

KSURF!

ISSUE 60

OCT/NOV 16

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 60 of the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! Sixty issues is a bit of a landmark, so we've gone out of our way to pack every page with some of the best content we have ever produced.

With articles looking at the rise of the female side of our sport, travelling through Kenya, equipment overloads and lots more there is plenty inside to keep you entertained, be sure to check it out!

ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE!



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INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

KSURF!

060
DEC 16/JAN 17

THE 60TH
ISSUE!



THE FEMALE FRONTIER · FROM WATAMU TO LAMU
HOW MUCH GEAR DO YOU REALLY NEED?, BEHIND THE BRAND, TESTS, TECHNIQUE & MORE!

THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURF MAGAZINE

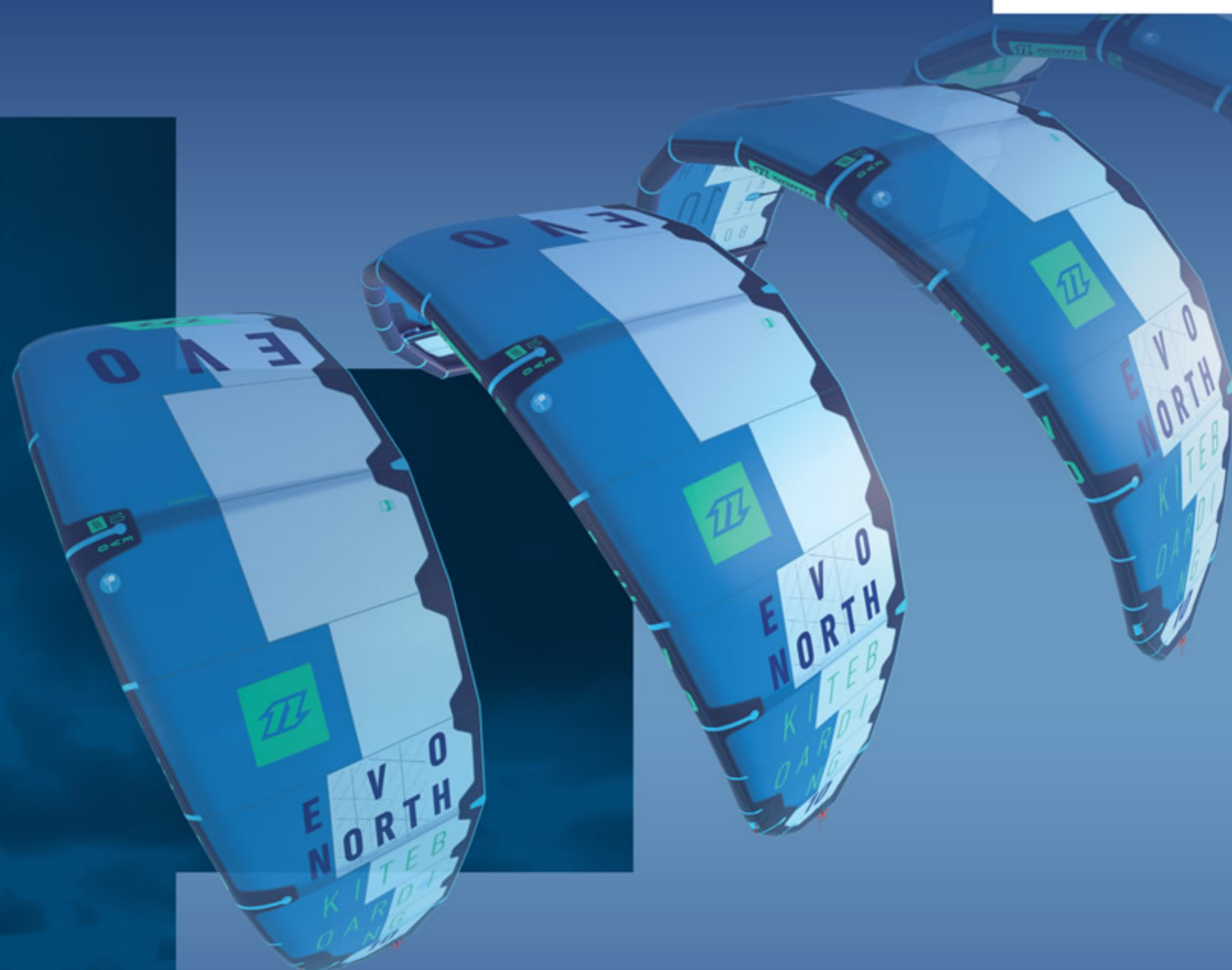
WHATEVER THE CONDITIONS - SEIZE THE MOMENT. THE NEW EVO

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RIDER: TOM REBERT / PHOTO: TOBY BROWNICH



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MEETS A RIDER'S
INCREDIBLE TALENT!

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WHEN F-ONE
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Photo: Jörg Wittmann



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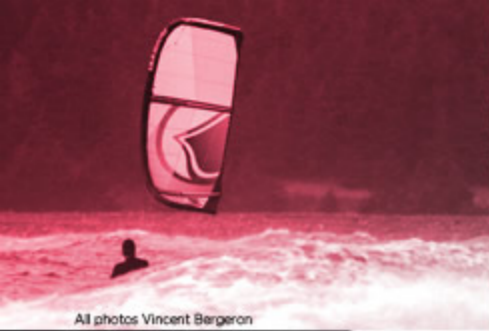
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NEW!



All photos Vincent Bergeron



Photos: Vincent Bergeron, Ulf Dörmel, Gary Asher David



The NV

Departures from the norm and outside of the box thinking are what bring strides in next generation product development. The challenge with this philosophy of thinking and development is to retain all the special characteristics that 7 years of Envy development has achieved. We have reached a point where the Envy is one of the most user friendly, versatile kites on the market. The 8th version of the Envy is now here. Not only does the NV have a new name moniker, but also utilizes a complete new profile and airframe geometries. The NV still retains its legendary stability, its easy to predict on/off feel and bombproof construction, while holding the position as one of the most versatile cross condition and riding style kites on the market. From pro freestyler, to wave seeker, or the weekend warrior, the NV will perform beyond expectations.

NV SIZES: 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10.5 | 12 | 13.5 | 15



Moon Patrol & Space Craft

Moon Patrol Sometimes full circle means a better circle. The Moon Patrol is a blast and ode to the past. Hints of mutant board technology blended with modern directional snowboarding inspiration have brought to life this futuristic board shape that will take you to the next dimension of the kiteboarding universe. The Moon Patrol is a directional water transport machine that is not bound by a singular one-way traffic sign. A slight tapered tail in the outline, and a set back from centered stance will allow you to slash your way across all liquid water surfaces. The rocker line is asymmetrical, with slightly more nose entry rocker than the tail, to absorb monster chop and towering white water. MOON PATROL SIZE: 146cm

Space Craft Feeling like you lack some direction in your kiteboarding? Looking to blast into outer orbit and land like a floating feather? The Space Craft will cover all these needs and then some! Utilizing T.F.R.(Tips, Front, Rear) technology that allows for easy riding both nose and tail forward, the added slight offset back from center outline and asymmetrical rocker creates a chop soaking, big boosting, smooth landing experience that will change your view of riding a multi directional board forever. Drawing design direction from past mutant folklore, modern surf shapes, and directional snowboards, the Space Craft offers hard carving action that is an easy cross over from your standard twin. SPACE CRAFT SIZE: 144cm



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qualified instructor.



CRUISING THE MOUNTAIN LAKES IN HARDLY A BREATH OF WIND...
PHOTO GREGOR JOHN PHOTOGRAPHY

WIN

...A GOPRO HERO 5 BLACK ACTION CAMERA!

We use GoPro's all the time and can't rate them highly enough! If you want to get a great action shot of your riding there really isn't a substitute! With the launch of the new Hero 5 Black action camera on the market, we figured this would be a great prize for our subscribers this issue!

If you've used a GoPro before you will know how great they are, the Hero 4 Black was a fantastic camera and has been in service for a couple of years now. The new Hero 5 Black is fully waterproof without a housing, features voice activation, one button control and has a 2-inch touchscreen display so you can frame your shot and adjust the settings!

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- Voice Activated
- 12mp Photos
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- Waterproof without any housing to 10m

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MANUELA JUNGO CRUISING IN HOOD RIVER!
PHOTO GOPRO





RYLAND BLAKENEY GETTING PITTED IN INDO, THE GEAR MIGHT HAVE CHANGED A LOT OVER THE YEARS BUT RYLAND'S UNHOOKED AND UNSTRAPPED STYLE HAS REMAINED CONSTANT!
PHOTO JASON WOLCOTT

THE 60TH
ISSUE!

SPECIAL
EDITORIAL

ISSUE 60

Ten years, it's a long time isn't it; I'd wager it's longer than some of you may have been kiting too. It also happens to be how old IKSURFMAG is and with this being our 60th Issue it seems right to ponder upon it. When we started this magazine back in 2006 the sport was very different, bow style kites had only just arrived on the scene, surfboards were just starting to get into the mainstream consciousness and Aaron Hadlow had just turned eighteen.

Back then broadband Internet was only just becoming popular, and our digital magazine was a concept that many people had never seen before. Of course, times change, and unlike some magazines still churning out the same old woodwork, we'd like to think we have changed too. When we launched, we didn't have a website, just a one-page portal to the magazine. Social Media was not a "thing" in its current sense, and the App Store was just a twinkle in Steve Jobs eye.

While the landscape changed we managed to move ahead of the times and keep up with the curve, our Social Media is the most engaging in the industry; our website is now ranked as the most popular kitesurfing website on the planet. The magazine format and technology has changed from the old and outdated Flash offering to what it is now, and we have the most downloaded kitesurfing App in both the App Stores.

All of this has been achieved through relentless hard work and passion for the sport, with a multitude of sacrifices being made along the way. We now have, I believe, one of the best teams in the business bringing you the best content available in the easiest to access formats out there. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank, Alex, Karen, Christian, Karine, Mary, Jack, Lindsay, Robin and Sukie as members of the permanent team and also extend huge thanks to all our contributors who have helped out along the way too.

GEORGE DUFTY, WINNER OF THE BRITISH KITESURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016 EPITOMISES THE YOUNG AND PASSIONATE BLOOD COMING INTO OUR SPORT, HE OOZES POWER AND STYLE.
PHOTO ROU CHATER - "TEN YEARS AGO I WAS AT THIS SPOT TEACHING A FRIEND TO KITESURF, BACK THEN THERE WERE HARDLY ANY KITESURFERS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, NOW THERE ARE KITES AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE!"



THE 60TH
ISSUE!

SPECIAL
EDITORIAL

ISSUE 60 CONTINUED

None of this would have been possible of course without the support of our advertisers who saw the vision we had and have helped us to grow IKSURFMAG to what it is today. Over the years they come and go, but without them, none of this would be here at all, so we have to stress how integral they are to this whole project.

Lastly, we need to thank you, the readers, without you, we wouldn't have the numbers to attract the advertisers. Every time you turn a page, like an article or share something on social media you are helping us to keep this project going. You might think it's just a click, but it means so much more to us. There are legions of you out there supporting the magazine, and we'd like to thank each and every one of you for making IKSURFMAG what it is today, the biggest kitesurfing media channel out there.

We've always dreamed big, but back in 2006, I don't think I could have predicted half of what we have managed to achieve over the years. It's thanks to everyone involved in this project that this has been possible. Over those ten years, there has been one constant throughout the ups and downs, one never changing beacon that has kept us going through the late nights and hours upon hours of hard work.

Kitesurfing, it's been there since the very beginning, and it's what we turn to whenever we need a boost or a pick me up. Of course, it has changed in ways we could have never have dreamed of. Slider parks for kites have exploded, wakestyle has gone from fringe to mainstream and more people in Tarifa ride a surfboard than they do a twin tip these days!

JULIEN FILLION HAVING FUN ON THE HYDROFOIL IN MAUI! HAVE YOU TRIED IT YET?
PHOTO LIQUID FORCE



ISSUE 60 CONTINUED

Hydrofoils have become commonplace and are well on their way to getting kite racing into the Olympics, we've had multiple champions come and go, and many stalwarts who stayed the course and continued to lead the way. We view kitesurfing in an entirely different manner, short edits online have become our window into the kitesurfing world and our optic nerves gorge themselves on 4k drone footage and 120fps slow-mo, giving a unique perspective once reserved for huge budgets and productions.

I've said it before, and I'm going to say it again, but the equipment we now use is better than ever, and it is great to see the development still being pushed. Rarely does something truly awful land on our testers desks, yet ten years ago that wasn't the case. Brands have come and gone, and there have been plenty of surprising success stories along the way.

Technology has changed the way we look back on our sessions with GPS watches and accelerometer devices scrutinising our every move. The one thing that has remained constant through all of this is that buzz of boosting a massive air, the thrill of smashing that lip and the pure hit of stoke when you land that new trick.

What a fantastic sport that even after nearly 20 years in existence it can still inspire the same feelings and emotions of pure exhilaration and joy. It's the reason we got into all of this and I guess without kitesurfing none of us would be here reading this.

Kitesurfing – it's just amazing, and it is why we are all here!

Rou Chater
Publishing Editor

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15 / 17 / 19M

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11 / 13M *

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5 / 7 / 9M *

Massive air, lofty hangtime and aggressive, high-power freeride performance. Described as "a Rally on steroids", this size range is perfect for experienced riders who are ready to take their riding to the next level, and for foilers looking for competition-level performance out of a small kite.

* **KITE DOWN** - THE TURBINE IS A HIGH-POWER KITE. FOR THAT REASON, WE RECOMMEND KITING DOWN ONE SIZE FROM WHAT YOU WOULD NORMALLY RIDE.

WORDS INTRO ROU CHATER
ARTICLE LINDSAY MCCLURE

MANUELA JUNGO SOUL CARVING IN HOOD RIVER
PHOTO JAMES BOULDING



THE FEMALE FRONTIER

THE RISE AND RISE OF THE FAIRER SEX IN KITEBOARDING...

Years ago it was rather rare to see a woman at the beach, back when the sport started there were just a handful of trailblazers. These days with the advancements in equipment and accessibility, the explosion of female participants seems to be booming. That's a great thing for our sport, more equality brings more innovation, it's no mistake that we have more ladies working for us at the magazine than we do guys.

“ THEY WERE NOW, REALLY, TRULY, MIXING IT AT A LEVEL WHERE THE GUYS HAD TO STOP AND TAKE STOCK FOR A SECOND. ”

This year the progression at the top end of our sport seems to have rocketed. This article came about after my mind was quite literally blown watching the ladies final video from the Triple S. The feminine side of the sport appeared to have undergone a paradigm shift where they were now, really, truly, mixing it at a level where the guys had to stop and take stock for a second.

I asked our Features Editor, Lindsay McClure, to investigate the rise not only in the skill level but also in the numbers of participants. Then to create an article that would not only showcase the high standard of riding out there, but also inspire all women to push their level, and to encourage more girls to get involved too. Who knows, one day soon it might be the guys who are outnumbered on the beaches!

Lindsay McClure

As I'm seated along the shore of a small lagoon in Northern Brazil, a burly, local approaches me, asking in broken English how I'm able to participate in a sport that requires so much brute strength. I smile and give a quick explanation about the physics of kiteboarding and the utility of my harness.

Knowing that I will lose my audience if I continue my explanation deeper into depower systems and strength-to-weight-ratios, I significant say, "It's nice to meet you," give a smile, then glide off the beach in a motion that's easier than walking.

COLLEEN CARROLL, HANDPLANT ON THE NORTH RAIL IN CAPE HATTERAS.
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH





“NOT LONG AGO, KITEBOARDING WAS ONLY FOR DAREDEVILS AND RISK SEEKERS WHO WEREN'T AFRAID TO PUT THEIR LIFE ON THE LINE.”

We often forget how remarkable our sport is. Spectators routinely ask me how I'm able to ride my board without being picked up by my kite and carried away. Not long ago, kiteboarding was only for daredevils and risk seekers who weren't afraid to put their life on the line. Today, kiting is for everyone. Visit any kite beach, and you will find athletes of all kinds: tall, short, round, thin, old, young, male and most importantly female.

I started kiteboarding in 2008. At first, one token girl at each beach was the norm. For each group of 10 male kites, there would be, maybe, one girl in the mix. Fast forward to 2016 and the landscape is completely different. Women now have every advantage in kiteboarding at both the early stages and at the elite level. Today, the male-to-female ratio is levelling out, and the vibe on the beach is becoming more inclusive.

Sensi Graves: "I think women are a lot better at supporting one another. Women are more emotional and attune to one another's feelings

and therefore are compassionate and supportive."

Many people are quick to point out that women in action sports are fighting an uphill battle. Because of physical differences, the ladies have a different crayon box to draw with as it were. Often, women take a more measured approach to learning new sports. However, what we lack in raw power, we make up for with finesse and technique.

Karolina Winkowska: "We have less strength, but that doesn't mean that we train less or try fewer tricks. We train as hard or even harder than the guys because we know we need to make sure our bodies will take all the impact from the heavy crashes.



SENSI GRAVES GETS STYLISH ON THE NORTH SLIDER IN HOOD RIVER...
PHOTO LINDSAY MCCLURE

It's with this mentality that the women at the top of our sport are achieving great things.

Paula Novotná: "The girls started pushing the level with Bruna Kajiya landing the first double handle pass (by a female), a backside 315, and other girls will follow."

Colleen Carroll: "Just in the past year, we've seen more progression from all of the women than in any of the years before. I think, over the next year or two, we'll start seeing a lot of 'never been done' tricks landed by the ladies in competitions and video parts. The more this happens and the level increases, the more we'll see this 'all out' mentality amongst the women's division that we see in the guys heats."

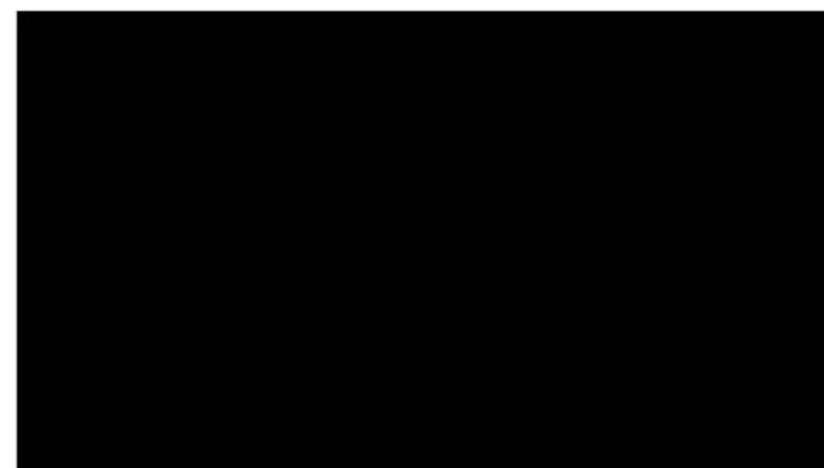
" WE'LL START SEEING A LOT OF 'NEVER BEEN DONE' TRICKS LANDED BY THE LADIES "



rider: Kaimi Shaway

CANNIBAL

FREESTYLE / FREERIDE / WAKESTYLE
Sizes: 5 / 7 / 9 / 11 / 13



CHERRY



APRICOT



BLUEBERRY

PAULA NOVOTNA COMPETING
IN TARIFA LAST YEAR.
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA

“ THEY STRIVE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF EVEN THE MOST DEMANDING FEMALE RIDERS. ”

It's not just about the top level though, it's about the grass roots number of girls coming into the sport too, and progressing on their journeys within kiteboarding. Today, women's gear is well-designed and readily available, making the kiting more accessible, comfortable, and fun. Almost every major kite brand has recognised the need to provide women's specific products. Brands have resisted the "shrink-it-and-pink-it" model for designing equipment. Instead, the brands are bringing influential women into the design process as they strive to meet the needs of even the most demanding female riders.

With today's equipment, beginners can learn the sport without fearing for their lives. For instance, I recently introduced my mom, the last person on the planet who I want to see flying through the air, to the sport without hesitation. Modern kites are designed so riders can decrease or eliminate the powerful pull from the kite in an instant, a quality that's appreciated by riders across the spectrum.

Katie Potter: "Kiteboarding brings a particular type of girl into the sport. The sport teaches you that you have to be resilient. We all get along because we've all been through the same stuff."

Kiteboarding is unique because it's an all-in lifestyle sport. People who love kiting, live kiting. Passion for kiting leads participants to travel, seek the wind, embrace adventure, make personal sacrifices, and spend long days engaging with the kiteboarding community. If our community is welcoming, the level of female stoke will continue to grow.





“ WE ARE TAKING CARE OF THE SPORT AND GROWING IT IN THE DIRECTION WE WANT TO SEE IT GO. ”

I see, more than ever, that ladies are not only participating, but they are falling in love with kiteboarding.

Sensi Graves: "I don't think that deciding to do this is a sacrifice, it's a lifestyle choice. We acknowledge the things we're missing out on, but consciously choose a cool opportunity that not many people get."

Female kilters now travel comfortably,

feeling safe and making friends along the way. Cars full of women drive hours to find the best conditions, and kite posadas fill with ladies who are excited to hit the water together. Scores of women have creatively figured out a way to design their life so that kiting is a priority.

Paula Rosales: "Aside from progression and the camaraderie on the water, I think we're seeing a bigger picture from the girls about where the sport as a whole can progress. We are taking care of the sport and growing it in the direction we want to see it go."

Each year, more women are coming to appreciate the value of kiteboarding. It's a great excuse to get outside and travel the world. Kiting requires spontaneity and flexibility because of the ever-changing conditions, and developing these traits is good for the spirit.

Colleen Carroll: "In the park, it's a very relaxed vibe. We are all competitive, of course, but it's a 'good' competitive. The kind that motivates you to push yourself and leaves you hungry for more after each session or event. Not to mention that a lot of us are all great friends on and off the water. We travel together, freeride together and even support each other during competitions when someone needs it."



PAULA NOVOTNA HEADS UP A GIRLS KITE CAMP IN WINDTOWN, SOUTH AFRICA. CAMPS LIKE THESE ARE GREAT FOR MEETING OTHER GIRLS IN THE SPORT!
PHOTO CLAUDIA EMANUEL

The opportunities for ladies to compete are also becoming more abundant. At the amateur level and the professional level, more women entering competitions. This means that the share of the prize money allotted to women, in many cases, is growing. With more prize money, more women are motivated to compete, and this positive growth cycle is pushing the level of riding up, up, up.

Paula Novotná: "It's difficult to stay friendly with somebody you compete against, but in kiteboarding it's different. We are a small community of athletes, we travel around the world together, and some of the riders are my close friends. If I competed against a friend, I don't feel like I lost. I am happy for my friend who won, even if, deep in my heart, I want to be there."

" WE TRAVEL
AROUND THE
WORLD TOGETHER,
AND SOME OF THE
RIDERS ARE MY
CLOSE FRIENDS. "

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WARECK ARNAUD TEAM RIDER: JOHANN CIVEL

“EVEN IF ALL WE HAVE IN COMMON IS OUR SHARED PASSION FOR KITEBOARDING, WE IMMEDIATELY HAVE A BOND, MUTUAL RESPECT AND EXPERIENCES TO SHARE.”

A good example is when I compete against Gisela Pulido. Even if I lose against her, I'll still help her to win the event and support her during the competition. There is no point being jealous or having enemies in this sport."

Karolina Winkowska: "Some relationships among the ladies are friendly, and some are more competitive. When I started to compete on the world tour, I didn't do it to make friends. However, today I can say I have friends all over the world, and this is the most amazing thing I've gained throughout these years."

One significant change I've recognised is that the ladies themselves have become a lot more open and welcoming to each other. During my first years kiting, the other women I met were super competitive. I felt that my skill level, my appearance, my gear, and everything I did was scrutinised; this was happening when I could barely ride upwind.

Now, I find that the women I meet through kiting are friendly and outgoing. Even if all we have in common is our shared passion for kiteboarding, we immediately have a bond, mutual respect and experiences to share. One reason for this change is that the industry has become more accepting of women in our sport. There are more pieces of the pie, so to speak. There's more space for everyone to do their thing and be accepted and supported.

PAULA NOVOTNA PULLING OFF THE MOVES IN BRAZIL.
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO





KAROLINA WINKOWSKA DOMINATED THE FREESTYLE TOUR AND HAS RECENTLY WON THE KITE PARK LEAGUE TOUR TOO!
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO

Manuela Jungo: "The women's community is growing. Girls are interacting with each other and sharing what they do on social media. Girls want to feel healthy and be fit, and they want to follow other girls who are real and inspiring. It's all about being active and eating well: 'try this recipe' or 'I went for this hike...' I find it fascinating and inspiring."

Still, I cringe when I see athletes, media outlets, and friends on social media playing into the stereotypical scene with the boy shredding and the girl posing on the beach. I hope to see our sport continuing to accept ladies as athletes instead of viewing them as accessories. We've made so much progress in such a short period of time, and I'm very optimistic about where our sport is heading.

" WE'VE MADE SO MUCH PROGRESS IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME "



Rise and shine
THE MONK GOLD



**SHINN
MONK**

COLLEEN CARROLL HAS BEEN PUSHING WOMEN'S
WAKESTYLE RIDING TO THE LIMITS.
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH



**“ WE ARE TAKING CARE OF THE SPORT AND GROWING
IT IN THE DIRECTION WE WANT TO SEE IT GO. ”**

Rou Chater: "Four years ago the team at IKSURFMAG came up with an unwritten rule, to no longer publish videos where guys shredded, and girls flounced about in bikinis on the sidelines. Rather than make a public statement we quietly emailed the worst protagonists explaining why their video hadn't been shared on the biggest kitesurfing media outlet out there. The

response was fantastic from some of the guys, and we've seen a shift in those styles of videos. Even though a few still appear on the web.

The rule here at the magazine now is that we shouldn't be selling sex for sex's sake. Yes, most ladies kite in hot locations in bikini's, but there is no need to sexualize that overly and it is far better to see a girl riding in a bikini rather than just standing there getting jumped over. We feel this approach encourages a positive outlook to women's

kiteboarding. It's been great to see that grow over the last few years..."

So, where do we go from here?

It's time to take action. For those who are new to kiting, the first step is to find a reputable kite centre. It can be worthwhile to seek out an instructor who has a proven history of teaching women. Also, try to buy, rent, or borrow equipment that fits and works well, especially checking to see if the harness, wetsuit, footstraps, and board feel right for you and have been designed with female riders in mind.



KAROLINA WINKOWSKA IS UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF THE BEST FEMALE RIDERS ON THE PLANET.
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



“SEEKING OUT LADIES KITE MEET-UPS, WOMEN’S CLINICS AND ADVENTURE CAMPS IS A GREAT WAY TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN THE KITEBOARDING COMMUNITY”

Colleen Carroll: "For women's kiteboarding as a whole, I would love to see the rapid progression we are seeing right now continue to gain momentum. I'd love to see more women getting into kiteboarding, closing the gap in number and skill level between us and the men."

For intermediate level riders, seeking out ladies kite meet-ups, women's clinics and adventure camps is a great way to get more involved in the kiteboarding community, improve your skills, and stay motivated. At the advanced level, camps and competitions are a great way to keep from plateauing or getting bored.

I don't think there's been a better time to persuade our moms, daughters, girlfriends and anyone else to sign up for kite lessons. We should be relentless in encouraging our friends and family members to jump onboard. After all, when something is this good, why wouldn't you share it?



Kenya usually means safari...or so I thought!

I was headed to Kenya for an adventure split between kitesurfing in this African paradise and experiencing exotic wildlife on Safari. I never expected Kenya to have so many diverse and incredible kite spots; I may be the only person who left the country without seeing an animal; unless donkeys count!



FROM WATAMU TO LAMU

A TRULY KENYAN ADVENTURE WITH CHARLOTTE CONSORTI, MINUS THE ANIMALS!

WORDS CHARLOTTE CONSORTI PHOTO BRUNO DUBOSQ AND CHARLOTTE CONSORTI

“ I WAS EXCITED TO SPOT A HUGE LAGOON WITH TURQUOISE BLUE WATER AND FINE WHITE SAND BEACHES. ”

KENYA = KITE!

In the past, I've visited Zanzibar, Mozambique, and Madagascar. The only country left to explore on Africa's east coast was Kenya. While preparing for the trip, I was worried about the forecast and the quality of the kite spots. I wasn't able to find much information on kiting in Kenya online or from my kiter friends. I figured if I ended up with dead calm conditions, I could always go on safari!

My other concern was the safety of the country. Tourism in Kenya has suffered greatly these past few years after widely publicised terrorist attacks and activity from Somali's jihadist terrorist group: Al-Shabaab. The foreign affairs ministry advises you to stay well clear of the region that borders Somalia, something to keep in mind if you're planning a trip to Kenya. Luckily, the seaside resorts at the South of Malindi where I would be laying my head are in a high surveillance zone and have a good reputation for safety.

The two most famous Kenyan kite spots are Diani Beach, south of Mombasa, and Che Sale, a few kilometres away from Malindi. My adventurous spirit told me to find somewhere off the beaten track. I began my search on Google Earth, hunting for beach paradises along the coast. I was excited to spot a huge lagoon with turquoise blue water and fine white sand beaches. Was this the flatwater paradise I was looking for?





“A VIEW OF A SPECTACULAR WHITE SAND BEACH WITH A FEW ROCKS DOTTED AROUND IN THE WATER.”

The closest village to this mystery spot is Watamu, which means ‘someone nice’ in Swahili. It already felt welcoming! After some more research, I discovered a kite school in the village. I reached out to Ben Kelliher, manager of Tribe Watersports, who filled me in on the local spots and recommended the best accommodation.

Travelling to these secret paradises can be a long, arduous task, but I knew it would be worth it! Our first stop was Nairobi, where we had to pick up our luggage and go through customs. We had to change

airports and get our visas stamped before flying to Mombasa, arriving after midnight. An unfortunate misunderstanding with our driver meant that no one was there to pick us up. The taxis waiting around for a late-night fare were asking more than double what the hotel had advised, and negotiating in my exhausted state was the last thing I wanted. Despite the tiredness, we settled on a good price and began the last leg of our journey.

The next two hours were spent rocking around on the road, flying over speed bumps in a car without shocks, with a driver who drove as if he was training for the Dakar Rally. After a bumpy night, our early morning

arrival in Watamu was heavenly. The room was stunning, and I was already dreaming before I’d even fallen asleep.

As per usual when travelling, I awoke before the sun. Those first magical moments as the light of day brought life to the morning and lit up the scenery around me were unforgettable. I was treated to a view of a spectacular white sand beach with a few rocks dotted around in the water. We had breakfast by the sea, serenaded by the sound of waves as the tide came in.

Today’s program: Find the closest kite spots and say hello to Ben! We would also need to secure a car so we could venture further afield in the days to follow. In a lucky coincidence, our hotel manager was French and seemed to have the answer to everything. He would be a valuable help during our stay.



“ CAN ALSO HIRE TUK-TUKS, THE MOST COMMON MODE OF TRANSPORT ”

Renting a car in Watamu is an interesting experience. You won't find rental agencies like Avis or Hertz there. Instead, you rent cars from the locals. You can also hire tuk-tuks, the most common mode of transport in Watamu. If you're up for something a little spicier, try the boda-bodas (motorbike taxis). We ended up choosing to rent a car to accommodate our multitude of kite gear.

After organising the rental, we went for a walk along the beach to track down Ben. The beach is around 5 km long, and there are dozens of hotels along the shoreline. Like many beach destinations that promote tourism, it can be difficult to have a quiet walk along the beach without the locals trying to sell you seashell necklaces or excursions using high-pressure sales techniques such as walking with you until you agree to buy something! It was my least favourite thing about Kenya. Lucky for us, most of the vendors did not speak French, so you'll be all right as long as you don't speak English or utter a word of Italian!

Due to the high population of Italian ex-pats and tourists travelling on direct flights or all-inclusive trips, it seemed like it would be more useful for a traveller to speak Italian than Swahili here! All the beach vendors were fluent. I wouldn't be surprised if the first words spoken by local babies were 'Ciao Caramela'- meaning 'Hello Sweets!'- rather than Mummy or Daddy!

Rider: Reece Myerscough Photographer: Jay Wallace Gear: Soul drysuit, Mako Jester board, Session 3 harness

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For 2017, we introduced a brand new Nano Glide Skin on the bottom of the Raptor and Raptor LTD boards.

The micro channels on this foil help the board track and go upwind better.

The foil has better gliding properties and generates speed quicker, plus it is more reluctant to scratches.



CRAZYFLY
INNOVATIONS



RAPTOR



RAPTOR LTD



All the beach vendors were fluent. I wouldn't be surprised if the first words spoken by local babies were 'Ciao Caramela'- meaning 'Hello Sweets!'- rather than Mummy or Daddy!

As we walked, we eventually found Ben giving kitesurfing lessons in the water by his school. It's an ideal place to learn at low tide when the water is low enough that you can walk everywhere and ride on some amazingly flat water. All of Watamu's kite spots are best at low tide. At high tide, the water is choppy, and the beach is considerably smaller. Equally, when the tidal range isn't large, you may find some of the best sand bars never get to rise out of the water. We quickly learnt that you need to plan your session around the tide and the wind to make the most of the riding here.

**" YOU MAY FIND
SOME OF THE BEST
SAND BARS EVER
GET TO RISE OUT
OF THE WATER."**



“IT WAS BREATHTAKING, MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN WE HAD IMAGINED. A ROCKY ROAD TOOK US THE REST OF THE WAY TO THE BEACH, AND THAT LITTLE PARADISE BECAME OUR SPOT.”

We found the perfect conditions for a magical session at the sandbar in front of Ocean Sports, where we had the spot entirely to ourselves. We couldn't have hoped for a better session to kick off our kite trip in Kenya.

The next morning, we picked up the car and set off to find the spot I'd found on Google Earth...that stunning turquoise lagoon.

We made our way to Jaracanda's beach, driving across the city and then along a rocky path that goes through a few small villages. We drove past some local kids on their way to school in bare feet and continued to a road that became bumpy and difficult to navigate, testing our rickety car which was about as far as you can get from being a 4x4. With 250,000 km on the odometer on what looked like the original set of tires, we knew carrying on was a risk.

Before we could question our decision too much, we came over a crest and had a view of the sea. We'd found the spot! It was

breathtaking, more beautiful than we had imagined. A rocky road took us the rest of the way to the beach, and that little paradise became our spot. We spent half of our trip there and never saw another kite, only a few tourists sipping cocktails, taking selfies, and wondering what we were up to!

In my exploration on Google Earth, I'd found another spot called Mida Creek. This is another huge lagoon surrounded by mangroves. This location only works at low tide, as the current is too strong otherwise. It didn't turn out to be as flat as we had hoped, but the tide is strong enough that you can go upwind with only 10 knots of wind, you can ride from the moment your kite is stable in the air.

**“ THIS PRIVATE POOL IS ONLY USABLE FOR AN HOUR
WHEN THE TIDE IS JUST RIGHT. ”**

At Mida Creek, the landscape is beautiful and serene, with plenty of birds and large crabs skittering around in the rocks. For an animal lover like me, I was elated to see little monkeys who called the forest their home as we made our way to the spot. The short beach, known as “Short Beach,” (go figure!) offers total privacy. For the first time in our trip, we were truly alone. This is one of Ben’s favourite spots, and he’ll sometimes take his crew or students here for a magical session.

When it came to perfect flatwater for freestyle, the sandbar in front of Ocean Sports is unbeatable. It’s a wild ride, because this private pool is only usable for an hour when the tide is just right. As soon as high tide comes and the water flows over the reef, and the sea becomes choppy.

The last surprise of the trip was the island of Lamu, a tip given to us by Florian, the French manager of Ocean Sports Hotel. I had been hesitant to visit this spot, as it was close to the border of Somalia.

In the past, the island of Lamu has been a popular holiday destination, a favourite haunt of numerous celebrities. Huge seafront properties have been purchased by Brad and Angelina, Mick Jagger, and even Prince Harry and Prince William! The island is a real jewel, and the old town of Lamu is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After the kidnapping of a 66-year-old French lady in 2011, where she was taken from her home, this area became a red zone. Since then, the island has been under high-security measures and is now in a yellow zone.

CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE





“ THE MEMORIES OF THOSE UNIQUE AND BEAUTIFUL SPOTS THAT WE DISCOVERED WILL LAST FOREVER. THERE ARE SO MANY AMAZING PLACES TO EXPLORE ”

HOW TO GET AROUND

Taxi: There are many taxis in Malindi. The vehicles do not have taxi meters. The price must be negotiated in advance.

Boda-Boda: These are motorbike taxis and can be found in town and in front of all hotels. Prices are between 100 and 150 Ksh (1.50€) and do not include a helmet.

Tuk-Tuks: Little 3 wheeled motorcycles with a roof. Between 100 and 300Ksh (3€).

Bicycle: You can easily rent a bike in town.

Be careful as they are driving on the left-hand side of the road in Kenya, and the road is shared with donkeys, cars, motorbikes, and pedestrians.

In Lamu: Slightly more complicated as there are no cars, so you have the choice between donkeys and boats. Keep your budget in mind because a return trip to the city costs around 100USD.

How To Get To Watamu

For flights to Mombasa or Malindi, you will arrive in Nairobi first. In Nairobi, you must collect your luggage and go through customs to get your visa stamped. The luggage transfer is not automatically done, even if your luggage is checked.

Tip: Bring something warm to wear if your transfer is a bit long, as temperatures are considerably lower than by the coast.

From Nairobi, national airlines that offer flights to Mombasa and Malindi include Kenya Airways, JamboJet, AirKenya, and Fly540.

From Malindi, the transfer to Watamu is around 30 minutes long and will cost you between 2000-3000 KSH (25-30USD).

From Mombasa, the transfer is around 2 hours and will cost you between 6000-8000 KSH (70-90USD).

I'd advise you to arrange the transfer with your hotel in advance to avoid negotiating or being overcharged by a taxi at the airport. Don't forget to agree to the price in advance as they will often try to raise the price on arrival.

How To Get To Lamu

JamboJet is a very reliable, low-cost airline. Online booking is available on their website.

WHEN TO GO

December to March. The Kaskazi wind comes from the North/North-East (port). It blows between 12 and 15 knots, especially in the afternoon. This is high season in Kenya, so the prices are higher.

Temperatures are between 35 and 40°C during the day and 25 and 30°C at night. The water temperature is around 28°C. The sea is quiet and the beaches clean, and you are likely to see turtles and dolphins.

July to September: The Kuzi wind comes from South/South-East (starboard), and blows between 15/20 knots. It gets stronger around 11 am. We spent 14 days out of 15 on the water and used kites from 9m² to 14m², but most of the time we used 11 and 12m². If you're looking for waves, it's also the right time to go.



The reef is often far out to sea but the waves looked clean. The best wave spot is in Malindi. If you travel up North, the wind is stronger. We had stronger wind in Lamu than in Watamu, where we were kiting on 8m² and 10m².

July/August: Temperatures are between 30 and 33°C during the day and 20 and 23°C at night. Water temperature is around 25°C. You can bring a shorty wetsuit with you when the wind is strong and the sky cloudy. You can get some heavy rain, but it never lasts long. The downside of this period is that currents cover the beach in seaweed.

April to June: Rainy season.

October to November: There is no wind.

Where To Visit:

The Arabuko Sokoke Forest is located in Watamu, and you can get there by car or bicycle. It is more than 420km² wide and overflows with birds, butterflies, and plants.

**“ BRING A
SHORTY WETSUIT
WITH YOU WHEN
THE WIND IS
STRONG AND THE
SKY CLOUDY. ”**

RRP



RELIGION MK7

“READ WAVES, NOT SLOGANS”

SIZES: 4-5-6-7-8-9-10,5-12



ORANGE / GRAY



CYAN / RED



PURPLE / PINK



With a little patience and a lot of luck, you may even see elephants. The trick is to go at dusk when they are active.

WHERE TO STAY

In Watamu

Ocean Sports: the good thing about this hotel is that it is at the heart of all activities. It's a fun place at night as it's where all the locals and kitesurfers go to eat or relax with a drink. The manager is very welcoming and has plenty of good advice. It's a lovely hotel with dozens of little houses overlooking the sea. The food is excellent... I recommend the fish and chips! It's one of the rare hotels where you can relax on the beach without being bothered by beach vendors.

<http://www.oceansports.net>

In Lamu

Kizingo Lodge: This lodge is perfect because the kite spot is right in front of your room. Mary-Jo, Louis and their staff are very welcoming. The food is delicious, and the decor is delightful. The landscape is there to add peace and luxury to this stunning place.

WHERE TO LEARN

Tribe Watersports

<http://www.tribe-watersports.com>

After travelling the world and improving his skills in numerous water sports, Ben came back to Watamu after 28 years to open his kite school. His teaching method is patient and educational, and I would highly recommend him as an instructor. The school is on Watamu's beach and is an ideal place to learn.

Check out Ben's Guide to Watamu:

<http://www.tribe-watersports.com/2016/08/tribe-guide-to-watamu/>

OTHER HELPFUL TIPS

Passport & Visa

Your passport must be valid for six months after your arrival date.

Evisa is recommended – it costs \$51USD and saves you from queuing when you arrive.

Currency

Official currency: Kenyan Shilling (KES)

1€=110KES; 1\$=100KES

You can change your money at the Ocean Sports Hotel, where they have a good exchange rate. US dollars are the most used foreign currency. You can also use Euros without difficulty.

Language

Kenya has two official languages: Swahili and English. Italian is also very much used in the Malindi region.

Time

GMT +3. Kenya has +1 hour time difference with France in summer and +2 hours in winter.

Voltage

220/240 V and 50Hz. Plugs are British type three pin plugs and sockets.

Health & Medical

Vaccinations are not mandatory to travel to Kenya. However it is strongly advised that you get vaccinated against yellow fever and cholera, and to get an antimalarial treatment.



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M-Flex 2.0 offers superior stretch and flex to maximize your freedom in movement.

**POWER TO
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The neoprene panels are sealed together with the stitch free Power Seam technology, which increases the strength and waterproofness to the seams.

**DRY IN
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Say goodbye to 'wet'suits! With Quickdry lining your wetsuit dry's much quicker and it will also keep you warm longer.

WE CREATE PRODUCTS THAT PUSH RIDERS FURTHER, ALLOWING THEM TO BREAK ALL THE EXISTING BOUNDARIES AND TAKE ACTION WATERSPORTS TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL.

Team Mystic

INCONTROL // MYSTICBOARDING.COM

PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON

WORDS SENSI GRAVES

Sensi Graves takes an in depth look at what equipment you really need to be a kiteboarder. Have you got all the gear and no idea? Do you agonise over what kite is right for you? Are you drowning in a mass of kite accessories and are you finding it takes you longer and longer to hit the water? This article is for you, and everyone else out there, after all, it's always good to keep on learning!

WHAT GEAR DO YOU REALLY NEED?

KNOWING WHAT GEAR YOU NEED STARTS WITH
KNOWING WHAT TYPE OF KITEBOARDER YOU ARE...



“ BOTH GROUPS WOULD GET CAUGHT UP IN WHAT GEAR WAS RIGHT FOR THEM AND WERE WORRIED ABOUT MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES. ”

The kite world is one of the techiest that I've found. While coaching in North Carolina, I used to interact with students that would have endless questions about how big their fins should be, how much rocker their board should have and the fine details between the 2010 bow kite they loved and the new ones that had just been released.

I taught a range of students; those that

thought they knew exactly what they wanted and those that didn't have any particular insight into how their kites actually worked. Both groups would get caught up in what gear was right for them and were worried about making the right choices. They were confused by all of the sales pitches out there and weren't sure how to determine the gear they needed.

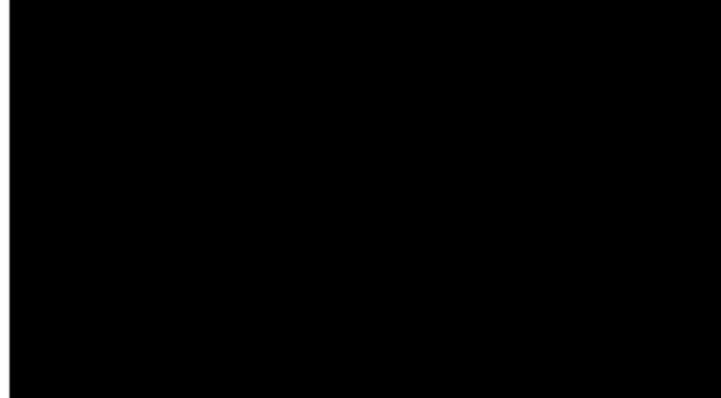
If you're struggling with the same issues, the good news is that you can learn! You can become a kiteboarder that's informed, knowledgeable and doesn't get caught up in

the hype. This guide serves to help you become that kiteboarder and enables you to worry less about what's out there and focus more on what works for you.

The sheer number of kiteboarding accessories on the market is disturbing. From accelerometers (Woo, Trace, Xensr) to board leashes, more and more brands keep popping up and offering the next, greatest innovation. Not only is it impossible for the average rider to utilise all (or any) of these, furthermore, should we even be trying to? One of the most prevalent problems I see in kiting is that kiteboarders often have too much gear.



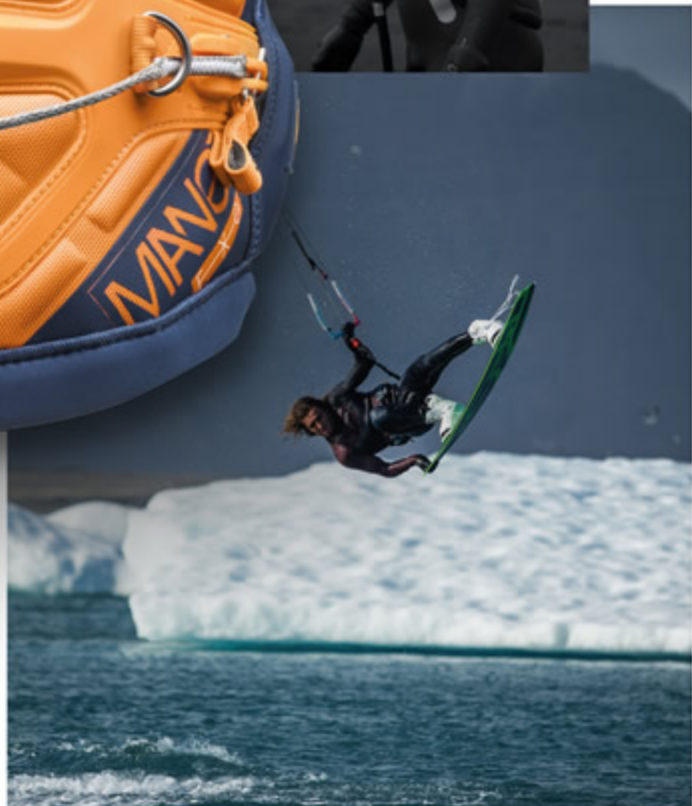
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THE EXO HARNESS



64.048018 - 16.189157



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The EXO harness can significantly increase the length of your sessions thanks to its comfort. We worked with a human kinetic science lab to help us on this project, their scientific approach and knowledge of human morphology enabled us to create a harness providing a level of comfort that was previously nonexistent.

The EXO has been developed to optimize load distribution and thus prevent the rider from having misplaced pressure points such as on the floating ribs or lower back. The body no longer has to compensate for pressure on the wrong areas with muscle contractions or taking unnatural positions. This reduces the fatigue and pain of the rider, allowing him or her to ride longer and with more comfort.

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“ BLINDLY PICKING THE CHEAPEST GEAR YOU CAN FIND FROM EBAY IS NEVER REALLY BEST PRACTICE UNLESS YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR ”

Seasoned kiteboarders have it figured out. A good quiver is an efficient one. Knowing your equipment and what it's for is the number one starting point for assessing what gear you actually need. Stripping down and looking at your essentials will help you get a baseline for necessary additions. So the question remains, how do you find the right gear for you and what gear do you REALLY need? Let's look at the basics...

Choosing The Right Gear

Kiteboarding is an individualised sport, and your gear can become as fine-tuned to your body and skill set as you want it to be. From the right harness for your waist to the right foot straps for your feet to the correct kite for your skill set, equipping yourself properly does indeed take know-how and research.

Choosing proper equipment stems from two components; analysing your skill set and fitting products to your body type. Blindly picking the cheapest gear you can find from eBay is never really best practice unless you know what you are looking for and have considered what we are about to layout below...

First, your skill set. The style of kiteboarding you engage in plays a huge role in determining your equipment needs. Wave seekers need different kites than wake style riders than big-air aficionados. One of the few good things about there being so many kitesurfing products and accessories on the market is that they allow you to fine tune your equipment.

AS LONG AS YOU ARE HAVING FUN IT'S OK, DON'T GET BOGGED DOWN WITH ALL THE TECH AND MARKETING HYPE!
PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON



SURF STYLE OR FREERIDE, THE CHOICE IS YOURS...

“ YOU WANT TO NARROW YOUR FIELD OF VISION BEFORE DIVING IN”

Therefore, choosing the right gear starts with identifying the type of kiteboarder you are. So what type are you?

Start by asking yourself a few simple questions:

1. Where do you kite mostly? In the small waves at your local break? On the snow? In flat-water lakes? Is it at the same location or do you travel a lot?
2. How often do you kite? Are you a weekend warrior? Do you head out after work and need your equipment ready to go in your car? Do you vacation for a week or two of kiting at a time?
3. What's your favourite thing to do while kiteboarding? Boost? Slash waves? Cruise back in forth enjoying the beautiful scenery?
4. Where would you like your kiting level to get to, what are your goals? Perhaps you'd like to learn to foilboard. Maybe you have an upcoming wave trip, or you have a friend that you'd like to beat on Woo.

Use your answers as a baseline for starting your equipment research. You want to narrow your field of vision before diving in, lest you get completely overwhelmed with the products out there.

Once you've identified your style of kiteboarding, you can quickly eliminate pieces that you won't need. You can think of yourself as falling into one of these categories to start with; beginner, freeride intermediate, wakestyle aspirer, wakestyle pro, wave rider, minimalist, tech junkie, big air aficionado, or foil boarder. For instance, I love park riding. Therefore I know that I don't need an accelerometer or a handle on my board, but a helmet is most certainly in my quiver.

THE PERFECT SET UP FOR WAKESTYLE!



The biggest takeaway here is that different kiteboarders require different gear. Once you've settled on your pathway, do your homework. Read reviews, watch videos and see if you can get your hands on the items in question. You can make anything work but giving yourself the RIGHT tools will improve your riding at an accelerated rate.

Keep the tips below in mind while searching for YOUR best kit.

ACCOMMODATE YOUR GOALS

I recently switched from riding the Liquid Force Envy's to riding the Hi-Fi X's. I've been told for years that C kites are easier for doing freestyle tricks and despite loving my Envy's; I finally succumbed to the hype (there's a reason almost all pro riders favour C kites).

**" GIVING YOURSELF
THE RIGHT TOOLS
WILL IMPROVE
YOUR RIDING AT AN
ACCELERATED
RATE. "**

WE ARE FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO GET WET
THE HIGH FLYERS THE THRILLSEEKERS AND ADVENTURERS
THE FREERIDERS, WAVE SLASHERS AND STORMCHASERS
WE ARE FOR THOSE WHO BOOST BIG AND THOSE WHO

WIPE OUT

WE ARE FOR THE TRICK STOMPERS THE SPOT ROCKERS
FOR THE BOTTOM TURNERS, KITE OUTERS AND THOSE WHO

RIDE HARD

WE ARE FOR THE LEARNERS AND THE EXPERTS. THE BODY DRAGGERS
TEA BAGGERS AND WEEKEND WARRIORS. WE ARE FOR THE ADRENALINE JUNKIES THE LAWN MOWERS

AND FREESTYLE HEROES



2 DECADES OF KITEBOARDING



PETERLYNNKITEBOARDING.COM

“ KNOWING WHAT YOU NEED AND BASING YOUR DECISION OFF OF THAT IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF EQUIPPING YOURSELF PROPERLY. ”

While it took me a little while to get used to the new equipment, I soon felt the difference. These kites allow for better freestyle handling. Give yourself the best tools for where you'd like your riding to go.

AT THE SAME TIME

Be Realistic About Your Skill Set

What do you want to use your kites for? The Envy's and most hybrid bow kites are insanely easy to re-launch and have superb wind range, which serves most riders out there. Just because you want to do raley-to-blinds, doesn't necessarily mean a C kite is right for you. Think about all the applications for your kites and how you'll be using them. Use that to make your final decision in regards to purchasing.

Finally, Be Wary Of The Hype

It's easy to get caught up in getting the newest equipment. With the release of two brand new "game-changing" kite-to-rider systems, I won't fault you for wanting the latest and greatest. But the fact remains, knowing what you need and basing your decision off of that is at the forefront of equipping yourself properly.

The second component in analysing what gear you really need in your quiver is based on taking the time to tune your quiver to your body. As you become more aware of how your equipment should help you perform, unnecessary pieces will begin to fall away.



SIMPLICITY IS SOMETIMES BEST!
PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON



PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON

“ BOTH GROUPS WOULD GET CAUGHT UP IN WHAT GEAR WAS RIGHT FOR THEM AND WERE WORRIED ABOUT MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES. ”

That being said, beginner and intermediate kiteboarders have a tough time. Kiteboarding is expensive, and as a beginner, buying anything feels daunting. Discounted products are enticing and will help you get into the sport, but as you advance they can begin to hinder your riding.

Intermediate riders get bombarded with sales pitches and marketing, and it can be difficult to sift through all of the products on

the market when you are ready to upgrade. It's during this transition that finding tools adapted specifically to your body will give you immense benefits. Once you've established the type of kiting you'll most likely be doing, choose products based on how they perform for you and your particular body size and shape.

WHEN EVALUATING YOUR DREAM SET UP, USE THESE TIPS.

Get The Right Size

The correct size is critical, and it applies to everything, kites, boards, bars, wetsuits and

harnesses. The number one thing you can do to upgrade your gear is to make sure it fits you and what you want to do with it. I used to ride boots that were too big for my feet. Initially, I tried a smaller size boot, but they felt cramped and crowded. Therefore I went up a size. However as I started to ride, the boots quickly stretched out, and there was way too much room inside of them.

I was swimming in them, and I couldn't tighten them properly. Lesson learned. Boots and foot straps stretch the more you wear them. Be mindful of this when you're picking a size. This same advice should be applied to boards, wetsuits and just about everything else out there. Make sure it fits!



BASIC SAFETY GEAR IS REALLY IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU ARE LEARNING. AS YOU PROGRESS, THE CHOICE IS YOURS, BUT ALWAYS PUT SAFETY FIRST.

“ IT’S ARGUABLY THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT BIT OF GEAR IN TERMS OF COMFORT ”

Test Harnesses That Stay Put

A harness is like an office chair-different body types need different support and cuts. Try on a few harnesses to see which fits the best. Better yet, take it for a spin. If you can’t ride one, look for riders with a similar body type and ask them what their favourite harness is. You’re looking for something that doesn’t dig in anywhere, doesn’t ride up (at least very much) and has good support across the lower back.

Your harness takes all the power from the kite and converts it through your body to your board. It’s arguably the single most important bit of gear in terms of comfort as for your entire session it will be distributing the load from your kite. Get a harness that fits you and offers the best support, coupled with the right range of movement for your chosen riding style. A harness shouldn’t hurt or pinch at all, choose one that is the most comfortable, not the cheapest, most expensive or select one purely based on the brand.

When we test harnesses we have to give them to a range of testers as they are all so different and offer such a different feel, what fits one tester might feel terrible on another one. It’s just the same for you as a rider. A good kite shop should be able to help you get a great fit and even offer a few test rides to make sure you get the right one for you.

Take Advantage Of Brands’ Customisation Offerings

Most brands have settings to adjust the kites handling, the throw on the bar and where your feet are on the board. Analyse each component of your set up and take the time to test different settings.

“ LEAVING IT INFLATED AND FLAPPING IN THE SUN WHILE YOU EAT A LEISURELY LUNCH IS ABOUT THE WORST THING YOU CAN DO. ”

Ask the following questions constantly “can I make this more tuned for myself?” “Am I setting myself up for success?” you’ll be surprised by the results!

Once you’ve analysed the type of kiteboarder you are and taken the time to fit the products to your body, you’ll have developed a quiver that you can be proud of. Your efforts will result in a super-customized set-up that will help you meet your kiting goals.

Taking Care Of Your Gear

Now that you’ve built your perfect quiver, how exactly should you maintain it? Proper storage and care will prolong the life of your equipment, but more importantly, it will enable the best possible sessions out on the water. This may seem mundane, but I caution you against skimming over this section. I’ve spent countless sessions on the water where my bar was not tuned properly. Either I was too lazy to fix it, or I kept forgetting to do it. If your gear isn’t tuned correctly, your equipment won’t perform at it’s best, and your sessions are not as enjoyable as they could be.

Be Mindful Of Sun Damage

UV is the most detrimental when it comes to your kites lifespan. The sun’s rays break down the material faster than anything else. Don’t leave your kites out in the sun longer than necessary, it may seem like a chore to pack your kite away after each session at the beach, but leaving it inflated and flapping in the sun while you eat a leisurely lunch is about the worst thing you can do.



RINSE AND DRY YOUR GEAR AFTER EACH SESSION!

“ KITE AND BRIDLE LINES CAN STRETCH, AND EVEN SHRINK OVER TIME ”

With modern inflation systems and pumps making set up a breeze, make an effort to pack away after each session, and you'll vastly improve the lifespan of your gear.

Proper Storage

When packing up your kit, take the time to rinse your board and your bar and brush the sand from your gear before you put it away. Skipping this step is easy, you're bedraggled after a long day and want to take a shower and have a beer. But abrasions won't make your gear last, and sand jamming any of the components will result in a loss of functionality.

Bar Maintenance

Take the time to properly tune your bar. Learn how to do it. Check it every ten sessions or so. Kite and bridle lines can stretch, and even shrink over time, as a rule, they will not do this uniformly. You might find your upwind ability in your kite seems to have diminished, chances are the front lines have ended up longer than the back, and the kite now flies choked and has less depower. Or the handling might be out of whack; one line may be longer than another, causing the kite to pull to the left or right.

TUNING IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS
MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE!





“ BOTH GROUPS WOULD GET CAUGHT UP IN WHAT GEAR WAS RIGHT FOR THEM AND WERE WORRIED ABOUT MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES. ”

Getting to know how your bar should be tuned for perfect flying and handling and keeping it that way is imperative.

Regularly Check Your Equipment

Keep an eye out for tears, punctures and other minor nicks. Get in the habit of looking over your gear at the end of the day so that if anything needs repairing you can take care of it before you want to use it again.

A well-maintained quiver will serve you better than a super tricked-out quiver. You'll get a lot more mileage out of your equipment and perhaps more importantly, the performance and safety will be the best they can be.

In conclusion, analysing what gear you really need in your kite quiver starts with examining yourself. If you can identify your specific requirements clearly, you won't be caught up in the next must-have item in kiteboarding. To ensure that you're a knowledgeable kiteboarder, you need to take matters into your hands.

Take an afternoon and look over your equipment. Assess what you have. Digest what it does for you. Determine your needs based on the type of kiteboarder you are and fit everything to yourself and then take care of it. Most importantly, realise that you don't need everything.

A good quiver starts with the basics

Pretty soon you'll be giving your friends advice and jet-setting to Brazil with the peace of mind that comes from knowing you've got everything you need to make the trip a success.

What are you waiting for? Get out there and get customising!



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TECHNIQUE



WORDS & PHOTOS CHRISTIAN & KARINE

Well we've just polished off 6 weeks of coaching over here in Brazil, so we're primed and ready with some new discoveries, more feedback and of course tons of inspiration from all the guys and girls who've been splashing in the name of progress and fun. This issue we're kicking off with a cabaret favourite, the Can Can. No need for garters and suspenders, although they are optional of course, kicking you free leg up and down whilst singing the Infernal Gallop is not. Then we delve into the roll tack, in this case on a strapless surfboard, although the technique applies to both race-boards and foils (coming soon). It's a fun flowing move and a welcome alternative to the old faithful. Finally, we have something poppy, this time the hooked in popped front roll to blind with a cheeky Indy grab, if anyone knows a shorter name please share! Hopefully this'll keep you entertained and busy until next year. In the meantime enjoy the festivities and all the best for 2017 from the both of us. Tootles C&K.

THE CAN CAN


[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

ROLL TACK


[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

POPPED, HOOKED, INDI FRONT TO BLIND


[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

THE CAN CAN >

Kite: Switchblade 9m with Fireball **Board:** Ace 139

It's always fun to throw down some shapes whilst airborne, and anything with a bit of humour should get the nod, so why not add a bit of "ooh la la" with the Can Can to your bag of tricks. As the name suggests you'll be mimicking the great French tradition, and although there is no need to visualise yourself in some frilly knickers, performing a la Moulin Rouge, the essence of the move remains the same. The Can Can is all about kicking your leg forward and up, showing a glimpse of thigh, so even under a kite you should be aiming to start and finish in the same way, with one leg raised.

The Can Can is a grabbed one-foot, the back foot out, sent jump – so it's best have the standard one foot in the bag first. Once you're up, the mission is to take your back foot out and move it over the board so that your leg is raised, then move it back and down before raising it once more and then replacing it. "Alors", lets have a look. There's quite a lot happening here in a short space of time, so we'll use a couple of pics in some of the key moments, look at them left to right...

Pic A. Le Beginning

Suffice to say if you intend to wave a foot around like an energetic showgirl you'll need some time and height, so your jump is everything. Approach on a solid edge with good speed and your kite no higher



than 11 or 1. From here you can give the kite a positive send back, whilst resisting with a stiff back leg until you feel the kite lift you off the water. As the kite lifts, stamp yourself upwind against your edge for extra lift and less downwind drag. At this moment it's important to get the kite under control as you'll have too much going on once the show starts. Following the send though, are the two most important parts of the take off. As Christian launches he immediately levels the bar, by pulling in equally with both hands. This will stop the kite flying any further back in the window and hopefully settle it just behind 12 o'clock, so that he'll fly in comfort class with balance.



And then as soon as his board leaves the water he's fighting against the lift in the kite to bring his knees up as quickly as possible, so that he can reach the grab. With at least three different kicks to squeeze in, he needs to start on the way up.

Pic B. The 1st Kick

As you're aiming for a lifted leg kick first you'll have to overcome your muscle memory which would comfortably slip your back foot out and down, in one flowing motion. You can see here that Christian has boned his front leg, pushing his front foot forward, by doing this he makes more room for the back foot to come through.



Holding the tail of the board, pull your back foot out and then lift it over the board near the front strap, this way you don't need to have the flexibility of a snake and it'll be achievable. Once the foot is over the board aim to extend your leg out in front of you like a high kick:)

Pic C. Back & Down

Now it's time to go back the other way. However, you need to make sure that your kite isn't flying forward past 12 yet, as it will pull you off balance. In the pic Christian has his bar pulled in to keep tension in the lines, holding him up there with lift. However, you can see that

he is leaning back towards the tail of the board and his front elbow is held high, preventing him from leaning his weight on the right side of the bar and unwillingly sending the kite down. This also keeps him back on the board, which gives him plenty of room to pull his foot back and through, again near the front strap, without having to crunch up uncomfortably. Once his foot is behind the board he extends his leg down towards the water, which if you already do the one-foot should be a piece of cake.

Pic D. Final Kick

Once you've fully extended your leg down it's back up and through.



Same procedure as before, loads of space forwards to slide your leg through for one final kick before the curtain falls. One point worth noting here is that Christian has let his bar out a tad. This will be because he has felt the kite moving above him. It's a reaction, a feeling rather than a must. By letting the bar out gently the kite won't move too far forward and he'll be able to stay balanced and still have the opportunity to dive hard for landing.

Pic E. Foot In

Once you've squeezed out the final kick it's time to get the foot back in so that you can concentrate on landing smoothly. Once again it's a matter of lifting the foot and pulling it back through near your front foot, then watch it all the way back into the strap. Christian is looking at his strap, this way the foot will



go in easily and quickly. He's still holding the grab, which means that he can pull the board onto his foot as he pushes his foot into the strap. It's tempting to let the grab go early and grab the bar, but without your foot fully in, the landing won't be easy. Christian is also starting to dive the kite. This will depend where it is, but once it starts to drift forward and you're low enough get on the front hand, otherwise it'll be too far forward in the window and you won't get any pull.

Pic F. Claim It

If all goes to plan the final piece of the puzzle is to continue the kite dive so that you can release the grab and get pulled downwind for a soft reception. Here the kite is pulling Christian, so it's easy for him to point the board downwind and drop the board under him for a comfortable tail first landing. Chances are



that you'll be coming in quite fast as you'll have given the kite a hefty send to get the time for the Can Can, as such you'll need an equally hefty dive.

Top Tips

If you're used to a grabbed one-foot it'll feel more natural to take your foot out and slip it down first, but that's not the French way! If you find that you're doing a down, up, down, take it back a step and just try to do a one foot with your foot extended up and over the board. This way you'll get used to sliding it out and into a forward position, and crucially you'll get accustomed to rushing it back in from the wrong side of the board!

It's a good idea to loosen your back strap a tad. The easier it is to get your foot out and in, the more confidence you'll take into the move.



If you're still hesitant you can loosen your back foot in the strap, by wiggling it back a few centimetres on your approach.

Now have a good look at the sequence and videos for a full on visualisation.

Common Problems

In most moves like this, when you have a lot going on, it can be hard to concentrate on the kite, and as such lose control. Here you need the bar in throughout,

so it's common that your kite will move forward whilst you're shaking your tush. This will result in a splash landing, a nose first landing, or worst of all getting properly launched forwards in the air. As a result, you need to send the kite so that it goes back past 12 to 1 or 11 on take off. You'll also need your hands centred on the bar, or as Christian does here, split your first two fingers around the centre line.

Keystones

1. Good edge and send

2. Control kite and grab early
3. Bone front leg to make room for back foot
4. Up, down, up French styley
5. Watch foot in and dive hard



ROLL TACK >

Kite: Drifter 7m & Fireball Board: Spade 5'3

Many moons ago we covered the Duck Tack. Although similar to this both visually and practically, there are a few differences to the Roll Tack which we've found have made this the choice when coaching guests on clinics and achieving a much higher rate of continued success. Whether this is down to boards, kites, them or us we can't say, but what we do know is that doing it this way will get your hit rate right up there:)

Many of the elements for the roll tack are similar to the tack, so we'd suggest that you get the standard tack nailed first, before moving on to this one. In the normal tack you'll be in a better position to concentrate on the kite, whereas here you may end up slightly disorientated.

Let's have a run through of the key parts involved here, so that you can visualise and walk through them separately.

Pic A. The Approach

This should be identical to the tack. Get the approach wrong and no matter how well you do the rest you're not making life easy. You have time to sort the elements here so there is no need to multi task or rush. Karine is coming in on an edge, her feet are not too far back, and are both on the upwind side of the board. She has slowly moved her kite up to 12 o'clock and once it's there she has pushed the bar away from her, up towards the stopper. Because she's on an



edge the board will continue to move and from here she can start her carve.

Pic B. The Carve

After getting the kite up to 12 and letting the bar out, this is probably the single most important part of the roll tack as you need to carve the board much further through the wind than a tack. You need the board already facing upwind in the other direction to pull these off time and again, and it'll only get there if you put it there. With her bar out, the kite will not pull, and as such Karine can carve further up and through the wind. If you look at Karine's feet and ankles, they are driving against the rail of the board, carving it up.



Both her knees are flexed and turning to point upwind. Yet again this keeps weight on the whole the rail, carving the board up whilst maintaining some speed and momentum. If her front leg was straight she'd be pushing too much through the back leg and the nose would rise, slowing the board. If her front leg was too bent, all her weight would be forward and the fins would slide out. It's all about finding the balance, and foot placement is a big part of this, which will change from board to board. Finally, Karine's head is still fairly perpendicular to her shoulders, she has not thrown it over her front shoulder, as this would pull her away from the board.



Pic C. Timing

Knowing when to “go” in the roll tack will make a massive difference, and although you’ll only discover it fully through times tried, if you get the carve far enough it’ll become more obvious and instinctive. We could say once the board stops it’s time to go, but the board could stop too early if you don’t carve it far enough. However, assuming that the previous steps are working, there is a point when you need support, and that is the time to pull the bar in and get support. Here Karine is still moving but she’s felt herself drop and to combat this she pulls in on the bar. Not only is pulling the bar in necessary to stop you falling, it’s your cue to get moving.

One final thought here, you can see that as Karine pulls the bar in she is pulling more with her back hand/ new front hand. This should be fairly natural, due to your body lean, but it is important for the next stage.

Pic D. The Step Up

Contrary to popular belief there is no spinning involved here, as you’re effectively following the board. Your foot movement is very similar to what you’d do in a foot change after or before a carve/ gybe – you’ll be stepping your back foot up pigeon toed, so that your big toes almost touch. Just like in a normal foot change you need to get all your weight onto your front foot before you can lift the back one up.



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This means that you must move your weight forwards, and if the kite is pulling slightly that way it will help! However, if the board hasn't turned enough the kite will pull you off the side of the board. You can see that Karine is still pulling on her right hand, and she's looking at the board so that she steps forward and up to the correct spot.

Pic E. The Step Back

Once again with the kite pulling and the board turned sufficiently through the wind, you should be pulled forwards onto your recently planted new front foot, in Karine's case her right foot. As the kite pulls, Karine shifts all her weight onto this foot, which enables her to lift her other foot and place it back down the board. Often people get to this point, but because the



kite is not moving they have no support and hanging off the bar won't help.

Pic F. Done and Dusted

With both feet where they belong and the kite diving and pulling, Karine can now move her weight over her back foot, lifting the front of the board, and then push the nose of the board off the wind with her front foot. Job done.

Top Tips

We've tried to cover all the points as we've gone along here, but if you were to break it down into the things that matter, it will always come back to approaching on an edge and moving the kite up to 12 o'clock with the bar out. In this position you'll



be able to drop your weight upwind of the board and carve it sufficiently far. Once you pull in for support the kite must be moving slowly down in the new side of the window, so that it'll pull you forward for your foot change and support you as you step back.

So have a good hard look at the sequence and videos to see the timing as it should be.

Common Problems

First off is not getting the board far enough through the wind, so kite up and bar out. If you can't get the board carving, make sure that you drop your bum down towards the water so that you can drive the board upwind. Surfers talk about sitting in a chair, but you still need to drive against the rail.



No support at the end. You've left the kite at 12 whilst changing your feet, so make sure you pull a bit on your old back hand to move the kite across to the new side of the window.

If you're getting pulled off towards the back of the board you're pulling on the bar too early...

Keystones

1. Kite up to 12 and bar out
2. Sit, break at waist and carve through the wind.
3. Bar in for support, more on the backhand
4. Move weight over front foot and step up back foot
5. Weight new front foot, step back and dive kite



POPPED, HOOKED, INDY FRONT TO BLIND >

Kite: Chaos 7m Board: Ace 133

For you pop masters this issue we thought we'd take you through a lovely, tasty, smooth and flowing hooked in, popped front with an Indy grab. These hooked moves are both fun and practical. They give you the chance to learn something new and good looking while polishing your skills and preparing you for more boom in the future, and without the tiring consequence of the unhooked equivalent. What's not to like?

We will assume that if you are about to launch yourself into this trick that you can at very least pop a front roll and ride blind! That said let's remind you all of what's needed here for pop, rotation, grab and blind....

Pic A. Approach and Take Off

It all stems from here, by all we mean even landing correctly, so it's worth getting it right. You need to be approaching with speed, on an edge, hips back, feeling the pressure through a flexed but solid back leg. Make sure your bar is trimmed close enough that you can edge well without having to pull it in past the sweet spot. Then you need to bear away, off the wind, trying to hold your position and not stand up with your weight forward. By bearing away the kite will drop back, which will help you land downwind, and you'll be able to carve up without slowing down. Here, Karine has completed the above and is carving



up ready to explode off the water by stamping down hard on her back heel. She won't pull on the bar, she won't send the kite but leave it around 11 o'clock, and she won't wait for something to happen. It's up to her, so she'll kick herself away from the board and the rest comes from there.

Pic B. Pop for the Indy

Being a pop trick, your only thought as you take off should be in extending upwards, the rotation should be pushed back for a fraction of a second to guarantee that you get up and off the water. For a front rotation you would then normally turn your head and lead with your hands, but because you want to



add a cheeky indy grab, you'll have to modify your pop take off slightly. To get an idea have a look at Karine in the photo. If this was a standard popped front her back leg would still be extended, her front leg maybe tucking up and her head looking up over her back shoulder and her hands pushing around to speed up the rotation. However, to make time and space for the grab Karine tilts her head back towards her trailing shoulder, whilst already releasing her back hand and making an effort to bring her back knee and the board up immediately after kicking off. All her rotation, as well as her height, must come from her kick off!



C

Pic C. Early Grab

Getting the grab will help you rotate as the position is small and tucked, so going for it early will help. You can see that Karine is focusing on the toe side edge of her board between her feet so that she can both bring the board towards her and reach down towards it. To get it quickly try and lift both knees up and out simultaneously. If the back knee comes up first, that part of the board will be nearer and you'll end up



D

grabbing further back towards it.

Pic D. The Indy

This is where it wants to be, toe side in the middle. Once you've got the grab try and hold it, pulling the board towards you. You can see how Karine has rotated more than half way around her front roll, but if you haven't, this is the time to look over your shoulder and speed things up. That said if you're struggling to make the rotation, having time for the blind will be tricky.

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Pic E. Throwing the Blind

Blind is a landing, not an extra rotation. As long as you still have daylight between the board and the water you have time to throw it. As soon as Karine sees where she will land she throws the blind. First off she releases her backhand from the grab, which allows her to drop her back shoulder and turn her head and hips. At the same time she scissors the board underneath her, keeping her back leg bent, whilst pulling her front leg around. This should be ample to get the board positioned for a fine landing.

Pic F. Touch Down

With the board underneath her, and her original back leg held high, Karine is in a stable position to land.



Her shoulders look back as if she were riding blind, whilst her body remains upright over the board. This way she'll touch down slightly nose first, but flat so that the board will keep moving. If she twisted her body more upwind it would force the board onto an edge, therefore skipping out and stopping on landing. The final point here, is to push the bar away so that the kite doesn't pull and you just use the momentum.

Pic G. Options

Once you've landed you have a few options to choose from, whether it be riding further, sliding back around, popping out, or as Karine is doing here, oléing the bar across in front of her face so that she continues toe side. Whatever takes your fancy.



Top Tips

We can't emphasise enough how important the pop is here, giving you both height and the rotation. To make life easier on yourself whilst learning this, it's more than acceptable to park the kite a bit higher than 11 or 1, as at least you know you'll have time.

If the Indy is new to you it's always worth practicing it in a sent front roll. It fits very well with the rotation, but due to the body movement required you may find it hard to reach quickly enough at first. Going for the jumped variant will give you time to dial it in.

Brilliant, now have a butchers at the vids and sequence before heading off onto the water for some personal R&D.



Common Problems

We've discussed the main issue, and that's not getting enough rotation. You have to make it happen which means an aggressive approach and one hell of a stomp off, which should hopefully catapult you up and around, giving you time and space to concentrate on the grab.

If you can't reach the grab or miss it, most likely reason will be that you're throwing yourself forwards and down into your rotation. Think of dropping you

head back towards your rear shoulder on take off.

Landing on your edge hard can also present problems, so try and rotate over the board when you throw the blind, rather than push the board around with your back foot.

Key stones

1. Approach with speed, edge and hips back on the board
2. Bear off, before carving up and stamping against your edge extra hard

3. Extend up but keep you head high towards your back shoulder

4. Lift both knees to reach grab

5. Throw blind with bar out and board underneath you





WORDS ROU CHATER

THE RACE DIRECTOR

There is an unsung hero behind every kitesurfing event that ever takes place. Someone who painstakingly dedicates days of hard labour to the job in hand and who has no chance of lifting the trophy, although there is a good chance they paid for them! Tim Turner is the legend behind the hugely popular Red Bull Lighthouse 2 Leighton event in Western Australia. This year saw the course record smashed by Nico Parlier on a hydrofoil; he averaged 60km an hour for 19 minutes as he crossed from Rottnest Island to Perth, a record we may not see broken for a while.

TIM TURNER AT THE 2016 RED BULL L2L RACE BRIEFING
PHOTO ROU CHATER



FLORIAN GRUBER FLYING ALONG!
PHOTO PETA NORTH



“ THE FIELD EVERY YEAR, IN TERMS OF TRULY WORLD CLASS QUALITY, GETS MUCH, MUCH DEEPER. ”

In an effort to celebrate the unsung heroes of the sport we talked to Tim about the race, how it came about and some of the decisions and challenges he faces when making it happen. Having attended the race for three years now, we honestly can't recommend it enough, more and more people entering from overseas, perhaps next year is the one to tick this off your kitesurfing bucket list!

When did you first run the race and where did the idea come from?

We created the event after a speed trip to Namibia and a test run to see if the concept would work in March 2010. Over that Winter (for Australia) I started to build the concept and approached Red Bull out of the blue with the idea. As luck would have it, their Western Australian Field Marketing Manager, Ross Wyness, shared the vision and the Lighthouse 2 Leighton first happened in 2010. We had about 75 people do the first one. My friend, Alex Caizergues from France won on a speed board in 23 minutes.

How has the race changed from those early days?

It's gotten bigger! Across every metric really. The prize list now is close to \$10,000 thanks to the great support we receive from the State Government. The field every year, in terms of truly World Class quality, gets much, much deeper. Year one, Alex was one rock star racer. This year, there were 15, at least.



“ ON RACE DAY THE AMAZING TEAM THAT SUPPORTS THE EVENT SWINGS INTO ACTION.”

It's a massive operation, involving transporting lots of riders and equipment over to Rottnest and getting them back safely, how do you manage that, who helps out in terms of logistics?

Regarding the pre-work, I handle the bulk of it. I use amazing event management software called Cvent that makes life easy

and very professional. However, on race day the amazing team that supports the event swings into action. It is an amazing demonstration of getting multiple fantastic volunteer teams working so well together. The team at Rottnest Express, the ferry business, transport us, 150 racers and volunteers to Rottnest, and then a great team at the island move the gear to the Event HQ.

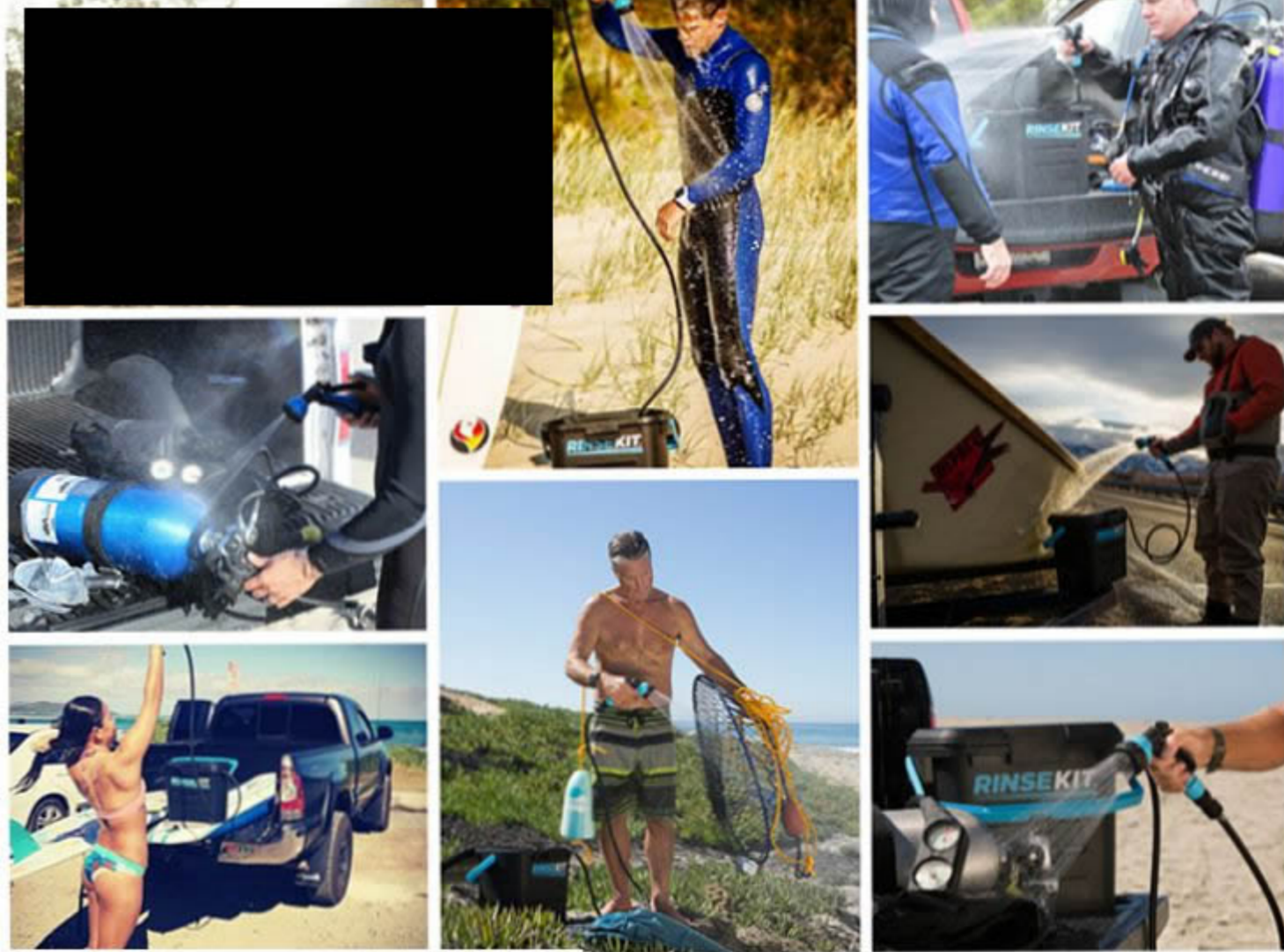
On the course, the Fremantle Sailing Club are utterly brilliant with their water safety, this year with fantastic weather I believe

there were only three rescues, which is great. WAKSA provide volunteers to help out on the island launching and also landing racers kites at the finish. Then two of my very long-standing boating friends are Chief Starter (Tim Browning) and Head Judge (Rob Bentley). Both have been on board since inception and totally get what we are trying to achieve and have created.

The last two years have seen some tricky weather conditions, this year the race got postponed until the Sunday, how difficult is it to make those decisions? Do you have contingencies in place to make that happen?



THE BEACH GETS PRETTY HECTIC WITH 135 RIDERS ALL TRYING TO GET AWAY AT THE SAME TIME! PHOTO ROU CHATER



It's tough to make the call to defer as it creates a truckload of extra work and all at very, very short notice. But, we have such good available weather data available to us, it pays not to be an optimist and second-guess it. This year the forecast was for mild and very westerly winds and 100% cloud cover on Saturday. Sunday was forecast to be much better. It just made sense. I never want to have to say to myself: "with the benefit of hindsight."

The safety of 130 people is on my personal watch. I simply have to get it right.



" I NEVER WANT TO HAVE TO SAY TO MYSELF: "WITH THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT." "



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“ WE HAVE OVER 200 PEOPLE APPLY EVERY YEAR. SO IT’S GREAT TO HAVE DEMAND OUTSTRIP THE PLACES AVAILABLE.

The event is just so good when you can dial your kite into the zone and power across the channel, whether you are Nico Parlier at 33 knots, or a back marker on a TT. Having to figure of eight your kite across in light winds is no fun at all.

Steph Bridge won the race again this year, who’s the most successful competitor in terms of race wins?

Yes, that would be Steph, each year she puts in a phenomenal performance. I love the fact there have been seven individual overall winners – that’s so good. It shows that no one rider has dominated the whole event.

2016 saw a huge contingent of international riders, was that your vision when you started is it something that has grown organically?

I’d always believed it could grow. Every year we have increased numbers. I’m confident that 135 is just the right amount. We limit the entrants due to the size of the launching beach; it’s not a big area to get 135 people off in less than 20 minutes. The good winds this year helped, people could launch quickly and get out there. In prior years in less wind, it can be really tricky! We have over 200 people apply every year. So it’s great to have demand outstrip the places available.

What’s the biggest challenge on the day of the race, or does it all run like clockwork once race day arrives?

NICO PARLIER AVERAGED 60KPH FOR 19 MINUTE
IN ROUGH SEAS TO TAKE THE WIN!





STEPH BRIDGE DOMINATED THE WOMEN'S FLEET ONCE AGAIN!
PHOTO ROU CHATER



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AND TASTY FOOD
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In all seriousness, the greatest challenge is getting EVERY racer to read the Competitor Manual! Thankfully, we work really hard to ensure that every I is dotted and T crossed so that, per Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, we get in a state of flow and it all works, like clockwork!

You've got some big sponsors on board, how difficult is it to attract that support, or does the legacy of a fantastic event help?

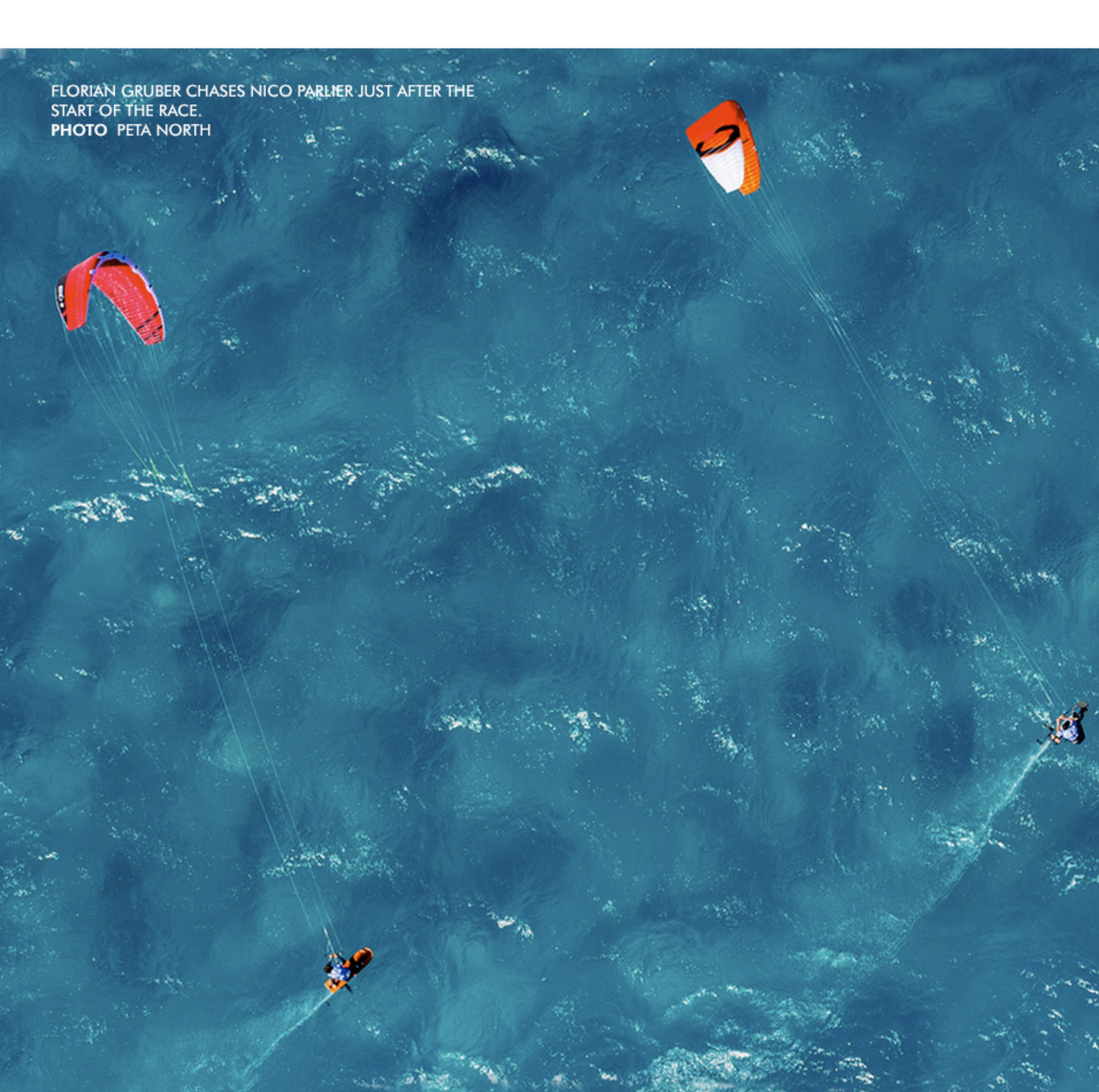
We've worked purposely with a small number of very good sponsors. Yes, it's hard to get new ones on board. There is a tremendous opportunity for a leading kite brand to partner with the race.

**" THANKFULLY, WE
WORK REALLY
HARD TO ENSURE
THAT EVERY I IS
DOTTED AND T
CROSSED "**



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FLORIAN GRUBER CHASES NICO PARIER JUST AFTER THE
START OF THE RACE.
PHOTO PETA NORTH

**“THEIR APPROVAL IS WHAT ALLOWS THE RACE TO
GO AHEAD AND WE NEVER WANT TO LOSE SIGHT
OF THAT.”**

Cabrinha and the local shop, Kite Addiction, supported the event fabulously from inception and for the first six years, which was great. I'm confident we will have a new kite partner on board for future years. Red Bull are 100% confirmed for 2017 already!

It's a big shipping channel; do you need to manage that with the port authorities to get the all clear for the race?

The channel itself is actually really narrow, about 500m I think, last time I crossed, and it depends on where you cross. The big ships are only allowed to steam in that channel. That said, we do work very closely with the Port Authority who very generously allow us to kite across and provide an update on commercial shipping movements, which are more than you'd actually imagine! Fremantle is one very busy port.

As well, the WA Department of Transport generously approve the race and allow us exemptions from carrying EPIRBs and parachute flares. Their approval is what allows the race to go ahead and we never want to lose sight of that. I take receiving that approval letter very, very seriously. I should also mention that insuring the event annually is over \$5,000 should anyone wonder where a chunk of the entry fee goes! In date flares, race rashies from France that everyone gets to keep, 200 event T-shirts free for racers and volunteers is the print run, \$10k of prizes, and \$5k of trophies...

NICO PARLIER WAS IN A RACE ALL OF HIS OWN THIS YEAR!
PHOTO ROU CHATER



“ I CAN SEE WE WILL NEED A FASTER AND BIGGER MEDIA BOAT NEXT YEAR. ”

We’ve created an indulgent race experience here for everyone. I think that’s why it is so popular and everyone loves the day so much. And, I think that’s why I do it – the positive feedback I receive each year is heartening and makes it all worthwhile.

We know it’s notoriously full of big fish out there, have you ever had any

sightings of sharks? I know it’s something Sam Light worries about!

In all honesty, no. Interestingly, my brother is actually the President of the Rottenest Channel Swim Association this year. That’s where over 1,000 people swim from Cottesloe to Rottnest. I think he’s got sharks more on his mind than me! I’ve sailed and kited these waters for 20 years and never seen a big one. We go too fast now!

This year the record got smashed to 19 minutes and 3 seconds, do you think that’s going to stand for a while?

You’d think so, but it sounds like Nico said he could go faster. He had some weed on his foil and shifted course and gybed towards the end we noticed from the media boat. If he was pushed by anyone, then that could make it faster again. I can see we will need a faster and bigger media boat next year. His speed was like nothing I’ve seen. Just so fast!

Aaron Hadlow came and beat some of the racers and foilers on his twin tip, does that open the race up again a bit more to the riders not on high tech equipment do you think?

The top guys will always (now) be on foils. So unless you are in that realm, you’ll have no chance!

AARON HADLOW SMASHED THE TWIN TIP CATEGORY, BEATING MANY RACE BOARDS AND HYDROFOILS IN THE PROCESS!
PHOTO ROU CHATER



That's why the TT class is so good. It does give everyone a chance. Well, it did until Aaron and Sam decided to come racing –which is brilliant I do hasten to say. Personally, I was so stoked to hear Aaron was racing. He's such a nice guy and to win his main sponsor's race is just superb.

Nico Parlier looked unbeatable; do you think he'll be back to defend his title in 2017?

I have no doubt he'll be back. I believe the Hydrofoil Pro Tour will be here in WA again in 2017; so we'll certainly be working closely with Andy Hansen to make sure the two events align again.

“ HE'S SUCH A NICE GUY AND TO WIN HIS MAIN SPONSOR'S RACE IS JUST SUPERB. ”

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ALTY FRISBY TAKES THE MARC SPROD MEMORIAL TROPHY AS THE FASTEST WESTERN AUSTRALIAN.
ALL PHOTOS ROU CHATER



LADIES PODIUM: 1ST STEPH BRIDGE,
2ND ELENA KALINENA,
3RD THERESA MCKIRDY



MENS PODIUM: 1ST NICO PARLIER,
2ND FLORIAN GRUBER,
3RD FLORIAN TRITTEL



TWIN TIP PODIUM: 1ST AARON HADLOW,
2ND SAM LIGHT,
3RD JORDAN GIRDIS



“ I’D LOVE FOR HIS SON, MILO, TO ATTEND IN A YEAR OR TWO WHEN HE IS OLDER AND PRESENT THE TROPHY TO THE WINNER. ”

The Marc Sprod memorial trophy goes to the fastest Western Australian over the course, can you tell us a little bit about the trophy and why it’s so important?

Yes, Marc was a well-liked and very competent kiter who tragically died at Dutch Inn beach while kiting in a frontal winter storm. We wanted to pay respect to his life and love of kiting, and I could see that as the race grew it was going to get harder for a local to win. It made sense to have a highest placed Western Australian recognised annually. I’d love for his son, Milo, to attend in a year or two when he is older and present the trophy to the winner. That would be special.

When does the planning start for next year?

Well. I created a couple of weeks ago a folder on my Mac L2L 2017....

Cheers Tim thanks for taking the time!

More 2017 kites and boards this issue, despite the cold weather we've managed to get out on the water, not as much as we would like with unseasonal condition, but enough to keep the flow of 2017 gear going through the test mill!

WORDS AND PHOTOS THE IKSURFMAG TEST TEAM
PHOTO THIS PAGE COURTESY OF FLYSURFER

TRIED & TESTED



KITES:

F-One Bandit 10th Anniversary Edition
12m
Flysurfer Speed 5 12m
Liquid Force NV 12
North Neo 9m
Ozone Zephyr 17m
Sroka Ouesk 10.5m

BOARDS

Cabrinha Xcaliber
Core Fusion 2
Liquid Force Carbon Drive

BRAND F-ONE MODEL BANDIT SIZE 12M YEAR 2017



“ THIS KITE
EXCELS IN ALL
AREAS; IT JUST
KEEPS ON
GETTING
BETTER! ”



AT A GLANCE

The F-One Bandit is now in its tenth year of production this kite has been a massive seller over the years with an army of fans worldwide. Since it's inception it has had a few radical redesigns but more recently it's been a case of fine tuning what is an excellent kite. It could well be the most refined product on the market; F-One says they spend around 200 days a year testing it, they get through 70 prototypes and clock up over 6000km on the water. These guys take their product testing very seriously. Used by F-One's team riders the Bandit can do it all, excelling in the waves, freeride, boosting and freestyle disciplines.

The Bandit is a 4-line, 3-strut Delta C shape kite, designed to be responsive the various sizes are tuned to different roles. The larger kites have more low-end and a more freeride and freestyle feel while the smaller sizes have waves, mega loops and hangtime in their DNA. F-One have always been known for their high-quality solid construction, the Bandit uses Technoforce D2 Teijin Double Rip Stop and features Kevlar LE reinforcements and Dacron canopy reinforcements to ensure the kite can handle the crashes and stand the test of time.

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BRAND FLYSURFER

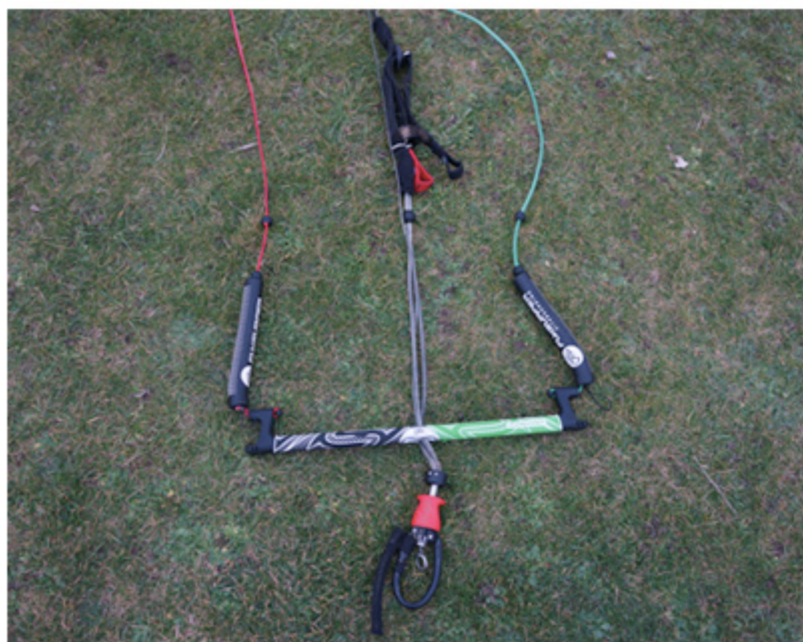
MODEL SPEED 5

SIZE 12M

YEAR 2017



“ EASY TO USE
AND PACKED
WITH
PERFORMANCE ”



AT A GLANCE

The Speed 5 is a performance orientated, versatile kite aimed at those who want to enjoy many aspects of kiting. It's been through many incarnations over the years, but perhaps this new model sees the biggest update yet. While it packs in plenty of performance, think of this as an easy to use foil kite, Flysurfer have the Sonic 2 in their arsenal for the racers, and the new Speed 5 is more of a performance freeride kite than a thoroughbred race machine.

Looking into the design features of the Speed 5 we see Rigid Foil Technology which reduces wrinkles on the leading edge offering improved aerodynamics. Double Cordwise Ballooning also works to reduce deformation and keep the shape of the kite uniform. Triple Depower Technology increases the kites range; when you depower the kite, you reduce the angle of attack, adjust the profile and also minimise the projected area. The construction is second to none and only the highest quality materials, and workmanship is used to create the kite. This is backed up by an impressive warranty scheme.

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BRAND LIQUID FORCE MODEL NV SIZE 12M YEAR 2017



" JUMPING WITH THE NV IS A BLAST! "



AT A GLANCE

The NV from Liquid Force has been around for quite some time (formerly known as the Envy) and is favoured world wide for its ease and wide range of use. 2017 has seen a massive jump in Liquid Force kites, and the NV has come back as an even slicker package.

A 3 strut, 4 line, all-round kite, the NV wants to make your kiting as easy as possible so you can concentrate on yourself and not what the kite is doing above your head.

Liquid Force use the extra big inflate valves on their kites now, and coupled with the one-pump system makes setting up super quick and easy.

For 2017, the NV has undergone a profile change, which not only now adds to the ease of use, but stops the wingtip flaring which allows the kite to move faster through the wind window and reduces back stalling in lighter winds.

Sizes:

5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 10.5 / 12 / 13.5 / 15 meters

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BRAND NORTH MODEL NEO SIZE 9M YEAR 2017



" IF YOU ARE
LOOKING FOR
THE ULTIMATE
WAVE KITE, THE
NEO IS ONE TO
CONSIDER "



AT A GLANCE

The North Neo has been in the range for a few years now; it is North's dedicated wave kite and is a hugely popular kite in the range. It's designed to be fast, deliver lots of low-end power and be able to drift down the line with ease. It's a three-strut design with a very short bridle, the kite also utilises North's Adaptive Tips which allow you to tune the kite, there are also tuning options on the bridle too.

With a nod to the growing discipline of strapless freestyle, the kite can be tuned this year to offer increased performance in this regard. Set the kite on the high depower setting on the bridle combined with the hard setting on the adaptive tips and you'll get a kite that can jump well with lots of depower when you throw the bar, perfect for working on those strapless tricks.

For 2017 there aren't any radical changes to the kite, but more incremental changes to improve the turning speed, depower and also the feel at the bar. To achieve this, the leading edge diameter has been reduced, and the profile of the kite has been flattened slightly.

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WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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BRAND OZONE MODEL ZEPHYR V5 SIZE 17M YEAR 2017



"A SLIGHTLY LESS EXPECTED RESULT FROM THE ZEPHYR IS THAT IT IS, IN FACT, A CRACKING FREESTYLE KITE."



AT A GLANCE

Back with version five (V5), Ozone have a good thing going with the Zephyr. One of the original 'light wind specific' kites, it has been a very high benchmark for other brands to hit with their own models.

17 square meters, 5 struts and a pulley-less bridle system all club together to form a powerful, efficient and direct light wind machine.

The canopy itself is made from Teijin's TechnoForce D2 and also the TechnoForce Dacron, which are proven to be incredibly hardwearing and high performance. Five struts and a compact bridle system ensure stability of the kite, powerful turning and a solid structure to be riding beneath.

For the V5, the leading edge of the kite has been straightened somewhat to allow for greater drive and acceleration through the turn. As with all Ozone products, the quality is second to none, and the rigorous checking done on each kite before sale ensures nothing goes unnoticed.

The Zephyr V5 has been designed as not only as a light wind cruiser, but also as an all-round kite for those who ride in winds up to about 20knots.

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BRAND SROKA MODEL OUESK SIZE 10.5M YEAR 2017



"IT PULLS WELL
FLOATING YOU
UP AND
ALONG..."



AT A GLANCE

Sroka have become well known on the kitesurfing scene with their excellent foil board, and we were incredibly excited to learn that twintips and the Ouesk kite are now also part of the line up.

The Ouesk is Srokas first kite offering and they have done a cracking job.

Featuring 3 struts, a pullyless bridle system and a hybrid shape, the Ouesk has been designed as your do it all kite.

The kite has an effective one-pump system and a larger size inflate valve to ensure rapid setup and pack down. There is sound reinforcement in key areas and solid construction throughout.

Sizes: 7,9,10.5 meters

The Bar

The Ouesk bar itself has a very comfy padded grip, with finger ridges to make everything that little bit more pleasant. A solid insert in the centre of the bar allows the PVC covered centre line to slide freely. Integrated bar ends keep the bar tidy and feeling solid.

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WEBSITE, CLCK HERE



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"NEED A NEW FREESTYLE BOARD? GET THIS ON YOUR RADAR!"



BRAND CABRINHA MODEL XCALIBER
SIZE 138 X 42CM YEAR 2017

AT A GLANCE

The XCaliber is a high-performance freestyle board targeting high-level riders. If your not there yet don't panic, just read on, as this board as a bit more to offer too. Designed with a stiff flex pattern, fast rocker and a double concave base with rail channels. Cabrinha hasn't just chucked functionality into the XCaliber it's jammed with technology too. Construction is of a high standard, and the carbon layer helps to reduce weight and improve responsiveness.

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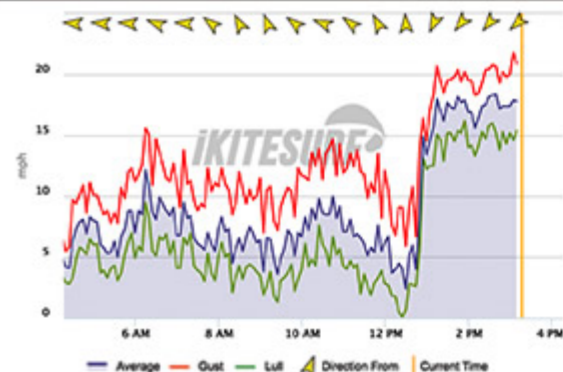


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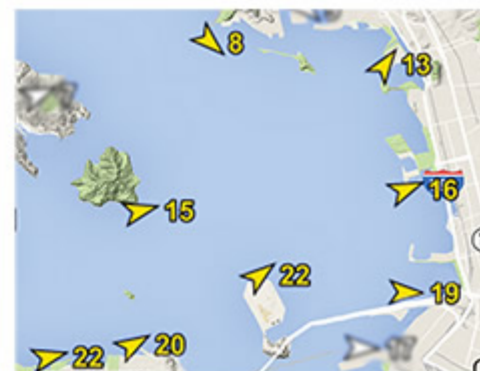
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°F	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	55
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“ AN
EXCEEDINGLY
VERSATILE
BOARD THAT IS
PACKED WITH
TECHNOLOGY! ”



BRAND CORE MODEL FUSION 2
SIZE 137 X 41CM YEAR 2017

AT A GLANCE

The Fusion 2 from CORE kiteboarding makes a return for this year and is an even better model than before. Billed as the Swiss Army Knife of kiteboards Core have put a lot of thought into building this fantastic all rounder. The construction is top quality, featuring layers of carbon and wood, they work together to create a lightweight and powerful board with improved pop and durability.

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" A SIMPLE SHAPE WITH A HIGH-TECH CONSTRUCTION THAT IS LOADS OF FUN TO RIDE! "



BRAND LIQUID FORCE **MODEL** CARBON DRIVE
SIZE 140 X 41CM **YEAR** 2017

AT A GLANCE

Liquid Force has had a significant revamp to most of its range for the coming season, new footpads, redesigned bars, the new Elite foil kite and much more. We have been checking out the 2017 Carbon Drive twin tip recently, and it's a cracker.

The Carbon Drive is billed as an affordable, lightweight all round twin tip; it's essentially a higher performance version of the standard Drive.

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If there is one thing that creates a massive buzz on our website, it is the Kiteboat built by Kai Concepts. We've had hundreds of thousands of views on the videos, but there isn't much information out there about it, until now. We sit down with Don Montague, the mastermind of the project to learn a little more!

INSPIRED DREAMS

WORDS ROU CHATER
PHOTO BETSY PFEIFFER / KAI CONCEPTS, LLC





“ IT WASN'T UNTIL I SAW AN INFLATABLE KITE THAT I FELT THAT KITESURFING COULD BE A VIABLE SPORT. ”

If there is one thing that creates a massive buzz on our website, it is the Kiteboat built by Kai Concepts. We've had hundreds of thousands of views on the videos, but there isn't much information out there about it, until now. We sit down with Don Montague, the mastermind of the project to learn a little more!

Hi Don, for people who aren't familiar

with your exploits, can you give us a little bit of your background and how you got into kites?

I began sailing at the age eight, and started experimenting with wind propulsion early on; putting a sail on my skateboard, etc. In my teens and early 20s, I focused on windsurfing; I won my first competition in 1983, the Greenpeace Molokini Crossing, and I raced professionally and worked as a sail designer for Gaastra until 1995. After that, I joined Robby Naish and Pete Cabrinha at Naish Sails Hawaii.

The first time I remember seeing power kites

in action was 1992 when I accompanied Cory Roeseler on a test of his KiteSki setup. I was impressed, but it wasn't until I saw an inflatable kite that I felt that kitesurfing could be a viable sport. In 1995, Manu Bertin brought me an inflatable kite from Bruno Legaignoux, and that kite was possible to water-relaunch easily, which made a huge difference. In 1996, I began to develop kites with Naish Sails Hawaii, which released its first commercial kite, the AR3.5, in 1998. I competed in kitesurfing competitions until 2003 and continued to work with Naish Sails Hawaii until 2006.

You used to live on Maui, what drove you to San Francisco and the Bay area?



“ THE EASIEST ANSWER IS THAT MORE KITE MEANS MORE POWER ”

In 2006, I co-founded a high-altitude wind power company in the Bay Area, Makani Power, seeking to generate clean energy using kites. Makani has since been acquired by X (formerly Google[x]), and I’ve started a new R&D company, Kai Concepts, also based in the Bay Area. The Kiteboat Project is part of Kai Concepts, as are my new electric foiling projects, like the Jetoiler. I still go back to Maui often; it’s a beautiful place, and I have many friends there, but the Bay Area is where the majority of my work is these days.

You’ve been famous for designing large kites ever since the huge 30m kite that Naish put into production for consumers years ago, why the fascination with enormous kites and what are the challenges when it comes to designing them compared to regular kites?

I think the easiest answer is that more kite means more power. Now, that’s not strictly true, because a more efficient small kite could provide more power than an inefficient big kite; as we’ve seen in the trend toward foil kites. However, the primary reason to scale up a design is to go faster than you have been going, or to go in lighter wind, or with a bigger rig.

As the kite size increases, the load on everything; the boat, the lines, the kite controls, the kite itself, increases. I think the biggest challenge is to figure out how to deal with those larger loads in a controlled way. You want to be able to scale up the kite without making it unsafe to fly, and without losing your designed kite shape to unexpected material deformation.





PHOTO JAMIE SCHULTE / KAI CONCEPTS, LLC

What's the size of the kite that the Kiteboat uses at the moment, or are there several sizes for different wind conditions?

Yes, we use different-sized kites for the Kiteboat, depending on the wind conditions. We are actively testing kites in the 25-60 sqm range, and we have used kites up to 101 sqm in the project in the past.

Where do the kites get made?

We design the kites in-house or in conjunction with a design consultant and manufacture them overseas, like all the major kitesurfing companies.

" WE ARE ACTIVELY TESTING KITES IN THE 25-60 SQM RANGE "

Ksurf
INTERNATIONAL KITESURF MAGAZINE

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THE RISE OF THE KITE PARK LEAGUE

If You Build It, They Will Come
Sensi Graves looks at the rise of the Kite Park League and tracks the success story of one of the best kitesurfing movements on the planet right now!

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PHOTO BETSY PFEIFFER / KAI CONCEPTS, LLC

“ WE ARE CONSTANTLY REVISING THE BOAT’S DESIGN AND TRYING TO MAKE IT BETTER. ”

The boat itself is starting to look like something from the future, who’s behind the tech going on there, can you explain how the hydrofoils work autonomously and the set up with the steering console which revolves, that thing looks insane, like something from the Millennium Falcon!

Thanks! We are constantly revising the boat’s design and trying to make it better. The boat uses wands that trail from the front of each ama (hull in layman’s terms) to mechanically sense waves. As the paddles move, they push or pull a flap on the T-foils that adjusts the shape of the airfoil section of the foils. The crew can also change the foil uprights by pressing buttons on the console: to set the overall “ride height” of the boat or to override the boat’s automatic adjustment. We are also able to set up the boat to work with electronic sensors instead of mechanical sensors on the front amas if we choose.

The rotating control chair is designed to allow the kite flier to face the kite at all times. It also takes the majority of the load from the kite lines so that the kite flier can “feel” the kite without tiring as quickly. We decided to make the helmsmen’s chairs rotate too in order to make it easier for the crew members to communicate.

Our in-house design and build team is led by Joe Brock, and we have collaborated with a few outside consultants: marine architects, mechanical and electrical engineers.





★
★
★
★ " IT'S VERY STABLE. THAT'S NOT TO SAY I'VE NEVER BEEN SCARED WHEN WE HIT A BIG WAVE "

★
★
★
★ **How many crew does it take to sail the boat?**

We need a minimum of two people, one to steer the kite and one to steer the boat, but our usual crew is three people, and we have taken out as many as six people before.

What is the most challenging thing about it, or is it fairly easy to sail?

The current prototype works very well. We have been dialling in the foil and kite control systems for years now, and a person experienced in kiting or sailing should be able to step on and steer it. That said, it's a sport unto itself, and no one knows the Kiteboat as well as our team. The hardest part for newcomers is probably the kite launch and retrieval.

Have you guys ever crashed or wiped out in it?

One of the great things about using a kite with a foiling boat is that the kite is pulling on the centre of gravity of the boat, and there is no heeling or pitching moment to tip the boat over. It's very stable. That's not to say I've never been scared when we hit a big wave, but we have never crashed into anything or flipped it.

What's the end goal with the boat, are you seeking to make it commercially available, or is it more to experiment with alternative propulsion systems?



PHOTO BETSY PFEIFFER / KAI CONCEPTS, LLC

We are developing a larger version of the Kiteboat that can go offshore; we would love to complete an ocean crossing in that boat. The current boat has been useful in developing the systems we have now, and, yes, we've also used it to experiment with electric power, so R&D is where our focus is now.

It generates a load of interest amongst our readers; your videos always seem to be very popular, what do you think is so appealing about the project?

" WE WOULD LOVE TO COMPLETE AN OCEAN CROSSING IN THAT BOAT. "



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“ HYDROFOILS WERE SOMETHING THAT MOST PEOPLE HADN'T HEARD OF, BUT THAT'S CHANGING IN THE KITESURFING WORLD ”

I think it's a mixture of many things. The Kiteboat is unique, and a lot of the things we've filmed over the years have looked pretty extreme. Many people are fascinated by the size of the kite and the speed of the boat. For a long time, hydrofoils were something that most people hadn't heard of, but that's changing in the kitesurfing world, and that's generated a lot of enthusiasm for our project as well.

Are there limits to what the boat can do, sea states, wind strengths, etc.?

Our current boat is optimised for use in the San Francisco Bay. It does extremely well in chop, but it doesn't love larger waves. Using different kites gives us a pretty large wind range to work with, but we are aiming for high performance in winds less than 20-25 knots.

Do you ever just go kitesurfing?

Of course! It's a great way to test out new kite designs too.

Cheers Don thanks for taking the time!



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

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

MOVIE NIGHT

#1 JUMPING OVER WINDSURFERS

We love it! Kevin Langeree proves that windsurfers are our mates by boosting some outrageously huge airs over them! On one of the jumps the windsurfer does a front loop while Kevin is over him, awesome. What a session. Do you kite with windsurfer pals?



1,120



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

#2 SERGEY MYSOVSKIY RESCUES WINDSURFER

Watch up close as a kitesurfer heroically rescues a stranded and nearly unconscious windsurfer. It's inspiring to see riders looking out for each other. Mauritius can be a dangerous place. This is a good reminder to be careful out there, no matter what sport you practice.



763



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

#3 DADDY SESSIONS EP. 3 - ROAD GAP

Road gap! This guy knows how to send some crazy jumps. Can't go wrong with footage of a kitesurfer megaloooping over a road and a car, all at the same time! Awesome edit, nice tunes, beautiful scenery and nobody gets hurt, (as far as we know), enjoy.



507



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#4 THE ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE IN BRAZIL

Mitu Monteiro and Guilly Brandão head out to Brazil with Surfin Sem Fin to take part in a huge downwind kite adventure! As they have a great spot Mitu takes his family and gets his young son on the water in between his legs! Who thinks we are looking at a future world champion right here?



442



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LIGHTROOM

ROBERTO RICCI REAPING THE BENEFITS OF HIS DAY JOB DOWN
IN SCARBOROUGH, SOUTH AFRICA!
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA



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

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

LACI KOBULSKY GETTING TWISTED IN THE CARIBBEAN...
PHOTO ANDRE MAGAROA



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

LOUKA PITOT TRAINING HARD IN MAURITIUS.
PHOTO STEVEN AKKERSDIJK

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

FINN BEHRENS SENDING ONE OFF THE GHETTO PIPE
AT A NEW SPOT THEY FOUND IN NORTHERN EUROPE...
PHOTO NIELS JOHANNSEN



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

MARK SHINN PROVING THAT A SIMPLE TAIL
GRAB CAN STILL BE ONE OF THE MOST
STYLISH OLD SCHOOL TRICKS OUT THERE!
PHOTO COURTESY OF SHINN



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

RODERICK PIJLS GOING FOR ALL OUT POWER IN BRAZIL!
PHOTO THEBANK



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

WHEREVER THERE IS WATER THERE ARE KITERS! RIDING HIGH UP IN THE SWISS MOUNTAINS, THE WATER IS COLD, BUT IT IS PERFECTLY FLAT!
PHOTO PATRICESCHREYER.COM



Lightroom

10 QUESTIONS

Willow-River
Tonkin

WORDS LINDSAY MCLURE



When you spend three years of your life kitesurfing at One Eye you tend to get pretty good at handling everything the wave has to offer! Willow-River Tonkin has been lucky enough to do just that, growing up around the world and spending his formative years on the tropical paradise seems to have done wonders for his riding!

Can you walk us through a typical day in the life of Willow-River Tonkin?

Well, when I'm at home in Mauritius my day usually starts off with a substantial breakfast, waking up my brother, Talis-Rain and organising our gear for the day. Then the daily adventure starts, walking up to the bus stop to catch a ride until the turn off to Le Morne and then put our thumbs up to hitchhike the rest of the way to the beach.

Straight after we arrive, I head to One Eye to get my satisfaction while my brother is enjoying some freestyle action in the lagoon. A few hours later we come in for a quick refill of power with some fresh coconut water and loads of lekker food. As soon as my body recovers a bit (or as soon as the conditions get crazy), I hit the water again for my second sesh.

Then in the afternoon I'm usually chilling on the beach with my brothers and friends or going skating with them. Always grabbing a roti on the streets of Tamarin before having nice dinner at home.

So yeah, that's pretty much my daily routine.

10
"I head to One Eye to get my satisfaction while my brother is enjoying some freestyle action in the lagoon."



10

“all day, every day, I would be on the water surfing.”

How has your childhood, in Mauritius and on the move, influenced your kiteboarding career?

When I was six years old, my family and I travelled to Taiwan. We lived there for four years and loved it; it was a much different lifestyle to how we are living now but still really awesome. To be surrounded by a completely different culture was just so pure and such a cool experience. One of our highlights of moving to Taiwan was adopting my little sister, so that makes Taiwan a place we will never forget for sure!

Seven years ago we moved to Mauritius. This is where it all began for me. Living on the beach, home to one of the best surf spots on the island. That, of course, means all day, every day, I would be on the water surfing.

Growing up never going to school was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. Being able to train every day on the water made a huge impact on my kiteboarding career. I have been kiting almost three years now, and I couldn't be happier about what has happened to me so far. :)

I think one of the biggest influences in my life are my parents. They are very supportive in everything I do and have always encouraged me to follow my passion and they are happy for me that I am living my dreams.

What are your favourite aspects of being part of team CORE?

Riding with CORE is amazing. The team and all the guys at the HQ in Germany are so cool; they are like

my second family when I'm with them. There is such a close connection between the riders; it's a tight team, which I am grateful to be part of!

What kit do you ride, and what do you like most about your setup?

I love riding either the Section or the Free, but it all depends on the conditions. If it's quite off-shore at One Eye, I prefer to use my Section because it has all the depower you need to stall for the barrel. If it's more side-shore, I'll use my Free because it has that little bit of extra power to keep the kite from falling when racing down the line. For boards, I ride the 5'6 or 5'8 Ripper 2, depending on the size of the swell, for control I use the new Sensor Pro 2S bar on 20m lines.



“ Hitting the water just with my board shorts on is one of the greatest feelings ever. ”



Can you tell us the history behind your name, and do you have any nicknames?

My parents wanted to give us a name that is unique and a little different to most other names.

But then again, I still do have a nickname... Most of my friends have nicknames, so they decided to give me a nickname and that name was Shakes.

What life lessons have you learned from nature and the ocean?

Do not mess with the powers of Mother Nature. It is much, much stronger than you can even imagine. I have been out in some pretty rough and heavy conditions and trust me; it can be pretty damn scary.

Your social media is covered with photos of big, blue waves and crystal blue water; how do you deal with cold or stormy weather?

Well, I have to admit I am very lucky when it comes to spending time at or in the ocean. It always makes me feel satisfied being in the warmth but also in wet conditions. Recently I explored the snow and the joy of 0 degrees and colder. I am a person who loves to discover new things, and I enjoyed the cold weather as well. It's been great fun to get a sense of how the other elements feel like. It's completely different but also a fun experience.

If I have to choose, my choice would always be the ocean though. Hitting the water just with my board shorts on is one of the greatest feelings ever. Especially when the water underneath is crystal blue like at my favourite spot, One Eye, then it's pure perfection!

Who inspires you, who are your role models, and what lessons have you learned from them?



“ Strapless Freestyle is perhaps one of the most exciting disciplines in kitesurfing to watch ”

Kiting wise, it would be Airton Cozzolino. His style of riding is just so powerful and aggressive. In my eyes, he is pushing strapless freestyle and wave riding to the limits. I had a couple of sessions with him in Mauritius recently and it's just so amazing to watch him ride so hard right in front of you. Kai Lenny is another incredible athlete who never stops inspiring me. I think he is one of the best waterman out there. I find it so fascinating that he does so well in every type of water sport. I think my lesson I have learnt from them is just to Go Big or Go Bigger!

As one of the most talented and progressive young riders, how do you see the future of kiteboarding?

What do you think the younger generation is capable of?

I think that strapless freestyle is going to get way bigger than it already is. If anyone watches strapless kitesurfing in action, they will be amazed. Strapless Freestyle is perhaps one of the most exciting disciplines in kitesurfing to watch as a spectator. So to see riders going really huge and just using the wind to hold the board on their feet is super entertaining. Strapless kitesurfing is still really new if you compare it to freestyle/wakestyle scene.

There are so many more tricks for the future generation to invent, so with a steady foundation as

there already is, I think it will push the future generation to go even bigger and ultimately push the limits in Strapless Freestyle.

How do you balance wave riding with kiteboarding's many other disciplines?

It's actually quite simple for me. About a year ago I decided that I wanted to commit 100% to strapless riding because that's what I enjoy the most. One of the main other reasons why I decided to stop freestyle is to avoid injuries. I still do a bit of freestyle now and then during photo shoots, but for now, I want to progress as far as possible within my strapless freestyle riding.

Thanks for taking the time to talk to us Shakes!

[FEMALE FOCUS]

DIONEIA VIEIRA

WORDS LINDSAY MCCLURE PHOTOS BAS KOOLE

Dioneia grew up in Brazil and competes on the world tour, the consistent winds and flat waters of Cumbuco helped to shape her into one of the best female riders out there...





“ IN CUMBUCO, IT'S HARD NOT TO MAKE FRIENDS BECAUSE IT'S A SMALL FISHING VILLAGE. ”

Can you tell us a bit about your family and your childhood growing up in Brazil?

I have a pretty simple family and a simple life. Growing up with so little made me fight to succeed and also helped me realise that I don't need much to be happy or to become someone in life. I've been through a lot, but it all just makes me feel strong and feel hungry to go for more. I feel rich for having beautiful friends and family and for living in such a paradise like Cumbuco.

Can you share any local tips for first-time visitors to Brazil?

Be kind to the locals and respect the lagoon rules, then you can make a bunch of friends here. This is going to make you feel comfortable and safe. At least in Cumbuco, it's hard not to make friends because it's a small fishing village.

Northern Brazil attracts many international kites each winter; do you get excited about welcoming so many riders to your home, or do the crowded lagoons make you frustrated?

I love welcoming people to my home spot, but of course, I also miss having some space for us locals to train. The lagoon is always full, and many people that come to kite at the lagoon are beginners, and they don't know how the system works. It's just a matter of respecting each other's time on the water. Besides that, I love meeting new people. I think the combination of respect and communication can be the keys to bringing back many tourists every year.

“ THE FACT THAT WE HAVE BIG NAMES AT THE LAGOON TRAINING WITH US, LIKE BRUNA KAJIYA, MOTIVATES ME TO TRAIN EVEN MORE ”



Living somewhere that's windy nearly every day, how do you keep from becoming burned out?

To be honest, I never get tired of kiteboarding. The fact that we have big names at the lagoon training with us, like Bruna Kajiya, motivates me to train even more than I usually do. All kiteboarders understand how hard it is not to kite. I am glad I live in this windy place and thankful that I'm able to train every day.

Where is your favourite place to ride and why?

My favourite place to ride is Cauipe lagoon, as many people may know. The place is magical, with perfect conditions and good wind. The fact that it's my home makes me feel comfortable. Every sunset session makes me fall in love again!

session makes me fall in love again!

You've had a lot of competitive success. Which results are you most proud of?

Travelling the world to compete and to do what I love already makes me feel proud because it's hard to find a sponsor here in Brazil. Looking back and seeing where I am today gives me a great feeling. I remember watching Bruna, Gisela and all those great riders competing even before I learned how to kite. When kiting came into my life I thought, "Am I ever going to be part of that?" In 2012 I became Brazilian champion for the first time; that made me super proud and gave me more strength to follow my passion.

As various governing bodies and the Kiteboarding Riders United (KRU) work through the challenges of organising a professional freestyle tour, how involved have you been in both organising and attending recent events?

I haven't been as involved since the beginning of this year when Danny Galiart, together with Youri Zoon, Bruna Kajiya, Liam Whaley and Alex Pastor, decided to create a new riders association because we didn't have full support from the previous one. Now, I see things changing for the better, and since the KRU was founded, all the riders joining the tour are 100% involved in it. All the decisions are made by the riders, for the riders.

Before any agreement, the board members of the World Kiteboarding League (WKL) contact all riders through email and our private Facebook group. I feel like this is the time to change our sport and to take it to the next level. Thanks to Danny, the board members and all riders for sticking together and working to make this happen.

Dioneia, you recently joined the Nobile team, congratulations! What kites and boards are you riding, and what do you like most about your new gear?

Yes! I can't describe how stoked I am to have joined this incredible team. This has been a goal achieved for me, just one of many. As my focus is all on freestyle, I chose the beautiful 50Fifty kite and 50Fifty women's board. The combination of them both is fascinating. The kite is powerful but feels smooth through the bar.

It has a fast relaunch, and it's super stable. The 50Fifty women's board, other than looking fancy, has huge pop that helps me stabilise during tricks and it has huge upwind capabilities. I could sit here the whole day just to tell you how in love I am with my gear.

How important do you think women's specific gear is for lady kites?

I think women's specific gear is crucial, especially now that every year we see more and more girl's kiteboarding. Having a collection for girls is something all brands should have in the future. Girls love to have things matching, and having a collection for them will make them feel special and even more important.



“ THE 50FIFTY WOMEN'S BOARD, OTHER THAN LOOKING FANCY, HAS HUGE POP THAT HELPS ME STABILISE DURING TRICKS ”



“ I CAN'T WAIT TO LAND IT PROPERLY AND TO SHOW IT TO EVERYONE. ”

The top ladies have been riding harder than ever and learning tricks that in the past had only been performed by the guys. Which moves are you working on, and what's your favourite trick?

It's so sick to see how the female level is increasing. Right now, I'm working on a Hinterberger Mobe 5; a stretched out backroll with a frontside 540 degrees handle pass, so in total two and a half spins. It's a pretty hard trick, but with some technique it will come out well. I can't wait to land it properly and to show it to everyone. My favourite trick is a Back Mobe. I can't get enough of it!

If you could change one thing about kiteboarding, what would you change?

I think that kiteboarding should be a sport for all social classes, like surfing and skating. In my opinion, only people with medium and high social classes are capable of buying a good set of gear. This is why the sport is still so small because not everyone has the money to buy what they need to get started. Look at football for example. Football is so popular, and players don't need much to take part and be involved. What would I change? I would make it suitable for everyone.

Where do you draw inspiration from, and are there any philosophies that guide the way you live your life?

I'm willing to try to be better at what I do every time. Watching Bruna and Karolina kiting is also a big inspiration for me. They rock! Life is too short to take serious, so enjoying every day like it's the last is ideal.



" I WANT TO WORK ON MY MISTAKES AND TRY TO ACHIEVE MY GOAL TO BE IN TOP 5 AGAIN "

What are your goals for the upcoming year, both within kiteboarding and outside kiting?

My goal is to train hard. Last year, I had a bad year competing. For next year, I want to work on my mistakes and try to achieve my goal to be in top 5 again, at least. It's hard to make plans outside of kiteboarding because I'm travelling all year to

compete. For now, I haven't planned anything other than competing. I still haven't found anything that can be a substitute for kiteboarding.

What's your dream trip - where would you go, and who would you go with?

Spending days with my boyfriend on a desert island

where we can only kite and swim with dolphins would be a dream trip!

Obrigada Dioneia!

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?

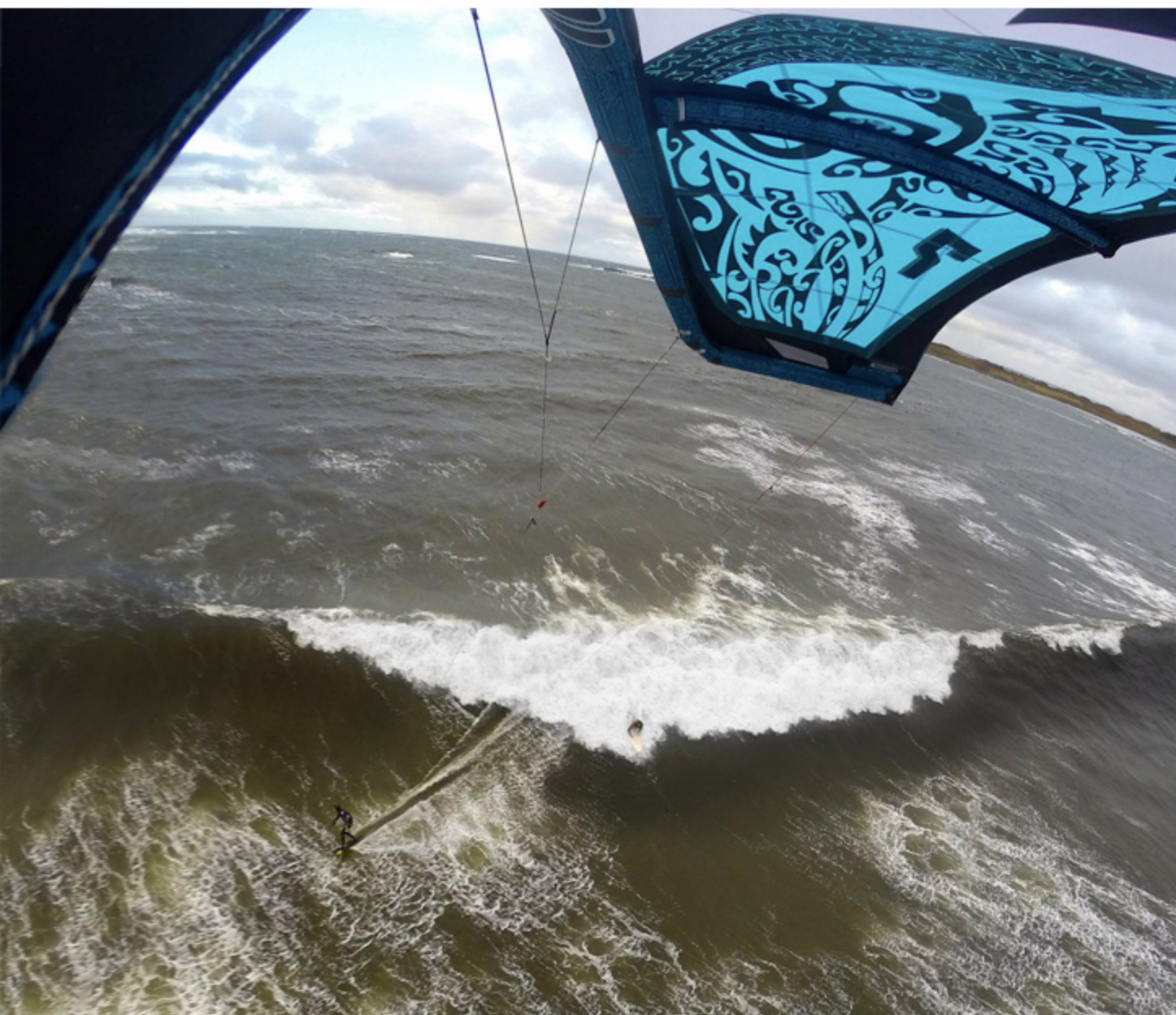
This issues winner is Cade Schrobilgen. Well done Cade, get in touch and we'll send you the t-shirt!

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Winner! ★

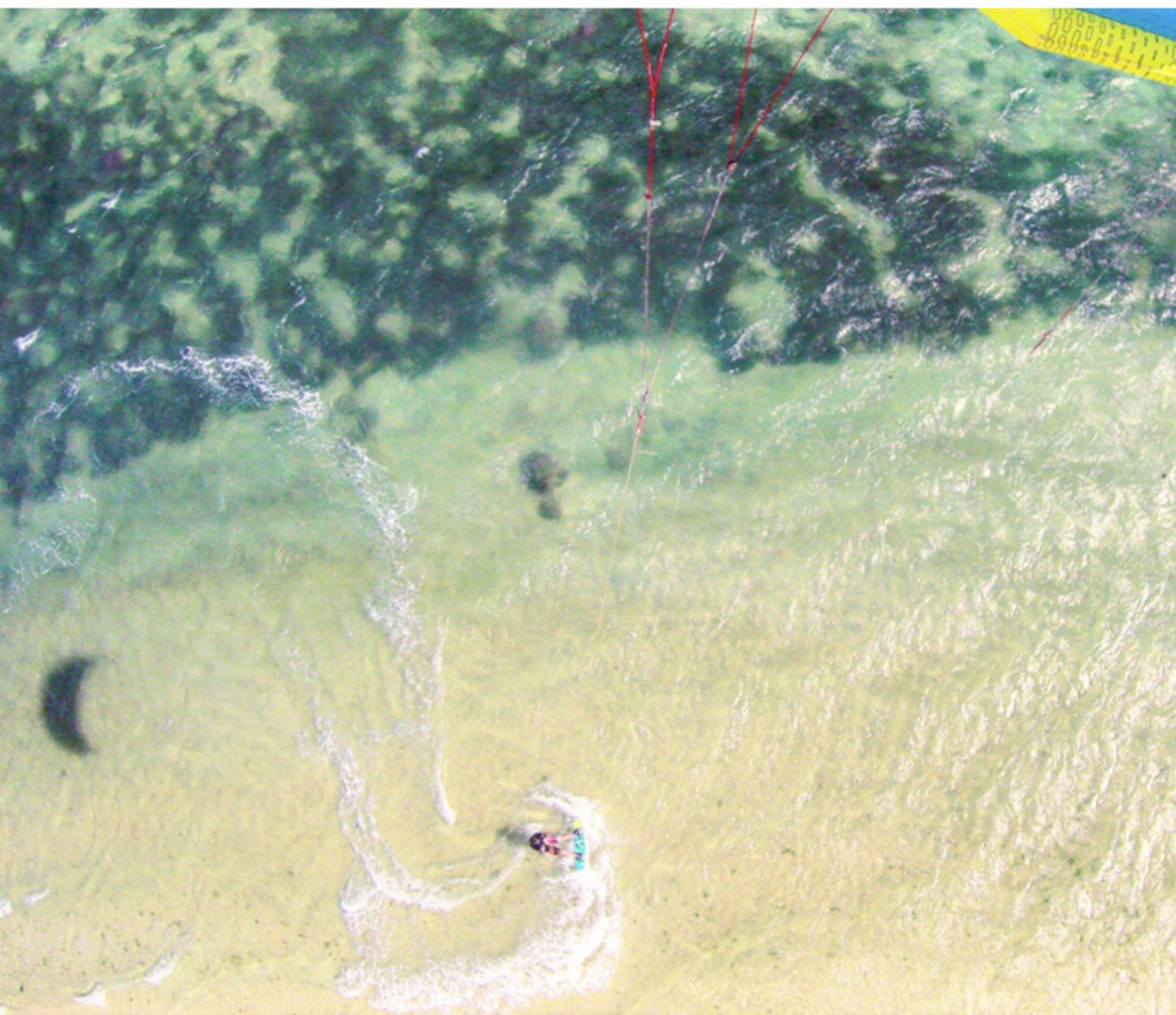
World Class Kiteboard Academy Class President, Cade Schrobilgen, works on his moves while Coach Gabriela Lopes Jorge looks on. Photo: Devin Kuh



Andre Varhaugvik sharing a decent sized lump with his buddy in Norway!



Thierry Blomme gets a bit of light into his kite!
Photo Sherry Blossem



▼
The ultimate selfie right here, Arthur Lahousse shoots himself from his kite to get this stunning shot in Mauritius!



▼
Blaine Baker enjoys a new view of the sunset while training in Cumbuco, Brazil.
Photo: Devin Kuh





Ray from Kite Sport Centre, Cork making waves on the Wild Atlantic Way.

Photo: Dee McCaffrey



Strolling upwind to get a few more turns in.

Photo: Dee McCaffrey



Mark Meehan hides behind a wall of spray at Ladies Island, Ireland.

Photo: Patrick Murtagh



An unknown rider boosts over a boardercross obstacle at Dollymount Strand, Ireland.

Photo: Patrick Murtagh

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ALEX NETO TWEAKS OUT AN INDY GRAB IN BRAZIL!
PHOTO ANDRAO MAGARAO

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