

APR/MAY 16

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 56 of the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! Inside we have a huge interview with one of the best female kitesurfers on the planet, Bruna Kajiya, plus Jack Galloway heads to the Red Bull

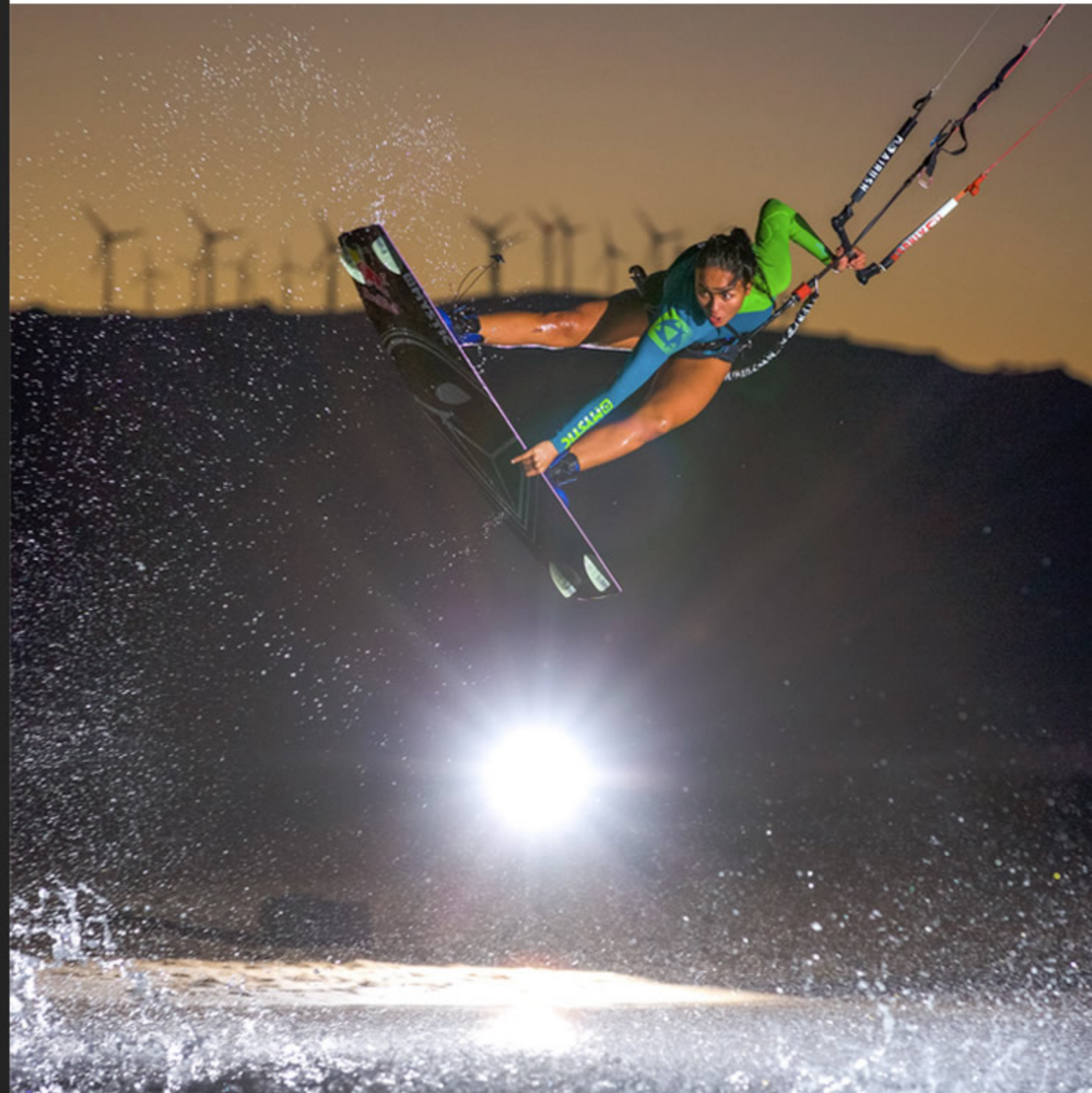
Ragnarok in Norway. Liquid Force feature in our Behind the Brand piece and Dom Moore heads to Vancouver Island in Canada, plus we have tests, technique and lots more inside too!

ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE!



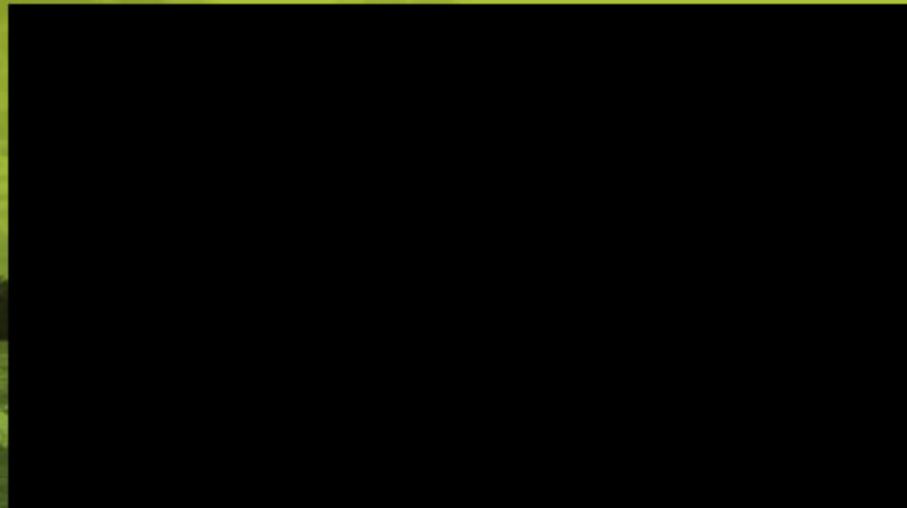
Click on the corners to turn the pages or use the navigation bars.

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





OUT OF COMPLEXITY INTO SIMPLICITY
THE NEW MONO



FREERIDE



RELATED PRODUCTS



X-RIDE

WHIP

SIZES 3.5/5/7/9/12

PROGRESSION Q

Quality commitment in every detail.
WWW.NORTHKITEBOARDING.COM



ONLY
CONTINUOUS
IMPROVEMENTS
CAN BRING YOU
CLOSE TO
EXCELLENCE



INTRODUCING

BANDIT
2016
COLLECTION



LIMITLESS



BIANCA ASHER



NICK JACOBSEN
FX+ACE

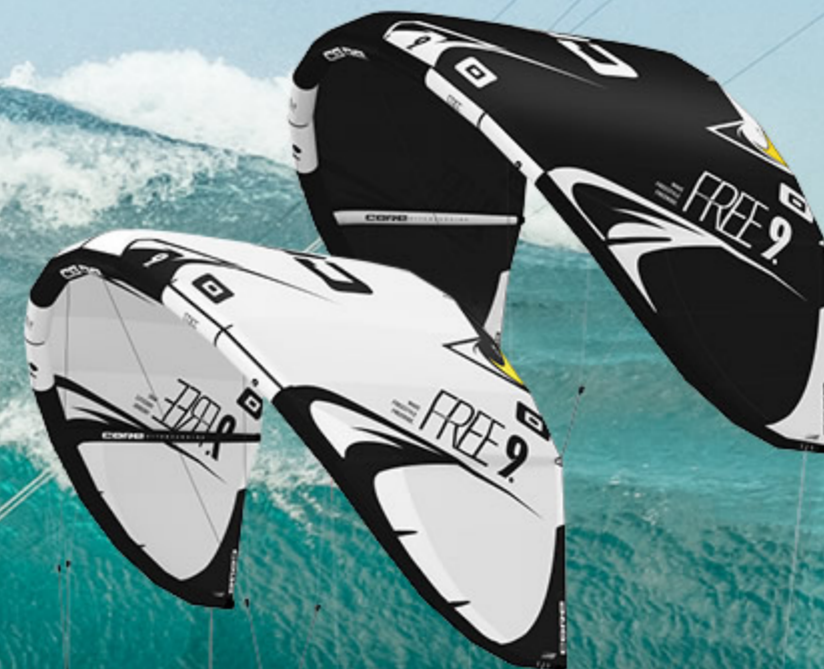
CABRINHAKITES.COM



SURF. PLAY. SHRED.

Hang loose and ride knee highs like they're overheads. Test your limits on those really big days. Or, just chill and cruise on your trusty surfboard, twintip or skimboard. Without fussing about your kite or the wind. Because you know the new CORE Free is there for you.

With its mad surf skills, smooth air-style, and signature CORE ride-ability, you may suspect your new kite has super powers. And we think so too.



EXOTEX



3 STRUT LIGHT FRAME



ULTRA SHORT BRIDLE SYSTEM



SPEED PUMP SYSTEM



CORETEX

FREE

WAVE+
FREERIDE
FREESTYLE

Check out the new ExoTex equipped Free and Free LW at you local CORE retailer now:
corekites.com/RETAILER

PICK UP FROM YOUR LOCAL RETAILER
AFTER APRIL 12TH 2016. PRE-ORDER NOW!



FOLLOW CORE KITEBOARDING:

corekites.com



facebook.com/corekites

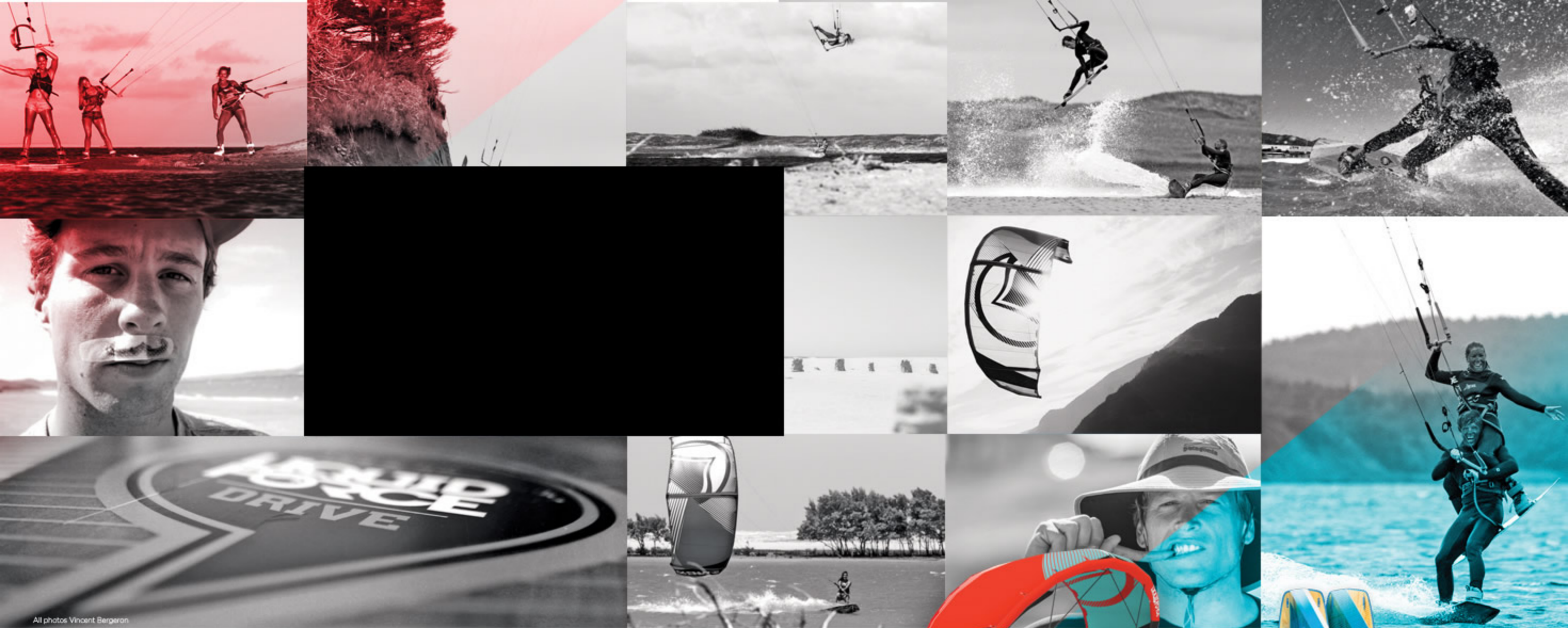


instagram.com/corekites



twitter.com/corekites

#SurfPlayShred



All photos Vincent Bergeron



**LIQUID
FORCE**

KITEBOARDING

Learn more about Liquid Force and all our products at liquidforcekite.com



Envy

It's the 6-year anniversary for the Envy officially thrusting the kite to a legacy status! The Envy is the anchor of the LF kite line highlighted by versatility and ease of use from the beginner to the pro rider. The design staff, led by Julien Fillon, took a deep look at 6 years of history in the kite to bring the 2016 Envy to life. The big question: How do you make an already amazing performing kite better?

ENVY SIZES 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10.5 / 12 / 13.5 / 15 METER



Drive

New additional technology for the 2016 Drive is a smooth, shallow center concave! Engineered to transform a kite's riding in a short period of time, the Drive packs a potent, empowering punch. Offering the ultimate value-to-performance ratio, the Drive features many of our most advanced technologies, and is optimized specifically for progression, staying upwind, jumping, and doing air transitions. All fun all the time!

DRIVE SIZES 134 X 39.5 / 137 X 40.5 / 140 X 41.5 / 143 X 42 CM



#happy



#nobilekites



#nobile



#ikitenobile



#girlslovenobile

The world of kiteboarding is changing in front of our eyes. After a decade of dynamic growth it enters another - the professional stage. The competitors' and riders skills are becoming higher and higher, while the tricks are more complicated than ever. It requires hard work of our engineers from the R&D department, searching for innovations at every stage. And such is the new Nobile Kiteboarding collection which we named "Earth and Spaces"

Find Us in Social World

www.nobilekiteboarding.com
SHOP ONLINE: shop.nobilesports.com



17
COMPETITION



19
EDITORIAL



23
BRUNA KAJIYA



49
SLAVES TO THE ZEPHYR



73
BEHIND THE BRAND –
LIQUID FORCE



101
TECHNIQUE



135
TALL TREES, COLD SEAS



151
TRIED AND TESTED



173
TEN QUESTIONS –
STEVEN AKKERSDIJK



185
POTS OF GOLD
AMONGST THE TURMOIL



195
MOVIE NIGHT



197
LIGHTROOM



217
FEMALE FOCUS –
MARIE-LOU FOURRÉ



229
READERS GALLERY



CONTENTS

PUBLISHING EDITOR >

Rou Chater
rou@iksurfmag.com

FEATURES EDITOR >

Lindsay McClure
lindsay@iksurfmag.com

TECHNIQUE EDITORS >

Christian Harris & Karine Nativel
christian@iksurfmag.com
karine@iksurfmag.com

WEB EDITOR >

Jack Galloway
jack@iksurfmag.com

DESIGN >

Raise Creative
www.raisecreative.com

ADVERTISING SALES >

Mary Booth
mary@iksurfmag.com

IT DIRECTOR >

Alex Chater
alex@nextelement.co.uk

CONTRIBUTORS >

Bettina Menzel, Toby Bromwich,
Ben Thouard, Dom Moore, Andre
Magarao, Quincy Dein, Rick
Pryce and Ydwer van der Heide.

PUBLISHED ON THE WEB BY >

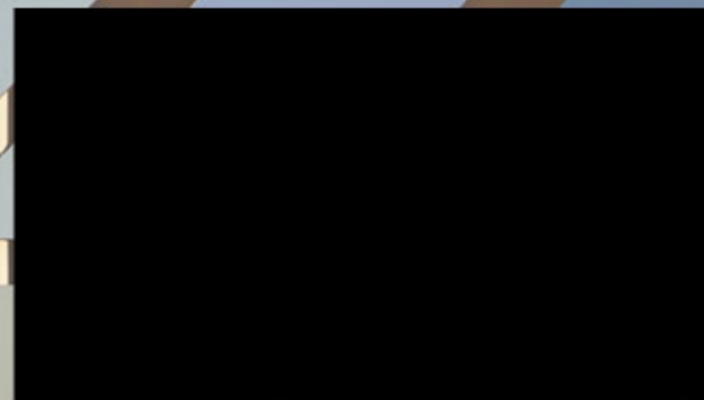
Next Element Ltd

All content is copyright of
IKSURFMAG / Next Element Ltd.
No trees were harmed while we
made this magazine although the
staff may have been subject to
beatings in order to get the job done.
The views in this magazine are just
that, views, & should be taken with a
pinch of salt. Kitesurfing is a
dangerous sport & none of the
activities depicted within this
magazine should be participated in
without full instruction in person by a
qualified instructor.

YOURI ZOOM GETTING ACCUSTOMED TO HIS NEW KITES,
HE'S RIPPING ON THE SLINGSHOT RPM ONCE AGAIN!
PHOTO RICK PRYCE



THE PERFORMANCE PERSPECTIVE



CARBON TORSION CONTROL

Airush Carbon Torsion Control creates a unique advantage developed specifically for performance freeride boards. Traditionally higher flex boards, ideal for freeride, have significant torsional flex. The Carbon Torsion Control features bias oriented Carbon fiber along the heel edge, reducing the amount of torsional flex in this area, this allows you to ride the board flatter for increasing comfort and speed.



2016 AIRUSH APEX
132x40 | 135x41 | 138x42 | 140x43



WWW.AIRUSH.COM

Trident Performance Sports Inc | info@tridentsports.com | NA
KTWO Distribution | sales@ktwodistribution.com | UK
Assault Kiteboarding Center | info@assault.co.nz | NZ
Auswind | sales@auswind.com.au | AU
Airush Africa | airushafrica@airush.com | RSA

WIN

...A BOARD AND BOOT SET UP
FROM LIQUID FORCE!!

We are teaming up with Liquid Force this issue to give away one of their excellent Echo kiteboards and a set of LFK bindings in a size of your choice! Legendary kiteboard shaper Jimmy Redmon worked with Brandon Scheid to create the Echo, and it features some of their most advanced shapes and technologies. This is the perfect board for aggressive riders looking for maximum pop, super soft landings, and bombproof durability. If you want a board that can hit features in the park and come away unscathed, this is it. To help you stay connected, the LFK bindings will be the ultimate set up to ensure total control when you are riding. Kitesurfers need a lightweight boot, and Liquid Force have used all their knowledge to create a binding that is not only light but also retain the awesome Liquid Force durability. The LFK features zonal lacing, Velcro adjustment, and a canted footbed. Couple these with the Echo and you'll be unstoppable!

You can choose the size of the board and bindings to best suit your style of riding and of course your feet!

WWW.LIQUIDFORCEKITES.COM

SUBSCRIBE TO WIN
CLICK [HERE](#) IT'S FREE

HOW CAN I WIN THE PRIZE?

Simply subscribe to IKSURFMAG for free and we'll enter you into the prize draw. We will pick a winner from our subscriber list, if you are already a subscriber, then you are automatically entered into the prize draw!

By subscribing to IKSURFMAG you'll be entered into all future prize draws and be first to read the magazine. We will never spam you and only email about new issues or important IKSURFMAG news.



NICCOLO PORCELLA KNOWS ALL ABOUT RISK MANAGEMENT...
PHOTO ERIK AEDER

EDITORIAL

ISSUE 56 Risk Management

Kitesurfing is a dangerous sport; there have been enough injuries and sadly deaths over the last few months to illustrate that. It's even harder when it is your friends who are getting taken down too. While the brands are on a never-ending quest to make things safer, after all, it is in their interests that we survive each session and keep on kiting to buy new gear, the last bastion of safety rests with us.

While this shot of Niccolo Porcella might look like he has a screw or two loose, it's actually a perfect example of well thought out risk management. Something we should all be doing every time we launch a kite. What you can't see in the photo is the years of practice and training Nicco has put in to get to this level.

Equally, you can't see the inflatable vest under his wetsuit that will fill in a microsecond with CO2 if he gets into trouble. You won't notice that his kite leash isn't connected either, so if things do go wrong, he only has to eject the kite once to avoid tangling with his lines. Lastly of course just out of shot there is a jet ski waiting to, quite literally, save his life should he need it, and grab his kite if he does eject it.

While we might not all be blessed with waves like this, kitesurfing on any given beach can be just as dangerous, and potentially lethal. I don't want to come across all doom and gloom, but I would like to remind you to calculate the risks each time you get to the beach, what could go wrong, how will you deal with it, what if this happens, where is my escape plan? It's a simple five-minute task that we often forget, yet it is when we are at our most competent and comfortable that this great sport often decides it's going to bite us in the ass.

Play safe out there kids!

Rou Chater

Publishing Editor



THE MANIACTM 2.0

FEARLESS

IT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD

Direct Handling & Control

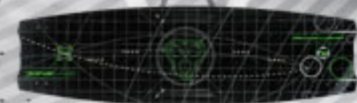
x

New School Performance

x

Perfect Slack

JUST RIDE!



wainmanhawaii.com

Rider: Alvaro Onteve x Photo: Toby Bromwich x Artwork: Yoodaaa



THE INTERVIEW:

BRUNA KAJIYA

Bruna Kajiya is one of the most iconic women within our sport; she's been pushing the limits of what is possible for women's freestyle for years and reaping the benefits for her efforts. Last year she became the first woman ever to land a Backside 315, which involves a double handle pass! We thought it was high time we sat down for a chat; after all she did win the Best Female Rider prize in our 2015 Reader Awards!



WORDS LINDSAY MCCLURE
PHOTOS ANDRE MAGARAO



When did you learn to kiteboard, and what motivated you to learn the sport?

I learned to kiteboard while on my last year of high school, I was 16 and was lucky enough that the kite beach was right in front of my school, I could see the kites from my classroom. Once my classes were finished for the day, I would run to the beach and sit there watching, hypnotized by it, something about kiteboarding fascinated me from the day I first saw it. It is just one of those things that you don't rationally

know the reason, but you just have to do it. I got a friend to teach me and every day after school I would go to the beach and hope for wind.

Can you share a bit about your childhood in Brazil?

I was very fortunate growing up in Brazil, the area where I'm from is absolutely stunning, 93% of the island is rainforest and nature is very preserved. As a kid, I lived in the ocean and spent endless hours

"YOU UNDERSTAND FROM A YOUNG AGE HOW PEOPLE LIVE IN SUCH DIFFERENT REALITIES."

at the beach, which allowed me to appreciate and cultivate a very deep connection with nature and its elements, especially the water.

Brazil as a country is so interesting, the culture is vibrant and free, but there's also the roughness of it, like poverty, which taught me a lot as a kid. You understand from a young age how people live in such different realities.



PHOTO / PATRICK WIELAND

EASY AS 1,2,3.

LEARNING TO FOIL JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT EASIER! Slingshot is thrilled to launch the Foiling Flight School and the Hover Glide NF² - kiteboarding's first multi-mast package designed specifically for user-friendly foiling progression. You wouldn't learn basic kite skills on a full size kite, so why learn to foil with a full size mast? Foiling Flight School is a surefire way to take the pain, frustration and intimidation out of the learning process.

TAXI STAGE
15" (38cm)



TOUCH-AND-GO STAGE
24" (61cm)



SOLO STAGE
30" (76cm)



FIND OUT MORE AT YOUR LOCAL RETAILER OR ONLINE AT
SLINGSHOTSPORTS.COM



“ IT’S HARD TO PUT IN WORDS MY LOVE FOR KITEBOARDING; THERE ARE SO MANY ASPECTS OF IT THAT KEEP ME HOOKED. ”

You are the first female to have landed a double pass, congratulations! How did you tackle this challenge?

Thank you! I think my personality had a lot to do with it; I have a way of approaching challenges that it comes as an exciting thing, but also very consuming, the goal won't leave my mind until I achieve it. Once it's there and it's solely in my hands to accomplish it, then it's game on!

This specific one was more than the trick for me, it was of personal growth, I felt that listening to my body, being patient, respecting my limits in certain moments was crucial. That in the past was a very hard task for me; it's a problem of my generation - you want something, and it has to be now! I'm happy this process was different, I've learned that there's the time to push, but also as important, there's also the time to respect yourself and wait.

What is it about kiteboarding that has you hooked?

It's hard to put in words my love for kiteboarding; there are so many aspects of it that keep me hooked. I love the adrenaline rush of freestyle, being in the water, the wind, all the different places it takes me, the challenges, but ultimately that fantastic, incredible feeling I have when I'm riding; a sense of freedom and pure joy!





“ WE MAKE SUCH A GREAT TEAM AND APART FROM THE PROFESSIONAL SIDE, I MADE FRIENDS FOR LIFE ”

How do your sponsors, including Airush, Mystic, and Red Bull, help you achieve your goals?

They've been a key piece to make all of this happen; they always support me and give me the tools to achieve my goals and dreams. Providing me with the best gear possible so I can give my best possible performance, always innovating to reach new levels within the sport. We make such a great team and apart from the professional side, I made friends for life in these brands, there's that certainty that we'll always do our best to support each other.

You're heavily involved in developing Airush's Diamond line of women's specific gear, what characteristics do you think need to be incorporated into women's equipment?

We are working hard and developing the best gear possible for women's specific needs; women have different body dimensions and riding style than men. For the Diamond range, we have a shorter bar throw for easier reach, thinner bar for our smaller hands, a smooth kite that's very forgiving and comfortable for riding. Also, the board was made specifically for women's average body weight, stance, and center of gravity.

As an ambassador for women's kiteboarding, why don't you think we see more women on the water and do you think that will change in the future?

WEAPON OF CHOICE.



KITewaist MOULDED / TECHNOLOGY



EZ ELASTIC BELT



INTERNAL LOAD PLATE MKII



SLIDE IN BARPAD



PLT BAR



WWW.PROLIMIT.COM



I've been surprised at the amount of women starting out in the sport lately; it's a recent movement, but I can feel it growing rapidly all around the world. It's so motivating to see all these girls starting a sport from scratch, committing to it and sticking together to create local communities to ride. It's hard to tell what the future holds for anything or anyone, but I sure would love to

to see equality of gender on the number of riders, opportunities, and sponsorship deals, etc.

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

I have my Diamond kites for free ride and the Razors for specific freestyle tricks, then for the bars I have the Diamond bar for all my kites, I adapt a 5th line for the Razors.

" I SURE WOULD LOVE TO SEE EQUALITY OF GENDER ON THE NUMBER OF RIDERS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND SPONSORSHIP DEALS, ETC. "

My board is a Diamond board 133, and as for the harness, it is my signature BK Diva harness from Mystic which is the comfiest harness I have ever ridden with.



“ MORE COLLABORATIVE FOR ONE MAIN GOAL, THE GROWTH OF THIS SPORT WE ALL LOVE SO MUCH. ”



INTRODUCING

C-1 HARNESS

REDEFINING FIT & PERFORMANCE



THERMO PRESSURE SENSITIVE DESIGN THAT ADAPTS
ITS SHAPE OVER TIME TO MATCH THE RIDERS BODY
FOR THE ULTIMATE CUSTOM LOW-PROFILE FIT

ERIC RIENSTRA
CUMBUCO, BRAZIL

PHOTO: ANDRE MAGARAO

DAKINE

HARNESSES.
GEAR BAGS.
ACCESSORIES.

DAKINE.COM



“ WE RIDERS HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO MAKE SURE OF THAT. THE TOUR HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD, AND I’M EXCITED TO SEE ALL OF THAT UNFOLDING THIS YEAR. ”

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

I see the kiteboarding industry becoming more professional, also more collaborative for one main goal, the growth of this sport we all love so much.

The world tour has been weathering some changes, what are your goals and predictions for the upcoming competition season?

As a competitor I try not to have my focus shaken by all the changes with the World Tour, my goal is always to win, and I’m committed to doing my best. As I see it, all these changes are for the better, and we riders have been working hard to make sure of that. The Tour has a bright future ahead, and I’m excited to see all of that unfolding this year.

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

I take care of my body in many different ways, from what I eat to my training regime, in order to prevent injuries and stay fit. I also do stretching or yoga for flexibility, visit my physiotherapist regularly to make sure any muscle contractions are taken care of straight away.

You’ve come back from some serious injuries in your career, how have these injuries made you an even stronger athlete?





These injuries definitely help me become a better rider, not only a stronger athlete, but I also learned a lot as a person. I always tell people that those were hard challenges, but I wouldn't have had it any other way. I needed to go through them and come out stronger on the other side; that's part of who I am today and thanks to that I achieved things that I'm proud of.

Who inspires you and how?

My family inspires me; they helped me to be the person I am today, they show me on a daily basis, how to be respectful, humble, honest, dedicated. There are many things as an athlete that I'm very proud of, but I believe the most valuable things I can share and offer to people, come from what I have learnt at home.

" I SURE WOULD LOVE TO SEE EQUALITY OF GENDER ON THE NUMBER OF RIDERS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND SPONSORSHIP DEALS "



THE EDGE LEGACY CONTINUES...

INSPIRED BY NATURE // DRIVEN BY THE ELEMENTS // FLYOZONE.COM



SIZES: 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10 / 11 / 13 / 15 / 17 / 19



- HIGH PERFORMANCE FREE RIDE
- MASSIVE BOOST AND HANG TIME
- WARP SPEED RIDING
- INSANE UPWIND ABILITY



“ I LOVE THE ADRENALINE RUSH AND CHALLENGE OF LEARNING TRICKS. ”

Are there any fun projects you're working on that you can tell us about?

There are a few, one of them I can't share yet, but I can say I'm very enthusiastic about it and can't wait to share it!

The other one is a project with Red Bull for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro; we start shooting in a week, and it's about the great sports you can practice in Rio that aren't on the Olympic program.

You focus primarily on freestyle, what do you love about this discipline, and have you considered pursuing other kite disciplines?

Freestyle was the discipline that got me hooked on kiteboarding; I love the adrenaline rush and challenge of learning tricks. I look at riders performing tricks in slow motion, and it's so interesting, it reminds me of gymnasts. The body and spatial awareness and coordination involved in this discipline are extraordinary.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

The backside 315 is a fresh one, and that gets my blood pumping, to step up the level for females means a lot to me, it's my goal in the sport, so having an achievement such as this one is incredibly exciting and rewarding.

The World Title is also an accomplishment I treasure; it was one of my dreams as a kiteboarder, so I'm very grateful for that. Still today I get goose-bumps when I remember the moment I found out I became World Champ.

Thanks for taking the time Bruna!





Connect smarter.



TRACKER
Pivoting Spread Bar

Free your ride with the all-new S1 Tracker pivoting spreader bar from NP. The Tracker's spring powered hook brings the connection point much closer to the rider, negating sideways pulling forces generated by the kite and reducing harness twisting.

The hook self-centers once the load is removed, allowing for easy reconnection. Use less energy and get ultimate freedom of movement.

[LEARN MORE ▶](#)

[NPSURE.COM](https://www.npsure.com)

Keahi de Aboitiz by Alan van Gysen

SLAVES TO THE ZEPHYR

WORDS JACK GALLOWAY

The Red Bull Ragnarok is one of the most challenging snow kite races on the planet, five laps of a twenty-one-kilometre course over demanding terrain. Steph Bridge described the race in the past as being harder than childbirth! Jack Galloway led a crack team from IKSURFMAG over to the event to see how they could fare, light winds made it one of the toughest races ever...

PHOTO DANIEL TENGS/RED BULL CONTENT POOL



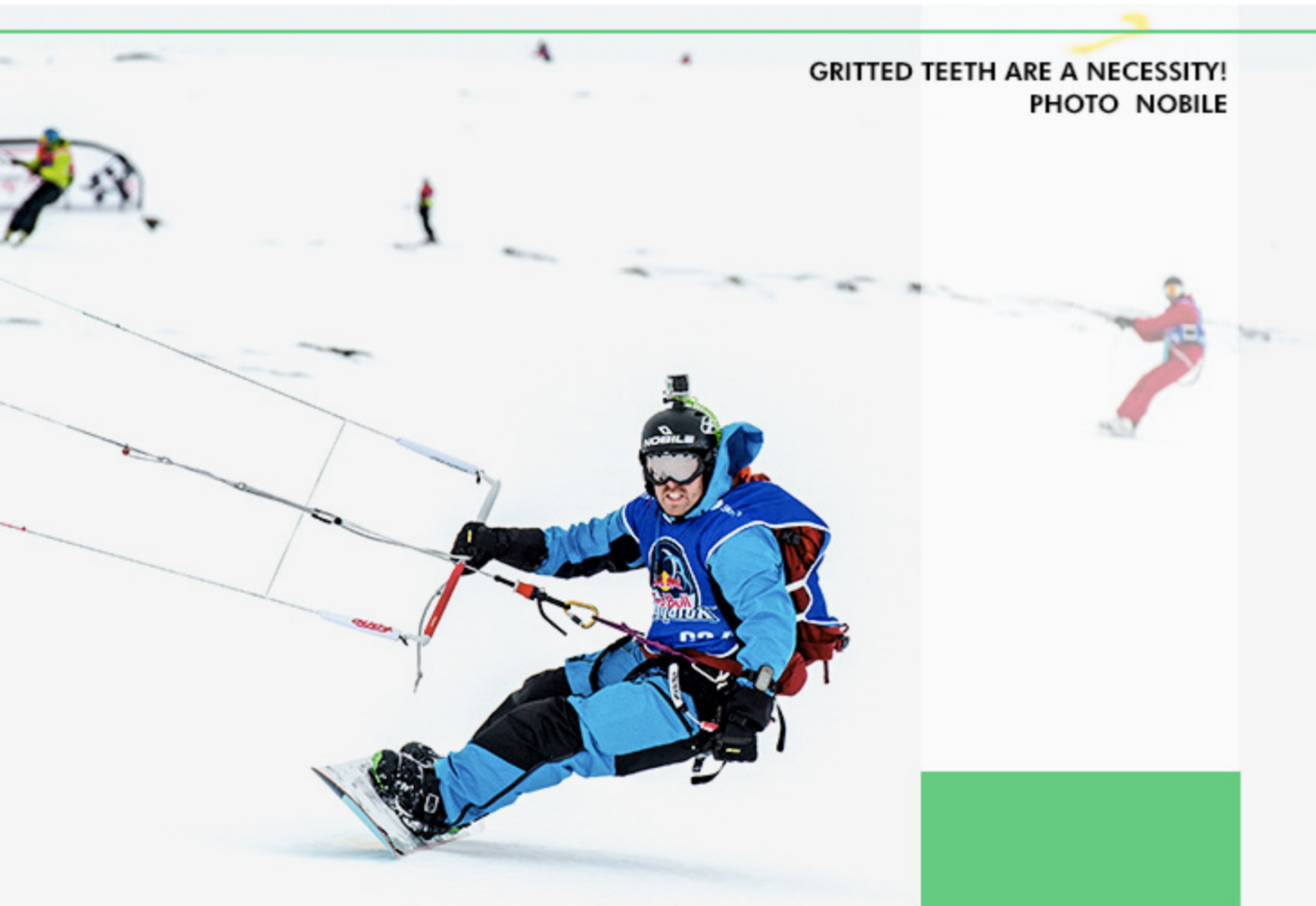


“ IT IS RENOWNED AS ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO SNOWKITE IN THE WORLD - AND FOR GOOD REASON. ”

I felt incredibly lucky to gain entry to the prestigious Red Bull Ragnarok for the second year running. The entry is done on a first-come, first-served basis much like getting tickets to a festival, except for the Ragnarok there are only 350 spaces with thousands of people attempting to enter from all over the world. There I was, poised in front of my laptop, on a cold December evening waiting for the seconds to tick by until 5 pm. After an agonising 10-minute wait, I received my confirmation email; I was in!

The event is held in Norway at the Hardangervidda National Park, a huge expanse of snow covered peaks on a plateau 1000 meters high. It is renowned as one of the best places to snowkite in the world - and for good reason. The first time you see it, having driven up through the idyllic Norwegian fjords it is guaranteed to take your breath away. We stayed at race HQ, the Haugastøl Hotel, which offers self-catered apartments and dorm style accommodation. It is by far the best location for proximity to kite spots and access to local wind and kite knowledge. If we were ever unsure of where to go a quick chat at breakfast with Bjørn Kaupang (snow kite pioneer and high ranking Ragnarok competitor) fixed us up. Haugastøl Hotel provides full board for the race period, and we came to anticipate the meals almost as much as the snowkiting.

This year I arrived with a group of friends for a whole week before the race, time to practice and explore!



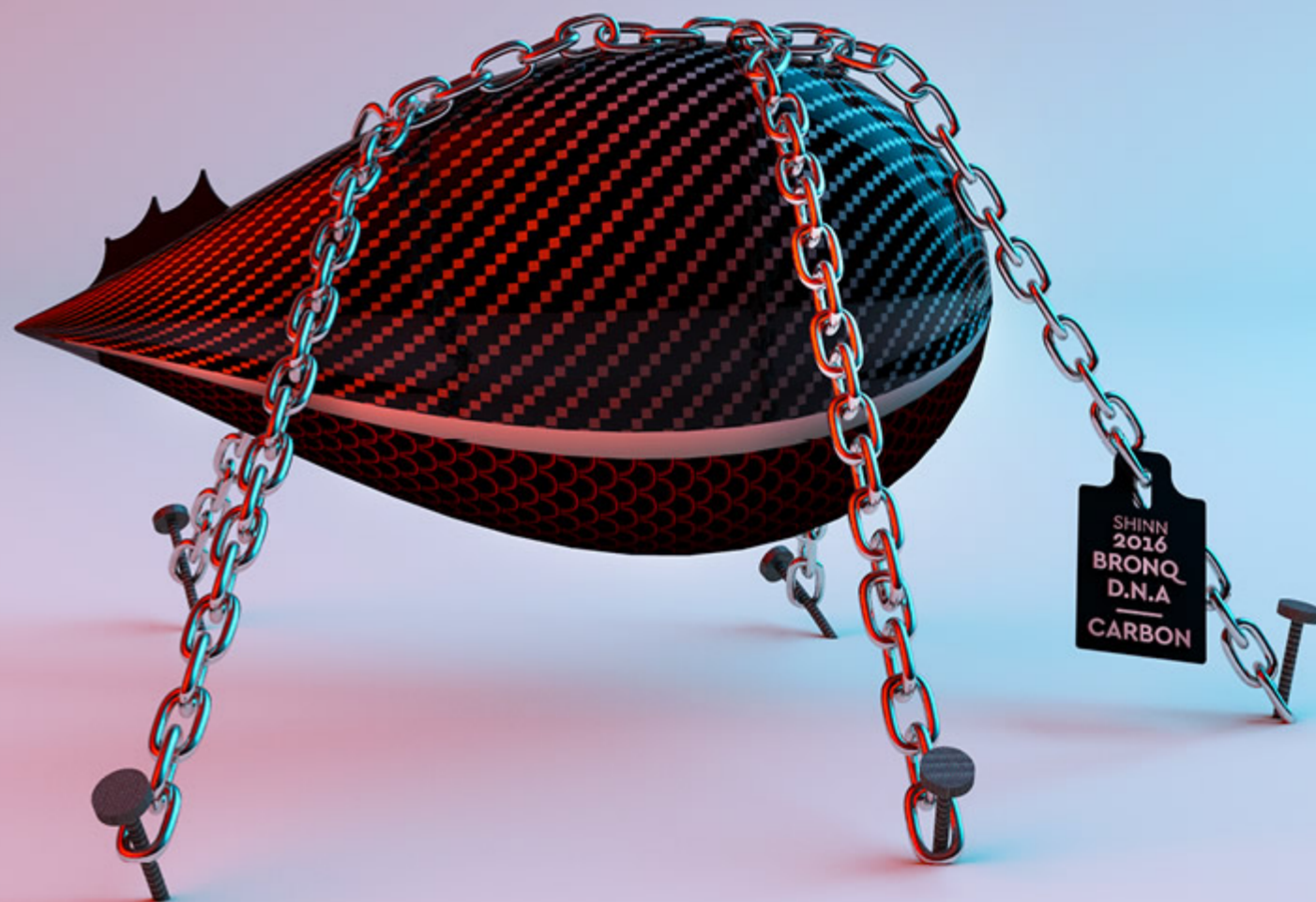
GRITTED TEETH ARE A NECESSITY!
PHOTO NOBILE

The possibilities of where the kite can take you are endless, you just pick a mountain in the distance and kite to the top, it's a unique type of free-riding experience. However, if you intend to go off the beaten track, preparation is essential. We met one group of people who had spent six days doing a snowkite expedition across the plateau. To cope with the ever-changing mountain conditions and survive the sub-freezing nights they had everything from tents and stoves to maps and compasses. Definitely an experience to add to the bucket list for the more adventurous among us! It wouldn't be difficult to cover more than 100km a day with the right conditions.

“ IT'S A UNIQUE
TYPE OF
FREE-RIDING
EXPERIENCE. ”

Shinn
BRONQ
FAMILY

THE CARBON HERITAGE
RELEASED SOON





“ GEILO HAS GOT PLENTY TO KEEP YOU OCCUPIED INCLUDING SEVERAL KITTED OUT SNOWPARKS.”

We had a real mix of weather in the week running up to the Ragnarok, from perfect blue skies with 25 knots of wind ('glamour' was the word of the week), to whiteouts and no wind. Fortunately the nearby ski resort of Geilo has more than enough for entertainment purposes if the wind doesn't play ball. It doesn't quite match what you'd find in the Alps, but Geilo has got plenty to keep you occupied including several kitted

out snowparks. Be careful though, Tom Bridge (British youth kitesurfing legend) managed to break his wrist while hitting a rail just days before the race. You can also book a husky ride or try your hand at cross-country skiing - which is much harder than it looks, by the way!

Friday morning saw the race briefing at the Haugastøl Hotel. The event had a two-day window allowing them to choose the best conditions; the forecast showed light wind & sunshine on Friday and steady winds but overcast on Saturday. As the 350 participants entered the tent, 99% of us were sure the

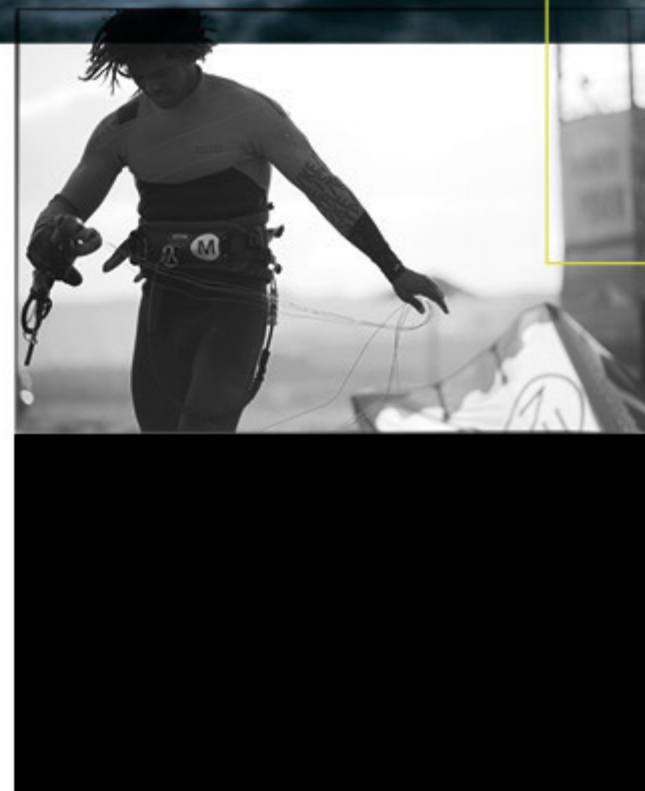
race would be held on Saturday, oh how wrong we were! It was race day. We were presented with the course map, which had been a secret up till then, and had the route explained: 5 gruelling laps of 21km to be completed within 5 hours - it was going to be a test of endurance (or patience) for all of us!

I cannot fault the organisation of the Ragnarok, getting 350 racers and all their kites, skis & snowboards up to a small snowy car park on the Hardangervidda plateau is a logistical nightmare, to say the least! Coaches and lorries shuttled everyone and their gear up to the starting area. There were medic teams on snowmobiles, electronic timing chips to clip around your ankle and plenty of Red Bull to be drunk...



Once off the coach, there was the mammoth task of dragging all your gear (four kites for me alone) to some space in the rigging area; it turned out the only space I could find was what felt like miles away. It's a good idea in any kite race to get all of your kites ready, just in case the wind picks up/drops off so you can do a quick change. I'd brought with me a 7m Ozone Edge, 9m Chrono, 11m R1 & 15m Chrono, (two of which Ozone UK had kindly lent me – thanks guys!). It turned out I was only going to use one, can you guess which?! As for the skis I was using Nobile Supremes, at 188cm long they have plenty of length to help me glide across the snow and fairly wide underfoot to make powder easy.

“ AT 188CM LONG THEY HAVE PLENTY OF LENGTH TO HELP ME GLIDE ACROSS THE SNOW ”



STRIKE SERIES
AIRTON COZZOLINO'S DAILY WORKWEAR



SURFING ELEMENTS

TEAM IKSURFMAG PRACTICE A BIT OF FORMATION FLYING!
PHOTO JACK GALLOWAY



“ THE ADRENALINE RUSH, AS YOU CHASE HUNDREDS OF SNOW KITERS UP A MOUNTAIN, IS INDESCRIBABLE. ”

A Red Bull girl wandered around with a microphone warning us of a start time of 11.45. With just half an hour to go, a very light breeze and only a couple of 18m foil kites in the sky it seemed like they were being optimistic. Better safe than sorry though, so I launched the 15m Chrono and made my way to start line with everyone else (when I say everyone I mean under half of the competitors as most of the others couldn't get their LEI's off the ground). The start line itself was nothing short of a disaster, kites were dropping out of the sky everywhere, and I could see several tangles. I found myself some space halfway down the line and managed to keep my kite in the sky in 3-5 knots for 14 minutes. With just one minute to go some absolute plonker flew their foil straight through my lines, I was livid! As I watched the fleet sail off up to the first checkpoint I was frantically trying to relaunch my kite, fortunately, a couple of minutes later I was on my way, it was catch up time!

The adrenaline rush, as you chase hundreds of snow kites up a mountain, is indescribable. I've got to say though, I felt for anyone on a tube kite, the foils make a massive difference in light air. The wind was increasing as I passed gate one on top of Krækkjahæe at 1335m, I bore away and made my route downhill to gate two in the valley below. I'd already overtaken quite a few people and was feeling good as I made my way towards gate three, which was back near the frozen lake of Lægreid at the start area.

INTRODUCING THE

TINY BEAST



**SOME PEOPLE ARE BORN
READY, WHY LET THEM WAIT?**

- For kids 30kgs-55kgs
- Maximum stability
- Effortless relaunch
- High depower level

Sizes: 4,6



blade
WWW.BLADEKITES.COM

PEOPLE WHO BOUGHT THIS ALSO BOUGHT



SLINGSHOT



LASER GUN



FIRE CRACKERS



STOLEN LUNCHBOX



REMOTE TOY CAR



FART PILLOW



FLORIAN GRUBER TAKES THE WIN!
PHOTO MATS GRIMSÆTH/RED BULL CONTENT POOL

“EVERYONE HAD A REAL CRACK AT THE COURSE AND PUT A HUGE AMOUNT OF EFFORT IN.”

As my kite hit the snow I could see racers ahead of me dragging their kites over rocks, hiking uphill towards the checkpoint, what were they thinking?! I then remembered it was a race and my competitive side kicked in so off I went. I was in pools of sweat as I reached the checkpoint and the tiniest bit of breeze filled in, it was a relief to get my kite back in the sky. I've spent a lot of time kiting

light winds in the past and was really grateful of the practice as I continually looped my kite to traverse the craggy ridge.

Lap 1 & 2 were exhausting, twice more I dropped my kite and had to hike, when the wind filled in a little more as I reached lap 3 I was definitely relieved. The race was far from over though, and it took every ounce of energy to complete the five laps. I finished in 4 hours 49 minutes with just 11 minutes to spare from the cut-off time of 5 hours. I was over the moon to have made it and shocked to hear I'd come 13th!

The running and cycling training through the winter had paid off, it was definitely a huge test of endurance!

The event has always been staggeringly difficult, but the tricky conditions this year made it a real challenge. Only 25 out of 350 people finished the race, and many with tube kites didn't make it from the rigging area to the start line. It was as much a test of your equipment as it was a test of your skill. Regardless of kite choice, everyone had a real crack at the course and put a huge amount of effort in. Once again the Ragnarok lived up to the hype, it was just a shame we didn't have a touch more wind to make it more enjoyable for everyone!

DESPITE THE LIGHT WINDS THERE WAS STILL PLENTY OF GREAT SNOW
KITING TO BE HAD!
PHOTO DANIEL TENGS/RED BULL CONTENT POOL





Even if you don't race I highly recommend you give snowkiting a try, it is so accessible for any level of kiter on snowboard or skis. The IKSURFMAG team were so pumped by their Norwegian snowkiting experience that one race day of tricky wind hasn't put us off. We are already planning our next trip to the Hardangervidda and looking to go further and higher than before!

" IT IS SO ACCESSIBLE FOR ANY LEVEL OF KITER "



sizes: 5 / 7 / 9.5 / 12

Gen4 Prodigy



From beginner to pro, this is your kite. Get more info at oceanrodeo.com



“ ONE RACE DAY OF TRICKY WIND HASN'T PUT US OFF. WE ARE ALREADY PLANNING OUR NEXT TRIP ”

RESULTS:

Ski Women:

- 1. Steph Bridge (GBR)
- 2. Camilla Ringvold (NOR)
- 3. Eugenia Gueorguieva (USA)

Snowboard Women:

- 1. Marie-Eve Mayrand (CAN)
- 2. Marit Nore (NOR)
- 3. Manuela Jungo (SUI)

Ski Men

- 1. Florian Gruber (GER)
- 2. Bjørn Kaupang (NOR)
- 3. Felix Kersten (GER)

Snowboard Men

- 1. Peter Martel (CAN)
- 2. Reinhold Gehrer (AUT)
- 3. Josh Barker (CAN)

THE VIEW FROM ABOVE WAS UNREAL!
PHOTO MATS GRIMSÆTH/RED BULL CONTENT POOL



Throw away all of the various layers and combine them into one single piece. The Legend is a one of a kind harness which combines simplicity and flexibility.



FLYMOLD The Mystic R&D team developed a material with the ideal density to give perfect body grip with or without a wetsuit.

TORSION TECH The Legend harness has been developed to provide optimal support when the pulling power of a kite is changing in angles.



*THE WORLD'S
FIRST UNIBODY
HARNESS*

WATER LOCK The material of the Flymold is 100% water resistant and keeps the harness as light as possible during your kite session



FLYWEB The Flyweb makes sure that the force of the kite is evenly distributed over the Flymold which allows you to stay longer on the water.

MULTI HOOK BANANA BAR + LOW TORQUE SYSTEM The new specialized lightweight spreaderbar holds the hook firmly in position and also prevents it from tilting upwards. The webbing of the two points system is placed on different positions to spread the load more evenly over the harness.

© BEN THOUARD

#INCONTROL
GUILLY BRANDÃO

LEGEND
KITESURF HARNESS



THE REVOLUTIONARY FLYMOLD AND FLYWEB GIVE THE RIDER OPTIMAL SUPPORT WHERE NEEDED.





BEHIND THE BRAND

LIQUID
FORCE

We sit down with Gary Siskar; Brand Manager at Liquid Force Kiteboarding to find out a little more about the seemingly unstoppable march the company is on. With a heritage that stretches back to before kitesurfing even existed, Liquid Force have stood the test of time and in recent years have been going from strength to strength!

CHRISTOPHE TACK GETTING WOUND UP
IN THE CARIBBEAN!
PHOTO ROU CHATER



WORDS ROU CHATER

Liquid Force, as a brand, is obviously steeped in wakeboarding history, can you give us a little back ground as to when you decided to branch out into kitesurfing and how that happened? Who were the founding fathers of Liquid Force Kiteboarding and are they still with you now?

Of course! We are very proud of our history in wakeboarding and the fact that LF Kiteboarding sprouted from the very talented people that started Liquid Force. Tony Finn and Jimmy Redmon founded LF. Tony was, and is to this day, a master motivator and deeply passionate person in the sport of wakeboarding. It's the same with kiteboarding and we're passionate about developing both the sports.

Jimmy is a pure, outside of the box innovator, creator and craftsman that continues to this day shaping, programing and testing boards both for wakeboarding and kiteboarding. LF wake started in 1995 and the kite division sprouted in 1999. The spark that set off the idea for LF kite was a trip that Tony took to Maui in 1998. There he met Lou Wainman, Elliot Leboe, and Mauricio Abreu. These guys were (and some to this day still are) ripping on wakeboards and kiteboards shaped like wakeboards.

BRANDON SCHEID TESTING OUT HIS PRO MODEL, THE ECHO.
PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON



“ WE’RE PASSIONATE ABOUT DEVELOPING BOTH THE SPORTS. ”





From that day Tony had the vision and the dream to marry the 2 sports together. Starting at that time LF collaborated with many knowledgeable and talented individuals in kiteboarding, beginning with Jimmy Redmon connecting with Jimmy Lewis on the first production kite pickle fork board

that released in 1998. Shortly after that LF teamed up with Wipika and created the Flight kite based off the Free Air in 1999, and from that day on Liquid Force became a reliable and innovative resource for kiteboarders around the world.

Where is Liquid Force Kites based currently, is there one central office or is the team spread out around the globe?

BRANDON SCHEID AND GARY SISKAR DISCUSSING IDEAS OVER A COFFEE.

STRIPPED DOWN

A TRADITIONAL SURFBOARD VS. LIGHT TEAM CONSTRUCTION



ADVANTAGES OF LIGHT TEAM CONSTRUCTION

- 1. **PRECISION**
CNC MILLED CORE AND MOLD ENSURE 100% ACCURACY OF AN EXACT REPLICA OF OUR TEAM'S SHAPE OF CHOICE.
- 2. **STRENGTH-TO-WEIGHT RATIO**
THROUGH OPTIMIZED RESIN FLOW AND THE USE OF EPOXY, THE BOARD IS LIGHTER, BUT STRONGER THAN CUSTOM PU BOARDS.
- 3. **FEELING**
MORE RESPONSIVE FEELING AND LONGER LASTING PERFORMANCE.



“ LF IS AND HAS BEEN DRIVEN BY
INNOVATION AND PASSION FOR THE SPORT
OF KITEBOARDING SINCE 1999 ”

We are a truly global brand! Our central nervous system is now located in a new kite loft design space in Hood River, Oregon. This is where we administer all the sales, marketing and product line development. In addition to that we have offices in Encinitas, California, Montreal, Canada, and in Broger, Denmark. All of these locations add to the support of Liquid Force Kiteboarding from design and engineering to end consumer customer service. On top of all these locations our R&D team spends time

where the wind is blowing at various times of the year which include Cape Hatteras in North Carolina, Mancora in Peru and of course the kiteboarding Meccas of Cape Town, South Africa and Maui, Hawaii.

The brand has changed a lot over the last 5 years, moving from one of the many players in the industry to rarefied heights as one of the major players in terms of the quality of the gear. How did that change come about and was it planned?

First off, thanks!! LF is and has been driven by innovation and passion for the sport of kiteboarding since 1999, but yes in the past 4 to 5 seasons (years) we feel like we have hit a new stride. We have focussed on bringing more relevant kiteboarding gear to product-hungry kiteboarders that matter! Making kites that suit particular styles of riding and a unique feel at the bar, the largest twin tip board line available and of course we have introduced products that have started revolutions in the market such as our hydrofoil line.



EXO

HARNESS

MANERA



ENERGY DISPERSION FRAME

COCOON CONCEPT

SEAMLESS NEOPRENE AREA

TUCK FLAP

ERGONOMIC PREFIT

NEST

DOWN HOLD SYSTEM

MANERA LEASH RELEASE



“ WE HAVE A PASSION FOR THE SPORT THAT I FEEL IS UNPARALLELED. ”

We also have also focused on teaming up with great retail and distribution partners worldwide that provide the highest level of brand experience and customer service. Was all this planned? Some yes and some no. In the end everyone at LF loves kiteboarding and we have a passion for the sport that I feel is unparalleled.

You’ve recently changed your timeline for releasing new product, what was the thinking behind this?

Believe it or not this is a very complex question. In the past we would set a date of release for the entire season of product in late summer, early fall. We realised that this schedule was not favourable for our design and engineering team, the retailers and consumers. The fact is we don’t want to eliminate a current product that is working great just to release another product in the effort to outdate the current one.

Of course we have to have timelines and in the spirit of the retail world we have to push innovation and new ideas to market. Except now we let the designers and engineering team have more time to develop their ideas and innovations and allow for a significant time of testing both in a laboratory environment and also in the field. Along with this, our product is not becoming out dated in a single season. A retailer and end user can purchase an LF product with confidence that it wont be out dated in a short time span.

WE RECKON IN ANOTHER LIFE BRANDON MIGHT HAVE BEEN A FIREMAN, HE SURE LOVES SLIDING DOWN POLES!
PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON



“ I THINK EVERY PRODUCT HAS ITS
UNIQUE STORY AS IT COMES TO LIFE. ”

Tell us a little bit about the design teams, do you keep it separate for kites, boards and bars or does everyone have some input?

We have a very extensive design team around the world. We do have product leaders, for example in boards it's Jimmy Redmon, and in kites and control systems Julien Fillion spearheads the design and development. Outside of these guys we do share design and engineering staff with the wake product team in Encinitas, California. Our “ace in the sleeve”

is Jason Slezak that manages our R&D process. This process includes everything from him testing every product to managing our global test crew.

What's the process for designing a totally new kite like the Solo for instance, how does that initial idea develop into a product on the shelves?

Whoa!! Big question. I think every product has its unique story as it comes to life. The Solo story is a good example of how we do give birth to a product. We really start off by looking at what we have in the

line and how it is all working in the market. We ask ourselves first if we are content with what we have in the line and if there is anything that we personally want to see in the LF line up. This is all normally done after a session and having a few beers!

From there we start a complete concept and brief, this done in an office with a whiteboard. The Solo in particular started with all of us wanting a kite that was lightweight, easy to pack for travel, and possessed high performance expectations across all styles of riding.

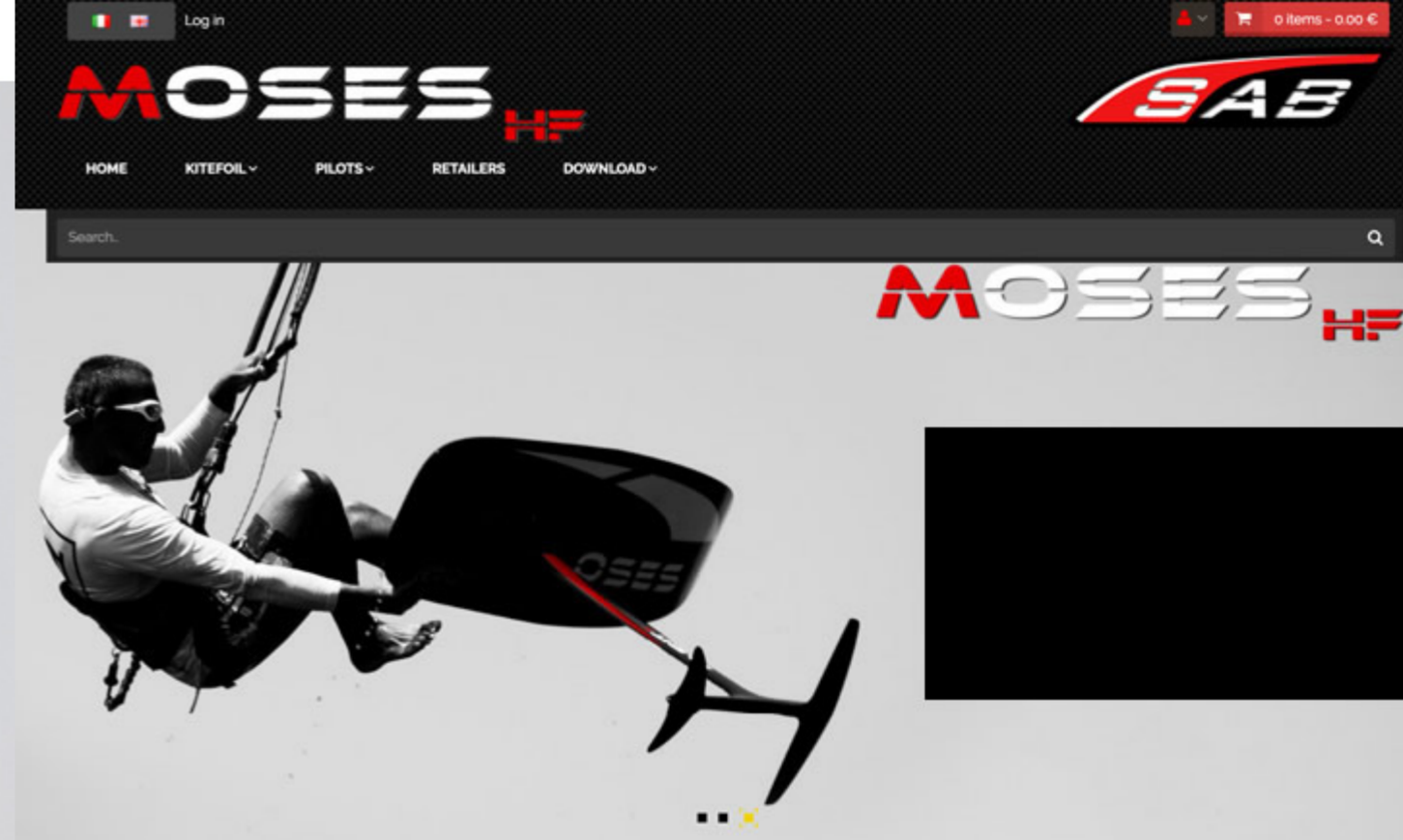


The next step is then handed off to Julien where he starts programing ideas and getting protos made for the testing process. After a complete battery of tests and signoffs the product becomes a reality for the rest of the world!









Do you go through many prototypes along the way and where do you do your testing?

For prototypes it varies. We have had kites like the Solo where we tested over 20 protos in a single size to arrive at the final kite. I would say on average we test in a single size, 6 to 10 protos. Then from there we have to prototype, adjust and test each size to achieve the same feel across the range of the model. For boards we have the same demanding protocol. We do have the ability with some very, very smart and passionate people in both Hood River and Encinitas to rapid prototype and field test parts!

JIMMY REDMON AND TONY FINN WITH SOME OF THEIR OLDER, AND MORE RECENT CREATIONS!
PHOTO CHRIS WELLHAUSEN



FEATURED PRODUCTS

<p>VORACIOUS FREE RACE</p>  <p>MKV970RM € 1539.00</p> <p>The natural inclination dell'hydrofoil the races has there ...</p> <p>BUY</p>	<p>VORACIOUS COMPETITION</p>  <p>MKV971RM € 1639.00</p> <p>We are proud to present the Voracious Competition. The ...</p> <p>BUY</p>	<p>DUMBLEDORE</p>  <p>MKS950RG € 1299.00</p> <p>Moses Hydrofoil produces Dumbledore since its Buildin ...</p> <p>BUY</p>	<p>ALA COMPETITION 580 VORACIOUS</p>  <p>MHP580VRM € 368.00</p> <p>The copetition 580mm wing for Voracious was developed co ...</p> <p>BUY</p>
<p>STABILIZER 345 VORACIOUS</p>  <p>MST345VM € 218.00</p>	<p>WING HIGH PERFORMANCE 560 DUMBLEDORE</p>  <p>MHP560SRG € 268.00</p>	<p>STABILIZER 330 DUMBLEDORE</p>  <p>MST330SG € 158.00</p>	<p>FREE RIDE TABLE T40 - CARBON FIBER</p>  <p>MT40CRM € 785.00</p>



“ JIMMY’S KNOWLEDGE IN BOARD CONSTRUCTION IS LIMITLESS AND OUR FACTORY CAPABILITIES ARE VAST. ”

This has proven to be priceless in our development process.

Liquid Force was known in the past as being a board brand at heart, but the older boards were always fairly heavy and stiff, with wakeboarding traits at their core. When did you decide to take things in a new direction, and how hard was it to implement?

This happened a while ago. Wakeboards were traditionally moulded construction boards. This was to create durability and the stiff flex needed to land flat if you missed the wake transition. But as the world turns new technology takes hold and the ability to produce a board with a laminated, wood core sandwich construction become relevant. Snowboard and ski technology was brought into the wakeboards to create new flex patterns for a smoother ride and as features such as rails, kickers and sliders came to play both at cable parks and behind a boat or PWC the flex control became more important.

For kiteboarding flex and construction offered benefits beyond what the wakeboard needs. Softer boards offered a smoother ride in chop. The use of CNC wood cores offered more precise channelling and bottom contours that allow for better upwind performance and softer jump landings in choppy water. For us it was not hard to implement. Jimmy’s knowledge in board construction is limitless and our factory capabilities are vast.

THE NEW ELITE RAM AIR KITE IS OPENING UP EVEN MORE DOORS FOR THE BRAND!
PHOTO RICHARD HALLMAN



THE SHOWROOM AT THE OFFICE IN HOOD RIVER!

The surfboards have come on leaps and bounds in recent years, who's been working on the shapes and construction?

Ohhhhhh, I can go on and on about this topic! Kite surfboards sit in an interesting category. I think every brand has been on a quest to satisfy an almost every request by the market in a kite surfboard. There are many types of kite surfers but the common goal that we are trying to achieve is a kite surfing board that rides like a traditional surfboard yet can stand up to the harsh use that kite surfers put the boards through.

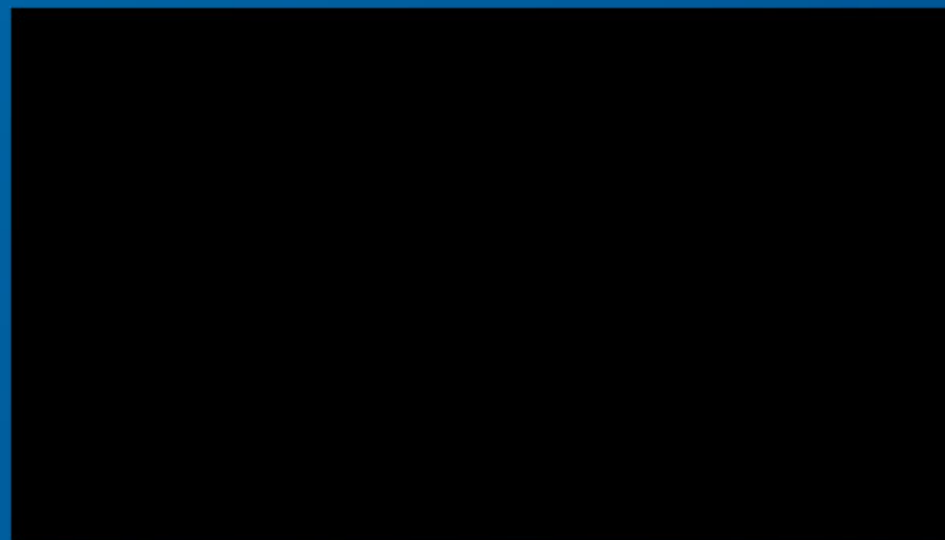
Such as riding with straps and jumping, landing flat strapless, etc....so the challenge is to get great working shapes that are not impacted by excessive weight or loss of flex due to the construction that is needed to hold up to the rigors of kiting. We actually took a year off introducing new kite surfboards into the market to take the time to develop and test a construction that will meet the challenges of kiting. What I can say now is that we have great surfboard shapes that incorporate surf rocker lines and volumes in a construction that is light, flexible and durable!

You were the first brand to mass produce a foil for the market place and foil boards now make up a large part of your range, who was the driving force behind taking the brand in that direction?

All of us in the brand were the driving force behind hydro foiling! We took a conscious stand more than 3 years ago that we would not make or get involved with a product or product category that we did not love to participate in ourselves. With hydro foiling we all fell in love from the first day of struggling to even get started on a hydrofoil.

SCULP

5m / 7m / 8m / 9m / 10m / 11m / 12m / 13m / 14m
FREERIDE/FREESTYLE.



One world. One kite.



RED



BLUE



It was pure fun, after those first tries we knew that we wanted to make hydrofoils. And we knew that we wanted to be the brand that brings this sensation of riding a foil to the mass of kiteboarders in the world. We're inclusive not exclusive!!!

How important was it to be the first to market with a mass produced foil board?

For us we just wanted to bring a price conscious product to the mass. The importance of being first was a passenger to just making the sport accessible cost wise to more people. We also wanted to bring a hydrofoil to market that the rider did not have to treat like a newborn baby. No, they are not indestructible, but yes, they will take more abuse than a 2800 custom carbon set up! Price conscious + easy to learn on + durable = lots of happy people that are now hydro foiling!

The price point was a huge step forwards for making foil boarding accessible, how did you go about achieving those goals of a low price of entry coupled with an effective and high quality foil?

Essentially we stepped outside the box of materials, looking to glass and aluminium, rather than the traditional carbon that had been favoured before. At least, that's the short answer!

CRUISING ON THE ELITE AND THE HYDROFOIL IN SOUTH AFRICA!



“ WE WANTED TO BE THE BRAND THAT BRINGS THIS SENSATION OF RIDING A FOIL TO THE MASS OF KITEBOARDERS IN THE WORLD. ”



“ THESE TWO SIMPLE THINGS TOGETHER ONLY POINT TO MANY MORE GOOD TIMES AND A GREAT FUTURE OF THE SPORT! ”

How difficult was it to keep up with demand. For a while there, those things were as rare as rocking horse sh!t...

Ha!! I am going to steal that line!! You are right...we did not expect the demand to be so great, and yeah...we had some catch up to accomplish!

Where do you see the future of that side of the sport headed?

I/we believe that we are just at the start of hydro foiling. What is great about the aspect of hydro foiling is that it touches every kiteboarder out there! What I mean by this is that you can race, freeride, and get out in light wind on a hydro. There are multiple branches to the hydrofoil tree as to where something like course racing is just a single stick. I also think that there is a great possibility of hydro foiling bringing in new kiteboarders! There are plenty of locations in the world that the wind is a steady 11/12/13 knots. This is where riding a hydro is amazing! Areas like San Diego, California go from 50 good kite days a year to 150 + days of kiting!

You've just launched a new kite, the Elite, which is a RAM air design, is this aimed at the race market and is that a direction you guys are headed or is it more of a freeride foil?

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



BRANDON SCHEID IS ALWAYS LEADING THE CHARGE FOR THE BRAND!
PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON



CLICK HERE TO SEE NAISH'S 2016/17 LINE-UP



THIS IS *YOUR* MOMENT...



RIDE

ALL-AROUND FREERIDE

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 14



TRIP

FOIL/UNDERPOWERED RIDING

8 10 12



FLY

LIGHTWIND FREERIDE

5 10



REACH NEW HEIGHTS.

NAISH 2016/17 KITES

No work; all play. Riding is practically effortless with the intuitive and easy-handling kites in the midseason line-up. Offering minimal struts (2 for the Ride and Fly, none for the Trip), these lightweight kites feature incredible low-end power and a wide wind range that offers impressive versatility. Visit NaishKites.com to start logging more quality time on the water.

Pacific Boardsports LLC · pbs@naishsails.com · (509) 493-0043
Facebook: NaishKiteboarding Instagram: Naish_Kiteboarding Photo: G. Dein, Riders: Shawn Richman, Jesse Richman



CKPERFORMANCE

TECHNIQUE

Happily sponsored by Cabrinha, NP & ambassadors for SurfEars



WORDS & PHOTOS CHRISTIAN & KARINE

We have a veritable feast of moves for you this time round, from the oldest of charming Old School to the grabbing style of modern Nu School. Up first we have a look back at the Stiffy, probably the first of all inverted sent jumps but still a modern day crowd-pleaser. Then it's a splendid transition in the form of a double back roll with a down loop to really spice it up. And the finale this issue is the unhooked popped front to toe side with a front hand nose grab - there must surely be a shorter name, answers on a post card please???. This should give you plenty to work on, enjoy the challenges.

For more info on clinics, coaching and getting the most out of your kiting:

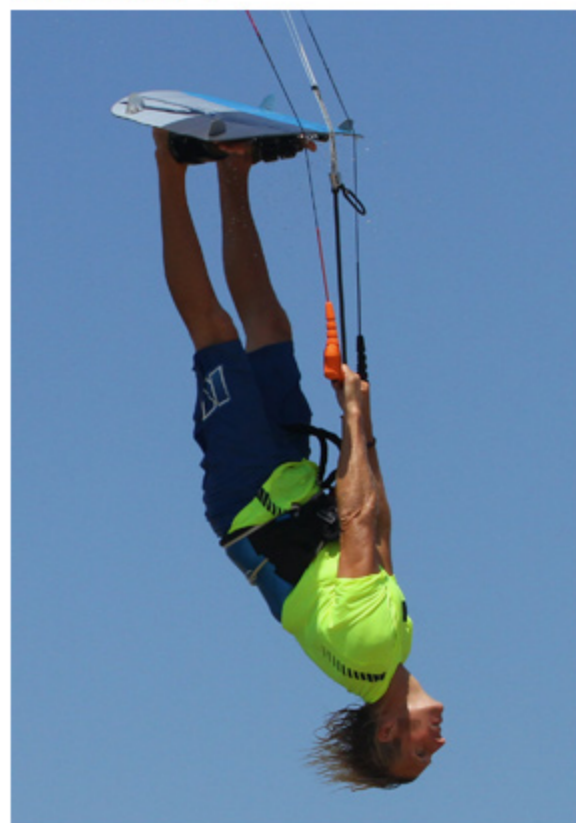


ckperformanceclinics.co.uk

facebook.com/CKperformanceKitesurfClinics

twitter.com/CKPkiteclinics

THE STIFFY



[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

DOUBLE BACK LOOP DOWN LOOP TRANSITION



[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

UNHOOKED POPPED FRONT NOSE GRAB TO TOE SIDE



[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

THE STIFFY >

Kite: 9m Chaos Board: Ace 139 & H2s

Here's one from the dark ages, bringing back memories of two line kites, wrist leashes, long twin tips and even longer swims. The Stiffy is an inverted jump, but compared to today's boner here both legs are used to push the board up high, kicking the lines with your toe side edge. To really claim it and make it more stylish you can get your head right back so that your body and legs are in line. In short, it's a Dead Man without letting go of the bar.

This jump is pretty much open to anyone who can happily land a sent jump. As a precaution if this is to be your first attempt at getting upside down, please make sure that the water is deep enough to land head first!! So, let's have a flick through the separate parts of the Stiffy and see how best you can learn it.

Back to Basics Pic A

Your take off is the most important part of any jump, and as such you should devote some effort into making it work in your favour. You don't need to go stratospheric to get upside down but it will help if all your energy takes you up rather than swings you downwind. Let's have a brief recap on how to get that elevator jump in preference to a long one...

First off, you need to be heading upwind on a strong edge, so looking where you want to go, shoulders twisted open, driving against the board whilst pushing it towards the kite. This stance should not slow you down.



If you're slowing, it's because you're carving upwind - this should be an A to B line upwind where you're balanced. Make sure the kite is positioned at about 1 or 11 o'clock as at this height you can still edge. Any higher and the kite will lift you, any lower and you'll have to work very hard to resist the pull for a longer period of time when you send the kite. Also, make sure that you steer your kite on the sweet spot using both hands - if you yank the bar in it will stall the kite and pull you over and downwind rather than up,



up and away. You can see that Christian is edging well, the board is in between him and the kite, he's twisting upwind whilst sending the kite up and resisting.

Balanced in the Chair Pic B

Once you've taken off you need to get balanced and in a position from which you can tip yourself backwards. As far as getting balanced it's much like any other jump. Christian is pulling his knees up and he's levelled the bar out to stop the kite moving back and bring it to just about 12 o'clock.

BRUNOTTI

THE NEW
RIDER DEVELOPED PRODUCT
BRANERY FULLSUIT

100% TAPED SEAMS INSIDE / GBS / 100% MOTION X NEOPRENE / HALOFLEX CHEST &
BACK PANEL / KEY POCKET / FRONTZIP ENTRY / MAGNET CLOSURE

Brunotti Team Riders:
Brett Burcher / Yuri Zoon

Follow brunotti



The warmest, quickest drying neoprene in our range. Used on the inside of the panels.



A super flexible and softtouch neoprene for maximum comfort and movability



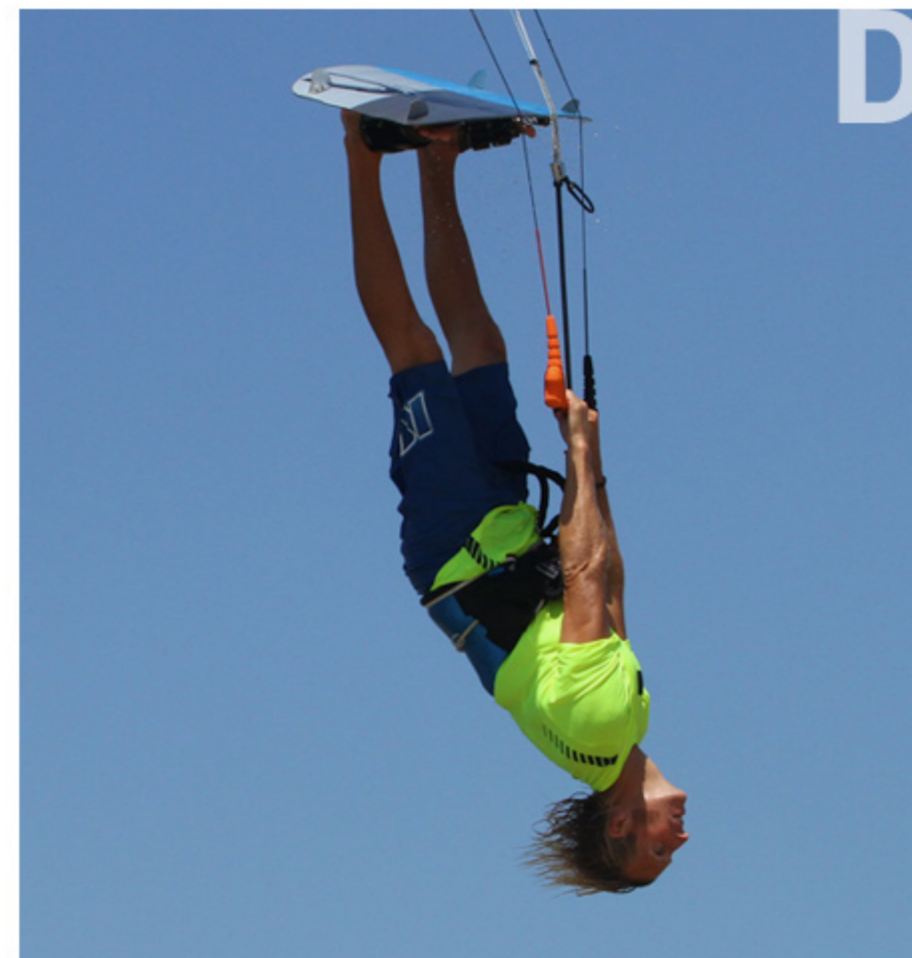
Glued blind stitched and 100% Taped. Stay warm in the hardest conditions.



This position will offer him the most support, float and balance. Bringing the knees up may, however, feel counterintuitive if you want your legs straight above you. Yet, think of it as falling back on a chair. If you slob straight with your bum near the edge and your legs extended you'd never tip back, whereas if you sit in the chair as was intended, a little push from the legs and drop back of the head and bingo, you're flat on your back. You can make this easier still by using your arms. Christian is pushing the bar down and lifting his knees towards it whilst looking up at the kite. This brings the fulcrum point towards his waist and harness making the forthcoming inversion easier as he's working with gravity rather than against it (if you ignore the fact that he's jumping a kite!)

Look at Your Eyebrows Pic C

In all sports there are many ways to encourage people to move in certain ways and kiting is no different whether we're punching kangaroos or biting our ears. In this case you'll be looking at your eyebrows. To get yourself inverting into a Stiffy you'll need to commit wholeheartedly to going upside down. Looking at Christian you can see that the bar is still in, because he's using it to lever himself up by pushing down on it. At the same time, he's thrown his head back, and to fully commit he's looking at his eyebrows. It's one thing to put your head back, but another to take your eyes off the kite. He also still has his knees flexed so he can lift them further towards the bar as he rolls back, rather than having to lift the



weight of his legs and board. Finally, note how everything is in line, his head is 90° to his shoulders, his hips are parallel to the bar and his feet are lifting equally. This way Christian won't twist whilst inverting into the Stiffy and will therefore have much more chance of coming down in the same balanced and landable position.

The Stiffy Pic D

Here it is, a Stiffy inversion. Christian has kicked the board up all the way so that it stops against his lines (hopefully no sharp edges). As the feet rise Christian pushes his hands and hips towards each other to bring his bum in. His arms are straight, his shoulders low and he's no doubt slightly disorientated because all he can see is the water beneath him.

Another good reason to keep everything in line. The harder you kick up and the more you thrust your hips towards your hands, the more inverted you'll be. Your upper body relies on your head and eyes...

Coming Down Pic E

You'll find that gravity always wins, so no matter how long you'd like to keep your legs up, they'll drop of their own accord; you need to be ready to control their descent. The key here is to not let everything just drop out of the sky. Much like a Pilates exercise keep your stomach and legs "engaged" and tense so that you lower them in a controlled fashion, again with everything in line so that you don't get twisted. Christian is still holding the bar in and level so that he can support himself and also keeps tension on the lines. As his feet lower Christian can now look forward to where he thinks he'll land.

Down and Dive Pic F

Once your undercarriage is fully down it's business as usual for touch down. Chances are you might be slightly off balance so the harder that you dive the kite, the more it will help as the power will pull you out and down wind for a soft tail first landing. Christian keeps the bar in, and with tension on the back lines he can dive the kite with meaning while focusing on his potential landing.

Top Tips

As you will be supporting yourself on the bar it's a good idea to trim your sweet spot in towards you if you're



used to riding with it at arms length. The reason being that if your sweet spot is a long way out, when you pull on the bar you will stall your kite, and as a result you will accelerate downwind whilst you're airborne, and generally speaking this is off putting, especially when you're in the process of going upside down.

At first concentrate on getting your feet up with your legs a bit bent. Then you can work towards straighter

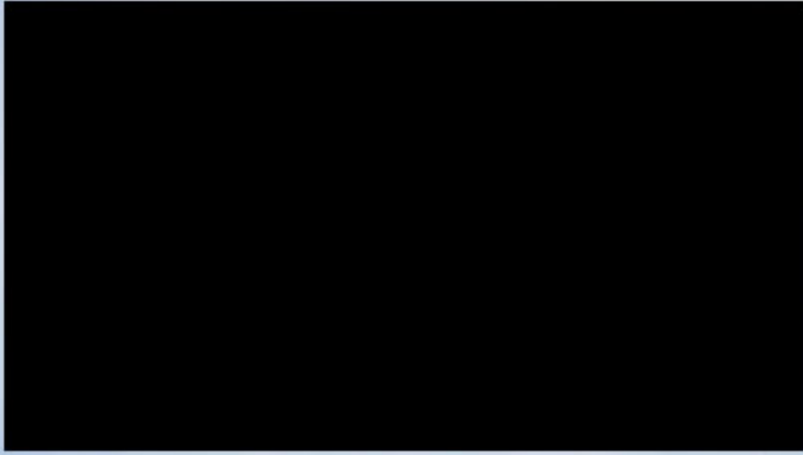


legs, whilst still being able to keep a check on your kite. Once you're comfortable you can go for the full inversion with your head and body.

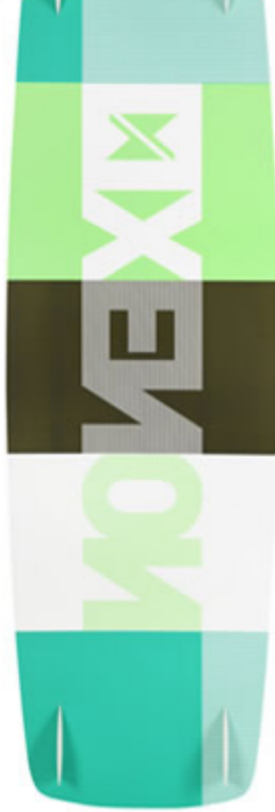
You can visualise the movement to get upside down in a chair by pushing your arms down towards your thighs, lifting your chin and rocking your head back and looking for your eyebrows.

MIXEMOM

SEAS



**CHECK OUT THE
2016 TWIN TIPS
CLICK HERE**





Now have a good look at the videos and sequence to get an idea of the complete move.

Common Problems

The most likely unwanted occurrence in this move is that you'll rotate forwards (as per front roll) as you come out of your Stiffy. This is due to two things: firstly, if you kick heavily into your jump with your back leg it can put you off balance and start a bit of a twist; secondly, and most likely, is the position of the kite. If you leave it too far behind you on the way up it will encourage a slight look back twist on your harness that will be exaggerated by the Stiffy movement, so make sure that you get the kite back above you before throwing your legs up.

Keystones

1. Good edge and send for elevator jump.
2. Redirect kite towards 12 o'clock as soon as take off.
3. Bring knees up and bar down into chair position.
4. Thrust hips towards hands, kick up legs, head back &
5. Look at your eyebrows.



DOUBLE BACK LOOP DOWN LOOP TRANSITION >

Kite: 7m Chaos Board: XO 133 & H3 Boots

This is a fine transition, and with the down loop pulling you out at the end, you'll get a lovely surge of power and exit with as much speed as you took into it. Down loop transitions are all about having confidence with the kite, as you need to keep flying it throughout the move, so this will be your focus. In this one you'll also be aiming for more of a double back to toe side so that you're ready for a down-wind landing on your new front foot. So in preparation we'd recommend that you're happy with at least a back loop to toe side and definitely comfortable with your down loops.

Take Off Pic A

As with most moves your take off will dictate what happens next and has a heavy impact on the success, or lack of – so let us get a good understanding of what is happening, and why. You will need enough height to complete a double back rotation. You'll need enough rotation to complete the double. And you'll need enough control to both have the kite in the right place and bring the back foot through to toe side at the end.

First off, you'll need to come in on a good edge with some speed and send the kite positively to get enough height whilst maintaining forward momentum. Don't kill your speed as for a standard transition as you need some momentum to carry you forward into the down loop.



Next you need to get a bit more spin to guarantee you get into the 2nd rotation. However, this part is a compromise as you don't want to wildly throw yourself into the back rolls because you need control at the end for the toe side landing. To get enough spin you will carve into the rotation hard with the edge of your board and you can lean back slightly to use the boards tail to push you round – this will spin you quicker. However, you must still keep your head perpendicular to your shoulders, if you throw your head around over your front shoulder you won't have the control, you're more likely to lose your edge and you won't be able to use your head for the 2nd rotation.



You can see that Karine has a strong edge and has carved hard upwind on take off to generate the rotation, whilst her head keeps looking forwards through her shoulders.

Kite and Chill Pic B

Immediately after take off your job is to get the kite back where you want it for the most float, and keep tension in the lines so that the kite is ready for action when you next need it. Here Karine is pulling on her front (left) hand to stop the kite sending any further back and bring it forwards towards 12 o'clock. Notice that her head is still looking forwards,



she's not looking over her shoulder and is content with her rotation so far. In theory she's only just taken off and has already nearly done 180°.

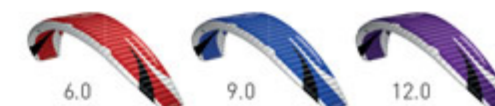
Round 1 Complete Pic C

With the kite moving forwards towards 12 o'clock you should be lifting all the way around your first rotation. Your aim is to get number 1 out of the way on the way up as this way you will still feel where the kite is. Once you start to drop you won't have the same feedback on the bar so it will be more difficult to time the down-loop correctly. Karine has finished her first rotation here, her bar is still in and her head is still looking forwards.

flysurferkiteboarding | everyday is a kiteday with flysurfer.com



// NEW TECHNICAL DESIGN
 // UNMATCHED RANGE OF USE
 // AGILE TURNING



Head and Kite Pic D

To get the 2nd rotation happening with enough urgency you now need to use your head. Karine is now looking over her shoulder, encouraging the rotation and also giving herself a view of what is to come and where she is. Knowing where she is gives her the cue to move the kite further forward. This has two benefits: firstly, she'll be rewarded with a bit more lift as the kite goes over and past 12; secondly, to down-loop the kite effectively with balance and resulting in a pull that leads to a downwind landing the kite needs to be moving progressively forwards before you pull the trigger. So as Karine comes around half way into her 2nd rotation she wants the kite to be on it's way from 12 o'clock towards 11 o'clock.

Spot and Loop Pic E

Once Karine can see where she's going and has a view of her landing spot it's time to pull the trigger and get the kite looping from it's new position near 11. As the kite is already on its way forwards Karine just increases the pull on her front hand and can assist further by pushing away with her back hand. This will get the kite turning more aggressively. It's worth pondering where the kite should be turning. It wants to be on it's way from 12 to 11, then scooping under so that it lifts towards half twelve or 1. You don't want it helicopter looping straight down from 12 and back up, or even then to 1 as you'll have no power to pull you out of the move. This is also the time to set up for your toe side landing, and it works



well with the pull from the kite. As the kite dives the pull will be from more downwind as opposed to the edge of the window, which should make it easier to lean upwind and lift your back knee up ready to bring the leg through.

The Landing Pic F

A sum of all the previous parts. With the kite pulling and her back knee high, Karine keeps the kite turning



and allows herself to be pulled downwind whilst she brings the back leg through to land right foot forward. It's worth keeping both hands on the bar as if you let go with your non pulling hand it will encourage the other foot to come forwards for landing and you'll also most likely let the bar out, which will slow the kite, make it flutter or crash it into the drink. Once Karine has landed she'll fly the kite up and forwards whilst carving back upwind.



Top Tips

Down loops are by their nature less aggressive than kite loops as you're travelling with the kite as opposed to sending the kite back in the opposite direction as per kite loop. For this reason you want some power from them, but to harness it you do need to be moving forwards. Hence a down loop should be considered a continuation of your landing dive rather than an extreme pull on the bar from 12 o'clock. As a warm up try a few aerial, the loop transitions, and if you're dropping down flat, fly the kite further forward before looping it.



NEW SROKA V2 HYDROFOIL -
EASIEST AND MOST EVOLUTIONARY KITEFOIL ON THE MARKET



[SEE MORE HERE](#)





Now to see distance travelled and timing in real, have a look at the video, and check out the sequence for all the parts frozen to see.

Common Problems

As above chances are if you come out with no power you need to fly your kite forward before down loop time. If you're trying to down loop it from 12 or behind, you'll get nothing out of it.

Other than that it's possible that you'll land toe side and then carve out with an underturn rather than a down loop in the air. This is actually

a good way to start, so just build on going earlier with the kite.

If you over rotate so that you get pulled over downwind of the board, it means that you're spinning too much and as a result have probably let the bar out. Keep the bar in and keep your head looking forward, slow rotation on the way up, slow on the way down. The toe side is a last minute add on.

Keystones

1. Good send and edge for double back rotation

2. Move head and kite quickly back towards 12 o'clock
3. Use head for 2nd rotation and spotting landing
4. Move kite forwards during 2nd rotation
5. Down loop the kite progressively as you lift the back leg through



UNHOOKED POPPED FRONT NOSE GRAB TO TOE SIDE >

Kite: 9m FX Board: Ace 139 & H3 Boots

Final trick this issue brings us back to some fanciful unhooking with this nose grab popped front to toe side. This is a fun move, which leads on to further tricks, and that can reward you with a decent photo. You'll be grabbing the nose of the board with your front hand, so it should be reachable! This grab goes well with the toe side landing as it helps you slow the rotation. Other than actually getting the grab your challenge here will be popping hard enough and in the correct position so that you can release your front hand from the bar without your kite going up during the move!

Needless to say, this will be a lot simpler to learn if you can already pop a front, unhooked preferably! However, we'll concentrate on all the key moments - if you're keen let's give it a crack.

Aggression Pic A

We must have written and said this a thousand times: that the approach and pop go hand in hand. You have to get the planets aligned and then you'll get good pop. This requires concentration, focus and grunt. Coming into this like every other pop trick requires a shift in weight, moving your hips back over or even behind the back strap/boot. This way you'll be riding on the back of the board, and the tail with its rocker will help you get some pop. To further increase your chances, you'll need to bear away a bit off the



wind, so that you can carve up without stopping, and so that the kite drops back in the window (more downwind of you) which will give you something to pop against and help you land downwind. If you do this with your arms in and your shoulders back, you should be able to get some decent pop.

Here Christian has ticked the aforementioned boxes, his sweet spot is trimmed in close, he's unhooked and with his kite around 11 o'clock, and with his hands either centred on the bar, or his back hand straddling the centre line, he's now carving up hard. From his approach position he only needs to turn his head and



shoulders and he'll end up nice and low straining his lines, with a solid carve and enough flex in his back leg from which to explode. His arms are bent and he is grimacing as it's taking some effort.

Up & Over Pic B

For the popped front you must stamp away against the edge of your board. If you throw yourself across it you won't get the height. Even though you want and need to rotate you have to get the up first. As you kick against the board and it throws you up the bar will become lighter (if the kite hasn't moved up) and as a result you'll be able to get your elbows in and hands close whilst the kite will lift with you.



This gives you the fulcrum point of the rotation, as in theory you'll be going up and over your hands. In the photo you can see that Christian has kicked hard against the board, fully extending his back leg, forcing himself upwind of the board which springs him up off the water. He's pulling his hands in close and lifting his front knee high ready for the rotation. His chin is tucked under but he hasn't turned his head yet as that comes a split second later once he knows he's up.

Release and Rotate Pic C

Once you're up it's time to get the rotation going and get the grab in. If you leave it too long you'll miss the moment.



THE ORIGINAL KITESURF HOLIDAY COMPANY

The world's very best kitesurf holiday locations and resorts. We arrange flights, transfers, quality accommodation, tailored tours, equipment hire, storage & courses. Full ATOL Protection.



Destination Knowledge



Hand-picked Hotels



Passion & Experience



Safe & Protected



Price Match Guarantee



Quick Quotes

NEW! 30 Second 'Best Price' Quotes Online



Call: 01273 921 001
planetkitesurfholidays.com



As Christian already has his front knee high and hands in he can use the momentum from his pop to start rotating by dropping his front shoulder. By lifting his back leg he's making himself small, so he'll rotate easily and he won't drop away from the bar, which will steer the kite up. With both knees up and the front roll initiated he can release his front hand and look at the nose of the board where he intends to grab.

Your Money Shot Pic D

Once you've got the grab you can worry about getting around and setting yourself up for the landing. You can see how Christian's legs have come up and over so that the board is high. This really comes from the aggressive pop along with keeping the arms in close and lifting that front knee as you pop off. Due to this position Christian isn't, and you won't be, dangling underneath the bar, which would cause the kite to steer up and pull away from you. Now that Christian has the grab he looks over his shoulder so that he can see where he's going. He keeps that back arm bent whilst holding the kite, which keeps his legs high as he comes around. If you've popped up hard this doesn't require strength.

The Drop Pic E

If you kicked up hard and didn't turn your head until you grabbed, your rotation will be slow, in fact it will almost stall, which handily leads to a toe side landing. However, it's important that you look where you are going as gravity will take over pretty quickly and pull your board and legs down. As soon as you feel them



dropping it's time to get your front hand on the bar so that you can keep it in close and keep the kite down. Christian's feet are dropping so he's got both hands back on the bar and is keeping it in close. By having the bar in close his feet will drop down under the bar. If you let the bar out, your feet and board will be left behind and you're more likely to fall when the board touches the water as your body weight will be leading rather than over the board.



Touch Down Pic F

With your arms in, your body weight will fall onto the board. You will land heel heavy therefore keep your head over the bar so that you can flatten the board off and continue toe side rather than having to carve back around. Christian is also pulling down on his front (left) hand to make sure that the kite leads him forwards, whilst he absorbs the impact with his legs.



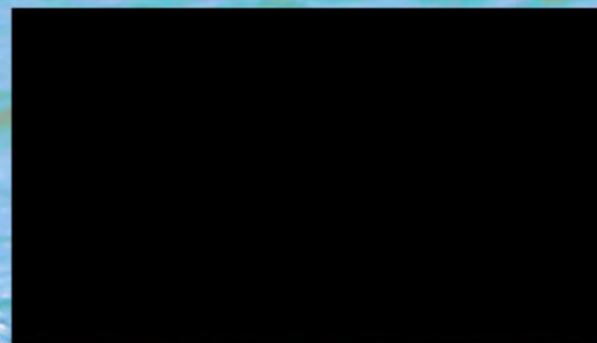
Top Tips

This one really is about the pop, so start off with a few hefty fronts with no thought of a grab. Concentrate on keeping the arms in and getting that up and over sensation. If you do this, you'll find that you have plenty of time to add that cheeky grab.

Power here is also crucial. If you're underpowered you'll find it difficult to pop hard enough to get up and over. However, if you're stacked and can't trim your sweet spot low enough your kite won't fly happily and you won't be confident, so pick the right moment.



LAUNCHING THE NEW KITESURFING SCHOOL



**KITE
SURFING**
SRILANKA

Kitesurfing
lessons

7 nights luxury
accommodation

Starts from
€ 602

www.kitesurfing.lk



Now visualise the move in its entirety by looking at the sequence and videos.

Common Problems

If your kite is lifting hard on take off and therefore pulling too much throughout the move, then, assuming that you've trimmed the kite correctly, you're either not bearing away enough before unhooking, or carving up for too long before popping. It should be off the wind, unhook, turn and go. Don't wait for something to happen - make it happen.

If you can't reach the grab you're most likely throwing yourself forward into the front roll too early. Pop up and bring the front knee up, front hand to nose of board shouldn't be too much of a stretch.

If you're crashing downwind of the board on landing, it means that you're getting straightened out during the rotation, so keep compact, keep the arms in and get the front hand back on as soon as the board starts to drop.

Keystones

1. Aggressive pop away from the board
2. Arms in close
3. Up first, then over
4. Grab, then turn your head
5. Front hand on as soon as the board starts to drop



WORDS DOM MOORE

TALL TREES, COLD SEAS

When you live in Northern Europe, you usually take every chance you can get to go and kite somewhere warmer, especially in November. Dom Moore goes against his migratory instincts and sets off for the cold North West Pacific waters of Vancouver Island...

PHOTO RICHARD MYERSCOUGH

“ I GET A SENSE OF HOW hardcore THE KITERS, SURFERS AND WINDSURFERS OF THIS ISLAND MUST BE.”

PHOTO DOM MOORE



I've driven for three hours through the sideways rain with lights on full beam despite the fact that it's 11 o'clock in the morning. Finally pulling off the highway, I steer my massively overpowered rental car through a quiet street before coming to a stop by a dark, log-strewn rocky beach. The wind is ripping across the waves at about 40knots, driving the cold rain like needles and amidst the gusts, I can hear the

raucous laughter of the huge sea lions diving through the surf. Am I really about to go kitesurfing?

It's November, and I'm on the east coast of Vancouver Island, Canada. I should be standing on the east coast of Brazil, boardshorts on and a 9m in the sky, instead I came here looking for adventure, and now that it's staring me in the face, I get a sense



of how hardcore the kites, surfers and windsurfers of this island must be. There's no getting around it; I'm going to have to suit up in the open. Leaving my gloves until last, I rig up, and my fingers can barely move as I tighten up the final knot on my lines. With gritted teeth I self-launch, and my 7m Prodigy is bucking and surging in the sky like a rodeo bull.

Slightly happier to be on the water, the power in the cold wind is intense, and I half expect it to push the fins out of the board as I jam it hard against water. Sea lions are breaching and honking all around me, heading for the cold depths as I get closer. I tack back to shore, focussing on the scrappy little right hander that is trying to peel along the beach.

Screeching into a bottom turn, the micro-wave pops up just begging for a full body-weight slam turn. Whack! The Mako Duke releases and slides back around underneath me as a cascade of water lands all around. Hang on, am I having fun? Yes, I really am! Warming up and settling in, I repeat this process for the next two hours. I start to appreciate the cold, stark landscape and even the sea lions are endearing as they body surf the waves with me.

“ I HAVE NO DOUBT I’D HAVE BEEN SCORING THE BEST KITE SESSION OF MY LIFE.”

PHOTO CHRISTOPHER CURRAN

All or Nothing

Two days before, I was on the other side of the island with Richard, Ross and Reece from Ocean Rodeo. All forecast indications told us to expect overhead point break waves and 15-20knots of wind; knowing the spot we were at, if the conditions arrived I have no doubt I’d have been scoring the best kite session of my life.

However, it turns out; the Island is a fickle place, and as well as wind, swell and

direction, you also need a good amount of luck. No windy bombs for us, instead a waist high, clean wave was peeling down the point. Two stars out of ten, the locals said. Still, we all surfed for about four hours and despite this being one of the more closely guarded spots along the coast, the home crew were a chatty bunch. One or two of them even telling me of a more secret wave that might be on tomorrow...(it wasn’t, the onshores killed it).

That’s how it is on Vancouver Island; take a look at it on a map and you’ll see the problem the southern part has with swell exposure. It’s pretty much protected by the Olympic Peninsula of the USA, and so the angle and period has to be bang on otherwise it just passes right by.

Everywhere seems to involve at least a 90-minute drive to get there. The accessible spots have, at best, a cafe (which may or may not be open), and the more remote spots, well, to get to them, you have to hike down the cliffs through the rainforest and right into black bear country.



**“ THE SILENT KILLER:
YOU DON'T
SEE THEM
BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE ”**

PHOTO DOM MOORE

Now, the Canadians say there is no reason to be scared of bears, but as a Brit, the thought of a predator that weighs up to 250kg, can run up to 40kmh – through the bush – and can climb trees like a rat going up a drainpipe is very worrying.

Apparently though the real threat is the mountain lion, the silent killer; you don't see them before it's too late and two weeks before I arrived, one was actually found roaming through downtown Victoria before being caught and released. Like many land-based predators across the planet they are being forced to move closer to human habitation as their habitat and food sources are depleted through the expansionist goals of our species.



KITESURFING ARMADA

with Lewis Crathern





HAYLING ISLAND • 17-19 JUNE

KITESURFING FESTIVAL, WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT & CHARITY FUNDRAISER

ON THE WATER*

ONE WEEKEND TICKET FOR ALL KITESURFING ACTIVITIES AT WWW.KITESURFINGARMADA.COM

WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT
THE KITESURFING ARMADA CHARITY DOWNWINDER
MASS PARTICIPTION GUINNESS WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT

KITESURFING
KITESURFING TASTER SESSIONS
WOO BIG AIR COMPETITION
RACE ROUND THE SANDBAR
KITE SOMETHING UNUSUAL COMP
FREERIDING ALL WEEKEND FOR KITESURFERS

PRO KITESURFING
PRO KITESURFERS AARON HADLOW, SAM LIGHT & OTHERS*
PRO CLINICS WITH LEWIS CRATHERN
FOILING CLINICS WITH STEPH BRIDGE

*FINAL KITESURFING PROGRAMME MAY VARY DUE TO WIND AND PRO RIDERS MAY CHANGE

ON THE BEACH

FREE ENTRY ALL WEEKEND TO THE PUBLIC!

LIVE MUSIC
THE DOMINOS, CLUB CLASSICS, BUG BAR & SPECIAL GUEST DJs
PARTIES FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT

BRANDS MARQUEE
ALL THE LATEST KITESURFING GEAR ON DISPLAY
ADVICE FROM INDUSTRY EXPERTS

TALKS TENT
LEWIS CRATHERN • STEPH BRIDGE • PETE CABRINHA • MARK SHINN
CHRIS BULL • SCHOOLS TALKS • KITEWORLD HOST 'A QUESTION OF KITE'

ON THE JUMBO SCREEN
LATEST KITESURFING FILMS • EXCLUSIVE KITE SHOW CONTENT
LIVE EVENT FOOTAGE • TOP VJ WITH LIVE BANDS

OUTDOOR FESTIVAL
CHILL OUT AREA WITH BUG BAR DJs • KIDS KITEMAKING • SUNDAY FAMILY DAY
QUALITY FOOD STALLS & HARVEYS BAR • ACTIVITIES AREA


































TICKETS, CAMPING AND INFO AT: WWW.KITESURFINGARMADA.COM

TALL TREES

PHOTO DOM MOORE

“ LICHENS AND MOSS COVER THE TREE TRUNKS GIVING EVERYTHING A SOFT GREEN GLOW. ”

Across the Continent

When I wasn't kiting, or surfing, I would take myself off for hikes under the canopies of ancient trees. Some of the trails were remnants from when the indigenous First Nations tribes wandered the land. As you emerge from the dark woods onto a bright, wild beach lapped by cool green Pacific waters full of salmon and halibut, it makes you wonder what peace and sense of connection with the land these people must have felt.

Now many of them are living in reservations dumbly poking the glass of their mobile phones just like the rest of us. It seems no one is immune to progress. The forests on Vancouver Island are part of the Pacific Temperate Rain Forest, the largest in the world of its kind, crossing man-made borders and making natural corridors for flora and fauna across the continent. The air is so clean that lichens and moss cover the tree trunks giving everything a soft green glow.

I wasn't just interested in the spread of nature across the continent, however. I've always been intrigued with the spread of people across the world, especially those from the British Isles. It's almost like entering a parallel universe...what if my grandparents had boarded a boat for the colonies, maybe I'd be playing ice hockey and driving a big truck too?

It was interesting to see the connection that many Canadians still had with Britain; I mean the province is called British Columbia after all. Richard Myerscough, president at Ocean Rodeo, and as far as I could see, a Canadian through and through, has English parents. They arrived about fifty-five years ago. He has firsthand knowledge of quirky English things like trifles and Sunday roast dinner.

“IT’S WHERE YOU’D HEAD IF YOU WANTED TO SURF MOST DAYS OF THE YEAR.”



PHOTO CHRISTOPHER CURRAN

Back on the Water

The centre point of my trip was a visit to Tofino. About a third of the way up the west coast, Tuff Town as it's known is home to surfing on Vancouver Island. It's not where the best waves are, but it's where you'd head if you wanted to surf most days of the year. Think big, open ocean sandy beaches and rainforest tumbling down to the shore.

The threat level up here is intensified as along with bears and mountain lions; you are now entering the Pacific Rim Tsunami zone and the territory of the grey wolf. The good news is that you get advanced warnings of one of these dangers at least; strange radar-type devices stand incongruously on the shore line amidst the pines.

On arrival in Tofino, the surf at Cox Bay was pumping. The next day at Chesterman's Beach, it was supposed to be pumping, (5 stars according to Magic Seaweed) yet all we got was a dribble. I felt frustrated and went for a ramble along the beach. After walking for twenty minutes I could feel a breeze coming in off the ocean, so ran back to find the crew and throw it out there that we should go kiting.



“CONTEMPLATING THE MOST WHACKABLE SHORE BREAK I’VE SEEN OUTSIDE OF CUMBUCO.”

After some frantic driving about to collect the gear, we were pumping up two Flites and contemplating the most whackable shore break I’ve seen outside of Cumbuco. Out on the water, I had time to sail across the bay and look back inland at the stunning vista of mountains, islands, and soaring eagles. The wilderness and forest stretched forever; it is said you cannot hike through it as the brush and branches form a layer about 20 meters up from the forest floor. Impenetrable nature, riddled with tunnels created by bears and wolves and wolverines. The fang and the claw are the law out there.

Photo: Lewis Crathern / Best Kites

*Terms and conditions apply. See policy document online for details.

Get higher this Summer...

Learn to kite with British Kitesports Schools

The best kites learn with the best schools.

All British Kitesports Recognised Schools are run and staffed by qualified British Kitesports Instructors. That means they're trained to the highest standards, regularly inspected and have to pass reassessment every three years.

Look for the British Kitesports 'Recognised School' mark and learn with the best.

Find your nearest school at

www.britishkitesports.org/training

Why do it any other way?



Our members enjoy worldwide 3rd party liability insurance.

Join today from just £28*
www.britishkitesports.org

Find your nearest British Kitesports School at: www.britishkitesports.org/training

TALL TREES

PHOTO RICHARD MYERSCOUGH

“THERE WAS A NAGGING THAT I'D ONLY JUST SCRATCHED THE SURFACE.”



PHOTO DOM MOORE

The only thing that got me off the water that evening was the promise of some locally brewed craft beer. That's definitely one passion that they've brought over with them from Europe. Sitting back in our lodge that night, sipping beer with some new friends, I felt good about the adventures I'd had so far, but also, there was a nagging that I'd only just scratched the surface.

Was this kind of a reverse of the feeling when someone from Canada goes back to their ancestral homeland and has a sudden yearning to know more? Or was it just a typical surfer's desire to get further off of the grid to find the quieter, better waves? All I've got is a hand drawn map, some stories shared over a beer, and a sense that there is something special out there waiting for me to find it.

I know that will be enough to tempt me away from the tropics and back to the tall trees and cold seas, at least, one more time.

TRIED & TESTED

ALEX CHATER TESTING OUT THE POP ON THE NORTH GAMBLER
AS HE THROWS A BACK MOBE
PHOTO THIS PAGE ROU CHATER

We've got a plethora of 2016 gear in this issue as we test kites from Airush, Blade, Liquid Force, North and Peter Lynn. We've also got a couple of hydrofoils on test from Cabrinha and Moses plus there are twin tips from F-One, North, Shinn and Wainman Hawaii and finally a rather fetching surfboard from Slingshot!

KITES:

Airush Union 7m
Blade Trigger 9m
Liquid Force Wow 10m
North Rebel 9m
Peter Lynn Fury 10m

FOIL BOARDS

Cabrinha Double Agent
Moses Silente

TWIN TIPS

F-One Trax 137 x 42cm
North Gambler 139 x 42cm
Shinn Monk The One 133 x 41cm
Wainman Hawaii Joke 138 x 41.5cm

SURFBOARD

Slingshot Screamer 5'4"



BRAND AIRUSH MODEL UNION SIZE 7M YEAR 2016



" IT'S GOT AN EAGER, FIREBALL SIDE AND THAT'S WHAT KEEPS THE DESIRE FOR MORE BURNING."



AT A GLANCE

The Union is a new addition to the Airush lineup for 2016 and is billed as an all-round machine for the intermediate to advanced rider. As the name suggests the kite is something of an amalgamation with elements from the Lithium, Wave and Razor models being brought to the drawing board, and the Union bringing them all together with a huge dose of its own zest being added to the mix.

Airush has a reputation for well-built, high-end products and that's all apparent as soon as you remove the Union from the bag. Top-notch components, solid build quality and clear attention to detail.

The fabric uses Teijin's renowned Technoforce D2 with Airush's Dyneema Load Frame giving the best option in durability coupled with reduced weight. Changing from Aramid to Dyneema for their Load Frame this year to give an even longer life-span, better UV resistance, lighter overall weight and extra strength – all this showing that Airush is committed to constant improvements in their product technology, and also that this new model is the best it can be.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



“ JUMPING, OR RATHER FLYING, IS ASTRONOMICALLY FUN WITH THE TRIGGER.”



TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



AT A GLANCE

The Blade Trigger is back for round 8, with what promises to be an even slicker package than before. The Trigger is a three strut, mid aspect kite, designed to be able to handle anything you throw at it. The construction on the Trigger is second to none, with the introduction of some beefy moulded LE guards should you wipeout in the shallows or on the beach.

There are some well thought out extras such as taped leading edge seams to ensure the longevity of the kite, and also, 25% more Insignia Tape around delicate LE areas, taking away all the worry of slamming your kite on trick attempts.

New for 2016 is the very welcome Blade Max Flow Inflation system, coupled with the frankly wonderful XL pump supplied means you will be on the water in no time with almost no energy exerted. If you are unsure about kite size for yourself, the Blade website has an excellent interactive table which can aid you with choice based on weight and wind strength, as well as some fun facts about each kite.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND LIQUID FORCE MODEL WOW SIZE 10M YEAR 2016



" SUPER EASY TO FLY, FORGIVING AND YET STILL A VERY HIGH PERFORMANCE KITE, WITH AMAZING BUILD QUALITY. "



AT A GLANCE

The Liquid Force Wow kite was released late last year, but they have proved so popular it has taken us a while to get our hands on it! Billed as a thoroughbred wave kite stacked with some freeride DNA and boasting a smooth sheet-and-go power delivery, precise manoeuvrability and rapid response times. The Wow is a perfect companion for those wave orientated riders who like to go out and boost on a twin tip every once in a while.

Tech is something Liquid Force are never lacking in their product range, the Wow is no different. One of our favourites had to be the Max Flow Inflation System, which makes pumping your kite a breeze! However, if we dive deeper into the construction of the Wow we can see EVA Scuff Guards, 0.1mm TPU bladders, LE English stitch, Synergy Struts, Tension Trailing Edge and their Layered Frame technology. To many of you that might not mean much, but trust us when we say Liquid Force have put their heart and soul into building this kite. It's a three-strut design that has been built light, but also tough.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND NORTH MODEL REBEL SIZE 9M YEAR 2016



“IF YOU WANT TO BOOST BIG AIRS, THEN THIS KITE IS NOT GOING TO DISAPPOINT!”



AT A GLANCE

The Rebel has been in the North Kiteboarding for what seems like an eternity, it's got thousands of fans all over the globe and continues to be a benchmark for other kites to follow in the freeride and boosting category. There have been quite a few changes to the 2016 Rebel, although North are fully aware how much people love this kite so it is always a balance to improve it without changing it's handling too much.

For this year the smaller sizes have a lower aspect ratio, to make them more stable in stronger winds and give them better gust handling characteristics. The mid sizes, such as the 9m we have on test here have had the profile and aspect ratio tweaked to offer the ultimate in stability and handling. The larger sizes, 12 and 14m have a higher aspect ratio to improve their low end and also their jumping abilities and the 16m has had the low-end range improved so it now replaces the 18m model that was in the line up previously.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLCK HERE



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

BRAND PETER LYNN MODEL FURY SIZE 10M YEAR 2016



“HAMMERING UPWIND ON THE FURY COMES INCLUDED IN THE PRICE.”



AT A GLANCE

Peter Lynn have been making kites longer than most, starting with foil kites back in the day and then becoming popular with the Twinskin design of the Guerrilla and Phantom. They started making LEI kites a few years ago, and the latest incarnation of the Fury is firmly focused on the big air, freeride and race side of kiting.

The Fury is a 5-strut, high aspect design with a reasonably short front bridle and direct connection at the rear. The kite features a pulley-less bridle allowing for a solid feel at the control bar. A high flow valve combines with a one-pump system on the Fury, giving the user a quick and easy set up. Who doesn't want that?!

The Fury has been designed to be ultra lightweight ensuring the rider can make the most of even the lightest conditions on the water. Creating a high lift with minimal drag the Fury is also very efficient on the race course. With multiple attachment points across the wingtip, the kite can be completely adjusted to suit the riders' needs.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



" A GREAT CHOICE IF YOU ARE LOOKING TO GET INTO THIS DISCIPLINE OF THE SPORT. "



BRAND CABRINHA **MODEL** DOUBLE AGENT
YEAR 2016

AT A GLANCE

Almost all of the top brands have jumped on the foiling bandwagon now, however Cabrinha have taken a slightly different approach. Their foil board is, as the name states, a Double Agent. Cruise around foiling in the morning and when the wind and waves pick up in the afternoon head out on your newly transformed surfboard. It's the best way of maximising your time on the water.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



" WE DEFINITELY HAD A BIG ADRENALINE RUSH WHEN WE PUSHED THE LIMITS. "



BRAND MOSES **MODEL** SILENTE
YEAR 2016

AT A GLANCE

Moses have been designing kitesurf hydrofoil boards since 2008, making them one of the first foil manufacturers, as a result they certainly know their stuff. Made in Italy, every foil is created with extreme care to give the best performance possible.

The Silente is their original foil. It's designed as a free ride foil; strong, affordable and durable. The T-40 board that comes with it looks really smart,

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE





"EXTREMELY COMFORTABLE TO RIDE AND PACKED WITH PERFORMANCE!"



BRAND F-ONE MODEL TRAX HRD LITE TECH
SIZE 137 X 42 YEAR 2016

AT A GLANCE

The Trax has been the stalwart board in the F-One twin tip range for many years now. Ever since the brand first started creating those carbon boards with ABS rails in 2003, their board design and technology has been heralded as some of the best in the industry. For 2016 the Trax gets a makeover but retains much of the shape and technology from last year.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE



The UK's Number 1 Kiteboarding Forum

Get Involved
Click Here Now

iKITESURF
weather where you ride

Available on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google play





"IT'S EASY TO SEE WHY SO MANY WAKESTYLE RIDERS AROUND THE WORLD LOVE THIS BOARD."



BRAND NORTH MODEL GAMBLER
SIZE 139 X 42CM YEAR 2016

AT A GLANCE

The Gambler is the weapon of choice for discerning wakestyle riders and in recent years has set the bar high with a wealth of technologies. For 2016 the shape has undergone a major overhaul with a totally new base design that can be found on this board and the Team Series. It's a step up double concave design that essentially leaves a long flat ridge running along the centreline of the deck.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE



"THIS IS NOT JUST ANOTHER ALL-ROUNDER, ITS A LAUGH YOUR HEAD OFF IT'S SO FUN ALL-ROUNDER!"



BRAND SHINN MODEL MONK THE ONE
SIZE 133 X 41CM YEAR 2016

AT A GLANCE

The Shinn Monk certainly needs no introduction, an institution of board design, it comes back for 2016 as 'The One'. The board features a fantastic wood core, which gives an outstanding weight to strength ratio. Shinn are so sure of their construction durability, every board comes with a two year warranty!

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE



"TICKS ALL THE BOXES IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR AN ABSOLUTE FREESTYLE WEAPON."



BRAND WAINMAN HAWAII **MODEL** JOKE
SIZE 138 X 41.5CM **YEAR** 2016

AT A GLANCE

The Joke is Wainman's first twintip, their pride and joy, which they've been developing since the beginning. The Joke's claim to fame is an industry first '3D' bottom shape that is made by the convex bubble placed on the centre of the board. New for 2016 the Joke is lighter and slightly stiffer in construction, it also boasts deeper bottom channels for superior upwind performance and double deck contouring for optimal pop and reflex.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



WE'VE UPDATED YOUR FAVOURITE KITESURFING APP!



Available on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google play

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

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK IT OUT](#)



“ LOADED WITH TECH AND A GREAT ALL-ROUNDER ON THE WATER.”



BRAND SLINGSHOT **MODEL** SCREAMER
SIZE 5'4" **YEAR** 2016

AT A GLANCE

The Screamer from Slingshot is a further development of their ground-breaking T-Rex program from a couple of years ago. The 2016 Screamer sees further refinements on last year's design; the tail has been redesigned and the rear stomp pad pushed further back with the rear strap positions shifting towards the tail too. This is designed to allow a more aggressive stance and attack, whether riding strapless or strapped-in.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



20,917 KITERS SUBSCRIBE FOR FREE
SO SHOULD YOU



PHOTO RICK PRYCE

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THEM](#)

GET THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURFING MAGAZINE DIRECT TO YOUR INBOX EVERY ISSUE. SUBSCRIBING IS FREE AND YOU AUTOMATICALLY GET ENTERED INTO OUR SUBSCRIBER COMPETITIONS AND GET EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS IN OR STORE!

10 QUESTIONS WITH

Steven Akkersdijk

WORDS ROU CHATER
PHOTO JAN-DIRK RUHSER





“ I landed head first in the water - luckily it was deep enough! ”

10

PHOTO MAX KOMOLZ

Steven Akkersdijk is an incredible rider from Holland; he burst onto the scene at the Megaloop Challenge when Ruben first ran the event and has been a regular at big air and kiteman competitions on the world stage ever since. Last year he almost died during a crash but was back this year at the King Of The Air and riding as hard as ever! We caught up with him and hit him with our ten questions...

How long have you been kiting?

I started kiting when I just turned 13. My dad gave me some lessons as a present, and I was hooked from

the beginning. This means I've been kiting for nine years now.

How did you get into it?

I started flying trainer kites at a very young age. I loved to fly the kite as low as possible and being dragged over the beach. This together with my love for water sports like sailing and windsurfing made kitesurfing look like the next step.

When did you pull your first megaloop and how did it go?

The first megaloop I did was sooner than I intended! I tried doing a backroll and ended up pulling one side of a bar too much. I got launched into the air and had a solid pull forward! As you can maybe imagine, I landed head first in the water - luckily it was deep enough!

You had a nasty crash at the Red Bull Mega Loop Challenge this year; it looked like you were dead, what happened?

Yeah, this was probably my biggest crash ever. I just had bad timing with the wind and my loop,



“ I owe my life to those guys; that’s for sure. ”

took off in a gust and after my loop, the wind died off. I had so much forward speed, because I looped my kite really early after take-off, that I was going faster than the wind and got slack on my lines. From that moment on you know you will not come down softly.

I got knocked out on the impact of the crash and was unconscious and face down in the water for about 20-30 seconds before the first rescue guard reached me. He flipped me over, and that’s when I started to gain consciousness again. I owe my life to those guys; that’s for sure.

Ksurf
INTERNATIONAL KITESURF MAGAZINE

CORE XR4 FREERIDE. BIG AIR. WAVE. RACE. **TOUGH CALL.**

HOME LATEST ISSUE NEWS REVIEWS TECHNIQUE TRAVEL GUIDES BRANDS RIDERS SCHOOLS Q SUBSCRIBE

Competition

We've got a brand new Ride Engine Hex harness to give away this issue, these game changing new harnesses offer superb support as well as an innovative take on the traditional harness design!

Read View All

FOR EVERYTHING YOU NEED CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE

Issue #53

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE **Ksurf** OCT/NOV

THE GREAT NORTH
F-ONE: BEHIND THE BRAND THE LONGEST JOURNEY
TECHNIQUE, TESTS, AND MUCH MUCH MORE INSIDE!
THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURF MAGAZINE

Read Issue #53

SICK BAR
Simple and clean
CrazyFly | View Full Ad

CLICK HERE

UPDATED DAILY WITH NEWS AND VIDEOS. YOU'LL ALSO FIND EASY ACCESS TO ALL OF OUR CONTENT WITH SEARCHABLE DATABASES FOR ALL THE REVIEWS, TECHNIQUE AND TRAVEL, PLUS EVERY BACK ISSUE AVAILABLE FOR FREE.

How long did the recovery take, are you back on the water now?

The crash totally wiped out my memory. When I came to the shore, I did not know what day it was, why my dad was there and what all those people were doing there. This took about 20 minutes and from then on I remember again and I could understand what I was doing there. I had to stay in the hospital for one night and after that, it took one week before all my muscle ache was gone. Within that week I was already on the water again, doing some wakestyle. In the end, I am very lucky; it could have ended up way worse!

As someone who suffered a huge crash yourself, how do you feel about safety at the big air and mega loop competitions; the riders are going way bigger, do we need to look at helmets and impact vests?

I agree that the riders are going bigger with every competition, and the risks they are taking are also increasing. But I am not sure if a helmet would help out in conditions like this, and I even think it could make for some different injuries. Yet when you see the guys floating around in the water and almost sinking it might not be such a bad choice to put on an impact vest.

In the end, the biggest **MUST** in such competitions is jet skis in the water. Not a boat that is waiting on the land until something goes wrong, but two jet skis on the water at all times - one on the upwind side of the field and the other on one on the downwind side.



“ the biggest **MUST** in such competitions is jet skis in the water. Not a boat that is waiting on the land ”



“ you get all kinds of different conditions
and of course strong winds!

You spend quite a bit of time in Cape Town most winters, what keeps you going back?

I love Cape Town for several reasons. It is a windy place, which makes it perfect for kiting, especially because you get all kinds of different conditions and of course strong winds!

Next to the wind, South Africa has so much else to offer from trails to hike, places to see, wines to drink and restaurants to eat. Life is easy there; I really see it as my second home and the perfect holiday destination.

THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURFING MAGAZINE

RIDER/SAM LIGHT PHOTO/VINCENT BERGERON

IKSURFMAG
Magazine

Create Call-to-action Liked Message

Timeline About Photos Subscribe for Free More

PEOPLE >

57,677 likes

Claudia Batchelor, Ed Chater and 540 others like this.

ABOUT >

- IKSURFMAG is the world's number one kitesurfing and kiteboarding magazine...
- <http://www.iksrfmag.com/> Promote Website

APPS

Subscribe for Free

Status Photo/Video Offer, Event +

What have you been up to?

5 Scheduled Posts
Next post scheduled for 15 April at 10:00. See posts.

IKSURFMAG shared F-one International's...
Posted by Rou Chater [?] · 44 mins ·

How rad is this little dude going to be? Ex World Champion...
teaching his son to kitesurf with armbands...
the little ripper looks stoked to the gills!

Monteiro much better,

**LIKE US
CLICK HERE**

**GET INVOLVED WITH IKSURFMAG
ON FACEBOOK, UPLOAD PICTURES,
READ THE LATEST NEWS, WATCH
VIDEOS AND MUCH MORE...**

10

“ Holding down the kite was nearly impossible, and that just made for horrible take offs. ”



You didn't finish that well in the Red Bull King of the Air this year, any comments on your result?

I wanted to go big. Just before my heat started on the second day, I decided to go out on a 10m kite so I would have more power. At this moment, the wind picked up big time, and I was way too overpowered. Holding down the kite was nearly impossible, and that just made for horrible take offs.

CORE recently developed the Impact freestyle and

wakestyle kite, what do you prefer about the way that kite flies in comparison to the GTS3, which was your old weapon of choice?

The Impact is a pure C-kite. This means that the kite has near to zero depower because it doesn't have any bridles. That also makes for a very solid and direct bar feeling which is slightly less on a bridled kite. The Impact just brings you back to the roots, and I love the pure rawness of the kite. When doing a trick you have to go for the full 100% otherwise, you wipe out big!

What does the future hold for you?

I am still in love with kiteboarding and bringing the sport to a wider audience. In the future, I would love to get more exposure throughout magazines and the social media channels. Next to that I would still compete in the Red Bull events to get the exposure up and further on just travel the world to discover the most beautiful places!

Aymeric Martin travels to one of the lesser known kitesurfing destinations and finds some nuggets in the desert...

POTS OF GOLD AMONGST THE TURMOIL...

WORDS AYMERIC MARTIN
FORWARD BY ROU CHATER





“ THE SANDY ABANDON CAN GIVE CONTINUOUS WIND IN THE MOST UNEXPECTED AREAS OF THE PENINSULA. ”

In spite of what the western media might have you believe the Middle East is mostly populated by people just trying to make a living out of the dust. They aren't all Jihadi's, or terrorists, but human beings just trying to survive in this harsh environment. Of course there are those elements, and they are devastating local communities who care not for their higher causes, so any travel to this area has to be carefully considered.

Qatar isn't on most peoples bucket lists, but for the adventurous few you might find perfection in this super conservative society. It sits on a peninsular nestled between the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, with the might of Saudi Arabia at it's back, it is surrounded almost on all sides by the pristine waters of the Persian Gulf.

Doha, the capital, is one of those places that constantly appears within flight itineraries and richest country ratings, but sadly it is not as well known for glassy flat lagoons and seamless wind blowing over the limestone desert. Its impressive superstructure filled skyline is probably something you have seen adorning the walls of various airports, but the kitesurfing scene is perhaps less well known, although it is growing!

A couple of months ago, I was lucky enough to investigate the hidden inlets and shallow harbors that find themselves in the wealthiest country in the world. The wind here can be fickle as it only materialises for a few days at a time, but when it does blow through,

The Middle East seems to be in a constant state of flux; with governments being overthrown, bloody wars being fought and fanatical religion wreaking havoc you'd be forgiven for writing it off. There is one constant though, despite the upheaval in the geopolitical scene the sun still shines and the wind still blows across the golden deserts.

The area is home to some well known kiting destinations, Egypt needs no introduction, but Dubai, the UAE, Oman all have great spots too. In the middle of it all is Israel, which despite the chaos has a vibrant kitesurfing scene. In the end it's up to you whether you want to travel to this region, but putting oil aside it is tourism that crosses most peoples palms with silver out here.



“ I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING BETTER THAN AN UNSEEN POOL OF WATER WITH A CONCRETE-CONSISTENT BOTTOM TO CREATE THE PERFECT OFFSHORE SCENE FOR KITING. ”

the sandy abandon can give continuous wind in the most unexpected areas of the peninsula.

The forecast was revealing a good week to come, so with some help from the locals, we matched the wind direction with an abandoned lagoon on the map far, far away from any civilisation. My theory was that if there was a chance to kite, why not try to kite in the best surroundings possible?

On the excursion through the wind-carved rocks and old sand fortresses, it was easy to become lost with no permanent road in sight. However, once the tranquil water became visible my expectations were blown away. I couldn't think of anything better than an unseen pool of water with a concrete-consistent bottom to create the perfect offshore scene for kiting. With the exception of some nomadic tents and camel herders, this was equivalent to the end of the world.

As I started the session, a huge rusty metal pipe caught my eye at the top end of the bay. With no other features in sight, I took this to be the playground I was craving for. I got to work. As the pipe was pointing downwind, it was not only “slidable” but also I could practice some grabs and presses as the setting sun was an idyllic backdrop. Who would have thought such a spectacular adventure could materialise out of the hard, sandy, petrol-filled desert, which earlier had just been a spec of green on Google Maps.





**“ BETWEEN THE BEACHES AND THE LAGOONS
THERE ARE PLENTY OF KITESURFING SPOTS
TO DISCOVER. ”**

This unknown and abandoned gasoline park was only the first of many new explorations throughout the small Middle-Eastern country. Between the

beaches and the lagoons there are plenty of kitesurfing spots to discover. With friendly locals showing me the way my short trip was filled with action and sessions on the water.

Who would have thought a place so unforeseen and off the radar could deliver such outstanding conditions? Consequently,

I might just have to return for another session on my hidden feature in this land of stark contrasts. You've definitely got to want to make the effort to come and kitesurf here, and you might have to put some preconceptions about the surrounding area aside, but if you do, there are golden nuggets to be found amongst the unrelenting sand....

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 RED BULL KING OF THE AIR 2016 HOTTEST ACTION

Here it is; it's what we have all been waiting for! The full highlights video from the Red Bull #KingOfTheAir with all the biggest moves and best tricks condensed into a handy 3-minute edit. You might need to sit down to watch this though, it's pretty intense! Enjoy!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#2 BEST OF AIRSTYLE KITEBOARDING 2015

Airstyle... regardless of the haters it's still impressive to watch and great to see what's possible if you don't fancy unhooking. Lukash Vogeltanz gives an impressive display in this 'best of' edit from 2015! Until you high five a man in speedos on a jetty you haven't lived!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#3 BOA VISTA KITESURF PARADISE

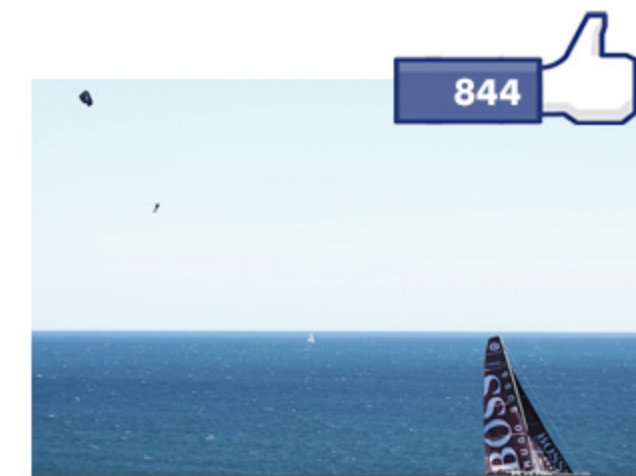
Charlotte Consorti and Bruno Dobosq won the best video of 2015 award and we can see why! They are back at it again making us all jealous in this stunning edit exploring Boa Vista. Sit back and have a day dream whilst watching this video and plan your next trip here!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#4 HUGO BOSS THE SKYWALK BY ALEX THOMPSON EXTREME SAILING

Well that's just made every other tow up video seem a little lame, 280 foot up behind a massive yacht, unreal! Alex Thompson and his crew on board the IMOCA Open 60, Hugo Boss, pull off one of the most impressive kitesurfing stunts we have seen.



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

LIGHTROOM

SOFI CHEVALIER TWEAKS OUT A TAIL GRAB FOR THE CAMERA SOMEWHERE IN ZANZIBAR
PHOTO MARCUS GRAICHEN



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

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

KAI LENNY DOMINATING ONE OF THE MANY SWELLS OF THE HAWAIIAN WINTER!
PHOTO QUINCY DEIN

Lightroom



LIGHTROOM

DYLAN VAN DER MEIJ PUTTING THE NEW BOOST2 THROUGH ITS PACES IN SOUTH AFRICA!
PHOTO FLYSURFER



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

NICCOLO PORCELLA TAKING A BREAK FROM JAWS AND GETTING HIS FREESTYLE ON AT KITE BEACH ON MAUI!
PHOTO TRACY KRAFT LEBOE



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM



Lightroom

ROBERT KIDNIE HITTING A SOLID BACKSIDE SLAB DEEP IN INDONESIA |
PHOTO ANNA KUZMINA

LIGHTROOM

MATT ELSASSER GOING WITH THE BACKSIDE ATTACK IN INDO.
PHOTO JASON WOLCOTT

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

BAS KOOLE GETS DOWN AND DIRTY ON A
GHETTO RAIL IN AFRICA!
PHOTO YDWER VAN DER HEIDE



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

JESSE RICHMAN AND PAUL SERIN EXCHANGE HIGH FIVES ON MAUI...
PHOTO QUINCY DEIN



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

MARK CAFERO ENJOYING THE DELIGHTS OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS!
PHOTO EVAN NETSCH

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

RON VAN DER STAAY GOING HUGE INTO THE SUNSET!
PHOTO JAN WACHTMEESTER



Lightroom

MARIE LOU FOURRÉ

[FEMALE FOCUS]

Hailing from France but growing up in Venezuela, Marie Lou, AKA Lilloo Gringa, has been working hard to achieve her goals within the sport. Lindsay McClure catches up with her to find out a little more about this dedicated kite girl!



WORDS // LINDSAY MCCLURE
PHOTO // ANDRE MAGARAO



Marie Lou, could you tell us about your background including when you learned to kiteboard?

My name is Marie-Lou Fourré, aka Lilloo Gringa. I was born in France, but I spent most of my childhood in Venezuela. I totally fell in love with kiteboarding when I first tried the sport.

I took lessons when I had the chance to go to Playa El Yaque, (Isla Margarita) but it was not long enough to progress much further than wiping out a lot! So I waited until I finished high school, and I found a 2-month summer job in a kitesurfing school in Playa El Yaque, and finally I had enough time to learn how to kite.

After that, I started college in France. I studied for five years to earn a Bachelor's Degree in International Business and then I did a Master's Degree specialising in International Sports and Event Management. I didn't have as much time as I wanted for kiting, even though it was always on my mind!

Then, I decided to go back to Venezuela to dedicate myself entirely to kitesurfing. I started working as a kite school manager and as a sales assistant at a kite shop in Playa El Yaque, so anytime I had 2 minutes to myself I was in the water training.

I started competing in the Venezuelan National Tour, where I won the National Championships twice, and I began to participate in international competitions like the Aruba High Winds, but my dream was to compete on the World Tour. Finally, I attended my first World Tour stop in Germany in 2014!

PHOTO MORITZ BECK



"I DECIDED TO GO BACK TO VENEZUELA TO DEDICATE MYSELF ENTIRELY TO KITESURFING."

"IT FORCED ME TO WORK HARDER, BE MORE DISCIPLINED AND NEVER GIVE UP."

PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO

I dedicate myself to training hard and competing, but I'm also an IKO instructor. Therefore, I organise kite camps all around the world because I love to teach.

Where does your nickname Liloo Gringa come from?

My friends have called me Liloo since I was a little girl (a lot of people don't even know that my real name is Marie-Lou because everyone calls me Liloo). People in Venezuela call me Gringa just because it's name given to blond haired people.

You have an impressive string of accomplishments, what is your proudest achievement?

I think that my proudest achievement is my last video, "Perseverance".

I started kiteboarding late and I didn't have many related skills. When I started, I never thought I could get where I am today, or anywhere for that matter. This lack of skills turned out to be a strength because it forced me to work harder, be more disciplined and never give up. So, my dream to become a professional kiteboarder competing on the World Tour grew bigger than ever. I never stopped fighting and training for what I love.

That's why I made this video, to spread these messages:

- Never let anyone tell you what you can or cannot do, nor who you should or shouldn't be: faith, determination and hard work are stronger

than anything.

- Live your dreams; it doesn't matter what others think of you because nobody knows the struggle you had to go through to get where you are.
- Fight for what you love and never give up, even if life puts obstacles in front of you, just find the strength to go around them or jump over them!

What is your favourite kiteboarding discipline?

I love freestyle, big air and slalom, but I must admit that for about a year, I've been in love with big air because that feeling of flying is priceless and competing in big air has turned out to be pretty fun!



PHOTO MORITZ BECK

"IT GIVES HUGE POP, HAS LOADS OF FLEX AND VERY SOFT LANDINGS."

What are your goals for the upcoming competition season?

My goals are to train hard and to do my best in freestyle, big air and slalom and to get as far as I can in every competition I enter.

How is the environment among the ladies competing on the world tour; who is your biggest competitor and who do you enjoy training with?

The atmosphere among the women is both professional and friendly. What I love most about it

is sharing our cultures because we all come from different countries. I don't have a biggest competitor in particular because in each heat I have to ride against a different girl, and each time I learn from that experience. Last year Gisela Pulido and Paula Novotna came to Venezuela and I enjoyed sharing the water with them outside of the competition environment. I used to train with Céline Rodenas (F-One rider) who is one of my best friends. I'd enjoy it if this year we managed to do more training trips with the girls!

How have your sponsors, including CrazyFly, helped you achieve your dreams?

CrazyFly is my primary sponsor. I feel blessed to be a part of the family, and I'm thankful because without them I wouldn't be able to afford all the gear that I need to train and to travel for competitions. They are also a huge support to promoting my rider image and I always do my best to be a good ambassador for the brand.

My other sponsors, which are KiteSista, Damage Clothing, We Ride Local (water and street clothes) and Hoku Swimwear are helping me by providing the best outfits to ride in, as well as helping promote my image on the national and international scene.

What equipment do you use, and why?

I use the Sculp kite. I like them because they are very versatile, which allows me to use one single model to compete in freestyle, big air and slalom. I also like these kites because they are durable and strong which is perfect for those inevitable crashes when you are learning a new move. And, as a girl, I dig the colours of the kites and bars.

As for the boards, for freestyle and big air I use the Addict Model. This is, so far, the best board I've ever tried. It gives huge pop, has loads of flex and very soft landings. The design and colours are just perfect.

For slalom, I use the Raptor Pro Board because it's a very fast board with great upwind abilities. I love the colours as well; they go with my green kites.

"WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE WIND MOST OF THE YEAR; THE BEACHES ARE NOT CROWDED, THE WATER IS WARM, AND IT'S SUNNY EVERY DAY."

PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO

Where did you study for your degree in Sport and Event Management, and how has your education influenced your kiteboarding career?

I studied for my Masters Degree in International Sports and Event Management in France. This degree helps me a lot in analysing the kiteboarding industry and its trends so that I can deal with the sponsor's contracts by myself, and I'm able to manage my athlete image by preparing my partnership files, curriculums, press books, and social media.

When you're home in Venezuela, what does an average day look like?

I'm not someone who likes a daily routine, so I try to make each day different. I wake up early, and depending on the wind conditions I train as much as I can. I switch categories, train with my friends and change the spots to make my training as fun as possible. However, I take one or two days off a week to clean the house, do administration work, and go out to town with my friends for shopping, cinema, and restaurants.

If there is no wind, I go fishing or wakeboarding. A few times a week, my friends come to my house or I go to theirs to make dinner and hang out.

What makes Venezuela an ideal kiteboarding destination?

Venezuela is full of beautiful kiteboarding spots like Playa El Yaque on Margarita Island, La Restinga, a wave spot on Margarita Island there is also Adicora in Falcon State. The jewel in the crown is the Archiapegalo of Los Roques this is "the" postcard spot and it is not to be missed! There is also La Tortuga where the water is so blue that it looks fake. Venezuela has spots for every taste.

We are lucky to have wind most of the year; the beaches are not crowded, the water is warm, and it's sunny every day. I have rarely seen such beautiful sunsets in my life.

"VENEZUELA IS ALSO A COUNTRY FULL OF VERY TALENTED WINDSURFERS AND KITEBOARDERS."



PHOTO MORITZ BECK

The Venezuelan kite community is a big family and we are always happy to meet new kites from abroad. Venezuela is also a country full of very talented windsurfers and kiteboarders.

What are your interests outside of kiteboarding?

I'm the godmother of a Venezuelan foundation "El Yaque Extremo" which is dedicated to supporting kitesurfing and windsurfing children from Playa El Yaque so they can get gear, participate in competitions, and find sponsors. Playa el Yaque is a town of champions and those kids are extremely talented. I have known them since they were babies, and I consider them as my children.

Dancing is my second passion (hip-hop, salsa, merengue, bachata, reggaeton).

What's the best advice you've received?

My dad always taught me that, "where there's a will there is a way" even if we are not very good at something. He always told me that the word "surrender" does not have to exist in my vocabulary and that with hard work I will always achieve my goals.

What motivates you each day?

Competitions are approaching, so I'm very focused on improving as much as I can so I'm well prepared for the next season. Also, I want my family and friends to be proud of me, so I do my best. My dad is one of the people I admire the most and each time I have a motivation decrease (yes that happens to us all), I can count on him to kick my butt and keep me fighting for what I want!

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

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

Winner! 

Mark Fuller sends one over the camera.
Photo by Richard Flindall at 4shorecoaching.com

IKSURFMAG Says:
Are sunset kite loops more fun than regular kite loops?



André Varhaugvik

Winter or summer, water is water. It's always GOOOOD... even one degree below freezing. Here is a bird's eye view. Photo by: GoPro.

IKSURFMAG says: Is that snow on the shore?



Alessandro Lugaresi with a Toeside Backside 360. Photo sequence by: Florian Scharscher. Good wind and best regards!

IKSURFMAG says: Wow. Beautiful lines, nice kicker, and a hot trick!



▼
Ryan Bickley on his new Xenon Board at Te Atatu in Auckland, NZ.

IKSURFMAG says: Powerful raley. It looks as if the sea is rising up to get you!



▼
Awesome sunset session in Praia do Marco, Brazil. The local fishermen are so friendly. They went out & caught us fresh fish, prawns and even lobster for lunch. Photo by: MOG

IKSURFMAG says: Looks like you are milking every ounce of that session Richard!



▼
Jamie Crossman cruising around the sunset in Cornwall, UK the other day, a lightwind session but what a view!

IKSURFMAG says: We love sunset sessions, we can't get enough of them, this one looks like a blinder!



▼
Mark Saunders is sea turtle dodging in Barbados. Photo by: Mignonne Cox.

IKSURFMAG says: This looks like one of the nicest spots on earth to spend an afternoon. Enjoy the tranquil vibes!

MARY BOOTH CRUISING AMONGST THE PIRATES AS THE CARIBBEAN SUN SETS OVER THE SEA!
PHOTO ROU CHATER

SUBSCRIBE TO THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURF MAGAZINE

Subscribe and get the IKSURFMAG benefits! Be the first to read the magazine every issue, get automatically entered into all our Prize Draws and have the chance to WIN some awesome kitesurf gear.

We won't use your information for anything but letting you know about IKSURFMAG. That's it. So sign up and get the best online kite mag in the world first and for free every 2 months!

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE](#)

SUBSCRIBE