

KSURF!

ISSUE 50

APR/MAY 15

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 50 of the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! We're pretty excited to reach this landmark in our history; it's been a long but very enjoyable road to get here! We're all a little bit older and

wiser than when we started, and this milestone has got us thinking what we'll look like when we hit the next one! Roll on issue 100, who knows what this fantastic sport will have in store for us then!

ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE!



Click on the corners to turn the pages or use the navigation bars. If you are viewing on a touch screen device then you can use swipe gestures. Swipe left and right to turn the pages and up and down to bring up the navigation bars.



INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

KSURF!

050 // APR/MAY



A LIFE LESS ORDINARY



EVERYTHING IS CHANGING // PAT GOODMAN
MEGA TEST // TECHNIQUE // SNOW WHITE GOES SNOW KITE & MUCH MORE!

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



LIVING FOR THE LIGHTER DAYS

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THE NEW JUICE

SIZES

15 • 18



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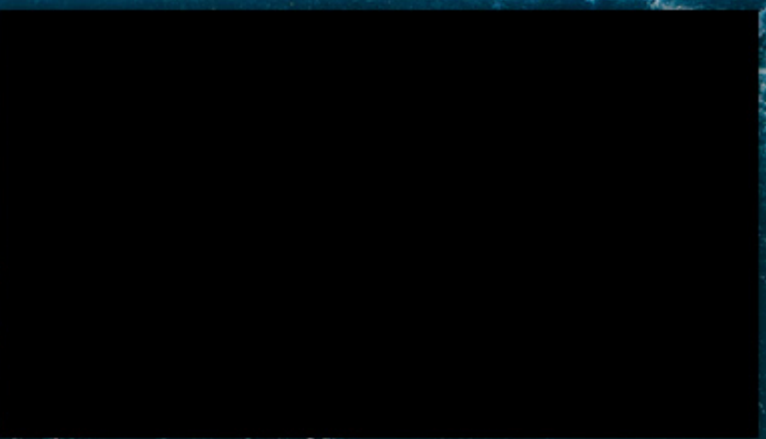


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- SIZES
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 - 12
 - 13
 - 14

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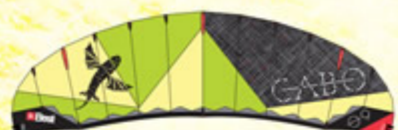
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Rider: Guilly Brandão Photo: Hugo Valente Spot: Indonesia



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FRONT COVER PHOTO ROU CHATER

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CREDIT: LAURENT GUYOT CRUISING
IN THE CARIBBEAN!
PHOTO: COURTESY OF FLYSURFER



GIN
KITEBOARDING

Rider: Thibaut Razezye / Photo: Hugo Badaroux



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ISSUE 50 ...The Golden Egg!

I can't quite believe we have hit the big 5-0 already! It's been a long, yet very enjoyable, path to get here. I had the usual nostalgic look back at some of our older issues (they are all still online by the way), and enjoyed some of the history that we have reported on over the years. Perhaps the most interesting fact I garnered from my trip down memory lane, was that all the riders in Issue One are still very much kitesurfers...

Aaron Hadlow, whom we interviewed, went on to win another two world championships, and is now back on the tour currently in 3rd place. Jo Wilson wrote the travel article on Brazil, these days instead of competing there she runs very successful coaching trips not only in Brazil, but all over the world.

Our other interviewee, Ben Wilson, left his sponsors Slingshot to form his own kite company, Ben Wilson Surf; he is still riding, making kites and coaching people in the waves.

Perhaps most interesting though, is the very young Robin Snuggs who also featured in that first issue is now our chief tester here at the magazine! It's funny how things turn out isn't it!

Of course the stalwarts and heroes of them all have to be Christian and Karine our technique editors. They are still with us after all these years and have now racked up almost 150 different technique moves for you to learn; I just wish I'd taken the trouble to learn them all as they went along!

To all the riders and readers along the way, the people we have met and the ones we haven't, and especially to those of you who religiously check in each issue, we would like to say a huge thank you. We couldn't make this magazine what it is without you, so genuinely, a heartfelt thanks for supporting us with your clicks, and more recently swipes, over the years...

Here's to Issue 100 - now that is a scary thought!

Rou Chater
Publishing Editor



BRANDON SCHEID GETS ALL SENTIMENTAL AS THE SUN SETS IN BAJA
PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON

EDITORIAL



Big Mama^{14.5}



Boss¹²



Punch^{10.5}



Smoke⁹



Mr. Green^{7.5}



Gypsy^{6.25}



Bunny⁵



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A LIFE LESS ORDINARY

Craig Cunningham and his crew head of in search of adventure down under on a mission to beat the crowds and get off the traditional beaten track of Western Australia...

WORDS CRAIG CUNNINGHAM
PHOTOS JASON WOLCOTT



CRAIG CUNNINGHAM GETTING STYLISH OFF THE BEATEN TRACK



COLLEEN CARROLL THROWING DOWN FOR THE MILLIONAIRES AT WALTERS POINT.

“ ALL WE NEEDED WERE THE CONDITIONS TO MAKE IT HAPPEN. ”

Western Australia has been on my list of places to go to for a while now. I have been talking about it for years, but living on the other side of the globe it just hasn't been the easiest trip to line up. This winter's schedule was without any planned trips or events until

February though, and it seemed as if Colleen Carroll and I were going to have some extra time on our hands. At the end of a typical fall in Brazil we pulled the trigger and booked some tickets to Perth...

I had watched lots of videos from back in the day in Australia and heard all the hype about the wind, flat water and the local scene. Spots like Woodies, Safety Bay and

Point Walter were all in the general vicinity and we knew that's where we wanted to be based. There was also a plan to hook up with photographer Jason Wolcott who lives in Bali and was going to be in Western Australia for some of our trip.

Spots like Safety Bay and Woodman's Point need no introduction, these flat water gems are the reason there were so many pro's in town. In our house we had Ewan Jaspán, Sam Medysky, Alex Hughes, Karolina Winkowska, Elliot Drury and David Drinkwater along with Colleen and myself. Keeping his end up for the Spanish Alex Pastor came and stayed with us for a bit too, rounding off a somewhat talented household!

At the local kite haunts it wasn't unusual to see the likes of Liam Whaley, Aaron Hadlow, Christophe Tack, James Boulding, and representing the females Helena Brochoka and Manuela Jungo. Let's just say, if terrorists had decided to blow up Safety Bay anytime between January and February the loss to the kitesurfing world would have been great.

Due to this huge and ever increasing influx of pro's we wanted to do something a little different with Jason when he flew over for the shoot. The plan was to get off the beaten track and venture out into the wilds of Western Australia to discover a few gems and create some great content. Aaron, Colleen, Manuela and myself were to be the stunt monkeys, all we needed were the conditions to make it happen.

Sadly, the usually very wind patterns that Perth and Western Australia are so well know for were a little messed up when Jason arrived. We didn't want to risk driving and not scoring, so the decision was made to stay close to home and get some content in the bag,



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ANGRY SWALLOW
5'2" / 5'4" / 5'6"

SCREAMER
5'2" / 5'4"

CELERITAS
5'6" / 5'8" / 5'11"

TYRANT
6'0"



THE CREW RIDING BIKES ON ROTTO!

that way when we travelled if we got skunked we would at least still have something to show for the trip!

Luckily, the rarely working spot of Point Walter on the Swan River looked like it could be on, so after getting some decent shots in Safety Bay and around Woodman's Point we started to step out of our comfort zone. Point Walter is a picturesque spot with million dollar homes in the backdrop situated right in the heart of Perth city.

It only works early in the morning on a certain wind direction, but when it does work, it can be all-time awesome. We arrived around 7am but by the time I got pumped up it was too light for my 13m Vegas.

“ ONLY A FEW PEOPLE HAVE EVER REALLY KITED OVER THERE ”

Fortunately for Colleen and Manuela, 13m was perfect for them. After watching and shooting the girls for a few hours we packed up, went home for a BBQ and got a good nights sleep, knowing the next day was going to be a mission.

We awoke and readied ourselves for the biggest mission of the trip, a visit to the fabled Rottneest Island. Here we could get away from the crowds and explore some new spots,



but not without a lot more work than was normally involved in going to the beach for a session. Only a few people have ever really kited over there and no one had done a proper photo shoot.

There is of course the Lighthouse to Leighton dash that happens each year, but in terms of a destination for kites to visit Rotto, as it is affectionately known, isn't high up the list. Mind you, with the world class spots that Perth offers on the mainland it is hardly surprising that people don't care too much for the trip over on the ferry.

ROTTNEST ISLAND,
SIMPLY STUNNING

“ IT IS HARDLY
SURPRISING THAT
PEOPLE DON'T CARE
TOO MUCH FOR THE
TRIP OVER ”



INSPIRED BY NATURE
DRIVEN BY THE ELEMENTS

STEEZE FROM CRAIG ON THE BIRDHOUSE SLIDER...



“ THE BACKDROPS AND WATER COLOURS ARE UNLIKE ANYWHERE ELSE ”

Depending on where you leave from it can take between 25 and 90 minutes. Fremantle is the shortest crossing point at 25 minutes and perhaps the easiest and most popular.

Local kitesurfer Ryland Blakeney gave us some details and said it was the most similar place to Fiji he had ever seen. I've never been to Fiji, but I am fully aware of the beauty that surrounds that place. If we could get lucky and score some footage over there it would definitely be worth it!

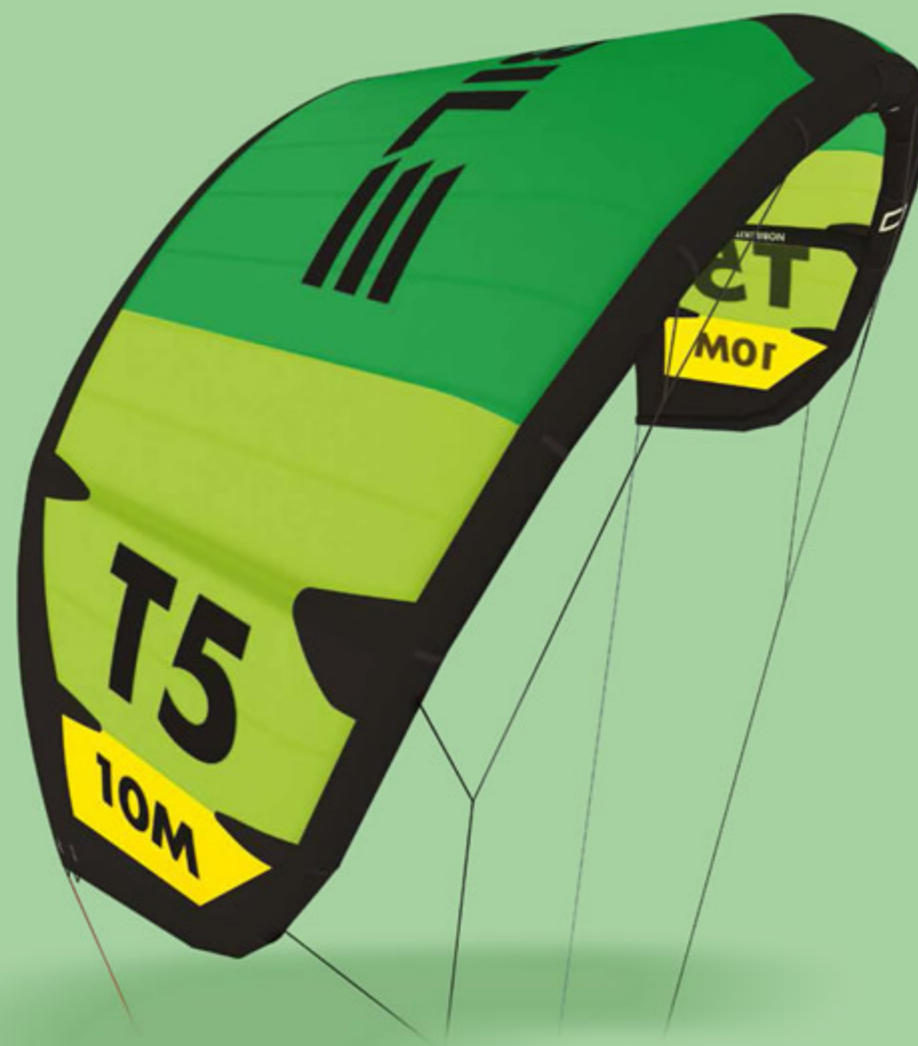
One small issue about this place was that you cannot use a car to get around and our only options were public transport or renting bikes to transport all our gear around on. We arrived around 10:30am; the light was really high so we opted to spend the good part of the morning scouting spots and kite later that day whilst doing some of the tourist things around the island.

We found a couple of sick spots, saw a few Qwokas (an animal only found on this little island that resembles a mix between a kangaroo and monster rat), took a few photos and hurried back to the best spot we found earlier. It felt like we were in the Caribbean and the next couple of hours went by quickly.

There is a lot of potential here on Rottnest, it's definitely off the beaten track but the backdrops and water colours are unlike anywhere else in Perth. It would be great to spend a few days here and, while most people just visit for the day, like us, it is possible to stay over on the Island for longer periods if you want to. Perhaps the biggest draw for making the effort to go to Rottnest is the lack of crowds.



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MANUELA
TWEAKING IT
OUT IN
AUGUSTA.

Kitesurfing in Western Australia is becoming ever more popular and, whilst not quite the craziness of Brazil, the flat water havens of Safety Bay and Woodman's Point can get crowded on a good day. On Rottnest you'll be sharing the beach with your mates, the Qwokas, and that's about it!

After a couple of hours filming and with some good shots in the bag Jason was happy and it was time to hurry back to the ferry dock. That day was definitely a mission, but in the end felt like we accomplished

something and, after looking through the shots, cycling about 18km seemed more worth it. It's certainly a day and an adventure I won't forget in a hurry!

The following day we spent recovering and setting plans for the next adventure. We only had limited time with Jason so we really wanted to make the most of our road trip hitting up as many different spots as possible. Next on our list was a town south of Perth called Augusta to meet up with the Hampton family close to Margaret River.

" YOU'LL BE SHARING THE BEACH WITH YOUR MATES, THE QWOKAS, AND THAT'S ABOUT IT! "

We couldn't have asked for a better host and tour guides of the area, Billy Hampton is an upcoming North Kiteboarding grom from WA who shreds equally as well on the surfboard as he does on his twin tip. His father, Mark, moved here years ago from the UK and has never looked back; he's an all-around good guy and legendary woodoven fired pizza chef - they have one in their backyard!



You can definitely tell Billy is a good kid at heart, but loves to cause a little bit of ruckus. When we rolled up to the house the dogs looked a little funny and Billy couldn't wait to tell us about how he had taken the clippers and done a little "styling" to the family's dogs. I have to say he was pretty stoked on the half and half haircut he had given the black lab.

After a few stories from the family we sat down to make a game plan. Conditions weren't lining up at Augusta quite yet and things were looking solid at "The Zoo", a heavy wave spot made famous in the kite movie "Lines" where we could get some photos together. We headed to the Zoo to find some meaty looking waves and the ever-stoked Billy keen to get amongst it!

BILLY HAMPTON IS DEFINITELY GOING PLACES, HE'S JUST 14 BUT RIPPING ALREADY!

" WE HEADED TO THE ZOO TO FIND SOME MEATY LOOKING WAVES "



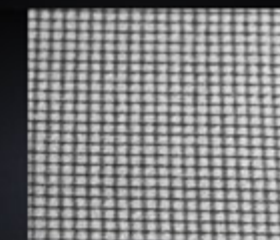
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MANUELA MAKES FRIENDS WITH A KWOKA!

“ IT WAS CRANKING HERE, ALMOST A LITTLE BIT TOO MUCH WITH ME MAXED OUT ON A 7M VEGAS. ”

It's a horrible wave really, a savage dump of a shore break that makes for a decent money shot, a lot of wipeouts, sand in places you never previously thought possible and not much else. Naturally, Billy put his body on the line repeatedly and ticked all of the above boxes, fortunately for him, and our nerves, it was starting to look good in Augusta.

Augusta is a small town about 25km south of Margaret River; it sits on the entrance to the Blackwood River and

is a flat-water heaven for kites. After rocking up at the beach we realized we needed to get Jason over to the other side of the river where we wanted to ride in the best spot for the photos. Thankfully, Mr. Hampton Snr was prepared and had the perfect boat for us to get out to the point - what a legend!

Augusta has beautiful blue water and a large sand dune spit that created flat water for about 1km. It was cranking here, almost a little bit too much with me maxed out on a 7m Vegas. We had so much fun though boosting around, jibbing some things and seeing how fast we could go in the butter flat water.



“ IT WAS DEFINITELY A BETTER END TO THE DAY THAN THE OTHER NEAR OPTION OF DRIFTING OUT TO SEA STUCK ON A BOAT WITH BILLY! ”

This spot is one of the best I have been to and if you make the trip to Western Australia then you definitely need to get down here and check it out. If you want world class butter flat water without the crowds, then this is the place to come.

After riding till sunset we were finally ready to go in, we packed away all of our gear and loaded it onto the boat. Billy had convinced his dad to let him drive the boat back whilst Mark gear back to land. Everything was fine until we are about halfway across and something went wrong with the motor. We started drifting and were quickly getting pushed with the wind away from the shore.

The temperature was dropping now and this wasn't the way we had envisaged ending the first day of our road trip. Basically our only option at this point was to start paddling against the wind back to land and then walk the boat all the way along the shallows back to shore. Mark saw us drifting downwind and came back out to see what the hold up was.

Thankfully he came to the rescue and after a few minutes he had something jerry-rigged and we were powering back to land with no worries. On return to the house Mrs. Hampton was waiting for us and we arrived to a table filled with toppings for homemade wood fired pizza – what a welcome sight! It's up there with some of the best pizza I've ever had, and it was definitely a better end to the day than the other near option of drifting out to sea stuck on a boat with Billy!



BILLY HAMPTON
GETTING LOOSE
IN THE
SHOREBREAK AT
THE ZOO!

The next morning we wanted to check a spot called Red Gates that we had cruised by before the filming session at The Zoo. It is one of the most beautiful beaches I have ever seen. Not exactly an ideal spot to kite, but a location that, if you got one or two good photos from, it would definitely be worth going out. With insane watercolors and red rocks popping out everywhere it looked gorgeous, yet the kickers were pretty chunky. We went out for about 45 minutes and once we got the thumbs up from Jason

that he'd got some decent images we hit the road back home to Safety Bay.

It had been an intense week of filming, driving and riding, everyone was exhausted and it was now time for Jason to leave us. We'd managed to achieve our goal of riding some different spots and getting some different images to the usual offerings from Perth.

**" I COULD HAVE SPENT A LOT MORE TIME
HERE AND CAN'T WAIT TO COME BACK"**

Mission accomplished, it was time to swap hard drives, slap some high fives and see Jason off. We were looking forward to having a few sessions with the crew, just getting wet and riding, whilst Jason was excited to get home to his wife and young daughter back in Bali.

The last few days of the trip we kicked back, sessioned the slider, had bulk BBQ's and enjoyed our final moments in Australia to the maximum. I could have spent a lot more time here and can't wait to come back - but next year, for sure, we're staying for Australia Day!



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SEBASTIEN RIBERO DESTROYS A MOROCCAN WAVE DURING ONE OF HIS HEATS!

WORDS ROU CHATER PHOTO HUGO VALENTE

EVERYTHING IS CHANGING...



A change is better than a rest they say, and for the competitive edge of our sport the changes this year have been huge, with Richard Branson and Virgin taking over the tour everyone knew something big would happen, but how big still remains to be seen...



“BUT WE DON’T WANT THE SPORT TO GET ANY BIGGER, THE BEACHES ARE CROWDED ALREADY ”

Unless you have been living under a rock you can't have failed to notice the new leadership at the Professional Kite Riders Association, which for the record is now called the Virgin Kitesurfing World Championships. Mauricio Toscano sold out his share of the PKRA last year to ZED and Virgin. ZED is a multimedia communications company, the CEO is a guy called Javier Perez Dolcet, a keen kitesurfer who is also a shareholder at Best Kiteboarding.

Virgin is owned by Richard Branson, who as we all know loves to kitesurf, and has been getting more involved with events such as the Virgin Armada that was held in Tarifa and also the UK last year. Whilst Mauricio did a stellar job at the PKRA for many years, you can't argue with the credentials of Javier and Richard.

Their respective companies have a reach in the hundreds of millions, with Virgin Media and ZED having huge numbers of subscribers and a massive potential audience. For the sport the implications are huge, and before I hear a cry of “but we don't want the sport to get any bigger, the beaches are crowded already” you need to understand a few things...

Kitesurfing is still growing, it's growing really fast, but at the sharp end riders come and go and in the UK the number of regular kites has remained hovering around the 5,000 to 6,000 mark. That isn't a huge number and that trend is echoed around the world. The sport grew massively at first, but has since levelled off a little and without more growth the industry could potentially stagnate in the future.





RIGGED AND READY TO GO ON DAKHLA

Anyone remember how big roller-blading was, and now isn't? And that is a sport which is easily accessible without any real barriers to entry. Kitesurfing needs enthusiastic, dedicated, well-off individuals, with a love of the ocean and the patience of a saint when it comes to waiting around for wind. It's not an easy sport to get into, therefore in order for it to grow we need it to be seen by the masses and we need to be projecting it in the right way.

“ A LOVE OF THE OCEAN AND THE PATIENCE OF A SAINT WHEN IT COMES TO WAITING AROUND FOR WIND. ”

Professional competition is the realm of thieves and rich kids though, after all who can afford to fly around the world and just kitesurf all day? Well yes, to an extent, there are the rich kids involved, and in the past money could buy your way onto the pro tour regardless of your results.

However, a larger proportion of kitesurfers I would class as 'thieves'; they've begged, borrowed and busted their asses to get around the world. They've trained and trained and trained to reach a point where the sponsors are prepared to invest.



So, for the purpose of this article, let's not brand the VKWC as a bunch of rich kids going around the world hungering after a title owned by a couple of very well off chaps. We need to look at it in far more detail than that.

You and I need professional kiteboarders for many reasons; yes, their moves and lifestyles might be as far removed from the 9-5 grind of our own, and of course they are fortunate enough to kite in perfect conditions with amazing winds all the time (a little different to our local beaches and weather systems), yet we need them, and here is why...

KAROLINA WINKOWSKA
IS BACK TO DEFEND HER
WORLD TITLE!
PHOTO
HUGO VALENTE

**" THEY ARE FORTUNATE
ENOUGH TO KITE IN
PERFECT CONDITIONS
WITH AMAZING WINDS
ALL THE TIME "**

SPECTRE





“THEY IN TURN ENCOURAGE US TO BECOME BETTER RIDERS.”

ALEX NETO MADE IT INTO THE MAIN EVENT!
PHOTO
HUGO VALENTE

Professional kiteboarders push the limits of the sport, this in turn pushes the designers to make better gear to enable them to push the limits even further. Look at a kite that Aaron Hadlow thought was perfect five years ago,

and now take a look at it today. It is totally different, and most likely so is the kite you are riding. Now, if Aaron had been satisfied and told the designers that the kite performed the best it ever possibly could, would they have pushed for more development?

Arguably some designers would have, but a

huge amount of development and testing comes around because of the pro's wanting better performance from their gear. We of course benefit from that with the trickle down effect of development and technology. Pro riders also generate large amounts of content; this content is not only inspiring to us, but it also no doubt forms the majority of the kitesurfing media that most of us consume and enjoy on a daily basis.

By stretching the boundaries of the sport they in turn encourage us to become better riders. In 2000 you could have won the world championships with a back roll. Nowadays, a backroll is considered a beginners move. As they push the limits, so to do our own margins and abilities become widened. A number of pro riders also help with coaching, not just in videos and magazines, many of them offer private tuition to help you improve, and I can personally highly recommend it.

Before I ramble off on the pros and cons of pro riders (pun intended), I'll pull it back to the more relevant article in question. We need the pros and the pros need a tour to perform on. The tour had some new life injected into it in the last couple of years with rule changes and updates making it arguably more relevant and interesting. Then “blammo” Richard and Javier come along to save the day...

The downside to all of this was that after they saved the day, nothing much happened, at least in front of the scenes. Between the end of the season in 2014 and the start of the season in 2015 there was pretty much near total radio silence. Naturally, as a journalist I was constantly asking anyone I met with contacts what they knew or what they had heard.



Everyone I spoke to knew nothing, even the riders were kept out of the loop and the big question all winter was “what the hell is going on with the PKRA?” It seemed that no one had any information, contact details or anything useful on the subject at all. It was a frustrating period to say the least...

Meanwhile, in the run up to all of this the PKRA website was infected with a virus, sparking more rumour and conjecture. The situation was arguably getting out of hand. When the new rules and regulations were finally published on the 1st of March, (read the full article about it [HERE](#)), it was clear that the sport was headed in a new direction...

PAUL SERIN WAS ON FIRE
IN THE DESERT!
PHOTO HUGO VALENTE

“ IT WAS CLEAR THAT
THE SPORT WAS
HEADED IN A NEW
DIRECTION... ”



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EUDAZIO DA SILVA GOING HUGE, SOMETHING THE JUDGES ARE REWARDING MORE IN THE NEW FORMAT.
PHOTO HUGO VALENTE



“NO LONGER CAN YOU JUST TURN UP TO EACH EVENT AS YOU PLEASE. YOU NOW HAVE TO QUALIFY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON ”

Freestyle was to be joined by Big Air, Waves and Slalom as disciplines that the PKRA would now include. I say PKRA as even when the information was released, it was still called the PKRA. It wasn't until a matter of days before the event that an official announcement about the Virgin Kitesurfing World Championships came out.

Perhaps the biggest news was that just 24 men and 12 women would be selected to compete in this new competition (14 men and 7 women would be pre seeded from last years ranking). No longer can you just turn up to each event as you please. You now have to qualify at the beginning of the season with another mid-season qualifier also being added.

Being a pro rider on the tour suddenly just got very real... You are going to be there purely on the merit of your moves and the final year rankings shouldn't have that element of "the person who showed up to the most events getting more points than better riders who can't afford to do the whole tour"...

There are also changes to the judging format and riders are to now perform just one trick at a time in a special 'box' area in order to score. Points will be awarded for 5 tricks, the same as last year, but now more emphasis will be placed on the speed, height and amplitude of those tricks.



LOCATION: HUNTER OCEAN ACTION WOLCOTT

CHAMELEON KITE HARNESS
→ REMOVABLE SEAT HARNESS ATTACHMENT
→ FREEDOM SHAPE SPREADER BAR PAD



PEDRO ENRIQUE
SHREDDING IN
THE WAVE EVENT!
PHOTO HUGO
VALENTE

Equally there is the inclusion of a new Overall Title meaning the focus will switch from freestyle to include more aspects of the sport in order to decide who is the best kitesurfer in the world. As anticipated with any changes, a lot of this was met with disappointment and disdain from some circles, but equally others heralded this more inclusive nature of the sport as a positive.

We are from the latter camp; when you

consider what the majority of us actually do and aspire to when we go kitesurfing it is freeriding, big jumps, a bit of freestyle and hopefully smashing some waves. The top echelons of the freestyle world have become so far removed from our day-to-day kitesurfing activities that it almost becomes hard to get excited by them.

“IN ORDER TO DECIDE WHO IS THE BEST KITESURFER IN THE WORLD.”

There is after all, far more excitement about the King Of The Air in this sport than there ever was about any PKRA final among the kitesurfing masses.

The idea of bringing more elements into the competition scene and recognising all-round ability and not just one trick ponies is something we should have been doing a long time ago. Improving the judging by having a limited area and just one rider tricking at each moment makes it fairer too, although there are issues with that of course.

2FACE

WAVE WAIST HARNESS

The 2Face wave harness is co-designed by the Mystic team riders. It is the first harness in the kite market that is 100% dedicated to wave riding. It is called the '2Face' for its asymmetrical design that has been developed for two types of riders;

the 'regular' wave rider and the 'goofy' wave rider. Turn it around 180 degrees and your 'regular' wave riding harness will be an identical 'goofy' wave riding harness.

A lefthander or a righthander, the harness will provide ultimate freedom.

Our new vision on wave riding!



GOOFY



REGULAR

SINGLE BATTLE BELT
WAIST CLOSURE



PRE-SHAPED BELT FOR
EASY SLIDING



ROTATE THE HARNESS 180° TO
CHANGE BETWEEN GOOFY
AND REGULAR



Gully Brandao
#INCONTROL



ROBINSON
HILARIO FROM
THE DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC.
PHOTO
HUGO VALENTE

Perhaps the biggest plus for us was a move towards the judges awarding more points for faster speeds, higher tricks and amplitude. In one fell swoop, freestyle kitesurfing just got bigger and more radical.

As the "pros" descended on Dakhla in Morocco for the first round and the qualifiers all eyes were on the event. Lewis Crathern was our man on the ground getting the

"GROWTH OF KITESURFING IS THE ONLY WAY OUR SPORT WILL SURVIVE INTO THE DISTANT FUTURE."

gossip and his feedback was in the most part very positive.

The information blackout of the winter was finally dispelled at the first riders meeting when Alexander Lorenz, the new VKWC Tour

Manager and Sami Gali, the Head Judge, took to the stage. Needless to say, there were a lot of concerned faces in the audience and plenty of questions, but the full remit and vision for the tour quickly became apparent.

Virgin and ZED, have big plans for this tour, this isn't just about sticking their logos on it and carrying on with the status quo. The biggest news is the audience. The event in Dakhla has already been packaged up into a TV friendly format by IMG and is being distributed as I write this.

IMG are a global leader in sports, fashion and media management and, to put things in perspective, package up things like the Barclays Premier League, one of the most prestigious football leagues in the world. These guys are the real big deal, and their vision, along with Virgin and Zed, is to put kitesurfing into as many homes as possible.

That simple goal, as I mentioned earlier is good for the growth of this sport, it's good for the brands, the pros, general riders like you and I, and of course the schools. The growth of kitesurfing is the only way our sport will survive into the distant future. And if you think I am wrong, just take a look at windsurfing and where it is now compared to the 90's...

With this vision for the future delivered, spirits among the riders were lifted and a positive vibe was felt in the desert. Once the wind arrived the trials got under way and the wheat was separated from the chaff. With just 24 places for the men and 14 places for the women there were going to be a lot of disappointed riders, yet equally we would have a tour supported by the very best in the business.



With Freestyle, Waves and Big Air on the agenda there was a lot to get through in Dakhla. A testament to the VKWC teams skills, they managed to get through not just the hugely oversubscribed trials events, but also all the main events too - and that was with a pretty hefty break for the wind at the start of the competition period.

Perhaps the greatest thing about this competition will be the things you may not hear so much about; Aaron Hadlow rocking up to the Wave event to ride a surf board, Gisela Pulido coming 5th in the Wave event - how rad is that?! Jesse Richman making a return to freestyle competition after years away and guys like Lewis Crathern and Nick Jacobsen going along purely for the Big Air.

In a heartbeat the PKRA stopped being a tour for young twizzlers in flat caps and oversized headphones and became something altogether more interesting. Yet, at the same time, the freestyle wasn't suffering because of it. In fact, far from it, the event was a closely fought battle between the usual crew of rippers, along with some welcome new faces.

Perhaps the best upset to the status quo of the freestyle was guys like Jesse Richman going for KiteLoop 7's and getting scored in the 9's for it. I'd wager a kiteLoop handlepass hasn't been thrown in a freestyle comp for a good few years, and certainly never been rewarded so highly.

Before we blow a never-ending plume of smoke up the VKSA's ass though, let's ponder the negatives: there were some "strange" judging calls as usual,



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE



FINAL RESULTS

FREESTYLE MEN

- 1: Liam Whaley ES
- 2: Christophe Tack BE
- 3: Aaron Hadlow GB

FREESTYLE WOMEN

- 1: Karolina Winkowska PL
- 2: Gisela Pulido ES
- 3: Bruna Kajiya BR

WAVE MEN

- 1: Keahi De Aboitiz AU
- 2: Pedro Henrique BR
- 3: Sebastian Ribeiro BR

WAVE WOMEN

- 1: Jalou Langeree NL
- 2: Moona Whyte US
- 3: Ines Correia PT

BIG AIR MEN

- 1: Kevin Langeree NL
- 2: Marc Jacobs NZ
- 3: Jesse Richman US

Big Air Women

- 1: Gisela Pulido ES
- 2: Hannah Whitely GB
- 3: Annelous Lammerts NL

View the full rankings by visiting the VKWC website [CLICK HERE](#)

COLD WATER RIDERS, THEY KNOW

MANERA
WATERMEN EXPERIENCE



METEOR DESIGNED IN 3D

We believe slipping on one of the **MANERA METEOR** wetsuit will make you feel the real added value of all the experience and work we have invested. Thanks to our exclusive 3D design software and a prototype workshop right next to our office, we have been able to design and test again & again until we meet our expectations. Not to mention, our expectations were extremely high.



BEHIND THE BRAND

BEHIND THE BRAND

PAT GOODMAN FROM CABRINHA

WORDS ROU CHATER PHOTOS JAMES BOULDING

Pat Goodman started designing windsurfing sails on Oahu in 1981, after that he worked at Gastra and Neil Pryde, before joining Cabrinha when it was first launched in 2000 as the chief kite designer. Since then he has designed and tested every kite to leave the factory, an impressive achievement to say the least! Who better to talk to in our Behind the Brand feature this issue!



You've been working at Cabrinha since the very beginning, having a handle on every kite that has left the factory, what is it that you love about designing kites?

PG: I would have to say that what I love the most about designing kites is knowing that thousands of people are enjoying the benefits of my hard work and share the same passion for this incredible sport. It makes me smile knowing others are having just as much fun as I am riding the kites I have designed every time I go on the water.

How do you keep yourself motivated in terms of kite design, what inspires you?

PG: Of course my passion for the sport keeps me well motivated. I make sure I am on the water several times a week (minimum). Even after more than 15 years of kiting I still have those butterflies in my stomach every time I hear the windows shaking from the wind. Additionally, I am on a life long search for perfection. I am super particular about everything I do in life (a bit overly so to many...including my wife!) and a lot of that reflects in my kite designs. I wake up nearly every morning with ideas of how I can make improvements in the designs.

What have been the biggest changes at the brand since those early first days on Maui?

PG: I would have to say the company structure is much more refined. The organization and professionalism overall is pretty tight now.



“ I STILL HAVE THOSE BUTTERFLIES IN MY STOMACH EVERY TIME I HEAR THE WINDOWS SHAKING FROM THE WIND. ”

JAMES BOULDING STYLING IT OUT IN AUSTRALIA
PHOTO: JASON WOLCOTT



“ THE BIGGEST STEP SO FAR WAS THE DAY THE KITES HAD THE ABILITY TO SAFELY DE-POWER. ”

GEORGINA MONTI THROWING S-BENDS AT LA BOCA CABARETE. PHOTO: ROU CHATER



LIAM WHALEY SPREADING THE LOVE.

It was a bit casual in the early days and as time went on it was obvious to be a real player in the industry we needed to get serious with organized design briefs, strict timelines, proper product testing, etc.

There have obviously been some landmarks along the way, the first 4 line kites, Bow kites, which Cabrinha were an integral part of, and the more modern hybrid designs of today. What do you think was the single biggest leap forward in terms of kite design for the sport over the years?

PG: For me the biggest step so far was the day the kites had the ability to safely de-power. This started with the introduction of the Bow kite in 2006. That one particular attribute from the original Bow

kite design changed the safety aspect of the sport from that day forward. It was no longer the extreme sport for .1% of the people, but became a mainstream water sport almost anyone could safely learn with proper instruction. This instantly made the sport attractive to thousands of people who before were a bit intimidated by the inherent dangers.

Can you see another leap forwards like that on the horizon or is it now a case of steady progression?

PG: Like any product and/or sport there will be periods of evolution that slowly lead to new revolutions. For sure there are more exciting game-changing things to come. This sport in reality is still in its infant stages. Everyone, including us, is

working on new “outside the box” ideas to find that next break through in this sport’s technology. I’d love to tell you what we are working on, but sorry....you will just need to be patient for awhile.

Are your designs limited by the materials available, or have there been consistent improvements there as well that has enabled kite design to progress?

PG: I have been fortunate to be able to work directly with the material manufactures with our requirements for all of the kite materials. Just like when creating a new kite design we actually create a design brief for each material as well setting a specific goal for its performance and characteristics.

“ ANYWHERE WE CAN SAVE WEIGHT THE BETTER THE KITES PERFORM ”



BRANDON BOWE IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
PHOTO: RYAN TAYLOR

We actually set the requirements and the materials are custom made to order. This is one big advantage we have being a part of a business group which has endless amounts of combined resources and vendors.

How did the new 2DR Rip-Stop canopy material change the way you could design kites?

PG: The 2DR double rip stop material allowed us to be very conservative in the amount of heavy materials we had to use to maintain a strong, durable kite canopy. Anywhere we can save weight the better the kites

perform, especially in lighter winds.

Do you have to seek out new materials for kites or do the factories come to you with products?

PG: Both actually. In most cases, as mentioned earlier, we make most of our materials to our own specifications and have many reliable manufactures we work with. On the other hand, as the sport increases in size, more and more vendors and suppliers are expanding their product range in specialty fabrics and come to us with some really cool new products.

MAKO DUKE

SMOOTH • FAST • STABLE



5'4" X 18 1/2"
165cm x 47cm
25.3 liters

17mm CONCAVE



ERIK FRANG, PHOTO: SAMANTHA HILL

How has technology changed the way you design kites over the years?

PG: As the materials and components evolve so do the designs. We are now able to make lighter, stronger kites which hold more inflation pressure as well allowing us to improve and push the performance threshold. Rapid prototyping has also really come a long way. This is incredible for bringing conceptual ideas to the design group and even to the water for testing prior to any molding. This has greatly improved the efficiency in designing all of the molded plastic components.

There are 9 kites in the range, including 8 inflatables and one trainer kite, who else do you have working with you on the design of the kites?

PG: I am the only official kite designer at Cabrinha and the one ultimately responsible for the design files and getting them properly into mass production. However, we have an incredibly talented, diversified group of people including two engineers working within our design team. All of them are kites, and all of them have different levels of influence in the kite designs. Pete Cabrinha and David Kay our board designer/product manager in particular are very active in the kite design and direction. DK is constantly pushing me to apply my skills and experience to the limits and always keeps me pushing the boundaries. He never lets up until I prove to him I have gone beyond what we are capable of. Good on ya bro! Along with our test team headed in Maui by Dave Hastilow there really are more people involved than most people realize.



“ HE NEVER LETS UP UNTIL I PROVE TO HIM I HAVE GONE BEYOND WHAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF. ”

RICHARD FLINDALL UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT IN CABARETEI
PHOTO: ROU CHATER

The bar is a very intimate part of the kite; it's the part that riders are in contact with all the time. How closely do you work with the kite bar department to get the kites to produce the right feeling?

PG: I have been involved with the kite control system since the very beginning. As you mentioned, the kite and control system together is what creates the overall experience you have while on the water so of

course I have input on the control system function etc. There is no “kite bar department” as such but we do now have a full time engineer Hugh Pinfold who is responsible for the control system and has brought an entirely new level of skill and professionalism to the way we make and design the products. It is great to have Hugh on board and have a dedicated designer working on the control systems.

Do you get involved with the testing process yourself, are you always testing or do you get time to ride just for pleasure?

PG: Haha, you are funny. I spend countless amounts of hours tuning kites and bridles and make it a personal rule to do my best to test and ride every single prototype I make. Over the past 12 years of kite design and roughly a thousand prototypes or more I am proud to say I can likely count on one hand the amount of prototype kites I have not personally ridden. In these rare cases it would only be a very small kite for instance where I had smaller testers help me out or maybe location wise it just wouldn't work out without sending the kites off to another location. I have a great test team that works together with me on this tuning process and once we have done our personal check and tuning on the kites many are sent off to team riders and other test locations for further testing and feedback.

How involved is Pete these days with the design process and overall product at Cabrinha?

PG: Pete is still 100% involved in both the design direction of all of our products as well as actively managing the marketing and the brand. He is also regularly on the water testing and pretty much has the end "say so" in every thing we do. He is very creative and has a high level of expectation from all of us and is an overall great guy to work for as well.

NICK JACOBSEN PROVIDED A LOT OF INSPIRATION FOR THE FX, AND HE IS A CERTIFIED NUTTER!

" I CAN LIKELY COUNT ON ONE HAND THE AMOUNT OF PROTOTYPE KITES I HAVE NOT PERSONALLY RIDDEN. "





“ WE TRIED LOTS OF DIFFERENT APPROACHES BEFORE WE SETTLED ON THE FINAL DIRECTION. ”

PHOTO JASON WOLCOTT

Lets talk about the FX for a bit, this is a kite that Cabrinha are aggressively pushing at the moment, how long did you spend developing it with Nick Jacobsen?

PG: Nick came into the design process on the FX kite shortly after we started the project. We had the concept and direction in place and had done some initial prototyping. It was coming along nicely, but I needed more feedback from an extreme rider that could push the kite to the limits. It was once Nick

got involved that the development really started moving along nicely. He was right on it with great feedback and extremely high expectations. He was asking a lot from this kite and we tried lots of different approaches before we settled on the final direction. This kite tops my personal record for the amount of prototypes made for one kite model. For instance we made more than 12 samples of the 9.0 alone before we were where we needed and wanted to be...(don't tell Pete!!).

BRUNOTTI BOARDS

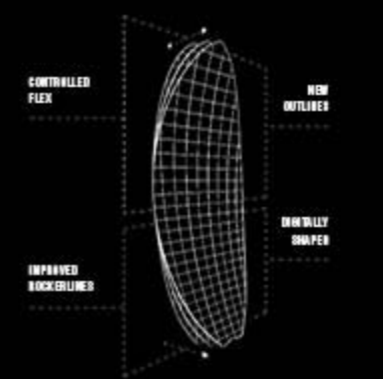


BRUTUS
7'2" x 22 1/4" x 18 1/2" 29.4L
FREEWAVE

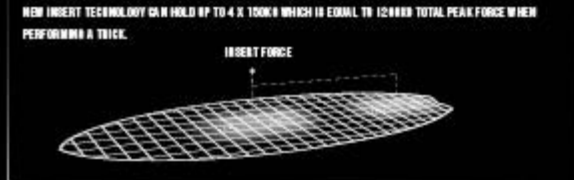
BOOMER
7'0" x 21 1/2" x 18 1/2" 29.4L
SMALL WAVE

BOSS
8'10" x 27 1/2" x 18 1/2" 28.8L
6'1" x 21 1/2" x 18 1/2" 20.8L
BIG WAVE

3D SPECIFICATIONS



INSERTS



3.F.R. TECH



BOARD CONSTRUCTION





JAMES BOULDING IN AUSTRALIA
PHOTO: MANUELA JUNGO



BRANDON BOWE THROWING DOWN AS THE SUN SETS!
PHOTO: RYAN TAYLOR

“ I KNOW THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE OUT THERE THAT WISH THEY COULD BE LIKE HIM... MYSELF INCLUDED! ”

Is it typical to work on a kite with just one rider in mind, or is that more the effect of the marketing than the reality of what went on behind the scenes?

PG: Typically a new kite design is catered towards a particular kind of customer. In some cases, such as we have done with Nick Jacobson and the FX, we find the perfect test pilot and personality which best reflects the kind of rider that might associate him or herself with the product. Needless to say I doubt there are many people out there as crazy and fearless as Nick, but I know there are lots of people out there that wish they could be like him.....myself included!

What were you aiming to achieve with the FX?

PG: We were after a perfect all-round advanced kite

that would not hold you back. It needed to be stable, have decent power delivery and have good pop, slack off nicely when unhooking and boost to the moon. Not much really! Haha! When I first read the design brief I was a bit intimidated that I could comply with such a tall order. We did all right in the end I believe.

Is it going to be the nail in the coffin for the Chaos, a few riders we have spoken to prefer the new FX and the handling it offers?

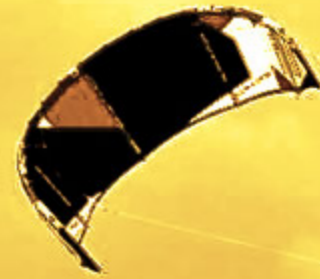
PG: Not at all. This now allows the Chaos to be pushed a bit more towards a competition freestyle kite. The FX will sit perfectly between the new Chaos and the Switchblade and make the overall offering quite well rounded and matched.

For the average rider out there, where does the FX fit into the line up?

PG: The FX is the perfect kite for anyone who wants to improve his/her freestyle skills to the next level without sacrificing wind range, handling or overall performance. The FX sits perfectly between the Switchblade and the Chaos with positive attributes from both ends.

What new techniques did you use on the FX to create its unique feel?

PG: The FX uses several new shaping techniques and internal design settings to optimize the in-flight canopy profile and arc shape.



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>



It has a very smooth, semi-round profile entry shape giving a wide range of performance at different attack angles. The very simple 3-attachment point bridle makes the kite stable, but loose and manoeuvrable.

When designing kites, who do you listen to most, the testers, the pro riders or the people at the sharp end buying the kites themselves?

PG: Feedback from everyone you mentioned is equally important. Of course on the higher end products that cater for intermediate to advanced riders we must get more feedback from team riders. However, our tests team and consumers really do shape the final products in the end. We always monitor most of the kite forums as well as work very closely with our dealers and distributors and equally listen to their needs as much as possible.

The Switchblade is now an icon in the sport, what is the secret to that kites success?

PG: The Switchblade can simply be described as a very stable, predictable kite with a large wind range that pretty much anyone can fly and enjoy. It is very efficient and set the benchmark for "park and ride". It is safe, fun and does a bit of everything extremely well.

What excites you about the prospect of work on a Sunday evening?

PG: Ahhh you caught me. Kitesurfing and kite design are my passions. I eat breath, sleep and often dream about kites. There are no weekends for me. It is what I love to do. There are only days with, and days without, wind.

ALBERTO RONDINA GETTING THAT PERFECT SHOT IN BRAZIL!
PHOTO: ANDRE MAGARAO

" I EAT BREATH, SLEEP AND OFTEN DREAM ABOUT KITES. "

If you had to spend a year on a desert island with 4 people from the kite industry who would you take?

PG: Dave Kay (DK)... because he is a walking encyclopaedia - it would be like going to school again. Dano See....because with him around there is never a dull moment. Hopefully there are no bars there! Pete Cabrinha...because he always has some new ideas or challenges that require a lot of thinking and working out so you keep your mind active. Pete also gives me someone to jam guitar with. Last likely would be

Su Kay (DK's wife and kite tester). Need one smart, strong women there to keep the peace and she is pretty much just an awesome person to be around.

What kite and board would you take with you?

PG: I would probably bring an FX 8.0 or 9.0 and a Tronic 145. This combo can do pretty much anything from freestyle to riding small surf. I love this set up a lot.

Many thanks Pat for taking the time to answer these questions!

PG: No worries. Call on me anytime.

UP YOUR GAME

Experience the advantage of effortless handling with the 2015/16 Naish Ride. Incredibly lightweight with a fuller center section, the Ride delivers superior low-end performance, maintaining smooth power delivery through turns. Featuring a 2-strut design, experienced riders will appreciate its great stability in high wind, while ease of water relaunch, jumping and sheet-in-and-go performance make it a great kite to grow with. Gear up and enjoy the Ride—the proven kite for effortless control.

SEE IT IN ACTION!



Find Your Ride
NaishKites.com



2015/16 RIDE All-around Freeride

Sizes: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14



WATCH THE FULL
2015/16 LAUNCH



CKPERFORMANCE

Happily sponsored by Cabrinha and NP

TECHNIQUE



Crikey, it's both amazing and as time-warping/age-inducing as watching children grow up. To be here from the first issue all the way up to this 50th edition, with the slight exception of one minor historical glitch when Coche's internet connection prevented us from uploading and meeting the necessary deadline. Only seems like yesterday that we were talking you through F16-ing on C-kites, riding tiny boards blind and handle passing on ultra flat pulley-bar bows. The good news is that even though we're only a handful of moves off 150, we still have plenty more in store, we still thoroughly enjoy sharing our love of learning with you and we still yearn to learn our own next trick and continue to scream excitedly when we do. Here's to the next 50! Thanks for reading, Christian & Karine.

Now back to business. For no. 50 we've got the Beach Bounce Transition, the Nose Grab Downloop Airgybe and The Shifty to Blind. Savor the challenge...



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BEACH BOUNCE TRANSITION



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

NOSE GRAB DOWN-LOOP TRANSITION



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

SHIFTY TO BLIND



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

BEACH BOUNCE TRANSITION >

Board Ace 137

Kite Chaos 9m

You've all probably seen someone do this, whether onto and off the beach, or some solid looking object, and thought that it'd be a fun one to add to your list, with the minor exception of potentially looking a bit of a plonker whilst mastering it. In all fairness, this is no more or less showy than any other trick in the book, it's what you make it, and it's how you enjoy it that counts - did you land your first jumps? Most likely not, so get involved and enjoy the process of nailing it down.

In its basic form the beach bounce is an air gybe, a jump transition, so there's your starting point - if you have them nailed then it's all systems go. Before we extract the key moments, let us identify the foundations of a good air gybe. First and foremost, if we'd like to change direction we don't want too much forward momentum. Secondly when we're in the air and chilling we need the kite above us at 12 o'clock so that it floats up and is ready when we need it. And finally, we'll need a good old-fashioned yet hefty dive to pull us back the other way for a crisp landing. Oh yes, and having some power and the sweet spot trimmed slightly away from us will certainly make this less of a hardship. The "only" difference is that you'll be stopping on your board, and then lifting off again to go the other way, rather than the more usual floating under the kite caper.

And one final thought before we proceed - wind



direction. Ideally you should try this in cross or cross-offshore conditions, otherwise phase 2 could be highly unachievable!!!

The Approach Pic A

Having chosen your lump of soft sand (we're not recommending anything solid as it's unlikely to do you or your precious board any good) you'll need to approach as for an air gybe. To get a feel for distance it will be better to start further away and not quite make it, in preference to screaming in, over-shooting and sticking your fins into someone's highly pimped and polished surf wagon. You don't need a raised bank as in the pics, but bear in mind that if you're



floating onto something "sea level" you'll need less height and less speed. In this example Christian sends his kite about 2 meters from the sand bar.

You can see in the pic that Christian has still given the kite a good stab back, that is to say a sharp, but short send, this should then give him height without the kite going too far behind him on take off. Christian is also edging hard to lose speed with his front leg straight and his back leg bent, but locked.

Take Off Pic B

The take off is 'a la air gybe', that is to say that you will help the kite by kicking up off your edge with your back leg, rather than waiting for the kite to lift you.



This will help with keeping the kite above you and not sending it too far back. Christian is kicking off his back leg and leveling the bar off just before he hits the sand bar. His aim is for an elevator type lift, all up and no downwind. As soon as he kicks off and levels the bar, Christian pulls the bar in for some cheeky extra lift. Notice how he is taking off his edge. If you bend your knees, ready to jump up, you'll flatten the board, lose your edge and head off downwind, making the rest of the move doubly difficult. Your last consideration whilst getting airborne is to lean back slightly and keep the front foot up.



" LAND ON THE TAIL OF YOUR BOARD, NOT THE NOSE, NOT THE EDGE AND DEFINITELY NOT THE WHOLE THING. "

The Plant Pic C

You're aiming to land on the tail of your board, not the nose, not the edge and definitely not the whole thing. From the tail you can bounce back, any other part of the board will either dig in, or stick to the sand! You can clearly see that Christian has his front knee raised, is still leaning back and is pushing his back leg and the tail of the board down onto the sand.

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To help with this planting action Christian has also pushed the bar away so that his weight drops onto the tail and he's looking down so he can aim the board. Ideally you'll be landing with your kite just behind 12 o'clock, so waterside.

The Bounce Pic D

During the learning process you should aim to bounce off as soon as you land. Once you have the move mastered you can stall the plant all you want, but for now get a move on before gravity or a loss of balance undermines your effort. As the name suggests, you will bounce the board to help lift you off the beach, this is another reason why you must land on the tail, as thus you can use the board's flex to your advantage. Your other goal is to get the kite to pull you up and away from the beach. Looking at Christian in the pic, he is pulling in on the bar, and steering the kite away from the beach, and he's pushing down and against the board with his feet, you can see it's flexing, which will hopefully spring him up, away and back into the water.

Lift Pic E

You don't want to rush from the bounce. In order to get away from the beach and get some height you should use the lift from both the board and the kite before you concern yourself with the matter of getting away from terra firma and landing cleanly. If you go directly into diving the kite you may well get pulled forward but with no up you could well face plant, and even more likely when you land your kite will be way over at the edge of the window, with no power on offer to ride off looking all smug. Therefore as you bounce and pull in



on the bar, with the kite now slightly in front of you (where you left it before the plant), follow the kite up and away, but don't dive it just yet. Here Christian has pulled the bar right in and lifted both knees, so that he's in a normal chair of air, balanced position.

Dive Captain, Dive Pic F

Once you're up, away and descending the timing is as per usual - look where you want to go, dive the kite hard and point your board down wind so that you will keep moving once you land. And, as if by coincidence, you can see in the final image that Christian is diving hard, pointing the board off the wind as he is ready to claim it.

Top Tips

We've already mentioned it but some spots lend



themselves to this whilst others don't. Wind direction will make or break this trick, as will what you're landing on - so please don't bother if it's cross onshore and the only obstacle is a barnacle encrusted rusty groin in 5cm of water!!!

To build up to this, the least problematic method is to come in nice and slow and attempt to land on the board on the sand. If you can do this you have the correct take off and the right speed. From here you can then add the plant and grab.

This is most definitely a move that benefits from having some "power on demand". If you're struggling and you set your sweet spot out you'll stall the kite and get no lift off the bounce.



Common Problems

It's quite common to land with too much forward momentum, even if you try and scrub speed off before the move. The main reason that you'll still have too much speed is because you are not sending the kite enough. If you only send it entry for a short time it won't reach 12 before you kick off, so it's still pulling you forward. Make sure you give it a sharp send so that it flies back up to 12 quickly - this'll give you height and control whilst killing your speed.

That said, it's very easy to land with the kite too far

behind you, so that there is nothing to pull you back off the sand. This however is often for the same reason; you may be sending it longer, but not quick enough. This way the kite drifts up, pulls you off your edge and continues back behind you whilst you pendulum under it.

And finally, landing flat on the board. If you do this, the board will stick, and the chances are you'll either stay on the beach or come out of the straps. Keeping the front leg up alone is not enough, so make sure that you lean back as you take off, so that you're

almost kicking the board away in front of you and onto the beach.

Keystones

1. Slow down
2. Short but sharp send
3. Lean back and front knee up
4. Land on tail
5. Push down to bounce off tail



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NOSE GRAB DOWN-LOOP TRANSITION >

Board XO 133

Kite Chaos 7m

This one's a veritable beauty! A well-executed, high, tweaked nose grab is a relatively simple move, yet one which deserves its place as an honorable don of style. Adding a down-loop and converting this into a transition is win-win all the way.

Although this is a transition, you're best to think of it as a jump. You're looking to get some height, and will therefore have speed and downwind drift once you're in the air - hence the down loop to pull you out the other way. Other than holding the grab long enough to really make this count, your main concern is the kite. To make this smooth you need to control and adjust the kite throughout your airtime with only your front hand on the bar, so that the down loop is both progressive and well timed.

Before looking at this as a whole, let's pick through some of the more important parts that will make this happen. We will however, assume that you can happily jump and you know the difference between a down-loop and a kite loop!

Take Off Pic A

As Karine is jumping on port tack, she approached with her kite between 10:30 and 11 o'clock, heading upwind on a solid edge, front leg extended, back leg bent but locked and she sent the kite hard, so that it will pull her up high and head back past 12 o'clock.



As she'll be grabbing, Karine has her hands centered on the bar.

As with any grab, the earlier that you can get it, the longer you can hold it. Getting the grab early means putting all the pieces in the right place, so that everything is lined up at the same time. As you're going for the nose grab your first priority is to bring the nose of the board into position. Immediately after take off Karine is already bringing her front knee up and extending her back leg. As for the kite, Karine keeps the bar in and brings the kite forward so that it's just behind 12 o'clock. In this position she'll be balanced to free her back hand and keep the bar in,



whilst going for the nose.

Balance and Go Pic B

As soon as you feel that the kite is correctly positioned, you're floating without being pulled forwards, you can release your back hand and go for the grab. Karine has released her back hand and is focusing on the nose of the board - where she'll grab it. As well as reaching across her body with her back arm, Karine also twists her front knee across under her harness to bring the nose as close to her as possible - all the while keeping the bar in, tension on the lines and therefore support from the kite.



The Grab Pic C

This is the 'piece de la resistance' of the move, so make it count. Get a good grab on the nose of the board and pull it in towards you as you extend your back foot down and away from you, it'll look great and feel wonderful. Posing aside this position with one hand pulling the grab whilst the other holds the bar in does give you a lot of balance in the air, and it prevents you from leaning all of your weight onto your front hand and inadvertently diving the kite down. Try and hold this position until you are well on your way down.



" KARINE WILL PULL GENTLY ON HER FRONT HAND TO SLOWLY STEER THE KITE OVER HER HEAD "

If you release early you'll dangle, loose balance and be forced to either dive early, or let the bar out and drop.

Karine will hold this position past the apex of her jump. However as she starts to descend Karine will pull gently on her front hand to slowly steer the kite over her head and across towards 11:30, so that the kite is just in front of her.



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This is important as if you want power from your down-loop to pull you out of the jump, you must loop the kite from in front of you. If you leave the kite back it won't generate any power when you down-loop it and you'll sink on landing.

Release and Prepare Pic D

The timing of this part will improve with practice, but suffice to say that as soon as you feel the kite pulling gently forwards, it's time to get both hands back on the bar in preparation for the down-loop. If you wait you won't be balanced and you will be forced into letting the bar out to control yourself. As Karine releases the grab she keeps her knees up in front of her. She doesn't want her feet and board to be left behind when she pulls the trigger. There are a number of advantages to using two hands. First off you can make sure that the bar is on the sweet spot, so you won't stall or depower the kite when you down-loop. You can pull and push, therefore guaranteeing a positive and quick reaction from the kite. And finally, with two hands on the bar you can easily bring your landing foot forward, as you have contact with the bar near what will be your new front hip. If you release your back hand, you'll pull the bar in towards your front hip, which won't help turn the board down wind to land.

The Down-Loop Pic E

With the kite now flying between 12:30 and 1 o'clock Karine give it the beans! Using both hands she initiates the down-loop, pulling hard on her front hand and pushing away with her back hand, all the while keeping the bar on the sweet spot. As the kite was already



moving forward this movement is progressive, so you must be positive on the bar to make the kite move, especially as you will have your hands centered on the bar.

Touch Down Pic F

Assuming that you've down-looped the kite with enough zing, the kite should be on the way up and back towards the direction from whence you came, pulling you out into a perfect transition landing. Your aim is to land fairly downwind with a slight bias towards the new direction, with your weight slightly back over the tail of the board so that you're ready to carve back onto your edge and follow the kite. If you land dead downwind your momentum will take you too far downwind and you will potentially out run your kite and get way too much slack in your lines. Karine is watching



her kite so that she can stop steering the loop once the kite is back where she wants it - heading the other way. Her body is centered over the board so that she doesn't bounce out on landing, but her hips are dropped back over the tail to assist with the carve back up, get tension on the lines job. Once you've landed make sure you're balanced, have room, ride out and only then worry about untwisting your lines with a bar spin.

Top Tips

First off start with a few nose grabs, followed by some two handed down-loops to feel your way into the move in the given conditions that you have.

Ponder which size you're on. If you are flying a 7m your timing will need to be spot on, if you're on a 12m you may not complete the down loop before landing, but you'll have time to think and even react.



That is to say that on a 7m your kite will be behind you so you'll need to get it forward before down-looping. On the 12m it will be less critical.

Make sure that you commit to the down-loop. Although down-loops are generally a lot softer than kite loops, because both you and the kite are flying in the same direction, there is nothing worse for you, or

your kite, than pulling back once you've dived the kite - if you've started the loop, finish it...

Have a good look at the sequence and videos.

Common Problems

Not reaching the grab. Generally it's nothing to do with flexibility, but you need to help yourself by

reaching across and around with your arm, whilst bringing your knee up and across to the same place. The most common reason for missing the grab is not straightening the back leg down. If it's bent the nose will be further away from you.

Landing with no power. As lauded to earlier, this is the most common problem with any down-loop transition and will be more noticeable the smaller the kite that you're using. If you down-loop the kite from behind 12 o'clock the kite will just whip around behind you, and therefore it won't physically pull you out of the move. Before cranking the kite around you have to get it across the window to either 1 or 11 depending on your direction of travel. Do this and then you can down-loop the kite through the window, generating power and pulling you out downwind.

Keystones

1. Good send for height
2. Front knee up early
3. Back leg extended
4. Steer kite forward over your head
5. Progressive down-loop to pull you downwind for landing



SHIFTY TO BLIND >**Board** XO 133**Kite** Chaos 7m

This is a fun little gem, popular amongst the wake style fraternity, which can be done equally effectively hooked or unhooked. It's a more unusual sight than the classic Raley to Blind and therefore should hopefully get you a few whoops from your peers. The best part of this move is that by preceding the blind with a shifty, you give yourself the possibility of adding a world of grabs onto it once you have it nailed, and it'll look pretty steazy off a kicker too. So let's get started.

First off, unless you're obsessive about learning your tricks both sides, you're likely to have a raley side and a shifty side. Then, to further add to the confusion, the chances are that your raley side is also your blind side and your shifty side could well be your wrapped side. If either this means nothing to you, or it is incorrect in relation to your preferences and ability then that's brilliant! If however, it rings a certain truth you have two choices. Either try landing blind on your shifty side, or learn to shifty on your raley and blind side. One man's beef is another man's bacon, so there's no right or wrong choice. We, however, both find it easier to shifty on our raley sides.

Now let's mull over the movements to a) get into a shifty, and b) throw that to blind.

The Pop Pic A

If you're about to shifty on your raley side you'll need



to concentrate in order to override all that muscle memory that you've built up over time, especially that front leg flick back. That said you'll still need to approach with speed and aim for a hefty pop, it's only the actual pop/take off that'll be different. This means that as per all things pop you'll approach off the wind, weight dropped back over the tail of the board and bar in close, before edging hard back up wind, with your derriere close to the water and your front leg extended. Once you've reached that moment of explosion this is what you must think about. Stamp hard against your edge, keep your elbows in and hands close and go with the kite. Your pop should be more up and definite - the board should leave the water, rather



than continuing around on your edge. Also as soon as you pop, start to bend your front leg, bringing your front knee up and across towards your front elbow. This will help you avoid turning your shoulders up wind and opening your chest whilst preventing you from carving up and through the wind.

The Shifty Pic B

To get yourself into a shifty, and let's be honest there are many different styles of shiftys, you'll need to get industrious with your legs and arms. In the picture you can see that Karine has kept her arms bent, hands pulled in, so that she's close to the bar. This not only helps her with the shifty, but it'll also make the throw to blind easier a tad later.



Karine has her head behind her hands, over her back arm and is looking down in order to keep her shoulders square. Her front knee is pulled up and her back leg is kicked up and around as if Karine were pushing the board forward towards the camera. You can tweak this as much as possible, pulling the front leg back and pushing the back leg forward as much as you dare.

Throwing it - the pull Pic C

Timing wise, throwing the blind is as per the raley. It's last minute, but assuming that you haven't launched yourself up with the kite as soon as



" YET AGAIN AIMING TO GET EVERYTHING CLOSE TO THE BAR.

you've got into your shifty it'll be time to throw it. If you want to land over the board, which you do, you must get your legs and board underneath you and you need to get your body up and personal with the bar. So once again, looking at Karine she is pulling the bar in, a short but aggressive jerk, down towards her hips, which will get her over the bar for a short moment, enabling her to keep close throughout her blind rotation.

Photo: Lewis Crathern / Best Kites

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Simultaneously she pulls her legs and the board up towards the bar, yet again aiming to get everything close to the bar.

The Blind - turning Pic D

Once the bar is close and her legs are underneath her, Karine turns her head back over her shoulder and twists the bar, palms forwards, to start the rotation. As she turns she will release her back hand and continue to twist the bar, allowing her shoulders to rotate so she can make it all the way around to land blind. Try to keep your head up as you twist, as this will help you land with your weight over the board, rather than too much on the tail or the edge.

your board and off the wind. Landing with your weight evenly distributed slightly off the wind will enable you to plane towards the kite, keeping tension off the lines and giving you plenty of time to regain your balance and ponder the pass. Here Karine lands on both feet, absorbing the pressure by flexing her legs, keeping her head up and twisting the bar behind her back, so that it's ready for the pass.

The Pass Pic F

Once you're balanced and cruising towards the kite you can go for the pass. With the bar already twisted behind you, all that is necessary is to stand up and turn your head. As you do this, the board will



completely flatten or even carve slightly downwind, lightening the bar completely so that you can reach around, palm up, with your free hand and grab the bar. As Karine passes the bar she looks at the kite and drops her weight back over the board so that she will continue to ride toe side, before getting both hands back on the bar and hooking back in.

Top Tips

Make sure you trim the kite correctly for unhooking, so that the sweet spot is positioned down low, near the bar. And be sure that you bear away off the wind sufficiently before unhooking and carving back up.



Where you start is where you land - if you don't go off the wind you won't land off the wind, which will make the whole trick harder.

Don't worry too much about styling your shifty out. If you can at least not saley that's a good start.

It may feel odd not having your front leg behind you enough, so that you can't swing it through to help with the rotation to blind. However, the shear nature of a shifty, almost turning back, will mean that you have less far to rotate, so long as you keep the bar near you.

Common Problems

If you keep getting stretched out when you attempt shifty, chances are you're not popping. When it's time to leave the water make it happen, don't wait hoping for some divine intervention.

If you're not getting far enough around to blind, and catching your heel side edge, then as soon as you are in whatever form of shifty and you are descending you must pull hard with your arms and pull your knees up under the bar. If you leave your feet back, they'll end up upwind of you when you land, and that's a certain splash.

Keystones

1. Pop hard, don't wait
2. Front knee in
3. Head behind bar, over back arm
4. Yank arms in, pull legs up
5. Twist bar, turn head and commit



SNOW WHITE GOES SNOW KITE

WORDS POLLY CRATHORNE
PHOTO PASCAL BOULGAKOW

The Ozone Snowkite Masters has been running in the Alps since 2004, it's one of the biggest events on the calendar, but equally it isn't just for the pros. We sent Polly Crathorne off to find out a little more about the event, and also a little more about snowkiting, after all this was to be her first foray into this magical side of our sport!





I went to the Ozone Snowkite Masters at the Bernina Pass with no previous snowkiting experience, wanting not only to witness a great sporting spectacle, but also to find out just how difficult it is for a kitesurfer to cross over from water to snow. My family, friends and even my university lecturers will tell you that I have raved about it ever since. I had figured for some time that there were some barriers which stood in the way of my entering the sport, but these, as I shall explain, turned out to be false.

“ TO FIND OUT JUST HOW DIFFICULT IT IS FOR A KITESURFER TO CROSS OVER ”

The OSKM is held in a pretty special location. To reach it I took the train to St. Mortiz via the highest railway across the Alps. As the friendly announcements over the Tannoy reminded the passengers that the Bernina Express has UNESCO World Heritage status; which means, among other things, that it is absolutely stunning.

The panoramic windows allow a great view of the route's 55 tunnels and 196 bridges (another fun fact learnt from the Tannoy)!

So, let me tell you how I journeyed from curious observer to active participant, and how some myths about snowkiting were exploded for me in Switzerland.

Myth No 1:

Kitesurfing equipment is not suitable for snow

As I packed my trunk and said goodbye to the circus, I did not go with a trumpety-trump like Nellie, but was worrying whether my kitesurfing gear (inflatable Cabrinha Chaos freestyle kites) would be suitable for snow. On the first day of the competition, my first day's snowkiting ever, I arrived at the spot without a pump! Easy enough to borrow on a beach, but that turns out to be a bit trickier in the mountains where foil kites are the norm. I need not have worried, as some of the other kites had brought tube kites. Apart from a frozen harness leash (and the difficulty of pumping with ski boots on), I found my kit for the water was totally transferrable. In super light winds though, having a large foil kite is not a bad thing. Ozone seem to dominate this market, with the top four riders in the men's ski race discipline using the Ozone Chrono; a popular kite among the rest of the racing fleet as well.

Myth No 2: Snowkiting is expensive

Snowkiting is just like kitesurfing in that once you have the kit, that's it for expenses. There's no need for a lift pass; you can travel up the mountainside using your kite.

Myth No 3: Snowkiting is harder than kitesurfing

My first snowkite session was in the light winds of the first day. I launched my kite, popped on my skis



“ A BREATH OF WIND SEEMED TO BE ENOUGH TO GET EVERYONE UP AND RACING ”

(apparently this is normally done the other way round) and headed off straight down wind. I soon realised that you had to twist your hips to avoid stalling and away I went. At first it was a slightly unusual sensation, but I got used to it quickly. I have skied since a young age, so I did not have to think too hard about what my feet were doing.

However, if you are not a skier or even a kiter then you do not have to worry; many competitors told me over the weekend that total beginners can pick it up in a few hours. Snowkiting is not hard; in fact it is easier than kitesurfing on the water because you start standing up, and you can't sink! Although, I did notice that just cruising around was a little more physically demanding than on the water.

**Myth No 4:
Kitesurfers should use a snowboard, not skis**

A common misconception is that if you are a kitesurfer you should snowkite on a board. Yet take Florian Gruber, for example, as 2013 Formula Racing World Kitesurf Champion it is fair to say he is used to a board under his feet, but he took first place on skis. In the races the skiers turned out to be the faster bunch, and had a significant advantage going upwind. I don't snowboard, so I chose to use skis and felt comfortable straight away.

**Myth No 5:
Snowkiting is more dangerous than kitesurfing**

I was amazed at how little wind was needed to run the races. A breath of wind seemed to be enough to get everyone up and racing, and going quite fast!



PHOTO
BERTRAND BOONE

Because you need less wind to kite on the snow as opposed to the water, you are also not as powered up when you ride.

For beginners, it is recommended to start on large flat open areas not on steep mountains. There are obvious risks that come with backcountry snowkiting, so avalanche equipment like a transmission receiver, shovel, probe and a Spotme beacon are essential if you are heading into the backcountry. Snowkiting does not have to be dangerous, you just need to be careful and assess the conditions before you go out.

Myth No 6: Snowkiting competitions are only for professionals

From my experience with kitesurfing, I have found that competitions are great places for developing your skills.

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AND ASSESS
THE
CONDITIONS
BEFORE YOU
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This was so true at the OSKM where the ability ranged from snowkite first-timers like me, to seasoned professionals. The atmosphere just oozed development and progression.

At the very first Snowkite Masters at the Col du Lautaret in 2004, the organisers, Matt Taggart and Dominik Zimmermann did not run a competition at all. Instead, the week was about freeriding, hanging out together and doing media shoots. These vibes have been carried forward through the years and this year's event still had a unique family feel about it.

Most of the competitors stayed in the Hospiz located five minutes from the spot, so everyone gets to hang out together. The organisers work hard to ensure that the riders are the top priority; they want to make sure

“ THESE VIBES HAVE BEEN CARRIED FORWARD THROUGH THE YEARS ”

the competitors have fun in the day, but the social aspect is important too. It is this atmosphere that has the pros returning to the OSKM year after year.

The Event

The OSKM had three disciplines: Speed, Best Line and Race. The speed contest took place throughout the event with the help of a GPS speed-tracking app for smartphones. 'Kite Tracker' is a project founded by Ronny Bollhalder and Patrick Stahel, (the guys behind the spot guide, www.unhooked.ch).



PHOTO
STEVE MCCORMACK

The app allowed competitors to log their fastest speed at any time from Thursday to Saturday. Which meant during freeriding sessions, you could often see people careering downwind trying to better their speed record.

Unfortunately, due to light winds, there wasn't enough time to run the Best Line competition. It sounds a totally wonderful idea though; four riders start at the same time and are given thirty minutes to use their kite to summit the mountain. Then the kites are packed into rucksacks and the contestants ski down; all judged with the help of the riders and the Kite Tracker XC app.

**“YOU COULD
OFTEN SEE
PEOPLE
CAREERING
DOWNWIND
TRYING TO
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“ IT IS A TRULY SPECIAL LOCATION WITH UNBELIEVABLY FUN TERRAIN. ”

The hope was to run the race event at the Bernina Pass, which is conveniently super close to Hospiz. However, during the event the wind was predominantly blowing from the south, so the race location was moved to Lake Silvaplana. On Thursday, Denise Stauber,

from the Swiss Snowkite Tour expertly led the rider's briefing and explanation of the comprehensive flag sequence for the racing. Somewhat daunting compared to the red, yellow and green flags of the freestyle system. Mid-briefing, a huge groan was let out from under our feet; a loud reminder that we were on a frozen lake. The briefing ended with the worrying warning not to go too far 'over there' as you might fall through the ice.

The wind did not come through strong enough or in the right direction for a race that day, but the majority of riders made the most of the light breeze and went for a chilled freeride.

Rather than make us hang around at the spot with no wind all day on Friday, we were dismissed to do as we please. The majority of the riders hail from snowsports; so most headed up the mountain on their skins to find powder, went for an alpine cross county ski or took the ski lifts up for a regular ski or snowboard session on the quality slopes of St. Moritz.

The mountainous playground meant the no-wind activities were limitless, unlike at kitesurfing competitions where the normal choice is between a flat-water SUP and a chill on the beach. We were however blessed with some evening wind, and most headed to Bernina for a freeride session. It is a truly special location with unbelievably fun terrain. Whilst most sped around the hills or freestyled, others went climbing with their kites to summit some of the surrounding mountains.

When Saturday came, so did the wind; skis were waxed, lines were checked and riders were hyped. Everyone trickled on to the plateau and before long I was among fifty plus competitors milling about. The dramatic contrast between the white of the snow and the colour of the kites made it an incredible sight to behold, more spectacular than any race I have witnessed on the water.

At the thirty-second warning everyone turned and began their run-up to the starting line. When the start horn went and the flag was waved, what ensued can only be described as organised mayhem.



“ IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE FEELING TO BE AMONG SO MANY RIDERS. ”

Riders jostled, like a ski cross race, for the upwind position, whilst trying to avoid getting tangled. It was an incredible feeling to be among so many riders.

After three laps were completed, the race committee and media crew enthusiastically cheered each rider over the finish line. In total there were three thrilling races. The second of which started with an exciting collision; ten kites were involved in a tangle at the start, which forced everyone behind to adjust their racing lines and dodge the falling kites!

The Results

Gruber dominated in the men's ski division and took the gold. Voted as the German 'Kiter of Year' no less than three times, it is no secret that Florian is unstoppable across all disciplines. This season on the water, he plans to compete in Freestyle, Course Racing, and Slalom. Since the OSKM he has gone on to win the race and freestyle category at the International Snowkite Open at Lake Resia in Italy.

His Ozone teammate Jonas Lengwiler gave an amazing performance. The nineteen-year-old has been snowkiting for six years and is an incredibly promising talent. In third place, another Ozone rider, organiser of the event and winner of Ragnarok 2014, was Dominik Zimmermann. The winner of the men's board was Reinhold Gehrler from Austria. The experienced boarder - known as Fisch to his friends - pipped both Jörg Lammerskitten and Bernd Spierig to the post.



In the women's ski category I was placed second between two talented riders. In first place was Andrea Cuffuri, who not only rips on the snow but the water too, spending her summers at Lake Silvaplana. She managed to take the lead in the competition despite heroically having to juggle her shifts at the nearby restaurant to fit in with the races.

In third place was Martina Brinz; she has been snowkiting for three years and came first in the European Masters in 2013. Living near the Alps, for her local snowkite sessions she nips over to Brambüsch in Switzerland. Eliska Parma had a clean sweep, taking the win for the ladies board category. The confident rider shows no fear and managed

to reach some speeds on her board during the previous day's session that were right up there with the men. Eli is always encouraging more women to get involved with snowkiting and she has a point ladies...

Here's the challenge....

If I can make the transition, so can any kitesurfer. Its time to bury your misconceptions and take your kites to the snow, you never know you might just fall in love with it...

“ THE CONFIDENT RIDER SHOWS NO FEAR ”

Women Board

1. Parma Eliska
2. Balaska Afroditi
3. Schneider Iris

Women Ski

1. Caffuri Andrea
2. Crathon Polly
3. Brinz Martina

Men Board

1. Gehrler Reinhold
2. Lammerskitten Jörg
3. Spierig Bernd

Men Ski

1. Gruber Florian
2. Langwiler Jonas
3. Zimmermann Dominik

Speed Board

Einte Adema Klaas 47,2 km/h

Speed Ski

Stahel Patrick 64,8 km/h

EndFragment

COMPETITOR PROFILE - JOHANN CIVEL

Johann Civel is pushing the limits of what is possible with a kite on the snow, venturing all over the world. When I asked him what his favourite adventure was, he replied 'snowkiting in the mountains is always an adventure'. The week after the OSKM for example, he crossed a mountain range near his home, covering 50km in 10 hours. One of his favourite trips abroad was in Argentina, where he would kite from the top of one volcano to another. China was an interesting trip, but too flat for Johann who prefers to reach the top of the mountains with his kite. For him, the steeper the slope, the better. His next stop is Alaska.

Check out his channel: www.rideup.tv

PHOTO WARECK ARNAUD

TRIED & TESTED

WORDS & PHOTOS THE IKSURFMAG TEST TEAM

More 2015 kites and board on test this issue, one of our biggest tests yet! Enjoy...



◀ KITES

Cabrinha FX 9m
Flysurfer Boost 9m
Gin Egoist 9m
Naish Park 10m
Slingshot RPM 9m

◀ LIGHT WIND KITES

Core Riot XR3 LW 17m
Crazy Fly Cruze 17m

◀ TWIN TIPS

CrazyFly Cruiser 145cm
Kitelements Revert 136cm
Nobile 2HD 137cm

◀ SURF BOARDS

Cabrinha Secret Weapon 5'6"
F-One Mitu Monteiro 5'10"
North Quest TT 5'10"

BRAND CABRINHA MODEL FX SIZE 9M YEAR 2015



" FOR FREESTYLE,
BOTH HOOKED
AND UNHOOKED,
THE FX IS AS
EXCITING AS IT
IS IMPECCABLE! "



AT A GLANCE

The Cabrinha FX is a totally new kite for 2015. Designed to bridge the gap between freestyle and freeride, it is another addition to the continuing trend of 3 strut do-it-all kites. The FX seemed to come out of nowhere. Cabrinha traditionally release their kites in August, so when the hype began about a new kite for 1st March release we got rather excited.

The FX has been designed for those of us who want to go out and try all the latest tricks, boost their highest jumps and throw some powerful loops, whilst still being user friendly enough for those who are just starting on their path to these things. In terms of the Cabrinha line up it sits between the Switchblade and the Chaos. It's a 3-strut design with fairly square tips Pat Goodman designed the kite with the help of Nick Jacobsen who has been heavily involved in the marketing campaign.

If you know how Nick rides you will be fully aware of how this kite is designed to perform, he rides aggressively and is famous for his huge kitemoops.

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WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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BRAND FLYSURFER MODEL BOOST SIZE 9M YEAR 2015



“ THE HEIGHT AND HANG TIME YOU CAN GET ON THIS KITE IS INSANE. ”



AT A GLANCE

Flysurfer gave their first LEI offering last year in the form of the Cronix, a freestyle kite. This year Flysurfer have released their first high aspect LEI: the Boost. The name immediately lets us know what we are in for, as you may have guessed, this kite has been designed to jump, and jump big. Flysurfer promise us a high performance freeride, race and wave kite with the Boost, with their usual meticulous attention to detail behind it.

The Boost has also been registered as an IKA Race kite, meaning you will be able to attend and race using this kite in all IKA sanctioned events. The double 3D and pre-tension technology gives the Boost its highly efficient aerofoil. This profile enables the rider to have incredible upwind ability as well as a kite with plenty of forward speed through the air.

The Boost features a relatively long yet thin bridle system, and the bigger sizes have an additional trailing edge bridle to help with relaunch in super light winds. The Boost uses a Free Flow Inflation system. This is a different sized inflate valve to that of other brands,

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BRAND GIN MODEL EGOIST SIZE 9M YEAR 2015



" A GREAT
QUALITY
ALL-ROUND KITE
WITH DYNAMIC
AND
RESPONSIVE
HANDLING "



AT A GLANCE

After Gin's departure from the kite scene a few years ago, they came back last year with the new Cannibal, which was an excellent kite. For 2015 they have added the Egoist to the range, a freeride do-it-all kite with an emphasis for wave riding. The Egoist has 3 struts, with quite sweptback wingtips. There is a neat and compact bridle system, and good adjustments available on the rear lines to alter the turning speed of the kite.

Gin is a Swiss company whose origins lay in the paragliding industry, so their build quality has always been top notch. The Egoist has very well-thought-out construction, and the designers have really thought about the forces going through a kite when used for waves as well as general freeriding. The trailing edge has been reinforced with Dacron, and features small Battens which lead to an incredibly robust kite. The trailing edge Dacron is in a wave pattern, this increases the stiffness, but also saves on weight too. Gin have also added an excellent high volume inflate/deflate valve to get you on the water in lightning quick time.

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WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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BRAND NAISH MODEL PARK SIZE 10M YEAR 2015



"THE PARK EXCELS WITH FANTASTIC HANG TIME AND EFFORTLESS UNHOOKED PERFORMANCE."



AT A GLANCE

Now in its 5th year, the Park has proven itself once again to be an important part of the Naish line-up. Aimed at a wide variety of riders, it has been designed as a fun do-it-all kite, with an emphasis on freestyle.

It features a solid Compact C design with 3 struts resulting in a stiff and lightweight package. A static bridle system keeps the kite driving forward with excellent response, essential for a more freestyle orientated kite.

New for this year is a larger inflate valve, resulting in both faster inflate and deflate. As with previous years, the Park features Naish's Octopus Bladder system.

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

THE BAR

It seems that 2015 is the year of the bar overhaul, with many brands really upping their game. Naish have offered up the Fusion Control System for 2015 which is a simple 4 line bar with front line re-ride and a below bar cleat. It's a really well polished set up with excellently integrated floats and bar ends.

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BRAND SLINGSHOT MODEL RPM SIZE 9M YEAR 2015



"THE RPM IS BRILLIANT FOR PULLING THE LATEST UNHOOKED FREESTYLE MOVES."



AT A GLANCE

The RPM has been in the Slingshot line-up for quite some time now, and this latest offering builds even more on the quality and performance of its predecessors. It features a simple 3-strut Open-C design which is what many brands are now producing, and the RPM was one of the first having originally been released 5 years ago.

The RPM has been designed for those who want an all-round freeride kite, with a good emphasis on freestyle. It has been put to good use as a World Champion winning kite (Youri Zoon, 2011) and is also just as much at home in the hands of someone in their first year of kitesurfing.

For 2015 the greatest addition has been that of the Intuitive Response System (IRS). Slingshot have done away with the pulleys which have been on previous models, and instead attached a small amount of bungee cord to each bridle. Slingshot claim that this groundbreaking bridle system leads to a more direct connection, greater response, faster turning and a more stable kite.

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BRAND CORE MODEL RIOT XR3 LW SIZE 17M YEAR 2015



" FANTASTIC
BUILD QUALITY,
GREAT
PERFORMANCE,
AMAZING
POWER AND
LOTS OF FUN! "



AT A GLANCE

The Core Riot XR3 LW is the light wind specific version of the Riot XR3. It is not just a bigger version of the same design though; there have been a few major tweaks to make this one of the best performing light wind kites around at the moment.

At 17 meters this kite is a beast, and there is no getting away from spending a good bit of time and energy pumping the kite up. Luckily for us the good folks at Core also know this and have done everything they can to make this part just that little bit more bearable. There is no need to attach a nozzle to the end of your pump hose, instead the hose fixes directly to the valve. This means you can get a huge amount of air into the kite with each pump stroke, you'll still be feeling it by the time you finish though, engage beast mode!

The kite has also had its entire construction overhauled to make it as efficient as possible in the lightest of breezes. The canopy has been made using the super light Core Tex material, whilst the struts have been on a diet and are now super skinny, but still rock solid in the sky.

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WEBSITE, CLCK HERE



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BRAND CRAZYFLY MODEL CRUZE SIZE 17M YEAR 2015



" THE POWER
GENERATED
FROM THE KITE
WAS IMMENSE "



AT A GLANCE

Crazyfly used to only make kiteboards, and they have been doing that since the dawn of kitesurfing time. In 2009 they branched out into the kite-manufacturing arena too and over the years we have been impressed with the kites they have produced and especially the bar.

The Cruze is a light wind kite which only comes in large sizes and is fully dedicated to light winds. If we take a look into some of the design features the Cruze has to offer we will see that it is a flat Delta shape kite, is made with Teijin Technoforce Ripstop, features 5 struts, square wingtips, and comes with the internationally safety approved Sick Bar.

The Cruze is a high aspect flat Delta design, which gives the kite a lot more speed and supplies the rider with a more user-friendly feel as well as automatic relaunch. Automatic relaunch is something that has to be properly understood, it doesn't necessarily mean the kite will take off all on its own, the relaunch of the kite is somewhat aided by the shape meaning the kite will roll itself over into the launch position at the edge of the window easily and with almost no user input,

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WEBSITE, CLCK HERE





"IT MEETS EVERY REQUIREMENT A RIDER COULD ASK FOR IN A LIGHT WIND BOARD"



BRAND CRAZYFLY **MODEL** CRUISER PRO
SIZE 145 X 48 **YEAR** 2015

AT A GLANCE

Crazyfly is a brand name that has not only been around for a while, but is also becoming widely known across the market for its excellent boards, and in recent years its range of kites.

One board that has been in Crazyfly's range for a number of years is the Cruiser / Cruiser Pro. With its aim of being a light wind machine that provides the rider all the necessary technical elements needed to have a good time on the water.

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"A RADICAL FREESTYLE AND FREERIDE BOARD PACKED WITH PERFORMANCE"



BRAND KITELEMENT **MODEL** REVERT
SIZE 136 X 41 **YEAR** 2015

AT A GLANCE

Kitelement have been producing "split" boards for a couple of years now, these boards are great for travelling and easy storage. The ReVert takes all the knowledge they have been developing making split boards and puts it into their first non-split twin tip. The ReVert is aimed at the high-end of the market, delivering an aggressive yet high performance riding experience. The Revert design features a UD-rockerline, LD-channels, M-shaped tips,

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"THE 2HD IS A REALLY FUN, FAST BOARD TO RIDE THAT IS EXCEEDINGLY FORGIVING!"



BRAND NOBILE MODEL 2HD
SIZE 137 X 43CM YEAR 2015

AT A GLANCE

The 2HD from Nobile has been in their line up for a few years now, it is a freeride inspired design that aims to be fast and fun. It's a board that likes to be ridden large, the wide girth on this model might put some of you out there off, but don't knock it until you try it...

The name of the board stems from their Double Hydrodynamic Rocker technology. Rocker line is a crucial element to board design, a flat rocker is fast,

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"THE SECRET WEAPON IS IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN..."



BRAND CABRINHA MODEL SECRET WEAPON
SIZE 5'6" X 19.7" YEAR 2015

AT A GLANCE

Now for something radically different... The Secret Weapon is a new board from Cabrinha this year, it's a modern take on an old design; short and wide it resembles the popular fish style boards from the 70's. A brief nod to this design is where the similarities end though as there is a bunch of tech going on with this shape and the construction too...

At the heart of this board is a super light EPS foam core,

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"THE MITU MONTEIRO PRO OFFERS SNAPPY TURNS WITH PLENTY OF DRIVE."



BRAND F-ONE **MODEL** MITU MONTEIRO PRO
SIZE 5'10" X 19" **YEAR** 2015

AT A GLANCE

The biggest news for this hugely popular board this year is the new construction. Gone is the double bamboo sandwich, and in is a new technique that F-One are calling the HD Foam Flex Composite. It is stronger, less susceptible to impact damage and also gives the board a slightly softer flex more in tune with how a glass surfboard feels.

The excellent Camel Deck is back again;

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"THE QUEST TT IS A GREAT STARTING POINT FOR YOUR WAVE RIDING CAREER!"



BRAND NORTH **MODEL** QUEST TT
SIZE 5'10" X 18.18" **YEAR** 2015

AT A GLANCE

The Quest TT has been in the North line up for a couple of years now, it's a classically shaped thruster aimed at the riders just looking to get into riding surfboards. Due to the design remit the Quest TT has some tricks up its sleeve in terms of the design. The wide point has been pushed a little further forward than a traditional surfboard, the rail areas have been straightened to promote speed too.

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#DOORDIE: OVERCOME FEAR

I've got a fairly open ended 'head space' tutorial for you this issue, and it's all about how you can use simple commands to help deal with the butterflies in your stomach when you're taking things to the next level. You know the days: it could be in a competition, it could be the most critical surf you've encountered, or it could be that you're going to try something technical that if it fails, will result in a lot of pain.

Speak to Dom at



www.facebook.com/thesurfsanctuary
www.surfsanctuary.co.uk



The commonality is that FEAR is starting to become a factor in your session. This is important; we need increments of fear in our sessions or else kitesurfing would become a boring procession of increasingly easier and dull days, all the while our bodies getting fatter and our skills getting softer. Fear announces itself on day one in a kiter's life, pretty much as soon as the instructor hooks them into that seemingly massive kite. However, once the challenge is successfully navigated, fear is replaced with exaltation, and the addiction is formed. That's the ying and yang of kiting – 'oh my god I'm gonna die, no wait I've made it, wow this is the best I've ever felt'!

If fear is given a free reign though, it can stifle performance. At one end, it can stop you from even going out, at the other end, it can cause hesitation at the worst moment, say, halfway through a kiteloop, resulting in the leading edge tomahawking into the water about half a second before the rider does. Ouch. Fear can come from a past failure resulting in a sketchy situation at sea; it can arise from low confidence in the face of seemingly overwhelming odds. Fear creates out of control thinking and this leads to out of control kitesurfing; we want to break this cycle before it establishes by disciplining our thinking.

We are going to organise our thinking right now, so that the next time you're out on the water about to do something you've never done before, you're going to flow right through it and enjoy a euphoric rush of endorphins rather than balk and fail and take a dunking in the bath of pain.



“ THAT'S THE YING AND YANG OF KITING
'OH MY GOD I'M GONNA DIE, NO WAIT I'VE MADE IT,
WOW THIS IS THE BEST I'VE EVER FELT' ”

“ FEAR CREATES OUT OF CONTROL THINKING AND THIS LEADS TO OUT OF CONTROL KITESURFING ”



What I want you to do next is get a pen and paper, and divide the paper into three columns. At the top of each column write: Session, Technique, and Action in that order. Think of what we're about to do next as a bit like ascribing 'tags' to larger pieces of information that your brain can retrieve in a nano-second to carry you through the most intense situations. Now, start to let your mind drift around words that mean something to you, these could be song lyrics, quotes you like, whatever.

Create your kitesurfing tags

Session Commands

When you need to give your self-esteem a bit of a boost because you're a bundle of nerves, say even as early as driving to the beach when you suddenly glimpse masses of whitewater in the distance,

A screenshot of the IKSURFMAG Facebook page. The page header features the text "THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURFING MAGAZINE" and a photo of a kitesurfer in mid-air. The profile picture shows a magazine cover with the text "IKSURFMAG Magazine". The page has 57,677 likes and a post from Claudia Batchelor, Ed Chater and 540 others. A large blue thumbs-up icon is overlaid on the right side of the page. The page also includes a "Subscribe for Free" button and a "Promote Website" button.

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you want to get your mindset orientated towards success otherwise indecision will follow and your limbs will feel like lead, coordination will go out of the window and the reef is going to rise up sharply and hit you. You need to reassure yourself in a global context that everything is alright. Phrases like:

'I know this beach like the back of my hand, it's my second home'

'I've worked hard to get here, I deserve to score'

'My kite skills can see me through anything'

'This is the best day and I'm going to charge it'

“ THESE ARE THE WORDS YOU USE TO COAST YOU THROUGH A MANOEUVRE AND TO MAINTAIN PERFECT FORM, AND AVOID FALLING INTO BAD HABITS. ”

You can draw on the good energy and feelings that these phrases promote anytime during the session when you need a pick-me-up. Rehearse them at home with a good pair of headphones and a carefully crafted Spotify playlist and learn to associate them

with a lovely spike of adrenaline. Write a couple down on the sunvisors in your car and flip the visor down when you pull into the car park.

Technique Commands

These are the words you use to coast you through a manoeuvre and to maintain perfect form, and avoid falling into bad habits. A couple of examples could be setting up for a bucket-throwing re-entry and remembering to compress your legs through the bottom turn, or to look back down the wave to lead you out of your turn **AND NEVER LOOK BACK AT YOUR SPRAY.**

“ TRY REPLICATING THE BODY MOVEMENTS ON LAND ”



You'll be riding when you call on your technique commands, comfortably zoned in but not freaking out under the pressure, so they must be short and snappy and descriptive. For a top turn you could use:

'Bury the rail'

'Drive the back foot'

'Kite first, board second'

Technique commands work best with a bit of mental rehearsal before the session. Watch a video, or study a photo sequence of someone ripping a turn like you want to and pick out the bits that mean something to you. Try replicating the body movements on land and ascribe your tags.

Updated daily with news and videos. You'll also find easy access to all of our content with searchable databases for all the reviews, technique and travel, plus every back issue available for free.

Action Commands

Really simply, these are the words you call on in the thick of the action, when the line between becoming immortal or brutally reminded of your own mortality is at its thinnest. About to gun down the wave of the day, going up for a hopeful abandon lip smack, pulling into a barrel; high pressure situations where there is no time for pause, reflection, or running away...

'Do or die'

'Stomp it'

'GO!'

These are the words you hear in your ear when you are running away from tigers, chasing buffalo, hauling yourself up a swim ladder while a shark snaps at your heels...Short, direct, they carry you through the moment. Write them on the backs of your hands, on tape and stick them to your kite bar or on the deck of your surfboard so that they become an automatic slogan that pings into your head when you need it most.

Now that you know how to create your own kitesurfing performance tags think of two or three situations in kitesurfing that are currently just out of your grasp or that have you a little worried, and start to build some positive language around them. Remember that out of control thinking leads to out of control kitesurfing and if we want to free our bodies, we must discipline the mind first.

" THESE ARE THE WORDS YOU HEAR IN YOUR EAR
WHEN YOU ARE RUNNING AWAY FROM TIGERS,
CHASING BUFFALO, HAULING YOURSELF UP A SWIM
LADDER WHILE A SHARK SNAPS AT YOUR HEELS... "



10 QUESTIONS Ryland Blakeney

Ryland
Blakeney

WORDS ROU CHATER
PHOTO GOPRO SELFIE



One of the pioneers of surfing with a kite, Ryland is a charger from Australia who doesn't mince his words. A family man with a growing painting business in Perth he always finds the time for a session when the conditions are on!

You are one of the "original" surf kites; do you think the amount of surfers taking up the sport has been in line with what you expected when you first got into it?

Haha, well I thought a lot more of my mates that surf would have got into it by now! However, it's getting so crowded already I'm not telling them how good it is anymore! On a more serious note, I thought it would have gone a lot crazier than it has already. In the last 18 months the surf side has really started to progress in the right direction. We're getting to nail the moves more frequently and guys are getting solid legitimate barrels, this is definitely catching the surfers attention.

Back in the day you and guys like Ben Wilson were really pushing for strapless and unhooked riding. Strapless took hold, but unhooked seems to have fallen by the way side, what is the reason behind that?

Probably all these ghey ballet moves the guys are doing. Personally I hate the dangly airs that some riders are doing on surf boards. I just want to see guys blowing up on waves not doing ballet and 'Billy Elliot' moves. The 360's and 720's are cool, but would look and feel a lot more like surf manoeuvres if guys did them unhooked without using the float of a kite to soften everything.



PHOTO JASON WOLCOTT



“I'm unhooked and want a solid kite that will sit well, is predictable and will do exactly what I want it to do.”

I'm not saying it's not skillful as it's talented for sure, and I can't even do half of the spinny trick stuff the top guys are doing (but I also never try or practice any of them cause if there are no waves I just hang at home these days with my kids). I guess it's good for the sport to have heaps of different disciplines and it gives guys something to do if they don't get waves where they live - it's just not a direction I'm into or will get into. For me it's all about solid waves, riding strapless and unhooked if the conditions allow.

Do you always ride with a surfboard leash, or do the conditions dictate the set up?

At home I never ride with a board leash as its quite dumpy and breaks pretty close to the beach so there is no need and it can actually be quite dangerous, but when I'm in Indo or Mauritius and waves that are proper down the line I always wear one as it saves me swimming and means I get a heap more waves.

You joined Ozone recently, how did that come about?

Yeah I've been on them for about a year now. I've known Steve, the main guy from ozone in Auz, for years. When he heard I didn't re-sign with BWS last year he shot me an email and asked what I was doing. Me and the wife had just had our third child a few months



before this so I was just in chill mode for a bit and the season had come to an end here so I wasn't in any hurry to do anything. I'd heard really good things about the Reo in the waves and they were actually at the top of my list of kites I wanted to try before I even looked into what I wanted to do for kites and gear moving forward. They sent me a bunch of kites, I loved them so we chatted to the guys at Ozone International and haven't looked back since. When I was in Mauritius I saw the new bar they were working on, which has been released now with the soft bar ends and knew they were onto some sick products so they are a great company to work with and quality is something they focus highly on.

What's the best thing about the Reo for you?

I guess the main thing is its drifting abilities. I want a kite I can park, as 90% of the time I'm riding waves I'm unhooked and want a solid kite that will sit well, is predictable and will do exactly what I want it to do. I also want a kite that is responsive when you need it to be. If I need to whip a kite to get bit more speed to get around a section I want instant power and a solid pull, the Reo delivers that as well as being super tough, I've dropped it in the surf heaps and it has always survived! I'm really stoked on the Reo for what I need.

You've been with Firewire for a while, obviously they have a very unique production process, what is it you love about their boards?

I guess the durability is a big thing and something you really need in a kite board as well as their shapes. I actually mainly ride the surfboards not the kite specific ones as I find them a good weight to both kite and surf so it mean less boards to cart around when travelling. Most of the kite brands surfboards are so heavy and I honestly don't like many kite specific boards that are on the market, which is why I'm on the Firewires. They have such a huge selection of boards and a great construction as well as the huge array of shapers they are working with like TOMO and Pyzel etc. There are some sweet designs in the works with Kelly Slater now on board as one of the owners so it's a great brand to be involved with.

You recently went to Mauritius and rode One Eye, how did you find that place, it looked like you got some pretty good swell...

PHOTO JASON WOLCOTT

Yeah Mauritius is awesome. I went there for a Slingshot shoot back in about 2009, it was fun but I found it super offshore, this trip in 2014 we had more cross-shore winds so I had a lot more fun. It's an awesome spot to get barrelled with a kite as the conditions are perfect for that. It's harder for legit turns as you're fighting against your kite so much when it's offshore. I'd definitely go back there, plus the colours make it insane for photos.

Western Australia is home to a bunch of huge waves, with places like The Right making international headlines, do you have a wish list of spots you want to ride?

Yeah The Right gets a good bit of coverage, I have towed there a couple of times but never got one of the real big ones, its pretty intimidating out there and super sharky too. We have talked about kiting it, but it would be really tricky to get the right conditions.



“its pretty intimidating out there and super sharky too.”

There's a spot nearby (a slabby left) that we have kited heaps and it's a far better wave to kite and the right conditions are more frequent allowing you to get it good there more often.

There's another spot about 15hrs north of where I live that I want to kite again, I've only kited it once for about 2 hours a few years ago and it was insane. It needs a big swell and right tide to be perfect, but the small window I got there is, to this day, one of the biggest barrels of my life, with no one around; you do need a ski or boat as back up as its hectic if something goes wrong and sharky as all hell.

You compete at some of the National events in Australia; have you ever given any thought to the World Tour?

I have, but it's just so hard to make a living from it; kite brands have tightened their budgets a fair bit over the last few years so sponsorship dollars are low and with a mortgage, wife and three kids I need a steady income. Plus, over the last 10 years I've built my own interior and exterior painting business up to a point where its going quite well and I still get a lot of time to kite so life is good where it is at the moment. I think I'll just keep chasing swells rather than events.

What does the future hold for Ryland Blakeney?

Probably be similar to what it has been last couple of years, plenty of kiting and surfing and just travelling when conditions look good! I can leave at the drop of a hat with my work so I don't bother going away unless it looks good as I hate being away from my family. I don't want to sit around anywhere when its flat when I know I could have been at home with them.

Cheers Ryland for taking the time!

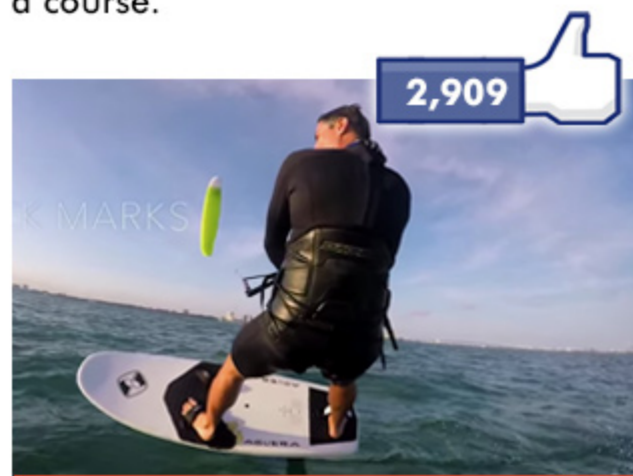
The IKSURFMAG website is crammed with news and videos everyday, we only show the best videos, so to make it onto the site is an achievement in itself.

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 KITE VS MOTH VS NACRA F20 FCS VS MARSTRÖM 32

What happens when you put a kitesurfer on a foil up against of £135,000 of sailing hardware? Watch this and find out! We all know foil kites are efficient, but in this video Zack Marks goes up against some serious sailing royalty in a standard race round a course.



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#2 FLY ME TO THE MOON

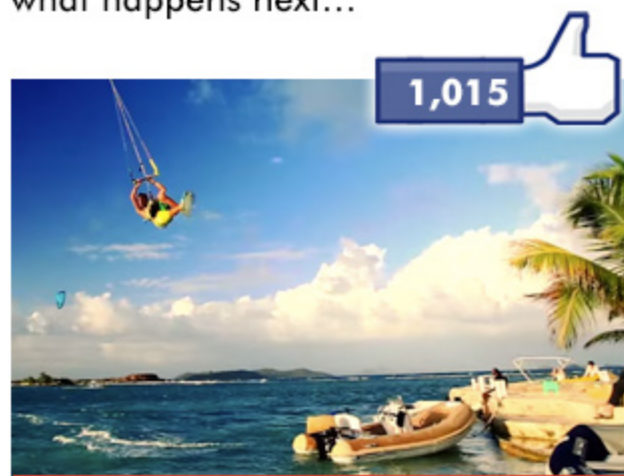
Easily one of the strangest, weirdest, most disturbing kite movies you will watch this year! Enter the slightly crazed mind of Nick Jacobsen as he takes you on a tour of madness that seems like it might never end. Enjoy insane riding, along with a bunch of stunts and plenty of humour, which ensures this video is a hit!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#3 JUMPING OVER HAPPY ISLAND

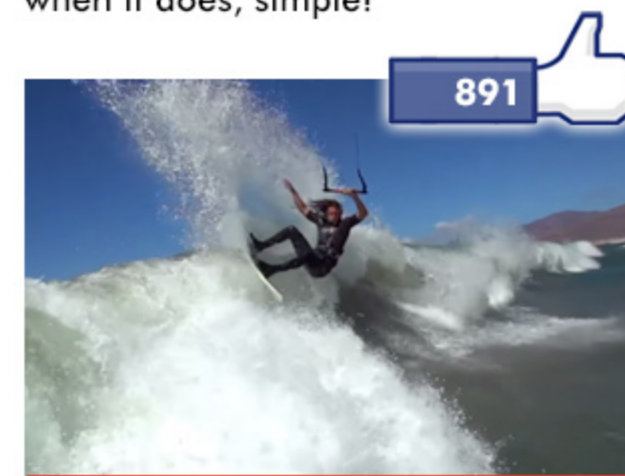
Jeremie Tronet needs no introduction, he's been holed up at his pro centre in the Grenadines for a few years now and we've seen plenty of action from this stunning part of the world. In this new video though he chases a new challenge, to jump over Happy Island, sit yourself down and find out what happens next...



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#4 THIS IS KITESURFING

Reo Stevens helps spread his love for kiteSURFING in this great edit filmed on location all over the world. Featuring some of the best riders on the planet Reo explains what makes kitesurfing such a fantastic sport and he hits the nail on the head perfectly, surf when the wind doesn't blow, kite when it does, simple!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

LIGHTROOM

THERE ONCE WAS A MAN CALLED NICCOLO, HE DROVE AROUND IN A VOLKSWAGEN POLO,
HE CAME FROM MAUI, SPENT HIS LIFE IN THE SEA AND ALL THE GIRLS WENT WOWWEE...
RIDER NICCOLO PORCELLA PHOTO TRACY KRAFT LEBOE



As a special treat for the 50th Issue we have written
some poems about each image! Enjoy...

Poetry Rou Chater

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

THERE ONCE WAS A MAN CALLED SAM, HE RODE LIKE HE DIDN'T GIVE A DAMN,
HE WENT TO AFRICA, ATE A CIABATTA AND WISHED THE WATER WAS FLATTER...
RIDER SAM LIGHT PHOTO BIANCA ASHER



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

THIS HERE IS A SHREDDER CALLED LUKE, HIS SKILLS ARE NO FLUKE, HE'S BEEN PRACTISING FOR AGES,
AND NOW HE GETS PAID HIS WAGES FOR APPEARING ON THESE PAGES...
RIDER LUKE MCGILLIWIE PHOTO MANDI IRELAND

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

THERE IS AN AMAZING KITER CALLED DIMITRI, SOME SAY HE IS A LITTLE BIT CRAZY, HE PULLS
OLD SCHOOL TRICKS, WITH LOTS OF BOARD FLIPS, ON THE CAPE HATTERAS SLICKS!
RIDER DIMITRI MARAMENIDES PHOTO GUSTAV SCHMIEGE

Lightroom



LIGHTROOM

GISELA LIKES TO RIDE FREESTYLE, SHE'S BEEN AT IT FOR A WHILE, SHE'S ONE OF THE BEST,
SHE BEATS THE REST AND REALLY IT'S NO CONTEST...
RIDER GISELA PULIDO PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

KITESURFING IS SUCH A MAJESTIC SPORT, BETTER THAN WINDSURFING I CAN REPORT, IT'S A LOT MORE FUN,
TO BE IN THE SUN, KITING IS SECOND TO NONE...
RIDER MARK MOORE PHOTO MARK MOORE SELF PORTRAIT WITH A DRONE IN SHARK BAY AUSTRALIA.

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

THERE IS A FEMALE RIPPER CALLED HANNAH, FOR WEARING HIGH HEELS
THEY DISSED HER, BUT SHE BLEW THEM AWAY, IN THE DESERT ONE DAY,
AND NOW THE HATERS HAVE NOTHING SAY...
RIDER HANNAH WHITELEY PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

THERE IS A KITEBOARD CALLED THE 50FIFTY, AND IT LOOKS RATHER NIFTY,
IT'S GOT LOADS OF POP, YOU CAN BUY IT IN A SHOP AND IT DOESN'T COST A LOT!
RIDER EUDAZIO DA SILVA PHOTOGRAPHER

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

TO PULL A KITE LOOP IS SUCH A RUSH, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S OVER A BUSH, BUT THE CRASHES ARE HARD, SO YOU NEED TO BE ON YOUR GUARD, OTHERWISE YOU'LL GET SCARRED!
RIDER DIMITRI MARAMENIDES PHOTO GUSTAV SCHMIEGE



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

THERE IS A CUSTOM BOARD COMPANY CALLED CARVED, THE WEIGHT THEY SAY IS HALVED,
WITH AMAZING SPECS, THEY ARE UNISEX AND HAVE THE PERFECT AMOUNT OF FLEX!
RIDER BRIAN WENNERSTEN PHOTO REEMEDIA / LIQUID EYE

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM



Lightroom

A WORLD CHAMPION FROM MANY MOONS AGO, MARK SHINN CERTAINLY KNOWS HOW TO THROW, HUGE BUCKETS OFF WAVES, BUT HE ESPECIALLY CRAVES, DANCING ALL NIGHT AT SPANISH RAVES...
RIDER MARK SHINN **PHOTO** COURTESY OF SHINN

LIGHTROOM

IN ISRAEL THE WEATHER IS HOT, BUT THEY LIKE TO KITESURF A LOT, ORYAM LOVES TO FLY AROUND,
IN THE AIR HE MAKES NO SOUND, IT'S FAR BETTER THAN BEING ON THE GROUND!
RIDER ORYAM NEHORAI PHOTO GITIT ZOHAR



Lightroom

[FEMALE FOCUS]

BIANCA ASHER



Bianca is a young photographer who lives in Cape Town South Africa. When the European winter sets in the great and the good from the kitesurfing world head to there to make the most of the fantastic waves and the ever-present Cape Doctor. Naturally Bianca has been tapping this ever-present resource for the last couple of years, we decided it was high time for a catch up!



“ I LOVE GETTING TO MEET AND WORK WITH THE INCREDIBLE ATHLETES FROM AROUND THE WORLD. ”

When did you first get into photography Bianca?

My Grandfather was a photographer. Growing up, I was surrounded by these amazing old school film cameras and photos. I was always drawn to photography. I started getting into it when I was 16 when I claimed one of the old Konica film cameras for myself.

You lead an almost double life, taking lots of sports and kite images as well as doing corporate portraits and weddings. Which do you prefer and why?

Sports photography will always be my first love.

I love getting to meet and work with the incredible athletes from around the world.

For you what makes a great kitesurfing shoot?

That moment when you capture the winning shot. You forget about the cold and everything else.

There are obviously a plethora of riders kicking around Cape Town in the winter, who do you most enjoy working with and why?

Hannah Whiteley. She is so much fun to work with and is always game to try any crazy concept I throw at her.

If you could pick any one person in the world to shoot that you haven't been able to yet who would it be...

Dane Reynolds. He is such an incredible free surfer and has the best surfing style.

You've stepped up your game in recent years with water housings and more flash work, what do you enjoy shooting with the most?

This past season was the first one working with my SPL water housing. I love using it for flash work.

“ EACH SESSION IS DIFFERENT
DEPENDING ON THE LIGHT
AND OTHER FACTORS OUT OF
YOUR CONTROL. ”



GRAHAM HOWES GETTING STEEZY UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS!

Shooting with a flash out in the water is always a bit more challenging and the new housing has definitely allowed me more control with the flashes. It doesn't matter how much you plan and sketch your shoot, each session is different depending on the light and other factors out of your control. I'm always like a child on Christmas morning after a flash shoot to see what we've captured.

We've seen some creative shots from you in the past, using colours and filters to great effect, who inspires you in the world of photography and how does that inspiration steer your passion?

I'm greatly inspired by a lot of fashion photographers, Annie Leibovitz especially, as she is an incredible master of light. I draw a lot of inspiration from fashion photography as the photographers are always pushing the boundaries and using light in new inventive ways. I try to incorporate these concepts into my kitesurfing photography to create something different.

If you had to pick just one camera and one lens for a shoot what would it be?

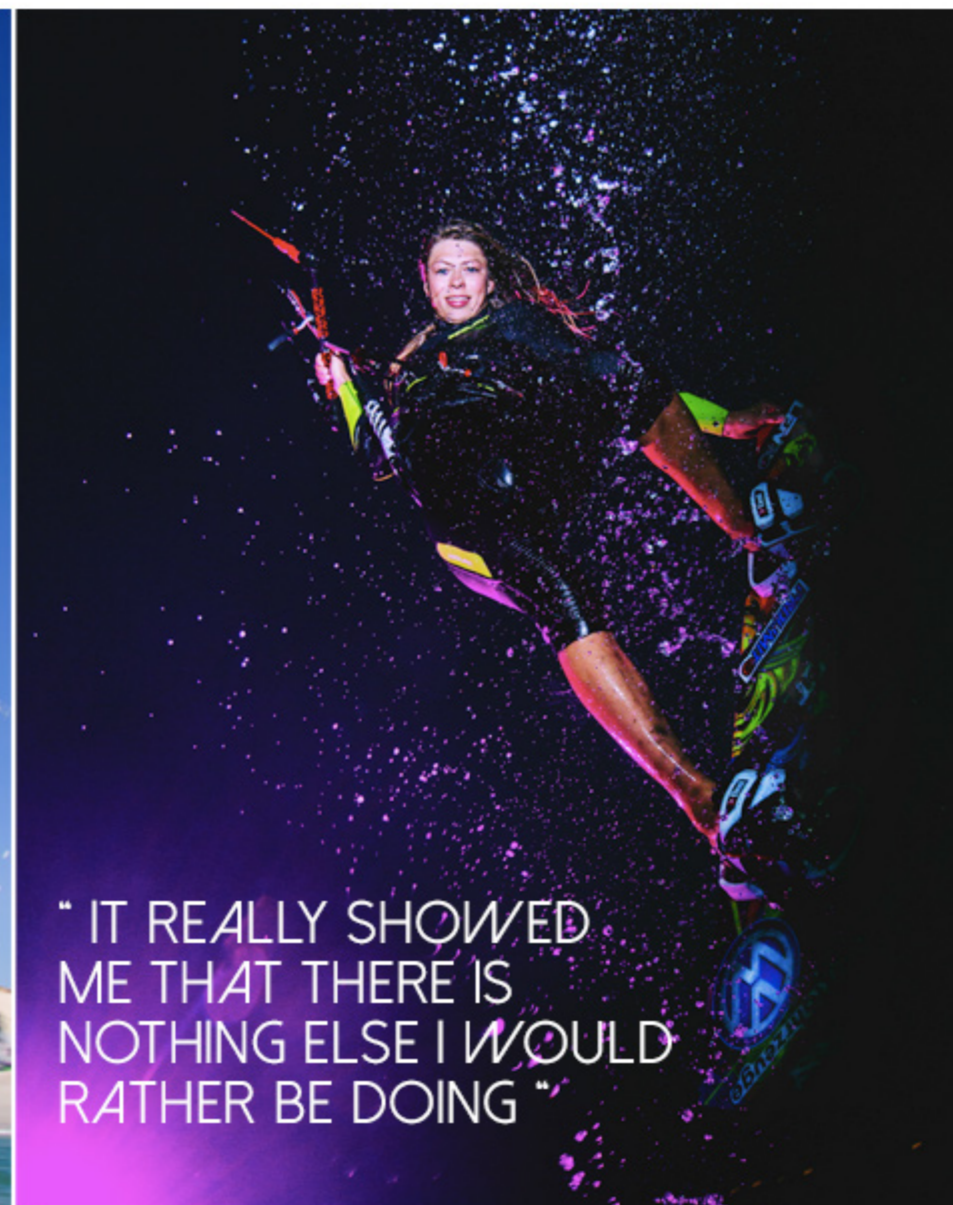
Canon 5D Mark III and Canon 20mm lens.

What tips do you have for aspiring photographers out there, and do you have any tips for the action heroes too?

The best piece of advice I ever received was to stop comparing yourself to other photographers. You'll be working so hard on trying to emulate them that you'll miss out on developing your own style.



TEAMMATES NOE FONT AND HANNAH WHITELEY GETTING THE BIANCA TREATMENT...



"IT REALLY SHOWED ME THAT THERE IS NOTHING ELSE I WOULD RATHER BE DOING"

Have you ever had any nightmares with any of your gear, how did it affect your state of mind?

Last year I had an experience that was almost career ending. We travelled up to Namibia to catch a huge swell that was hitting in May. On our first night (we had driven straight through the night from Cape Town), we stopped at a restaurant and our car was broken into and my gear was cleaned out. There were some big issues with the insurance pay out and it took nearly 3 months to replace my gear. At the time I was

really down and unsure of everything. It really showed me that there is nothing else I would rather be doing than photography.

Do you have a camera that never leaves your side?

I would love to say that I have a trendy little film camera in my bag, but more often than not I always have my iPhone with me. I capture everything with it.

You've had your first kite lessons this year, how did you find it and will there be a time when we see you on the other side of the lens?

I really did enjoy it and I hope I can definitely get more into it. I'm not sure I'll ever let myself get photographed kiting however... kook alert!

Kite photography in general is a very male dominated world, what's your best asset for getting your voice heard?

I let my work speak for me. Once you've earned the riders respect I don't think it matters if you're male or female just as long as you keep getting the shots.

“ THE WATER ACTS AS A GIANT REFLECTOR AND CAN HELP WITH A LOT OF NATURAL BOUNCE LIGHT. ”



A lot of your shoots are in Cape Town, how do you keep the imagery fresh?

Each shoot is a new challenge to make sure it doesn't look the same as the last one. I shoot at different times of day and directly into the sun, the water acts as a giant reflector and can help with a lot of natural bounce light. If you just keep chatting to your rider and get them in the right place, you can change up the style of shots quite dramatically.

Is there anywhere in the world you would like to go to shoot?

Everywhere! I love travelling. Definitely somewhere warm so I don't need a wetsuit.

Your career in the kite industry follows a slightly different path to most, what advice would you have for any girls reading this and thinking they could follow in your footsteps?

"The master has failed more times than the beginner has even tried."

– Stephen McCranie

Never give up. There will be many times when you don't want to try again or feel like your work is stagnant. Just keep trying and never stop learning.

Awesome thanks for taking the time Bianca!



www.biancaasher.com

www.twitter.com/biancaasher

www.facebook.com/biancaasherphotography

One of the stills taken on location for Roberto Soza's Jetty Island Kite Zone movie last summer. Photo: Donna Read
IKSURFMAG says: Great shot, loving the soft sunshine colours.
Thanks for sharing it with us Donna!

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 Donna Read. Well done Donna, get in touch and we'll send you the t-shirt!

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



Enjoying the empty beach at Ballybrannigan Strand, Ireland.
Photo Gabriel Fekete

IKSURFMAG says: Ireland's stunning and empty beaches can be a kitesurfing paradise on the right day.

John Collins took this silhouetted shot of Patrick Nickerson soaring over the setting sun at Cocoa Beach, Florida.

IKSURFMAG says: Lovely evening capture John. We could say something about the sun appearing to come from Patrick's derriere, but that would ruin the peacefulness of the image...!





Steven Brett gives some winter kitesurfing top tips...

How to move an iceberg to ride:

Step 1: Rig up Blade Trigger 14m.

Step 2: Sit on floating berg.

Step 3: Dig in edge of board so you don't slide off.

Step 4: Gradually dive kite in direction you wish to move the berg.

Step 5: Repeat as needed.

Nothing like a 18 degree day at Pere Marquette Beach,
Muskegon, MI

IKSURFMAG says: Incredible dedication to the game!! Thanks
for sharing your iceberg kiting step-by-step with us Steven!

Kiter Kent McNish boosts the rocks and swells at Muriwai
Beach on Auckland's west coast in New Zealand,

Photo: Mike Pfeffers

IKSURFMAG says: That looks like some gnarly conditions!
Champing skills from Kent for styling it out, and props to you
for grabbing the shot Mike!





▼
Troy Hook giving it Blue Steel in the Florida Keys.

Photo: Chuck Edge

IKSURFMAG says: It's as if Derek Zoolander took up kitesurfing!

Locals showing how to do it at Ponta Preta, Cabo Verde in February.

Photo: Sue N Rich

IKSURFMAG says: Cabo Verde providing the goods perfectly!





‘A Beautiful Day For Kite Surfing’; A little cold with some scattered ice chunks, but a beautiful day for kiting nevertheless. Happy kiter seen here skimming along with his sunlit kite. Alaska - March 2015

Photo: Alaska Action.Photography

IKSURFMAG says: We always have a great admiration for those whose love of our sport persists through even the most inclement temperatures. Kiting in frozen glacial waters, and enjoying it, really does deserve a pat on the back, or even better a beer! Thanks for sharing this moment with us – lovely shot.

Shayne McAulay ripping along in stunning New Zealand.

IKSURFMAG says: What a dramatic backdrop, bit different to your average sandy beach and empty horizon!!



LUKAS ARSENAULT STAYING UP LATE TO GET THE GOODS IN BRAZIL
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



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