO MANY UNREAL SESSIONS.”

keeps some crowds away. We just have to enjoy it as much as we can now I guess.

Your spot is pretty special do you play host to many travelling kitesurfing celebrities?

Every year there are some pros that pass by, Reo Stevens is one of the guys who has been coming back every year for a few weeks. When you stay in a place like that, you have so many people coming and going, and we find it pretty cool, a change is always good.



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PHOTO: JAMES G. ALLEN FOR SLINGSHOT
IMAGE: J. ROBERT BERNIERI



BERTRAND
GETTING DEEP
ON SOME INDO
GOODNESS!

You've been running the kite camps out there for a few years now, what can people expect when they come and join you on one?

We have done the Indokitecamp for five years already, and it has been great and very popular. We have kept it small, allowing just 3 to 4 people to stay at a time in order to keep it personal and to have more time with each guest to help them improve their riding.

“ TO SEE HOW FAST PEOPLE IMPROVE THEIR RIDING HERE IS SO MUCH FUN ”

The lifestyle is pretty simple where we are, so sometimes it takes a couple of days for people to get into the “ chill out ” mood that you need to have here in Indonesia.

Not much happens here, except what is right in front of the house - the ocean.

So we wake up early in the morning, lift our heads to check out the waves, if it is good we go for a surf and SUP, if not we sleep in or go spearfishing to catch some fresh food for lunch. After that we chill out, eat, relax and wait for the wind to pick up. Then we kite, hang at the beach for sunset, play some volleyball and drink beers. In the evenings we eat, watch the footage from the day and go to bed... We have got a perfect set up here, and it has been fun to be able to share it with other people and to see how much they love it here as well.

What made you decide to set up the camps?

It kind of just happened slowly I guess. We started having friends, and friends of friends, and then some people contacted us and wanted to come over and get some tips on their riding as well. From that the camps evolved and now we do three months of kite camps from the beginning of August to the end of October.

The spot is great for learning how to ride waves since the conditions here are so perfect with side shore wind that makes it super easy to ride. There are customers who have never ridden a wave before, and after just a session here they have caught plenty and actually ridden them. To see how fast people improve their riding here is so much fun, because they get so stoked, and when people are that chuffed and enthusiastic it becomes infectious to everyone around them too!

Where do your clients come from, is anybody welcome to join you?

We get people from all around the world with completely different kite experience, age and life stories. We find it so interesting to meet all these people and to hear about all the different things you can do in life!



TUVA LINING UP A BEAST ON ONE OF THE BIGGER SWELLS!



In recent years it has been mainly guys, but this year we got a bunch of girls too and they were charging! This is not a place for beginners, so you have to know how to control your kite, self rescue and feel good in the water. If you also have some wave experience, then you will have even more fun we reckon.

What can someone expect to learn when they come on one of your clinics?

They will improve their wave riding for sure! They will get a much better understanding of the wave and

“ WHEN THERE IS NO WIND, YOU CAN ENJOY SURFING INSTEAD, AND IT WILL MAKE YOU INTO A BETTER KITER FOR SURE. ”

what they are supposed to do. Video coaching is the best way to learn, since you can see how you ride and what you are doing wrong. It is also then much easier to show people and make them understand.



“ THEY UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING IT A LITTLE BIT UNDERGROUND. ”

Most people also improve their surf and SUP skills as well. Many of our guests have never surfed before, but learned while they were here and that is great. In our opinion, if you like wave riding, you have to get into surfing as well, so when there is no wind, you can enjoy surfing instead, and it will make you into a better kiter for sure.

Do you have to wipe their brains when they leave so they don't tell everyone the GPS coordinates of your little paradise?

Just a little bit! So far everyone who has been here also wants to keep it a secret too, because they want to come back and they understand the importance of keeping it a little bit underground.

You spent some time in Fuerteventura this year, what did that place have to offer that Indo doesn't?

After 15 years of travelling we now understand that there is no totally perfect place! We love Indo, but after a number of months there we do miss civilisation. Some of the simple things, like being able to do something else other than being in the water can make a nice change sometimes. Going to the supermarket, wearing some nice clothes, doing other sports and just seeing different things and people.

Fuerte is a great combination of water and civilisation. It is almost becoming a European Maui! You find a big mix of people from all around Europe living there, and you get a bit of the hippie feeling like you have in Maui. The town is small, but you have everything you need and great waves all around.





Tuva also loves snowboarding and her family is in Norway, so from there we can just jump on a plane and relatives and the snow aren't too far away. We also had to find a place where our daughter can start school later on, and we think Fuerte is a good place, so now she has to learn Spanish too!

When is the best time to travel to Fuerte and Indo for waves?

The windy season in Indo is short, only from August to November. You get waves all year there, but they are bigger from April to September. Fuerte has bigger waves from September to May, so it fits pretty good!

FAMILIES THAT
PLAY TOGETHER...

**“FUERTE HAS
BIGGER WAVES
FROM
SEPTEMBER TO
MAY, SO IT FITS
PRETTY GOOD!”**



PHOTO: JOHANN CIVEL RIDER: REMI DINEUR

KITE: SUMMIT FLYOZONE.COM



It must be pretty hectic travelling around the globe with all the gear and the new addition to the family!?!

It is not that bad. We were so used to travelling already and have it fairly sussed, so now it is just one more thing to bring with us... haha! Aya, our daughter, is a pretty happy and easy-going kid - so far, so good. Also now, when there is no wind or waves, we are not bored anymore; we've still got plenty of things to do!

How has motherhood been treating you Tuva, did you manage to kite while you were still pregnant?

It has been very good. I was in Indo when I was pregnant, and I kited until I was around 4 months I think, then after that it did not feel so good anymore, but I kept on surfing until I was 6 months. I remember

“ I THINK EVERYONE SHOULD JUST DO WHAT THEY FEEL LIKE, AND JUST LISTEN TO YOUR BODY. ”

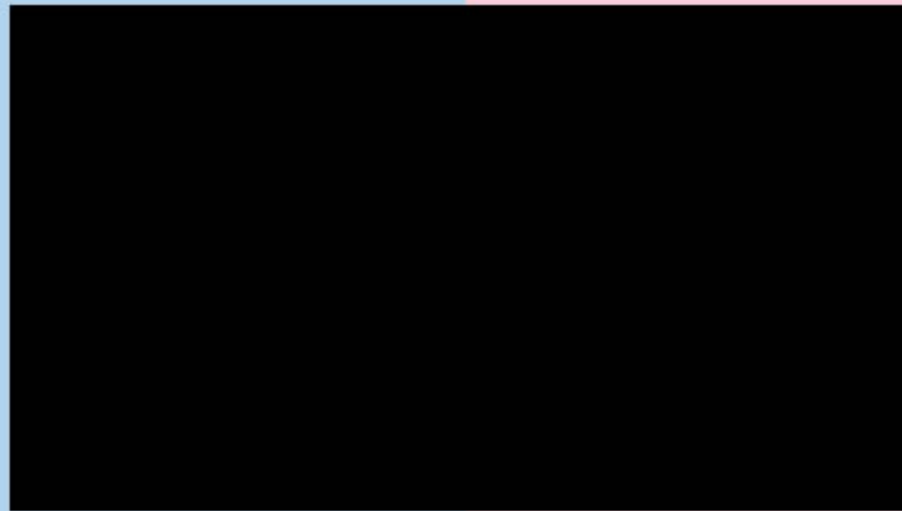
some people saying I was crazy and stuff, but I felt fine, so I think everyone should just do what they feel like, and just listen to your body.

And how soon after giving birth were you able to get back on the water?

We went to Maui when Aya was 3 weeks old, and I think I was pretty lucky with my whole pregnancy, because after just after 5 weeks I was back in the water in Maui and felt more or less normal.



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TUVA SHOWING
OFF THE NEW
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How long is it before Aya learns to fly a kite?

Haha, we're not sure yet, first it's probably best if she learns to surf, but at the moment she doesn't even enjoy having her face under water...

Is the house in Indo totally finished now, what was the hardest part of building it?

The big house where our campers stay has been finished for years now, and we have also

“ THEY ARE INCREDIBLY SUPPORTIVE OF THEIR RIDER'S PROJECTS ”

built a little house next to it where we stay. The hardest part of building in Indonesia is having to deal with the people building it, since the culture and way of doing things are so different from ours. Many foreigners who want to build their dream house will get a lot of surprises while doing it, particularly in Indonesia.

Have you got any advice for anyone thinking of building somewhere off the beaten track?

We didn't get any advice back then, but we had already been there for a few years and had got an idea of how things worked. The best tip we could give to anyone who wants to build a house in Indonesia, or anywhere, is to always keep an eye on the work. You have to be there all the time.

Have you got any advice for families thinking of taking up a more nomadic lifestyle, has having Aya changed your routine?

If you really want to, just do it. Don't let people who live the " normal" life scare you away from doing something different. A change is good, and you can always go back to what you did before if it does not work out the way you hoped it would – at least you tried. Having Aya did not really change anything for us, it just got more busy I guess. We always have to plan things a little bit better than before, but I think it is important not to change your lifestyle too much just because you have kids, because then most people would become less happy, (I know we would), and miserable parents can make unhappy kids. At least, that is what I think...haha!

You both recently switched to F-One, who originally sponsored Bertrand back in the day, what brought that about and what do you like about the brand?

Back to the beginning! Yes, we are very happy to be part of the F-One team, because they are very professional and easy to work with, and they make great kite and SUP gear. They are incredibly supportive of their rider's projects and helpful in promoting our Indokitecamp.



TUCK IN AND KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE EXIT...
BELOW THE HOUSE THAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF!



Have you got their SUP range over in Indo as well as the kites?

Yes, we've got a bunch of gear for people to test out.

What gear are you and Bertrand riding?

We are both riding the Bandit; I am almost always on my 7m in Indo and Bertrand on his 9m. We were both riding the Signature board in Indonesia, while here in Fuerte I have been playing around on the Mitu board in some small surf.

We have all the gear over in Indonesia so if you come on one of our camps we can let you have a go on the

“ WE HAVE ALL THE GEAR OVER IN INDONESIA SO IF YOU COME ON ONE OF OUR CAMPS WE CAN LET YOU HAVE A GO ”

kites, boards and SUP's. Just get in touch with us to find out more, we would love to show you our spot and help you improve your riding!

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Cheers for taking the time Bertrand and Tuva, lets hope we can come and see you all in Indo soon!

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WORDS SAM LIGHT PHOTOS VINCENT BERGERON

FINDING FLOW IN BRAZIL

Sam Light waxes lyrical about getting your
mojo on when you are riding, the delights
that Brazil has to offer and landing those
unicorn moves...





“ MOVES THAT I KNOW I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO REPLICATE, TRICKS THAT I HAVE ONLY LANDED IN BRAZIL. ”

Brazil is without doubt one of, if not THE best location in the world for freestyle kiteboarding. A dreamy cocktail of soft, forgiving 20 knot consistent wind, freshwater lagoons, a warm climate and teenage Brazilian rippers motivating you to step up your act, pushes your kiteboarding to levels you did not know you had; its like a video game.

I've done some of my best ever tricks there, moves that I know I will never be able to replicate, tricks that I have only landed in Brazil. These conditions attract a plethora of professional kiteboarders and 'wannabe' professionals, all with the same dream. Learning every trick in the book to release a video that has the same tricks, done in the same spot as every other pro kiteboarder for the last five years. Even though they are good tricks, it can get repetitive and uninspiring, it's all been done before. My goal for this trip was the same as one of Slingshot mottos; I want to 'be different'...and land some new tricks.

I've been to Brazil several times with different goals. The first time I went I was 16, it was one of my first ever PKRA events (around 7 years ago), and the conditions blew me away - I learnt so many tricks! I went again 3 years ago on a training trip coupled with a self-produced video with the American wakestylers: the 'Na Blend Crew'.

I have always wanted to go back with a decent media crew so I was ecstatic when I got the call from my brand manager, Mauricio Abreu, saying we were going for the RPM product shoot with the sickest team ever, including videographer Patrick Wieland (no need to say more), and Vincent Bergeron who I hadn't shot with before, but have always admired his work and creativity.



I was stoked at the prospect! Also along for the ride were my awesome teammates; Andre Phillip, Alex Fox, Linus Erdmann, Victor Hays, Eric Rienstra, and 16 year old local Brazilian wonder-kid Carlos Mario. Not a bad posse to head out on a trip with, the length and breadth of the talent was second to none!

We had an amazingly prolific shoot in Barra Grande, the first stop on our trip, but I didn't get the tricks I had been dreaming about landing. I'm always trying to think of new tricks and variations to stay at the top of my game, however it's hard to be really different in kiteboarding as we have so many variables that have to be perfect to make a new move possible.

“ WHEN I FIRST VISITED BRAZIL, I ENVISAGED A FEW NEW TRICKS THAT NO ONE HAD EVER DONE BEFORE ”

Seven years ago, when I first visited Brazil, I envisaged a few new tricks that no one had ever done before. Although my level wasn't quite there yet, I knew in my head that they were possible. There I was, five years later, still dreaming about these same tricks, but now I knew I had the skill, knowledge and team to help me land them. Now was my time to shine!



“ IT’S ALL ABOUT NOT BLOWING YOUR LOAD TOO SOON ”

However, product shoots aren’t all about landing your latest and greatest moves, they’re more focused on photos and getting footage of all the new equipment. The shots have to be composed in different locations and from a variety of angles for all the

marketing content that will be required throughout the year. It’s a very important part of the job and you need to have an understanding of what the media department needs in order to ensure nothing is missed.

As a rider it is essential to listen to the photographer and team manager in order to maximize your time on the water getting the required footage. It’s so easy to go into

“hammertime” mode and aim for all your best tricks when the cameras come out and you’re riding with the team. You have to remember though it’s all about not blowing your load too soon and you have to pace yourself throughout the trip. For the brand it’s the most important week of the year, and it’s your job as a pro-rider to ensure they get what they plan and expect.

Despite having a hugely skilled team on location, the majority of the time simple grabs and carves look best in product pictures. I was maxed on a 7m most days, which is not ideal for landing new tricks, therefore I didn’t really try too many! Instead, I focused on getting the product shoot done. Bigger kites are easier for handle-passes as they have a smoother, longer, more consistent power surge when you edge and release, so I knew it was worth waiting for those conditions to try new moves.

To make the most of the trip to Brazil, Patrick, Vincent, Alex, Victor and myself had already planned an extra week in the small sleepy town of Uraru, which is around two hours south of Fortaleza. I was really looking forward to riding in lighter conditions as the wind strength decreases slightly the further south you go. The wind is normally good for 12m kites, there’s a small lagoon and great wave kickers – the perfect set-up to try something new.

Kiteboarders have only been coming here for the past few years, but it is fast becoming increasingly popular. It’s much cheaper than Cumbuco and everything is a lot closer. However, the lagoon is much smaller and can only really cater for around 6 kites, so it often gets busy.



There are a couple of posadas located on the edge of the lagoon so you can stay on the waters edge and never miss any of the action. We stayed in a French posada called 'Vida Boa', which suited us perfectly and was incredibly good value. The bungalows were fairly basic, but all the necessities were there, including a small kitchen, and they were clean and comfortable. A tasty breakfast was included in the price, and there was a nice pool, barbeque area and Wi-Fi. The owners were lovely people, really friendly which contributed to the posada having great vibe - I honestly can't recommend it enough!

“ YOU CAN STAY ON THE WATERS EDGE AND NEVER MISS ANY OF THE ACTION. ”

SHINNSTER

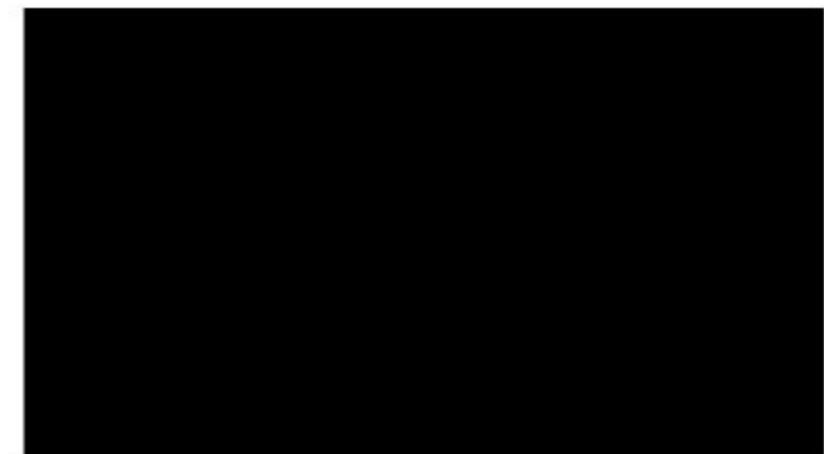
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SAY HELLO TO YOUR *N+1TH BOARD

WAX OR PADS, FINS OR NO FINS, LIGHTWIND OR STRONGWIND, FLAT WATER OR WAVES

AFTER ALL, YOU NEED IT



* N = the current number of boards you own

Shinn



I've also heard good things about another posada next door called Posada Zebra Beach, which is part of the Pro Kite Brazil family. It's more luxurious, with deluxe bathrooms, balconies and jacuzzi baths, which is all reflected in the price. It depends what you're after in terms of accommodation, but there are options to suit a range of budgets and needs even in such a small location.

We had collated enough good media in Barra Grande at the product shoot that we could dedicate this last week to getting creative, focusing more on video and sequence photos. We could aim to 'be different', and, of course, land some new tricks!

Staying within walking distance of the lagoon was a real bonus and it made filming so much easier. When you're trying to film a video part in a short space of time just about everything that can go wrong will inevitably go wrong! Living as close as we were to the lagoon took away some of those problems, like the buggy breaking down or not having the right equipment, we could just pop back and grab whatever we needed.

We tried to ride for one-hour sessions to keep the energy and intensity high, but these normally spilled over to two-hour sessions, because it's virtually impossible to drag yourself off the water when the conditions are so good! However, after two weeks in Brazil trying to land those top tricks is hard, purely because you don't have the same explosive energy as normal. Every session you are giving it your all, and your body invariably gets tired.

“ WE HAD FUN COMING UP WITH MOVES FOR EACH OTHER TO TRY.”

Marc Jacobs
#INCONTROL

MYSTIC

Ride it like
you stole it



STAR
QUICKDRY
TANKTOP

JEANS
BOARDSHORT



MAJESTIC

WAIST HARNESS

The Majestic harness our flagship multi-use harness, simply the best in our range of waist harnesses. Loaded with the best features and latest technologies. Including a memory foam back panel, for extra comfort and a personal fit.

The pre-shaped nature of the harness grips your waist, providing the ultimate hold and unbeatable support. Our harnesses DO NOT RIDE UP! The spreader down system is just one area that stops this happening.

If you are looking for the most supportive harness out there, this is the one!
Be a king without a crown!

Available in 4 colours from your nearest Mystic stockist, or your favourite online store.



BLACK

NAVY



BLUE

GREEN

CLICKER BAR 3.0



PRECURVED



MEMORY FOAM





“ IT’S SO EASY TO GET CARRIED AWAY AND RIDE TOO MUCH.”

We had all written down certain tricks that we wanted to achieve whilst we were out there, and when riding with the same team each day you soon learn each other’s strengths and weaknesses. Everyone had new tricks they were keen to land, and we had fun coming up with moves for each other to try. It’s amazing how much you can learn off one another riding together in a group.

As the lagoon was so small at Uraru, we usually took it in turns to ride and try out something new, with the rest of the team stood on the beach like judges at an ice-rink. This added a nice social aspect to the kiting, something that’s often missed when everyone is out on the water doing their own thing.

I will normally try a few different tricks at the beginning of a session and see what’s feeling good. With all the variables sometimes moves just don’t work on the day, and other times they just click, so I test the water and go with the flow. I’m also a bit of an odd one and my first few tricks are normally my best, which is pretty strange I think - most people need to warm up first!

Everybody is different and finds their flow in different ways; it has taken me years to learn about my body and how to get the most out of it on a trip. It’s often hard to manage your time on the water, as it’s so easy to get carried away and ride too much. We all know how it is; once you become addicted to kiting it’s hard to stop ‘chasing the dragon’ around the water all day!

Riding around mowing the lawn doesn’t require much energy at all, and I can do hooked-in tricks all day long. Even all the ‘stock’ handle-passes don’t require huge amounts of effort



“ KEEP TRYING AND GRAB THOSE MOMENTS SO YOU CAN ULTIMATELY LAND THAT TRICK ”

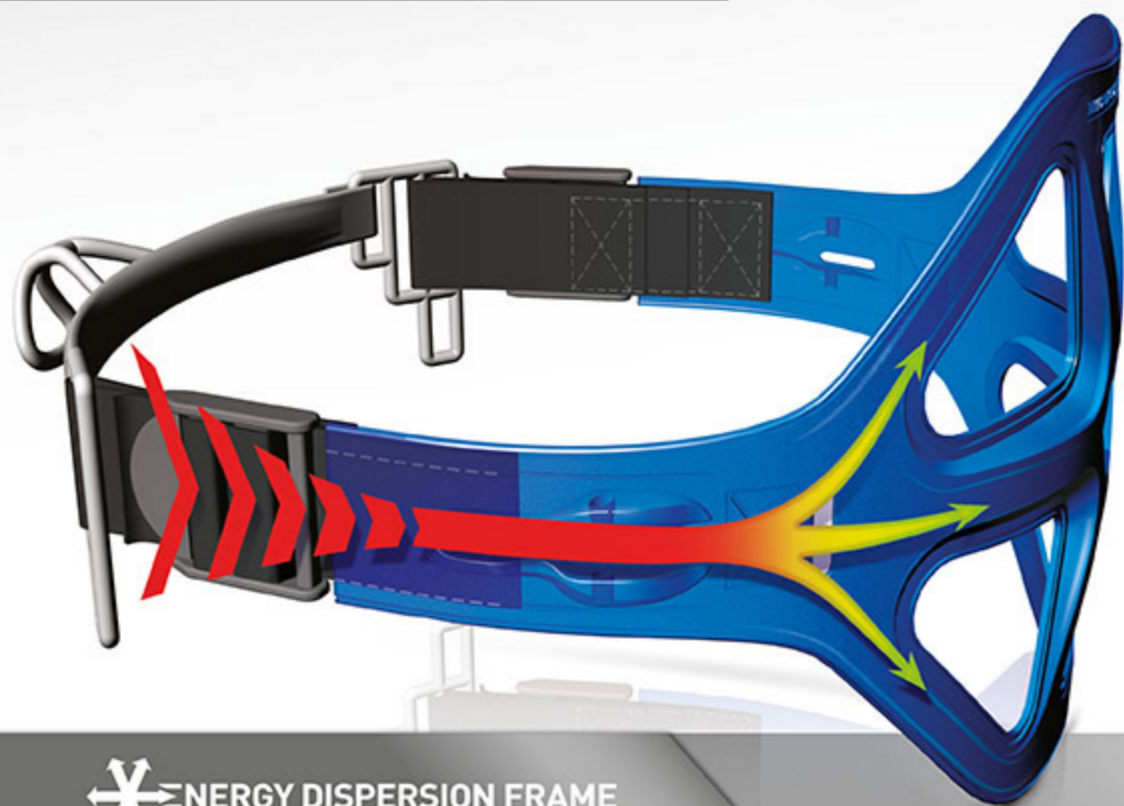
as I have the fitness and muscle memory to throw them whenever, wherever, yet I didn't want to film those moves this week. I was aiming for that top 2% of unicorn tricks that I may only ever land once in my lifetime; those tricks require a certain level of explosive energy and composure that I have to save up.

I had to resist throwing that grabbed front-to-blind to show off for the crowd stood by the lagoon watching us film. I've learnt through trial and error, landing these top 2% tricks is similar to competition; I've always said you have to learn how to lose before you can win and the same applies to filming, I've discovered what doesn't work for me and what does.

What follows is a brief overview of what helps me find my flow, the things that enable me to ride at the very peak of my level. It has taken years of personal searching to discover what works and what doesn't. You might have different needs to me, but I urge you to look for the things that help you improve your riding the most and then incorporate them into your everyday kiting in order to improve.

Music is something that definitely works for me. Some people don't like it and find it strange losing that sense of sound and not being able to hear the water, yet I love it! It really affects my mood, I listen to hip-hop riding rails and drum and base for pumping myself up for big air or big tricks, it gives me that something extra I need. Naturally you tend to doubt yourself, but when I'm listening to music I believe I can do it.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



ENERGY DISPERSION FRAME

The EXO significantly enhances riding comfort thanks to a brand new technology: the Energy Dispersion Frame. The E.D.F. is directly connected to the spreader bar through the webbing and buckles for a direct transfer of the load. Its design and structure optimizes load distribution, spreading consistently the pressure over a much wider area. It provides you with an unrivaled comfort feeling.



BEHIND THE BRAND

Naish need no introduction, they are one of the originals, spearheaded by a legend, with a huge line up of impressive product! We chat to the team behind the brand, and the man himself, to find out what keeps them at the top of the game...

WORDS ROU CHATER PHOTO QUINCY DEIN

BEHIND THE BRAND

NAISH

KITEBOARDING



WAVE CONVERT JALOU LANGEREE CAN STILL SHRED ON A TWIN TIP!

Naish are one of the longest standing brands in the industry, what do you think it is that has kept the brand moving in the right direction for all these years?

Robby Naish: I am not sure I could even say that we have always gone in the "right" direction. From day one we have been driven by our passion for board riding. There was no industry when we started making inflatable strut kites; it was all-new. A lot of what we did was trial and error, exploration and then rapidly improving on the product as we learned how to ride it better and better. Competition, and eventually what you could call a kitesurfing industry, followed afterwards, but it is still the love of riding and the quest for refinement and improvement that keeps us moving forward.

You made your mark on the windsurfing scene winning the overall World Championship title in windsurfing at age 13 and have continued to collect titles and set records in numerous sports throughout the years. How does all your success on the water translate to the Naish brand?

Robby Naish: I would hope that it provides a certain legitimacy to the brand. It means that the guy at the helm and making the financial and strategic decisions for the company has a really hands-on and educated understanding of the product and the sports. I cannot imagine how things would look if I did not kite, or stand up paddle, or if I had not been a pro myself for so long. The fact that I have travelled the world riding in different spots and getting to know the markets

THE LEGEND HIMSELF!
PHOTO QUINCY DEIN



“ IT IS STILL THE LOVE OF RIDING AND THE QUEST FOR REFINEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT THAT KEEPS US MOVING FORWARD. ”



intimately for nearly forty years, and that I still ride at a pretty high level in all of the sports that we develop product for, has to make some kind of difference. I am here doing this interview in Cape Town for the King of the Air. I am not competing, but I am here to kite and am taking it all in: hanging out with and watching all of the riders, regardless of who they ride for; checking out their gear; listening to them talk; seeing how they ride... that experience and knowledge will make its way into the DNA of who we are as a brand. I can't say for sure, but I think that's a good thing.

Robby, you have obviously been a spearhead for the brand in the early days working with Don Montague on the designs. Who heads up the design department these days and how involved are you still in that process?

Robby Naish: I am still really involved with every aspect of the brand, be it design, formulating the range, graphics, marketing, team, and especially finance. I try not to overly micromanage things, but am pretty much there as a check and balance every step of the way.

“ WE WANT TO DEVELOP KITES WITH MORE SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE GOALS ”

PHOTO STEPHEN WHITESELL

On the kite side, Damien Girardin is ultimately responsible for designing and implementing the product into production, though he works closely together with Des Walsh, Lars Moltrup and the team during the development process. I still like to at least test everything and give my sign-off before things are final, but we are almost always very much on the same page in terms of what we are looking for in a kite line as the process evolves. Control systems are also a group effort, with Lars being the chief engineer responsible for final design and production. The graphics are then a collaborative

effort with the art department, where everyone gets to sound in with input. **You have a huge range of kites, has it always been a goal to offer such a large range and what is the thinking behind it?**

Robby Naish: You can make a line of kites that works really well for just about any use, but, for a brand like Naish, we want to develop kites with more specific performance goals as well. We may do the majority of our sales with great all-round, freeride kites like the Park and Pivot, but having kites like the Fly, Trip, Draft and Torch is important to us.

SOUL SERIES: SO MUCH MORE DRYSUITS [EVOLVED]



SELF ENTRY * BREATHABLE * MULTI-SEASONAL * STANDBY MODE
SOUL SERIES DRYSUITS, STARTING AT \$599 / €499



WORLD LEADER IN DRYSUIT TECHNOLOGY

NO STRUTS = NO PROBLEM FOR KAI LENNY!
 PHOTO QUINCY DEIN

“ SO I DESIGNED A
 LIGHTWIND-DEDICATED KITE WITH
 A FOCUS ON BAR FEEL, LOW-END
 POWER AND THE FASTEST
 TURNING SPEED POSSIBLE ”



They show our commitment to the sport in all of our variations. We may not sell a ton of Torches, for example, but having the kite that won back-to-back King of the Air titles shows our expertise in specific design criteria and gives the team the tools they need to perform at the highest level.

There are some interesting designs in the line-up, the Fly and the Trip for instance, where do these new concepts come from and how long do you spend developing them?

Damien Girardin: The concept for the Fly came from an afternoon of super light wind a few years ago. I was sitting with Sam Light watching guys go out on race kites and race boards. We were thinking it was such a bummer that, when the wind was that light, you had to go on such gear and could not have a normal, fun, freeride session the way you could if it were windy. Even more, if you wanted to do tricks, or ride the sliders and kickers (we were actually sitting on the sandbar in Hood River at that time), then you had to find a cable park somewhere. And so I designed a lightwind-dedicated kite with a focus on bar feel, low-end power and the fastest turning speed possible, which turned out to be a real success in lightwind areas.

The idea for the Trip came naturally, after I designed the Ride (the first 2-strut kite on the market) where, in just a few years, we had gone down from 7, to 5, to 3, to then only 2 struts. Naturally, I wanted to keep on pushing. I had made some 1-strut samples in the past, but was not happy with the result (too much fluttering and poor low-end), so I went all the way down to the no-strut design!



HE'S HAD MORE WAVES THAN YOU'VE HAD HOT DINNERS!
PHOTO QUINCY DEIN

"WE WERE BLOWN AWAY. IT WORKED MUCH BETTER THAN ANTICIPATED."

The timing of this was actually ideal because I had been getting a lot better at balancing the kites in terms of centre-of-effort and tow point alignment through bridle design. At this point, I was now able to design kites that were really well balanced and, for the most part, really did not need struts to keep their shape. So, when we received the first sample, we were blown away. It worked much better than anticipated. The low-end was the best of any kite this size by far and we were really impressed by some of the airs we were getting on it. There was some resistance to the idea at first, but once Robby was able to try out the

kite for himself he was on board. He now travels with it wherever he goes, loving the awesome low-end and the convenience of how small it packs up.

Which is the most popular kite in the line up?

Damien Girardin: Currently, the new Pivot is a great success for us, selling even more than our Park, which was our bestseller over these past 5 years. I believe it is so successful because the Pivot perfectly matches the needs of most kiteboarders today. It makes strapless riding a lot easier, has great low-end power and is very easy to jump while being extremely forgiving. It's the best of all worlds!

BRUNOTTI BOARDS



BRLUTUS
8'2" x 12 5/8" x 12 5/8" 23.4L



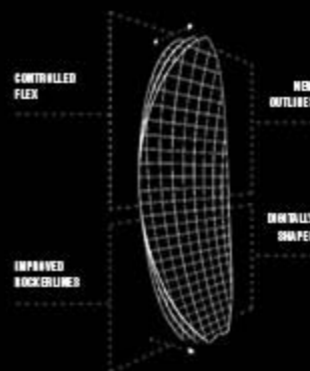
BOOMER
8'0" x 11 5/8" x 12 1/8" 23.4L



BOSS
8'10" x 17 15/16" x 12 1/8" 28.8L
8'1" x 11 1/4" x 11 1/8" 20.8L

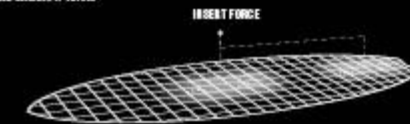


3D SPECIFICATIONS



INSERTS

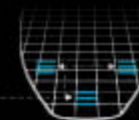
NEW INSERT TECHNOLOGY CAN HOLD UP TO 4 X 100KG WHICH IS EQUAL TO 12000N TOTAL PEAK FORCE WHEN PERFORMING A TRICK.



3.F.R. TECH

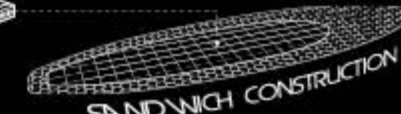
THREE HIGH DENSITY FOAM PARTS HOLD THE FIBER IN PLACE WHILE DISTRIBUTING THE SIDEWAYS FORCES TO THE REST OF THE BOARD CONSTRUCTION.

3FR^{TECH}



BOARD CONSTRUCTION

NEW BRUNOTTI ARE CONSTRUCTED WITH PVC SANDWICH AND BONECOOL MATERIAL. THIS MAKES IT LIGHTER, STRONGER AND MORE RESISTANT TO DENTS AND CRACKS.



“ IT SET US APART FROM THE PACK
AND MADE NAISH KITES CLEARLY
VISIBLE IN THE SKY ”

DAMIEN SENDING IT IN THE NAME OF PROGRESS!!
PHOTO: STEPHEN WHITESELL

Where do the kites get built, do you have your own factory?

Robby Naish: We have been working with the same factory since we made our first windsurfing sails in 1995. We have learned and grown together. For instance, we learned how to produce the inflated strut kites together and have pretty much perfected the process over the past decade and a half. I do not own the factory, but it is a partnership that I am very proud of and feel that our history and knowledge gained from so many years of working together sets our construction and quality control standards at the highest level. Not owning the factory also frees up more of my time and financial resources to focus on

the tasks at hand, rather than trying to manage the finance and logistics of owning a factory halfway around the world. I know my limitations!

You've been at the forefront of some interesting developments over the years, such as the UDS (ultimate depower system), Octopus Inflation, and of course the Sigma Series. Do you patent these ideas and is that why the rest of the industry doesn't take them up?

Robby Naish: We will apply for PPA's for the majority of our inventions, but will only bring to full patent status those that really justify the cost of doing so. Things like the push-away release on the chicken loop

we patented and license to the other major brands, while for something like the Sigma design we did not.

What led you to move away from the Sigma Series design idea, it was very distinctive at the time?

Robby Naish: The Sigma design was very unique and functional. It set us apart from the pack and made Naish kites clearly visible in the sky, but there are times when that is not necessarily a good thing - even if the performance is solid. In this particular case, although we really believed in the design concept, we were one brand selling a very particular looking design while an entire industry was selling something else.

“ WE SPENT MOST OF THE YEAR TAKING IT FROM THE INITIAL CONCEPT TO THE FINALISED PRODUCT ”



It was "swimming against the current" to a large degree and required a full explanation and education on the concept. There is strength in numbers and eventually we simply had to get into the same design flow as everyone else. Having both Sigma and Swept Wing was tough, as it was hard to argue why someone would need one over the other, so eventually the Sigma designs became a thing of the past. They are still a proud part of our history, though.

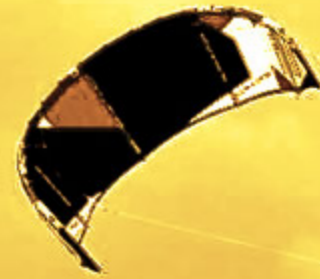
Damien Girardin: At that point, we had progressed a lot in kite design and were able to recreate the performance of the Sigma series, but with a regular shape (that was the Park back then). A big focus was the stability of the kite in the air and, once we had a kite with a regular shape that we were satisfied with, we terminated the Sigma series.

You've just released a new bar, which is excellent, how long was the process from initial concept to shop floor?

Lars Moltrup: We worked very hard this year on the new Fusion Control System. We spent most of the year taking it from the initial concept to the finalised product, which included a significant amount of time durability testing on the water. The actual product took about six months of brainstorming, sketching, 3D modelling, tooling and lab testing.

A lot of brands have moved to above-the-bar depower on their control systems, what do you think are the advantages of keeping it below the bar?

Lars Moltrup: More than anything, it's a matter of preference, include factors such as what type of depower you are used to, if you prefer to have a clean system above the bar and so on.



SCREAMER

7, 9, 10^{LTD}, 12, 14

Lets face it – big air and freedom is what attracted you to the sport. Break the shackles with the new SCREAMER 4G. Noted and respected for its ability to produce oxygen depriving height and exceptional hang time, the Screamer raises the bar for big riding. Get ready for the ride of your life with the Screamer 10 meter Limited Edition. This specialized kite is our test pilot for the next generation of Screamers and has been vastly improved over the 3G version. If you thought we hit it out of the park before, get your hands on the 4G Kites today – buckle up and get your oxygen masks ready!

The view from up here:

- Smooth power delivery
- Fantastic upwind drive
- Unmatched lift
- Enough hang time that you can check your email

Key features:

- The 4G Screamer has seen small improvements that address stability, power delivery, relaunch and speed. Now more than ever, you can quickly rig and start blasting big airs with more confidence and up the fun factor.
- Cone shaped struts for solid trailing edge performance
- Simple bridle with new 4G high performance pulleys
- Speedy turns through the wingtip for the megaloop lovers

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| SCREAMER 14 | 10 <small>knobs</small> | 22 <small>knobs</small> |
| SCREAMER 12 | 12 <small>knobs</small> | 27 <small>knobs</small> |
| SCREAMER 9 | 16 <small>knobs</small> | 38 <small>knobs</small> |
| SCREAMER 7 | 18 <small>knobs</small> | 45 <small>knobs</small> |

The only real advantage is for people who don't have a long reach; here the below-the-bar trim really comes in handy.

Where do the bars get manufactured and put together?

Lars Moltrup: We work with a factory in China, the same factory that produces our kites, but, of course, various subcontractors make most of the components.


You have an extensive twin tip line up, what has changed in terms of twin tip design and construction in recent years?

Lars Moltrup: More than anything, we have been pushing the envelope in regards to shaping, paying special attention to both deck and bottom shaping in order to reduce weight and improve the desired characteristics for the individual disciplines within twin tip riding. Also, the use of Basalt fibre has been introduced in order to enhance the performance along with a smarter and more optimized usage of the materials.

The Apex foot strap bindings are very popular too, what sets them apart from the rest of the systems on the market?

Lars Moltrup: The key word here is adjustment. More than any other binding on the market, the Apex has more adjustment in relation to not only size, but also the shape of your foot. It is also one of the lightest bindings on the market, which is impressive when considering how many features you get. Some of the

PHOTO QUINCY DEIN



“ THERE ARE A LOT OF WOMEN OUT THERE THAT WANT THEIR OWN STYLE, LOOK AND FEEL ”

most commonly heard feedback is that it is the most comfortable as well.

Who looks after the design for the surfboards and twin tips, is it the same person?

Robby Naish: Lars heads up the twin tip designs as well as that of the new Skater models, while I do the dedicated directional wave board designs.

There is an impressive female range with the Alana series of kites, boards, surfboards and harnesses, Are you seeing a growth in this section of the market? What do you think is driving this growth?

Robby Naish: Absolutely. Across the board in both kitesurfing and in SUP the Alana range has been growing in popularity. There are a lot of women out there that want their own style, look and feel and don't necessarily want to ride the same kit as their boyfriend.

How does being based in Maui help and hinder with product development?

Robby Naish: For sure being based on Maui has more advantages than disadvantages, especially if you factor in quality of life. We have a twelve-month per year development cycle with quite consistent conditions.

“ WE PREFER TO HAVE FEWER, HIGH-QUALITY AND HAPPY RIDERS THAT WE CAN REALLY TAKE CARE OF.”



PHOTO STEPHEN WHITESSELL



LARS MOLTROP WORKING HARD...

We do occasionally have to search, or even travel, to find all of the various conditions that we want to test in, but Maui does offer a wide variety of wind and water options.

It is important not to just test 8m kites at Naish Beach every day. Knowing that, we need to design kites and kite boards that will perform at the highest level worldwide, be it in strong winds, light winds, steady winds, gusty winds, flat water, choppy water or in waves. We are very careful not to be pigeonholed as just a Maui brand. Having designers and engineers from around the globe also helps to guarantee that. They remember where they are from and appreciate it, but they are also pretty stoked to have the opportunity to work and live in paradise!

You’ve got a pretty close-knit pro team, with riders who have been with you for what seems like forever. What’s the secret to retaining such high quality athletes for so long?

Des Walsh: Our team is super talented and diverse, but what we are most proud of is that they are all really good people who are great role models for the sport. We have built long-term relationships with them and they are great representatives for Naish. Rather than having a ton of riders, we prefer to have fewer, high-quality and happy riders that we can really take care of. In addition, the feedback that we get from them on gear is a really important part of the process. We are in constant communication with them, so choosing the right people is key.

Currently where is your biggest market, the Americas, Europe or elsewhere?

Robby Naish: The kitesurfing market is still biggest in Europe, it always has been.

As one of the bigger brands in the game do you have a bigger team of people working behind the scenes or is it still a relatively small group?

Robby Naish: I guess that depends on your definition of big or small. Nobody at Naish is sitting around looking for something to do, that’s for sure. But we have the resources needed to get the job done. I think that we are the right size in that we feel small and work as an intimate group, yet are able to accomplish a pretty amazing amount of work every year for a company of our size.

“ WE HAVE MANAGED TO SURVIVE,
EVOLVE AND GROW OVER THE
PAST TWENTY YEARS AND ARE
STILL HERE HAVING FUN MAKING
PRODUCTS THAT WE ARE REALLY
PROUD OF. ”



Do you have people based all over the world or just in Maui?

Robby Naish: Our administration, research and development, graphics department and marketing are all based on Maui. Accounting and finance are located on the East coast of the U.S. mainland and our U.S. distribution is based in White Salmon, Washington. Independent importers in each country handle the rest of the world.

It's great to see that, after all these years, you are still so heavily involved with all aspects of the business, did you ever have any formal business training or investment along the way?

Robby Naish: I clearly do not have any formal business education. I turned pro right out of high school and have never looked back. When I started Naish, it was a leap of faith. I have learned a lot over the years. Although there have been some fairly painful lessons here and there along the way, we have managed to survive, evolve and grow over the past twenty years and are still here having fun making products that we are really proud of. I do have a lot at risk, especially financially, but I have made it all this way without ever having to sell shares or find outside financing. This is one of the reasons that I have stayed so involved with all of the aspects of the company - I have to! It has been a blast though, and I have a fantastic team of talented, motivated and hard working men and women that make the Naish brand what it is.

Thank you Robby, Damien, Lars and Des for taking the time to speak to us, we really appreciate it!

Pure energy.



The 2015 **PARK**

Freeride/Freestyle

Sizes: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14

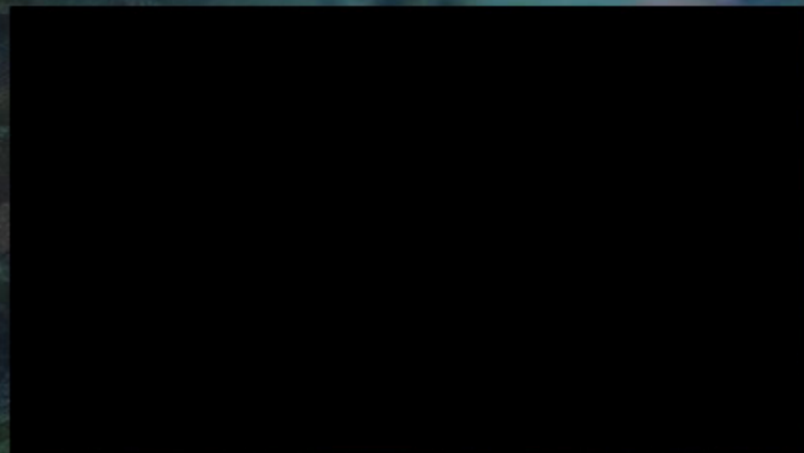
The 2015 Park is one kite that does it all for any rider, any style, in any condition.

The powerful profile gives the rider outstanding low-end power and constant pull over a wide range of wind speeds while the reduced leading edge taper and HD radial segmented arc provide a solid feel, extra stability and increased control. The Compact C outline and three-strut design create a stable and responsive kite. The Park uses just enough sweep to maximize depower and allow for easy relaunch.

Its refined static bridle platform also improves forward flying, acceleration out of turns, and instant response while creating less pull in the harness. These characteristics are essential for unhooked riding.

Designed with fun in mind, the Park provides an easy ride, the power to boost and outstanding freeride and freestyle performance.

Recommended Control System: Fusion Control System



- REDUCED LEADING EDGE TAPER
- HD RADIAL SEGMENTED ARC
- CANOPY STABILIZER
- COMPACT C
- LOW DRAG WING TIP
- THREE-STRUT DESIGN
- POWERFUL CANOPY
- DUAL INFLATION SYSTEM
- STATIC BRIDLE PLATFORM
- EVOLUTIVE PROFILE
- SOLID FIBRE CONSTRUCTION
- HIGH FLOW VALVE
- ANTI-STATION WINDOW
- UNIFORM LOAD DISTRIBUTION



CKPERFORMANCE

Happily sponsored by Cabrinha and NP

TECHNIQUE



We fire straight off this issue with part two of the Chicken Gybe for those surfboard riders amongst you - continuing where we left off last time, you'll be turning on a dime from toe to heel. Next up it's time to challenge your toe side edge. If you're a fan of the BLT, why not add a more unusual twist and take off into it from your pinkies, yup it's the Toe Side Back Loop Transition. Apologies if you call it a roll, but BRT doesn't quite have the same ring to it. And finally to finish off we have something for you fledgling freestylers, the Raley to Wrapped. Hopefully there's something for all of you - have fun.

Upcoming clinic availability:

Cabe Verde 16th to 23rd March

Sri Lanka 23rd to 31st May

Sri Lanka 31st May to 7th June



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CHICKEN GYBE 2 TOE TO HEEL



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

BACK LOOP TRANSITION FROM TOE SIDE



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

RALEY TO WRAPPED



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

CHICKEN GYBE 2 TOE TO HEEL >

Board Proto 5'7

Kite Drifter 8m

Continuing on from the last issue in which we covered part one, here is the toe to heel version of the Chicken Gybe. The idea is much the same as before, you're aiming to pivot the board from toe to heel without it carving downwind, effectively sinking the upwind rail first, and then using the kite and your feet to scissor you and the board around. Not only is this movement yet another handy get-out-of-jail card when playing in the waves, but it'll also help you develop a base for your top turns when wave riding front side. So let's have a look at the key points.

The Approach Pic A

Realistically you'll be coming into this as if you were riding toe side on the way out, so you'll have plenty of weight forward and the chances are that, like Karine in the picture, you'll have your back foot forward to keep the board trimmed and speed up, and slightly over towards the windward rail to keep the rail in. This means that you're not in the ideal position to suddenly change direction. You'll also have your kite below 1 or 11 o'clock to pull you forward, and as a result you'll be motoring. None of this is a problem; you just need to be aware that before you can turn and run from that oncoming monster you'll need a moment to prepare.

The Prep Pic B

Knowing that she wants to turn soon, Karine needs to get herself and the kite into position. First thing is to



move her back foot down the board so that it's firmly on the tail pad, straddling the centreline of the board. However Karine keeps her weight on her toes – you don't want the board to flatten and start drifting off the wind towards your kite. By doing this you can see that Karine now has her feet further apart and she is in a more dynamic position to control the board. Think about dropping your weight low and bending your knees so that you're closer to the deck. Next Karine rocks her weight back on the board to sink the tail and slow the board down. Finally, Karine steers her kite up towards 1 o'clock with her back hand. Now she's ready for the gybe.



" SHE IS IN A MORE DYNAMIC POSITION TO CONTROL THE BOARD. "

Initiate the Turn Pic C

Just like the toe to heel in part one, to start the turn Karine must move all her weight back over her back foot by rocking her hips back, while keeping pressure on her toes to stop the board flattening off. With the board almost wheeling nose up, Karine moves the kite across the window. Make sure that you don't lean back with your shoulders, otherwise the kite will pull you off the back of the board.



Rather push down through your back foot, keeping your body over the board and your back knee flexed upwind.

The Scissor Pic D

As soon as you feel the kite pull, you must turn your head and upper body to follow it. As long as you keep your weight upwind of the board and over the tail you'll be able to soften your back leg and almost lift your front leg, pulling the board with it. You can see in the picture that Karine's weight is still upwind of the board as it turns, but she breaks at the waist to keep her centre of balance moving with both the board and kite. Allow the kite to do the work, so that it pulls you around and you then force the board around. If you let the bar out the kite will fly to the edge of the window



without taking you with it, so keep that bar in. If the kite pulls too hard, then by all means let off some power, but don't dump it all.

Heel Side Pic E

To finish off her turn, quite literally on a dime, Karine looks back the other way and reaches for the bar with her back hand. This brings her shoulders fully around, and with her weight still on the back of the board the fins will bite as she leans her weight onto her heels. You'll soon notice if your weight is still on your toes as the board will slide sideways, or you'll catch the toe side rail! Kite movement is also important here, Karine still has the bar on the sweet spot so that the kite is supporting her, and as she comes around to this position she can now dive it down to pull her



forward and back the other way, whilst she moves her hips forwards to put weight back on her front foot, trimming the board flat so that she can accelerate.

Top Tips

Same again as part one! On your first attempts try and do everything slow and controlled. Come in nice and slow, move the kite slowly across the window and you'll get a feel for the board, and it'll be simpler to keep your hips and weight upwind of the board. As soon as you come in fast you'll want to carve and send the kite too quickly. Once you're comfortable you can start to move the kite more quickly and be more dynamic with your body weight and board pivot. Now have a look at the **videos** and **sequence** to see the Chicken Gybe from toe to heel in full.

ANY
THING
YOU
WANT.



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// RIDER: PETR "PECHI" PECHACEK
// PHOTO: TONY FILSON PHOTOGRAPHY



Common Problems

Your most likely surprise will be the dunking which results from the kite pulling you off the back of your board which isn't turning. This is the result of your muscle memory trying to carve the board around. If you lean your weight back and onto your heel, you've placed yourself into an unbalanced position from which the kite will pull you off. If you keep your toes weighted and knees flexed, you can resist the kite a bit with the toe side rail, and therefore use it to help turn you and the board. If you've windsurfed think flare or slam gybe.

If the kite ends up with no power whatsoever, it means that you have let the bar out during the turn, which will let the kite flutter to the edge of the window. Keep the bar in so that the kite pulls you around. If the kite pulls too much, try moving it more gently.

Keystones

1. Slow down
2. Weight back and low, keep the edge
3. Slowly steer kite on sweet spot
4. Turn head and sink tail whilst keeping weight upwind
5. Finish turn, dive kite and move weight forwards to trim board



BACK LOOP TRANSITION FROM TOE SIDE >

Board Ace 137

Kite Chaos 9m

This is a fun one. We all need transitions to turn around, and let's be honest the better they look the better we feel. The BLT in its true form is one of the most popular transitions out there. Done well it oozes style, a casual rotation, effortlessly floated around with control. Old boys do them, kids in boots do them and even surfboarders (can you say that?) do them. Well, if you want that same feeling, but fancy a new challenge or just want to stand out from the crowd a bit, it's time to TSBLT.....

Your toe side is potentially going to be your nemesis in this one, so we'll have a look at how to take off efficiently. As a precursor we would of course suggest that you have the "original" BLT firmly in the bag and if you can already front or back from toe side that will help considerably – but it's not a must. Thinking about this move you only have to rotate 180°, so the effort is not in the spinning, but actually more in the up motion, kicking off your edge in an attempt to get some float and turn slowly, just like a good BLT. Read on for some nuggets that will hopefully help.

The Approach & Your Edge Pic A

To control a sent take off from your toes you need two things, speed and a good solid edge. However being a transition we need to bleed off enough speed so that we don't have too much forward momentum. This is a double-edged sword. Christian has his bar



trimmed in so that he can get an aggressive edge and hold the power with two hands without being pulled up onto the board, but leaves it out enough so that he can pull for extra lift on take off. This way he can turn his head and shoulders away from the kite and push down onto his toes, hips forward, driving the board between him and the kite with both legs flexed. This keeps his weight evenly distributed along the board, keeping it flatter which equals less drag so Christian can go slower without stopping. As he sends the kite up Christian rocks his hips back to dig more board into the water, which will slow him and put more tension on the lines. The kite send needs to be short, but sharp. This way you won't have to resist for long before the kite is high enough. Judging by his face this does require some effort.



"CHRISTIAN ROCKS HIS HIPS BACK TO DIG MORE BOARD INTO THE WATER, WHICH WILL SLOW HIM AND PUT MORE TENSION ON THE LINES."



The Take Off Pic B

Getting airborne here is the crux of the move. In one way you should imagine that you're trying to jump or air gybe and not rotate. The reason for this is that you need to keep the board between you and the kite for maximum resistance, so that the kite will take you up. This means that the entire time you should be on your toes, with your knees and shoulders upwind of the board. If you concentrate too much on leaning back you'll weight your back foot's heel and get pulled over the board, resulting in a miniscule amount of air.



You can see that Christian has rocked back but is still edging as the kite goes to 12 o'clock. As it lifts, Christian springs up off his legs against the edge and pulls in on the bar. Final point here, in both the last two photos Christian has his chin turned over his front shoulder, which not only helps him edge, but also means that he will be able to start a rotation.

"CHRISTIAN SPRINGS UP OFF HIS LEGS AGAINST THE EDGE AND PULLS IN ON THE BAR."



Up & Wait Pic C

You can see here that as Christian goes up with the kite he is rotating, but very slowly, as he hasn't turned much more than in the previous picture. However, what is equally important is that he is still looking over that shoulder. At this point it is very tempting to bail, as you'll have the feeling that not much is happening. Resist this urge at all costs, it will make you look forwards (imagine Christian looking at the camera) which will kill your rotation. It may also be tempting to let the bar out, but you need the float so stay in this position and let the kite drift slightly past 12 o'clock, back towards where you came from with your knees up and your hands in.

Turn & Face Pic D

And this is why; with the kite slightly past 12, it will pull you gently from your harness and as soon as you get through the eye of the wind you'll be able to see where you'd like to go. Here Christian can see where he is so he starts to dive the kite hard with what will be his front hand. For the dive to be effective you do need to wait until you're coming down so your timing will depend on height.

Knee Through Pic E

This will be easier if you're landing your preferred foot forward. As the kite dives and powers it will pull you, and you must use this pull to help you around the rest of the 180°. Christian still has his knees up and bar in. This means that the power will pull from his hips and hands, and with his legs up his board and lower body will pull around following his upper body.



" YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO LAND THIS JUST LIKE A STRAIGHT BLT OR AIR GYBE. "

If you leave your legs dangling they may well get left behind! You can see that Christian is focussed on where he'll land.

Touch Down Pic F

If you've timed the dive correctly you should be able to land this just like a straight BLT or Air Gybe. The kite pulls you round and downwind, so all you need to do is twist your hips, point the board off the wind and smoothly touch down tail first. If you did dive a tad too early, or you let the kite drift too far you may well have to keep pulling hard on your front hand to sneak in a very late kiteloop to stop you sinking.

**Top Tips**

This move, as with so many, will require an element of trial and error. If you've never practiced anything sent from toe side it will feel more than awkward, and even if you have, slowing down to then rotate backwards from toe side won't exactly be natural. To get a feel for it try a few small jumps first, and aim to get lift as opposed to downwind pull. You'll find that the kite naturally wants to pull you back. As long as you can keep your edge, send the kite and remember to tuck your chin down onto your leading shoulder, then you will rotate. Then it's a matter of using the kite to finish it off.

Time to have a look at the **videos** and the **sequence** for the complete action. In the sequence notice that Christian's head, hands and the bar don't really move



once he's up in the air. The rest of his body and the board rotate under him as the kite pulls.

Common Problems

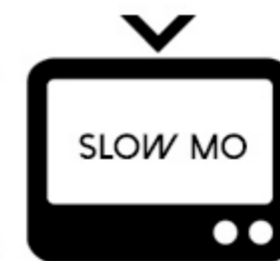
Not getting off the water. You need to edge hard with both legs and it should be an effort. Try to bend both knees equally before sending the kite and make sure it moves quickly to 12 from either 11 or 1, no lower. Any higher and you won't be able to edge.

Getting pulled onto your back on take off. As the kite lifts, push upwind from your edge. It's easy to just roll back, arching your back towards the kite as you look over your shoulder. This will just pivot you on the tail and pull you over.

Jumping, but landing in the same direction with no rotation. If you're getting off the water but end up doing this "jump" don't fret. Chances are that you're looking forwards as you take off, which is a natural way to counteract the pull from the kite. Turn your chin as you approach and break at the waist as you edge.

Keystones

1. Chin on leading shoulder
2. Edge with both knees and break at waist (trim bar)
3. Short but sharp send from 11 or 1
4. Push away from edge and pull in bar for lift
5. Drift the kite to rotate, then dive the kite to pull you out



RALEY TO WRAPPED >**Board** XO 133 **Kite** Chaos 7m

Raleys and Wrapped are not always the most popular of bedfellows. When we think of wrapped or 3s, 5s and even 7s rotating that way, the Shifty is more often favoured as the proceeding movement due to it's more dynamic leg pull. However, that doesn't mean that you can't, or shouldn't. Your only pre requisite for this is the Krypt, aka Raley to toe side, which we went through in Issue 44. You will, however, need to be doing this unhooked.

In fact, if you can already Raley then you'll be able to learn this without having to learn to Shifty, now there's a bonus. If this is to be your first attempt at wrapped, let's take a moment to visualise what wrapped actually is. The best way to think of it is as an exaggeration of your Krypt. Wrapped is taking this rotation, here it's clockwise as Karine is going right, further, so that you turn as you would for toe side but continue, releasing your front hand, turning your head and shoulders so that you complete a full rotation and land heelside, in this case right foot forward with your left arm and the bar wrapped around behind you!!! You'll then pass the bar. Make sure you understand this fully, can visualise it and walk through it to get the movement in your head.

The Approach Pic A

As with all things pop, your approach will determine how well things turn out. You can see in the picture that Karine has her kite just below 1 o'clock, she has



turned the board off the wind onto a very broad reach, whilst keeping her weight both upwind of the board and back towards the tail of the board. Her front leg is extended and both her elbows are tucked into her sides, hands centred on the bar. Not only is this the perfect position from which to unhook, it is also the perfect set up for the Raley.

Kite height is important, too high and you'll fly, but too low and you may not have the confidence to go for the wrapped, so go for a height where your kite is happily flying forward without creating too much lift, as a reference point this will be just below about 1 or 11. Suddenly bearing off the wind allows you to lose



" BEARING OFF THE WIND ALLOWS YOU TO LOSE TENSION FROM THE LINES "

tension from the lines and unhook, and it lets the kite drop back a touch so that it will pull you downwind for an easier landing. Weight upwind positions the board between you and the kite so you can pop without the kite pulling your shoulders prematurely over the board. Weight back over the tail so that you can quickly and efficiently carve the board upwind to pop, the extended front leg helps this. Elbows are tucked in to stop the kite from pulling your arms out straight and you over the board.



Finally, make sure that your leash is hanging on your trailing legs side, so that you have room to pass the bar at the end of the move, once you've landed wrapped.

The Raley Pic B

If you've managed to resist on the aforementioned platform, then you will be in a position to, and have something from which to pop. As the board turns underneath you it's time to stamp. Karine feels the board turning under her, and more importantly feels herself being pulled forwards by the kite. This is her cue to pop. She pops hard against the board with her back foot by stamping down and extending

her back leg as explosively as possible. Her front leg has remained extended throughout. The amount of pop you get will depend on a few variables – speed, power, timing, aggression, but your aim is to extend, really concentrate on straightening your legs, uncoiling the spring which is you. If the kite drifts up a bit during the raley it's no problem, as at least you'll have more time to commit and rotate fully to wrapped. Thinking back to the Krypt, aim for a good flick off your raley too. You can see that as her front leg flicks around, it brings her back leg more forwards and closer to the bar, which will help.



re vert

136.41 140.43

“not ashamed to ride hard”

Pull Pic C

This is where the move gets critical. Commitment is your friend here. You must decide to go once your legs start to drop from the flick. If you wait too long your legs will swing down and you'll land toe side. You also need to get your body compact and close to the bar so that you can land over the board and not get pulled downwind. This requires a sudden and extreme pull. You can see that Karine has pulled the bar towards her, which effectively pulls her up and towards the bar. She is still looking forwards and her shoulders are still turned as if she was going for toe side. Karine has also lifted her legs under her body and the bar, so that once she turns everything will rotate together. The pull must be done with both hands so that the kite doesn't move. If you have a tendency to pull too much on the back hand, which is common, you can try and tweak the kite down by pulling more on your front hand.

The Throw Pic D

If you gave the bar a good tug and brought your knees up you should end up under the bar. From here you need to carry the energy from the pull into the turn. If you can throw a blind on the other side it is exactly the same movement and commitment. You can see that Karine has released her front hand and is leading the rotation to wrapped with her head and shoulders, turning to look over her shoulder. She is toe side in the air! Karine throws her free front hand around to help with the rotation and keeps her legs up under her. From here she only needs to turn another 90° and she'll land downwind – so it's not far to go.



" YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO LAND THIS JUST LIKE A STRAIGHT BLT OR AIR GYBE."

The Twist Pic E

Being able to complete that final 90° comes from your hand and arm movement. It's the same in all passes, whether on land, water or in the air. Karine twists her bar hand around behind her so that her palm faces up. This puts the bar in a ready position for the pass and the real beauty of it is that it frees her front shoulder and allows her to turn unhindered, so that she can roll around her hand and quite literally wrap herself around the bar. Notice how her weight is centred above the board, as a result of pulling the arms in and the knees up. Finally consider her head. Karine is not going for the pass but is



concentrating on landing over the board, so at the moment her head is up and her shoulders are high, proud and tall.

Claim it Pic F

As hinted at above and something we experience on clinics, there is often a temptation on all blind and wrapped moves to go for the bar and pass, rather than concentrate on the landing. Here Karine lands balanced over the board, so she can absorb the landing with her legs and body in a balanced and dynamic position. This means that the board will glide out of the move downwind and towards the kite, preventing tension on the lines, so with her arm twisted behind her and bar ready, Karine can then reach around with her free hand, palm up and pass out of the move at her leisure.



Top Tips

Start off practicing a few unhooked Krypts to get you in the mood and to make sure that you've got the kite trimmed correctly. If it stalls on landing, then you need to trim some more. It'll be easier to commit to the extra 90° and turn your back on proceedings if you're not too powered. As you're not going for an air pass yet, you can get away with a higher kite for some extra lift in place of power – as long as you pull with both hands before rotating.

Have a good look at the **videos** and **sequence** to see Karine's action and note that she has the kite a tad higher to give her time and confidence to get around.

Common Problems

Commitment. As with many of these moves you have to make yourself go for it once to realise that the consequences really aren't that bad. You must commit

to the rotation and hold onto the bar, as letting go won't get you anywhere and you need the bar to wrap around onto.

If you're not getting any rotation. Remember how Karine was turned to an aerial toe side as she pulled? Your head and shoulders need to be turning away from the bar as you pull. If you pull the bar in and then rotate, your hands will block you and slow any rotation right down.

If you're holding on and landing, but the kite is going up massively behind you, then it's a sure sign that you're not pulling into your rotation, but just turning. Big heave on both hands. If you can, consider pulling more on the front hand to dip the kite as you pull.

And finally, if you're bouncing out on landing, then it's because you're concentrating too much on the bar, so your head and shoulders are down, you've broken at the waist and as a result you're landing too much on

either the back of the board or the edge. Keep your chin up and eyes above the horizon and focus on landing – there will be time to pass.

Keystones

1. Good pop and flick
2. Pull hands aggressively
3. Turn head and shoulders
4. Release and twist arm
5. Head up and hold on



THE COMEBACK KID

Liam Whaley has been making a dent on the pro scene for a few years now, but he made a stellar comeback during the season in 2014 to become the Vice World Champion. At the age of just seventeen he is one of the young upstarts challenging the older guys on the PKRA. In a sport filled with youngsters, yet with the top spots often filled with the more experienced riders, it is great to see the youth come through so convincingly!





“ IT ALL PAID OFF IN THE END AND I COULD NOT BE MORE GRATEFUL. ”

How did the 2014 competition season go for you? You must be stoked to take the second spot?

I'm happy to say the least! This year has been long and tough; I've been through some very challenging moments and have

had to fight my way through them. In the end every challenge that was thrown at me this year was worth overcoming, it all paid off in the end and I could not be more grateful.

You had a pretty rough start to the season, what went wrong and how did you deal with that?

The start of 2014 was very slow for me.

I had been training like hell during the preseason and I was ready to challenge anyone for the title. Unfortunately not everything went as planned... I injured my ribs kiting at home in January. The doctor said that I would have to stay off the water for 6 weeks. I was absolutely devastated, all of that training for nothing and I had to miss the first event of the year in Panama.

At the beginning of March I started kiting again and was able to enter the second event of the year, which took place in Dakhla, Morocco. I wasn't 100% ready for that round, but I gave it my best shot and ended up in 9th place. It wasn't ideal, but it was a start!

A few days after that event I started to develop tendonitis in my wrist, I ignored the pain until it became too much and I could no longer kite. I had no other choice, but to pack up my kites and rest until the swelling subsided.

I was out of the water for another whole month and wasn't able to kite again until literally a couple of days before the third PKRA stop of the year which was in Leucate, France.

I decided to give it a go, even though I was not prepared at all. I rode surprisingly well for the amount of kiting that I had been doing, but didn't get much luck with my draw in the single elimination. Then, in the double elimination, my kite got completely tangled up in one of my first heats. I ended up in 17th place; this was not how I had planned the start of the year to go!

That was the down side to the year, I could go into a lot more detail about it, but I am getting depressed just remembering it all!

PHOTO BEN WELSH



“ I FINALLY GOT OVER MY INJURIES
AND MY RUN OF BAD LUCK ”





“ YOU HAVE TO BE TOTALLY ON TOP OF YOUR GAME AND BOTH MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY FIT. ”

The rest of the season went a lot better though didn't it?

Yes, after that, things really started to turn around for me; I finally got over my injuries and my run of bad luck. Everything went pretty much perfectly from then on, I made the podium in all of the remaining 7 events of the year.

PKRA Soma Bay, Egypt: 2nd Place

PKRA Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, Spain: 1st Place

PKRA St. Peter-Ording, Germany: 2nd Place

PKRA Tarifa, Spain: 2nd Place

PKRA Barra Grande, Brazil: 1st Place

PKRA Pingtan, China: 3rd Place

PKRA Hainan, China: 1st Equal

Which were your favourite events during the season?

The two standout events for me were Egypt and Germany.

In Egypt I lost in the first round of the single elimination, but then managed to win 9 heats in a row making it all of the way to 2nd place in the doubles. I really enjoy the challenge of coming back like that, you have to be totally on top of your game and both mentally and physically fit.



I had another big comeback in Germany when I lost in the 3rd round of the singles. I managed to win 7 heats in a row during the doubles and grab myself another 2nd place. After the third event of the 2014 season I was ranked 25th... after the eighth event I was battling for 1st!

What are your goals for the next season, have you heard anything about the new format?

My expectations for 2015 are to stay on top of my game throughout the whole year and to fight for the number one position no matter how unfavourable things might be.

**“ TO FIGHT FOR THE
NUMBER ONE POSITION
NO MATTER HOW
UNFAVOURABLE
THINGS MIGHT BE.”**



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PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH

There are a lot of rumours going around about what is going to happen next year, nothing is clear! Not even for us riders which seems ridiculous, but it is true. I try to think positively and believe that big, progressive changes are going to be made.

When and how did you get into kiteboarding?

“ I FIND I CAN BEST EXPRESS MYSELF ON THE WATER. ”

I started kiteboarding when I was 9 years old during my summer holidays in Tarifa. Back then I was still living in Ibiza, an island known for partying, not for its amazing wind... My dad was always a great

windsurfer, but he had recently started kiteboarding. I guess his passion for water sports inspired me to give kiteboarding a go.

What does kiteboarding mean to you?

Freedom and adrenaline. Kiteboarding gives me really good vibes and I find I can best express myself on the water.



You've been on the Cabrinha team for a while now, what gear are you riding at the moment?

Right now the Chaos is my kite and the Xcaliber 138 is my board. My favourite size kite is the 11 meter. I am also working with Cabrinha on the brand new 2016 Chaos; it's going to be the most amazing freestyle kite that they have made yet!

Where are your favourite places to ride?

My favourite place to train is definitely North East Brazil, that whole coastline is full of butter flat lagoons, lined up kickers in the sea and steady trade winds.

"IT'S GOING TO BE THE MOST AMAZING FREESTYLE KITE THAT THEY HAVE MADE YET!"

Photo: Lewis Crathern / Best Kites

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PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH



“ YOU DEFINITELY NEED TO HAVE A LOT OF DEDICATION, COMMITMENT, MOTIVATION AND SOME TALENT OF COURSE. ”

Of course, I love riding at my home spot in Tarifa too, springtime is the best, it's quieter and all my friends are there!

What characteristics do you think someone needs to make it as a pro kiter?

You definitely need to have a lot of dedication, commitment, motivation and some talent of course. If you are lucky enough to live near a good kiteboarding spot or have the opportunity to travel to perfect kiteboarding destinations, then that will help you get to a decent level and will certainly help you get started with your career.

Have you got any advice for those riders just starting out in this sport?

Just have fun, enjoy every moment that you spend on the water riding with friends. If you like it enough and you put the hours in you will get better and who knows, maybe have the chance to become a pro!

Cheers Liam thanks for taking the time!

TRIED & TESTED

More 2015 kites and boards this issue as the new season of testing gets into full swing!

2015 KITES >

Blade Trigger 8m
Cabrinha Radar 9m
Flysurfer Peak2 9m
F-One Bandit Eight 9m
Naish Pivot 9m
North Dice 9m

2015 BOARDS >

Brunotti Virtuoso
Carved Tantrum V
Epic Ignition
Nobile 50Fifty

WORDS & PHOTOS THE IKSURFMAG TEST TEAM

BRAND BLADE MODEL TRIGGER SIZE 8M YEAR 2015



"AS SOON AS WE HIT THE WATER WE HAD AN ABSOLUTE BLAST ON THIS KITE."



TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



At A Glance

Blade have been gaining quite a bit of momentum in the industry over the last few years. They now focus solely on making kites and the product just keeps getting better and better! After last year's offerings we were incredibly excited to get our hands on the new Trigger. Now in its 7th reincarnation, Blade have kept working away at this kite to produce an excellently versatile 3-strut freeride machine.

The Trigger has had a few major changes from last years model, most noticeable is the change to wing tip shape. Through widening and enlarging the wingtips, the Trigger has increased turning speed and offers a much more responsive kite.

The build quality on the Trigger, and in fact all Blade kites, has come on leaps and bounds and the kite here on test had some serious quality to it. All seams and attachments have impeccable stitching and have been reinforced well, whilst the leading edge features moulded bump guards to protect in the gnarliest of wipeouts.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND CABRINHA MODEL RADAR SIZE 9M YEAR 2015



"VERY EASY TO FLY WITH AN AMAZING RELAUNCH THIS KITE WILL GET YOU PROGRESSING FAST!"



At A Glance

Cabrinha has one of, if not the biggest kite range of all the brands, and you could well think they had all corners covered. They did not think this however, so for 2015 we have been introduced to the Radar. Marketed as a 3strut, do-it-all kite we were keen to try it out. Not only that, it claims to have the 'best to date' relaunch of all kites, making one of the first things we wanted to do being to crash it...

A super simple bag is actually a pleasant surprise, often there are too many bells and whistles with kitesurf equipment, so a simple roll top back pack with a bar compartment inside was very welcome. Inflating the kite is a great experience with the Sprint Airlock Valve. Even if you forget your own pump simply pop the nozzle off your friends and away you go. This can be a godsend given the huge range of valves out there at the moment.

The Radar benefits from the 2DR Ripstop, which has been specifically designed for kitesurfing. It is an incredibly stiff and crisp material, which reduces wear and tear thus prolonging the life of your kite.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND F-ONE MODEL BANDIT EIGHT SIZE 9M YEAR 2015



" ONE OF THE MOST VERSATILE KITES ON THE MARKET AND LOADED WITH PERFORMANCE!"



At A Glance

Now in its eighth year, the Bandit stands tall over a legacy that just seems to keep on going. The kite that changed everything all those years ago has itself changed an awful lot from those early incarnations. In recent years the kite has seen tweaks to the design rather than a radical overhaul and that is true once again for 2015. It is a three-strut kite with a definite C-Shape arc, whilst still retaining the Delta characteristics that changed the face of kitesurfing all those years ago.

For this year the placement of some of the key materials has changed, the kite still uses the super stiff TechnoForce canopy material, but the distribution of the Dacron on the trailing edge has been tweaked to reduce flutter. In addition, the bridle connection to the kite has been updated; it now uses a 4-point connection, which offers more control and improved handling.

One-pump is standard although there is no "fast" inflation system as yet, something we have seen lots of brands adopting over the last few years.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE

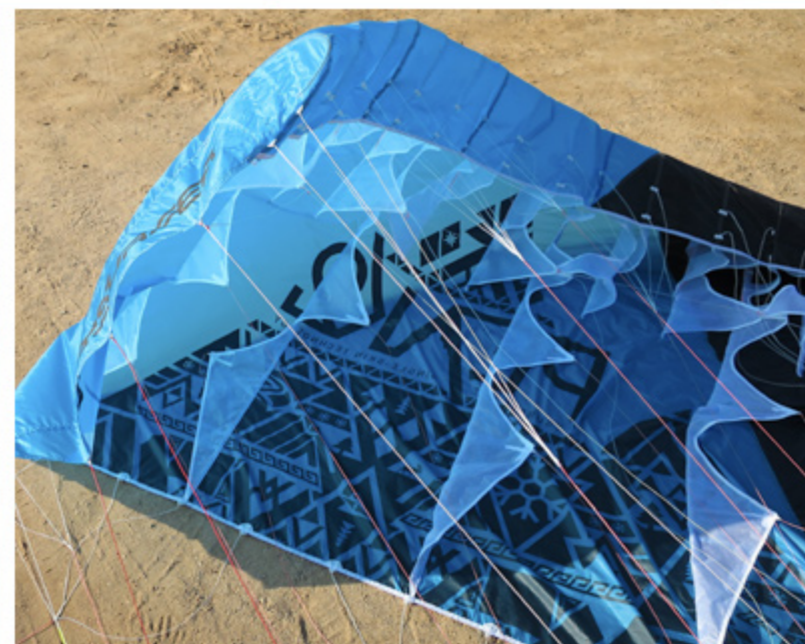


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BRAND FLYSURFER MODEL PEAK2 SIZE 9M YEAR 2015



" IF YOU WANT TO GET DEEP INTO THE BACKCOUNTRY THE PEAK2 IS FOR YOU!"



At A Glance

Now for something completely different! Whilst these images were taken at the Flysurfer dealer meeting in Egypt, this kite is most certainly more at home in colder climes! The idea for the Peak was the brainchild of Reinhart Paelinck, it was a pet project of his to create a single skinned bridled kite with no struts. It's a testament to the developmental attitude of Flysurfer as a brand to let him run riot with this. Run riot he did though and last year the Peak was born.

Essentially the Peak is just that, a single skinned kite with no struts and a depower system. It gets it's shape from an intricate bridle system and "half cells" that are like a stripped down version of what you would find on a Ram Air Foil style kite. The principal is that the kite is VERY light, packs down ridiculously small and also has a lot of low-end power.

In the mountains, where this kite is most at home, the wind is often non-existent, so you need a kite that can cope with those sorts of conditions. Being very packable means you can stuff it in a rucksack for a back country split board mission too,

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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BRAND NAISH MODEL PIVOT SIZE 9M YEAR 2015



" ALL WE WANTED TO DO WAS GET OUT INTO THE BIGGEST, MEANEST WAVES WE COULD FIND! "



At A Glance

The Pivot was a newcomer to the Naish line up this year, technically available in August 2014; it complements an already impressive array of kites. Billed as their 'Freeride/Wave' kite, it claims to suit a variety of different riders. As well as encompassing those just starting out, it has also fast become the go-to choice for wave riders on the Naish Team.

On first inspection of this kite you can immediately tell it has been built not only with the wave rider in mind, but perhaps entirely for. Lightweight, yet incredibly well made and robust is a tricky combo to perfect, but with a few key features it seems Naish may well have pulled it off.

3 struts, the 'Lightweight Solid Frame Construction', and a Mid Aspect Ratio design all lend themselves to a solid low-end, whilst the reinforcements and bumper patches have been added to really protect the kite from any smashes and scrapes it may, and most likely will, endure.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLCK HERE



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BRAND NORTH MODEL DICE SIZE 9M YEAR 2015



“VERSATILE
AND FUN TO
RIDE WITH
DYNAMIC
HANDLING
AND A REAL
TURN OF PACE”



At A Glance

The North Dice exploded onto the scene last year and quickly garnered a large fan base around the world. Aimed at the rider looking to 'do it all', it was billed as a great kite for the waves, but also wakestyle and freestyle riding too. Tom Court used it as his kite of choice for the year and it suits his riding style perfectly.

At its core the Dice is a three-strut C-shape style kite, the bridle is fairly short and has been updated for 2015. The new front bridle is designed to make the profile more stable throughout the wind range. The design team have also tried to improve the low-end of the kite from last year by tweaking the profile of the canopy. It can be flown on either the 4-line Trust Bar or the 5th Element system, but the kite ships as a 4-line set-up.

The 9-13m sizes also have a different profile shape to the smaller sizes in the range for 2015 to further improve the low-end for the kites used when the wind is lighter. The tips have also been tweaked along with the bridle position to tighten up the feeling at the bar.

TO VISIT THEIR
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



“ IF YOU WANT TO STYLE OUT YOUR FREERIDING AND SMASH SOME FREESTYLE, THEN THIS IS THE STICK FOR YOU ”



BRAND BRUNOTTI MODEL VIRTUOSO
SIZE 136 X 40.5 YEAR 2015

At A Glance

If you're new to kiting you may not be aware that Brunotti have been at the forefront of kitesurf board design since the beginning. With early models such as the Piranha picklefork design and the Two Face twin tip way back in the day, through to models such as the ProX, ridden by Ruben Lenten, to the "Youri Pro", Youri Zoon's current board of choice.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE



“ A TRUE HIGH PERFORMANCE WAKESTYLE MACHINE THAT PERFORMS IN LIGHT WINDS TOO! ”



BRAND CARVED MODEL TANTRUM V CUSTOM
SIZE 136 X 41.5 YEAR 2015

At a Glance

Carved have produce an array of custom kite boards, they also manufacture some stock shapes to order, the Tantrum V (five) is one of them! Unwrapping this board gave us something to get excited about. The first thing we noticed was the deep shine of the CARTAN® carbon, not to forget the precision and high standard in which the board is finished.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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" THIS ISN'T YOUR RUN OF THE MILL TWIN TIP, THIS IS SOMETHING A LITTLE BIT SPECIAL... "



BRAND EPIC MODEL OXYGEN
SIZE 135 X 47CM YEAR 2015

At A Glance

The Oxygen is a lightwind board from Epic designed to get you up and going when the wind doesn't play ball. Unlike some lightwind boards on the market the Oxygen is still quite short, 135 is a usual length for some people to ride. However, it is incredibly wide, 47cm is some girth alright, and the rocker line is really flat too.

CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



" PACKED WITH PERFORMANCE AND POP THIS BOARD IS SURE TO DELIVER "



BRAND NOBILE MODEL 50FIFTY
SIZE 140 X 42CM YEAR 2015

At a Glance

The 50Fifty has been in the Nobile line up for a few years now; it is the pinnacle of their freestyle/wakestyle range and aimed at the rider looking for maximum performance. It is packed with some of their best technology including APS, which stands for "added pre stress". This is a way of putting more energy into the board by pre tensioning it at the factory. The idea is that this creates explosive pop on the water.

CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



HITTING THE LIP

A straightforward title this time for a straightforward premise, but as a very talented surf photographer once said, 'air shots are two a penny; but catching a good hack? Not so much'. So, let's take a look at a few ways to throw more buckets than the Bagger 288...



Speak to Dom at



www.facebook.com/thesurfsanctuary

www.surfsanctuary.co.uk

PHOTO KATE STARLING

You can self-assess your own lip bashes by applying the following three criteria: amount of board above the lip, amount of rider above the lip, and the amount of spray above the lip. This last one we call the 'halo' and I would say that it's the truest indicator of how much power a kiter is putting into their move.

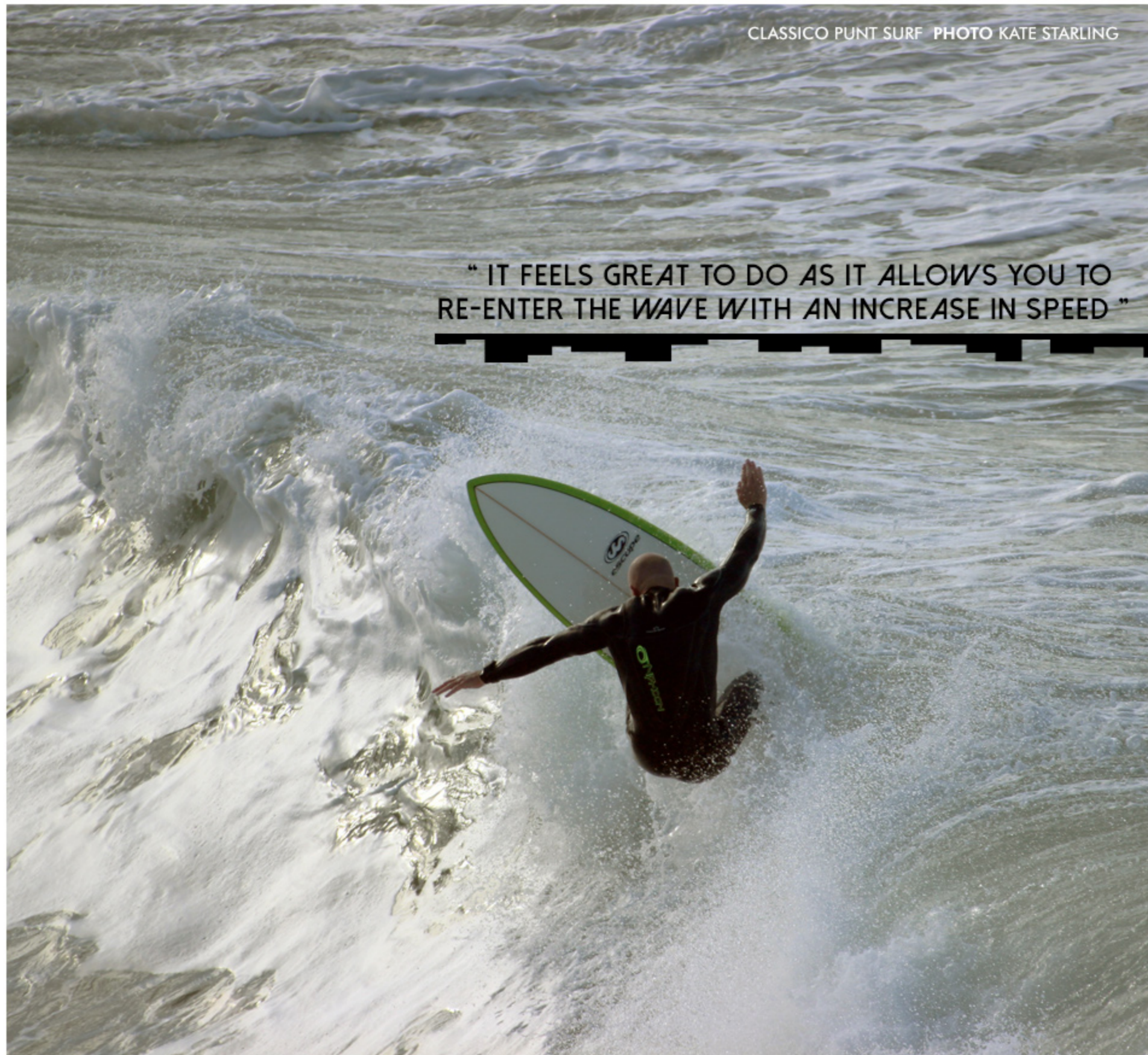
Before we go into a few different scenarios, it's worth remembering that in general we can break each move down into three parts - the entry, apex, and exit. You only want the kite to have any influence during the entry and exit; at the apex it should be momentum that carries you through. In this regard, wave riding is actually very similar to freestyle where a rider seeks neutrality in line tension when they are falling onto the bar during a handlepass. I've tried to show some paddle-in surfing smacks alongside the kiting ones to demonstrate this, and in a broader context to underline again how kiting and surfing are just branches on the same tree and as you progress at one so you progress at the other and so on and so on.

The Classic Poke

You can call this a re-entry, or an off-the-lip, and like all functional moves in kiting, it feels great to do as it allows you to re-enter the wave with an increase in speed to make it around the next section. The essence of a good 'poke' is not to force the board into position but to let the wave do the work. You can see that a fair amount of the board will come above the lip line, and as the wave cascades it pushes the board back around giving that whipping windscreen wiper effect.

CLASSICO PUNT SURF PHOTO KATE STARLING

“ IT FEELS GREAT TO DO AS IT ALLOWS YOU TO RE-ENTER THE WAVE WITH AN INCREASE IN SPEED ”



“ MAINTAIN YOUR FLOW BY
'UNWEIGHTING' THE BOARD ”



To do a good 'poke', you want to come out of the bottom turn with controlled speed and an eye fixed firmly on the steepening lip ahead of you. Steer the board up the face of the wave by applying pressure to the tail and inside rail but take care not to bog down - maintain your flow by 'unweighting' the board by extending your body as if you were trying to jump off of the board. This will permit the board to climb the wave better.

When in contact with the lip, rotate your head, then shoulders away from the direction of travel and back down the wave. Let the board whip round off the tail as the lip catches it and drop back down the face and enjoy your new increase in speed.

CLASSICO PUNT KITE

WE'VE UPDATED YOUR
FAVOURITE KITESURFING APP!



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IMPROVED FUNCTIONALITY FOR MOBILE DEVICES,
IT'S NOW FASTER WITH LOTS OF NEW FEATURES!

CLICK HERE TO CHECK IT OUT

HATE HACK SURF PHOTO CELINE COLLAUD



HATE HACK KITE PHOTO IAN EDMONDSON



The Hate Hack

I call it this because a guy I know used to have a board with 'hate f*cking machine' written on the underside of it and he'd pull these monstrously aggressive hacks with his face all twisted up into a grizzled mask of fury.

It's a bit like the classic poke in set up but with less care about what happens after you reduce the wave to liquid rubble. Rather than merely working with the

lip to complete the turn, your focus here is to hit it as hard as you can with the tail of your board; your back foot aiming to actually drive through the deck and donkey kick the wave itself.

“ THE LEGS ARE THERE TO TRANSMIT THIS POWER - A KICKY, FLICKY MOVE THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT. ”

It is with the hate hack that you will throw the most spray above the lip line; it's a great move for kites as invariably the kite will carry you out of the turn still on your board. Create a huge torque force on your board with a deep rotation that begins with the head and continues down to your hips - the legs are there to transmit this power - a kinky, flicky move this is definitely not. Just remember the golden rule: look where you want to go next and never look at your spray!



“ JUST ENJOY NATURE'S FOAM PIT AND TURN YOURSELF UPSIDE DOWN. ”

Nothing Left To Lose

This is the type of stunt you pull when there's a camera on you or at least a couple of old dears sat on a bench overlooking the sea. You're having good session, the waves are pumping, and confidence is high. This is a finishing move where the wave is about to dump itself on the sandbar and rather than just riding out over the back of it or steering out into the flats, you're going for one last hurrah.

Who cares if you make it; that's not the point here - just enjoy nature's foam pit and turn yourself upside down. Despite the cavalier nature of this type of turn, you can actually learn a lot from crashing out in critical sections of the wave and it will increase your threshold for attempting high-risk turns that you do intend to complete.

NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE SURF
PHOTO NEIL WILKINSON

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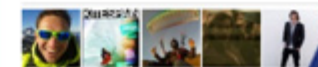
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NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE KITE PHOTO MIKE NEWMAN

“ YOU’RE HAVING GOOD SESSION, THE WAVES
ARE PUMPING, AND CONFIDENCE IS HIGH. ”

“ HIT THE BEST WAVE YOU CAN FIND IN THE STEEPEST PLACE ”



FLOATING ON THE KITE, NOTE THE NEAR IDENTICAL BODY POSITION... PHOTO KATE STARLING



FLOATING ON THE SURF PHOTO MIKE NEWMAN

The Floater

Whilst not as aggressive as the three moves described above, I think floating across a section along the lip line is one of the most satisfying things to do on a board, or under a kite. A fundamentally functional move, a floater puts you above a breaking section to re-engage with the green face of the wave further down the line.

To do it, proceed as if you were going for an off the lip but rather than rotating your torso away from the lip to drop back in, continue your line of travel up on the roof. The real fun comes when it's time to come down

with the lip. Now you can point the nose of the board away and towards the flats; get low, weight over the centreline of the board and biased towards the tail, flex your knees and extend your arms for balance on the sagittal plane. The landing should be soft and controlled.

Some Salient Points

In these examples, the wind is cross-shore and coming from the right. You can still perform any move with varying degrees of onshore in the wind; just choose the downwind run on the wave. The kite needs to be either high so you can drift through the move like the floater, or half a step a head and pointing

towards where you want to be next.

Power turns, or fundamental turns in surfing are natural and functional. They are like a Porsche, where form follows function; their essence is their usefulness. In that regard, flicky little twists and tricks are like bolting a spoiler onto a Renault Clio - there's just no need for it other than to satisfy a superficial whim.

The natural element to power surfing is exactly what connects it so completely with the wonders of the universe. We are using physics for our ends and not trying to defy it. Re-join the animal kingdom and hit the best wave you can find in the steepest place; 2 million years of evolution says you're ready for it.

10 QUESTIONS Tom Hebert NOVICE

Tom
Hebert

WORDS ROU CHATER
PHOTO MARIOENTERO.COM



TOM IS THE MASTER OF BAREFOOT RIDING!

Tom Hebert is somewhat of an anomaly in kitesurfing; he's bucked the trend of following the wakestyle movement and prefers to keep his straps on and his tricks innovative. With a solid showing at the Red Bull King Of The Air last year where he scored the biggest jump, reaching a huge 25m of altitude and a series of airstyle videos showcasing his tricks we felt it was "high time" for a catch up...

You grew up in New Caledonia, moving there with your parents when you were quite young, what was it like living there?

I'm very happy to be able to live there! It's been a perfect childhood to grow up on an island. It's very nice because your parents give you more freedom, I was always fishing or cycling around with my friends. I started kiting when I was very young and it's been great for me as a way to discover a lot of places and grow fast with an open mind... Living there is pretty relaxed, most of the time I go fishing rather than kiting haha; I now work as an electrician there.

Who brought kitesurfing to the island?

The guy who brought kitesurfing to the island was a friend from Tahiti and he gave a kite to Manolo Barley who was a professional windsurfer. Sports are a really big part of New Caledonian life, so kitesurfing spread very quickly.

I always wanted to fly so when I saw Manolo I had to give it a try, since then I've been hooked! I love it!

What makes it such a great kitesurfing location?



“ I really like to have fun on the water and in life too ”

PHOTO MARIOENTERO.COM

The water is warm and there are lots of great beaches where you can kitesurf, we have a huge lagoon so we have plenty of flat water too. Between November and March the trade winds blow and we get between 15 and 25 knots of wind every afternoon, perfect for flying high!

You have a very unique style, which shows through in your videos, what keeps you in straps doing crazy tricks while most other riders your age are following the wakestyle movement?

I really like to have fun on the water and in life too, I love to do big jumps and be expressive with my tricks. I can still do the handlepass and new school tricks of course, but I enjoy doing the airstyle moves more, there is so much more variation and it is a challenge.

What is your favourite airstyle trick and why?

I don't really have a favourite trick in particular, I guess I just like to go as high as I can I never get tired of that feeling!

10

“you need to anticipate the conditions and get ready for whatever Mother Nature is throwing at you.”



What kites and boards do you use and what makes them suited to the way you ride?

I've been riding for North for a long time now; currently I'm riding the Team Series 141cm board; it gives me soft landings, is easy upwind and due to the bigger size of the board it is smooth through the chop. The Evo is the most versatile kite in the range, I can ride old school and new school with it. I mainly ride very overpowered to ensure big jumps; the Trust bar with 27m lines helps me to get good lift.

Last year you posted the highest jump at the King Of The Air, what does it feel like when you fly so high?

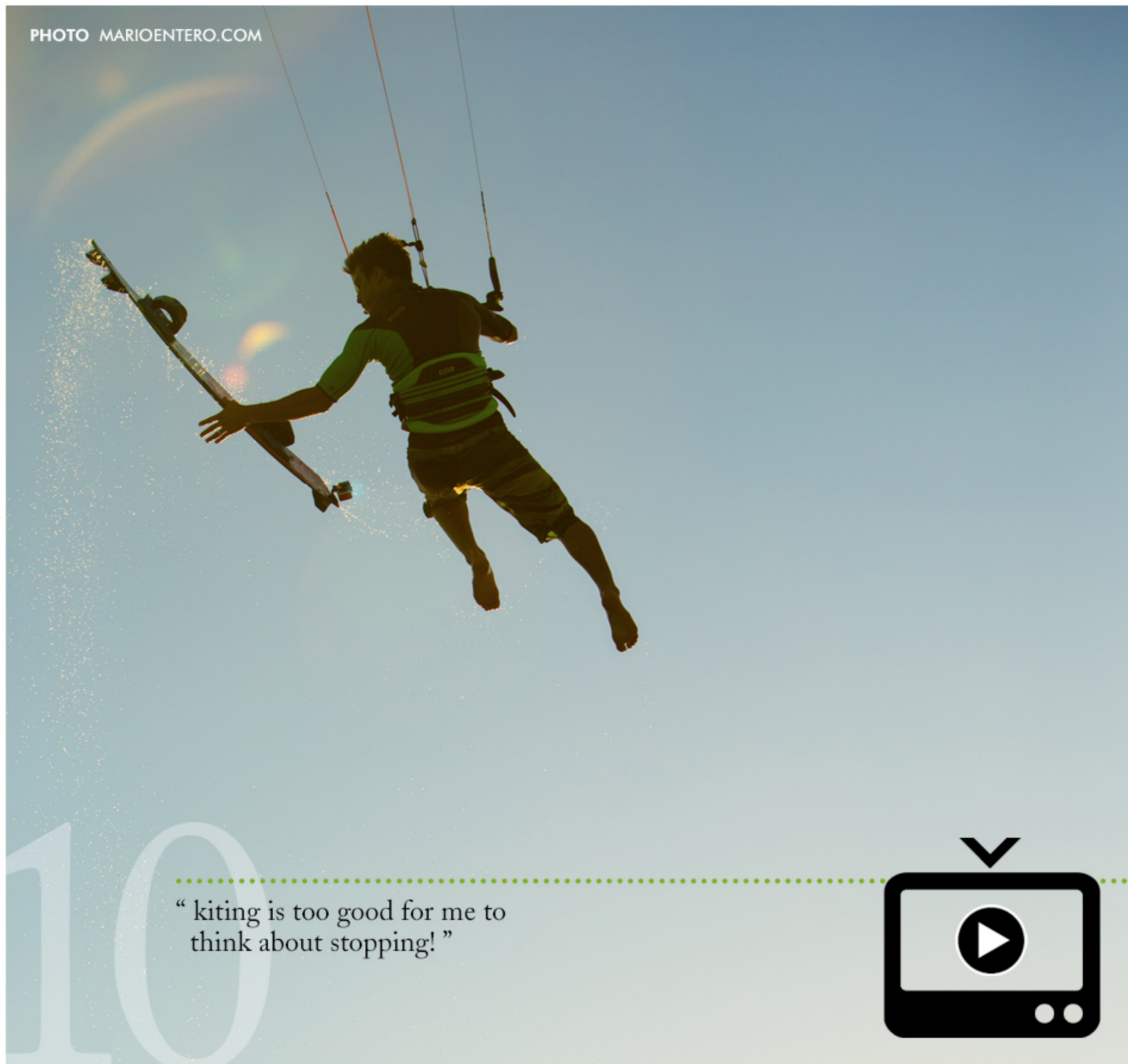
Sometimes its scary especially here in Cape Town because the wind is so unpredictable, you can hit a gust and go higher or lose power and drop out of the sky fast. Kiting is a very hard sport compared to wakeboarding because you need to anticipate the conditions and get ready for whatever Mother Nature is throwing at you. As I said before though, there is no other sport where you can get the sensation of really boosting off the water.

You had a pretty heavy crash there too, did you break anything?

Yes, unfortunately during that wipeout I compressed my spine I still feel it today!

That was one of those days when it's going wrong and you can't do much about it... But kiting is too good for me to think about stopping!

PHOTO MARIOENTERO.COM



“kiting is too good for me to think about stopping!”



“My goal in this event is to please the crowd and go as high as I can.”



Have you been training hard for the event this year, are there any new moves you have been working on?

I've been training a lot on my old school style but I can't really show my cards before the event. If you are in Cape Town just come down to Big Bay and watch, or check it out on the live stream, it's going to be an incredible show as always.

Who's going to win, a strapped rider or one in boots?

I've no idea on who's going to win the event but I guess the riders who ride with boots have less chance because they can't diversify their show. I think the true King Of The Air needs to be able to please the crowd and show what the sport really is.

My goal in this event is to please the crowd and go as high as I can. I'll be doing a huge variety of tricks in my heats and there will be plenty of action from me. I'll even be doing the bare footers near the beach, even though they don't score they feel so awesome and the crowd loves them. For me the King Of The Air is all about pleasing the spectators...

Thanks Tom, good luck for the event!

The IKSURFMAG website is crammed with news and videos everyday, we only show the best videos, so to make it onto the site is an achievement in itself.

These are the 4 most popular videos that have been viewed on the site as voted for by you with your thumbs up likes in the last 2 months! Check out the full list [HERE](#), and if you see a video you like on the site, give it the thumbs up, it might just help to push it onto this page!

MOVIE NIGHT

#1 KITESURF CRASH FAIL COMPILATION 2014

Everyone loves a good wipe-out and this clip is chock full of them, we all crash from time to time so it is great to take a little bit of pleasure from other peoples misfortunes! If you want to feel good about your own riding then this video will certainly do that!



5,067



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

#2 I LIKE TO FLY

Stu Gibson is a world-renowned surf photographer who travels the world shooting some of the best waves and riders on the planet. He's worked with kites too and Ben Wilson makes a cameo appearance in this clip showcasing his amazing drone footage!



1,148



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

#3 BEST KITESURF CRASHES

It seems like you were a sadistic lot these last couple of months, lapping up the kite crashes like riders possessed! This one features Ruben Lenten taking one of the worst tumbles we have ever seen in South Africa. It's a mega loop to nose edge to face plant to remember...



1,093



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

#4 EXTREME HIGH HEEL KITESURFING

The video that nearly broke the Internet, opinion was split over this one, some people thought it was a step too far, others saw it for what it was, just a bit of fun. Hannah Whitley always commands a huge audience and she rips on the water too, good luck to her we say!



1,081



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

LIGHTROOM

PAUL MÖLLER AVOIDING THE OBSTACLES IN BARRA GRANDE, BRAZIL!
PHOTO MIKE MAYER



More shots with no particular place to
go this issue, feast your eyes!

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

EUDAZIO DA SILVA KEEPING IT LOW AND POWERED IN TARIFA, SPAIN.
PHOTO ZBIGNIEW SZARZYNSKI

Lightroom



LIGHTROOM

CHRIS BÖSCH GETTING ONTO A CHUNKY ONE IN MAURITIUS!
PHOTO THORSTENINDRA.COM

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

HOW MAJESTIC ARE THESE TWO SEQUENCES? KI KWAN KWON DELIVERING THE GOODS ON THE RECENT CRAZYFLY PHOTO SHOOT IN PARADISE... PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAZYFLY



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

FORREST BAKER FINDING A RARE QUIET MOMENT
ON THE LAGOON IN CUMBUCO, BRAZIL THIS YEAR!
PHOTO TZUF SOLOMON



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

ALESSANDRO LUGARESÌ GETTING HUGE IN EL MEDANO,
TENERIFE PERFECTLY CAPTURED WITH HIS GOPRO!

Lightroom



LIGHTROOM

RUBEN VERSLUIS TUCKING IN ON A PEACHY ONE IN SOUTH AFRICA!
PHOTO YDWER.COM

Lightroom





PHOTO JAY NEWMAN

[FEMALE FOCUS]

SENSI GRAVES



This issue we chat to businesswoman and pro rider Sensi Graves about bikinis, kiting and rock collecting nerds...

- Age** 26
- Lives** Hood River, OR
- Loves** Exploring. Learning. Dark Chocolate.
- Hates** Donuts. Pollution. Negativity.



How did you get into kiting?

I started kiteboarding when my Dad took me on a family vacation to North Carolina to take lessons at Real Watersports. I was completely unfamiliar with the sport, but quickly became interested in flying across the water. In 2009, I moved to the Outer Banks of NC to coach at REAL and my progression took off from there.

Did you do any other sports before hand?

All sorts. I grew up with three brothers and we were all very active. Snowboarding, wakeboarding, basketball, volleyball, surfing, running and yoga filled my days. We had a ton of fun.

Was it hard as a girl to get into the sport, or did it open any doors?

I've never been intimidated by a male-dominated environment (thank you bros!) and relished the opportunities that were given to women who were willing to try. It's all about finding your niche and if you're willing to work hard and blaze your own path, you can achieve anything.

You worked at Real Watersports for a bit, what was it like there, did it help with your wakestyle riding?

My time at Real Watersports propelled my progression! I ate, dreamt and lived kiteboarding. It was a fun time. Real was the place to be for wakestyle riding and it was inevitable that I would put on boots and start hitting the rails. Wakestyle riding is really what got me addicted to kiteboarding and interested in progressing.



You've been a protagonist of the female wakestyle scene for some years, what attracted you to that style of kiteboarding?

I grew up wakeboarding and so that style of kiteboarding felt familiar and comfortable to me. I remember when I was first learning to do a back roll with foot straps on and my board would fly off every time which led to much frustration. As soon as I put on boots, I found riding to be so much more comfortable and fun. And I landed that back roll! From there, with

the crew around me at Real and with Lulu Vroman inspiring me to try hitting rails, I really started to love sliding across those little bits of plastic.

In the past you've placed quite well at the Triple S, do you have a focus for these styles of events or are they something you enter if they fit into the calendar?

As the event nears I get more and more focused (and nervous!). Of course I want to do well and thrive off keeping up with, and pushing,

“ IT'S SUCH A THRILL TO DO WHAT I LOVE WITH SUCH HIGH CALIBRE RIDERS ”



PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON

the other women (and men!) out there. It's such a thrill to do what I love with such high calibre riders. Owning my bikini brand limits the amount of time I spend travelling purely to kite and so my focus is not to win; that's simply not realistic. If I can show up and perform at a high-level, inspire other female riders and have a blast, it's been a success.

You've been a face on the Liquid Force Team for some time, what is it that you like so much about the brand?

The camaraderie of the team is really appealing. So many of the key players of LF are based in Hood River, which gives me access to the inner workings of the brand. I feed off knowing what we need to succeed and am better able to focus my efforts to help out. I also love the image behind Liquid Force. They're the premier and original wakestyle kite brand, and that says a lot. Plus, we have the best inflation system in the business.

What kites and boards are you riding at the moment?

I'm waiting to get my hands on Brandon Scheid's pro-model board, the Echo! Otherwise, I ride the Envy's. I've also just added a LF foil to my quiver. #foilface

Do you think girls need special equipment to do this sport?

Everyone needs special equipment fit to their specific body and riding style. Whether I am a small man or a woman, I'll need a shorter throw on the bar, smaller board and boots, and of course a specific harness.



“ MOST OF THE PLACES THAT I TRAVEL TO FOR KITING ALSO WORK WELL FOR SHOOTING BIKINIS AND FOR PRODUCT TESTING ”



PHOTOS VINCENT BERGERON

You are also well known for being a businesswoman and the talent behind Sensi Bikinis, how did that come about?

I started designing during my time at Real Watersports. I was in the water every single day, wearing a bikini, and quickly became fed up with the lack of options on the market for active women. The suits I was wearing weren't comfortable or designed to stay on. I knew this was something that other women also desired and I decided to take advantage of that niche in the marketplace. It's been a whirlwind ever since!

Which do you prefer more, kiting or designing swimwear?

When one starts to feel like too much work, I switch to the other.

Is it tough to juggle the career of a pro kiter with the demands of running a business or do the two occupations fit well together?

I could answer that question both ways. The two occupations certainly work well together. As a kiteboarder, I am always in a bikini and most of the places that I travel to for kiting also work well for shooting bikinis and for product testing. On the other side of the coin, it's tough to travel, ride and train as much as necessary to progress as a kiteboarder while running a business full time. I definitely get more

done when I'm in my home office and therefore must find a balance between the two that helps me thrive in the best way possible.

You have an impressive roster of riders on the Sensi Bikinis team, do you look after the team as well or do you have people on board helping out with things like that?

I actually just hired an assistant. (Sara - you're amazing!) I get a lot of girls asking for sponsorship and free bikinis. Wading through them all is time consuming and Sara helps out with managing that as well as keeping track of our current team. I still very much work with my team,

“ THE GREAT KITING, WELCOMING ISLAND VIBES AND LAID-BACK LIFESTYLE BLEW ME AWAY ”



PHOTO BRYAN ELKUS

but it's been a lifesaver to have another set of eyes on the project. This year we're really focusing on content generation and having the team more involved.

What did you study, did it help set you up for this career, or did you fall into it by accident?

I got my degree in communications. My business certainly stemmed from being in the water everyday, kiteboarding, surfing and teaching. I saw a need in the marketplace and knew it was something that I could fulfil. My degree has helped with marketing, writing and research, but my lack of design background has ensured that I'm constantly learning!

Lots of girls reading this will think it's the dream lifestyle, designing bikini's and kiting everyday. There must be some downsides, what's the toughest part of your daily life?

The toughest part of my daily life is hearing that a bikini didn't work for someone. It's hard not to want to please everyone but I've come to accept that it's an impossible ambition. Luckily this doesn't happen very often, but customer service is still a b****.

The great news for those that are envious, is that you too can design your lifestyle the way you want to! Identify your dream, research the steps to get there and embark on this great path of yours.

You travel a lot throughout the year too, where are your favourite places to go kiting?

CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

May Sever Bahat trying to catch up with the birds on the 10.5
Envy kite at "Poleg Beach" in Israel. Photo: Tomer Berenstein
IKSURFMAG Says: What a unique and surreal photo! Amazing!

Winner! 

READERS GALLERY

Thanks for all your contributions to the Facebook page these last two months. Once again we were inundated with pictures, so if we didn't pick yours we are very sorry, but thanks for sending it to us...

Turn the pages though maybe we made you famous?

This issue's winner is Tomer Berenstein. Well done Tomer, get in touch and we'll send you the t-shirt!

[CLICK HERE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN NEXT ISSUE!](#)



▼
Coco Trigo ripping at San Juan, Puerto Rico, pointing straight up at 12'o clock!. This was taken during one of the last winter swells they had this season.

Photo: Ricky Fountain

IKSURFMAG says: What's the time Mr Wolf?!

Frank Walter at Upper Chesapeake Bay, kiteboarding the Susquehanna Flats slicks.

IKSURFMAG says: Mmm mm, buttery goodness!

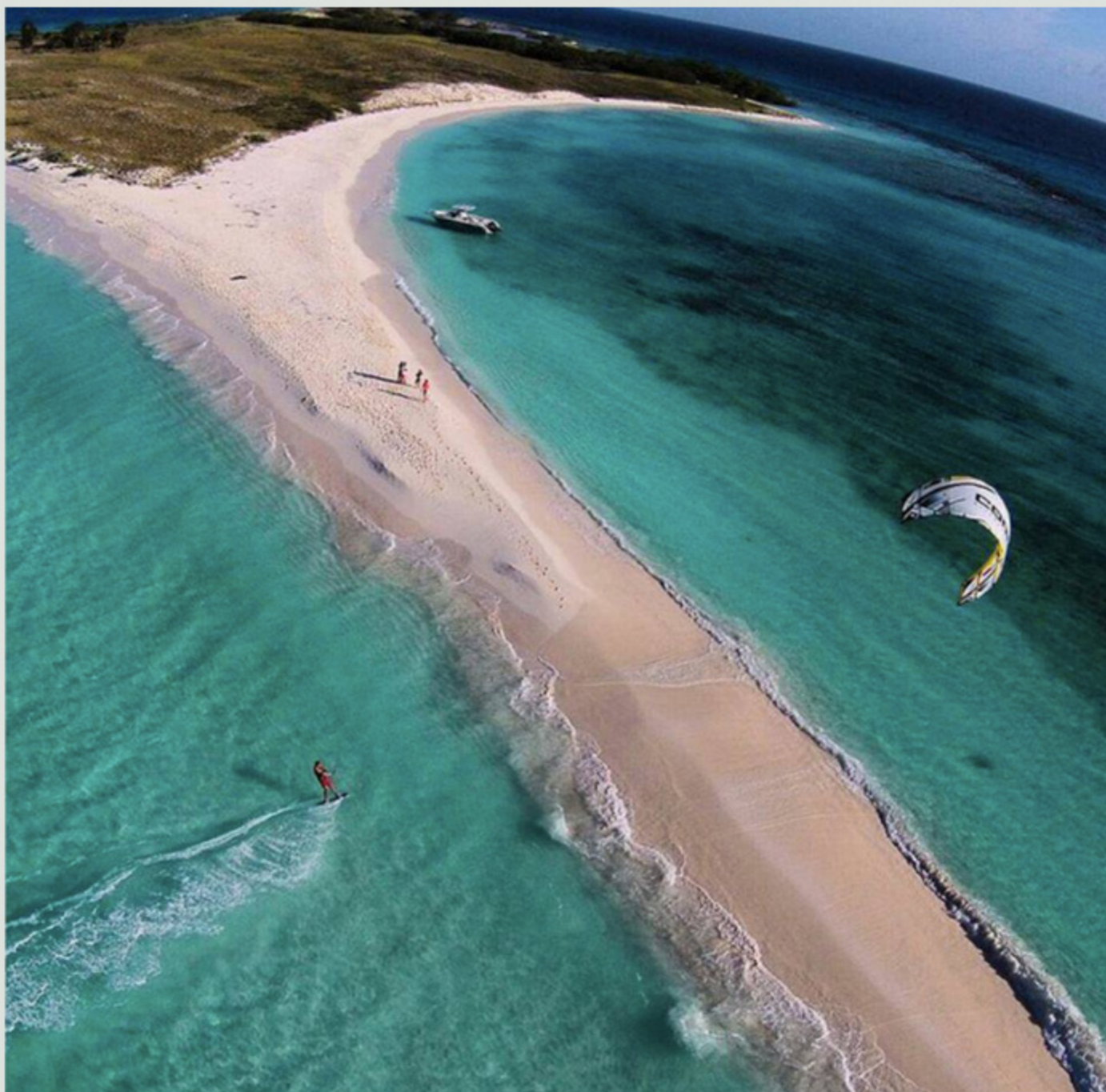




Masha Aloha enjoying the good Autumn surf that the Small Azov Sea brought near Russia.
IKSURFMAG says: Setting yourself up nicely for a backside bottom turn there Masha!

Posada Piano y Papaya have shared this great shot with us from the Los Roques archipelago in Venezuela.

IKSURFMAG says: The stuff that kitesurfing dreams are made of...





Max throwing down in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Photo: Chad Ansel.

IKSURFMAG says: Great capture, and lush blue skies!

Stephen Stanley kiting under the Auckland Harbour Bridge in December 2014 as a charity fundraiser for the NZ Cancer Foundation and the NZ Coast Guard.
IKSURFMAG says: What a brilliant photo! Great opportunity and all for very worthwhile causes too.





Richard Kearney winter rippin' at Castletown bay, Isle of Man. Setting himself up for another ace kicker on the 5m Blade Trigger.

Photo: Camerapics.net

IKSURFMAG says: Winter swells, small kites and thick wetsuits. That's when you really know you've got the kitesurfing bug! Good photo to prove it too!

Odd André Varhaugvik out in the December light and temperatures of Norway - looks warm, but the temperature is freezing. However, as Odd says, it's good to kite whilst they wait for snow! Apparently Hustadvika in Norway is good for kiting all year round.

IKSURFMAG says: You have to make the most of it whilst you can! Nice to see the sun making an appearance for you despite the chilly temperatures.



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RYLAND BLAKENEY CHUCKING SOME SUNSET BUCKETS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA! PHOTO JOHN CARTER

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