

KSURF!

ISSUE 51

JUNE/JULY 15

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 51 of the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! After the excitement of Issue 50 we knew we had to back ourselves up with something rather special, and we think we have done it! This latest

magazine is bursting with meaty goodness and there is plenty inside to keep you entertained when you are not on the water. There is just too much to mention here so you'll just have to dive in and see for yourself!

ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE!



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INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

KSURF!

051 // JUN/JUL



GENERATIONS

JASON SLEZAK // ETIENNE LHOTE REECE & RICHARD MYERSCOUGH

BEHIND THE BRAND - WAINMAN HAWAII // 10 YEARS OF THE TRIPLE S
HUGE TEST // TECHNIQUE // AND MUCH MUCH MORE INSIDE!

// 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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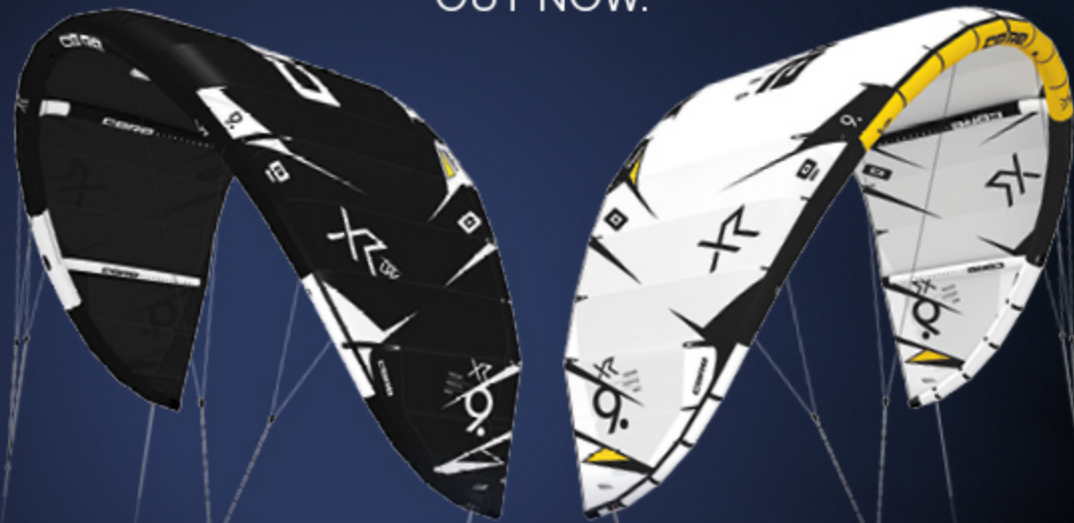
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Julien Fillion, Shot by Erik Aeder



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FRONT COVER NICCOLO PORCELLA SMASHES A GRINDER IN MAUI
FRONT COVER PHOTO QUINCY DEIN

17 COMPETITION

19 EDITORIAL

23 THE INTERVIEW – JASON SLEAZAK

47 A DECADE OF CHANGE

73 BEHIND THE BRAND

101 TECHNIQUE

129 GENERATIONS

147 TRIED AND TESTED

175 SURF SANCTUARY PRESENTS...

193 TEN QUESTIONS

201 MOVIE NIGHT

203 LIGHTROOM

223 FEMALE FOCUS

235 READERS GALLERY

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CONTENTS

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ISSUE 51 Well I've finally gone and done it. I've been talking about it on and off for at least a year, and I made a concerted effort to get it sorted this winter but I couldn't get hold of the right equipment. What have I done? I've got a foil board and I've just got back from the beach after my first session.

How was it you might wonder, well I'm not going to lie and say I mastered it on my first go. I'll be honest and say the conditions were sub-optimal, wind with tide, cross shore, bordering on cross-off and about 10mph. However, as we all know, a new toy burns a hole in you until you get to play with it...

So I donned an impact vest, helmet and did my best to look as much like a kook as possible. Body dragging with the foil, tick; first waterstart and out the front door, tick; second go and I'm moving forwards, then I'm swallowing seawater. After ten minutes I've got a bit of a feel for it and despite there being hardly any wind, and being completely exhausted I'm thinking that this could be a productive session.

And then the wind drops, to nothing, swings completely offshore (not forecast) and the kite falls out of the sky. I swim in, make it to the beach and, absolutely shattered, I lie there gathering my thoughts. I'm about half a mile downwind from where I started and I can honestly say I've never felt like such a beginner, since, well, when I was a beginner over 15 years ago!

I'm hooked though, and I hope this candid tale gives you the courage to give it a crack this season, after all what's the worse that could happen? Keep an eye out for updates on my progress on the website!

Rou Chater

Publishing Editor



EDITORIAL



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Punch^{10.5}



Smoke⁹



Mr. Green^{7.5}



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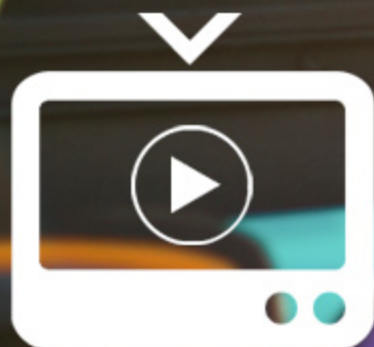
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rider: Forest Bakker photo: Quincy Dein



PHOTO LANCE KOUDELE



WORDS LINDSAY MCCLURE

THE INTERVIEW

JASON SLEZAK



Jason Slezak or Sleazy to his friends has been there since the very beginning. He's a surfer who moved to Cape Hatteras to enjoy the waves, but found himself right on point at the birth of our sport. He's taught thousands of people to kitesurf as part of the Real Kiteboarding team, was one of the co creators of the Triple S, and has also helped design some of the most popular Liquid Force kiteboards. He rips in boots, on a foil and in the waves. As kites go Sleazy has got it all...



TESTING TWIN TIPS IN HOOD RIVER
PHOTO LANCE KOUDELE

“ I THINK THAT WE HAVE ONLY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE ”

As a rider, you've dabbled in nearly every kiteboarding discipline, what branch of the sport are you most passionate about today?

One of my favorite things about kiteboarding is how versatile it is as a sport. I learned early on, whilst living in Cape

Hatteras, North Carolina, that being involved in multiple disciplines within the sport of kiteboarding always kept things interesting and fun. It has also allowed me to make the most of the conditions everyday, rather than getting burned out on one thing.

I would ride the park one day, waves the next, maybe choose to go boosting and jump land gaps if it was super windy, and

now with hydro foils it fully opens up the low end of light wind kiting which means even more time on the water!! I still love it all...but I would have to say that riding waves with a kite is where I get the most pure enjoyment when kiting.

Liquid Force worked hard to design a foil board that is fun and easy to ride for the everyday kiter. Foiling has become more than just a race tool and light wind fallback, so how do you see foil boards fitting into the big picture of kiting five years from now?

Personally I think that we have only scratched the surface of what is possible with kiting on a hydrofoil board. It truly is an awesome sensation and challenge and opens up so many more days on the water than what your average light wind kite setup would allow under “normal” kiteboarding conditions. For me, it has personally changed my view of what is considered too light to ride, and it also opens up more exploration as the distance you can travel becomes so great.

It was hard to imagine only one year ago that foiling would be embraced by so many...I can't even begin to predict what it will be like in five years. I can only say one thing about it though, if you have not tried it you are missing out on one of the coolest feelings that is possible to experience while flying a kite and riding a board, or in this case a wing! So get out there and try it for yourself!!!

Liquid Force added the Solo kite to their lineup last year and recently released the WOW. What is your go-to kite, and why?

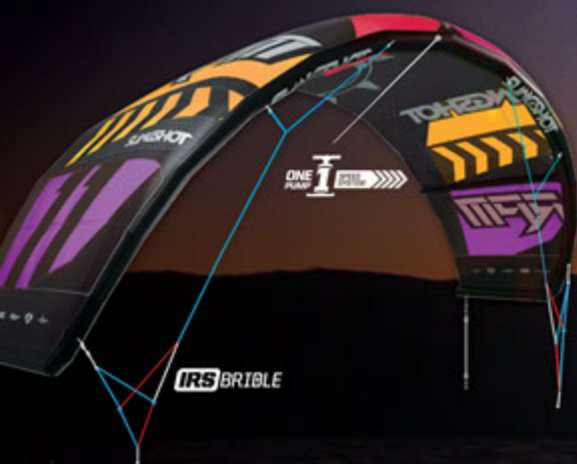
With my R&D position at Liquid Force I am always riding different versions of all of our kites, as well as riding other kites that are out in the market.



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VISION 140 / 138 / 134

IRS EQUIPPED

The 2015 RPM is equipped with Slingshot's new Intuitive Response System. The IRS is an industry FIRST that replaces moving pulleys with two shock absorbing sections of bridle, which results in improved stability, boosted response and steering speed and smoother, more reactive performance in all wind conditions.



STEEZY SLEAZY DOING WHAT HE DOES BEST...
PHOTO LANCE KOUDELE



“THESE COMBINATIONS PROVIDE THE MOST FUN FOR WHATEVER CONDITIONS I HAVE AT HAND.”

However, when I am lucky enough to take personal sessions I usually choose the following; the Envy for all around freestyle/wakestyle because they are stable, reliable, and I know them so well, the Solo for foiling because of the lightweight and awesome low end, and the WOW in the waves for its pivoting turns and amazing drift down the line. For me, these combinations provide the most fun for whatever conditions I have at hand.

You're heavily involved in R&D for Liquid Force, what's the next big thing that you guys will be revealing?

Liquid Force as a brand has been built on relentless innovation, and we are constantly working to keep that creative and innovative process going. Our development and design team is fairly small and tight-knit with a constant flow of ideas and projects going on at all times. Right now we are working hard to expand our foil offerings as well as continuing to evolve our kite designs to meet the market needs through really listening to our shops, team riders, dealers, and distributors around the world to drive our product innovation.

You've been part of the Liquid Force family for a long time, when did you first get involved with Liquid Force and what makes Liquid Force stand out from other brands?

I am proud to say that in April I just celebrated 11 years of being part of the Liquid Force family! I got involved with Liquid Force because I chose to ride their boards in my early days of kiting and was approached by them to become part of the team.





“GET YOUR SHRED ON AND THEN ENJOY SOME GREAT MUSIC AND GREAT FOOD ON THE BACK DECK.”

Liquid Force truly does operate like a family; we work hard together, play harder together, help each other, and have our ups and downs.

At the end of the day, everyone involved shares a similar passion, drive and focus to

make the best product for having fun on the water that we possibly can. It is a direct continuation of the vision that founders Tony Finn and Jimmy Redmon had when they started the company in 1995, and it continues to be our foundation today.

What was the motivation behind changing to a sliders-only format for the 10th anniversary of the Triple S Invitational?

The change to a Parkstyle format for the

10th anniversary Triple S was simply to get back to why the Triple S was originally created, to shred for a week with friends. This year we are focusing on getting as much time as possible in the REAL Slider Park, with as little logistics for the riders as possible.

As the event has grown it takes more effort and time to run the other disciplines at off-site locations because of both the larger number of competitors involved, but also the larger number of staff required and spectators who are following the events around Cape Hatteras.



We wanted to make it simple for the riders involved, show up to REAL Watersports each day and get your shred on and then enjoy some great music and great food on the back deck. More simple = more fun and more shredding!!!

How do you think this year's installment of the Triple S will compare to past years', and who do you think will be tuned-up and ready to throw down?

Every year I am blown away with the level of riding, and I expect nothing less from the 2015 Triple S. I may be a bit biased,

CLOCKING AIR MILES IN HOOD RIVER.
PHOTO LANCE KOUDELE

“ EVERY YEAR I AM BLOWN AWAY WITH THE LEVEL OF RIDING ”

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HITTING A SLICK BACKSIDE SMASH ON MAUI.
PHOTO ERIK AEDER

“ ALL THREE WERE SUPER FUN WITH SOME TRUE CONSEQUENCES IF YOU DIDN'T COMMIT 100%. ”

because we work together at Liquid Force, but I think that Brandon Scheid is one of the most stylish kiteboarders on the planet, and I know that he is frothing for this year's Triple S. Personally, I am most excited to see him go buck wild in the REAL Slider Park and throw down the goods!!!

Thinking back on all the slider setups you've ridden over the years, what is your all-time favorite slider and why?

My all time favorite slider setup from over the years is a three way tie between the original Camel Toe rail, on which I broke three vertebrae in my back (check out the Unhooked 2 Intro clip in this article, that's me smashing into the woodwork at 1.53!) The Red Bull Funbox from the first ever 2006 Triple S, and the Liquid Force Wallride that was built for the 2010 Liquid Force photo shoot here on Cape Hatteras. All three are very different features, but all three were super fun with some true consequences if you didn't commit 100%. Not nearly as safe and user friendly as the HDPE welded sliders that are more common place in kite parks and cable parks these days.

There are some mind-blowing photos floating around of you on a pretty big wave at Cloudbreak in Fiji. What is the story behind that trip?

I have been fortunate enough to get to go to Namotu and surf Cloudbreak twice in the past two years. Last November we were there and on the final day of our stay on the island we had what will go down as one of the most fun days of kitesurfing of my life. It started out only about shoulder high and was almost double overhead by sunset.



THAT INFAMOUS CLOUDBREAK SESSION,
YEAH THAT'S DOUBLE OVERHEAD ALL RIGHT...
PHOTO JAIMIE ARMSTRONG



“ EVERY YEAR I AM
BLOWN AWAY WITH
THE LEVEL OF
RIDING ”

The following morning (the day of the shot in question) we were set to leave the island, but were able to arrange a fishing boat to take us out to Cloudbreak (Cloudy) to session. My luggage got accidentally sent to the airport with another Jason S. who was staying on the island with us, so when we arrived at Cloudy, to the most perfect kitesurfing conditions I have ever witnessed, we realised that I did not have any gear at all, just a pair of board shorts.

A good friend was generous enough to offer up his kite, bar, harness, and board so I thought we were set and began to rig the lines on the boat for a boat launch. I asked the guys if they had a pump and, low and behold, no pump (it was also in my luggage at the airport). We spent an hour radioing the surround islands to see if we could arrange a pump to be brought to the boat with no luck.

So we drove the boat twenty minutes downwind back to Namotu, got permission to come back on the island and use their air compressor, and then beat straight upwind in the boat for half an hour back to Cloudy with a fully inflated 10.5m Liquid Force Envy to make the session happen.

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f v i OZONEKITES TEAM RIDER: PAULINO PEREIRA // PHOTOS: TORRIN BRIGHT // ENFONDO

“ I FEEL TRULY BLESSED TO HAVE KITEBOARDING TAKE ME TO SUCH AMAZING PLACES ON THIS PLANET. ”

After a successful boat launch I was lucky enough to get to shred Cloudbreak at double overhead plus, all alone for almost two hours with not another soul in the water, no ski or boat or life guard for rescue and with every piece of equipment borrowed except for my board shorts! I even had to borrow sunscreen and wax! All with my girlfriend, Jamie (shooting photos), and seven other great friends drinking beers and cheering me on from the fishing boat in the channel. Once the session was over the boat took us straight to the harbor, loaded into a cab and was on a plane back to the States within only a few hours of my last wave. Needless to say, I slept like a baby on the flight home. That day will go down as one of the most memorable days ever spent in the ocean for me! I feel truly blessed to have kiteboarding take me to such amazing places on this planet.

You've visited a lot of exotic kiteboarding destinations over the years, is there anywhere on your bucket list that you're dying to visit? Where would you go and who would you go with?

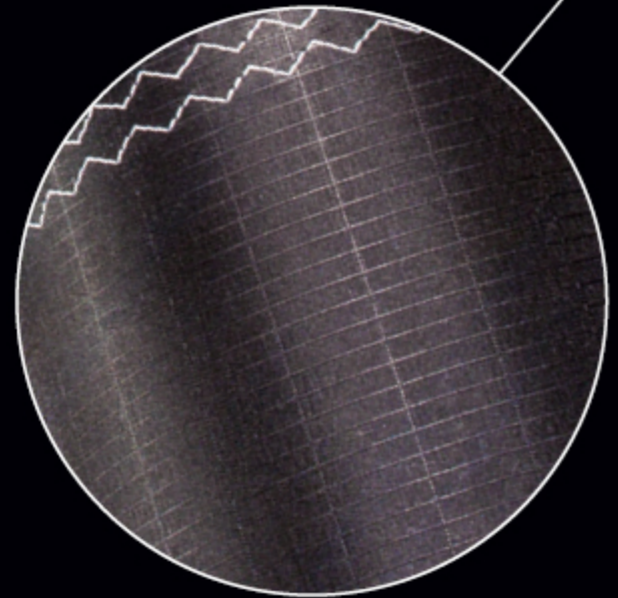
I have been lucky enough to travel a lot and kiteboard all over the world for the past 15 years. In that time I have realized that the location is not nearly as important as the company that you go with. These days I get more excited to travel to destinations with a great crew rather than to go to the most amazing place alone. I am, however, fortunate enough to usually line up both; amazing locations with amazing people.



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SLEZAK IS PRETTY HANDY ON A FOIL TOO THESE DAYS...
PHOTO MURRAY FRAISER

encompass many different aspects of kiteboarding as an industry with my time split between Liquid Force, Patagonia, and the Triple S. So there is not really a “typical” day...ever...in my life (which can be very frustrating for my girlfriend and family members!).

Every day, no matter where I am, I wake up and make coffee. Construct a loose plan for the day which consists of, but in no particular order; R&D testing, email communication, photo shooting, shipping of prototype gear to team riders, receiving shipments of prototypes, modifying gear, etc, etc.

Once I make my plan for the day I usually have to throw the plan out the window and adapt to what ever is needed for that particular day. There is a seemingly constant stream of digital communication; email, text, Skype, and the rest. As well as a lot of gear management; packing, unpacking, shipping, receiving, fixing, modifying, and the list goes on. I then try to fill the remainder of the time with shredding of many sorts; kiting, snowboarding, surfing, skating, biking, and moto to make the most of wherever I am throughout the year.

I absolutely love working within the kiteboarding industry and with the people involved. And although sometimes work keeps me away from friends and family more than I would like, I would not trade the past fifteen years of working in such a fun industry and helping to build and grow such an amazing sport for anything!

Thanks for taking the time to chat to us Jason!

“ I ABSOLUTELY LOVE WORKING WITHIN THE KITEBOARDING INDUSTRY AND WITH THE PEOPLE INVOLVED ”

Traveling with my Liquid Force and Patagonia families is always my first choice and also provides a pretty large list of travel

companions to choose from. As far as bucket list spots; Ireland, Norway, Greenland, Iceland & Japan are all high on my travel wish list.

Can you walk us through a typical day in the life of Jason Slezak?

My jobs are very multifaceted and

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a decade of change

10 years of the Venyu Triple S,
one of our sports most defining
and important competitions...

WORDS LINDSAY MCCLURE



TOBIAS HÖLTER GREASING THE LIQUID FORCE FEATURE!
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH





Landmark anniversaries invite a pause, a time to backpedal, look right, look left, and reflect on where we've come from and where we're going. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Venyu Triple S Invitational. Take a spin around the backyard at REAL Watersports during the event, and you'll bump into some of the old greats of the competition. Tossing beanbags on the far side of the lawn however, is another congregation of kilters, these boys and girls are lesser known, but just as talented. The new wave is young and hungry. Will 2015 be the year they finally grab the torch and start lighting fires of their own?

In the two days leading up to the Venyu Triple S Invitational, REAL hosted an open competition. The male and female winners of this showdown received an invitation to the main event. Lack of wind forced flexibility, and the event was run through the REAL slider park behind jet skis. Legends such as Eric Rienstra, Davey Blair, Jason Slezak, Chad Worrall and Laura Vroman generously set up the park and drove the skis while offering a torrent of knowledge about how to grease the features. With wisdom from stars, a nothing-to-lose attitude, and resilient body parts, the Open competitors put on quite a show. Taking the win were Brandon Bowe and Katie Potter.

“ these boys and girls are lesser known, but just as talented. The new wave is young and hungry. ”

JAMES BOULDING HAS BEEN A REGULAR HERE FOR A FEW YEARS!
PHOTO LANCE KOUDELE



Past

Rewind to early June, 2006. The Triple S began with a handful of kiteboarding's fringe personalities kicking back, riding features, and doing whatever they wanted. Triple S co-founder Trip Forman explained that, "Back in 2006 the sport was focused on big air and spins, it wasn't based on sliders and kickers, powered handle pass manoeuvres, or surf." According to Forman, the original Triple S was organized to highlight this progressive style of riding, and to give the sport a hard push in that direction.

"the original Triple S was organized to highlight this progressive style of riding."

ANDRE PHILLIP HITTING THE JOHN WAYNE CANCER FOUNDATION FEATURE IN 2006.

PHOTO TRIPLE S



“nobody cared who took first, second, or third; the goal was simply to be asked to the dance.”

The golden era of laid back, jam-style kiting evolved naturally into the huge event the Triple S is today. When the event originated, riders were let loose in a friendly competition to see who could outlast the others, both day and night. Tom Court said, “At the very beginning I was told that you were marked equally for your activities in the evening as you were on the water. The format was that you would go out and shred all day, and then in the evening we would meet and everyone would be like, who’s partying the hardest? Who’s riding the hardest? And that would be the result for the event.” Competitors from the early days of the Triple S tell tales of 3am downwinders and all-night fiascos during competition week to prove their mettle.

In those early days, there wasn’t any prize money for the winners, but housing was provided for all the riders in some of the finer vacation rentals on Cape Hatteras. Early competitors observed that nobody cared who took first, second, or third; the goal was simply to be asked to the dance. If an invitation arrived in your mailbox, you RSVP’d with a firm yes, and a week’s worth of good times were guaranteed.



ANDRE HAS BEEN COMING TO THIS EVENT SINCE DAY ONE, HERE HE IS IN 2009, STYLING AS EVER...
PHOTO BRYAN ELKUS



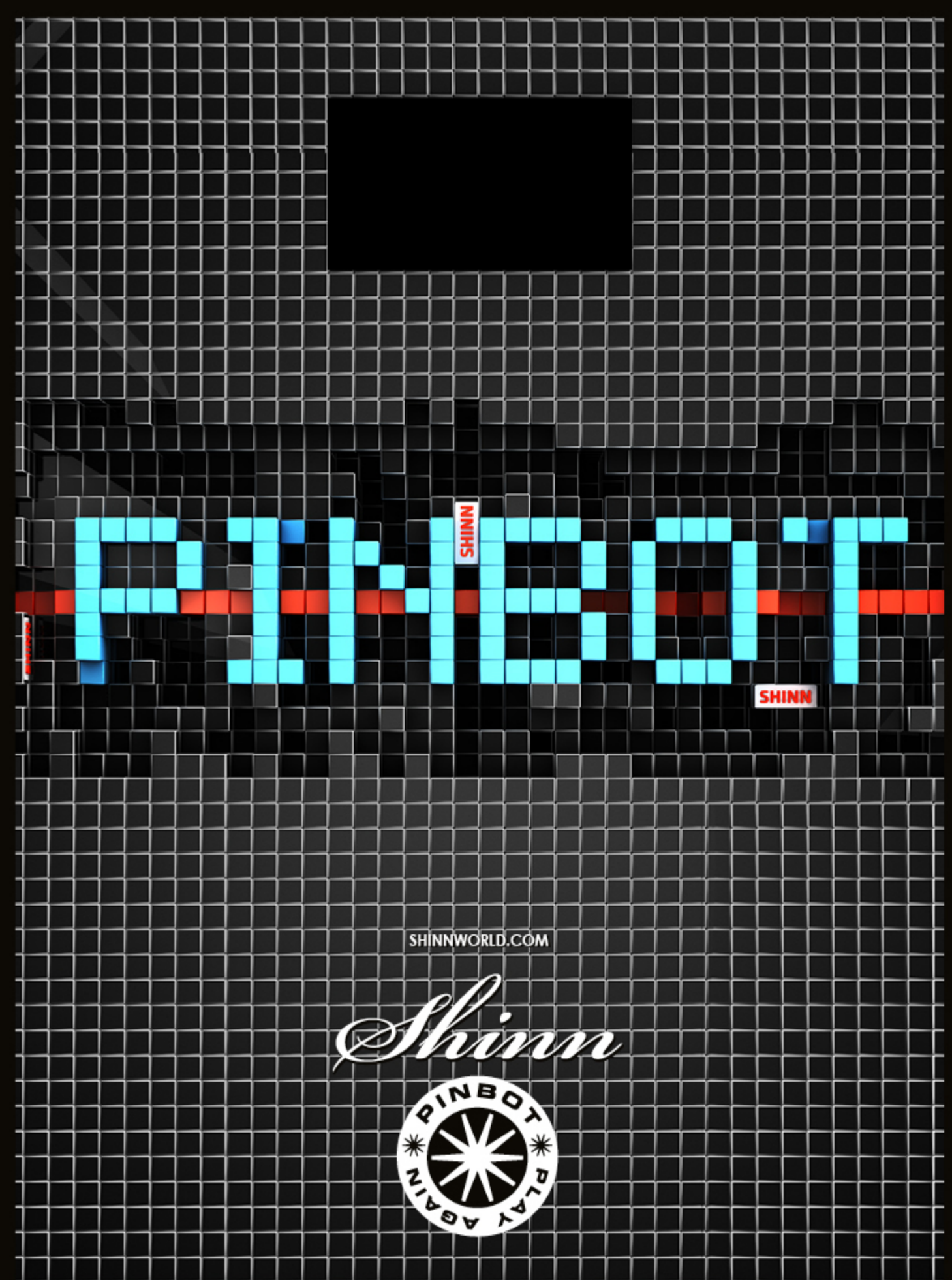


Present

The weeklong jam format has gone with the wind, and a new era of Triple S competition with judges and prize money has arrived in its place. The contest has organically evolved. In 2012 rider housing was phased out, and in 2013 official judges and prize money were introduced. Court remarked that, "the Triple S had to become more legitimate in terms of results in order to be respected by the rest of the kiteboarding world". Essentially as anything gets bigger and better known it changes and the Triple S is no different.

"the Triple S had to become more legitimate in terms of results in order to be respected by the rest of the kiteboarding world"

COLLEEN CARROLL THE UNSTOPPABLE FORCE OF RECENT YEARS, SHE TOOK THE CROWN FOR A THIRD TIME IN 2015.
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH



SAM LIGHT ALWAYS DOES WELL HERE! HE TOOK THE TOP SPOT
ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR, AND A HEFTY PAYCHECK!
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH



“training is a word that most Triple S riders don’t really use.”

With large sums of prize money at stake judging was a natural part of that process. While it’s great to have the jam style format and riders judging riders, at some point when the dollar signs get big enough that has to change. Aaron Hadlow summed it up nicely; “because the level of riding has become more concentrated at the top, judges have become necessary.”

In order to separate the good from the great, judges and event organizers put the rules in black and white this year. They drafted a 10-page competition manual along with a 7-page standards appendix that assigns a point value to each slide and kicker hit with additions and deductions for elements of style.

The Triple S of the modern era walks the line between serious and laid back. Court said that, “the reason riders take time out of their schedule to come to the Triple S is because it’s fun.” Riders claim that they show up on competition day to enjoy the park and session with their friends, but with \$40,000 up for grabs in prize money, riders may be more competitive than they let on. According to Craig Cunningham, “training is a word that most Triple S riders don’t really use.”

The evolution of the REAL slider park itself has been just as notable as changes in the format and the level of riding. Hadlow explained, “The first Triple S I came to had that super janky Red Bull fun box, and all the rails were so sketchy compared with what we have now.” In the new era, the world’s best slider park is on offer to all invited riders. Eliminated is the need for riders to do the heavy lifting that is usually required if they want to hit features.



The sliders at REAL have evolved as new ideas and technologies for park construction come to life. Forman places his trust in the riders to keep the park at REAL progressive, “new features come from what the riders think is the next level, having an open mind, and a blank check to make it happen.” An example is the 80-foot-long John Wayne, the longest slider in kiteboarding today and a favourite among riders and spectators.

The Triple S has succeeded in one key area where other competitions struggle, it gets the crowd involved. The backyard at REAL vibrates with excitement during the competition. Hadlow pinpointed the difference between the Triple S and the World Tour, “if the public

goes to the PKRA they feel distant from it, whereas here they can get pretty close to the action and get involved in the parties at the Triple S.” The general public can belly up to the bar at Watermen’s Grill and order a Triple S lager elbow-to-elbow with the best kiteboarders in the world.

The Triple S is an event that changes the lives of both competitors and spectators. Laura Vroman attended the first Triple S in 2006 as a spectator and non-kiter. Inspired by what she saw, Vroman signed up for kite lessons. Just four years later, in 2010, she stood on top of the podium at the Triple S, taking first place in the women’s slider division.

“The general public can belly up to the bar at Watermen’s Grill and order a Triple S lager elbow-to-elbow with the best kiteboarders in the world.”

LIVE MUSIC AND PARTIES AT NIGHT, GREAT SESSIONS IN THE PARK ALL DAY!
PHOTOS TOBY BROMWICH



LOCATION: BRAZIL, ACTION: BERGSSON



- PYRO MANIAC KITE HARNESS
- MANIAC SLIDING SPREADER BAR
- MEMORY FOAM RELIEF ZONES

“These progressive players aren’t afraid to pioneer new ideas or to run things differently.”

Future

Organizers of the Triple S aren’t sitting back, running the same old event year after year. These progressive players aren’t afraid to pioneer new ideas or to run things differently. Examples of this attitude include the new slopestyle format, and the wave kicker discipline in 2014. Forman said they still have an emphasis on continuing to improve the park and keeping the event fresh.

New this year was an invitational Master’s category that included Andre Philip, Jason Slezak, Joby Cook, Davey Blair, Greg Norman Jr., and Sam Bell. These riders were acknowledged for their longstanding dedication to the Triple S and given a chance to compete in their own division.

According to 3-time overall women’s champion, Colleen Carrol, “The Triple S has done a good job withstanding the test of time, changing, and naturally progressing as the riders and industry want.”

With the possible exception of 16 year old Noe Font, competitors from this year’s Triple S aren’t likely to be vying for the podium 10 years from now. For the Triple S to double its age, a new era of dedicated rail riders will have to grab the steering wheel. Court predicts that the Triple S will endure, “if it stays fun, because people don’t lose interest in fun.”

CRAIG CUNNINGHAM HAS BEEN COMING TO CAPE HATTERAS FOR YEARS AND HIS EXPERIENCE SHOWS!
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH



Bouymaa Guilloul
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MYSTIC

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Make fun
Enjoy the Sun



FLIP
CAP

FIVE
CAP

EWAN JASPEN SENDING ONE OFF THE BEST KICKER!
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH



a decade
of change

MANUELA JUNGO MAKING THE MOST OF THE DYING LIGHT...
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH



“For the Triple S to double its age, a new era of dedicated rail riders will have to grab the steering wheel.”

2015 RESULTS

Men's

1st Place (\$12,000) – Sam Light UK

2nd Place (\$7,500) – Billy Parker USA

3rd Place (\$5,000) – Brandon Scheid USA

4th Place (\$3,000) – James Boulding UK

5th Place (\$2,000) – Christophe Tack BEL

Women's

1st Place (\$4,000) – Colleen Carroll USA

2nd Place (\$2,500) – Sensi Graves USA

3rd Place (\$1,000) – Victoria Soloveykina RUS

Master's

1st Place (\$1,000) – Andre Phillip ATG

2nd Place – Jason Slezak USA

3rd Place – Davey Blair USA

Rookie of the Year Award (\$1,000) –
Christophe Tack BEL

Best Session Award (\$1,000) – Billy Parker USA

Slickstyle Attitude Award (Prize Pack) –
Artem Garashchenko RUS

Best Wipeout (Prize Pack) – Craig Cunningham CAN



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BEHIND THE BRAND

MIKE HUSKY GETTING THAT ALL IMPORTANT R&D DONE!



BEHIND THE BRAND

WAINMAN HAWAII

MIKE "HUSKY" PRZECIECHOWSKI
WAINMAN HAWAII LEAD DESIGNER & CREATIVE DIRECTOR

WORDS ROU CHATER PHOTO WAINMAN HAWAII



How long has the brand been running for now?

It is sometimes hard to believe as it feels like yesterday, but it has already been 8 years since the inception of Wainman Hawaii. Time has definitely flown by in the blink of an eye, but that happens when you are committed and passionate about the products that are developed and a brand that is being created.

You have a very different approach to kite design and product launches, you've just released the 3rd generation of kites, what's the thinking behind the long product lifecycle?

There are several reasons that influence our mindset when determining the product life cycle. To clarify, this is not the 3rd but actually the 4th generation of Rabbit kites, as our first generation of Rabbit kites was called "the series" before we started calling it "the gang" officially.

We have developed other kite lines too, including the RSE (Rabbit School Edition) series and ManiaCs. But of course that doesn't make much difference and yes, we don't rush every season with a new version or product line. It takes time to improve on a solid product that we are so passionate about, that we believe in.

NICCOLO PORCELLA SMASHING A SMALL ONE ON MAUI.
PHOTO QUINCY DEIN

"THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS THAT INFLUENCE OUR MINDSET WHEN DETERMINING THE PRODUCT LIFE CYCLE."



“ THEY DON'T NEED TO REPLACE IT, JUST BECAUSE SOMETHING “NEWER” WAS RELEASED. ”



So why don't we change each model every year? The first reason is you really don't need to. Materials, technology and the fabrics have improved so much (quality wise) now that a rider who doesn't live at the coast riding every windy day can really use their kite for up to 2 years. So unless they really need to replace the used kite with the newer one, they don't need to replace it, just because something “newer” was released.

The second reason is the time that the real R&D takes, during which you can really change something and make things work better. This will usually take longer than just few months of rigorous development, until you reach something that is at least close to what you could call perfection.

What makes the R&D process of kites so elaborate?

Providing kiteboarders with the high performance products with necessary functions, ergonomic features and beautiful artwork has always been Wainman Hawaii's number one priority.

ONE OF THE MOST STYLISH AND TALENTED RIDERS ON THE PLANET, ALVARO ONIEVA, SENDING IT.
PHOTO QUINCY DEIN

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ERIK FRANG, PHOTO: SAMANTHA HILL



“ MULTIPLE FACTORS ARE INVOLVED IN THE KITES DESIGN MAKING IT A VERY HARD AND COMPLICATED CREATION PROCESS. ”

In order to make this happen, the gear, which we design, despite looking very simple must be designed in a very complex way.

In our kites, not only are we providing the riders with a versatile and high performance product, but also a unique look and maximum functionality. Multiple factors are involved in the kites design making it a very hard and complicated creation process.

Depending on how far we are getting from the current point in time, you need something like 12 to 36 months to develop a completely new kite line (consisting of several sizes) that is ready for production. We are talking about making completely new flying devices that didn't exist before.

Changing where the patch is being sewed or what the color of strut is, in my opinion, shouldn't be considered as one. It's just a catalogue variation probably, which could be a good thing too.

The kites themselves are all totally unique, who came up with the concept of having different kites for each size?

In my opinion, I believe the laws of physics did, as there is no other way. When we were developing the first Rabbits I learnt that it was simply impossible to just scale one size up and then down and end up with a complete range of kites, all performing in the same way.



Generally speaking, yes we can divide the sizes into S, M and L but each of these groups requires a completely different approach in order to create the complete and matching range. In light wind we want to ride faster than the wind; in very strong wind we want to do the opposite and look to slow the crazy thing down.

You are designing at least 3 different subtypes of the "same" kite if you want to build a complete and corresponding range. That's why we had our Gypsy 6.5, Smoke 9 and Boss 12: our first 3 Rabbit Series kites, all being different and versatile but based on the same concept – low aspect 3 strut kite. Each of them was designed separately to ensure versatile and great performance in all conditions.



“ LOU IS DEFINITELY A SPORT GENIUS AND AN AMAZING VISIONARY ATHLETE WHO TOOK KITEBOARDING TO ANOTHER LEVEL. ”



Each character complimented the different kite that was developed. And when there was a need to develop the missing sizes, the decision was obvious to continue growing that Rabbit Gang with new members, giving them their unique character and designing them all completely separate.

The deep chord depth is something that you guys have become synonymous with, who came up with original concept for that design and how has it changed over the years?

I guess it was Bruno Legaignoux, the creator of the kiteboarding watersport as we know it. His great shapes (including the best one in my opinion: the Wipika Airblast), were a big inspiration to all of us here.

These low aspect kites worked best on beautiful but gusty Maui, that's for sure. Lou and I became friends pretty much because we were probably one of the last guys still using them.

LOU, EVER THE TRAILBLAZER DOING HIS BIT FOR BEATS!
PHOTO EPES SARGENT



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I was running my kite school with them and always had a bunch. Lou took it as a sign to become my friend I think.... Lou loved low aspect kites and with his sick maneuvers he was throwing at that stage, was proving they could still outperform all the newer modern designs, which everybody else had already started using.

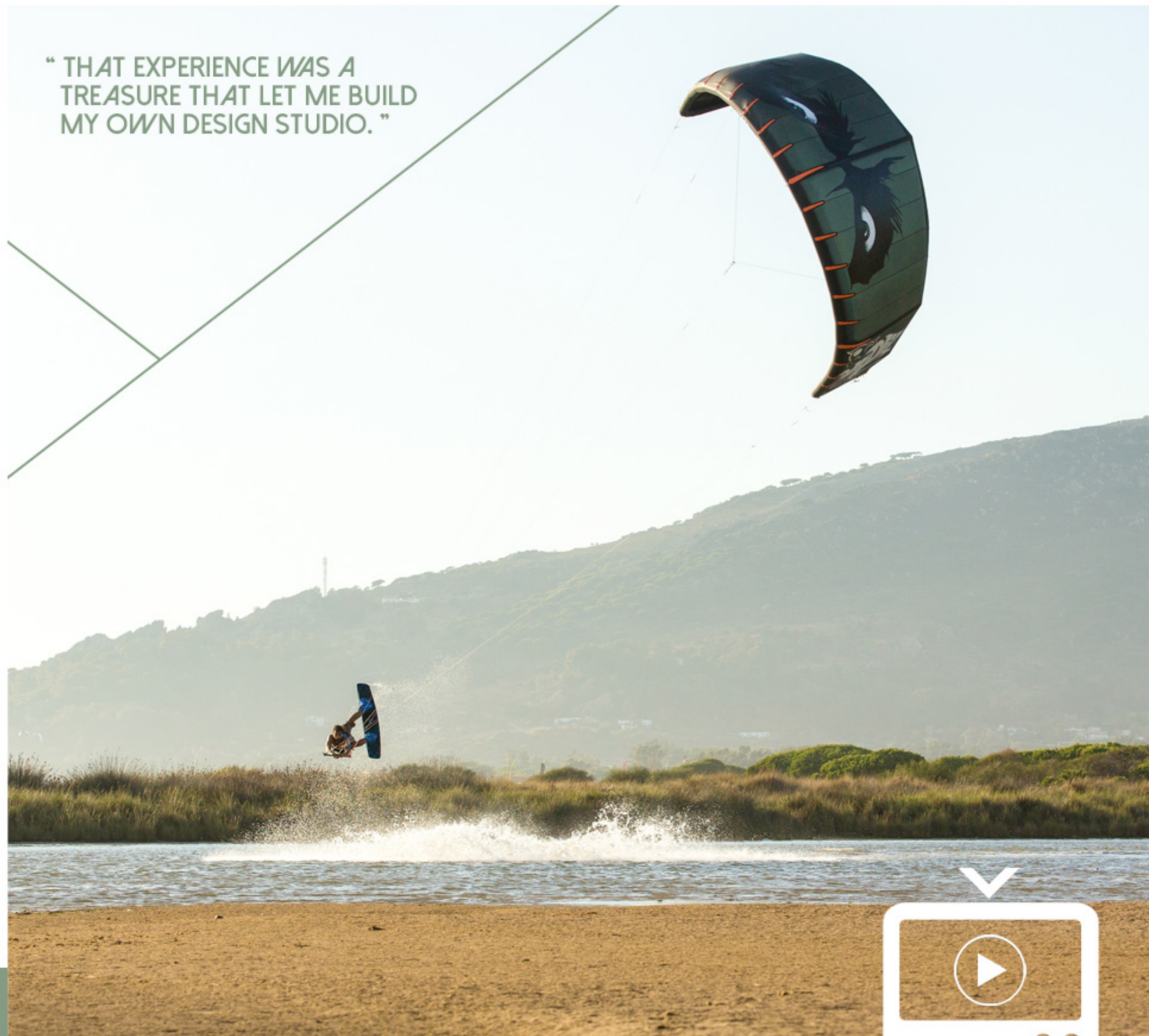
I tried to get Bruno involved when the brand was starting and asked him to become our designer, proposing him a concept of combining his last design of the "bow-kite" giving finally the advantages of broad depower, with the low aspect canopy outline he was designing in his earlier work, and make a round bubbly SLE kite out of that.

He didn't want to participate in making another kite again. He told me he was tired after 25 years and I understood as he did so much for the industry already but I still kept on pushing - I am last day of Taurus and never give up. Nobody else could have helped me but him.

He never decided to start working on it, but ended up giving me some very important tips and friendship, as he aided us with very important parts (of what was left by from his core R&D operation). That experience was a treasure that let me build my own design studio.

ALVARO ONIEVA GETTING WILD BACK HOM IN TARIFAI
PHOTO WAINMAN HAWAII

" THAT EXPERIENCE WAS A
TREASURE THAT LET ME BUILD
MY OWN DESIGN STUDIO. "





ALVARO ONIEVA SETS UP FOR A SELFIE!

“ FROM THE VERY BEGINNING THE EMPHASIS ON QUALITY AND ORIGINAL DESIGNS WAS THE PRIORITY ”



MIKE, WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS...

From the very first incarnation of the kites there was always a great deal of quality and attention to detail, do you work with a particular factory on the production of the gear and do you have a good relationship with them?

Good relations with the factories are definitely crucial in order to relay the needs that the designing team requires for the products that are about to enter the market. I remember my first trip to China eight years ago, going there completely fresh, without knowing what to expect.

From the very beginning the emphasis on quality and original designs was the priority, I soon realised there are very good and open-minded people out there.

I started to test their limits as far as what we can make. The idea of printing the graphics over the entire kite, using golden paints and black canopies made them smile.

The problem was that I wasn't sure what kind of smile it was and so I right away decided – I am going to go all in. After 2 weeks of convincing, meeting the factory managers, executives and even owners, I did it. Right now we have probably one of the best relationships with our most important factories. It is a real close friendship between the owners and all different levels of workers.

Both sides really appreciate and focus on the attention to the visible detail, and the market appreciates it too!

But we are also aware that there were situations (that many global brands have to deal with) where our customer`s suffered because of the production process imperfections that happened with our products too.

This happens despite brother-like relations in China and other places around the world where parts for our products are being made. The most important thing is to be constantly very involved, aware and really understand absolutely all the ingredients that together add up to a final product.

When something (knock on the wood), maybe goes wrong, you can have an instant idea where to look for a reason and come up with solution ASAP.



SCREAMER
7, 9, 10^L TO 12, 14M





“ LOU IS DEFINITELY A SPORT GENIUS AND AN AMAZING VISIONARY ATHLETE WHO TOOK KITEBOARDING TO ANOTHER LEVEL. ”

I am lucky to have great guys working in my team and so even if something bad happens the remedies are found and executed quickly so the customers can keep on being stoked.

Obviously the brand was started around Lou Wainman, the legend, how involved was he in recent years in terms of the design?

Lou is definitely a sport genius and an amazing visionary athlete who took kiteboarding to another level. He inspired many kiteboarders around the world including the crew working on the Wainman Hawaii project. As far as his participation in the company, he has not really been involved in the actual design aspect of our products.

Instead, similar to many brands that base their company image on icons of the sport, his role was being the face of the company: the legendary/core brand that was created based on original and unique new design concepts; the early day image of the eccentric sport pioneer and amazing kiter who was first to throw tricks on a wakeboard while all others were still trying to stay upwind. The idea was for Lou to ride, inspire, promote the brand and share the stoke.

Any brand is always much more than just one person, how many people do you have on the team and who works on what?

Absolutely. We employ around 20 professional employees worldwide and that`s what makes Wainman Hawaii. We have various departments (R&D, Marketing, Sales, Production etc.) and key individuals that work in cross-functional teams and roles to achieve the common goal.

LOU, EVER THE TRAILBLAZER DOING HIS BIT FOR BEATS!
PHOTO EPES SARGENT



" I TRUST THAT THE FUTURE WILL BE GOOD, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS."

What does the future hold for you and for Lou?

Nobody can predict the future, especially somebody`s else`s future. From what I know we can only assume it. My assumptions are made through the optimistic lenses as that`s what I always wear. So I trust that the future will be good, no matter what happens. I really hope me and Lou will always be good friends.

Relations are very important in business but so are many other things too: the legal agreements, the liability, loans, contracts and investors. Just because reality is different than what we would want it to be, does not justify you throwing the toys down on the carpet and stopping being committed.

Whatever you are responsible for, until the ball is out of bounds and is not in the game, you don`t leave the field and give 100% of yourself instead.

FOREST BAKKER THROWING DOWN ON MAUI.
PHOTO QUINCY DEIN

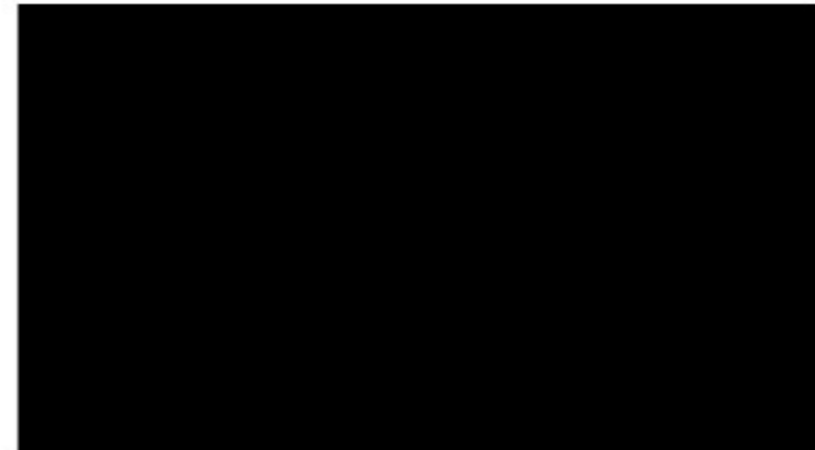


// RIDER: TOMMY GAUNT

SCULP

3m / 5m / 7m / 8m / 9m / 10m / 11m / 12m / 13m / 14m
BLUE / GREEN / ORANGE / SILVER

FREERIDE/FREESTYLE.





NICCOLO PORCELLA WITH THE NEW GAMBLER ON MAUI
PHOTO TRACY LEBOE



FRANZ ORLY, ONE OF THE ORIGINALS!



SUSI MAI GETTING HER FOIL ON!
PHOTO ERIK AEDER

On my own, as his friend I will definitely do all I can so the company can still be supporting Lou while letting him be himself. Although, this can't be done without him wanting this of course.

What's the design process for Wainman Hawaii in terms of going from a concept to getting a product on the shop floor?

Hahaha, you want me to share the secrets? No problem! First define what you need and why you need that. Give it a name, even if you can't find the perfect one, call it something, the perfect synonyms will come later if needed, but you will already have some "friend" to work with.

You will have that relationship already defined by what you want to create from it. Then start the crazy circle of designing it and prototyping it. In the meantime work with an artist on graphical schemes and hope that the geographical weather situations won't delay your testing plans, etc.

Do all that in circles, until you know "The Antonio" is ready for a birth. Then release it for mass production. Add some time in for transport and adequate marketing, and then "the baby" ends up on the shop floor. Took me like 30 seconds to say it, but in real time it takes approximately 300,000 times longer, haha.

The ManiaC was launched last year, who was behind the design on that kite and why did you feel the market was ready for a C kite?

Like all our kites The ManiaC was developed by my R&D team from scratch and was inspired by the old school classic C-shape to fulfill the requirements of the most demanding riders who push the limits. For me, there is no better and more all round kite than the Rabbit, but I am not an extreme freestyle rider.

When you decide that waves or ultimate freeride is not your forte, as you only want to rip, charge, throw down, you have to cater to that demand.



“ KITEBOARDERS ARE PEOPLE WITH AMAZING SKILLS AND TALENTS: SMART DUDES. THAT’S WHY THEY END UP KITING. ”



The second generation of ManiaC`s that we are currently putting together, is aided with testing input from Alvaro Onieva and other great competition freestyle riders, helping me lead the process even better - so expect an insane ManiaC to be released soon.

Of course, just like the first generation, the new one will have a great modern type of water re-launch, without swimming to it, and tons of character. It will also have greater amount of slack, slightly lighter bar pressure but massive pop, will be even more stable in kite-loops and will look more green this time!

What was the Rabbit fans response for the new kite?

It was a surprise for some of them at first, since they didn’t see a need for a specialized freestyle kite, with great features already present in the Rabbits, but it was also expected to a certain extent. It was a natural move for us to develop this type of kite and they understood that this was the only way.

There are young devoted cats out there who choose to specialize and non-compromising is the definition. We still call all our riders and ourselves the Rabbit Gang as this is where we came from – the unique characters with good spirit, real global gang, but built on foundations of respect, fun, off main stream, and genuine passion.

The ManiaC is a part of our gang no matter how wild his nature is and that’s the best answer to all questions.

CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE



NICCOLO PORCELLA IS FAMOUS FOR HIS PUNTS, IT IS EASY TO SEE WHY!
PHOTO TRACY LEOE

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TECHNIQUE



This issue, ladies and gents, we have 3 new tasty morsels for you. First off, we'll take you for a quick tour through the ins and outs of the BLT to toeside. Following on, we'll then have a look through all the ingredients of the front foot one foot front loop, a veritable gem in the terms of new school old school! And finally, we'll walk you through the hooked in grabbed popped front to blind, with optional ole. Something for the weekend! Have fun!



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BACK LOOP TRANSITION TO TOESIDE



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

FRONT FOOT ONE FOOT FRONT LOOP



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

HOOKED POPPED FRONT TO BLIND WITH GRAB



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

BACK LOOP TRANSITION TO TOESIDE >

Board XO 133

Kite Chaos 7m

Here's a fun variation on a theme. Everyone loves a BLT (perhaps with a sausage roll chaser) and sticking it to toeside adds an extra dimension. As a move it will force you to control your rotation speed and therefore help you to improve your transitions in general. Having a floaty BLT will be of benefit, but it's not a must, and we'd suggest landing onto your preferred toeside otherwise you'll have a lot going on and loads to think about.

As per any transition, your main aims are to scrub off enough speed so that you don't have forward momentum, control your rotation so that you can land where you want, and keep the kite overhead and under tension so that you can dive it hard to pull you out of the move. Let's see how best to do these....

The Approach Pic A

It all starts here, so best work on this first. You're aiming for some height with float so that you've got time to rotate and then add in the toeside landing. However, you don't want any forward momentum! The answer to controlling your speed lies in edging hard upwind and not pulling on the bar – as you turn further upwind you slow down. This is all you need to do, however it's tempting to push the bar right out to dump power and also drift the kite up slowly to slow down. Don't be tempted, as this will affect your take off and height. To get the height you still need to send



your kite up from 11 or 1 o'clock and it needs to move quickly to generate the necessary lift, so it'll be a short but sharp send up to 12, whilst edging hard upwind. Only send the kite once you're happy that you've slowed sufficiently. You can see in the photo that Karine is edging hard upwind, twisting and looking, whilst sending the kite with meaning, but for a short time, with the bar on the sweet spot. Her aim is to get a lot of up and not too much travel forward or downwind.

The Take Off Pic B

Your take off will determine both the height you gain and the speed of your rotation. Just like a sweet BLT,



your effort should be focused on going up and not on spinning around. Carving into wind should be enough to start your rotation and keep it slow, so keep your head looking forwards, don't be tempted to throw it over your shoulder. Following your short, sharp send you should stamp up off your back foot, extending through your entire body for maximum up. As you do this level the bar and squeeze it in. Looking at the pic you can see that Karine's head is looking forwards, she's extended up, her bar is in on the sweet spot and levelled to stop the kite at 12 o'clock. If you feel that the kite has moved too far and is past 12, give the bar a quick pull with your original front hand to bring it back above you.



The Float Pic C

Once you're airborne you need to get balanced, keep tension on the lines and rotate slowly around. Karine brings her knees up, which puts her in a compact yet dynamic position with the bar in close. With tension on the lines she not only keeps power and therefore float in the kite, but it's easier for her to keep and feel the kite above her at 12 o'clock. In this position the

kite is ready and quick to respond to any alterations that she may make. Karine keeps her head still, looking forward between her shoulders, which helps maintain the slow back loop that she initiated on take off by carving up.

Prepare for Landing Pic D

With her head, body and kite in this position Karine waits until she can see where she wants to land,



which will be downwind. Until she spots her landing Karine keeps still, wait, wait and wait some more. Once Karine spots her landing she must wait until she feels that she's descending, then it's time to dive the kite hard, straight down through the window, so she gives the bar a hefty pull on her new front hand and a push on the new back hand. As the power comes on it's important to keep the bar in on the sweet spot so that the power pulls you downwind.



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Toeside Pic E

As the kite pulls you downwind you must get yourself into a toeside position so that you're ready for landing. This is where landing on your favourite toeside helps, as your body will undoubtedly be happy to comply. Just as you would for any form of toeside landing, bring your back knee through, up and over as you turn your head and upper body to face across towards the new direction of travel. Karine is bringing her left leg up and through, whilst diving the kite and looking at where she intends to land.

The Landing Pic F

Aim to land tail first and be ready to carve onto your toes so that you will keep enough tension in your lines in order that you can pull the kite up out of its dive. Look where you want to go and get both knees, your hips and your upper body committed upwind as soon as you can and make sure that your hips move forward to trim the board so that you can accelerate out and not bog the tail. Having just landed Karine is already in a solid toeside position, heading upwind and in control of the kite.

Top Tips

A slow rotation is everything, so concentrate on a few slow back loops or BLTs before adding the toeside. You can use your pop up into the move to brake and kill off any excess speed that you may have. And diving the kite hard will always make the landing easier to stick.

Have a good look at the sequence and videos to see it in full swing.



Common Problems

If you find that the kite always moves too far during the move, the chances are that you are not sending it aggressively enough, and instead just drifting it up as you carve into the wind. To combat this make a point of parking it at 11 or 1 and only moving it with a committed bar movement once you have slowed.



If you are rotating too quickly it will be difficult to effectively change the direction of the board and land toeside. Slow back loops are a fundamental move to many tricks and under doing it is key. Use your carve and pop to get around, but don't throw your head and shoulders into this move.

Keystones

1. Park kite and slow down.
2. Send hard, but short.
3. Pop up hard and extend.
4. Keep head neutral.
5. Spot landing, dive hard and bring back knee up and through.



FRONT FOOT ONE FOOT FRONT LOOP >

Board Ace 139**Kite** Chaos 9m

A few issues back we covered the front foot one foot jump, this time round we'll be looking at adding a front rotation into the mix. Although based around this most cheeky of foot outs, combining it with a front loop/roll brings about a new set of challenges, namely controlling both the kite and your rotation. So let's not beat around the bush, but rather get into the nitty gritty of this rather long named spectacle.

The first part of this is getting the jump right. You'll need some height, so that you have a suitable amount of time on your hands to rotate slowly enough that you can get the foot out and back in, and of course you'll want float so that you're suspended all the while with no sudden and surprising changes in altitude! With this in mind let's ponder getting airborne.

The Send & Edge Pic A

To send yourself up into the skies with enough control you'll need a decent edge and a hefty send. For the edge concentrate on not pulling the bar in past the sweet spot, otherwise you'll be pulled off downwind. Make sure that you resist well, hips back, shoulders twisted, back leg flexed but solid so that you are driving all the power through your back heel. For the send make sure you use both hands to steer the kite so that it moves quickly from just below 1 or 11 o'clock up past 12. The combination of these two elements will make for an elevator type jump with



little downwind ping. Here Christian has a good, solid edge. He's looking over his shoulder whilst resisting hard with his legs and sending the kite aggressively around the sweet spot.

The Take Off Pic B

If you get the edge and send right then this next stage is the make or break bit. You want to take off with your kite already controlled and where you want it so that you don't need to do too much whilst flying, and you need to set your front rotation in motion so that it's slow and controlled. Look at Pic B where you will see that Christian's back leg is extended whilst his front leg is bent up. This is the result of him kicking hard upwind against his edge and moving his head



forward towards his front shoulder as he took off. This should be enough to set his rotation in motion. Notice how his shoulder is not tipping down and his head is not looking around yet. He doesn't want to spin fast and neither do you. Also, note how Christian has pulled the bar in level, to get the kite to its flying position just behind 12 o'clock. If the kite goes too far back as per a normal jump it'll be difficult to redirect it enough from the position that you will be in.

The Grab Pic C

As soon as the kite is still and you're on the way up it's time to get the tail grab. If you're going up quickly the pull will be extending you, so focus on lifting your knees in an effort to get the board near,



lifting the back knee higher so that you can reach the grab whilst keeping the front of the board a tad lower to help free the front foot. Christian is freeing his front foot, looking for the tail grab and he's released his back hand. The bar is still level and in just past the sweet spot to keep tension and therefore float in the kite. Note that up to this point how slow the rotation is, Christian hasn't even turned 90° yet.

Free The Foot Pic D

If your foot is loose-ish in the strap



" HE'S HOLDING THE TAIL IN AND IS PUSHING HIS FREE FOOT AWAY. "

you should be able to free it by pulling the tail both up and in towards you. This will twist the board off your front foot. As your foot comes out try to extend your leg up, which in turn will lean you back and help continue the rotation. You can see that Christian still has the bar in for support, he's holding the tail in and is pushing his free foot away.

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7.0 9.0 11.0 13.0 15.0 LW 18.0 LW

Foot In Pic E

As you come around from facing upwind you should think about getting your foot back in. Looking at the photo you can see that Christian is looking at the front strap so that he can guide his foot in. He's also holding the grab tight, this way he can both push his foot in using his leg and push the board on using his hand. Make sure that you get your foot back in, as if your heel is hanging over the footpad you'll find landing very difficult. Once the foot is in turn your head so that you can spot your landing, which will guarantee that you finish off your rotation.

Landing Pic F

Due to your position in the air you'll rotate around under the bar, which may feel awkward at first, but the usual rule applies and that is to land you need to dive the kite hard down through the window. If you don't you'll likely over rotate, as you'll be forced to let the bar out. Christian has dropped his legs and the board ready for landing and is pulling hard on the front hand to dive the kite – bingo.

Top Tips

We said it at the beginning and we'll say it again now, it's about flying the kite above you so that you have support, whilst rotating slowly so that you have time. Think of it as a two part front loop, two lots of 180° rather than one continuous motion.

Have a look at the **sequence** and **videos** for the Full Monty action.

Common Problems

Not getting your foot out. As with many foot outs or



board offs, if you're not comfortable jumping with loose straps make sure that you wiggle your foot loose before setting up for the jump.

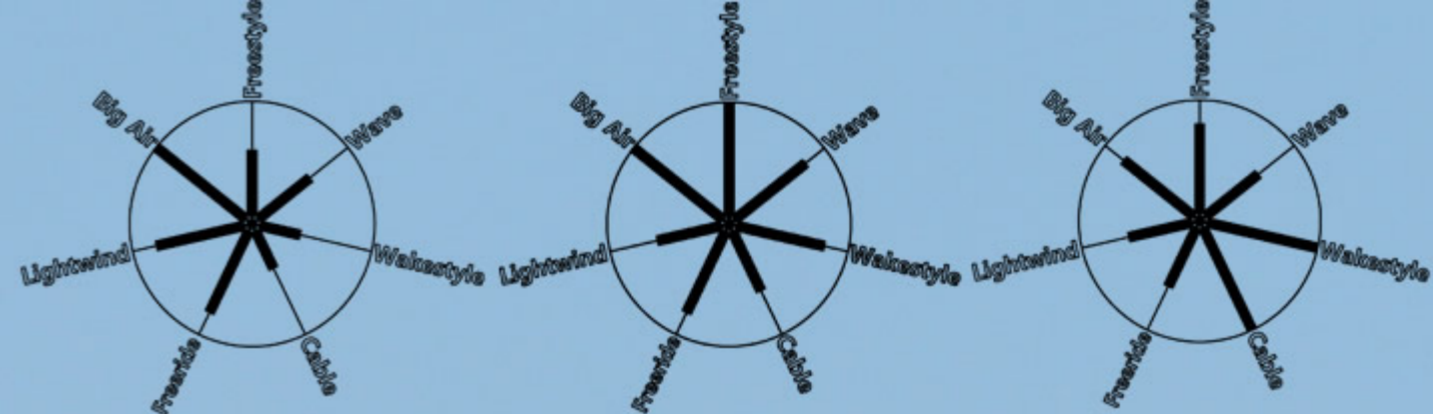
Landing with no power and sinking. This is the classic due to the position you end up in. You mustn't send the kite too far back so think more of a bow type jump; short, sharp send and then pull the bar. Also, make sure that when you dive the kite at the end that you not only pull down on the bar but that you also use your wrist to steer the kite.



If you're over rotating take a step back and practice some slow front loops.

Keystones

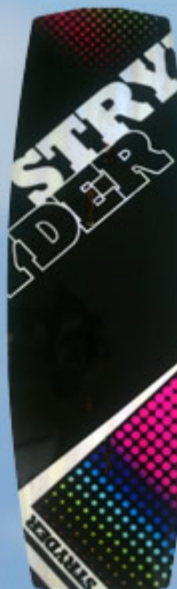
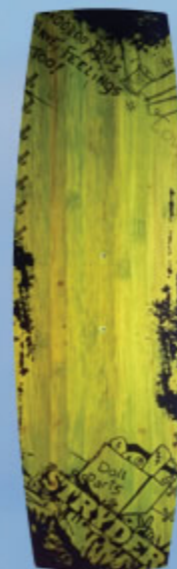
1. Wiggle foot free, send hard and edge well.
2. Move head and shoulders forward as you stamp up into your front.
3. Immediately get kite still just behind 12 o'clock, lift legs.
4. Twist board off front foot and extend leg.
5. Foot in and turn to complete rotation – dive hard.



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HOOKED POPPED FRONT TO BLIND WITH GRAB >

Board XO 133

Kite Chaos 7m

Grabbing always adds that extra touch of style, if you'll excuse the pun, so adding one into an already technical move should feel pretty awesome and will definitely give you some extra kudos. Here you'll be spicing up the hooked front to blind so it's something within many riders reach and can be performed in a wide range of conditions. As a cheeky bonus we'll add on an ole at the end, but you're welcome to keep riding blind.

Let's have an in-depth look at the required building blocks to get this nailed and consistent. As a quick reminder, as with every popped trick, you'll need to approach with your hands centred on the bar, weight back, front leg extended, bar trimmed in close enough that you can carve back up against the kite, kite at or just below 11 or 1 o'clock and off the wind. This way you'll be ready to explode up without using the kite, but have the confidence and air to commit. The higher you have your kite the harder it will be to edge, but the more lift you'll have, so it's a compromise that you'll need to balance depending on conditions and kite size. That said, for learning err on the high side so you'll have time and won't feel that it's necessary to drift the kite up.

Take Off Pic A

If one word describes what your take off should be it's 'up'. It's often the case that we rush into a front



rotation, throwing ourselves down towards the water and not exploding up against our edge. As you carve up against the kite you should be in a strong position, bum low, front leg extended, back leg ready to stamp and shoulders back. From here you can kick hard through your back heel and explode up against your edge, fully extending before turning your head into the rotation. That said, as you kick you will move your shoulders towards the nose of the board, which will lift your front leg and give you momentum to rotate, so to initiate the rotation turn your head to look up and over your back shoulder. Do this with your kite still, but high enough and you'll be rewarded with more than enough pop to complete the move. In the picture you can see that Karine's back leg has fully extended,



popping her up, her front knee is lifting and her shoulders and head are turning – she's going up and around.

The Grab Pic B

Once you've extended and have got your rotation under way you must concentrate on the grab, as you won't have much time. First try to bring your knees and board up towards you so that the board is within reach. We're aiming for potentially the simplest of grabs on the heel side edge of the tail, as this is most likely the grab that you first learnt whilst jumping. As you bring the board up release your back hand and extend it down towards the tail. As you'll be rotating fast you won't have time to look for the grab do it by feel, even if it means that you just get a touch at first.



Whilst you're rushing through this don't forget the kite, you need to keep the bar in on the sweet spot without pulling hard on the front hand. Here Karine is reaching down whilst lifting the board towards her, concentrating on feeling the grab and keeping the kite still.

Balance Pic C

You may find at first that you get the grab late, but even so do try and hold it until you complete your front rotation. Having both hands busy will improve your chances of claiming the landing. With only your front hand on



" SHE WILL RELEASE IT AS SHE THROWS THE BLIND. "

on the bar you could support yourself on your front hand, resulting in the kite moving down too low. However much like keeping two hands on the bar until you throw the blind in the non-grabbed predecessor of this trick, holding the grab until it's time will keep you balanced and ready. You can see that Karine is holding her grab as she comes around her rotation and she will release it as she throws the blind.



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All the above activities are offered independently or combined together in fixed and tailored made packages according to the clients desires.

Throwing the Blind Pic D

If you've already got some blind tricks down and in the bag you will have this part automated by now. If you're still fairly new to blind landings hooked in there are two things to remember. Firstly, you are driving. By this we mean that you should decide when you go to blind, it should not be part of your rotation. To split your front from the blind look where you are going so that you can spot your potential landing zone and focus on it. This should hopefully aim you as if you were simply landing downwind. The second point is that you're aiming to land over the board on your new back foot, not on an edge, so as you throw the blind you want to remain upright, you don't want to be bending down and admiring your reflection in the water. From here you can then pull very gently on the front hand, lift your legs, release your back hand, rotate the board with your hips and turn your shoulders, finally aiming to keep your back foot high and close to your derriere. Looking at Karine you can see that as she throws the blind and turns, she is pulling her back foot up, and keeping her head and shoulders high, chin up so to speak. This will make the landing and following ole much, much easier.

The Landing Pic E

The result, as you can see in this photo, is a perfect landing. Karine is upright over the board, as you may be on a snowboard for example, but she's touching down new back foot first which will prevent her tripping a rail or bogging the nose and sinking. Both legs are absorbing the landing and she's pushed the bar away so that she lands with momentum and no



pull from the kite. Final thought, her board is facing fairly downwind, which means that it's very unlikely that she'll end up on an edge, putting tension back on the lines, and she is chasing the kite which will give her time to ole.

Ole Pic F

When considering the ole it's probably worth comparing Pic E and this one. To ole the bar you need a certain amount of slack or, if you prefer, you don't want tension in the lines. So landing sufficiently downwind is paramount. If you land on an edge you'll tension the lines and it'll be impossible. In the previous photo Karine landed downwind and she also has her bar pushed away. This gives her some slack and it also prevents the kite from diving. Now, to



further increase your chances of the ole you can get some weight onto your heels to make the board turn further off the wind. To achieve this you turn your head. Looking again at this photo you can see that Karine has turned her head, which rolls her shoulders around, pushing the weight back onto her heels. Having no tension now means that Karine can push the bar upwind and across in front of her face until it reaches the other side and she's transformed her blind into toeside – magic.

Top Tips

Blind is a landing. As we mentioned earlier you're not trying to continue your front rotation into the blind, rather momentarily focus on your landing to slow down and then throw the blind, it's two movements.



Also the ole is an add on, don't think of it until after you've landed. If you go for the ole whilst throwing the blind you'll over rotate and plant your heelside edge, so concentrate on landing blind, and if you do this correctly you'll have plenty of time to think and execute the ole.

Build up to this, so start with some popped fronts, then some grabbed fronts, and only then add on the blind.

Common Problems

Not getting the grab. Bring those knees up and reach

down. If it's not automatic practice it with a sent front.

Landing hard and falling backwards. This means that you're sneaking the kite up and as you pop it's continuing past 12 o'clock. With little forward momentum on landing it'll be heaving and with the kite behind 12 it'll be difficult to throw the blind hard enough to land enough downwind, so you'll be catching the edge. If this is happening concentrate on starting with the kite high, but keep it still.

Keystones

1. Explode up and then around
2. Bring the board up and reach down with your back hand
3. Hold the grab and look for your landing
4. Release grab and throw blind
5. Lift back leg and land off the wind



REECE MYERSCOUGH SKIMMING OVER THE FRIGID
WATERS AROUND VANCOUVER ISLAND BC

Richard Myerscough has been providing solutions to problems since before he can remember. What started as a need to build himself wetsuits for the cold waters of Vancouver Island, BC has morphed into the international brand Ocean Rodeo. Reece, Richards son, appears to be following in his fathers footsteps, this is an interesting tale of two generations bound by a love for the water, no matter how cold it might be!



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WORDS ROU CHATER PHOTOS COURTESY OF OCEAN RODEO

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REECE PUTTING HIS FAVOURITE BOARD, THE DUKE THROUGH IT'S PACES.

Right now it's all over the map: foil boards, formula boards, tube kites and foil kites. It would be nice to have a class, racing/competition format that showcased the sport - we need good TV action!

Richard, when you raced in the Division II windsurfing class in the 1988 Olympics were there any similarities to the issues kitesurfing is facing now, or was it a little different back then?

It's different, but similar. There are usually biased entities in the background looking to hedge decisions on equipment to fit their goals, which may not always be in the best interest of the sport as a whole.

“ THERE ARE USUALLY BIASED ENTITIES IN THE BACKGROUND LOOKING TO HEDGE DECISIONS ON EQUIPMENT TO FIT THEIR GOALS ”



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RICHARD MYERSCOUGH SMASHING A COLD ONE!

“ YOU COULD DO WELL AT THE MAIN EVENTS, BUT TO BEAT GOOD SAILOR ON THE BEST GEAR WAS TOUGH. ”

The problems with windsurfing at the Olympics started in 1984 – the first appearance of windsurfing at the Games. Politics became involved and a fringe board called the Windglider was chosen as the

board for 1984 over the insanely popular Windsurfer One Design. In most parts of the world you couldn't even find a Windglider. They were awful, big heavy fiberglass pieces of sh!t that no one wanted to use.

That was perhaps the single worst windsurfing board I ever used - it was designed to be heavier and slower than everything on the market!

The Windsurfer on the other hand was incredibly popular all over the world. It was simple and had a fun, classic long board shape similar to today's entry level SUPs. Windsurfer One Design events had freestyle, slalom, course racing and long distance - super fun events that were attainable for all levels. They had weight classes, so big or small you could be competitive at Windsurfer One Design events.

For 1988 they choose Div 2 boards. These were special purpose race boards that were only suitable for racing around a triangle course. Very tippy but fast, a bit like learning to kite foil, a new learning curve of the same sport.

The Div 2 racing leading up to the Olympics was semi-open, with fairly lax measurement restrictions. The lead up to the Games was somewhat of a gear war. You could do well at the main events, but to beat good sailor on the best gear was tough.

All for naught however, as the '88 Games were sailed on supplied Lechner One Design boards - all identical gear. The One Design changed the results, sailors that couldn't compete in the gear game suddenly pushed their way to the top.

Do both of you feel that the Olympics is relevant to kitesurfing, what benefits will the inclusion to the Tokyo games bring?

Snowboarding's inclusion to the winter games is a good comparison.

It started as just downhill racing, and not really representative of the sport as they tried to make snowboarding fit into the downhill ski-racing scene. This is perhaps similar to kiteboarding within yachting.

51 GENERATIONS...

51 GENERATIONS...



Photo: Lewis Crathern / Best Kites

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Have either of you got into foilboarding yet in Vancouver? I know Richard likes to set the trends so we were wondering if you guys were pioneering that aspect of our sport over there at all?

Richard: I had my first foil board back in the mid 2000's. It was tough to use at our local spot with kelp, weed and debris. I did see the potential though as we had a long distance race in Nitinat Lake in 2007. Richard Thomson from the UK showed up and started last (perhaps on the beach having a beer?) but was at the weather mark 1st, he was pointing almost straight upwind...

Reece: I'm just learning right now, we have a board at the shop I can use, but right now I'd rather go on the directional and shred some surf.

RICHARD AND REECE HAVE ALWAYS GOT EACH OTHERS BACK!

"RIGHT NOW I'D RATHER GO ON THE DIRECTIONAL AND SHRED SOME SURF."

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CRUISING THE SPIT, IT MIGHT BE COLD HERE, BUT THERE IS PLENTY OF VARIETY!



“ IT’S NOT OVER UNTIL IT’S OVER AND NEVER GIVE UP ON THE RACE COURSE. ”

I’ve adapted my riding style to spin the bar without a stopper, it’s super easy and fast. I wear a Soul drysuit most days as the water is always cold at home.

What was the design process behind the new Mako Duke board Richard, what sets it apart from other surfboards on the market?

The Duke has a really unique rocker; it’s

essentially a twin tip rocker, equal at both ends. The outline and volume distribution is symmetrical, and tuned up to favour directional riding.

For light wind and speed, we made the centre line rocker almost completely flat; if you look down the centre line in the deepest part of the concave you’ll see this.

The 17mm concave takes shapes by the rails dropping down from the straight centre line profile creating a more familiar surfboard rocker “curve” as you work out to the rails.

The blend of the two designs gives a fast, smooth riding board that carves and eats chop like a Mako twintip, but with a surfboard rail when you engage it.

The balanced rocker tip and tail give a massive sweet spot; ride it feet on the tail, in the middle or on the nose, it still rips along and feels good. We went and stuffed the thruster fin setup right towards the tail to keep the board loose at low speeds and for sharp snappy turns and sliding moves. The concave provides all the grip you need if you bury the rail during high speed carves.

For construction we went with high compression moulding for toughness, low weight and consistency in the manufacturing process. The deck foam is tip to tail EVA with lightening holes for the ultimate in grip.

Do you both get the time to ride on the water together, despite the busy schedules?

We check the wind every day, if the wind’s up we’re on it. We’re fortunate to live across the street from the water which makes for quick and easy sessions.

Reece what’s the most important thing your father has taught you?

The 10,000 hour rule is effective if you want to be truly good at something; you need to put in the time and stick to it.

Richard what’s the most important thing your son has taught you?

It’s not over until it’s over, and never give up on the race course. I’ve seen him make some amazing comebacks in situations where I would probably have called it a day!

Cheers guys, thanks for taking the time!

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2015 KITES >

Cabrinha Drifter 9m
Ocean Rodeo Prodigy 9.5m
Ozone Catalyst 8m
Slingshot Turbine 15m

2015 TWIN TIPS >

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Liquid Force Element
Naish Mega
Nobile Beleza NHP
Shinn Bronq
Slingshot Vision
Stryder Halo

2015 SURFBOARDS >

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For Her

Dakine Wahine
ION Nova Diamond
Prolimit Pure Edge



WORDS THE IKSURFMAG TEST TEAM
PHOTO THIS PAGE STEPHEN KLEINLEIN
TEST PHOTOS THE IKSURFMAG TEST TEAM

BRAND CABRINHA MODEL DRIFTER SIZE 9M YEAR 2015



" RIDE'S INSANELY WELL, TO THE POINT YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF TRYING TO GET PITTED EVERYWHERE "



AT A GLANCE

Cabrinha has been at the forefront of kitesurfing since the beginning, founded by Pete Cabrinha in 2000. Being a subsidiary of the Pryde Group, well known in Windsurfing for NeilPryde sails and accessories, Cabrinha has had some of the world's top designers and products from the get go.

The Drifter is Cabrinha's high-end wave kite. Designed specifically for this purpose, the Drifter is well known throughout the industry as a top contender, with many professionals using and ranking high on the podium with it.

Taking a look at the elements that have been considered and put into the design we can see that the Drifter has had a lot of thought. Designed for fast relaunch, direct steering, crazy amounts of slack line drift, super fast turning speed, all combined with a extensive amount of depower, it ticks every box when looking for a wave kite. The Drifter is a 3-strut kite, making it lighter, more efficient through the sky and less likely to stall when drifting. This kite also features the Sprint Airlock valve making pumping easy - not really needed on these smaller wave kites,

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BRAND OCEAN RODEO MODEL PRODIGY SIZE 9.5M YEAR 2015



" ROBUST,
FEATURE-PACKED
KITE THAT
HANDLES
IMPECCABLY IN
A VARIETY OF
CONDITIONS. "



AT A GLANCE

Starting in 1999 with their first product, the PYRO drysuit, Ocean Rodeo have been around since the beginning of kitesurfing time. Based in Vancouver Island, Canada, the company started off making drysuits before moving onto kites and now a range of equipment. Considering that the conditions they ride in are so cold, rugged and often hit by North Pacific storms, getting the design and, most importantly, the build quality of their products right is imperative.

For 2015 Ocean Rodeo updated their widely successful SLE kite the "Prodigy" and we were lucky enough to get our hands onto it. Updated with new graphics, available in a variety of colours and packed with some top features this wave/freeride orientated kite is well worth a gander. The Prodigy is a 3-strut designed kite built with FLITE technology making it lighter and a lot faster through the sky. For those of you who have used the 2014 Prodigy, don't fear - it has not by any way altered its stability in the sky or how it feels on the bar.

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WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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BRAND OZONE MODEL CATALYST SIZE 8M YEAR 2015



" A BEAUTIFULLY PREDICTABLE AND STABLE KITE, TRICKS AND FLIPS ARE MADE EASY! "



AT A GLANCE

The Catalyst from Ozone has been around since 2009 and sits in their line up as the all-round, do-it-all kite. Featuring 3 struts, an Open-C design and a pulley-less bridle system, the Catalyst is a simple, yet very effective kite. For 2015, the Catalyst has had all tiny niggles tidied up to create a stunningly efficient kite.

A large inflate/deflate valve makes pumping up incredibly fast, and packing down almost instant.

Ozone have opted for Taijin D2 canopy material, and Taijin Dacron resulting in a strong and crisp feeling kite, which will withstand some serious beatings. One-pump, back line adjustments, and also various back line attachment points, are all some of the extras as standard on the Catalyst.

A simple backpack style bag holds kite, bar and repair kite well, with enough straps on the outside to hold another kite if needed. The repair pack included holds more spares than you hopefully will ever need.

Sizes: 4,6,7,8,9,10,12,14meter

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BRAND SLINGSHOT MODEL TURBINE SIZE 15M YEAR 2015



" ONCE MOVING,
YOU COULD
LEAN BACK AND
EAT A HAM
SANDWICH IT'S
SO CHILLED "



AT A GLANCE

The Turbine from Slingshot has been around for a fair few years and is one of the first kites which springs to everyone's minds when talking light wind specific. New for 2015 is the addition of a 15meter to compliment the already successful 17meter. The 15m has been designed for those a little smaller for whom a 17m may be too big, but still want to get out and riding in that fickle under 12knot wind.

The Turbine is built to Slingshot's usual high standard with great attention to detail and design. The kite is an Open Delta C-shape, so has large swept tips but with some solid power available for any tricks you may wish to pull.

On such a large kite, the bridles will also be large, but with no pulleys the rider still enjoys a direct feel to the kite.

The Turbine also features the legendary SplitStrut technology, whereby the kite feels extremely solid in the sky and will withstand some serious beatings.

TO VISIT THEIR
WEBSITE, CLCK HERE



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"RIDING THROUGH CHOP WAS ENTIRELY ENJOYABLE, RATHER THAN A HEADACHE-INDUCING NIGHTMARE"



BRAND LIQUID FORCE MODEL BLISS
SIZE 129 X 39.5 YEAR 2015

AT A GLANCE

Kitesurf and wakeboard giants, Liquid Force, have presented us with the Bliss as their board created specifically for the female rider. It has been a mainstay in their line up for a good few years, complimenting their impressive range. The Bliss has been designed as an all-round women's board, intended to take you from your first runs all the way to a high level of freestyle riding. Featuring a medium rocker, soft flex and a wood composite core,

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"IT POPS LIKE PRINGLES AND LANDS LIKE A FEATHER."



BRAND LIQUID FORCE MODEL ELEMENT
SIZE 139 X 42 YEAR 2015

AT A GLANCE

Starting primarily as a wakeboard company, Liquid Force moved onto making kiteboards a number of years ago now. Bringing across their extensive knowledge from the boards of the past, they have been highly successful within the kite industry.

For 2015 Liquid Force has 11 boards in their stable. We were lucky enough to get our hands on a few and here we will be taking you through our thoughts on the 2015 Element, Christophe Tack's pro model board.

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" CARVING...
BOOSTING...
POPPING...
THE MEGA
NAILED IT! "



BRAND NAISH MODEL MEGA
SIZE 136 X 42 YEAR 2015

AT A GLANCE

Naish are another brand that has not only been around since the beginning of time, but have been at the forefront of kitesurfing's development as a sport and with the technology of the gear. Founded by Robby Naish back in the early days, Naish originated as a windsurf brand, moving onto designing kites and now SUP's. Naish have always been well known within the industry for cutting edge innovation and supreme build quality.

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TO VISIT THEIR
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



" ALL THIS
NESTLED
UNDER A
GLOSSY
LACQUER THAT
IS JUST
BEGGING TO
BE ADMIRER "



BRAND NOBILE MODEL BELEZA NHP
SIZE 132 X 40 YEAR 2015

AT A GLANCE

Nobile have re-vamped their entire board range for 2015, with bold graphics that feature as part of their Saudade Collection. They have interpreted the Brazilian Portuguese word (which doesn't really have a direct translation but encompasses 'memory of emotions, experiences, places or events which brought us joy and the sense of happiness'), with saudade being a longing for ocean, wind, sun and beach. Creating a positive yearning for the sense of freedom,

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" IT FEELS MORE LIKE FLYING THAN RIDING THROUGH THE WATER "



BRAND SHINN **MODEL** BRONQ
SIZE 136 X 42 **YEAR** 2015

AT A GLANCE

The carbon Bronq is an all-new board for 2015 and has been two years in the making. The lovely folk at Shinn have been sourcing the highest quality carbon for use in this board and, it seems to us, the wait was worth it. By using super high strength Carbon, the board can have its weight greatly reduced by cutting down both the laminate and core. The result is an incredibly light, fast and versatile board which looks the bee's knees.

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" A FREESTYLE/
WAKESTYLE
BOARD THAT'S
BUILT TO LAST
AND DOES
EVERYTHING IT
SAYS ON THE
TIN "



BRAND SLINGSHOT MODEL VISION
SIZE 138 X 42 YEAR 2015

AT A GLANCE

Even if you're new to kiting Slingshot will probably be a brand you have heard of or come across before. Being in the kitesurfing industry since the start, I actually learnt on a Slingshot B2 trainer kite in 1999. Slingshot have gone from strength to strength with many iconic products such as the Fuel, RPM, Marc Doyle Pro, and many more, and now it seems that the Vision is looking to take its place at the top.

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" MASSIVE POP
FROM A
RESPONSIVE,
WELL-BUILT
BOARD WITH
THE OPTION TO
HAVE CUSTOM
GRAPHICS "



BRAND STRYDER MODEL HALO
SIZE 138 X 42 YEAR 2015

AT A GLANCE

Stryder may not be a well known name within the worldwide kitesurfing industry however with the company's base being in Camber Sands, a popular kiting location on the south coast of the UK, it is becoming ever more popular within the kiting community. Stryder kiteboards was founded in 2010 by Nik Strydom. Originally from South Africa, Nik brings his vast amount of engineering knowledge forward and puts this into his kiteboards.

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TO VISIT THEIR
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



“ THIS THING
MADE EVEN A
SLOPPY
CRUMBLING
FACE FEEL LIKE
GETTING
PITTED AT
CHOPES ”



BRAND CRAZYFLY MODEL ATV
SIZE 6'0" YEAR 2015

AT A GLANCE

The CrazyFly ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) is a new surfboard in their 2015 line up. Hailed as a do-it-all wave board for most conditions, it has been designed and developed in waves the world over. An impressively attractive bamboo veneer coats the strong EPS Core. There is the option to have straps on the board, which can be mounted on top of the super grippy EVA footpads. A thicker fibreglass reinforcement has been added under where you stand,

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PHOTO GITIT ZOHAR

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BRAND DAKINE **MODEL** PRYO LEVERLOCK 2015

Dakine is a huge brand not only in kitesurfing, but in many extreme sports. It has been a huge accessory supplier for kitesurfers worldwide since the sport began. Dakine has always been known for its top quality, supportive and incredibly comfortable harnesses, both for kitesurfing and its roots in windsurfing harnesses.

This issue we got our hands on the new Pyro Leverlock 15s in Black. The Pyro comes in with 3 different choices of spreader bar, the Maniac (with a sliding spreader), the Leverlock that we have here,

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BRAND ION **MODEL** APEX SELECT 2015

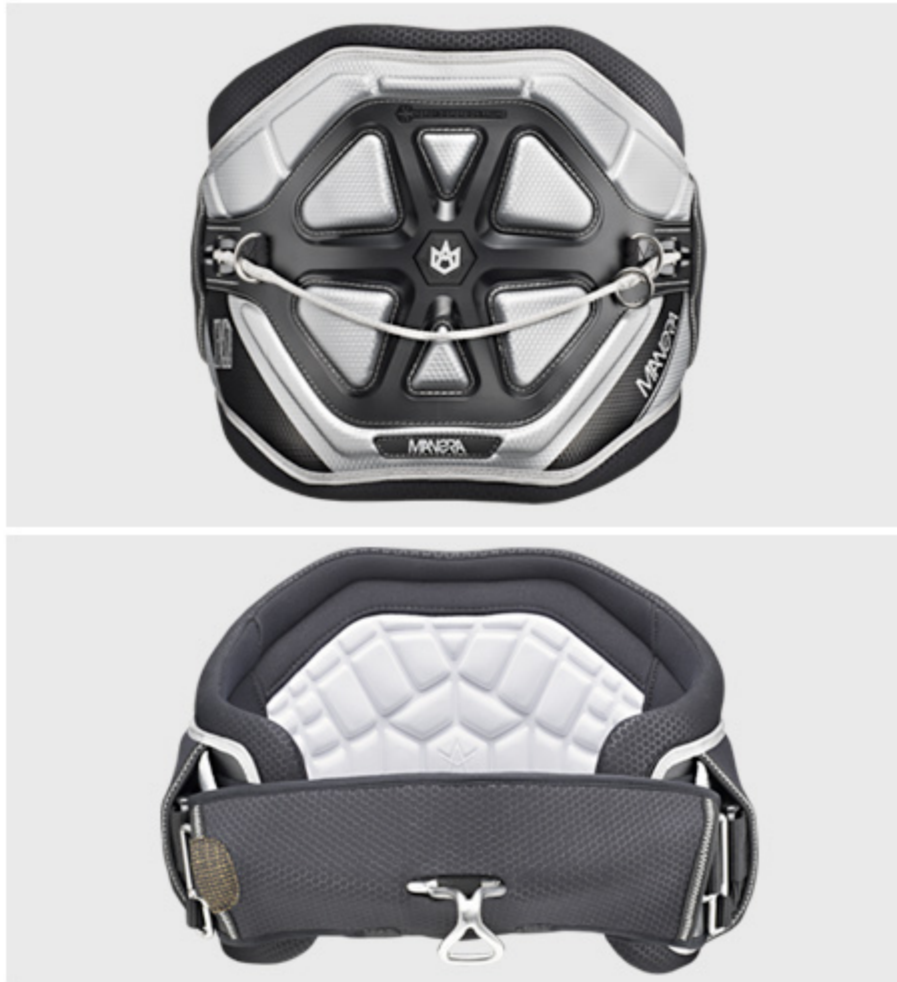
ION has been a very strong contender for harnesses, wetsuits, board bags, apparel and much more within the kitesurfing industry for a number of years now. Building well-made and comfortable harnesses in a variety of styles.

This issue we got hold of the Apex Select harness in blue and yellow. ION have put a lot of effort and a great deal of research into the design and materials of their harness range and it is apparent when you see one. The Apex Select is a stunning harness, (if the bright colours are not for you,

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BRAND MANERA **MODEL** SENSO 2015

When Manera launched the Exo harness last year they caused quite a stir. It was the first time really detailed load analysis had been performed on a harness and it ended up with the R&D team developing the external load bearing area the Exo became famous for.

The idea is simple; spread the maximum amount of load across as wide a section of the harness as possible. Then instead of hiding that load-bearing frame within the harness, put it right on the outside so all of the padding then helps to disperse the load.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

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BRAND MYSTIC **MODEL** MAJESTIC 2015

The Majestic harness from Mystic is a multi-use harness, meaning it can be used for both windsurfing and kitesurfing. The perfect tool for the waterman out there that likes to dabble in both arts! It sits right at the top of the Mystic range and is a high end product with a good amount of detailing. It is built with a 3D shape to ensure a snug fit around your waist and the inner section of the harness is packed with padding and soft neoprene to ensure an unsurpassed level of comfort.

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BRAND PROLIMIT **MODEL** PREDATOR 2015

The Predator harness from Prolimit has been in their line up for a few years now, the design is tried and tested, but it features some great technical features too, as well as boasting great looks!

The Predator is pre-curved and 3D shaped for a great fit and features a four point connected neoprene belt to keep the harness in place. The spreader bar also makes use of four connection points to ensure it is held in place. The harness uses the patented Pin Release Fat Bar system which enables you to quickly click the harness together and then pull a release pin

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BRAND DAKINE **MODEL** WAHINE 2015

Dakine have been at the forefront of harness design ever since the days of kite pants and 2-line Wipika's. The Wahine has gone through some pretty big changes over the years, from being the token women's harness with a little pink detailing, to the technical ergonomic and entirely specific harness it is today.

For 2015 we can see a major change to the Wahine. The past few years have had a very tall harness, which offers support on the entire back, but could sometimes slip up if not tightened correctly,

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BRAND ION PRODUCTS
MODEL NOVA DIAMOND 2015

ION products always seem to be the elite in terms of kite accessories. Adorned with features, technology and innovation, we were incredibly excited to get our hands on the new 2015 women's Nova Diamond harness.

The Nova Diamond is the top female specific harness from ION, and has been designed as a multi-discipline harness so should be a top choice for all.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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BRAND PROLIMIT **MODEL** PURE EDGE 2015

Prolimit have had a female specific harness in their line up for quite some time now. 2015 offers us two; the Pure Eve and the Pure Edge. We have had the Pure Edge on test which is aimed at the freestyle girls out there.

The Pure Edge first off is incredibly lightweight, you hardly notice you are wearing it. It has a larger back and side support, which offers maximum load coverage, and also is made with insanely comfortable padded neoprene.

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There's a new British Kitesurfing Championship tour – at last! But why would anyone want to compete? Well, to understand this, let's look at the Olympic Games. How many of the sports in there can you directly equate with war? Let's count 'em: hammer, discus, javelin, archery, fencing, boxing, judo, shooting, wrestling, equestrian, pole vault...all can be traced back to, or are in fact blatantly obvious, mechanisms of war.

IT'S COMPETITION TIME...



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BRIEFING AT THE LANCING STOP OF THE BRITISH
KITESURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS!
PHOTO MARY BOOTH



Now let's look at the less obvious war sports in the Games, sprinting, long distance, marathon, steeplechase, hurdling...it's not hard to draw parallels between these sports and the actions of soldiers running across the battlefields of Ancient Greece. Tiddlywinks, drawing, storytelling, and dancing for example were definitely not cornerstones of the ancient Olympic Games. Basically, the whole thing was a competition to find out who was the hardest, without anyone having to be killed. And why does society need to find out who's the hardest? [Children under the age of 16 are asked to leave the room now please.] The reason civilisation needs to know who's the hardest is so that warriors can enjoy the furtherance of their genetic material with the tribe's most comely maiden. In other words, the hardest bloke gets the prettiest woman. Why's this important? Genetics! You had to make your society as strong as possible because the tribe over the hill will certainly be doing the same thing and they want everything you've got, so you'd better be strong. This behaviour comes naturally to people, as it does to every living thing. All members of a wolf pack are not allowed to mate; if they were the pack would become weak. It's the alpha at the top who disseminates the genetic material, and how does he or she get to become alpha? By being the hardest of all wolves. [Kids, you can come back into the room now.]

Fortunately (for the most part) human beings are intelligent animals who see merit in each other beyond a capacity for violence or elite athletic skills.

“ THE WHOLE THING WAS A COMPETITION TO FIND OUT WHO WAS THE HARDEST, WITHOUT ANYONE HAVING TO BE KILLED. ”



THE COMPETITION SET UP AT THE IKSURFMAG
WAVE CLASSIC 2014
PHOTO ROU CHATER



“ HUMAN BEINGS ARE WILD ANIMALS CODED WITH THE SAME DEEP PRIMAL INSTINCTS AS EVERY CREATURE ON EARTH. ”

Humour, creativity, kindness, ingenuity and inventiveness are all qualities that people are universally attracted too. Then you've got fashion, style, music taste, image, things that people in coffee shops with strange jeans (or genes), shirts buttoned up to the top and 'me too' sleeve tattoos find attractive. See, there's something there for everyone. But, here comes the 'but': human beings are wild animals coded with the same deep primal instincts as every creature on earth. Don't be fooled just because we travel in metal boxes.

Competition speaks to this very primal part of us. How primal is it? Deeply primal, rooted somewhere in your brainstem, same as with lizards. Maybe even deeper than that, on a nervous level...cockroaches, for example, run faster for food when other cockroaches are watching, it's been proven in labs. [Oh I forgot to say, creationists will want to leave the room for that bit.]

BRITISH WAVE CHAMPION LEE "PASTY" HARVEY COMPETING AT THE IKSURFMAG WAVE CLASSIC!
PHOTO: ALEX CHATER

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SURF SANCTUARY PRESENTS

AARON HADLOW GOES HUGE AT THE RED BULL KING OF THE AIR,
PERHAPS THE BIGGEST KITESURFING COMPETITION OF THEM ALL!
PHOTO NICK MUZIK/RED BULL CONTENT POOL



THE NERVES KICKING IN FOR DOM MOORE
AT THE BKSA WAVE MASTERS IN 2011...
PHOTO CELINE COLLAUD



OLI SWEENEY FLYING HIGH AT THE BRITISH KITESURFING
CHAMPIONSHIPS IN LANCING LAST MONTH.
PHOTO MARY BOOTH



Competition is the rivalry for supremacy; the word comes from the Latin *competit*, 'to come together'. A competition can be as simple as you and your mate suddenly trying to outdo each other on a converging tack. It can be as complex as the Virgin Kitesurf World Cup, with multi-stops, league tables, rounds, repechage heats. It can be as glamorous as the Red Bull King of the Air, or as provincial as passing a Woo device around your mates to score the biggest jump. Remember, competition at its root, means to come together, and that's what makes it addictive and necessary for kitesurfers.

“ I’VE ENTERED EVENTS WITH FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE IN THEM AND EVENTS WITH FIVE PEOPLE IN THEM AND THE FEELING’S ALWAYS THE SAME.”

I’m not a contest machine, but that’s not to say I haven’t competed. Why, just this year I retained my Legend of the Bay title at Watergate Bay in Cornwall against a stacked field in pumping swells (forgive my indulgence, the ego is now satiated), I entered the

IKSURFMAG Wave Classic where I performed miserably, and this weekend gone I entered the Euro Cup 14km SUP race and made a fair acquittal of myself considering my novice racing skills. I’ve entered three Men’s Health Survival of the Fittest events and finished in the top 10%. I’m not trying to big myself up here, but aiming to give a little context: I’ve entered events with five thousand people in them and events with five people in them and the feeling’s always the same. Butterflies before, zoning out during, and exaltation on reflection after the event. In short, it always makes me feel really good; it gives purpose to my sport.



“ THE EVENT STARTS DAYS BEFORE THE BUZZER SOUNDS.”



I never really got why people moaned about kiting events of old, saying ‘I drove a million miles and only rode for three minutes’. For me, the event starts days before the buzzer sounds; it’s all about the build up and preparation. And besides, at a kite event you’re welcome to ride as much as you want outside of your heats, if you need to; double elimination comps tend to have most people gassing by mid afternoon!

Self Reflection

Putting your name down for a competition some weeks ahead will focus your riding and attention to small details like nothing else. It puts pressure back onto you to analyse your own riding, to work on your perceived weaknesses. Once you’re in the competition, you’ll find out through stark comparison with your peers where the real gaps and strengths in your riding are.

MORE SHOTS FROM THE BRITISH KITESURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS...
LEFT LEWIS CRATHERN PUSHING THE LIMITS.
TOP RIGHT COMPETITORS ENJOYING A BREAK.
BOTTOM RIGHT FLAG MEN, PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE ON THE BEACH!
PHOTOS MARY BOOTH



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Kitesurfing News



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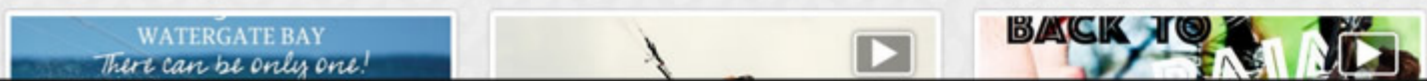


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STEVEN AKKERSDIJK GOING MENTAL AT THE RED BULL MEGALOOP CHALLENGE IN HOLLAND THIS YEAR!
PHOTO JARNO SCHURGERS/RED BULL CONTENT POOL



Competition puts you in the middle of a new peer group, away from the comfort and safety of your local beach and local crew. It restores that sense of addiction and wonder we all felt when we were learning to kitesurf and seeing everything through the prism of fresh eyes.

People are put off by the thought of competition for these reasons though; it reveals you. You can't hide. If a rider has a reputation built on a house of cards, or more accurately, a wordpress blog and paid-for-likes social media site, their ass will be laid bare in Round One. I think for this reason the entire kiteboarding industry should cease sponsoring riders unless they enter at least one competition per year and, really, show some promise while they're at it. There's way too much content out there from people trying to sell themselves as freeriders when really all they're doing is nothing much more than pushing a few holiday snaps around the internet.

First time competitors

Riders who don't have an ego to manage online and are just a bit fearful that their skills are inadequate, I think, will really benefit from giving a competition a go. It must be one of the most daunting things to contemplate, along with public speaking and picking up spiders, but once you do it, you'll feel like a new person. If you'd like to give a competition a shot but are afraid of humiliation, remember these two golden rules:

1 The moment you slip that competition rash vest on, you'll have the respect and admiration of everyone else on the beach who's just watching.

2 No one, but no one, remembers or cares about someone else's poor performance in a competition. You literally cannot lose here.

Once you've completed your first competition, you'll feel very at ease with yourself. I've never done it, but I imagine it's a similar feeling to baring all in a nudist colony for the very first time and discovering that no one is judging you after all, or if they are, they're being politely discreet about it. Everyone will see you ride, everyone will still like you for who you are at the end.

Right then, so we've had a look at why competition is fundamentally important to us, so here are a few tips that you might find helpful if you're thinking about entering your first event:

1 Nerves. If you get nervous before competition, breathe in through your nose for a two count and out through your mouth for a three count. Repeat 20 times and feel the calming effect.

2 Food. Competition will put you in a sympathetic nervous system dominant mode, or fight or flight mode. You may find eating a large breakfast difficult, so nibble on bananas, flapjacks, avocados, carrots etc...topped up with sweets before and after your heats.

3 Drink. Sip on plenty of fluid – wetsuits are sweatsuits. Room temperature water is better for absorption than the freezing cold stuff.

4 Warm clothes. Usually when we kite, we have a session, get changed, and jump into a warm car to drive home. At an event, you're stood around on a beach all day. It's always going to be colder than you think, and nothing saps motivation like numb feet and fingers.



JORDAN HURST RIDING AT THE BRITISH KITESURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN LANCING. PHOTO MARY BOOTH

“EVERYONE WILL SEE YOU RIDE, EVERYONE WILL STILL LIKE YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE AT THE END.”

5 Preparation. Get your kites pumped up early, all sizes. The wind has a habit of behaving very strangely at events.

6 Test the wind. Go for a couple of heats before you have to go out. You don't want to be umming and aching between sizes minutes before your heat.

7 Grace. No matter how lowly our expectations at the start, after a heat, unless we've had a shocker, it's easy to get excited and think we did better than we did. Contrasting results from the judges can sometimes surprise! Remember that the judges have a panoramic view of the whole thing. You can always ask other competitors where you could improve...



A BLAST FROM THE PAST, MARK SHINN CELEBRATING IN CORNWALL IN 2011! PHOTO SAM MORGAN MOORE



JON ELLMAN-BROWN CRANKING A BOTTOM TURN AT THE IKSURFMAG WAVE CLASSIC! PHOTO ALEX CHATER

Throw down! Everyone loves a hero, don't be afraid to go large – there's often a really good photographer on the beach and your big move stands a good chance of being captured forever. And hey, you might land it and win your heat!

The glue that binds us together

I've met a lot of great people through kitesurfing – and most of them were at the BKSA Wavemasters competitions through the years. I speak to these people often. When I think about it, I wouldn't have met them if it were not for the comps. I can't see how

“ RIGHT NOW THOUGH, WE SHOULD ALL DO OUR PART AND ENTER ONE EVENT THIS YEAR.”

we can grow a cohesive sport in this country without a good competition element running through it. I recall the days of beaches covered in kites at the launch zone as the glory days. Back then the action was on the water...in recent years, the action was on Vimeo. I think of that as the dark ages. With the new BKC Tour,

I hope we're stepping back into the light and can inspire a much-needed new generation of kids to come along and thrash the old guard. Ultimately it comes down to the kids – they're the ones we need to inspire to take up kiting. Remember when you were a kid at school, how games would automatically form at playtime with no adult interference? To me it's obvious how we'll get new faces into the sport. Right now though, we should all do our part and enter one event this year. If you enter and can look me in the eye and tell me you didn't enjoy it, I'll buy you a beer!

10 QUESTIONS ETIENNE LHÔTE

Etienne
Lhôte

WORDS ROU CHATER
PHOTO ANQUEZ SEBASTIEN



Etienne has been in the kitesurfing world for what seems like an eternity, back in the day he was the top freestyle rider in France and placed on the podiums of the PKRA numerous times. In more recent years Etienne has settled in Northern France and turned his attention to wave riding and passing on his love of the sport to others...

You live in a beautiful part of France, Brittany, considering all the places you have travelled to over the years, what led you to settle there?

Brittany is an area that is unique for me; thanks to the influence of depressions from the Atlantic we have various conditions offering perfect waves and flat water. Because the winters are very cold it still pushes me to travel, but the spring, summer and autumn offer some amazing riding. It is the balance that this wonderful place offers that I like!

You've recently opened a kite school offering training and coaching, what is it about teaching that you love?

The kite makes me vibrate; it is a passion which has pushed me for over 15 years to surpass myself in competition and freeriding. When the weather conditions are good nothing else matters. It is the transmission of this passion that I enjoy when I am teaching and coaching. The school is located in the Morbihan Bay of Quiberon, I offer courses and products for all levels and all ages.

The idea is to not apply the same teaching pattern found in a conventional school, but to continually adapt myself to the needs of riders and students,



PHOTO GILLES CALVET

“it is a passion which has pushed me for over 15 years to surpass myself in competition and freeriding.”

taking into consideration where they come from and where they want to go.

You've been an integral part of the F-One Next Generation project for some time now; can you explain a little bit about the project to our readers?

Indeed, I proposed the F-One Next Generation project to Raphael when I graduated as a professional coach. I felt that my competitive experience over the last 10 years could benefit the young, who are motivated and keen to compete. It is a career path

that requires having a global vision of the issues involved, building strong self-confidence, and being determined to be the best rider you can be.

We, F-ONE and myself, put together the training camps and in return they agree to participate in 3 competitions that could be national, continental and international levels. Young people are brilliant because they are highly motivated and they have no fear, it's very challenging but great fun they are always in a good mood!



“They are super motivated to participate in the exercises I propose for them to ride”



What's it like travelling with a bunch of young kids? Is it hard work?

It's a little stressful because I have obviously a big responsibility, the whole trip has to be really well organised, F-One did an outstanding job each time. For younger kids, 10-14 years, we ask for a parent to come, the older riders, 15-18 years old, are more used to travel, they are autonomous. They are super motivated to participate in the exercises I propose for them to ride so it's not a problem.

Back in the early days of kiting you competed to a very high level, coming third on the PKRA World Tour in 2005, do you still compete or are you more focused on training others?

I'm not taking part in many events at the moment, just in the French Wave Championship and some snow kiting events. Today my job is not to ride anymore, but to train and teach kitesurfing.

In recent years you've become a really talented

wave rider, when did you start to ride waves with a kite and what got you hooked?

In fact, I took an interest in surfing, which is a complementary sport to kitesurfing. A surfer develops physical qualities that are often forgotten by the kitesurfer, such as flexibility and endurance. Although, wave kiting and surfing are similar activities which have a great crossover and you can learn them together.

Where is the best wave you have ever ridden?

I'm still stoked by the beauty of One Eye in Mauritius, I hope to go there again soon.

What's the worst wipeout you've ever had?

I never really hurt myself; I made more mistakes like bad evaluation of weather conditions that could have cost me a lot. One time I ended up 500 meters from the reef off the coast of Reunion Island with no wind and the kite not relaunching, I had some lonely moments thinking; "What I'm doing here???"!

You've been part of the F-One family for as long as I can remember, what was the best travel trip you went on with the team and why?

Without hesitation, all of them! I keep an unforgettable memory of Fiji, St Brandon, Madagascar, and Los Roques... They are always amazing adventures with a fantastic group of people!

F-One are fully pushing the foil program now, is that something that you have tried as well? Do you enjoy it?

I'm sailing a little with a foil, it is a new challenge which has a real future for racing disciplines and riders when there is almost no wind. I'm enjoying it but I'm still really passionate about my coaching, surfing and kiting!

Thanks for taking the time Etienne, good luck with the school and the Next Generation Team!

PHOTO GILLES CALVET

10
 "They are always amazing adventures with a fantastic group of people!"



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 LAIRD - JETSURF

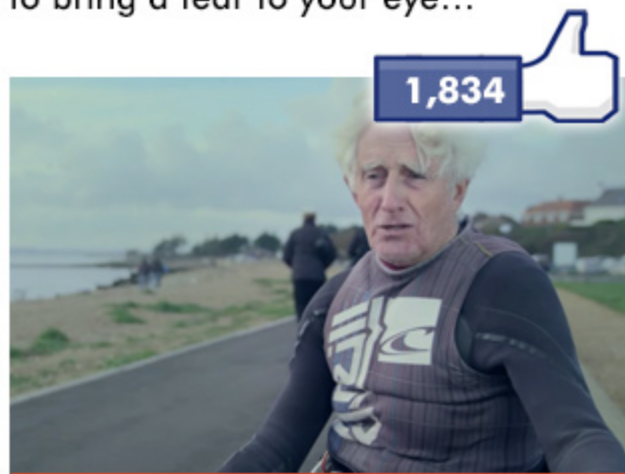
We've seen these "jetsurfers" a few times now, it's a personal watercraft designed to be a surfboard. Aside from when Kai Lenny rode one in Maui they have always looked pretty lame. Add Laird Hamilton cruising through some creeks out the back of his house though and it is suddenly über coolly in a standard race round a course.



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#2 THE 77 YEAR OLD KITESURFER

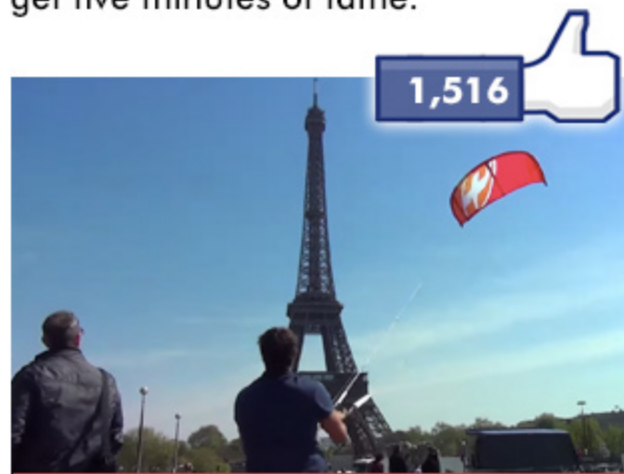
This has to be one of the most moving kitesurfing films you will watch all year. It could well be a contender for our best film of 2015 in our reader's awards too! David Cummins is a 77-year-old kitesurfer who perfectly sums up how we all feel about this amazing sport; it's bound to bring a tear to your eye...



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#3 KITESURF IN PARIS

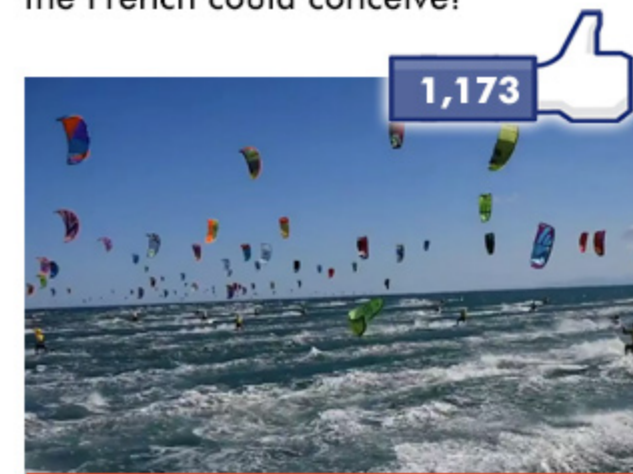
Urban kitesurfing has been a bit of a hit the last couple of months, first it was New York, then the Netherlands and now Antoine Auriol takes us kitesurfing in Paris. Right in front of the Eiffel Tower! OK so the action might not be too amazing, but kudos to him for doing it, not a bad way to get five minutes of fame.



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#4 DEFI KITE 2015

If you've never heard of the Defi Kite then you need to watch this video! It's a mass start race in France that involves hundreds of kitesurfers travelling at 30 knots over a distance of 60km! If that sounds mental, you are on the right track because this is utterly bonkers and something only the French could conceive!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

STEVEN AKKERSDIJK TAKING THE WORD LIGHTROOM QUITE LITERALLY!
PHOTO MAX KAMOLZ

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

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

MANTAS ŽEMGULIS TAKING IN THE
SCENERY IN TARIFA!
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

DIMITRI MARAMENIDES UP TO HIS USUAL ANTICS IN THE CARIBBEAN!
PHOTO GUSTAV SCHMIEGE



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

MAURICIO PEDREIRA SHREDDING IN BRAZIL AS
ONLY HE KNOWS HOW!
PHOTO HUGO VALENTE

Lightroom



LIGHTROOM

BEN BEHOLZ THROWING DOWN OUTSIDE THE 7BFT HOUSE IN SOMA BAY EGYPT.
PHOTO KITEPICTURES.COM



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

MITU MONTEIRO BUSTING THE FINS OUT AT HIS HOME BREAK IN CAPE VERDE!
PHOTO MARIA ENFONDO

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

MARK SHINN HARD AT WORK TESTING THE LIMITS IN TENERIFE!
PHOTO MIKE BIRT

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

WHAT COULD BE BETTER THAN STEPPING OFF YOUR BOAT IN THE RED SEA
AND HITTING THE WARM WATERS FOR A SESSION?
PHOTO COURTESY OF NOBILE

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

PAUL SERIN TAKES A BREAK FROM THE WORLD TOUR TO BUST
OUT SOME TRICKS IN MAUI! HE'S BEEN DOING WELL
ON THE TOUR SO FAR THIS YEAR!
PHOTO STEPHEN WHITESELL

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

DYLAN VAN DER MEIJ GETTING WILD IN BRAZIL!
PHOTO REINOUT SMIT

Lightroom



[FEMALE FOCUS]

AMY STRZALKO



Amy has been on our radar for a few years now, she's been a regular at the Bridge of the Gods competition in Washington State for a couple of years and recently signed to the Slingshot Team after meeting the crew there. She's based out of the Cayman Islands for the most part though and splits her time between kiting, photography and organising events on the island...



When did you get into kiteboarding, and what motivated you to learn the sport?

I started kiting five years ago. I was always a little scared of the ocean and what lies beneath, so having a friend book a lesson without telling me certainly helped to force me onto the water. Obviously, a few lessons in and I was hooked. I'm still scared of sea creatures, but it will take more than that to keep me off the water.

You grew up in Manchester, England, but now call the Cayman Islands your home. That's quite the move, how did you end up making the transition?

I have been visiting Cayman for ten years with family. I was sick of the crappy weather and constantly working in the rain so decided I fancied a change. I came to Cayman for 6 months, and 6 months turned into a year. Then I started kiting and the rest is history. Cayman is now my home.

What is it about kiteboarding that had you hooked?

It took me a while because the ocean freaked me out, but one day something twiggged. I couldn't get enough of the rush I feel when I'm driving to the beach and when I land a new trick. The way, when I'm on the water, I think of nothing else but kiting, it's so therapeutic and such a great way to escape everyday life, and a good way to stay in shape while being able to eat pretty much anything!

"WHEN I'M ON THE WATER, I THINK OF NOTHING ELSE BUT KITING, IT'S SO THERAPEUTIC AND SUCH A GREAT WAY TO ESCAPE EVERYDAY LIFE"





“ I DID EVERYTHING I COULD TO GET ON THEIR RADAR. WELL, YOU’VE GOT TO AIM HIGH! ”

How did you get involved with Slingshot, and what makes the brand unique?

I started riding Slingshot RPMs six months after I began kiting. I was that happy with my RPMs, I have not once thought of riding anything else. When I decided I wanted to push myself further and get sponsored, although it was unlikely I could get on the Slingshot team, I didn't want to settle for anything else. I wanted to stick with my RPMs because they were what I loved to ride. So, I did everything I could to get on their radar. Well, you've got to aim high!

Then, thankfully, at Bridge of The Gods, my favourite event yet, I met Jeff Logosz, Slingshot's CEO, and in a nutshell told him I wanted to ride for Slingshot. He agreed to have a chat with me. I didn't think I had a chance but I had nothing to lose - you don't get it if you don't ask, right?

Slingshot is always raising the bar in the kite world. They have such a talented and innovative team of people working together to make the best quality gear on the water. By constantly pushing the limits to be different and stand out from other brands, the Slingshot team creates this incredible vibe. I love being part of the team, and I'm super proud of it!

What quiver do you ride, and what do you like best about your gear?

I ride 7m, 9m, 11m, and 14m RPMs and a 134 Asylum Board. Being a girl, having the best looking gear on the water helps, and thanks to team manager Alex Fox's insane graphic skills this aspect keeps getting better and better. Not to mention that each year,



“ HAVING NEW OBSTACLES TO HIT LETS YOU PROGRESS TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL.”

every tweak that Tony Logosz adds to the gear improves something we thought couldn't get any better. This year I'm loving the air time I get with the RPM, I float down and almost hover before I hit the water. The new fast one-pump system hugely reduces the pumping time, plus the new pulley-less bridle system has made significant changes to the way the kite flies and feels. Generally, the kite feels smoother, faster and more durable than ever before.

Do you think female kiteboarders would benefit from companies offering more women's specific gear?

I am a sucker for a pretty pattern and guarantee if there is a sick design for girls I would probably want three of them, but I don't feel women particularly benefit in any way. Just because it looks pretty doesn't mean it's going to improve my kiting skills. If it's not broken don't try to fix it!

I do, however, think the companies could cash in on any women specific designs. Girls like to know their gear looks good so there is certainly a market for it.

What positive changes do you see happening within the kiteboarding industry?

Kiting is becoming more mainstream. Nowadays, most people have heard of kiting, which can only be positive for the sport.

I think the wakestyle side of things is going to keep growing too. Although I haven't had the chance to hit many features I think this is the direction the sport is going, which is awesome because it's introducing something new. Sometimes going out trying the same thing over and over can be really frustrating. So having new obstacles to hit lets you progress to a whole new level. I am working on getting some built here in Cayman. It sucks we don't have any.

As busy as you are with kiteboarding, you also find time to run a photography business. How do you balance your time between these two pursuits?

Really easily...Windguru. I am a little naughty with this. The wind generally rules my world. As I work for myself I am lucky that I get to make my own schedule. If I see the wind is coming I will make sure I have done all my work and booked all my shoots on the low wind days. Who wants their hair blowing around in a photoshoot anyway?!

What advice do you have for someone who is interested in photography as a career?

Go for it! I absolutely love my job - it's different every day and I get to work on the beach. I can think of far worse places to spend my days, and I hate being stuck in an office. Photography allows me to be creative and make people happy, not to mention be very flexible where the wind is concerned.

What have you learned as an athlete that has helped you as a photographer and vice versa?

Hmmmm, well that's a tricky one. I know that each of them have helped me have personal goals and ambition. Every shoot I do I try to make better than the last. You are only as good as your last shoot. With kiting I always try to improve on my last session, although that is not always the case. That said, I do love every second I spend on the water no matter how frustrated I am trying to land a new trick. I am one hundred percent dedicated to both and love that they are such a huge part of my life.



"I AM ONE HUNDRED PERCENT DEDICATED TO BOTH AND LOVE THAT THEY ARE SUCH A HUGE PART OF MY LIFE."



“ I HAVE WANTED TO DOING SOMETHING GOOD WITH MY KITING THAT CAN HELP A FANTASTIC CAUSE AND THIS SEEMED LIKE A HUGE ENOUGH CHALLENGE, SO WHY NOT?! ”

What are your goals for 2015 are there any contests you plan to enter, travel trips planned or new tricks you're working on?

I will be heading to Portland this summer for Bridge of the Gods, it's a part of the year I can't wait for. I love Hood River and always have an epic time; which reminds me, I need to get those flights booked! I will go somewhere for a few weeks to just kite my ass off too. I need to be around people who can help me and push my riding, it's so frustrating being on a little island sometimes.

At the moment I'm trying very hard to land a back mobe and a blind judge. The blind judge has had me for ages now, I am so close but I just don't have it yet. I really need to book a trip and get them nailed.

As a complement to training on the water, what do you do to stay fit?

I play tennis about four times a week because it's a great no-wind cardio that doesn't feel like a workout. I also do TRX to keep my strength up and go to the gym too.

Who inspires you and how?

Any females who are killing it on the water inspire me, women who are always driving each other to improve, help promote the sport, and get more girls kiting. Most of the girls I know are constantly raising the bar, landing new tricks and getting better by the day. This motivates me massively to get my ass on the water and try something new.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

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 issues winner is Jos Waterreus. Well done Jos, get in touch and we'll send you the t-shirt!

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

Jos Waterreus tweaking a Darkslide at the Fishermans Huts in Aruba.

Photographer: Filcro Mediastaffing/Tony Filson.
IKSURFMAG Says: Awesome shot and stylish rider!

Winner!





Thanks to Alaska Action Photography for this shot entitled 'Contemplation'. A kitesurfer studying his kite before continuing an evening session on beautiful Turnagain Arm. Such a lovely April evening. Shortly after this the wind died, but not before several more tacks and a couple of jumps were accomplished and enjoyed.

IKSURFMAG says: Think you've summed it up perfectly there. Cracking shot in such dramatic surroundings. It's not always about the radical moves and huge jumps...

Cathy Padgett surfing with manta rays in Isla Holbox, Mexico. **IKSURFMAG** says: Bet you were glad you had the camera rigged up that day!





Willem Weijland enjoying a nice quiet session at Langebaan, South Africa.

IKSURFMAG says: Place to yourself – happy days indeed!

Ken Cox has been out with the camera snapping shots of some riders enjoying the spring conditions at Portrush in Northern Ireland.

IKSURFMAG says: Spring sunshine, but it still looks chilly given he's covered head to toe in neoprene!



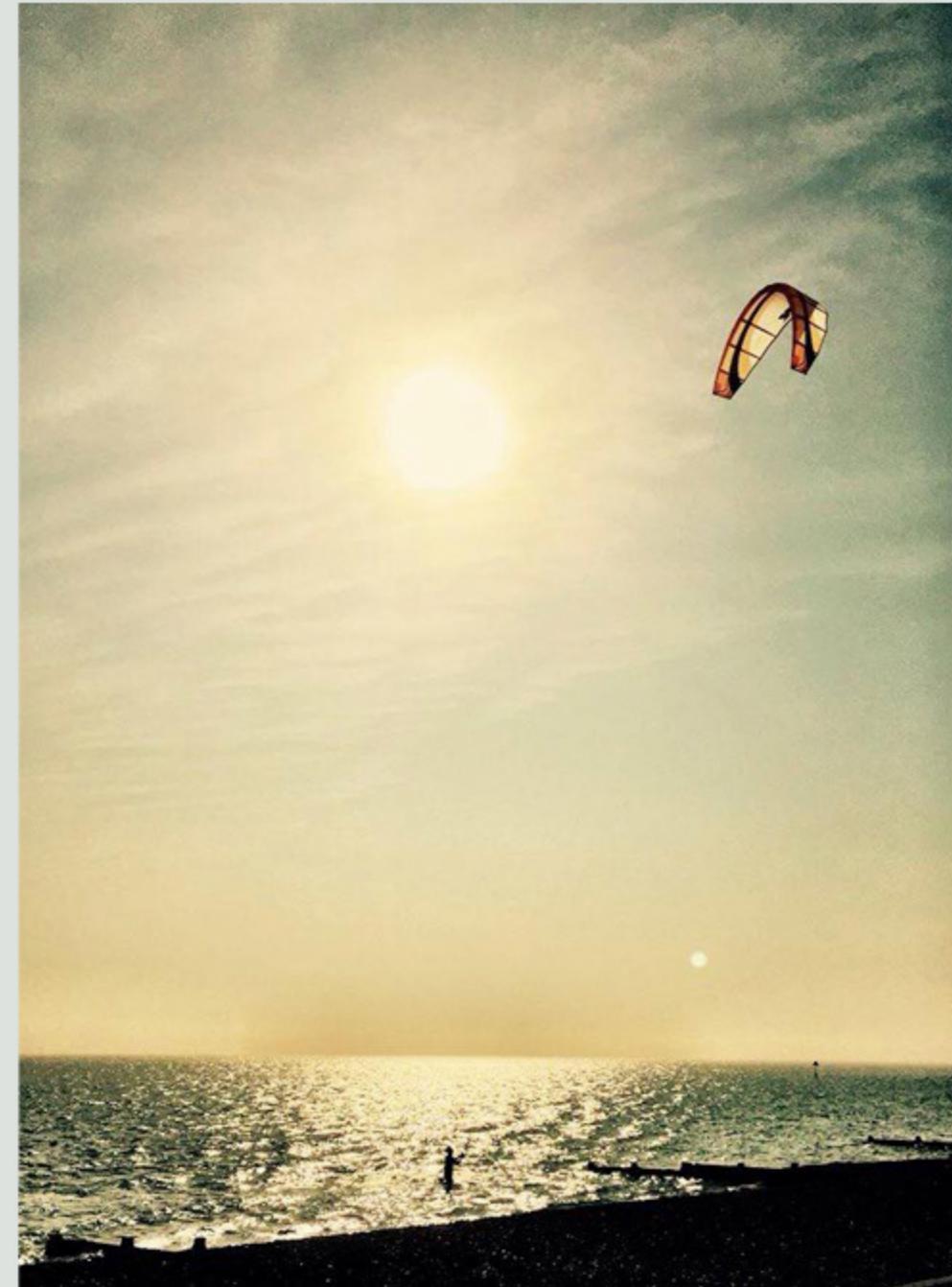


Gustavo Bartnikowsky clearly lining himself up for the next Caption Competition image...

IKSURFMAG says: We can only assume that you didn't ride away from that 'radial off-the-lip maneuver'.

Thanks to Barry Smith for this artistic shot.

IKSURFMAG says: I suspect that the rider is contemplating the lack of wind, by the looks of the calm sea behind. Let's hope it was the end to a good session, rather than the frustrating attempted start of one!





Mike Peffers comes up with the goods again grabbing this awesome shot with his camera. Rider Fynn Pilkington catches a wave at Mangawhai Heads in New Zealand.

IKSURFMAG says: And what a banger of a wave indeed!! Thanks for sharing the photo Mike.

Niklas Meijer making the most of a light breeze during the Swedish summer last year. Camping and kitesurfing on the west coast of the island of Öland – this summer he'll be back there.

IKSURFMAG says: Looks like a mint spot for summer adventures! Have fun this summer Niklas. We look forward to seeing more pics!





Luc Rancourt with a deadman in El Laguito, Cartagena in Colombia. Photo credit to Ryan Theory Curtright.

IKSURFMAG says: Trying to view the world upside down. Nice shot!

Warren Hardy smoothly pulling off a 180° nose grab in Cayo Guillermo, Cuba in April.

IKSURFMAG says: Showing us your best side there Warren?!



JASON SLEZAK FLYING AWAY FROM THE SUNSET!
PHOTO NATE APPEL

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