

AUG/SEPT 23

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 100 of IKSURFMAG, the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! What better way to celebrate the big 100 than putting together the biggest issue ever?! Starting with a dash down memory lane, Rou Chater takes you through our history, and we highlight the most important moments and people in our sport in 100 Moments: A Kitesurfing Timeline. The future is inevitable, and we welcome it

with open arms, with three features highlighting the next generation. Catch the Barrel Section with wave riding legends, discover the Philippines with the Delannoy's, and join Crystal Veness on her trip to Mauritius! Learn to loop with Christian & Karine, get to know Pat Goodman, and get the scoop on the new CORE XR Pro. There's a whole lot more inside; Issue 100 is jam-packed with all things kitesurfing!

ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE



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



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PHOTO : Anthony Lefant

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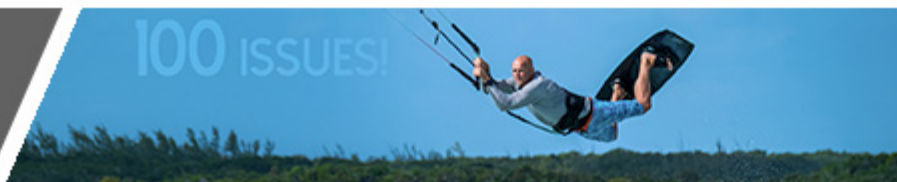
SAIL ENGINEERING

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COMPETITION



EDITORIAL



100 MOMENTS:
A KITESURFING TIMELINE



ALL EYES ON THE EAST



THE BARREL SECTION



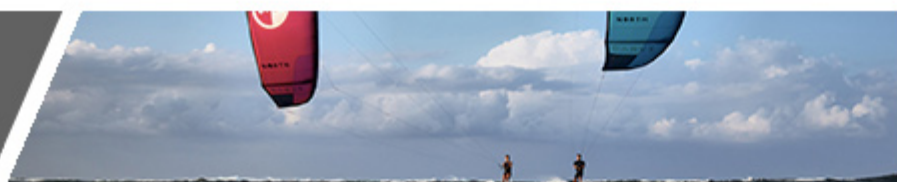
ON THE FLY



TECH FOCUS



SEEKING THE
UNKNOWN



EASY BREEZY STEEZY:
COVER GIRLS OF
IKSURFMAG



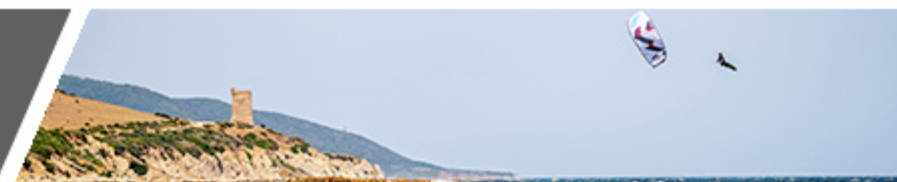
UNFORGETTABLE
ADVENTURES



TECHNIQUE



WATCH THIS SPACE



THE INTERVIEW:
PAT GOODMAN



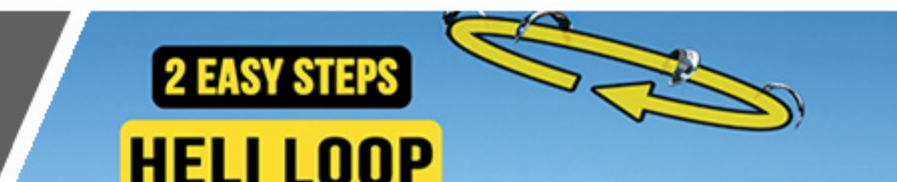
2023 WONDERFUL
WIND SCHOOL TOUR



LIGHTROOM



MOVIE NIGHT



FRONT COVER PHOTOS - LEFT PHOTO RIDER EWAN JASPAN PHOTO AMANDA CANTOR
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magazine although the staff may have
been subject to beatings in order to get the
job done. The views in this magazine are
just that, views, & should be taken with a
pinch of salt. Kitesurfing is a dangerous
sport & none of the activities depicted
within this magazine should be
participated in without full instruction in
person by a qualified instructor.

PHILIPP DAHM ON THE NEW LIEUWE FALCON CRUISING
IN FRONT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TABLE MOUNTAIN!
PHOTO ERIK VAN DER BIJL





WIN WIN WIN

GOOD THINGS COME IN 3s...
3 PRIZES / 3 WINNERS / 3 AMAZING BRANDS!



WIN

...AN ELEVEIGHT COMMANDER TWIN TIP
SUBSCRIBE TO WIN, CLICK [HERE](#) IT'S FREE

For Issue 100, we've partnered up with Eleveight to offer a coveted competition prize: the Commander V4 twin tip in size 141x42.5. Dedicated to pure freestyle performance, the Commander is loaded with the latest high-tech materials, raising the bar of possibilities. One of our lucky subscribers will be adding this board to their quiver very soon!

Driven by Eleveight's relentless passion for kiteboarding and technology, it's packed with innovations including a wide CFT stringer for an insanely responsive rebound flex and Parabolic Rails to add more grip with better upwind ability.

The new Carbon reinforcement patches and Fly 3D Paulownia wood core make landings smoother and the board as durable as possible. The bevelled rails optimise flex giving more speed and an easy release, and the advanced flex pattern allows the rider to hold the edge much longer than with any other board. With maximum pop and easy landings, the Commander is engineered to be the first choice for serious freestyle kiteboarders and is the board of choice for World Champion Arthur Guillebert!

Take your riding to the next level with the Eleveight Commander V4!

HOW CAN I WIN THE PRIZE?

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

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

The prizes keep on coming... We've teamed up with CORE to equip one of our readers with a brand new harness, the CORE Link in your size and with the spreader bar of your choice! Created to enhance your riding experience with a perfect blend of freedom and support, this uber-comfortable harness is your direct connection to kiteboarding bliss!

Unlike rigid hardshell harnesses, the LINK provides optimal balance with its flexible design, allowing easy movement while maintaining stability. Comfort and function take centre stage. The LINK's soft inner padding ensures a high level of comfort, while the anti-slip profile prevents it from slipping up. The LINK can be combined with two spreader bars, the classic hook or the rope spreader bar, particularly popular with wave kites and foilers. The harness is hooked on both sides to the spreader bar via the stainless-steel clasp and tightened via webbing. For optimal safety, the LINK features a safety snap preventing unintentional unhooking. Overall, the LINK is a highly universal harness suitable for all riders, all body types, and all disciplines.

The all-new CORE Link harness could be yours!

**SUBSCRIBE TO WIN,
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...THE NEW CORE LINK HARNESS!





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PHOTO ANDY TROY



WIN

...THE PROLIMIT KITESURF BOARDBAG GOLF TRAVEL LIGHT!

Last but definitely not least, we've linked up with the crew at Prolimit to offer up a prize that will catch the eye of any kiter thinking about going on their next adventure. After all, a kitesurfing quiver isn't complete without something to put it in! In this competition, you could win one of Prolimit's most versatile boardbags...

The Prolimit Kitesurf Boardbag Golf Travel Light is the ultra light kite boardbag for your surf travels. Loading the bag from the top makes it an easy and compact

travel bag. This spacious bag fits a complete quiver of 2-3 kites plus a board. The lightweight construction makes air travel a breeze, while the bulletproof Ripstop Polyester keeps your kit safe. You won't miss a connection with the fixed wheelbase and big wheels, and you may fool even the most eagle-eyed flight crew with the golf logo printed across the top!

Pack your quiver into the Prolimit board bag it deserves!



FACE
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100 ISSUES!

It's quite the milestone... Something that doesn't happen every day; it only happens once. We launched IKSURFMAG in September 2006. I was 30 years old, and that was 17 years ago. A lot has happened in that time. What I can say is that I am incredibly proud to see IKSURFMAG and our fantastic team where it is today, as well as everything we have achieved and built along the way.

I didn't do it alone, of course. Initially set up with my brother Alex and a couple of friends, it was a fast learning curve to go from ad sales and an editorial role to running a business and becoming a publisher. Those early days were very different; we had no money, everything was done on a shoestring, and I ended up selling my pride and joy Volkswagen T4, to pay bills and keep the whole thing afloat.

How did it start, though? The motivation came from working for the previous seven years in the publishing industry, at first selling ads in local and national newspapers, then recruitment magazines (it wasn't very exciting, but it paid the bills). I started kiting in 2000 and was writing and taking pictures for Kitesurf Magazine in the UK by 2002. Call it right place, right time, or a lot of dedication at the birth of a sport. Either way, by 2004, I had secured the dream job as editor at the magazine.

I decided to set up my own magazine as the publisher at Kitesurf had a real issue paying my paltry wages, making it hard to survive. The opportunity back then to travel and write about the sport I loved seemed too good to be true, and I felt like it was an avenue I needed to explore. Not being paid, though,



ROU AND THE INFAMOUS G4 MACBOOK WITH A 30GB HARD DRIVE THAT STARTED IKSURFMAG

made it really difficult, in fact impossible. I figured with my experience in ad sales and editorial, I could do something better on my own.

At the time, broadband internet was a limited commodity. Many countries were still on dial-up, but we could see the potential in the digital sphere, and my brother Alex was just finishing his degree in network management and had a keen interest in coding. I asked him if he could create a digital magazine and showed him an example from

a university project I had found while I was doing research (the original coder and designer wasn't interested).

A few weeks later, and with a lot of hard work by Alex, we had a rudimentary page flip concept that was cutting edge at the time. It was so new when I went out and tried to sell some adverts in it, no one had a clue what a digital magazine was, and I was told no one would read it as magazines were read on the toilet and you can't take a computer in there...

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SUPPORT
US



THE FOUNDERS, ALEX CHATER ON THE LEFT AND ROU CHATER ON THE RIGHT

We cracked on, secured around £4k of ad revenue (not a lot), and proceeded to gather the content and work on the tech. Let's just say the hurdles to get the mag online were a challenge, but when we finally had it finished and uploaded, we were disappointed to discover that it was so heavy on the servers with data it would crash if more than two people were reading it!

We went back to the drawing board, tweaked the software and trimmed the file sizes, and had to massively invest in server power. It took about a week to go from the horror of thinking we had created something that didn't work to finally sharing the link

with the advertisers. The response was incredible, both from the brands that supported us, Flexifoil, Cabrinha, Slingshot, Dakine, Airush, and Takoon, the shops, only Boardworx AKA Whitstable Windsurfing then are still with us from the four shops who bought ads to support us, a nod to the changing fortunes in the water sports industry!

The readers were quick to sign up, and the stats were mesmerising; we'd created this magazine, and people were sharing it, clicking on it and reading it. It was an incredible feeling; we would sit and watch the numbers rack up on Google Analytics and get a real sense of

pride. It would be fair to say the feeling was short-lived as we wrestled with many of the issues a young business faces. We kept at it, though, growing both the advertiser base and the readership every issue.

Just two years in and the financial crisis of 2008 hit, with businesses going under left, right and centre as loans were recalled. We were fortunate to have no debt, having invested our time and our own money. It did mean the advertising revenue all but dried up, though, and we had launched IMB, our mountain bike title, in 2008, too. Talk about bad timing! Thankfully we survived that.

LEGENDARY TECHNIQUE EDITOR CHRISTIAN HARRIS
HAS BEEN WITH US SINCE DAY ONE! HE'S STILL
GOT THE MOVES TOO!



With overseas brands coming on board to support us as we grew, it enabled us to weather more localised issues and have a spread of funds coming from around the world. The magazine kept growing too, although now it became apparent we didn't just have a magazine but a website and social media channels to manage too. The workload was huge, but we carried on, working hard to bring the best of the kitesurfing world right to your fingertips. It was a regular occurrence to be pulling all-nighters and 20-hour days with just 4 hours of sleep back to back for a week when we were on deadline.

In 2010, Apple decided to kill Flash, the software we had been using for our platform, and we had to go back to the drawing board, recreating it in HTML5 - a huge hurdle that Alex, our IT Director, took on headfirst. iPads and smartphones were becoming more prevalent, and we wanted to ensure our magazine could be read on all platforms. It wasn't long before we were totally invested in the new technology, and of course, apps for smartphones were to follow. These were and still are hugely successful. In fact, there is a good chance you are reading this on your phone right now!

That's a key metric in our success, having the ability and skill set to pivot and develop new technology - something we do on a constant basis, whether that is for the front end that you experience or the back end that the team uses behind the scenes. We've developed no less than eight separate pieces of software to make online publishing easier. It's fair to say our ethos is to let technology take the strain as we're financially constrained in terms of how many people we can employ.

To give you a bit of an insight into that, our system NewsCore scans the internet every 30 minutes for content, pulls it in, writes the post and sets up the shares to social media. All our Web Editors have to do is give it the human touch, decide what is worthy and schedule the posts accordingly. A job that used to take 8 hours a day can be done in less than an hour. It also allows us to publish news and stories every 3 hours, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. After all, while Europe sleeps, Australia is eating lunch. Having a global approach to our content sharing certainly had a huge effect on our success.

That success is plentiful, too. IKSURFMAG is the biggest, most widely read kitesurfing platform in the world, to a power of ten at least. Our web traffic far surpasses our competitors, and our free format digital magazine can reach places others can't - something that became even more apparent during Covid when the paper titles struggled to publish.

I'm actually sad to see some of that competition fade - Kiteworld and The Kiteboarder being the most recent victims. I always had the utmost respect for those publications. It will be a sad place if all the magazines disappear. You know you get a good independent review with us, the latest influencer, not so much. We've always prided ourselves on three pillars, tests, technique, travel, what are you going to use, what are you going to do with it, and where are you going to go with it.


I think any kitesurfer will agree that's what is important to them. Those tests still form a pivotal part of our magazine, and we invest a huge amount of time into them. It's easy, of course, to bash us and say they are all good, but over the years,

TECHNIQUE EDITOR AND CHRISTIANS BETTER HALF KARINE NATIVEL HAS ALSO BEEN WITH US SINCE DAY ONE AND IS AN INCREDIBLE RIDER AND COACH



CRYSTAL VENESS JOINED THE TEAM IN 2020 AT FIRST HELPING ROU AS A FEATURES EDITOR
AND NOW SHE IS THE FULL TIME EDITOR FOR THE MAGAZINE
PHOTO LUKE MCGILLEWIE





JEN JOINED THE TEAM IN 2017, STARTING ON SUP TONIC SHE IS NOW THE WEB EDITOR FOR IKSURFMAG AND TONIC MAG, OUR VIDEO EDITOR AND HELPS RUN EVENTS. SHE'S THE MOST EFFICIENT PERSON WE HAVE EVER MET.
PHOTO BISHOY BUSHRA

we've upset plenty of brands when we haven't agreed with their own assessment of the product. Our focus is to be brutally honest; that's the only way we can build that trust with you. No amount of ad revenue can ever change that, and plenty of brand managers out there will attest to that.

Technique is something I know is important to you, too. After all, it is important to me; we all want to be better kilters. Back in 2006, Christian and Karine were working with me at Kitesurf Magazine when I asked them if they wanted to join me on the new project. I explained I'd make them the most popular faces in the kiteboarding world, and after 100 issues, almost 300 moves and over 2000 pages in the magazine

over the years, they have more than surpassed that. Their training clinics sell out instantly, and they continue to provide an invaluable resource for you. We always shied away from teaching pro level moves; after all, the pros don't read mags. You do, and that formula certainly seems to have worked.

We all love to travel, and the annual kite holiday is something that is sacred to many of you. For the last 15 years or so, I was on the road a lot, researching and discovering places to share with you. I've passed that baton to the team these days, but I still love getting on a plane and checking out a new spot. I just wish we could guarantee the wind every time we got on a plane!

Another key area for us has been a focus on women in the sport. We put Kristin Boese on the cover for Issue 17, a first for a kite magazine at the time to have an action shot of a girl riding and not a bikini soft porn hand drag. We've had seven women on the cover over the years; 7 out of 100 doesn't feel like enough, but it's a huge number compared to the rest of the mags out there. I'm also very proud of the Female Focus feature, which has now morphed into Insight, looking at women actually involved in the industry rather than just pro riders, which hopefully offers some insight into how girls can get involved in the sport without having to wear a bikini on TikTok.

Of course, we couldn't have done what we have without a lot of help along the way. The brands are instrumental in keeping us going; without that support, we wouldn't be here, or you'd have to pay to read the mag, at least. The riders and creators within the sport have also been instrumental, but the team here at IKSURFMAG is the real key.

From people who have been with us since day one, like the legendary Christian and Karine, our incredible technique editors, to Jen, our long-time web editor, who has stuck with us through thick and thin and baffles me every day with her incredible work ethic and efficiency. Crystal, the editor of this and every issue since 2021, who gets a special mention as being the first person I have ever come across in the years of doing this job who can actually do it better than me; that's some accolade.

Anastasia, our brand manager, who joined a few years ago, has helped transform the business into what it is today. A big thanks to Karen, our designer, she's been with me since the Kitesurf UK days and is always on the money, and finally to my brother Alex. Without him, we wouldn't be where we are now, not even close. A special mention to those who have been with us along the way. There have been quite a lot of people helping over the years; Lucy and Mary deserve a mention at the very least. It's a team effort and an effort I really hope you as a reader appreciate...

None of us would be here without you, though, so thanks for reading the last 100 issues and here's to the next!

Rou Chater
Publisher

ANASTASIA, ROU AND CRYSTAL RIDING TOGETHER IN SOUTH AFRICA



INSERT: LEFT: ANASTASIA OUR BRAND MANAGER
JOINED IKSURFMAG TWO YEARS AGO
RIGHT: ROU AND KAREN (DESIGNER) HAVE BEEN
WORKING TOGETHER SINCE 2004



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The Airush team set out to deliver a kite that is so precise and
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PHOTO: MITCHELL DOYLE MARKGRAAFF

RIDER: JASON VAN DER SPUY





With a history that goes back to the 1970s, kitesurfing has been around, in some form or other, for almost 50 years; can you believe it?! With a quick glance at all our previous covers, you can see how the sport, and our magazine, has changed since 2006. Yet, the pillars of our sport remain the same. The cover of Issue 100 features 3 of the sport's founding brands - Naish, Cabrinha, and F-ONE, all still a major part of our sport today, performing 3 of the greatest disciplines of kitesurfing.

In this feature, we've put together a timeline of the key points in our kiting history, including the development of the sport, competitive achievements, pop culture, and unforgettable acts by some of our top riders. With so many years to cover and very little media available from the early days, we've certainly missed a few, but we hope you enjoy IKSURFMAG's 100 Moments!

100 MOMENTS: A KITESURFING TIMELINE



01



1826

Sustainable fuel sources are not a new concept; In 1826, British inventor George Pocock patented the Charvolant, a kite-drawn buggy powered by two kites on 450m lines!

03



1977

The first concept of riding a kite on a board is immortalised, with Gijsbertus Adrianus Panhuise from the Netherlands receiving a patent with this drawing of his idea of the sport in 1977.

05



1994

Father and son duo, Bill and Cory Roeseler, release the KiteSki, a commercially available product that could take riders upwind and even relaunch from the water!

07



1997

Things are really taking off in equipment development as the 2-line Wipika kite makes its debut. Remember Bruno and Dominique Legaignoux? These French brothers were the men behind Wipika.

09



1997

Inventor of the kite buggy (1990), Peter Lynn from New Zealand invents the first-ever hybrid kite in 1997, the C-Quad, a single skin delta kite with the bridling of a foil kite. The 6.3m retails for just £200.

1826 >

> 1998

02



1903

Kites officially meets watersports. In 1903, showman Samuel Franklin Cody crossed the English channel in a kite-powered boat, while wearing his trusty cowboy hat!

04



1984

Bruno and Dominique Legaignoux, avid windsurfers, begin experimenting with inflatable kites in the early 80s, patenting the first arc shaped inflatable leading edge kite in 1984.

06



1996

The sport, so far only known as flysurfing, continues to gain traction, with athletes like Laird Hamilton and Manu Bertin ripping it up in Maui. The name flysurfing is dropped in favour of kitesurfing.

08



1997

Raphael Salles is the top-ranked windsurfer on the pro tour, but falls in love with kiteboarding. In 1997, he founds F-ONE and becomes one of the first brands to produce kiteboards that are readily available to the fledgling market.

10



1998

Flash Austin wins the first ever "World Kiteboarding Championship", organised by Joe Keuhl (AKA Joe Cool) on Maui, with key players Robby Naish, Elliot Leboe, and Lou Wainman helping drive the popularity of the event and sport.

11



1999

Naish Sails Hawaii release their first inflatable kite, the AR3.5, after a licensing deal with the Legaigoux brothers. They quickly become market leaders, and Don Montague develops game-changing kite design software.

13



1999

Red Bull King of the Air is born! Kiteboarding captures the attention of Red Bull, and they run their first event in Maui. Robby Naish steals the show and becomes the first King of the Air!

15



2000

The KPT becomes the KPWT (Kiteboard Pro World Tour), including wave and freestyle categories and kiteboard cross (long distance and obstacle) challenges, with seven stages around the world.

17



2001

Cabrinha enters the market with the support of Neil Pryde. Long-time surfer and windsurfer Pete Cabrinha launches the first range of inflatable kites, which are taking over the market.

19



2001

Remember flysurfing? In 2001, FLYSURFER joins the market. The German company, with its paragliding connections, launches a range of three light wind specific, self-filling ram air kites.

1999 >

> 2001

12



1999

Kiteboarding goes global! Frederic Gravoille founds the KPT (Kiteboard Pro Tour), which kicks off in 1999, with stops in Cape Verde, Morocco, and France.

14



1999

Slingshot Kites is founded in the Gorge, the hub of wind sports in the USA. They are one of the first companies that is a dedicated kite brand, as most of the brands at this time have windsurf or paragliding heritage.

16



2001

The competitive scene goes through some growing pains. The BMC World Tour, organised by non-kiters, causes some turmoil, and the PKRA (Professional Kite Riders Association) is formed after the riders vote.

18



2001

Ozone Kites launches and sets up their Parapex factory in Vietnam. Their focus is on foil kite development, and they become industry-leaders in snowkiting with the launch of the first-ever dedicated snowkite the following year.

20



2001

The International Kite Organisation is launched, with a goal to develop a school and instructor network that could deliver kitesurfing to the masses in a safe and independent manner.

REO^{v7}

NEW REO AVAILABLE IN TWO MODELS



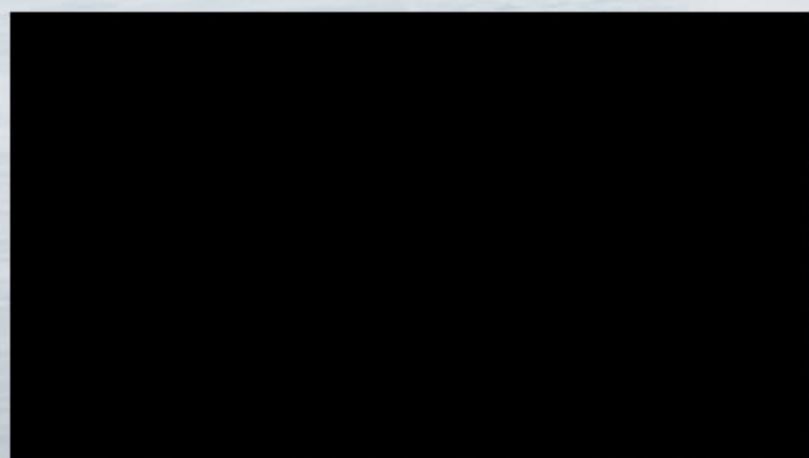
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SURF PERFORMANCE KITE.



REO^{v7} ULTRA^X

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ULTRA-RESPONSIVE, ULTRA-RELIABLE



Rider: Reo Stevens

Photo: Stu Gibson

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21



2001

Only on VHS, the first all-action kiting film is released by Side-Off, called Air Sickness. A year later, they followed up with the release of Strung Out, another action-packed classic!

23



2002

The tragic death of German kitesurfing champion Silke Gorltd during an event in the Baltic Sea raises awareness of safety in kitesurfing, inspiring the industry to invest more into functional safety systems.

25



2002

Inflatable kites start blowing up; Slingshot produces its first inflatable kite, the Fuel, Flexifoil releases the Storm, and F-ONE drops the Mach 1. This is the year when 4-line inflatable kites become the industry standard.

27



2003

Aaron Hadlow makes his debut in the kitesurfing scene. The 14-year-old is already taking the freestyle world by storm, beating competitors much older than him. He goes on to win his first championship in 2004.

29



2004

Gisela Pulido wins her first of many World Championships in freestyle at just 11 years old, competing on the KPWT. She moves on to the PKRA a few years later, picking up more titles there. Today, she competes in hydrofoil racing.

2001 >

> 2004

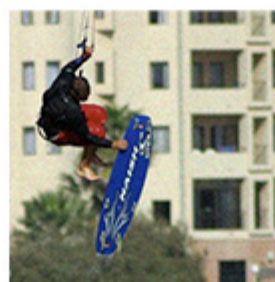
22



2002

Mystic is founded; the accessories brand releases the first mass-produced kitesurfing harness, called the Darkrider. Mystic later grows to become the most popular accessories brand in the sport.

24



2002

Mark Shinn makes a name for himself with his fluid style and technical board-off manoeuvres. He wins two World Championship Tours in one year, the KPWT and the PKRA, on the Naish X2, the "kite of tomorrow, today."

26



2003

Susi Mai wins the Red Bull Queen of the Air on Maui, the first woman to hold the title. Her dominance continues for three consecutive years, all while participating in the KPWT tour.

28



2004

The "Dark Lord" of kitesurfing arrives. Best Kiteboarding launches an internet-only direct sales model. Their low prices and online marketing strategy gains traction with customers. Keyboard warrior war breaks out!

30



2004

The first Gin kite is made by the team at Gin Gliders. It is a foil kite with handles for power kiting and snowkiting. Gin Kiteboarding is formed 3 years later as a dedicated kite brand in Switzerland.

31



2005

In the final KOTA of the era, Robby Naish gets taken down by Ruben Lenten, signalling the changing of the guard. Sadly, the event then takes a hiatus.

33



2005

The bow is born! The Legaigoux brothers are back with a new patent, the bow kite. Cabrinha is the first to manufacture one, called the Crossbow which uses a pulley bar. They are closely followed by Takoon who launch the Nova.

35



2006

IKSURFMAG is born! The very first issue of this magazine launches with Aaron Hadlow on the cover, one of the GOATs of our sport! He's had several covers since, with the latest being Issue 93.

37



2007

The iconic North Rebel (now known as the Duotone Rebel) is released. This hybrid style bow kite becomes one of the most iconic kites in the sport, indicating a major change in the market.

39



2007

CORE Kiteboarding is formed by the team in Fehmarn that runs Carved Custom boards. Their black and white kites become instantly recognisable on the shores of the Baltic Sea and around the world.

2005 >

> 2008

32



2005

5-line kites become the hottest thing in kitesurfing. North releases the 5th Element bar, and everybody wants one. Riders love the 5th-line safety concept, and the industry races to give them what they want.

34



2006

Ozone joins the party with the Instinct, the world's first flat bridled inflatable design with no pulleys and a depower throw within arms reach, breakthroughs at the time. The still-popular Edge is released a year later.

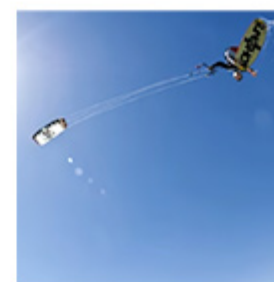
36



2006

Mark Shinn joins Nobile Kiteboarding in Poland as their Brand Manager. Together, they create the most technically advanced boards to date, becoming an instant hit in the European market.

38



2007

Ruben Lenten loops onto the scene. While Aaron Hadlow is sweeping the wakestyle world, Ruben Lenten's signature megaloop instilled shock and awe across the kiteboarding world.

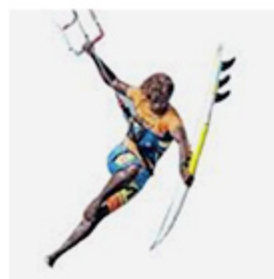
40



2008

Kiting gets organised, with the International Kiteboarding Association being founded by Guillaume Fournier. Later that year, kiteboarding is adopted as an ISAF international sailing class.

41



2008

Pioneer of strapless kitesurfing and F-ONE rider, Mitu Monteiro from Cape Verde wins his first World Title. His incredible style and humble approach inspire a whole generation of strapless kites.

43



2008

Aaron Hadlow wins his 5th World Championship against 100 competitors in the 2008 event! The era of Hadlow continues, and it's showing no signs of stopping. Youri Zoon and Kevin Langeree prove to be tough competitors.

45



2009

Liam Whaley springs onto the scene! The young rider from Tarifa shows off his impressive wakestyle moves in Brazil at only 13 years old. Another generational talent has made his debut!

47



2010

Airush is the first brand to release a one-strut kite, dubbed the One. It's impressive power-to-weight ratio is perfect for lightwind kiting, and other brands are quick to follow this path.

49



2010

Alexandre Caizergues becomes the first man to travel 100km/h on water in Luderitz, Namibia, on his kite. Breaking the world sailing speed record many times, he is still the fastest man on a kite with 107km/h in 2017.

2008 >

> 2011

42



2008

F-ONE launch the Bandit, the first patented new kite design in the industry for some time; it's an instant hit and the sales are huge. The Bandit is still with us today, and the design principal shaped most modern kites.

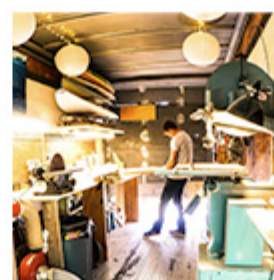
44



2009

Billionaire tycoon Richard Branson is seen in an iconic photo of him kiting with naked model Danni Parkinson on his back. The shot was taken by her boyfriend, photographer Stephane Gautronneau.

46



2010

Santa Cruz local Coleman Buckley develops the first-ever hardshell harness, custom moulded for each client in his workshop. Ride Engine is one of the most popular harness brands on the market today.

48



2010

3x British Champion Lewis Crathern heads out in a huge storm with a mission to jump over the Brighton Pier; he clears the 100ft high pier with room to spare and immediately fills the newsrooms around the world...

50



2011

The IKSURFMAG Readers Awards kick off for the first time! This popular annual contest allows our readers to vote for their favourite equipment, riders, movies, and more! Bruna Kajiya and Youri Zoon win the first awards.

CONQUER EVERY CONDITION



2024 PIVOT

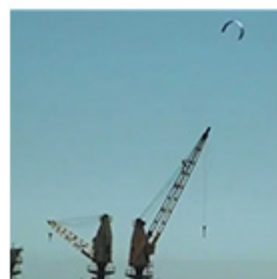
HIGH-PERFORMANCE FREERIDE/BIG AIR
SIZES: 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 14

The Pivot is the perfect fit for anyone who wants to do it all with one kite. This year, we have made performance changes that benefit everyday kiteboarders and pro riders alike. The new draft is optimized for performance based on kite size, providing more control and an increased wind range. Aspect ratios have been fine-tuned for a more comfortable all-around user experience. What you have with the new Pivot is the same all-around performance kite, with a new higher level of control. Utilizing Quad-Tex ripstop canopy material, we've been able to design a new Dacron construction on the wingtips to give improved responsiveness with less weight. After almost a decade of development, the Pivot continues to evolve and sit atop of the food chain.



NAISH

51



2011

Kiteboarding hits its stunt era with rider Nick Jacobsen on the scene. He climbs the crane of the Seli ship wreck near Cape Town, South Africa, before snacking on a Carlucci's sandwich and jumping off!

53



2012

The first version of the IKSURFMAG mobile app is released, giving our readers access to hundreds of techniques, tests, and every issue of the magazine, all available on the go!

55



2013

Lieuwe Boards launches in the Netherlands. Kiteboarder and engineer Florian builds his own CNC machine to create the board he wants. His company becomes known for quality boards with custom design options.

57



2014

Kitesurfing prodigy Mikaili Sol bursts onto the scene. The 10-year-old from Brazil is set to be one of the greatest stars in kitesurfing history, but we don't know it yet!

59



2015

Always coming up with creative projects and stunts, Hannah Whiteley takes to the water in high heels in this classic video. As Hannah says, "life is too short to be serious"!

2011 >

> 2016

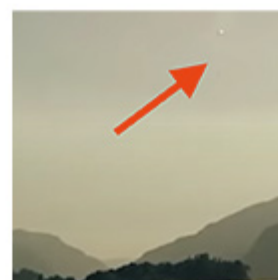
52



2012

A new brand joins the board market. Kiteelement was founded by two brothers with the aim of making kiteboarding more accessible. They become known for their range of affordable split boards.

54



2013

Stuntman Jesse Richman performs a 790-foot tow-up over the Columbia River Gorge before flying himself back down, claiming a kite flying world record. This stunt has never been accomplished by a kiter before!

56



2014

Upwind: Launch of a Sport comes out. This hour-long documentary shares many incredible insights into the early days of kitesurfing and follows the lives of the American pioneers of kiteboarding.

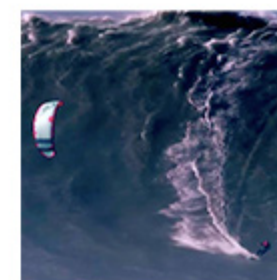
58



2014

Malwina Shinn becomes the CEO of Shinn World, and the first female CEO in a major kiteboarding business. Their boards have a cult following with their high-performance shapes and iconic graphics.

60



2016

A kitesurfer conquers Nazare! Nuno "Stru" Figueiredo takes the Best Cabo out in radical conditions, scoring the world record wave of 19m. The record still stands today.

61



2016

Chapter One: The Kiteboard Legacy Begins has its premiere. It is the first 4K feature-length kiteboarding movie in history, and tells the story of kiteboarding with stunning visuals.

63



2017

Former US President Barack Obama learns to kite at Necker Island after his retirement from the White House, becoming the first world leader to go kitesurfing!

65



2017

The Bubble premieres! Creator Noe Font puts together an artistic and action-packed film with his Duotone team, enjoyed in premieres and viewing parties in kite spots around the world.

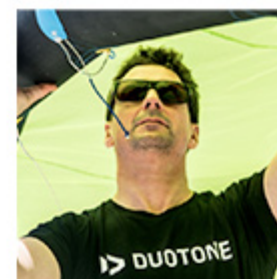
67



2017

Kiteboarding goes to the movies! The remake of Baywatch features an opening scene with Demo LeRoy running into trouble on his kite. Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson comes to the rescue just in time!

69



2018

North Kiteboarding becomes Duotone. While one of the most confusing moments in recent years, they accomplish a massive rebrand overnight. The era of Duotone begins!

2016 >

> 2018

62



2016

The Global Kitesports Association (GKA) is formed as an independent body by kitesurfing's most established brands. They are granted rights to run World Championships and become the leading tour organisation.

64



2017

Nick Jacobsen jumps off of the 321-metre-high Burj Al Arab in Dubai, one of the tallest hotels in the world. This is, to date, one of the greatest stunts that has ever been achieved in kiting.

66



2017

Eleveight makes their debut in the kitesurfing world, with their first product released in 2017. They are now in their 6th year and 7th lineup, and hold some impressive titles for such a young brand!

68



2017

Making the list once again, Team Brunel and Nick Jacobsen teamed up to break the Tow Up world record in Cape Town. Jacobsen set the new record at a staggering 277 meters.

70



2018

World Sailing officially confirms that kiteboarding will make its Olympic Games debut in 2024 in Paris, France. This announcement sparks a major development run in hydrofoil racing products.

JEREMY BURLANDO

DEDICATION AND PASSION TO THE PROGRESSION



Sabot V3

71



2018

Kitesurfing makes its debut in the 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Young athletes have the opportunity to compete for medals in twin tip slalom racing.

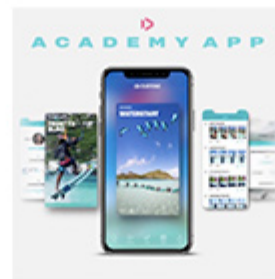
73



2019

Kiteboarding hero and big air legend Ruben Lenten finds his home with the Ozone team after a few years as a free agent after the shocking closure of Best Kiteboarding.

75



2019

The best app in kiteboarding (other than the IKSURFMAG app!) launches. Duotone Academy features more than 200 lessons to level up your riding. This is an app that every kiteboarder should have!

77



2019

The Triple S Invitational hosted by Real Watersports in Cape Hatteras holds its final event after a 13 year run beginning in 2006. They end it with a bang, hosting a MEGA event with a huge prize purse!

79



2019

A team of women in Cape Town get together to run the "A Queen Is Born" event, proving that women are capable of sending it. Angely Buillot becomes a big air hero. She qualifies for KOTA the following year.

2018 >

> 2020

72



2018

The world's first click-in chicken loop reaches the market. Ozone sets a new benchmark for the kiteboarding quick release. Other brands are quick to follow, as kites take to this easier than ever method.

74



2019

In one of the most iconic and hilarious pop culture moments in kitesurfing, Marge Simpson goes kitesurfing in an episode of The Simpsons, and Homer has a session on the Widow Maker.

76



2019

The Hadlow era hasn't ended, but he celebrates 20 years of kitesurfing in this full-length documentary by Laci Kobulsky. TWENTY highlights Hadlow's incredible career.

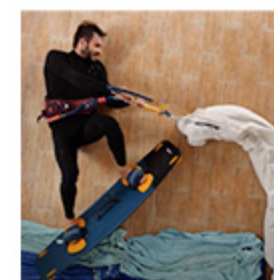
78



2019

North Kiteboarding launches as a new brand with a brand new team under the North Actionsports Group umbrella. Mystic and North join forces as they begin a strong push into the market.

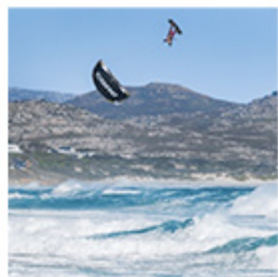
80



2020

Kiteboarding as we know it comes to a stop as the COVID pandemic shuts down global travel. Kiteboarders get desperate and creative at home as they dream of their next day on the water.

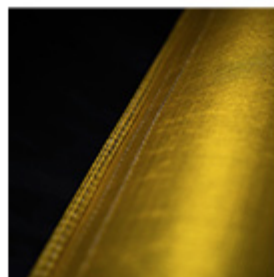
81



2020

The entire magazine industry breaks down as they can't be printed or distributed; IKSURFMAG keeps going with a skeleton crew. After all, COVID can't kill the internet!

83



2020

Aluula makes its official entry into the world of kiting. The ultra-light composite material injects fresh energy into the development of lighter, stronger kites. Sadly, it also comes with a hefty price tag.

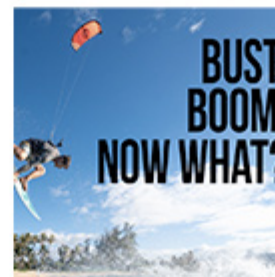
85



2020

Liquid Force Kiteboarding shuts its doors, marking the end of an era for the Oregon based brand with a global reach. The team disperses, many finding homes in other brands in the Hood River area.

87



2020

As kitesurfers adjust their lifestyles around COVID, working from home allows more time on the water; the industry sees a massive boost and demand for new and secondhand kites goes through the roof.

89



2021

The big air scene gains some new faces. Italians Andrea Principi and Lorenzo Casati start to collect podiums at major events like Lords of Tram and Cold Hawaii. They push the young big air scene to new heights.

2020 >

> 2022

82



2020

Send It! Kitesurfing goes more mainstream than ever as the focal point in this awkward coming-of-age movie, made for the mass market but not well received. The movie featured pro kites as stunt doubles.

84



2020

Nick Jacobsen joins team North and revisits his iconic crane jump in his home country of Denmark, teaming up with shipping vessel MV Leap Heart for one more unforgettable stunt!

86



2020

The Slingshot UFO lands in Hood River, and rider Fred Hope baffles onlookers with his skilled and elegant riding style. The strutless kite becomes a favourite in the foil riding community.

88



2021

A new approach to harness design reaches the market. AK Durable Supply Co creates the AK Ether harness, a minimalist, lightweight harness with a unique load-distribution system.

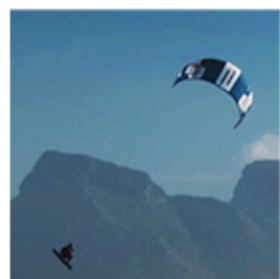
90



2022

Mikaili Sol is the first female rider to land a 317. She continues to dominate the competitive kiteboarding world, branching out into big air and wave riding while winning almost every freestyle event she enters.

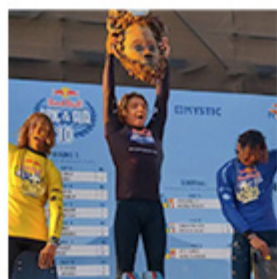
91



2022

Big air takes another leap forward; Giel Vlugt from the Netherlands is the first kiter to land a double kite loop, sparking a wave of progression. The 2022 King of the Air promises to be the most extreme yet.

93



2022

The surprise 2022 King of the Air podium has Lorenzo Casati in 1st. Jamie Overbeek claims 2nd after fighting his way through after qualifying as a Porsche Golden Ticket competitor. The new era of big air is officially here.

95



2022

Jalou Langereef's retirement marks the end of one of the longest-running careers in female kiteboarding. Her documentary, Reconnect, tells her story of breaking boundaries for women in kitesurfing.

97



2023

In another pop culture first, a kiteboarder wins a reality show! Frenchman Edgar Ulrich joins the cast of Love Island, taking home the win, and his partner, Cindy. Will she learn to kite?

99



2023

The WOO jump height world record is broken multiple times in one day. Josh Emanuel takes it on the just-released XR Pro, a shiny update to their big air masterpiece, the XR! Learn more about this kite in the Tech Focus section of this issue!

2022 >

> 2023

92



2022

Brainchild Production shows us a glimpse of the future with groundbreaking work on recycled materials and revolutionary printed material. Which brand will be the first to embrace this exciting new method? There's a sneak peek in this issue...

94



2022

Gin Kites joins SP80 in an effort to break the world sailing speed record of 78.26mph, held by Vestas Sailrocket 2 since 2012. The kite-powered trimaran is testing, and aims to reach 80mph in spring 2024.

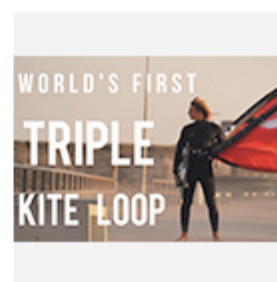
96



2023

Francesca Maini becomes the first woman to land a double kite loop in a competition at the BAKL event in Cape Town. Angely Bouillot claims her first double loop on the same day.

98



2023

Lorenzo Casati becomes the first kiteboarder ever to land a triple kite loop. The big air game is evolving quickly, and riders like Lorenzo are leading the charge.

100



TODAY

Today marks 100 issues and 17 years of dedication to curating and sharing incredible stories and images to kites around the world, all for free, and accessible anywhere, anytime. Here's to 100 more!

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THE
CODE



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WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS PHOTOS C MAURITIUS


ALL EYES ON THE EAST

C KITE FESTIVAL 2023

Welcome to Palmar, Mauritius, where kites from all over the world gathered for the 2nd edition of the C Kite Festival.

Join Crystal Veness on her journey to this kitesurfing paradise rich in cultural heritage.

From jaw-dropping tricks by World Champions to heartwarming success stories by passionate kites, this article is a sneak peek at what awaits those who venture into the east coast of Mauritius.

A full-page photograph of a kiter surfer in mid-air, holding a blue and white kiteboard with the name 'ELEVIGHT' on it. The surfer is wearing a dark wetsuit. Below, a tropical beach scene unfolds with a large resort building featuring a thatched roof, palm trees, and people on the sand. The sky is filled with dramatic, grey clouds. An orange vertical bar is on the right side of the image.

**"THIS PERFECT PARADISE SURROUNDED BY ALL
THE ENERGY OF THE KITING COMMUNITY"**

What feels better than standing on a warm, sandy beach as the sun kisses your face, the wind whispers through the palms, with the gentle sound of waves breaking on the reef in the distance? The only thing that beats it is knowing that your next several days will be spent in this perfect paradise surrounded by all the energy of the kiting community. This is where I found myself a few weeks ago, on the beautiful beaches of Palmar, Mauritius, taking in all of the sights and sounds of the spot before the 2nd edition of the C Kite Festival kicked off!

I had an idea of what to expect, having heard all about last year's inaugural event, but the wait was finally over. When the doors of that Air Mauritius flight opened, and I felt my first blast of warm and slightly humid nighttime air, I was thrilled. The excitement continued growing as our shuttle bus travelled towards the luxurious C Mauritius resort on the island's most pristine stretch of beachfront. I already felt like I was dreaming after a lovely meal of fresh seafood and a perfectly mixed mojito, followed by a blissful sleep in a gigantic king-sized bed. But I knew this was just the beginning, as I hadn't seen Mauritius in the daylight yet! I fell asleep dreaming of the warm water and tropical breeze I knew I'd be experiencing tomorrow.

More than just a dream kite destination, the Republic of Mauritius is rich in culture and an exciting experience for visitors from Western nations. This forested mountainous island with its tropical shorelines was formed by a volcanic eruption millions of years ago, located in the Indian Ocean off the southeastern coast of the African continent.

RIDER ARTHUR GUILLEBERT



“THE CHAMPIONS AND INFLUENCERS TOOK TO THE WATER TO PUT ON A SHOW FOR EVERYONE ON THE BEACH.”

RIDER TOM HEBERT

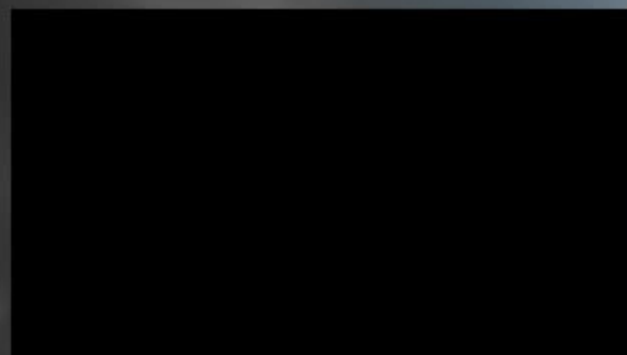
Because the island was born from the sea, it was believed to be uninhabited until 975, and its fascinating history since then involved claims and settlement attempts from the Arabs, Portuguese, Dutch, French, and British before achieving independence in 1968.

It is an incredibly diverse island with no official languages, but several can be heard

on any given day, primarily French-based Mauritian Creole. You won't have too much trouble getting around speaking English, but I would practise your 'merci beaucoup' just in case! A journey away from the kite beaches will introduce you to vibrant cities such as Port Louis, where you'll see colourful Hindu temples and sample a delicious selection of local cuisines; Mauritian cuisine

features elements of Indian, Creole, French and Chinese. I highly encourage visitors to set a few days aside to take a break from kiting and explore everything Mauritius has to offer!

But kiting brought us there, so let's get back to that! The C Kite Festival kicked off with a gentle breeze on the first day, and the beach quickly filled up with colourful kites. The champions and influencers took to the water to put on a show for everyone on the beach.



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CARTAN²

RIDE A
MASTERPIECE





Each morning, the pros were on the water to do a showcase. Of course, we all could have joined them on the water, but who wouldn't want to watch Arthur Guillebert, Youri Zoon, Tom Hebert, Louka Pitot, Oswald Smith, Ellie Dimitrova, Paul Serin, Victor Hays, Hay Katz, and the talented host, Antoine Auriol show their stuff? It was a symphony of skill on the water, and we were mesmerised.

Arthur Guillebert proved why he won his World Championship with wakestyle moves, inspiring other international athletes and freestyle talents, Louka Pitot, who lives in Mauritius, and Oswald Smith from South Africa, to do the same. It's one thing seeing advanced freestyle moves on YouTube, but these riders compete at a global level, and it's that much more impressive to see it in person. Of course, Arthur is no one-trick pony, and his megaloop tricks were equally as amazing!

Old school will always be cool, and Tom Hebert is the king of this, bringing his New-Cal style to the beaches of Palmar. Youri Zoon, another World Champion, has traded in his boots for foot straps, and these two former competitors and good friends were in perfect harmony on the water, putting together some synchronised moves for the excited audience. I had never seen Hay Katz kite before, other than on social media, but he rode with such a style and had so much variety in his tricks that I became an instant fan! And, of course, Antoine Auriol had such a smooth, effortless style to his riding, and he exuded as much stoke on the water as he did on the beach!

The C Kite Festival was a dream of Antoine's that he first put to paper just a year and a half ago.

RIDERS YOURI ZOON AND TOM HEBERT

**"THESE TWO FORMER COMPETITORS
AND GOOD FRIENDS WERE IN PERFECT
HARMONY ON THE WATER"**



**"IT WAS EASY FOR ANYONE OF ANY LEVEL TO COMPETE,
AND THE FUN FACTOR WAS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH!"**



Antoine proves the power of manifestation because the first C Kite Festival happened only six months after this idea came to mind. What's unique about the C Kite Festival is that it brings international pros together with kites of every level, and the good vibes and the stoke are boundless. It's not a competition; the pro riders in attendance were in holiday mode, too! It was just a fun event where they could enjoy their time on the water and enjoy the easy vibes of the east coast of Mauritius.

The only competition was the Best Trick & Big Air event, which was open to amateurs only, with the pros taking on the roles of judges. It was quite the professional panel, with GKA judge Paul Serin on board! It was easy for anyone of any level to compete, and the fun factor was at an all-time high! Local grom, Oscar Jalon, took home the win in the Big Air competition, while everybody's favourite East Kite School team member, Martin, won the Best Trick competition. Everyone on the podiums took home a superb selection of swag and prizes, thanks to the many generous sponsors of the C Kite Festival.

There was live music every night, with electric violinist Elis Santana kicking things off, walking through the crowd with her violin and accompanied by a live DJ. The second night blew the roof off, with the talented Yarden Saxophone taking to the stage. Her set was out of this world, and the whole hotel rocked that night! The food experiences were incredible, too. I found myself constantly surprised by every new experience and every new flavour.

RIDER AMATEUR BIG AIR WINNER OSCAR JALON



PHOTO: N. BALABOV / INTER. COTRANINA.ORG

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**“ WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT THE C KITE FESTIVAL IS THAT IT BRINGS
INTERNATIONAL PROS TOGETHER WITH KITERS OF EVERY LEVEL,
AND THE GOOD VIBES AND THE STOKE ARE BOUNDLESS ”**

RIDER ELLIE DIMITROVA



"IMAGINE LEARNING TO KITE AND SHARING YOUR FIRST RIDES ON THE WATER WITH SOME OF THE WORLD'S BEST AND MOST FAMOUS KITESURFERS."

RIDER: HOST ANTOINE AURIOL

The Street Food Market was a wonderful way to try all types of Mauritian cuisine and the fantastic locally made rums and craft-brewed beers, all with our feet in the sand by the resort's beach bar. The fresh seafood was endless, and I had the burger of the year thanks to a guest appearance by Thomas Frake, winner of UK's Masterchef. They weren't messing about when they described

C Kite as a Festival; every day embodied this word in every way.

It wasn't only the international athletes and the festival atmosphere that made this event memorable. There were three very special stories from the event's attendees that I wanted to highlight, as these, to me, are what made C Kite Festival stand out against every other kite event I've been to.

One of the most heart-warming success stories of the 2nd C Kite Festival came from one of the women competing in the amateur Big Air competition; she had learned to kitesurf just last year at the first round of the C Kite Festival, and I've got to say, her jumping skills were on point! The East Kite School is based at C Mauritius, right on the water's edge, and they were teaching students throughout our stay at the resort.

Manon Lanza, an extreme sports lover and talented motor racer, skateboarder, and snowboarder, took her first kite lessons during the C Kite Festival and was up and riding in no time! Imagine learning to kite and sharing your first rides on the water with some of the world's best and most famous kitesurfers. What an experience!

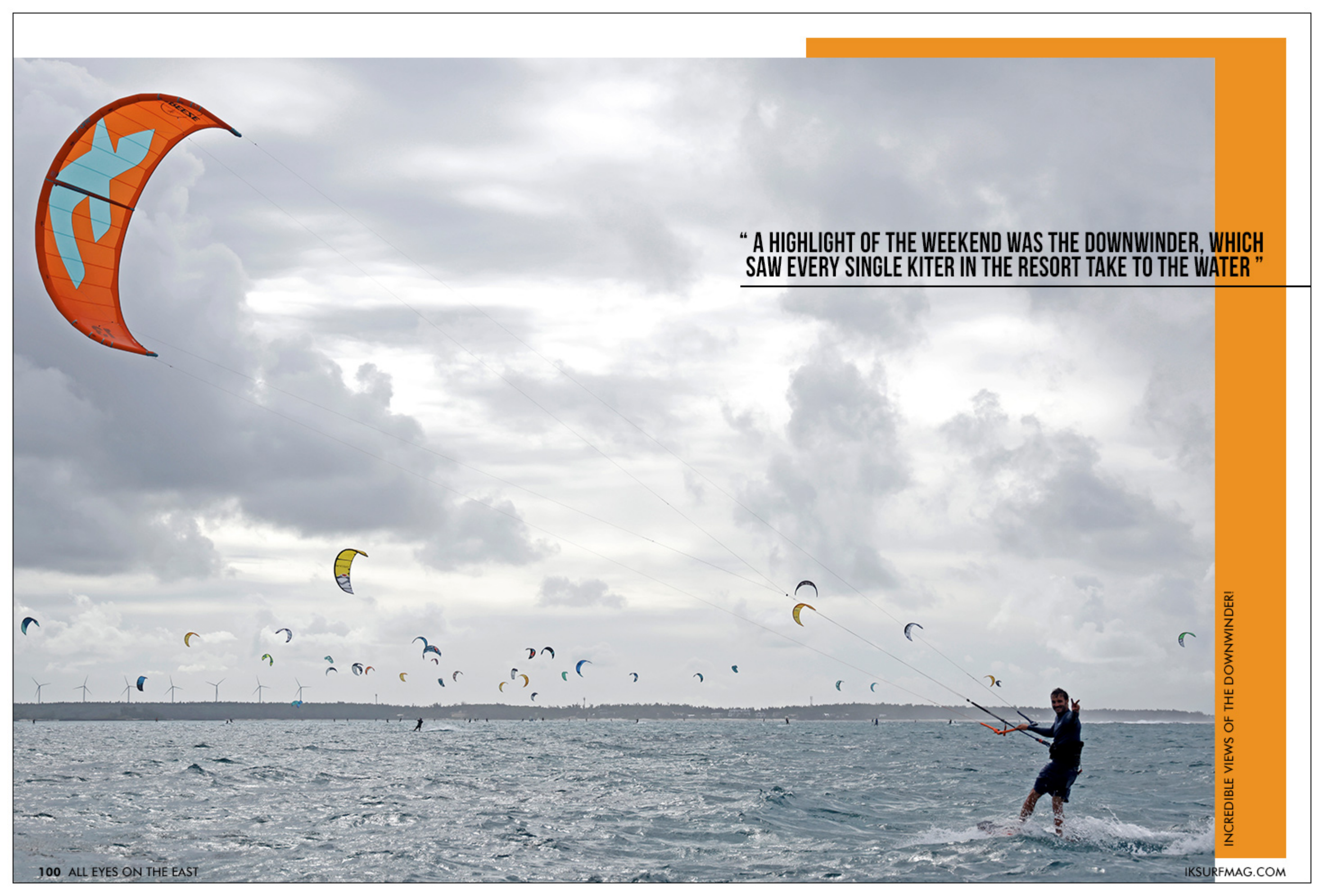
An especially sweet story that I can't help but share is that two of the attendees of this year's event met at the 1st edition last year and had a special connection, arriving together to experience the event again as a couple. If finding love with a fellow kitesurfer isn't the greatest prize of all, I don't know what is!

A highlight of the weekend was the downwinder, which saw every single kiter in the resort, including the Resort Manager, Olivier de Guardia, take to the water for an approximately 20 km journey from the beachfront in Palmar, right in front of C Mauritius, all the way down to Poste Lafayette. It was incredible to see the beauty of the east coast from the water and look all around you to see kites smiling and cruising over the clear lagoon, while the pros jumped overhead. Arriving to refreshments and all sorts of stoke at the downwind spot with its incredibly shallow water full of hazards underfoot, it was immediately apparent that the lagoon in front of C Mauritius is one of the best kite spots on the entire island. While booties are everybody's best friend in Mauritius due to the rich marine environment, the clean beaches of Palmar, easy launch spot, and vast, protected lagoon are something few other spots on the island can offer.

"IT WAS IMMEDIATELY APPARENT THAT THE LAGOON IN FRONT OF C MAURITIUS IS ONE OF THE BEST KITE SPOTS ON THE ENTIRE ISLAND."

RIDER HAY KATZ





"A HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEKEND WAS THE DOWNWINDER, WHICH SAW EVERY SINGLE KITER IN THE RESORT TAKE TO THE WATER"

INCREDIBLE VIEWS OF THE DOWNWINDER!



“KITESURFERS HAVE A UNIQUE SENSE OF ADVENTURE AND RESILIENCE WHEN IT COMES TO TRAVEL.”

Kitesurfers have a unique sense of adventure and resilience when it comes to travel. We'll cross heaven and earth to get to the best kite spots and often embrace the struggle of dodgy rental cars and questionable accommodations, but we do so for the sake of wind. My previous kite adventures have been just that, adventures - and haphazard ones at that! I've never allowed myself to experience a luxury kite trip, perhaps out of stubbornness.

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**"THE C KITE FESTIVAL HAS
UNDOUBTEDLY BROUGHT MANY
NEW EYES TO MAURITIUS'S
EAST COAST"**

RIDER AMATEUR BIG AIR WINNER OSCAR JALON

The greatest lesson I learned on this trip is that kite trips don't have to be a struggle. You don't have to worry about rental cars, wondering where the nearest grocery shop is, how to get to the beach, or if your equipment will be safe. It is possible to go on a kite trip and only worry about which kite to pump up!

Staying at C Mauritius was like travelling on easy mode with a luxury upgrade! You can wake up with a view of the kite beach and wander down to the water barefoot to dip your toes in just to remind yourself that, yes, the water is warm, and yes, you're in paradise! There's an incredible selection and variety of food available at all times, with three restaurants onsite; an Aperol Spritz or chilled bottle of champagne is never more than a minute away! The soothing spa was a special treat, especially after the mega-downwinder, and, best of all, the always helpful staff made it impossible not to spend the whole day smiling. An all-inclusive resort is, without question, the best way to treat yourself and your family after hauling them across the world for your latest kite trip. ;)

It's been a few weeks since I've been home, but I have the funny photo booth picture with the wonderful new friends I made in Mauritius on my desk, and I'm instantly transported back to the pristine beaches of Palmar every time I see it. The C Kite Festival has undoubtedly brought many new eyes to Mauritius's east coast, and for good reason. This was my first time experiencing this side of the island, and it won't be my last. I hope to see some of you at the 3rd edition of the C Kite Festival! Who knows? You may be part of the next success story...

WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS, MATCHU LOPES, KEAHI DE ABOITIZ, REO STEVENS

Three of the world's best wave kites, Matchu Lopes, Keahi de Aboitiz, and Reo Stevens, take us under the lip in 'The Barrel Section'! From courage and experience to equipment specifics to the spot itself, it must all come together to get that perfect barrel. In this IKSURFMAG exclusive, you'll find out what it takes to get totally pitted, bro!

THE BARREL SECTION

If that standing barrel from Reo Stevens on the previous page made you stop and go, "Whoa.", you wouldn't be alone. Surfing a standing barrel while looking supremely casual and relaxed is not something many humans, especially kitesurfing humans, will ever experience. The barrel club in kiting is a small one, and finding out the secret password is not for the faint of heart!

Let's hear from Matchu Lopes, who we caught up with during the latest GKA Kite Surf World Tour in Rio de Janeiro. Matchu shares what and who inspired him to chase barrels and all the hard work it took to get there...

Matchu Lopes: "You know, riding barrels is something I was never good at, but it always caught my attention. I always saw Keahi, Mitu, Airton, and Reo, these great riders getting really good barrels. I hadn't figured it out properly; I was doing turns and airs, and then I finally said I'm going to do this. I stopped doing turns. I was only looking for barrels. It was a game changer for my life and my motivation to be on the water. Getting barreled with surfing is just mind-blowing. With kiteboarding, it's so difficult, and getting a long barrel is even harder. But I had set the challenge for myself. I wanted barrels. I wanted proper, standing, tall barrels.

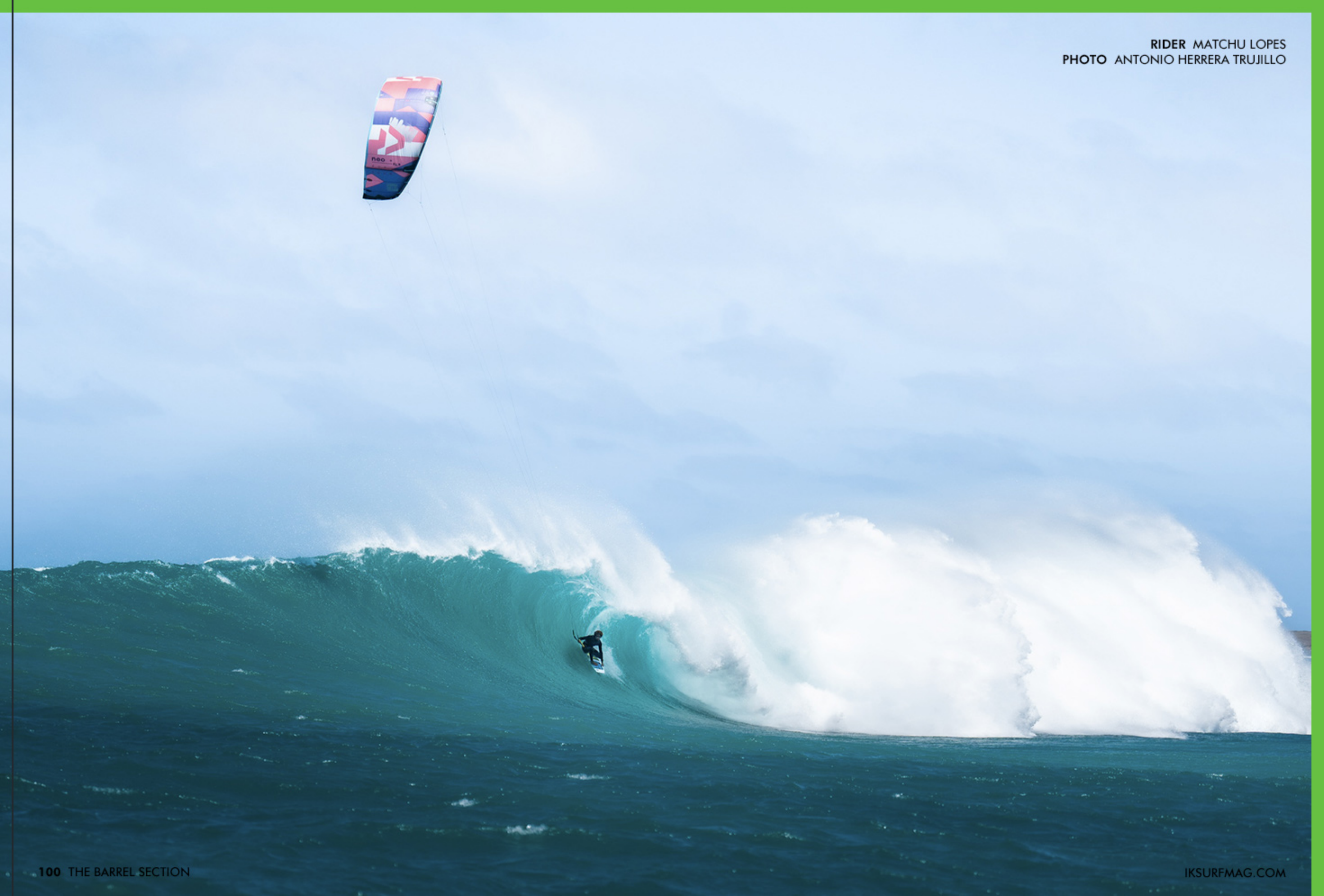
"I discovered a wave in Cape Verde, where I'm from. I had seen it for many years, but it was a really hard wave, and I was always scared to go there. I had excuses for everything and anything to avoid it. But one day, it was on. I went there. It was three times overhead; I was shaking, I was nervous, I couldn't do anything. I got two or three waves, and I felt like I was literally about to die. But I was watching the wave and starting to understand, and Keahi was around,

RIDER MATCHU LOPES



"I HAD SET THE CHALLENGE FOR MYSELF. I WANTED BARRELS. I WANTED PROPER, STANDING, TALL BARRELS."

RIDER MATCHU LOPES
PHOTO ANTONIO HERRERA TRUJILLO



Every year for 20 years
it just kept getting better.

Stealth Harness



"IT REQUIRES A LOT OF EFFORT, ENERGY, AND COURAGE, BUT IT'S THE BEST THING EVER."



which added some motivation. After 40 minutes, I was chasing the biggest wave of the day to get the biggest barrel of the day. It was the best day of my life.

"Since then, I've been adjusting my gear to what works better in the barrel. The gear and technique are very important. I normally don't ride bigger than a 10m, especially if it's offshore. If it's very offshore, 10m is already too much. I would practise my position on the wave, how to stall, and where to stay. I was doing a lot of visualisation and also

trying to mentalise a little bit. It requires a lot of effort, energy, and courage, but it's the best thing ever. It's addictive!

"Sometimes, when I'm on the wave, I don't look anywhere; I just look ahead. I say to myself, don't look; just go. Just pull in. Just hold it, grab your board on the rail, put your butt on the wave, bar in front, kite low, so it's not touching the lip too much. Push, close your eyes if you need to, and just go. Just go, and it will happen. And I ended up scoring some pretty sick barrels over the past few years.

We have some good ones in Cape Verde, where there is a sandbar. They're not super big, but they're long and travel, and it's really, really good.

"My biggest dream is to go to Fiji and get big-time barreled - standing tall, touching the roof, for five seconds. Wow, that would be the dream. As a goofy rider, it must be wild. As I said, it's the best thing ever. For real, the best thing ever. It's the best feeling; there's so much adrenaline and focus for such a few seconds. It's crazy. Mind-blowing. I don't think there is anything that beats that feeling. It's just insane."

"FIJI IS A PLACE I'VE GROWN TO LOVE THANKS TO ITS DIVERSITY WITH AMAZING CONDITIONS FOR ALL THE WATER SPORTS I DO."



The absolute enthusiasm when Matchu speaks about riding barrels is hard to translate to the page, but we hope you can feel it when you read his words! Speaking of Fiji, Keahi de Aboitiz, who appears on the cover of this issue, scored that barrel shot in Fiji. While he's no stranger to riding barrels (Tunnel Vision, anyone?), this was his first time under the lip on his new kit. Keahi tells us about his trip to Fiji and what it took to get the shot!

Keahi de Aboitiz: "After almost 15 years with my long-term sponsor Cabrinha, it was time for a change, and it's been a pleasure joining the F-One team for Moona and I so far for 2023.

"With a solid forecast on the cards, I thought, what better way to put the new kite gear through its paces than by taking a trip back to Fiji?! I hadn't been back for a good kite swell since filming for Tunnel Vision in 2019, so I knew I had to pull the trigger, and Moona and Reo decided to join for some fun. Although it can be hard to lock down a good forecast too far out, Fiji is a place I've grown to love thanks to its diversity with amazing conditions for all the water sports I do. If you go with all the gear and mindset to make the most of whatever is thrown at you, you can't go wrong between kiting, wing foiling, surfing and foiling.

"We loaded up the bags with everything and made the trek down for what looked like a very fun run of waves. Like always, the forecast changed as we got closer to the swell, but with a couple afternoons of light wind mixed with a solid swell, we rolled the dice and hoped for the best out at Cloudbreak. For me, I've grown to love challenging days like this. Big wash through sets keeps the surfers away, and lighter winds mean the waves stay extra glassy.

RIDERS MOONA WHYTE AND KEAHI DE ABOITIZ
PHOTO STUART JOHNSON



If you can sift through the wash throughs and find the waves that push back onto the ledge, there are some amazing gems to be found.

"We linked up with my good friend Stu Johnson and decided it was worth trying to shoot wide angle amongst the wash throughs on the off chance of scoring gold. He paid some tax with a few big sets on the head, but massive props to him for being in the spot and nailing a couple of insane shots. So far, so good testing out the new Shadow and Bandit S from F-One, and they definitely held their own in some trying conditions. After trading off on some perfect barrels, it was time to call it a day and focus on foiling and wing foiling for the rest of the trip. It's always a gamble on trips like this, but you gotta love when it pays off! Until next time, Fiji!"

The recipe for a perfect barrel isn't complete yet! Equipment is critical, and next up, we're hearing from Reo Stevens. Jim Gaunt gives him the perfect introduction: "Since the very early days of the sport when he was just a young grom, Reo Stevens has been a name synonymous with kiteboarding, and he was right there with the first riders in Hawaii to kite waves on surfboards. Ever since then, he has continued to push the levels of a pure wave style and commitment. When it comes to speed, flow and powerful turns in critical sections, Reo has no fear and takes full command of all conditions. With senses honed at home on Oahu, few riders have such a barrel catching ability, either!"

Known for having the industry's first down-the-line kite made purely for wave riding, Ozone has just dropped two new versions of the Reo, the Reo V7 and the Reo V7 Ultra X. Who better to tell us about it than Reo Stevens?"



"IT'S ALWAYS A GAMBLE ON TRIPS LIKE THIS, BUT YOU GOTTA LOVE WHEN IT PAYS OFF!"

RIDER KEAHI DE ABOITIZ
PHOTO STUART JOHNSON

RIDER REO STEVENS
PHOTO STUART JOHNSON

DUOTONE

"I IMMEDIATELY NOTICED HOW MUCH LIGHTER THE KITE WAS THE MOMENT I TOOK IT OUT OF THE BAG"



Reo Stevens: "Anytime a new kite comes into my hands, whether it's the first production sample or a "one-off" prototype, I prefer to know nothing about it. First, unbiased impressions are always the most revealing. So with that in mind, when I first received the first production samples of the new Reo V7 Ultra X, I had no idea or clue what the "Ultra X" was or any hints at what the upgrades would be for the new V7. I immediately noticed how much lighter the kite was the moment I took it out of the bag to pump it up for the first time. While connecting the pump, I noticed the different material and got excited as I know the difference that a material change can make."

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RIDER REO STEVENS
PHOTO STUART JOHNSON



"I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL HERE, GRABBED MY BOARD AND QUICKLY RAN TO THE WATER FOR MY FIRST SESSION ON THE NEW MODEL."

"Immediately after launching, I could feel the enhanced response time - even though my current Reo V6 kites were new, this new Ultra X material made the kite feel a level above in stiffness and response time, making the kite feel "extra crispy" and "extra new". I knew there was something special here, grabbed my board and quickly ran to the water for my first session on the new model.

"The Reo V7 Ultra X has the same "Reo" feel that we've all grown to love but with subtle enhancements of those beloved characteristics:

smooth and predictable drift, direct feeling in the bar (knowing that you're actually turning your kite through feel) - both must haves while wave riding so you can focus on riding the wave and not looking at flying the kite. Big takeaways for me on the first sessions were that I noticed the lighter kite increases the light wind drift (it's simply lighter and needs less wind), the depower throw was longer (the distance between power on and power off), and there was greater stability in the kite when fully depowered. The direct response also increased my low end on the kite,

not from sheeting in, but rather in its ability to generate power by moving through the wind window.

"If you're serious about your wave riding, I wouldn't hesitate to upgrade to the Reo V7 Ultra X!"

Thanks to these three legends of the barrel for joining us in this special feature! The photos speak for themselves, but knowing what it takes to get the shots is worth quite a bit more than a thousand words... 1644, to be exact.

RS

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Rider: Antoine Ollivier
Picture: Laci Kobulsky



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On The Fly

EXCLUSIVE SNEAK PEAK // THE NEW HARLEM KITESURFING GAME CHANGER LINEUP

Are you ready for the future of kitesurfing? Harlem is stepping up their game! The new Game Changer Lineup showcases top-of-the-line performance with a jaw-dropping CO2 footprint and stunning looks!



Focused on performance, sustainability, and customisation, these kites are designed in the Netherlands and made in the heart of Europe.

Do you want to see more?

Stay tuned for what's coming at the end of August!





Ever since Rou Chater joined the crew of Kite Boat Cruises for an unforgettable luxury sailing holiday back in December, we've been daydreaming about a visit to the Bahamas with Aritz, Lauren, and their crew!

What beats cruising the crystal clear waters of the Caribbean, chasing down kite spots that will take your breath away? Perhaps doing so on one of their two luxury sailing yachts while dining on fresh seafood, snorkelling vibrant coral reef, riding the latest kite and foil kit, and sharing the island-hopping adventure with your nearest and dearest! With the sailing season about to kick off again, now is the best time to book a trip to the Bahamas!

Check out our Travel Guide video for Kite Boat Cruises, which highlights the newest catamaran in their fleet, the 58-foot Windchaser 1.

[Click here to find out more!](#)



On The Fly

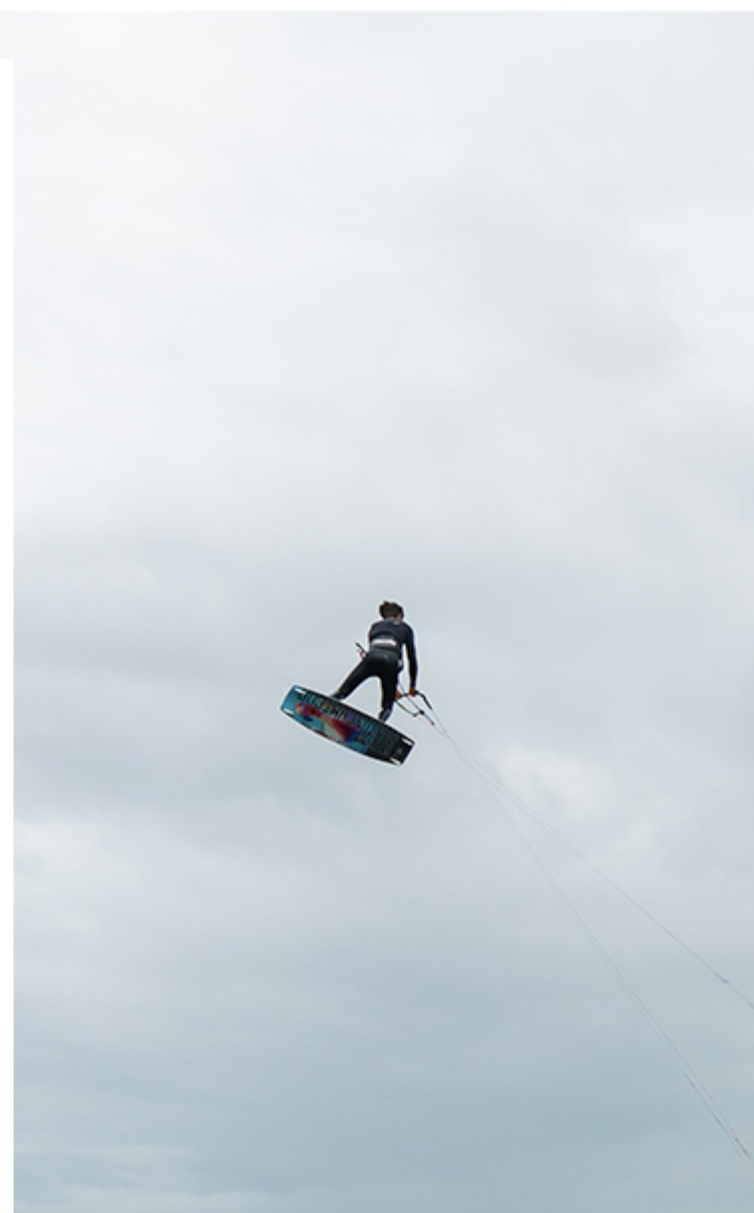
THE BAHAMAS // KITE BOAT CRUISES

On The Fly



TURNING HEADS // EVAN KLIJN X FLYSURFER

With the recent move to the FLYSURFER team, Evan Klijn is already turning heads and breaking records. Evan has claimed the WOO World Record for Airtime with a 26.0 second jump on the latest version of the Sonic closed-cell foil kite. He's also put short lines on it to perform some insane low loops! Have you ever seen anything like it?! We look forward to seeing what's next from this Dutch athlete!



RIDER EVAN KLIJN
PHOTOS NICOLE FEENSTRA



EXPLORING WINDY WONDERS //

TANGUY NEF

Embarking on an unforgettable journey through the captivating waters of Sardinia, Tanguy Nef takes us on a sailing and kitefoiling adventure that will immerse us in the beauty of this incredible destination. From the untamed landscapes of the Maddalena Nature Park to the exhilarating winds that propelled them, every moment of this extraordinary journey was made possible by the guidance and expertise of Tanguy Nef. Join Gin Kites and Tanguy Nef as they recount the remarkable experiences, breathtaking locations, and the unparalleled performance of Gin Kiteboarding products that made this adventure an unforgettable chapter in their lives.



Can you share your overall experience of your sailing trip in Sardinia?

Tanguy Nef: For our annual holiday, my brother and I decided to rent a sailing yacht, creating an opportunity for us and our friends to share in the joy and excitement. Navigating through the stunning northern islands of Sardinia, each stop along our journey unveiled a new realm of endless possibilities. To ensure an unforgettable experience, I packed all my essential equipment, including two GIN Instinct HB foil kites (8m & 15m), the Geek 4, a 35L board tailored for kitefoiling, pumping, and winging, and a 60L board designed for winging. With favourable wind conditions accompanying us throughout, we relished a tranquil vacation immersed in the captivating embrace of the open water.

What factors made Sardinia an ideal destination for your kitefoiling adventure?

TN: To begin with, Sardinia is an exceptional destination. The Maddalena Nature Park presents exceptionally preserved and untamed landscapes,



On The Fly

EXPLORING WINDY WONDERS //

TANGUY NEF

coupled with nearly constant wind. We enjoyed a consistently strong wind exceeding 15 knots from the west, enabling fantastic sailing and, particularly, kitefoiling. Whenever the wind picked up, I would swiftly transition from my kitefoil board to my Geek 4 board and continue exhilaratingly riding the RAM kite.

How did Gin Kiteboarding products enhance your kitefoiling experience in terms of performance and manoeuvrability?

TN: The Instinct HB kites exhibit remarkable lightweight design, enabling effortless launch from any location while delivering impressive power across various wind conditions. Anchored in an offshore shelter, our

sailboat encountered gustier winds during takeoff. Fortunately, these new kites effortlessly soared through the air, demonstrating their inherent desire to stay aloft. Additionally, I never encountered any difficulties when relaunching the kites, contributing to an enjoyable and hassle-free experience of flying them. **Could you describe some of the most memorable moments?**

TN: After an entire day of sailing from the northernmost point of Sardinia, we made our way back to the main island, specifically Porto Pollo, just as the sun began its descent. Accompanied by a steady breeze of approximately 15 knots, I made the

decision to venture out onto the water with my Instinct HB 15m kite and Geek 4. Unlike the bustling atmosphere that characterises the bay during the day, dusk bestowed upon us the real golden hour of tranquillity. Gliding over the serene, glass-like waters with my kite fully charged, I relished in the blissful serenity. Upon returning to the boat, the temperature was idyllic, prompting us all to raise a glass of Aperol Spritz, toasting the cherished moments we shared.

Did you explore any specific kiteboarding spots in Sardinia? If yes, which ones stood out to you and why?

TN: We were mostly off the radar with the ability that the sailboat offers, but we visited two known spots: Porto Pollo and Spiaggia le Saline near Olbia. Both were world-class, with warm waters, kite schools, and enough space for everyone to enjoy. La Saline even has a small lagoon with flat water.

Were there any particular features of Gin Kiteboarding products that impressed you during your trip?

TN: People usually get scared with ram air kites and relaunching. I must say, those kites are impressive and super lightweight - definitely an ideal companion for such an adventure!

What advice would you give to other kiteboarders who are considering Sardinia as their next kitefoiling destination, and which Gin Kiteboarding products should they choose for their adventure?

TN: If you can rent a boat, it will make for a unique experience, and I advise you to take your foil along so you are sure to spend as much time on the water as possible. And obviously, the all-you-can-do GIN Instinct HB kite is the perfect companion!



On The Fly

JUST WING IT

Have you given wingfoiling a go yet? At IKSURFMAG, we're always up for a challenge, and have all given the wing thing a shot! While we're not all beautiful butterflies yet, it's clear; Wingfoiling is here to stay.

RIDER MATEO ELL
PHOTOS FRANCK BERTHUOT



We are so impressed by the amount of familiar faces we see when browsing through Tonic Mag; it takes a true waterman or waterwoman to excel in both kiting and wingfoiling. The amount of development and progression that has been achieved in just a few short years blows us away. In addition to the radical freestyle moves, wingers are reaching new heights with massive boosts that seem impossible. If you need to see it to believe it, check out this epic action video, and head over to Tonic Mag to see what's new in the world of winging...

On The Fly

MAUI MISSIONS //

LUKAS HANSON

Talented young rider Lukas Hanson is making his way up in the world of kiteboarding! But there's always time to take a break from training to go on an adventure. He fills us in on his trip to Maui...



Lukas Hanson: "Warm rain and swift winds hit my skin as we arrived at the spot. I admired the luscious backdrop of green mountains that shot up into the sky. Various wild animals played in the tropical surroundings of palm trees and sandy beaches; I felt sure this was somewhere special. A threatening raincloud passed overhead as I carried my 9m to the beach to prepare for a stormy session. Suddenly, before I could get my kite pumped, crystal clear skies appeared, and the rain had stopped. The sun had emerged, and the dark clouds had simply moved on. As I set up my gear, I noticed families emerging from their houses to enjoy the beautiful weather, smiles spread across their faces. The wind had turned back on, too; it was time for an epic session in paradise."

WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS
PHOTOS WILLOW-RIVER TONKIN

TECH FOCUS

CORE XR PRO

Q&A with Phil Janke

CORE Kiteboarding is a leading brand in the world of big air kiteboarding with its high-performance boosting machine, the CORE XR, which just saw a new update in the XR8. Now, the XR has an exciting new look in the just-released XR Pro! In this Tech Focus Q&A, we find out all the details on this ultra-high-performance kite from Phil Janke.



RIDER JOSHUA EMANUEL



IKSURFMAG.COM

Phil, congratulations on the release of this exciting product! Who is the new XR Pro designed for, and what was the development team aiming to achieve with it?

Our XR model has been the most popular choice in our range, consistently proving itself as one of the best big air kites for its 15 years of existence. It's a kite that's both exceptional, incredibly comfortable, and easily accessible - a kite that basically everyone, no matter how long you've been kiting and where you want to take it, will have fun with.

Big air moves require different qualities than easy freeriding, but we've always managed to strike the sweet spot in the XR, leading to a kite that everyone loves. At first, it was just usual testing during prototyping, but when the feedback of some of our pro riders was so overwhelming, it sparked the idea to design a competition XR that focuses on the essential elements of big air, even if it means compromising slightly on comfort.

The big news in the new XR Pro is the Aluula 5-strut frame and leading edge. How does the Aluula material impact the performance and durability of this kite?

The main advantage of Aluula lies in its exceptional rigidity as a material. This characteristic allowed Frank Ilfrich's development team to achieve even thinner leading edge and strut diameters compared to the XR8. A thinner diameter means less air resistance, translating to lightning-fast kite speed. Combined with the ultra-stable 5-strut frame, the XR Pro allows hardly any deformation and transmits every steering impulse. This not only makes the XR Pro more direct and controllable but also gives it outstanding stability in the high-end for even more performance.

RIDER JOSHUA EMANUEL

" COMBINED WITH THE ULTRA-STABLE 5-STRUT FRAME, THE XR PRO ALLOWS HARDLY ANY DEFORMATION AND TRANSMITS EVERY STEERING IMPULSE. "



RIDER JOSHUA EMANUEL

"TO REACH A CERTAIN PERFORMANCE, KITE DESIGNS HAVE TO BE PRECISELY ADJUSTED TO WHATEVER MATERIAL YOU USE"

Another advantage of Aluula is its low weight. The XR Pro is impressively 10% lighter than the XR8 across all sizes.

This isn't just the CORE XR8 with an Aluula upgrade. Can you tell us the design differences between the XR8 and XR Pro?

Yes, you are absolutely right. There's much more to the XR Pro than just the added Aluula. It starts with the different characteristics and properties of materials. To reach a certain performance, kite designs have to be precisely adjusted to whatever material you use. We aimed to improve some parameters that are beneficial to big air, such as velocity and turning speed, as well as its high-end performance. In addition to the faster, thinner strut diameters which Aluula allowed us to build, the XR Pro's high flight speed is significantly supported by a flatter profile. Some more aspects got fine tuned with our pro team, such as the positioning of the bridle attachment points. With some of these quite radical design changes, we even accepted compromises with the riding comfort, but since we are talking to a much narrower target group, that's ok.

GIN
KITEBOARDING

FIRST TRACK LAB MEET THE GEEK'S CRAFTSMEN

Discover the First Track Lab, an innovative research and development facility nestled in the breathtaking mountains of Verbier, Switzerland. From design to prototyping and now production, they create exceptional products like Gin kite boards. Their collaboration with Gin ensures efficient, simple, and timeless designs that deliver premium quality and lasting style.

[LEARN MORE](#)

" ALL OF THE PRODUCTS IN THE PRO RANGE SHARE A COMMON FEATURE, THE USE OF HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED MATERIALS, WHICH COMPLETES THE ENTIRE CONCEPT. "



How long has the XR Pro been in development? What did it take to bring this product from an idea to the market?

We have been experimenting with new and hyped materials like Aluula for quite some time. But for a long time, we didn't really see an added value compared to our own proven and high-performing materials like ExoTex 2. The idea of a competition XR changed the perspective. Angely, Zara, and Josh have been using previous versions of the XR Pro during competitions like King of the Air, Lords of Tram,

and the GKA Big Air event in Tarifa, and always brought new insights to the R&D team. We added it to CORE's Pro range, which already includes the Sensor Pro since 2013 and later expanded to include the Halo Pro wing and, now, the XR Pro. All of the products in the Pro range share a common feature, the use of highly sophisticated materials, which completes the entire concept.

Working with a material like Aluula is no simple feat, which may contribute to so few brands incorporating this material into their product lines.

What challenges did you face bringing this super-light material into your production process?

The hype of light materials has its justification. The lighter your kite is, the earlier you get on the water. But the lighter weight has one downside: It's less robust than the heavier competing fabrics. Aluula is unbeaten in terms of stiffness, but we needed to find ways to use and process it wisely to meet our high demands regarding rigidity and longevity.

"THE SPECIAL COATING ENSURES EXTREMELY GOOD TEAR RESISTANCE AND TEAR PROPAGATION RESISTANCE AND ALSO OFFERS VERY GOOD UV PROTECTION."



CORE's exclusive CoreTex 2 canopy material, also used in the XR8, lends to the high-performance nature of the new XR Pro. What sets this material apart compared to other canopy materials on the market today?

The CoreTex 2 is extremely low-stretch and, at the same time, very robust. Our exclusive CORE canopy optimally supports the properties targeted for the XR Pro with linear power delivery, high flight stability, and outstanding control. The special coating ensures extremely good tear resistance and tear propagation resistance and also offers very good UV protection.

Is this kite for the average big air rider or primarily those looking to push boundaries?

I'm sure the average big air rider really has a chance to achieve new personal bests with the new XR8; this is the feedback that we get from so many different sides. Big boosters and fearless kite loopers that aim for more than personal records but unseen tricks, a bit of industry attention or even a podium should consider giving the XR Pro a test.

Besides increased cost, which is inevitable when using ground-breaking materials such as Aluula, what should consumers consider when deciding between the XR8 and the XR Pro?

When considering the XR Pro, it's essential for consumers to be aware that, unlike some of our competitors' kites, the XR Pro is not designed for light wind conditions. Yes, it's lighter, and yes, it supports kiting in light winds, but as our biggest size 12 indicates, the XR Pro is made for strong days with an extremely good performance at the top end of the wind range.

WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS
PHOTOS CRAIG KOLESKY

TECH FOCUS

ION MAX_FLEX

Q&A with Michi Schuster,
Neoprene Products Manager

It's not just kites that are getting the innovative materials treatment; neoprene accessories are going through a major development period, too! At ION's in-house laboratory, they've developed an ultra-stretchy wetsuit lining called Max_Flex. Find out what's outside ION's wetsuits in this interview with Michi Schuster!

RIDER MATCHU LOPES



Tell us more about the Max_Flex outer lining! What makes it so stretchy?

The unique weaving structure and the combination of the materials make this material so stretchy. The rhombus-shaped structure elongates without much power needed once force is applied. Furthermore, the structure helps to reduce pressure on specific areas of the body because of its 3-dimensional stretch.

Featured on the premium Select and Amp ranges, how does the flexibility of Max_Flex material compare to the neoprene in the Core range?

The direct comparison must be made with the lining only since a wetsuit's lining is the key factor in this case for stretch improvement. Compared to standard linings in the market, ION Max_Flex needs 30% less force for the same amount of stretch. That means the suit adapts easier to different body shapes and has less pressure on certain areas like forearms and shoulders. All of this makes the general fit significantly more comfortable.

Are there additional features outside of more stretch and flexibility that users might notice?

Our Max_Flex material has quite a big surface because of its 3D-weaved structure. This means that the water is getting distributed throughout the whole surface through small channels. This allows the water to evaporate quicker, hence reducing the drying time.

What went into developing the Max_Flex outer lining? How does one discover or create a material like this?

We invested heavily in our in-house laboratory during the last couple of years. This enabled us to test and develop this material at a fast pace, and we could quickly test the differences between all the different materials.

RIDER NATHALIE LAMBRECHT

"THE SUIT ADAPTS EASIER TO DIFFERENT BODY SHAPES AND HAS LESS PRESSURE ON CERTAIN AREAS LIKE FOREARMS AND SHOULDERS."



" ALL OUR WETSUITS ARE PRODUCED
IN THE WORLD'S LEADING FACTORY
FOR WETSUITS. "

Amaze
Select

Can you share some insight into the production process?
Where does ION produce this material?

All our wetsuits are produced in the world's leading factory for wetsuits. And luckily, our production partner takes development very seriously. Therefore, everything is getting developed and produced in-house. This allows them to meet the specific needs of our development goals and turn them around in a short time frame. At the same time, the production partner stands out by integrity, ensuring R&D secrecy between the brands producing in the same spot.



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" SOLAR-POWERED FACTORIES, DYING PROCESSES THAT REQUIRE LESS WATER AND NO TOXINS, AND RECYCLING OF PRODUCTION WASTE ARE JUST SOME OF THE INITIATIVES IN PLACE AT OUR FACTORIES. "

RIDER MATCHU LOPES

100 TECH FOCUS

What sustainability initiatives does ION incorporate into their production?

Sustainability awareness starts with the selection of materials. As different materials are used, sustainable initiatives vary by product. Max_Flex featuring wetsuits are made partially from Japanese-sourced limestone neoprene replacing petrochemicals in the neoprene. To enhance the sustainable contribution, we mix in bio-calcium oxide powder from abandoned waste shells and Eco-Carbon Black, which is pyrolyzed from scrap rubber tires.

The factory that we work with is not only the world's leading wetsuit factory but, more importantly, the leading wetsuit producer regarding sustainability. Solar-powered factories, dying processes that require less water and no toxins, and recycling of production waste are just some of the initiatives in place at our factories. They are constantly improving and challenging the market, similar to ION.

To further reduce a wetsuit's ecological footprint, we have compensated for the CO2 emissions created during the production process and the shipment by partnering with Climate Partner for a couple of years.

Can you share any other details or last words about Max_Flex with us?

I want to point out that Max_Flex is not only featured in the Select and Amp level wetsuits. We also integrated Max_Flex into the footwear range, some neoprene tops, and impact vests. Just try it! It's a game-changer in many aspects.

IKSURFMAG.COM

PHOTOS AMANDA CANTOR

TECH FOCUS

BIG SWAPS FROM RIDING TO DESIGNING

Q&A with Ewan Jaspán, Naish Kite Designer

There's big news over at Naish Kiteboarding, with a newly updated product range hitting the market this month, and some big changes to the development team, with Pro Rider Ewan Jaspán stepping into the role of Kite Designer. We caught up with Ewan in this Q&A to discover what's new at Naish!

RIDER EWAN JASPÁN



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"EVERYONE HAS TO WEAR MANY HATS IN THE KITE INDUSTRY, WHICH IS NO DIFFERENT WITH ME AT NAISH."

RIDERS TIM WALSH, MICHAELA PILKENTON,
JINNE BOER, AND EWAN JASPAN



Ewan, congrats on the new role! We wondered why your social media has been quiet lately, but you've clearly been very busy with your new job! Tell us what the role of kite designer entails for you. What does a day in the life of Ewan Jaspán, Kite Designer, look like?

Ha! Yeah, I have been quiet on the socials. My job now is definitely focused on being a kite designer and not a social media rider. I still do many things as a team rider, but I have taken a bit of a break from

social media, as I have been active there for so many years out of necessity and have never been a big fan.

As a kite designer now, my role entails designing the kites on the computer, managing the production with the factory, identifying new development paths, a lot of bridle work on the beach, talking to importers and dealers, and so on. Everyone has to wear many hats in the kite industry, which is no different with me at Naish.

As a highly accomplished athlete featured on the cover of this magazine twice, have there been any

challenges in transitioning from pro rider to kite designer? Can you share some details of your journey with us and what inspired you to make this transition?


There have for sure been quite a few adjustments to be made. I no longer get to think about my next 3-month long trip and what tricks I will learn, and try to prove myself in the realm of pro riding. But that is ok with me. I did it for ten years and want to progress my career further while still riding nearly every day.

Over the years, I have always thought, and been told plenty of times, to have a backup plan from my professional athletic career. Injuries can hit quickly, as can age, and before you know it, you can be washed up, asking a brand for a job with no experience or skills beyond riding. I was conscious of this, but university was just never for me. I did a diploma in Marketing while I was injured and younger, but I couldn't stand taking the tram into the city every day and sitting in a classroom.

I have always been interested in tuning kites and making them fly better while keeping up with all the latest industry tech and developments, which led to me constantly bugging the design team in Maui. After a while, I stayed longer around photoshoot trips and took a much deeper interest in bridle work and design. It's always been my dream job in the industry, but it came around faster than expected, but not without trying.

As a long-time team rider for Naish, what unique perspectives and experiences do you bring to the table as a kite designer?

As a pro rider, you are pretty in tune with the gear you are riding and others' gear around you. Some take more of an interest than others, but in general, most pros have a great understanding of how gear works. Additionally, we spend years travelling the globe, running demo days, talking to shops and customers, and having a great overview of the entire industry from the inside out. This has really helped me shape a great view of where all the strengths and weaknesses lie in product lines and help craft designs at Naish, which leave no weak spots and excel exactly where they should.



"IT'S ALWAYS BEEN MY DREAM JOB IN THE INDUSTRY, BUT IT CAME AROUND FASTER THAN EXPECTED, BUT NOT WITHOUT TRYING."

RIDER EWAN JASPAN

"I FEEL THAT MY CONNECTION WITH KITES IS STRONG, AS I HAVE BEEN FLYING KITES MY WHOLE LIFE."

Kite design is a complex process involving various tools and experience. What specific aspects of kite design come most naturally to you? Has there been a big learning curve?

Knowing what I want to achieve in a kite and analysing the focus points on a kite come naturally to me. I feel that my connection with kites is strong, as I have been flying kites my whole life. Testing was always a strong point of mine, and then moving into bridle work, learning from the best (Des Walsh) was a great start and a really organic way into it. The big learning curve has been the more 'classic work' side of the job—the computer time and meetings, which I need to plan my days around.

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A full-page background image showing a kitesurfer riding a wave. A large blue kite with black patterns is visible in the upper left sky. The surfer is in the middle of a wave, creating a large splash of white water. The ocean is green and choppy, and the sky is a clear, pale blue.

"I DIDN'T GET A LOT OF TIME TO ADJUST TO IT, THROWN IN THE DEEP END, BUT I THINK THAT IS HONESTLY THE BEST WAY TO LEARN."

RIDER EWAN JASPAN

100 TECH FOCUS

As a pro rider, our schedules are loose, and most of our efforts involve thinking of new tricks, cool video ideas, or time spent travelling or recovering. It has been quite rewarding to have more of a schedule and make real progress in a new aspect of life, but a challenge too. Learning to communicate with factories and work on much more strict time schedules than before has been necessary, and I didn't get a lot of time to adjust to it, thrown in the deep end, but I think that is honestly the best way to learn.

Could you provide some insights into the research and development process at Naish? How do you collaborate with other designers and team members to create innovative kites that meet the ever-evolving demands of the kiting community?

Our design team is evolving at the moment, and we are very excited about this. As most people know, Naish is now a truly global company, with employees across the new office in Nijkerk in Holland, Hood River and, of course, Maui. This means that along with our existing team, we now compile feedback and inspiration from many different communities and viewpoints. I think this will create a more well-rounded and concise line over the coming years and draw expertise from more high-end, talented people. We communicate online a lot, make a lot of phone calls, but most importantly, we catch up face-to-face and test and develop together as much as we can. I spend a lot of time on Maui, and currently, Tim, one of our main test riders, is located in Hood River, with me, for the summer and working on the new products. We also often talk to our dealers and importers to analyse market trends and keep at the forefront of development.

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"WE HAVE FOUND THAT IN A LOT OF CASES, WHAT MAKES A KITE GOOD IS HAVING ULTIMATE CONTROL OVER IT"

RIDERS EWAN JASPAN AND MICHAELA PILKENTON

How do you balance the needs of different riders from different disciplines or from beginners to advanced athletes? What factors do you consider when creating kites that cater to a wide range of skill levels?

We have a very well-thought-out and balanced kite lineup at Naish. We are sure to do what the market wants, but not forget our roots, and always produce

gear for all aspects of the sport. We are now producing gear that can take you to the top of any podium in the world, with the Pivot for big air (new big air products are coming soon), the Torch for anything and everything unhooked, the Triad for waves, and the Boxer to do the most high end foiling and pushing the limits of light wind. To go with this, the Pivot is also a true all-rounder, a kite that can suit

anyone to do almost anything. The Triad has been refined into a super consistent and easy-to-predict kite, which is great for not only wave riding but beginner/intermediate twin-tip riders.

We have found that in a lot of cases, what makes a kite good is having ultimate control over it, which is something we aspire to achieve across the board. Control is something that helps riders of all levels progress, from beginner to pro level, as you feel comfortable with your equipment and focused on the task at hand.

Naish has a reputation for producing high-quality kites. What innovations can we expect to see in the next generation of Naish kites, and what challenges did you face in implementing these changes?

We have some exciting new products coming up soon, and on my end, kites. We have been working with some exotic materials, which have enabled us to majorly alter existing designs and create completely new designs to match the current era of the sport. Working with and figuring out how these new materials behave, perform, and must be constructed has been the biggest challenge so far. Putting new material in the kite is almost like creating a new kite from scratch. Another great project I have been involved with is creating a new wave style kite, which is convertible between wave and easy/beginner free ride with bridle changes. But on most of the information, you will just have to wait until January....

CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE



WORDS CAMILLE & CAPUCINE DELANNOY

Discover a pristine kitesurfing spot in the Philippines with Camille and Capucine Delannoy! In this article, you'll follow the pair as they navigate the challenges of discovering a new location while shooting the new North collection. You'll be inspired by their approach to riding in unexplored waters and embracing a new culture as they share their 10-day journey into the unknown...



SEEKING THE UNKNOWN



“ THE PHILIPPINES IS A LOCATION THAT IS NEW TO BOTH OF US ”

We've always done something involving the wind; our parents used to windsurf when we were younger, although we were always kitesurfers. Growing up, we saw North Sails everywhere! From clothing to windsurfing equipment, North Sails has always been a big name in the industry. So, seeing this new, highly recognisable logo on the latest equipment was amazing. It feels like we're part of a bigger brand and industry, and we were beyond stoked when we got the invite to shoot the new collection!

The Philippines is a location that is new to both of us. We were so excited when the North team told us about the spot they'd chosen for the shoot. It would be our first time in Asia, but we knew it would be a mission to get there. Capucine was travelling from Brazil and had a 24-hour trip to meet Camille in Tarifa, and together, we had another almost two days of travel to get to the spot. Tarifa to Istanbul, Istanbul to Manila, an overnigher in Manila, and then a domestic flight to Luzon Island, followed by a few hours in a car to get to the spot. It was pretty mind blowing knowing that we were about to discover just one of the 7,640 islands that make up the Philippines. We met the team once we arrived at our destination in the northern part of this island chain. As riders, the team included us (Camille and Capucine) and Chucho, who would be riding wings. Rebecca from the marketing department coordinated everything while we were there, and Brand Director Mike Raper was there to oversee it all. The very talented media crew consisted of Frankie and Slater, who we already knew from the shoot in Maui, and some new faces,



RIDERS CAPUCINE AND CAMILLE DELANNOY PHOTO FRANCK BERTHUOT

RIDER CAMILLE DELANNOY
PHOTO FRANCK BERTHUOT



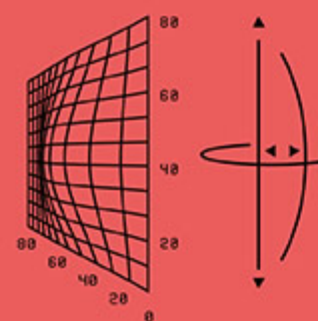
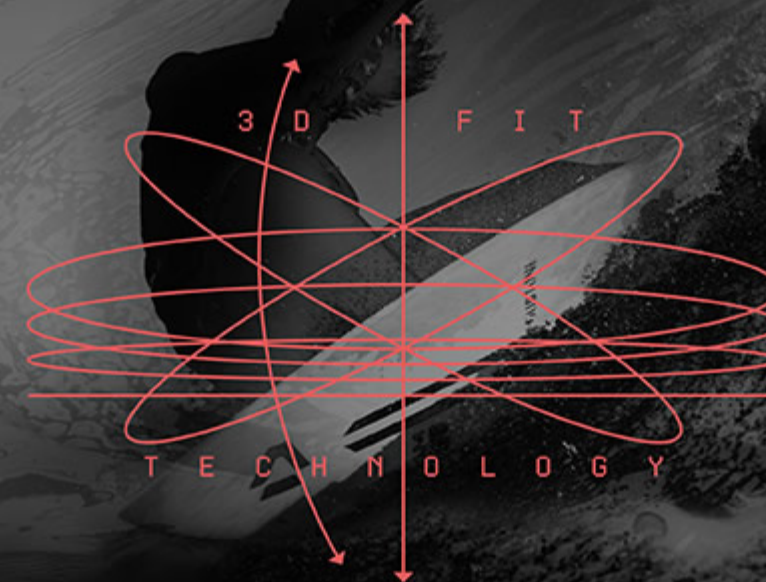
Adam and Miles. As you can see, we had all the ingredients for an epic shoot, as long as the conditions delivered!

When we arrived, the wind was pumping, and even though we were exhausted from the travel and the sun was only an hour away from touching the water, our desire to get on the water brought us back to life immediately. We were all so happy to be there, and everybody was keen to shoot. We hurried to get set up for our very first session, and in that first hour, on the first day, we got some of the best shots of the trip. What a great way to start - and we still had ten days to go!

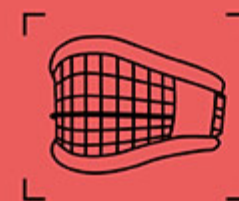
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SO HAPPY TO BE
THERE, AND
EVERYBODY WAS
KEEN TO SHOOT."**

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RIDERS CAMILLE AND CAPUCINE DELANNOY PHOTO MILES TAYLOR



RIDER CAMILLE DELANNOY PHOTO FRANCK BERTHUOT

“IT WAS SOME OF THE MOST INVITING KITE CONDITIONS WE’VE EXPERIENCED”

We were so excited by the epic first session that we only really took in our surroundings once we'd gotten off the water and could finally settle in. This was the first time we had heard of this spot, and trying to research it before our trip did not offer much insight, as only a few people have ever kited here. We had no idea what to expect from the conditions but were pleasantly surprised. Finding a spot with nobody around but

25-35 knots of wind every day, flat water, and waves is unbelievable. The water was warm and crystal-clear, and it was some of the most inviting kite conditions we've experienced, especially as we love the waves! The wave spot was about 200 metres out to sea, outside of the protective reef, but the flat water lagoon was only 20 metres from our rooms, making it possible to score perfect freestyle sessions until the last ray of sunshine.

Our hotel was virtually in the middle of nowhere, but it was a lovely spot with a little

cabana and restaurant right on the beach. The Philippines offered some of the prettiest landscapes we had ever seen, with rice fields all around, endless palm trees, and a pristine natural environment that felt untouched. The area we stayed in had several small villages but was otherwise not developed, with no big towns or cities nearby. It was nice to discover a new culture on this trip.

Filipino people are incredibly kind, friendly, and open-minded. The locals at the spot were super curious, asking us questions about kiting, taking pictures, and just so interested in what we were doing there. Not many tourists or kites come to this spot,

RIDER CAPUCINE DELANNOY
PHOTO FRANCK BERTHUOT



“ HAVING A CLEAR PLAN WITH THE MEDIA CREW BEFORE WE LAUNCH OUR KITES IS KEY. ”

and it was always a lot of fun getting to know the locals and sharing our excitement for our sport with them. The food was where we had our biggest cultural surprise, and our first breakfast was a unique experience! With only rice and meat on the breakfast table, we were confused! Where were the sweets? Where are the pancakes and maple syrup? But, honestly, the rice and meat were pretty delicious, and we quickly got used to having rice with every meal!

Shooting completely differs from a normal training session or free riding; it requires a lot of teamwork. You must communicate with the photographers, videographers, and other riders. In this spot, with the waves so far from the beach and a lot of current, it's really difficult to communicate with each other on the water. For us, having a clear plan with the media crew before we launch our kites is key. What kind of shot do we want? Which angle are we going to shoot? Which part of the wave do we want to shoot? We start the sessions by making these plans, and then we make it work! While we all have different passions, we are driven by the same goal: delivering the best shots.

There was one session that neither of us will forget. We spotted this perfect wave breaking quite far out, but there was no way we could get into the water in front of the wave, so we had to walk down to the next bay. We arrived in the bay to discover that it was super sheltered from the wind, so Camille pumped up a kite, threw it into the water, and started swimming with the kite dragging behind him. He had to swim for so, so long before launching the kite from the water and riding 20 minutes upwind to get up to the wave.

RIDERS CAMILLE AND CAPUCINE DELANNOY
PHOTO MILES TAYLOR





RIDER CAPUCINE DELANNOY
PHOTO FRANCK BERTHUOT

After seeing the struggle to get out to the waves, Capucine, with the help of our super local guide, Chris, drove 5 km downwind to a beach where the wind was blowing. That upwinder was a massive one, but when we finally met at the wave, it became immediately clear that this wave, while perfect from the beach, wouldn't work in the slightest for kiteboarding. We turned right back around and headed downwind, and with kites dropping in the middle of the bay and another long swim back, it was definitely the fail of the trip!

“ WITH KITES
DROPPING IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE BAY
AND ANOTHER LONG
SWIM BACK ”



quobba fins



“IT WAS A REAL ADVENTURE, AND IT WAS THE CHALLENGE THAT MADE THIS TRIP SO MEMORABLE.”

Many of these spots were sketchy for kiting, with lots of rocks and cliffs and most of the bays being sheltered from the wind. We did a fair bit of swimming during these ten days, and when it came time to do a water launch, it was always with the hope that the wind was strong enough for it to work, all while alone in the middle of nowhere. Honestly, it was pretty scary; no jetskis, no boats, no safety.

Having a backup plan when riding in places like this is incredibly important. We're always looking downwind, seeing what's in the next bay, and planning where we'll end up if the wind dies. Knowing you have a solid plan for what to do if something goes wrong makes the ride much more comfortable.

On many occasions, we'd be standing on the beach, looking at the waves beyond the reef, wondering if we could ride them. Then, we'd swim out and try to make it work. Most of the time, it did work, which was always the best

reward. We got some excellent shots, and it was well worth it! We did leave quite a few fins behind in the reef when riding at low tide, and they're probably still there somewhere...

While there's some anxiety when riding in spots like this, it is well balanced by the excitement of showing up to a place and knowing that only a handful of people, if any, have ridden there. We've shot in several locations like Mauritius and Brazil, where you're guaranteed to get good conditions and great shots, but those places are easy. In the Philippines, it was a real adventure, and it was the challenge that made this trip so memorable.

RIDER CAPUCINE DELANNOY
PHOTO FRANCK BERTHUOT

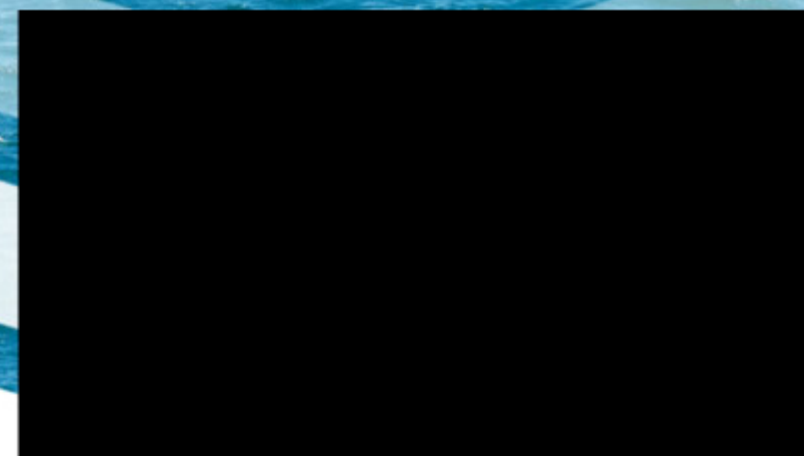


We scored with the conditions; even though we only stayed ten days, we accomplished so much. We shot with three or four different kites and all the surfboards in the range and explored every new spot we could find. Riding the new gear and seeing the new logo was a special experience. The new Carve was very intuitive and super reactive, perfect for the wave portion of the shoot. It's great to be on a kite that is so easy to adapt to while riding in completely new conditions.

**"IT'S GREAT TO BE ON
A KITE THAT IS SO
EASY TO ADAPT TO
WHILE RIDING IN
COMPLETELY NEW
CONDITIONS."**

ALMA

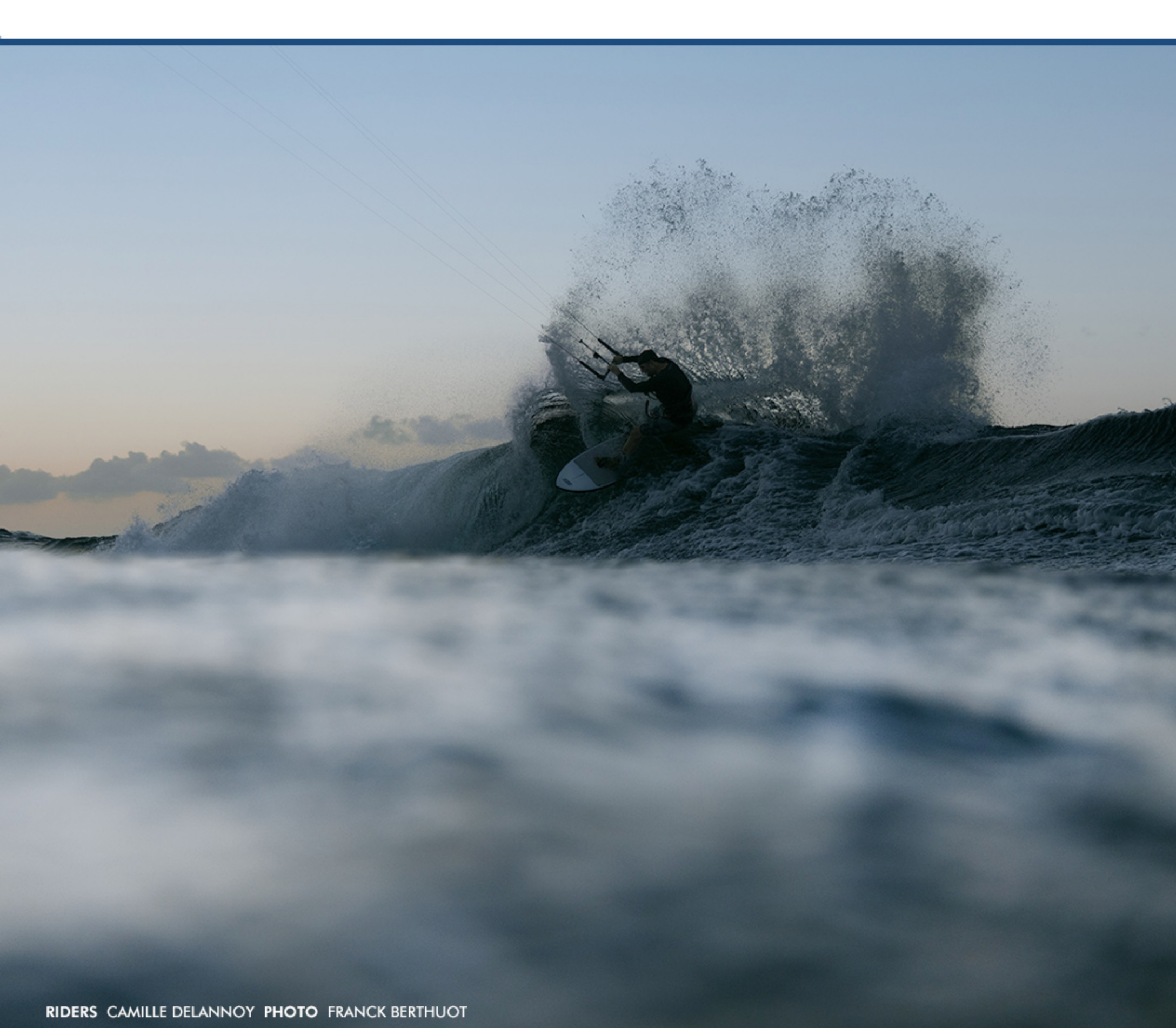
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“ IT MADE THE TRIP ALL THAT MUCH MORE SPECIAL AND THAT MUCH HARDER TO LEAVE! ”

We also spent some time riding the Code Zero, which is impressively light and surprisingly fun to ride in the waves!

This was the first shoot where the whole crew stayed in the same hotel and shared every meal. In some of the other shoots we've done, we're not always together like this, but with the North team, we came together like a family. Being so connected for that time, we shared so much and built new friendships. It made the trip all that much more special and that much harder to leave! After we set off to our next competition on the wave tour, the rest of the team continued to the south of the Philippines to meet up with Jesse, Mark, Nick, and Karlie to shoot the rest of the collection. We can only hope they had as much of an adventure as we did!

RIDER COLLEEN CARROLL
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH

WORDS CRYSTAL VENESS

EASY BREEZY STEEZY: COVER GIRLS OF IKSURFMAG

In this edition of Insight, we're honouring each of the women that have graced the cover of IKSURFMAG since our inception in 2006! Some still regularly appear in this magazine, while others have taken steps in different directions. We caught up with these talented ladies to discover how kiting has impacted their lives and continues to shape who they are today. Join the Cover Girls of IKSURFMAG in this Issue #100 special feature!



Issue 17 - October 2009 - Kristin (Boese) Solbach

The first time I tried to kite was in September 2001 at the Baltic Sea in the North of Germany. I ended up drifting through a (little used) shipping lane and got my legs all tangled up in the lines, but got hooked nevertheless. Soon after, I left everything behind in Germany to work and kite in Fuerteventura. I started competing on the PKRA world tour in June 2002, following the tour and getting more sponsorship contracts as I climbed the rankings.

It was a big deal for any girl to end up on a cover back in 2009, and I would think it's the same today. I was stoked about the cover, stoked about any coverage any of us girls got, really. When that cover came out in 2009, I had already won all 9 of my World Championship titles and found myself being by far the oldest female competitor in the field.

It had always been important to me to spread the love for kiteboarding far and wide, and I started the KB4girls foundation (now the Women's Kiteboarding Collective), collaborating with other female kites to organise non-profit events all over the world to get women involved in the sport. I also got involved with Kiteboarding in the Olympics Campaign with the IKA and did some work with the World Sailing Federation. When I found myself amongst a group of other world champion wave kites that all saw the need for a wave world tour, I agreed to join forces, entirely without the intent to be the main force. Looking back, I have always had a hard time saying no. I always felt the need to support where support was needed, and ultimately, I ended up burning myself out. When I passed the KSP World Tour and the KB4girls foundation on to different leaders, I needed a long break from kiting and some time to recover.

KRISTIN SOLBACH SHARING THE STROKE
WITH HER SON



"WHAT TRULY EXCITES ME THE MOST ABOUT KITEBOARDING THIS YEAR IS THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING MY LITTLE GUY OUT ON THE WATER WITH ME."



I retired from kiting ten years ago and settled on Maui with my then long-term boyfriend, now husband, Sky Solbach. We built a house and life together here in Maui and now have an almost 4-year-old son that makes our lives oh so busy and fun! I enjoy yoga, barre classes, hiking with my pup or walking at the beach. I also enjoy building things and using my two hands; creating things brings me much joy. What was difficult to beat or meet was the passion I had for kiteboarding. I had turned my biggest passion into my job, and when I retired

from kiting, it was difficult to find something I could feel this passion for again and pour all my heart and soul into. Duotone's Ken Winner suggested that I work with dogs because I had always loved them. He didn't need to say that twice. Now, I'm a CCPDT certified dog trainer. While I was teaching classes and private lessons for Ohana Pet, I also started to board dogs here at our place and set up Happy Dogs Maui LLC in 2018, and there is never a dull moment around here with a full house of dogs.

Kiteboarding is now creeping back into my life again as my almost 4-year-old son started to ride on my harness hook with me; he absolutely loves it and wants to go to the beach as much as possible. What truly excites me the most about kiteboarding this year is the possibility of taking my little guy out on the water with me. As for life goals or career goals, I am trying to find the right work/family/me time balance, which isn't always easy to do when you have a crowd of pups and a team of 5 employees to manage, plus a toddler that would love all your attention, but I don't give up easily. ;)

Issue 26 - April 2011 - Niki Rudd

I started kiting when I was 23, so 15 years ago. Wow, time flies! In 2008, I lived in Exmouth and started teaching windsurfing for Steph and Eric Bridge at Edge Watersports. It wasn't long before I dropped windsurfing for kitesurfing and never looked back. I then sailed the Atlantic with my twin brother and a few others and spent the winter doing my instructors and teaching kiting in the Dominican Republic before joining the British Kite Tour. Looking back, I could have started in the amateur division, but I just jumped straight in; that was my kinda style!

After my 2011 cover, I did the BKSA tour for a few years and the European Tour in 2012, where I was 3rd overall in the women's freestyle. It was such a blast. I started wakeboarding alongside kiting in 2013 and did a Red Bull event in Wales, where I placed 1st. I was so hooked on riding rails and kickers!

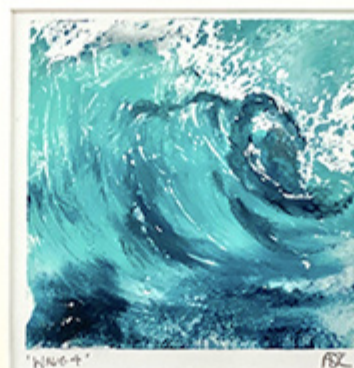
I lived and breathed kiting! I had about ten endless summers where I would compete during the summer and then travel and teach kiting in the winter. We often went to the same places, so it was like hanging out in one big family. I have so many unforgettable memories from those times. I remember kiting on a lake in Switzerland which felt unreal, surrounded by mountains in freshwater. I went to Venezuela with Hannah Whiteley for the winter that year, where we had so much fun, and I also teamed up with Slingshot and did some filming. More recently, I hung out with Hannah in Tenerife doing a film for VW, which was super fun! I also had some epic trips to Barbados, wave riding and surfing, and running a yoga retreat with friends who ran a kite school.

" I HAD ABOUT TEN ENDLESS SUMMERS WHERE I WOULD COMPETE DURING THE SUMMER AND THEN TRAVEL AND TEACH KITING IN THE WINTER "



RIDER NIKI RUDD PHOTO ANDRE WILLIAMS

"IT HAS MADE ME REALISE HOW STRONG WE TRULY CAN BE AND THAT THERE IS MUCH TO LEARN AND BE GRATEFUL FOR."



WAVE ART BY NIKI

A few years ago, I moved from freestyle to waves, and after living in Cornwall for a while, I have gradually become more of a surfer and have let my kites go for now. Surfing, art, cooking, and yoga are my main passions now! I am currently in the UK helping run a yoga retreat centre/community, growing veggies and exploring healing modalities, from sound baths to yoga and singing. I have always been passionate about health and wellness. Last year, I had a very impromptu forced break from life, taking a huge knock physically and mentally. I am grateful now; it has made me realise how strong we truly can be and that there is much to learn and be grateful for. The things that shake us the most often uncover many hidden treasures and allow us to connect more deeply to what really matters. I am continually inspired by others who have been through tough times, and that is why I feel I should share this aspect of my life. It is refreshing when people share vulnerability because within this lies deep strength and empowerment.

Of course, my dream for 2023 and beyond is to be on the water as much as possible, riding waves and enjoying time in nature. In a slightly hippie-sounding way, now more than ever, I feel drawn to connecting people back to the earth! On a personal level, I want to support the health of our oceans and earth through what I do, be that making art, growing food, cooking and sharing whole natural food, as well as yoga and other practises that enhance people's lives. I would love to get involved with projects around the world that support and empower people to live to their fullest potential in alignment with nature. I am excited about the future, so stay tuned on social media (@nrmovement @niki_r_art). My love for the ocean continues, and I can't wait for the next chapter of my life to continue exploring and caring more for the beautiful waters that cover our planet. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share!

RIDER KIRSTY JONES IN NAMOTU
PHOTO STU GIBSON



" I'M BACK COACHING ON NAMOTU ISLAND IN FIJI, WHERE THERE ARE PUMPING WAVES, AND I'M LOVING KITING IN THE WAVES AGAIN! "

Issue 36 - December 2012 - Kirsty Jones

What excites me most about kitesurfing in 2023 is that I've got a newfound motivation and appreciation for kiting again! I've just finished a 2-year stint running Richard Branson's Watersports Centre on Necker Island in the BVI and didn't kite much as I focused on work and winging in my free time.

Now, I'm back coaching on Namotu island in Fiji, where there are pumping waves, and I'm loving kiting

in the waves again! Sometimes it's good to change the focus to get a newfound appreciation for the things we start to take for granted, like the wind and putting on a harness!

My plans for 2023 and 2024 are to start running Kite & Wing Retreats again at my favourite locations and continue coaching for Ben Wilson's Unlimited weeks on Namotu Island. I'll also be running some Yoga & Pilates Retreats at my favourite locations too.



Issue 43 - February 2014 - Gisela Pulido

I started to fly kites in the sand when I was six years old and went on the water for the first time two years later. I started competing in 2003 and did my first World Tour the year after. It all started quite fast; I was competing in swimming as a kid, and I always loved to be the best at something, or at least try! I could say my career started when I was 10 years old. I'm almost 30 now... time flies!

I always competed in freestyle; it was what I loved the most. After becoming 10 times World Champion, my team and I decided to take a break and explore other sports and disciplines. Right now, I'm back in the competition but in the Olympic world. Formula Kite will be in the Olympics for the first time in 2024, and I'm currently campaigning to represent my country! It has been my dream since I was a kid.

Coming from freestyle, one of the most technical disciplines, it didn't take much time to get going on the foil. But doing tricks is one thing, and racing is another. It's much more demanding, physical and also mental. You have so much more than going fast on the water with the tactics, strategy, race starts, mindset, and gear trimming; you have to perform a 10 in all of them. Otherwise, it's impossible to be at the top. Also, to have a chance, I had to gain some weight; the heavier you are, the faster you go. I'm currently 62 kg and aiming for 70 kg.

As you can see, it's quite different from freestyle, but I love the challenge. My training partner, Annelous Lammerts, competed with me in freestyle; now, we both train together and push each other; it's super nice.



" I'M BACK IN THE COMPETITION BUT IN THE OLYMPIC WORLD. FORMULA KITE WILL BE IN THE OLYMPICS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2024 "



RIDER GISELA PULIDO

LEARNING TO KITE AT 6



ON HER WAY TO THE OLYMPICS

We have the Worlds in The Hague in August (14th-21st), where the first 8 spots for the Olympics will be given. So I'm super excited about it. I will push full on!

I don't know my plans for the future; I love to compete, but doing an Olympic campaign is quite demanding. But I'm sure my life will be linked to the competition somehow. I like the Sail GP and America's Cup, and I would love to jump in one of those and explore this way. When I stop competing at a professional level, I would like to get some time for myself, too, finish my uni, play piano, get on a wingsuit, and many other "to-do's" on my list. I'm also lucky because together with my dad, we made some good future plans, a kite shop and school in Tarifa, and some good investments... so there will be time for myself!

" I LIKE THE SAIL GP AND AMERICA'S CUP, AND I WOULD LOVE TO JUMP IN ONE OF THOSE "

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" I BELIEVE WE ALL HAVE A PASSION
IN LIFE, AND I FOLLOW MY HEART
AND FOLLOW MY INSTINCTS "



Issue 56 - April 2016 - Bruna Kajiya

I started kiting around 2003 and turned pro about a year later. A lot has changed since then, but my core values remain the same. I've matured as a person and as an athlete, but I love kiteboarding to my core, and I love freestyling and competing, so all of those things remain the same. But, me, Bruna, my personality has grown and changed a lot in these years.

One of my big career goals was to show that women can perform as well as men because when I started, it was mainly a male-dominated sport. Women had very little attention; if they did, it was to pose in bikinis or look pretty kiting, but not as a performance athlete. In the beginning, I had more of a Rambo attitude towards it; I'm gonna prove them wrong! Today, my goals remain the same, but it's more about having more space for women in the sport, more inclusiveness, and to inspire them, even to pursue kiting as a hobby.

I've been kiting for a long time, but I'm not someone that plans my future. I believe we all have a passion in life, and I follow my heart and follow my instincts, which has led me to where I am today. That's how I live my life. I'm very passionate about kiting, and today I feel like I'm in the best phase of my career. Everything feels really good. So, for now, I'm just enjoying this and seeing where it takes me.

Outside kiteboarding, I love real estate. I've invested in a few places worldwide, and I run those places on Airbnb. I like looking for land, and I love construction and renovation, which may be strange. Because I've moved so much and don't have a real home base, I feel like things like architecture and finding good spots bring me closer to it. I'm truly passionate about that.

RIDER BRUNA KAJIYA
PHOTOS JULIÁN CRUZ _ @JULICRUZ8

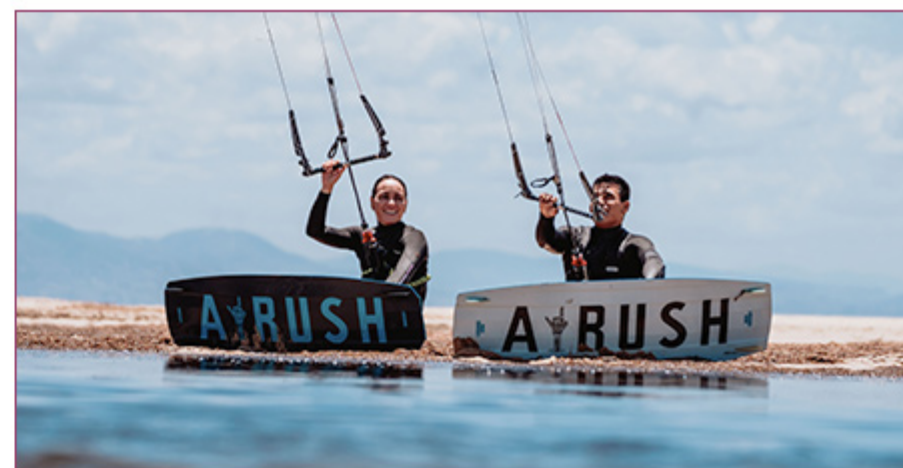
"THOSE THINGS HAVE BEEN REALLY
MAKING MY SMILE GROW BIGGER
EVERY TIME I GO IN THE WATER!"

AIRUSH

I am also really passionate about well-being in general. I research a lot of training methods but also good eating habits and the mental aspect of well-being. And that's a very big passion of mine.

What excites me the most this year is that I now have C kites again. The more I ride them, the stronger I feel. It's like I'm rediscovering my riding, and then suddenly, all of these possibilities open up, so I'm just

really enjoying that and having fun with that. Wave riding also really excites me. I recently started to compete in some of the wave events, and I've been having a blast. I've been a surfer since a young age, so the wave part comes naturally to me. I love to compete, and this year, we have quite a few events, which I'm super excited about. Those things have been really making my smile grow bigger every time I go in the water!



Issue 68 - April 2018 - Colleen Carroll

I first tried kiteboarding in the early 2000s, when I was in high school, and kites looked very different! Needless to say, shackling into a kite seemed a little sketchy at the time, especially as a 15/16-year-old, so it was a few years before my family and I really gave it a go. I picked my learning back up around the time I graduated from university in 2008, and since then, I've been completely hooked. I worked for kite shops and schools and started chasing wind year-round. I went pro when North Kiteboarding (the original Duotone) picked me up around 2012 after I had some good competition results and started publishing some articles. I still remember the 2018 shoot where we shot the cover photo. At that time, I would spend every spring in Cape Hatteras for at least a few months enjoying the epic kite conditions there.

Since then, everything has changed! Something I am very proud of from that time was that, with the support of Duotone, I was able to organise and produce two women's photoshoots which gave us the content to showcase our women's team much more than in years prior. Now, I am still just as passionate about our sport, but I am quite a bit more in the background. I do what I can to stay involved with Duotone and the industry in general, but my career as a competitive athlete has come to an end. I'm still working on finding the right balance because I will forever consider myself an athlete, but it is no longer my job. In a way, it's made me love the sport even more.

RIDER COLLEEN CARROLL PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH



"I AM STILL JUST AS PASSIONATE ABOUT OUR SPORT, BUT I AM QUITE A BIT MORE IN THE BACKGROUND."



" I LOVE KITEBOARDING SO MUCH,
AND THE FONDNESS ONLY SEEMS
TO GROW. "

I had a son in July of 2022, and my husband and I have been figuring out how to do this parenting thing ever since. We're learning that it's just like everyone says - it's the best, hardest thing you will ever do. So it's definitely been a lot of focus on family over the past year or so. I also had a difficult pregnancy, so I had to slow down more than I thought I would early on. I'm not spending even close to as much time on the water, but we are finding our groove again, and I'm slowly able to spend more and more time back on the board. When I get the time to be out there - I soak in every second! I just competed in the Kiteboard 4 Cancer 6-hour endurance race, which was probably the most physically challenging thing I've ever done.

Looking forward, I'm excited to simply be on the water. I love kiteboarding so much, and the fondness only seems to grow. As for goals, I am looking forward to a successful women's kite camp (or two?) with Sensi Graves and Strut Kiteboarding this year, and I also hope to coach for Adrenajen's Snowkite Camps, which are one of my favourite things. I also want to get enough time on the water to feel strong in my body again. It's an amazing transformation to have a child, and it takes time to regain that strength, something I have a newfound respect for.



RIDER COLLEEN CARROLL PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH

RIDER HANNAH WHITELEY PHOTO LACI KOBULSKY



Issue 87 - June 2021 - Hannah Whiteley

Kitesurfing properly started for me in 2007. I had tried some years earlier, but after a few "kite-mares", I decided kitesurfing was not for me. Little did I know in 2007, I would try again and be totally hooked. In 2011 I could call kitesurfing my job. Today, I feel extremely grateful to still travel around this beautiful world doing my biggest passion in life. I have joined the Cabrinha family, which I'm very proud to be part of; it's such a warm feeling to be part of a brand which is so passionate about what they do and driven

to innovate. I have travelled to many new countries and immersed myself in creating more content than ever. YouTube vlogs have been a new project; I wanted to give a slightly deeper insight into my trips.

Besides kitesurfing, I'm driven to renovate property, which is the background I had before kitesurfing took over. I love being hands-on and learning different skills. My master plan is to have some projects going on in the background so I'll always be able to continue kitesurfing. Outside of kitesurfing, I love moving my body in nature and challenging myself to other sports,

" I FEEL EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO STILL TRAVEL AROUND THIS BEAUTIFUL WORLD DOING MY BIGGEST PASSION IN LIFE. "

whether snowboarding, climbing, wild swimming, skating or hiking. We are here for such a short time when you think about it. It would be a shame not to experience all you can.

One thing is certain: kitesurfing will always be a part of my life; I like the idea of being a kitesurfing granny. My goals are to push other disciplines in kitesurfing, for example foiling big air. If you mix it up within your sport, the passion and drive will always be strong. I want to learn to pump foil and wing too. So 2023 and beyond is about exploring new avenues and gaining new skills.

RIDER HANNAH WHITELEY PHOTOS LACI KOBULSKY

"WE ARE HERE FOR SUCH A SHORT TIME
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT. IT WOULD BE A
SHAME NOT TO EXPERIENCE ALL YOU CAN."



Issue 96 - December 2022 - Zara Hoogenraad

I started kiting in 2017, but the big change came with a kite trip to Brazil two years ago, where I improved my skills and got my first sponsorship with CORE, making me want to train even harder. The same year, the Big Air Kite League started to host competitions, which was my opportunity to start competing. Everything started moving really fast. Now, I look back and can't believe how far I've come since starting kiting in 2017. I'm excited to see where my journey will go next!

Seeing myself on the cover of Issue 96 was like a dream come true! It was my first time on a cover, making me feel really proud. It was a big reward for all my hard work and marked a huge step in my kitesurfing career. The photo was taken by Antonio Herrera Trujillo, someone I really like working with. Having this cover shot taken by him made it extra special.

This year, my biggest highlight was winning the Women's Move of the Year at the GKA Awards. The happiness and pride I felt at that moment is hard to describe. But I also had a tough time dealing with two injuries that kept me away from the water this year. While it's been hard physically and mentally, I've stayed positive and focused on getting better. I'm not 100% yet, but I can get back on the water, and that's the best part for me right now. The good times and the tough times are part of my journey in this sport.

In my career to date, winning Full Power Tarifa in 2022 holds a special place in my heart, not only because of the win but also because my boyfriend, Giel, won in the men's event on the same day.



"IT WAS A BIG REWARD FOR ALL MY HARD WORK AND MARKED A HUGE STEP IN MY KITESURFING CAREER."



RIDER ZARA HOOGENRAAD PHOTO THOMAS BURBLIES

" BY PUSHING MY LIMITS AND REACHING MY GOALS, I HOPE TO MOTIVATE OTHER WOMEN TO JOIN THE SPORT AND FEEL THE THRILL AND FUN OF KITEBOARDING. "

What made this event even more memorable was the situation with our friend Janek, who had broken both of his legs the day before, leading us to spend the entire day at the hospital. This brought Giel and me closer, and we were determined to win for Janek. Achieving our goal and sharing this victory is an unforgettable experience that we'll always cherish.

My life currently revolves completely around kitesurfing, which I absolutely love. I've dedicated my entire life to this sport, and it has become a part of who I am. I spend most of my time travelling the world in search of the perfect wind conditions, training hard for upcoming competitions and continuously striving to improve my skills. I'm not planning on leaving competitive kiteboarding anytime soon; I see myself competing for a few more years. After that, I'm open to possibilities. I'm close to the CORE team and hope to stay in the kitesurfing world with them. So, while my athletic career isn't ending soon, I'm excited about what the future might bring.

Outside of kitesurfing, I have a passion for fitness and food. I might explore these areas and see if I can help people lead healthier lives. Maybe combine it with Big Air coaching for women to help the next generation. By pushing my limits and reaching my goals, I hope to motivate other women to join the sport and feel the thrill and fun of kiteboarding. More than just the sport, I want to inspire women to step out of their comfort zones. It's about moving your body, challenging yourself and striving to be the best version of yourself. Kiteboarding has taught me these values, and I hope to share them with others.

PHOTO ANTONIO HERRERA TRUJILLO



RIDER ZARA HOOGENRAAD PHOTO SAMUEL CARDENAS



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WORDS LINDA VAN LAKWIJK
PHOTOS ARTHUR SAMZUN

EXPLORING DAKHLA WITH NAISH TEAM EUROPE

When the young riders from Naish Team Europe get together, it's guaranteed to be a great time! Their latest trip to Dakhla brought the crew together to ride, progress, and learn what it takes to be an international athlete. Read all about their adventure in the desert in this article!



“STIG HOEFNAGEL ACCOMPANIED THE NAISH TEAM EUROPE RIDERS TO SHARE HIS VALUABLE EXPERIENCE AS A PROFESSIONAL KITER”

A mix of fun, sand and constant wind awaited Naish Team Europe as they went on their latest adventure. Packed with excitement and ready to experience the 'Naish Team Europe-vibe', the team boarded the plane to Dakhla. The crew welcomed them at Habitas Caravan Dakhla, a brand new Naish centre located on the shores of the Dakhla lagoon.

To complete the crew, international rider Stig Hoefnagel accompanied the Naish Team Europe riders to share his valuable experience as a professional kiter and offer insights on how to reach the top. Stig has been part of Naish Team Europe since its establishment and brings a wealth of knowledge and inspiration to the team.

It was definitely more than just a vacation for the riders; the schedule was packed with exciting activities and training sessions. After a quick get-to-know-each-other and breakfast, the riders were ready to hit the water to explore the spot and warm up. The vibe was immediately there, and they had a blast together. Videographer Floris Tils and photographer Arthur Samzun joined the riders in the water, capturing all the action.

The day after, we woke up with light winds, making it an ideal opportunity to capture additional content for Habitas, including breakfast scenes, lifestyle shots around the accommodation, and a yoga session. That evening, the riders gathered for a video analysis and a workshop conducted by Arthur and Floris, who provided valuable insights on riding in front of the camera.

“ I WAS BLOWN AWAY BY THE WHOLE SPOT, STARTING FROM WHERE WE STAYED, A LUXURIOUS RESORT IN THE DESERT SURROUNDED BY THE BEST KITE SPOTS. ”





“WE WERE SHREDDING TOGETHER AS A SOLID TEAM, AND IT WAS JUST INCREDIBLE.”

While the trip was already filled with many hilarious moments, getting stuck with a car in the desert could also be added to this list. After an incredible session at the White Dune in 40 knots of wind, the team encountered loose sand and a very inexperienced driver, which led to getting stuck in the sand multiple times. The group tried to push the car through the sand, with blowing sand skimming their legs in the high winds. It became an unexpected adventure as the evening drew in. Drivers usually don't want to travel to this spot after sunset because they don't want to get stuck in the dark. We already imagined

how it would be to sleep in the desert and wake up as a sandman...

Amidst the training sessions, water antics, and unforgettable moments, the crew decided to organise a competition, offering the riders an opportunity to showcase their skills and compete for a Golden FIFA Cup, which the crew scored at the local market. Although the competition was just for fun, it left a lasting impact on the riders. The Golden FIFA Cup became a cherished symbol of their shared passion, representing not only victory but also the bonds formed and the joy of their journey together.

Reflecting on the trip, the Naish Team Europe riders shared their heartfelt experiences.

JEANNE VANDERICK (BELGIUM)

"I had such an amazing time in Dakhla with the whole crew. The vibe was there; the wind was there; the stoke was there. We were shredding together as a solid team, and it was just incredible. We all felt comfortable with each other right from the start, even though some of us didn't know each other beforehand.

"The thing I remember most is one of the last sessions at the Speed Spot, where we all pushed each other while shouting 'Naish gooooo!' at sunset. It's sure to be a lasting memory..."



"I LEARNED HOW
TO RIDE AND SHOW
TRICKS IN FRONT
OF A CAMERA."

JULIAN MEIJVOGEL (THE NETHERLANDS)

"The thing I remember the most was the session at the White Dune because we had the perfect strong 35+ knots of wind, and it was the first time riding a spot with a crazy dune which we all jumped off.

"The funniest moment for me, and I think also for the other riders, was the moment when we drove back from the White Dune, and one of us was on top of the car, and everyone was hanging out of the window while riding truly in the middle of nowhere.

"I learned how to ride and show tricks in front of a camera. A shooting session is way different than a normal kite session."

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**"IT WAS MAGICAL TO GET INTO THE CAR WITH
THE TEAM AND DRIVE THROUGH THE DESERT
TO A SPOT"**

NOËL GRASSL (AUSTRIA)

"I was blown away by the whole spot, starting from where we stayed, a luxurious resort in the desert surrounded by the best kite spots.

"It was magical to get into the car with the team and drive through the desert to a spot, and everyone hyped to kite - especially when we went to the White Dune, a massive sand dune surrounded by water, which makes it possible to do all sorts of jumps, slides and other tricks on and off the sand."

"I EXPERIENCED EPIC MOMENTS, DID THINGS I HAD NEVER DONE BEFORE AND KITED IN AMAZING SPOTS."



NAÏS BALBINOT (ITALY)

"I start by saying this experience will always remain etched in my heart; I met special people and new friends.

"Every session, we were pushing each other to give it our all and try, try, try. This served me so much to let go with some manoeuvres, and I feel improved thanks to the team. I experienced epic moments, did things I had never done before and kited in amazing spots.

"I hope to come back soon with this fabulous team and collect new crazy memories together!"

RIDERS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
JULIAN MEIJVOGEL, NOËL GRASSL, MATHYS RUMELIOGLU, NAÏS BALBINOT, AND JEANNE VANDERICK

MATHYS RUMELIOGLU (FRANCE)

"The wind was on every day, so we shot a lot of content and learned how to do it since it was totally new for some of us. We had a lot of fun together and pushed our limits. One day Julian, Jeanne and I even landed a new trick. We all ran out of the water with a huge smile!

"It was the best way to start this crazy Naish Team Europe adventure, and I can't wait to meet all these new friends again. We have even planned a three week trip later this summer and have all our flights and our accommodations arranged, so that's really cool, and I'm looking forward to it."

With the journey to Dakhla etched in their memories, the Naish Team Europe members eagerly look forward to their future adventures. United by their love for kitesurfing and the remarkable experiences they shared, their trip to Dakhla served as a testament to the lasting friendships formed along the way. As they plan their next trip, the team eagerly anticipates creating new, extraordinary memories together.



"IT WAS TOTALLY NEW FOR SOME OF US. WE HAD A LOT OF FUN TOGETHER AND PUSHED OUR LIMITS."



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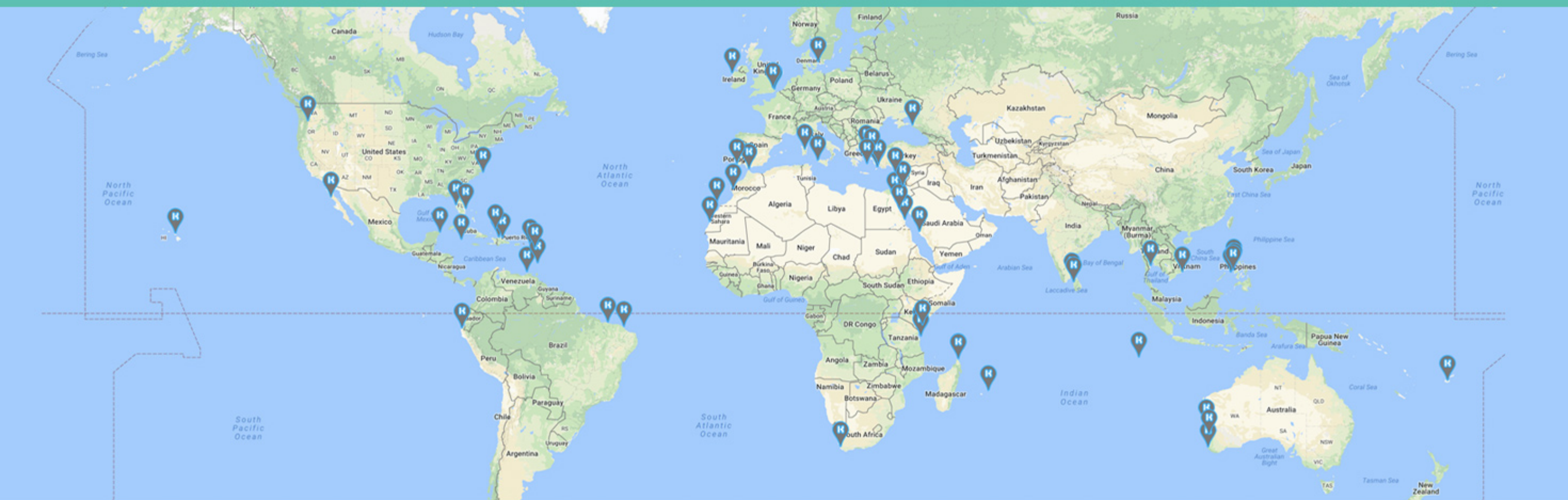
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We're especially happy to celebrate IKSURFMAG's big 100. We feel both lucky and honoured to have been here since the beginning, and we're over the moon to still be here, so a big thanks to you, Rou! :) It's been an amazing journey with an amazing team of people. As one would expect, a lot has changed over the 17 years since we first put pen to paper on these hallowed pages, but our passion and excitement for sharing our knowledge remain. There's such an immense choice of kiting goodies to be challenged by, and this very challenge of learning is what makes kiting so very addictive, so very rewarding and such a great community.

The centenary requires something fitting and worthy. So it's a doubleheader, a two-for-one special. A milestone for IKSURFMAG is the perfect opportunity to aim for one of kiting's many milestones, the loop. For many, the fabled kite loop is King and Queen, the ultimate goal. That said, the word loop has a habit of striking fear into the hearts of the uninitiated. If you're quaking in your straps at the very thought, worry not. Ignore the goal and concentrate on the process. And that, Ladies and Gents, starts here. To celebrate the big number, we're diving hammer and tongs into a new series of all things loop. The starting block of which is the trusty down loop, or as we like to call it in the initial stages, the under-turn! Not a "loop" in the name :)

As an extra feature, editor at large, Crystal, has asked us to give our take on what has changed in and around kiting from our viewpoint as kites and coaches since we've been laying our lines in the sand.

Buckle up and sit tight as this issue we'll take you through Learning to Loop Part 1, the body drag under turn, then the down loop slide turn transition, and finally, a few of our dubious musings. Ready? Let's do it...

C&K



KARINE AND CHRISTIAN

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LEARNING TO LOOP #1 ▶

BODY DRAG UNDER TURN AND DOWN LOOP
SLIDING TRANSITION

To kick off our series of all things loop, we're going to have a look at the very foundation, the under turn. First, it is employed while body dragging to get the mechanics and understanding in the bag before we then move on to the slide turn. Cracking this is a game changer and, with time, will give you both the confidence and know-how to take your looping further. Incidentally, as well as being rudimentary skills, both of these manoeuvres have practical uses, which we'll come onto in due course.

BODY DRAGGING UNDER TURN

There is no better way to work on this than by ridding yourself of your board. You only have the kite to think about, and you can therefore focus all your attention on the challenge above you. Ideally, you should aim to try this in light wind, perhaps when you're at the beach and it's not quite enough to ride. The perfect opportunity; drag out and give this a go! We should hasten to add that you need space for the possible outcome that you don't succeed and crash your kite. So, make sure that you and your kite are out of harm's way, and anybody else's, for that matter.

The game plan is to start with your kite at 12 o'clock and then steer it aggressively so that it turns under itself (hence the name) the full 360 and ends back up at 12. Start with one side until you get the hang of it before moving onto the other direction. In this feature's photos, Karine is steering, right hand down,



turning the kite to the right before it under turns full circle in SEQUENCE 1.

As the kite loops, it will pull you downwind. How far depends on how powered the kite is and how quickly the kite turns. If you're powered, you'll get more pull, and if you turn the kite slowly, you'll get more pull! As already alluded to, aim to start with lighter wind and go for a quick turn.

Let's have a look at the key moments that'll make a big difference before we move on to some common mistakes.

START AT 12. PIC A.

Having your kite at 12 o'clock before giving it the beans is paramount to your success for a number of reasons.

First and foremost, it makes for the most intuitive movement. With your kite at 12, you can concentrate on a big pull and push for maximum steerage. In this case, pulling your right hand down and pushing your left hand up. With the kite at 12, your arms are extensions of your lines, so you can simply lengthen the left and shorten the right. Keep your hands fairly wide on the bar for extra leverage to start with, don't hug the centre line.

Secondly, if you loop the kite higher, which is only possible if you start high, you'll get less pull relative to the power in the kite.

And finally, it gives you more room to get the under turn done. Not that you want to use all that area, but it gives you room for error... So, make sure your kite is at 12.



KNOW YOUR SWEET SPOT. PIC B

When you steer your kite, it's vital that you have your bar on or around the sweet spot. This way, you'll have control, and the kite will fly as designed. If you pull the bar in too far, you may choke the kite, and it'll do all sorts of crazy manoeuvres or potentially pull too much. If you play safe and let the bar out too much, your kite won't turn, as you'll have no tension on the steering lines. If anything, it's better to have the bar a touch out, in preference to too far in.

THE FULL MONTY. PIC C

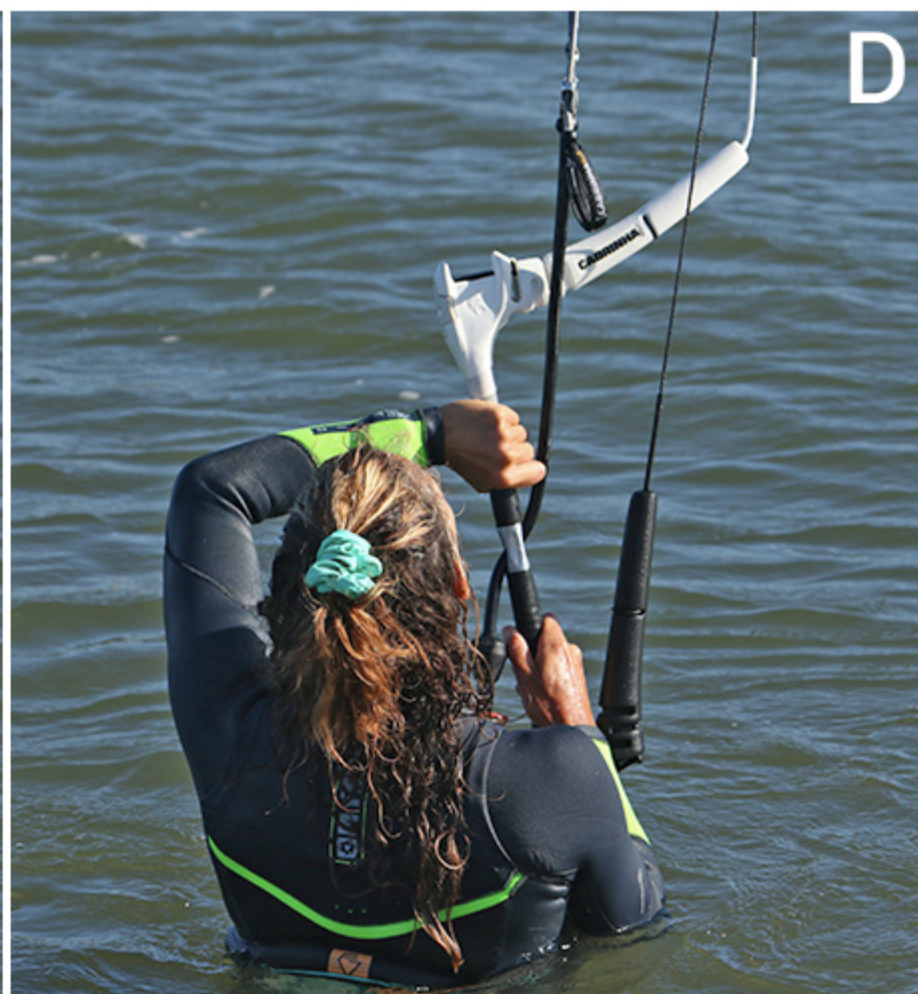
You want your kite to turn quickly. The best way to do this is to use a meaningful two-handed push pull.



Using two hands, specifically the push, helps you keep the bar on the sweet spot and prevents you from stalling the kite. You should aim to get the bar parallel with the centre line so that the knuckles of your pushing hand are rubbing up against it. A massive bonus of doing this is that you have the bar in the position in which it should stay until the kite has turned full circle. Whilst giving it the beans like this, means that you'll generate less power, and it'll be over before you can say Jack Robinson!

KEEP IT ON. PIC D

You need to watch your kite so that you know where it is. This visual comes with its own problems. As soon as you see your kite turn down, there'll be a million



synapses screaming for you to stop. Then as the pull comes, they are joined by an even stronger impulse to let the bar out. Once you've pulled the proverbial trigger, you need to keep the push pull on and the bar on the sweet spot. Commit! Sounds simple enough, but you'll have to make a concerted effort the first few times. As the kite pulls, let yourself go with it. Depending on how aggressively you steer the kite, it will pull you downwind, first slightly to the side you turned it, and then slightly towards the side it's climbing back up. When done correctly, it'll be a short but sharp pull, a quick turbo kicking in before subsiding. Try to keep yourself balanced and flat on your chest and hips as the kite drags you through the water.



THE FINISH LINE PIC E

You want to keep the full push pull until your kite is well and truly on its way back up to 12 o'clock. You have two cues; watching your kite and feeling the power. At first, the visual will be your best bet, and as you get used to it, you'll feel the power subside once the kite climbs. Both of these are dependent on you not stalling or sheeting out. If you stall your kite, the kite won't climb back up to the edge of the window, the magic neutral point or Zenith. And if you let the bar out, the kite won't turn far enough to make it to 12. It's better to turn the kite a bit too far than not far enough, as it's very unlikely that you'll go into a second under turn even if you react slowly.

SEQUENCE 2

A MAJORLY BIG POINT. Once you've finished, your lines will be twisted! This is not a problem. Your kite will still steer, and your bar will function the same as before. Don't rush to untwist your lines. Wait until you're balanced, happy, breathing and ready:)

UNTWIST. SEQUENCE 3

Untwisting and unspinning your bar can feel a touch intimidating at first. As long as your kite is at 12, you have plenty of time. To untwist your bar, you'll need to follow the direction that you turned the kite. Karine turned her kite down to the right, so to untwist, she will push the bar down to the right.



Let the power off and push the bar around. It needs to go the full 360, so make sure not to stop after 180. In this case, Karine has to get from black right to black right. Once you get the hang of this, you can unspin the bar by letting go and pushing it around with enough force so that it unspins the full 360 without you having to guide it around with both hands.

COMMON MISTAKES

Hopefully, the under turn mechanics make sense. There are a couple of common mistakes that we've touched upon, which you should try to avoid.

Number 1 on the list is trying to follow the kite around with your bar as if you're untwisting as you go. This can only end in tears. As the kite turns and pulls, keep everything as it is, in this case, right hand down, left hand pushing.

Number 2 is letting the power of the turn pull the bar out. If you do this, you'll lose all steerage, and the kite will likely hit the water. Once again, keep the bar where it is until you've completed the turn.

TOP TIPS

Once you're happy with the movement, do it both ways. If you have space, you can do one after another, which means no need to untwist the bar.

The more adept you become, and the more you do, you'll find the untwisting quite intuitive. Once it is, you can try unspinning the bar.

Keep practising this until you can do it with ease and confidence. Once you have it down and it feels natural, adding the board shouldn't be such a jump.



As we mentioned, not only is the body dragging under turn a great way to learn, but it will also come in useful whenever you need to body drag downwind. Let's say your board gets taken by a wave in onshore conditions. This technique is preferable to swinging the kite from side to side above your head when powered, as you won't get lifted out of the water and slammed back down!

DOWN LOOP SLIDE TURN TRANSITION

Okay, so you've got the under turn nailed without the board. You can now move onto the down loop transition. Your intention is to marry your under turn with a slide turn transition. What you'll do with the kite is exactly the same as you've just learnt. For this to work seamlessly, it's all about the timing, and by timing, we mean when to pull the trigger on your down loop? The simple answer is when you're sliding!

If you're not edging up into your turn but sliding, you'll offer little resistance to your kite as the momentary turbo kicks in. If you need a quick slide turn refresher, check out the video here - [HOW TO SLIDE TURN TRANSITION](#)

The good news is, and it's worth pondering, that when you're sliding on a board, you'll offer much less resistance than when you've got most of your body on the water when dragging. As such, the relative pull from the kite will be less than what you're now used to.

Let's have a look at the pieces... And do remember to check that the coast is clear and that you've got plenty of room!

SLOW AND KITE UP. PIC 1

Your entry into the turn should be as per normal, but remember to widen your hand position slightly.

Slow down to lose forward momentum before the turn by edging upwind and letting the bar out a little. As you do this, drift your kite up. As you're moving forward, it doesn't need to be right at 12 o'clock, but for the first few attempts, pretty damn close, around 12:30 or 11:30 will be perfect. As the kite moves up, the bar will move to a more parallel position in relation to the water. As a result, it's in that more intuitive push pull ready position. Perfect.

SHIFT AND SLIDE. PIC 2

Before you contemplate any meaningful bar movement, you need to get your slide on. Move your weight forward toward your front foot and then push your rear foot away from you to initiate the slide. Once you push with your back leg and break your edge out, your board will slide slowly, taking that edge tension off your lines. With your weight over what will become the tail of the board, you and the board are ready too.

PULL & PUSH – THE LOOP. PIC 3

Loop time! Pull the trigger just as you practised, a hefty pull push on the sweet spot. You don't need to do it blind, so watch your kite as you give it the beans. The kite will pull you around with it, and as such, you'll gently turn and transition towards your new direction.

CARVE & FULL MONTY. PIC 4

As you transition and start to move in your new direction, keep your weight over your new rear foot and turn your head to look where you're going.





This will drop you back onto your edge, and you can start to gently carve around the rest of your turn. As the kite pulls, keep the bar on the sweet spot and keep turning the kite.

NO HURRY. PIC 5

There's no need to rush; you have time for each step. When the kite starts to rise, you can level the bar to stop it turning any further, and if it's gone too high, you can even dive it down to generate enough power to keep going.

You're in no hurry to untwist or unspin your lines. You can happily ride, work your kite and be in full control with this twist in your lines. Once you're happy and settled, you can then untwist.

TOP TIPS

For your very first attempts, it is better to have your kite a little too high, slow down a lot and turn your kite all the way back to 12 o'clock. This exaggeration may result in you stopping and sinking slightly,

RODERICK PIJLS STYLING IT OUT ON THE NEW LIEUWE
FALCON IN BROUWERSDAM, THE NETHERLANDS
PHOTO JACO KLEIJWEGT



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but it'll give you the green light that you're doing it right.

You can then work on smoothing it out by starting a tiny bit less high and levelling the bar when the kite reaches 11 (or 1) so that you can drive yourself out of the turn.

You may also find that as you get comfortable with more power from the kite, you'll need to sheet out gently as you stop turning the kite, so that it can breathe and pull you out of your transition.

Have a look at Sequence 4 for a step-by-step of the transition in its entirety.

COMMON MISTAKES

It can be tempting to rush through the transition, and if you do, you'll likely not "free" the board by sliding it. If you stay on an edge, you'll have a lot of resistance when you loop the kite, and it'll overpower you,

pull the bar out, and you'll struggle to get the kite around the loop or control your exit.

Don't forget to lift the kite before your turn. If you've followed our slide turn transition, you'll be well versed in leaving the kite at 1 or 11, but for this, at the beginning at least, do lift it higher as you approach.

WHEN TO USE THE DOWN LOOP TRANSITION?

Once this is in the bag, you'll find it becomes such a well-used and essential tool in your box of tricks. It's a great way to turn if there are kites upwind of you. You know the scenario when you're being shadowed to the beach. Now you can literally under turn with no risk of bumping anyone's kite.

It's also a great way to generate more power through a turn. By slowing the loop and using a bigger radius, you can generate pull even when the wind isn't playing ball. As such, you can use it to add power to a

water start or to a carving turn. It can save your bacon tacking on a surfboard and is paramount to succeeding on a foil in lighter winds, to name but a few. And of course, you're one step closer...

Brilliant, there you go! Stage one in the process complete! Do check out our CK'ssentials video on the IKSURFMAG YouTube channel.

Take care, C&K.



TECHNIQUE

WORDS & PHOTOS CHRISTIAN & KARINE

17 YEARS ON, THE LOW DOWN

"Change is the only constant in life" (thank you, Heraclitus).

KARINE AND CHRISTIAN



It's inevitable, it's evolution, and we should embrace it, the unknown, an exciting part of life. In a sport like kitesurfing, nothing ever remains still. There are, of course, exceptions; let's start with them, as they're the ones who got us here in the first place.

We should lay down a quick caveat that what follows are snippets of our opinion, just that, no more, no less. Nibbles of subjective take by two people on the part of a sport that we've been involved with for nigh on 23 years. Nothing is fact, but neither is it fiction.

AVANT-GARDE

First and foremost, hats off to Rou and Alex for their vision and such a brilliant concept in the first place. We're sure the powers that be at IKSURFMAG towers won't mind us evoking that back at the time of its inception, there were more than a few folks in and around the kiting industry who thought that a digital magazine was bonkers and would never catch on. Now, when's the last time you somewhat guiltily thumbed through your publication of choice in a branch of WHSmith?

HAPPY PERENNIALS

Well, in a nutshell, we're still writing technique, we're still running clinics, still flying Cabrinha (ignoring a short midlife crisis), and we're still very much together. All in all, plenty enough reason to pop open the bubbly and enjoy a right good knees up. However, this isn't about us; it's about you and this wonderful way of spending time on the water.





THE ESSENCE

Thankfully the essence of kiting hasn't changed at all; it's fun! Many of us will have experienced the same moment, witnessing some ecstatic kiter flying, floating lazily on the breeze. If it's in you, you can't not react to this sight. We've heard many a fellow kiter wax lyrical about not only the joy of kiting, the pleasure of learning, but also how they're unable to think of anything but kiting whilst they're on the water. As fashionable as living in the moment has become, kiting has always been a welcome distraction in which you can merrily lose yourself.

MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SMILE

Kiting offers so much diversity. There are a plethora of ways to enjoy it, whether you're just stoked on being in the ocean, happy to share your time with others, intent on learning a new trick or skill, riding a wave, sending yourself into the stratosphere, or pulling the trigger on a big one. For sure, new craft and more extreme moves have evolved, but the joy remains.

THE FLAME LIVES ON

As instructors and coaches, this has been our lifeblood.

Watching the flame flicker into life, pupils dilate, smile broaden, and then hearing the unrestrained childlike giggle or whoop of utter joy from so many grown men and women, and that, after a decent downwind body drag! :) This all-consuming elation and liberation hasn't changed one bit. Anyone and everyone lucky enough to have been bitten by the bug knows this feeling only too well. We're fortunate enough to be constantly entertained, inspired and motivated by our guests, students and readers/watchers, and as such, we dedicate everything to them and you. Amen to that.



TRUE COMMUNITY

This shared experience leads to a wonderful sense of community. Our mild dependence on one another for a launch, a land or a little advice on kite size or a new spot's intricacies. In general, kiting inspires a circle of help, encouraging us all out of our shells, like joining a giant Conga. Long may it last.

DIE HARDS

It's also incredible how some riders have managed to stay relevant for so long. Carving out lasting careers or building brands like Mark Shinn through their hard work, skill, dedication and resilience. Starting young may have helped, but the likes of Aaron, Mitu, Ruben, Jalou, Kevin and Bruna are names that still resonate. And a shout out to Marc Jacobs, still up there and battling with the kids.

BEST FRIEND

An easy-to-use kite is still your best friend. For sure, dedicated equipment for different disciplines and conditions is brilliant, but nothing beats easy. The less you have to worry about flying a kite, the more you can concentrate on what you're trying to do. We've always been fans of less technical kites, which doesn't necessarily mean less capable, sporty or able. If you're trying something new, why not make it as "less difficult" as possible? We've been recommending the same kite to our guests through its various iterations for donkey's years. Any guesses? It's an Uncle Pat's special...

WHAT HAS CHANGED

...other than shorts were long and boards were short? Where to start? There have been so many positive changes, necessary, evolutionary and creatively.



The people, the places, the perspective, the equipment and what's become possible. Kiting borrowed a plenty, but now seems very much on its own unique path. The level of commitment, risk and entertainment is somewhere in the region of Nitro Circus shenanigans.

THE SHOW

At the end of the day, kiting is still a spectacle to behold, and it's gone full circle. It may not be the likes of Jeff Tobias and Martin Vari, early rock stars going huge

on and off the water, or a past world champ who was fond of the odd ciggie and liked nothing more than a cold one to quench his thirst. But by golly, it's gone totally bananas. When KOTA morphed into a kite loop fest, who would ever believe that it would meteorically rise into kiting's own legitimate version of FMX? OK, the kit has developed, but the riders, crikey, it's next-level stuff that these girls and boys are throwing down that scares the bejesus out of us. Bertrand Fleury and his short line loops circa 2004 exempt, of course.

SAFETY

You can educate to prevent accidents, but when it hits the fan, we've now got kites that depower significantly and have safety releases. We're all in a better boat for that. This has opened the world of kiting to many more people, which is amazing. It's sobering to think what has passed to get here, but thankfully gone are the days of homemade chicken fingers and Wichard snap shackles.

RELAUNCH

Over the years, every lesson teaching someone to relaunch has filled us with wonder; it never ceases to amaze us. How much hair the Legaigoux brothers must have pulled out to make this a possibility? It's come a long way. From needing the lungs of a free diver and the swimming prowess of Michael Phelps to requiring only the gentlest of touches that JR Hartley would be proud of. That's progress.

COACHING

For us, this is the most exciting challenge and what keeps us fresh. We constantly have to adapt, learn, grow and develop our teaching methods and coaching syllabus to suit new developments, new disciplines, and new ideas. Nowadays, there is so much information available that people can overload and confuse themselves, so we're often undoing bad habits before we can start polishing and progressing. It's part of the learning process.

BOOTS KILLED FREESTYLE!

What worked for Lou Wainman, banging out impossible wakeboard moves on a two-line kite, wasn't for everyone. From wakestyle to freestyle, unhooking, blind landings, and handle passing were all the rage (and thankfully still are for some). However, as boots became more popular, donning a pair before a certain point on the learning curve just made everything infinitely less pleasant. It may be water, but catching an edge in boots most definitely rings the bell!





FASHION

Kiting started as a big air sport and has now gone full cycle into extreme big air. On the beach, kites used to froth over a Chaos, a Fuel, a Vegas or a Razor; now it's Nitro, Orbit, Evo, and the list goes on. We still coach across the full range; it's always a mixed bag of moves and craft, and there is so much to learn. Some of our regulars have a huge box of tricks that comes with time, practice and persistence. Although we teach less freestyle, it's still on the menu, as one of our favourite Austrians, Dr Jo, will attest to. Different strokes for different folks. At the end of the day, it's about going for what rocks your boat, whether raley or kite loop and what the conditions allow. There's always room to mix it up and paint your own canvas; just look at Tom Bridge!

HIGH PERFORMANCE

As already alluded to, kites have developed massively. Many have become easier to use and have much larger wind ranges. Some have become much faster and much lighter. We've all seen what these kites are capable of doing. This is a double-edged sword. For sure, if you're trying to invert your Boogie loop, it may be perfect, but if you're wondering why learning to back roll is terrifying? Kiting on the edge and not feeling where your kite is doesn't always translate to comfort or the ability to learn all those tasty new tricks.

FUN FACT

Haha, when we were nippers and all that!! There is a myriad of reasons, along with recent events and inflation over 17 years, that kites have obviously become more expensive, but... Did you know that every kite used to come with a pump, bar and lines?

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Would you like to help IKSURFMAG to continue to bring you the best in kite journalism from around the world? Perhaps you enjoy Christian and Karine's technique, or our independent tests, or maybe you love the travel guides? Support us, win awesome prizes, get free stickers and much more.



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BECOME A SUPPORTER

With one of the most successful youth teams in kiteboarding, Eleveight is earning quite the reputation as the birthplace of World Champions! You may not have heard of these riders yet, but you soon will. In this article, Robert Bratz gives us the background on the Eleveight youth program, and we meet kiteboarding's stars of tomorrow!



WATCH THIS SPACE

INTRODUCING ELEVEIGHT'S YOUNG GUNS



RIDER RAFA MONTERO
PHOTO PABLO AMORES

"WE LOVE TO WORK WITH YOUTHFUL ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM, AND THE PASSION THAT YOUNG RIDERS BRING TO THE SPORT."



Eleveight has a long history in water sports, from the very grassroots in kiteboarding, and a passion for investing in young talent at different levels. Nurturing talent allows for the opportunity to help shape athletes from an early age. Through long-term development, we can build a strong foundation for the future and integrate our youth team into our family-driven company structure.

We love to work with youthful energy, enthusiasm,

and the passion that young riders bring to the sport. They're the ones that push the boundaries in performance and inspire us all. Youth sponsoring also has an economic advantage as younger role models influence a new rider generation that will hopefully become potential customers. Kiteboarding, in general, is an older person's sport, but by investing in young talent, we invest in the next generation of kiteboarders with the hope that more young people will follow.

COMING UP THE RANKS

Take the case of Arthur Guillebert, our former World Champion who rose through the ranks after we spotted him in 2018. Back then, Phil Martin, one of the founders of Eleveight, was looking after the French team, and he spotted the potential in Arthur when he won the Youth World Championship. At the time, we were in the early stages of launching Eleveight, and we had quite a low budget for sponsoring riders.

" THIS GUY HAD SOME SERIOUS SKILLS, AND ANTOINE'S FIRST COMPETITION RESULTS SHOWED US CLEARLY THAT HE HAS A COMPETITIVE NATURE. "

But, Arthur was the perfect fit for us; he was young and energetic, performed at a very high level, and had a good understanding of kite products and the development process. So we signed him up quickly, and ever since, Arthur has played a crucial role in our Eleveight family.

I still remember one of the first videos we posted of him: a well-performed Blind Judge 9 (triple handle pass rotation). That video went through the roof, proving that we had him as a top freestyle asset right from the start. He won several events in different disciplines and did very well in his first year on the GKA World Tour. In 2021, he won the GKA Freestyle World Championship, a milestone for all of us and the brand.

The great thing about Arthur is that he is very versatile in his riding. He has all the freestyle tricks in his toolbox but he can also unleash the beast when it's 30+ knots and showtime for the big air guys. This set of skills is great for events and also very helpful for our video and picture productions. As a rider, he is very humble and reliable and has managed his athletic career very well. Arthur fits our organisation structure, and over the years, he's developed as one of our main faces at Eleveight.

NEXT-GENERATION CHAMPIONS

The pro rider scene is a small circle. Everyone knows each other quite well, and they also know the next-generation riders. Arthur grew up in New Caledonia and has known our current Youth World Champion, Antoine Ollivier, since his first steps in kiteboarding. He pointed out to us early on that this guy had some serious skills, and Antoine's first competition results showed us clearly that he has a competitive nature.

It's always been important to Eleveight that the rider fits our values and structure. We act as a small family with a lot of trust in each other. Phil Mohr, our German Area Manager, also knew our other team rider, Jan Burgdörfer, quite well. With these personal connections, finding a good sponsor relationship is easy. Jan is also very active in some youth development programs, and he introduced us to our other World Champion, Kaya Lehmann, last year!

SUPPORTING OUR YOUNG GUNS

The support we offer is on different levels. On the one hand, we try to help with gear as much as possible, so the guys can ride the latest Eleveight products that fit perfectly to their styles. On the other hand, we have an incentive structure for their performance, not only in competition but also in their professional and social media approaches and their related input and content production.

With our current youth team, we always strive to form the next World Champion. Our team is very motivated, and their training is very professional. The latest results show that they are on the right track to becoming the stars of tomorrow. We are very proud to work with this talented group of riders, and their spirit also drives our product development to offer them the best-performance products on the market.

PROMISING STARS

The recent GKA Youth World Championships in Tarifa saw some amazing achievements from the Eleveight team, decorating the podiums and crowning two World Champions amongst the four hopefuls. We've asked these four up-and-coming athletes to introduce themselves. Watch this space; this won't be the last time you hear their names!

RIDER KAYA LEHMANN
PHOTO PABLO AMORES



“THEIR SPIRIT ALSO DRIVES OUR PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT TO OFFER THEM THE BEST-PERFORMANCE PRODUCTS ON THE MARKET.”

" MY FAVOURITE THING ABOUT KITESURFING IS FEELING FREE TO FLY HIGH IN THE SKY AT BEAUTIFUL SPOTS AND HAVING FUN, EVEN WHEN TRAINING HARD. "



INTRODUCING: ANTOINE OLLIVIER

My name is Antoine Ollivier. I'm 16 and live in New Caledonia, where we have some of the best kite spots in the world, with perfect wind and beautiful scenery. One day, I was walking on the beach with my parents and saw kitesurfers on the water. I immediately wanted to give it a try, so I took lessons at a kite school and loved it from the beginning. Now, I've been kitesurfing for three and a half years.

My favourite thing about kitesurfing is feeling free to fly high in the sky at beautiful spots and having fun, even when training hard. I like to share these moments with my family and friends; it's a real pleasure for me to go training every day.

Recently, I was crowned World Champion. It was a magical feeling, an achievement, and a dream come true after a year of hard training. I've always dreamed of becoming the World Champion, and now I've done it at just 16! My greatest dream would be to become

the World Champion in the adult division. I still need to gain much experience to progress and live up to this goal.

Before competing, I try to focus my mind to manage my stress and avoid losing my nerve. I like the positive stress and adrenaline that allows me to excel during my heat! I'm someone who stays calm and cool in life... but I think we all prefer to get through the competition, even if once it's over, we're happy and want to go back!

RIDER ANTOINE OLLIVIER
PHOTO PABLO AMORES

"BEFORE COMPETING, I TRY TO
FOCUS MY MIND TO MANAGE
MY STRESS AND AVOID LOSING
MY NERVE."



I'm off to Europe again in mid-September to compete in the French Championships. Then I'll go to Morocco to train with my coach. Later, I'm off to Brazil to participate in the final stage of the GKA World Cup for adults. I'm really looking forward to it!

INTRODUCING: RAFA MONTERO

My name is Rafa Montero. I am a 16-year-old rider from Malaga, in southern Spain. I started kitesurfing when I was 11 because my father had a kite school. I have always wanted to kite since I saw my father practice it for the first time. I love those sessions with constant wind between 15 and 25 knots and sending it with friends! My goal is to be Freestyle World Champion. I know it's a difficult task, but I'll give everything to achieve it!

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RIDER RAFA MONTERO
PHOTO PABLO AMORES

" MY GOAL IS TO BE FREESTYLE WORLD
CHAMPION. I KNOW IT'S A DIFFICULT TASK,
BUT I'LL GIVE EVERYTHING TO ACHIEVE IT! "



" I ALWAYS GO BIG, GIVING EVERYTHING I CAN. I WILL BE STRONGER THAN EVER NEXT YEAR... "



In the last GKA Youth World Cup event, I felt very strong because I saw all my progression reflected in this competition. Usually, I start the competitions quite stressed, but after a few heats, I relax, enjoying the rest of the rounds. Unfortunately, I made a little technical mistake that cost me the final, but still left me in the position of Vice World Champion next to Antoine. I always go big, giving everything I can. I will be stronger than ever next year and will not make the same mistakes again.

I am completely focused on studying and training in and out of the water. My next move is to compete in the next GKA event in Dunkirk, France and try to win the next Spanish Cup!

INTRODUCING: KAYA LEHMANN

My name is Kaya Lehmann. Although my parents are German, I have spent most of my life in Copenhagen, Denmark. I used to sail for about 7 years before I started kiteboarding, and I also did a little bit of windsurfing during that time. When I was about 13 years old, I decided to try kitesurfing, and ever since, I've been hooked on this amazing sport. I now spend most of my time kiteboarding.

My favourite thing about kiteboarding is the ability to kite multiple disciplines while doing the same sport. For example, when the wind is really strong, I can do big air; when the wind is lighter, I do freestyle; and when there are waves, I ride strapless. Developing my style and learning from each discipline is also very exciting. I like the variety of countries I travel to and the fact that the sport is in nature... and I'm very grateful for all the people I am meeting, thanks to kiteboarding!

" "I LIKE THE VARIETY OF COUNTRIES I TRAVEL TO
AND THE FACT THAT THE SPORT IS IN NATURE...
AND I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE PEOPLE
I AM MEETING, THANKS TO KITEBOARDING! "



Besides kiting, managing competition stress is one of the main things I've been working on for the past year. I do get stressed before the competitions. However, this year I was able to maintain my focus and handle the pressure, which also helped me to enjoy the event even more and lead to great results.

I am super happy to be the current Youth Freestyle World Champion and Strapless Vice World

Champion. I've been training incredibly hard to achieve these goals and could not be happier to have made it!

After finishing school in 2024, I want to kitesurf professionally and compete in the GKA in freestyle, big air, and/or strapless. I have several upcoming competitions in both Germany and Denmark. I am currently training very hard to learn new tricks and to achieve my goal of getting podium positions!

INTRODUCING: JEREMIASZ KUCZMA

Hi, my name is Jeremiasz. I'm 14 years old and live in the southeast UK, by Greatstone on Sea. I got into kiteboarding after seeing my parents doing it first, and I thought, why not give it a try? That was 6 years ago, and I have been hooked since the second I got up on the board. I've never stopped since!

My favourite thing about my kiteboarding career is working with my sponsors on fascinating projects and

going around the world, attending competitions, visiting new places, and promoting them on the way - travel is the best education.

I was really happy to attend the competition in Tarifa for the Youth GKA because I got a lot of experience from it and saw what I need to work on in the future. I like having pressure on me in competition because it gives me that adrenaline kick when I'm in a heat, and I feel I'm doing 100 times better. Meeting all the kiteboarding legends inspired me to push and to push hard! Seeing all the kids my age pulling the best tricks elevated my motivation. It was great to take part in many ways, and I will be back.

My personal goal is to give everything and progress 100% this year and to go to competitions in Dunkirk, France, and the BKSA Freestyle Nationals in Hayling Island, UK. I also hope to revisit France later this year for the Elite Mondiale Junior competition. I want to showcase my skills, get inspired and gain more experience from these events. For the rest of the year, I plan to push more, break my limits and progress further, and maybe explore some new countries!



“ MEETING ALL THE KITEBOARDING LEGENDS
INSPIRED ME TO PUSH AND TO PUSH HARD! ”



THE INTERVIEW

PAT GOODMAN

In this special 100th issue, we're getting to know one of the biggest icons behind the curtain of kiteboarding. You may not know his name, but you know his products. Meet Pat Goodman, the designer of one of the most popular kites of all time, the Cabrinha Switchblade. In The Interview, we hear about his start in the industry more than 20 years ago, the world of kite design in modern times, and what goes on behind the scenes at Cabrinha. Read it here, exclusively in IKSURFMAG!



Pat, it's great to catch up with you! You've had a long and storied career in the industry. How did you first link up with Cabrinha as a Kite Designer?

I worked with Neil Pryde as a designer doing windsurfing sails for several years and at Gaastra before then. Pete (Cabrinha) was a team rider at Gaastra, so we knew each other from way back. When the Pryde Group started the Cabrinha kite brand, Pete and his team moved into the same office as our design centre for windsurf sails. At that time, I began to get interested in kiting, and Pete gave me a chance to get involved with kite design, and the rest is history. I started as a Kite Designer in 2002, so it's been about 21 years.

At the time, I didn't have much experience with inflatable kites - nobody did, really! But we just took it from there. We hired another designer temporarily because he had kite design software that was the only thing available then, so we took him on as a consultant, and he helped out for the first couple of years. After that, in 2004, I took over the design of the kites exclusively.

You spent a few years with North Kiteboarding developing the much-loved Orbit and other popular kites in their lineup but returned to Cabrinha in 2021. What was it like coming back to the brand after the time away?

Yeah, as everybody knows, I took a sabbatical for a few years to help restructure North Kiteboarding, get their feet on the ground, and get their product line started. There are many reasons why I did that, but it was a bunch of my friends, and many of them also came from Cabrinha, and they needed some help. And it was time for a break and something new.



"I BEGAN TO GET INTERESTED IN KITING, AND PETE GAVE ME A CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED WITH KITE DESIGN, AND THE REST IS HISTORY."





" I FEEL LIKE I HAVE TOTAL FREEDOM TO DO WHATEVER I WANT WITH KITE TESTING AND DEVELOPMENT. "

But, a few years ago, Cabrinha was restructured and purchased by another group, and the major shareholder in this group is a close friend of mine, Jon Modica. He was bugging me all those years I was away; he was like, "You gotta come back, you gotta come back!" At some point, I just decided it would be a lot of fun to come back and work with Jon. Cabrinha is a great brand with a credible reputation; everyone working here is very passionate about what they do. The factory is great, Jon's great, Lars, Dave, Phil, the whole group in the US, all these guys; it's a really cool group of people now, and with the

new direction since change of ownership, there's a huge amount of resources going into product development.

Working with the brand is exciting now, as the motivation level is so high. It's really like a family, and even more so now because everybody here is my friend, and I've been working with them for 20-some-odd years. It's great coming back! I feel like I have total freedom to do whatever I want with kite testing and development. Of course, we have a strict design parameter and range plan to adhere to, but I also have a lot of freedom to try stuff on my own that I couldn't get anywhere else. I wouldn't want it any other way.

Tell us about the first product you designed that hit the market!

The first kites I did were the evolution of the Nitro and the Co2, both four-line kites at the time, though we experimented with five-line setups and many different things over the years. Those were the first kites I designed on the market. Then I was involved with the Crossbow and was the original designer of the Switchblade from the very start. We also had some consultation on the Crossbow, but after the first year, it became my product, and I moved it into another software and then evolved it from that point.

"THE MOTO X IS MUCH MORE PLAYFUL,
HAS MUCH LIGHTER BAR PRESSURE,
AND HAS FASTER STEERING."

How about the most recent product you've worked on that's been released?

The Moto X is one of the latest kites we've designed from the ground up. It's an evolution of ideas that I've had over the years. We've always wanted to have a three-strut version of the Switchblade, but when I started experimenting with this, I found that we could make a much more fun and exciting kite to fly. The Moto X is a higher-performance kite in some ways than the Switchblade. The Switchblade, of course, has this fantastic wind range and stability that's hard to match with anything, but the Moto X is much more playful, has much lighter bar pressure, and has faster steering. Of course, the wind range is a little smaller than the Switchblade because it's a three-strut kite. There have been so many years of heavy bar pressure kites from Cabrinha because this was what we needed to do to get that maximum amount of depower for safety reasons. But, as things evolved, we were able to get the depower without the bar pressure.

With the Moto X, I wanted to make a statement that Cabrinha makes light, fun, fast, and exciting kites. We offer that firmer bar pressure option for entry-level and teaching and just because many people prefer having a lot of feedback from their kite. You can increase the feedback on the Moto X by moving to the B setting on the wingtip, but we found through testing and rider feedback that most people ride on the A setting because light and fast is what they're after, and that's where we're at with the Moto X. The introduction of a new high performing dacron called HTD-Lite has some incredible characteristics that's really helped give the Moto X some of its excitement and performance characteristics.

PAT WORKING ON SOME OF THE EARLIER CABRINHA DESIGNS

Do you think every designer has a signature style or a unique feel? If so, what sets a Pat Goodman design apart?

I would say that, yes, most of the kites out there have a signature feeling and style to the designers that created them. With the kites that I do, what you notice right away is you can hop on any of the kites I've designed, and it doesn't take long to get used to them. It's just a comfortable, predictable, at-home feeling - you get on it, and right away, you can see people start to improve on the manoeuvres they're doing because they feel super comfortable. I believe that is what sets our kites apart; there is no learning curve, no funny monkey business going on, they feel good, they're easy to get used to, and they perform well.

What are some of the differences in the world of kite design then versus now?

In modern times, kites have become cleaner, lighter and more responsive due to the evolution of software and materials. Working with the programmer developing the kite design software has been a long journey. We want to have control over every parameter of the kite, both aerodynamically and when dealing with the tension settings because kites change size when you pump them up. Everything elongates under pressure, so getting the kite in the sky to match the kite you see in the computer model is a big task. Anybody can make a kite look pretty in the design software, but unless you know how to make wings from flexible materials, it won't look or behave like it should. So, you have to master that first, and you can then start tracking your data and work on the actual performance.


A full-page background image showing a kitesurfer in silhouette riding a wave. A large, black and yellow kite is visible in the sky, connected to the surfer by lines. The sky is a deep blue with some clouds, and the ocean is dark with white foam from the waves.

"YOU GET ON IT, AND RIGHT AWAY, YOU CAN SEE PEOPLE START TO IMPROVE ON THE MANOEUVRES THEY'RE DOING "

"YOU GET A WIDER WIND RANGE, BETTER PERFORMANCE, AND A BETTER FEEL."

The materials have developed a lot, too. We've worked with manufacturers and developed several materials specifically for kite-inflated parts, so there's been a vast improvement. We've been focusing on materials that are lighter but still strong with the kind of dynamics we're looking for. The elongation is much less now than it used to be, making things much better and cleaner. When your kite is clean with less deformation or creases in the front of the canopy, you get a wider wind range, better performance, and a better feel. When I go out, I can feel if a kite is not working as well as it should - and that's due to materials and software and 21 years of dealing with making wings from flexible materials.






"WE'VE LEARNED TO MAKE KITES AS LIGHT AND STRONG AS POSSIBLE, EVEN STRONGER THAN IN THE PAST, AND WE KEEP IMPROVING."

RIDER ALBY RONDINA

Have construction techniques changed significantly over the years?

Today's construction techniques are based on the way it all started back in 2002, so it's not massively different, but there's no question that construction methods have evolved along with the software and materials. We've learned to make kites as light and strong as possible, even stronger than in the past, and we keep improving.

For example, with earlier kites, most of the seams in the leading edge and canopy of the kite were sewn freehand. The machines had a guide on them to control the seam allowance, but it was up to the operator to ensure that the pieces matched and came out the same length by the time they got to the end of the seam. There was a lot of dependency on the skill of the sewing machine operator, which made for some irregularities from kite to kite. Now, we use more adhesives to not only improve the strength of the seams but to stick everything together so that they're aligned and checked before they get sewn. Everything is stuck together, pieces of the canopy, struts, the leading edge, and even the canopy to the struts. Today, virtually anybody can sew the seams because the skill has transferred to the people sticking the seams. There are several points of reference for alignment, so if it's not perfect, they can pull it apart before it's sewn, re-stick it, and get it right. There's no freehand sewing left anymore; it's all done with adhesives that keep it all accurate because accuracy is the key to everything.

A wide-angle photograph of a kitesurfer riding a wave. The kitesurfer is in the upper center of the frame, suspended in the air with their kite. The kite is white with a black logo and the number '50' visible. The ocean is a deep blue-green with white foam from the waves. In the background, there are dark, rocky hills under a clear sky.

"WE HAVE A FANTASTIC PRO TEAM AND WANT TO ENSURE THE PRODUCTS PUT THEM ON THE PODIUM."

Tell us a bit about Cab Design Works! What's it like working with so many experienced and up-and-coming product developers?

With Cab Design Works, there are a lot of new people on the engineering side of things, especially in board development. We've got Dean, John, and Brodie, and there are a lot of really smart, young, fired-up guys in here with great ideas that are passionate about the sport. Everybody kites, including the owner, but the skill level of these guys is really good. I'm old school; I'm really good at feeling and testing kites, but I'm not super hot with the tricks and stuff. But these guys are on another level with their kiting and winging skills, and every one of them is an engineer, too, with 3D

CAD skills; I mean, wow, this is definitely the next generation. Now we've got a blend of old school and new school, and we put it all together and come up with some very cool stuff. It's great; I'm learning from them, and they're learning from me. There's no question; it's all pretty cool.

How many designers do you collaborate with? How does the team approach to product development work?

The amount of people involved fluctuates from time to time, but basically, the internal design team does most of the preliminary testing to get the products to where we feel it meets the demand of the design brief. Everybody has their say and input on the kite

designs, as far as our design team and development team, but the bulk of the actual design is done by myself with feedback from the other guys.

At the end of the day, your product is only as good as your test team, and what makes a big difference is Phil Sobolev and his ability to give valuable and constructive feedback. He and the riders that are involved in the testing have to be able to disagree with me if they're feeling something different. We've got riders for every discipline and genre of the sport, and we use them all at different times with different products. And then, we get the more high-end team riders involved and ensure that the equipment meets their demands to get on the podium.

It's amazing to work in the product development end of Cabrinha. We've got a team from around the world, which keeps growing. It's wonderful to be a part of this; it's just wild. I have hundreds of friends worldwide that were brought together by this common interest, passion, and love of kitesurfing, making the best product we can and making other people smile.

One of the most significant product releases from Cabrinha in recent years is the all-new Nitro. What insights can you share on this exciting new design?

The Nitro has been an exciting project. My experience during my sabbatical was getting a big air kite on the podium; we did really well with that. The big challenge with making a big air kite for Cabrinha was to ensure it wasn't just another Orbit. I put a lot of focus on creating a better-performing kite that was more fun, fast, exciting, and playful to fly, but still with the attributes of getting the best altitude and hangtime possible. Steering is also important because these guys are now throwing more double and even triple kite loops.

The Nitro is a challenging project in some ways, compared to a freeride kite like the Moto, which is more subjective to the personal feelings of the rider. You're always going to have a certain percentage of people that love them and a small percentage that don't, and it's based on the feeling that they're used to and what they want to feel from the kite, and their experience has to be fun.

A kite like the Nitro has to jump high, have good hangtime, and loop and catch you properly. We chase these attributes in all kites, but the team had more of a carte blanche approach on the Nitro in particular.

"WE'VE GOT A TEAM FROM AROUND THE WORLD, WHICH KEEPS GROWING. IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE A PART OF THIS; IT'S JUST WILD."



RIDER CAMERON WESTMAN





"THESE PRO RIDERS ARE MUCH BETTER KITERS THAN I AM. THEY MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE, AND IT'S FANTASTIC WORKING WITH THEM"

It's one reason we implemented a new dacron material called Ultra-HT on it, the only kite in the range with this. Its killer property, while also being lighter than our HTD dacron, is its incredibly low elongation and response. In big air, riders tend to hold a lot more power down, and there is so much more force on the kite through the jump and loop.

How is working with the pro team? Do these athletes provide a lot of input when finetuning designs?

In many cases, their feeling with a kite is different than what I feel because they're at such another level, and they ride the kites in so much more wind than I can hold down. It's just unbelievable how lit they're riding all the time. When I'm all concerned about bar pressure, they're more concerned about depower and management when riding an 8m kite in close to 40 knots.

On a kite like the Moto X, I take feedback from every rider and try to make everyone happy all the time, which is impossible as we're dealing with many different locations, people, weights, skill levels, etc. In a kite like the Nitro, the final decision about the feel of the kite is 100% in the hands of the team riders, so their feedback is super important. They are a specialised target group with a specific outcome in mind, and these pro riders are much better kiters than I am. They make a big difference, and it's fantastic working with them. We couldn't do it without them.

What product(s) are you working on now that you can talk about? Anything exciting on the horizon that you can share with us?

I'm working on all sorts of new stuff; everything's evolving. There were quite a few products this last year that were revised drastically when I came back.

"IT'S ALSO TIME TO GIVE THE SWITCHBLADE A NEW LIFE, SO THAT'S ONE PROJECT GETTING A LOT OF ATTENTION RIGHT NOW"



RIDER ALBY RONDINA

We have a new Drifter, Moto X, and the Nitro. The Nitro is going into its second generation now, so lots of time and effort is being put into making that kite even better. We have a fantastic pro team and want to ensure the products put them on the podium.

It's also time to give the Switchblade a new life, so that's one project getting a lot of attention right now. It will still have the DNA of a Switchblade because it's such a legendary kite that we can't steer too far away

from, but it's a much more fun and pleasing kite to fly with this new design I'm working on. It won't lose this park-and-ride, predictable feeling that the Switchblade has always had, but it will have the option for lighter bar pressure and faster steering.

We're experimenting with a lot of new materials, which make a difference in the weight, handling and behaviour of our kites, and we're trying these new materials on a bunch of different kites in the range.

I can't tell you what they are, but it makes a difference. Some other projects are not public at the moment, but all sorts of new stuff will be coming out in 2024. There will be some head-turners with what we will put out there that will make a difference and keep Cabrinha on the top. Keep your eyes out after the New Year, as this is when these products will be dropping!



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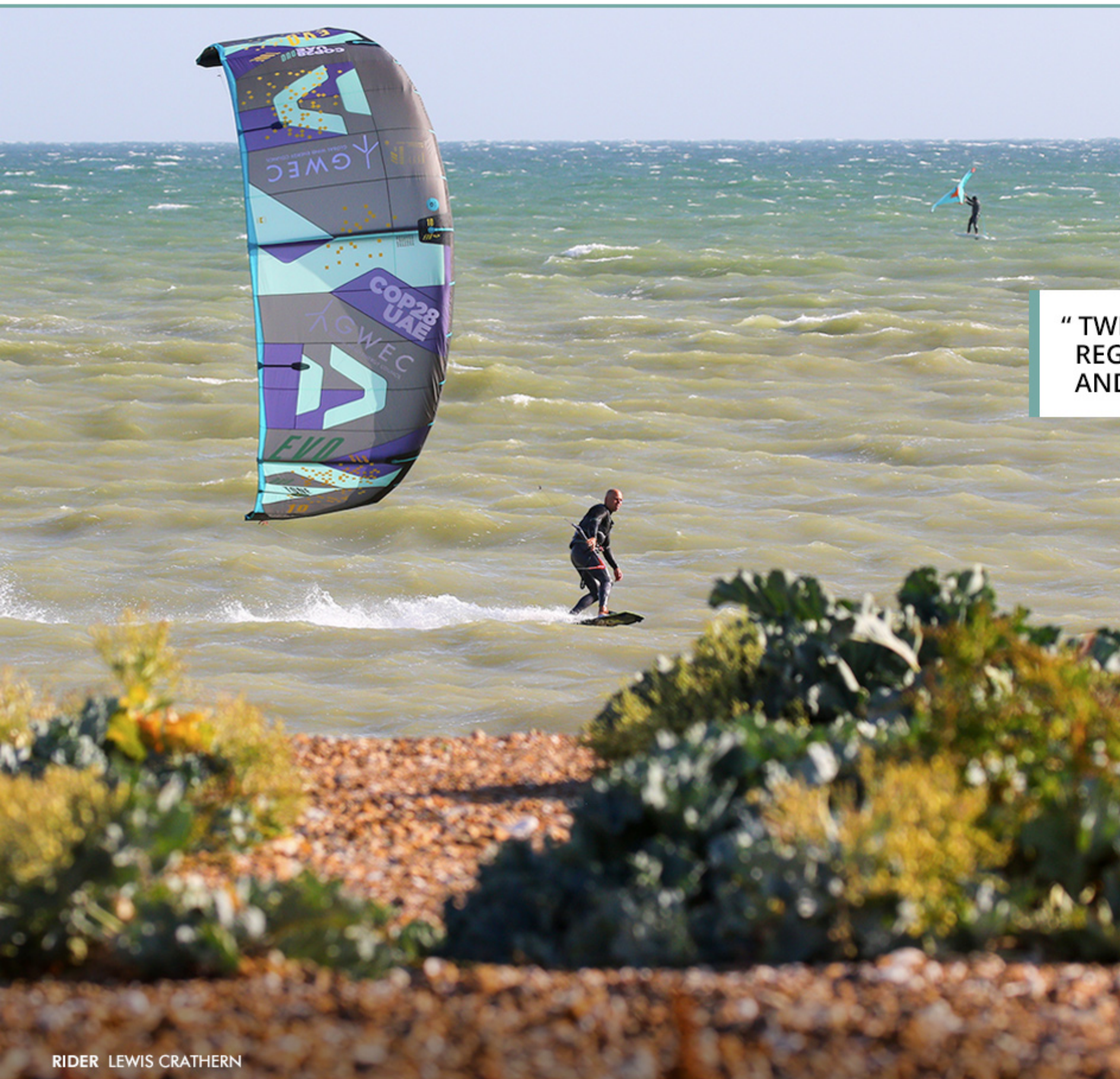
2023 WONDERFUL WIND SCHOOL TOUR

WORDS LEWIS CRATHERN PHOTOS EUNICE BERGIN

Lewis Crathern has been introducing school children to the joys of kiting for 15 years. His mission with the Wonderful Wind Tour is to inspire school children through captivating assemblies, workshops, and thrilling kite-flying sessions.

Read more about how he shares the power of wind and ideas for a greener, more sustainable future in this article!





RIDER LEWIS CRATHERN

10 Schools - 5,000 school children and my passion of kitesurfing to engage them with... It was quite some time ago when I began visiting schools (15 years, 2007), but these days it has become ever more important to spend time with the next generation. They have been through COVID and are also now very aware of the climate crisis on our hands. School children need some positive stories from the outside world, and with a sport like kitesurfing, you can't lose.

" TWICE A YEAR, I HIT THE ROAD IN ANY GIVEN REGION, PERFORMING ASSEMBLIES, WORKSHOPS AND DEMONSTRATIONS. "

The Wonderful Wind Tour works in partnership with the Global Wind Energy Council and is supported by my sponsors, Duotone International, Windguru, WOO, and ION UK. Twice a year, I hit the road in any given region, performing assemblies, workshops and demonstrations. When the wind allows, kite flying sessions with the kids are also possible, but a lot of work goes on before I have even visited the school.

Local media is targeted to help promote the tour, and then it's time to contact the schools directly. Depending on which country we will be in, there can also be a lot of approval and planning required - especially for photography and video. With that all cleared and the likes of videographer Joost Essenberg and photographer Eunice Bergin on board, the 2023 summer UK tour is almost ready to go. There is just one more thing to plan: How possible will it be to fly a kite on the school fields?! Of course, that is not so easy to do in person sometimes, so I turn to Google Maps. In the old days, this was not even possible, but nowadays, I get a good feeling about whether or not I will be able to achieve the 'magic moment' from what the satellite shows me.



" I LIKE TO ENCOURAGE THE STUDENTS TO TRY SOMETHING NEW - YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE IT MIGHT LEAD TO IN YOUR LIFE. "

For the Wonderful Wind Tour 2023 edition, I felt it was really important to not just talk about making changes to our everyday lives in order to help the environment - I wanted to actively show changes myself. I chose to visit the schools using the incredible Hyundai IONIQ 5 Electric car, and it became a real focus point during my visits. Whilst performing the assemblies, we talked about ways in which we can travel around in a more

sustainable way, like walking to school or car sharing. This leads to a discussion about where our electricity comes from and how by using green energy, such as wind, we can travel sustainably.

My life has been shaped so much by my decision to first try kitesurfing, and I like to encourage the students to try something new - you never know where it might lead to in your life. Using my example of how I began kitesurfing and had to overcome many challenges, I like to showcase some of the places around the world where I have been lucky enough to kitesurf. Most schools have a nice big projector screen,

and this makes it easy to show them the rich, exciting content that we consider normal as kiteboarders. It is not as simple as just powering through a keynote; during these 20/25 minute talks, I have learned that shifting the attention away from the screen and back to the room is key at certain times. Blowing up a kite and showing the bar, board, and harness is a great way to bring the focus away from the screen, especially if I ask a student to come up and blow it up. Depending on how young they are, it's not always possible for them to achieve the optimum PSi, so I have to finish it off; they always get a clap, though! ;)

Rewarding the children for good behaviour and taking part is something else that is very important. During the slides of where I have been travelling around the world, I like to play a game with them where I show somewhere I have kitesurfed alongside a clue. The clues can range from a kiwi, a bowl of noodles, or a camel featured in the image. Those who guess it right (I only ask the quietest of the hands raised) receive a Duotone prize. There are all sorts of great little things that I can give out, lanyards, key chains, stickers, and the personal favourite, wristbands, which are very sought after. Teachers have told me that some children wear them 24/7 for weeks!

“ THERE IS A SENSE OF REAL EXCITEMENT THAT SOMETHING DIFFERENT IS HAPPENING AT SCHOOL.”

Other engaging moments include asking the children how we can further look after our environment, which leads to answers such as turning things off we are not using, Reduce-Reuse-Recycle (the Three R's, the kids taught me that!) and using green energy such as wind energy. At the end of the presentation, I like to show them just how much power is in the wind and how I have managed to use it in the past. A 'don't try this at home' warning is followed by the video of my jump over Brighton Pier back in 2010. It's then time to hit the field.

This is always such an incredible moment as I walk with the children to the field. There is a sense of real excitement that something different is happening at school. The teachers are great at allowing this spontaneous, unplanned atmosphere to exist. It is good for children sometimes. Out on the field, I would typically have marked out a zone with red cones where I want them to sit.





And now, the part where all of my kiteboarding experience is put to the test. It is the part where I feel like a real athlete about to face a brand new challenge - fly a kitesurfing kite in a safe manner close to hundreds of children and get airborne. In 99.9% of cases, a kitesurfing kite will never have been flown on the school field, but I like to change that. With my mindset as a BKSA advanced coach, I plan this part in detail.

" I CAN TAKE TO THE SKY, WHICH IS ALWAYS THE MAGIC MOMENT WHERE THE TRUE POWER OF THE WIND IS TRANSLATED TO A CHILD. "

Straight up the middle of the power zone usually works best and is often welcomed by a cheer from the children. When the wind is nice and clean, I can walk over to them and tell them how it feels to be directly connected to the wind. I point out the trees moving, the clouds and also the birds that are viewing my kite as another flying bird. With the right gust, I can take to the sky, which is always the magic moment where the true power of the wind is translated to a child. I love my job! :)

LIGHTROOM

SANNA VAN DEN BERGH KICKS OFF THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF LIGHTROOM FEATURING A MIX OF READER PHOTOS AND PROFESSIONAL SHOTS! SANNE IS LOVING LIFE ON HER LIEUWE IN THE LANGEBAAN LAGOON...
PHOTO ERIK VAN DER BIJL

In this extra special issue, here are more shots with
no particular place to go this issue, feast your eyes!

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

CHASING THE BRAZILIAN SUNSETS WITH GIANMARIA COCCOLUTO!
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO

Lightroom

IKSURFMAG.COM

LIGHTROOM

JAMIE OVERBEEK HIT SOME IMPRESSIVE HEIGHTS WHEN
HE BROUGHT HIS A-GAME TO THE LORDS OF TRAM EVENT
IN FRANCE
PHOTO WARECK ARNAUD

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LIGHTROOM

GET READY FOR SOME SERIOUS SUMMER VIBES WITH AMY STRALKO AND HER ELEVEIGHT RSV71
PHOTO CHRISTIAN BLACK



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

CAN'T STAY AWAY FROM THE MOUNTAINS EVEN IN SUMMER! JEROME JOSSERAND
DISCOVERS THE PERFECT KITEBOARDING SPOT ON LA GRAVE LA MEIJE.
PHOTO VANESS



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

ALWAYS SMILING, ANDREA ZUST KNOWS HOW TO GET US STOKED FOR A SESSION!
PHOTO PEER SCHNYDER



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LIGHTROOM

RAMIRO GALLART IS BRINGING SOME EPIC PARK ACTION TO OUR LIGHTROOM SECTION!
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



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LIGHTROOM

RODERICK PIJLS STYLING IT OUT WITH SOME FREESTYLE MOVES IN BROUWERSDAM, NETHERLANDS.
PHOTO JACO KLEIJWEGT



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LIGHTROOM

LEX DOUZE SENDS IT ON THE HYDROFOIL ON THE GREEK ISLAND OF MYKONOS.
PHOTO VIVIEN RENZIEHAUSEN / @VIV_ACTIONPHOTO



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LIGHTROOM

AYA EIFFEL SHOWING OFF HER KITELEMENT RESOLVE SPLIT BOARD
WITH A CLASSIC HAND DRAG!



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

THE BEST WAY TO END THE DAY - GRANT CLAYTON ENJOYING
HIS HOME SPOT IN SOUTH BEACH AYRSHIRE, TROON.
PHOTO STEVE TAIT

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

UP-AND-COMER LUKAS HANSON TAKES TO THE SKY AT THIS SECRET SPOT IN HAWAII
PHOTO GREG HANSON



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SUSANNA WALCZAK-POL CAPTURED MID-JUMP DURING
THE NORTH KITEBOARDING DEMO DAY AT MAUI'S KITE BEACH!
PHOTO FRANCK BERTHUOT



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GET A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF RANJA SCHLOTTE SHREDDING WAVES ON HER SLINGSHOT SST V6...
PHOTO OLLIE JACOBS

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LIGHTROOM

JASON VAN DER SPUY WITH A NAIL-BITINGLY LOW LOOP AT MISTY CLIFF, SOUTH AFRICA.
PHOTO MITCHELL DOYLE MARKGRAAFF

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

DESPITE CHILLY TEMPERATURES OF ONLY 4°C AT THE NORTH SEA, CHRISTOPHER BÜNGER
WAS SHREDDING WAVES AND DOING AERIALS OFF THE LIP IN SYLT, GERMANY!
PHOTO JENS HOGENKAMP

Lightroom

The IKSURFMAG website is crammed with the latest news and best videos from the kitesurfing industry. With so much to see, where do you even start?!

These are the 4 most popular videos that have been viewed on the site as voted for by you with your thumbs up likes over 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!

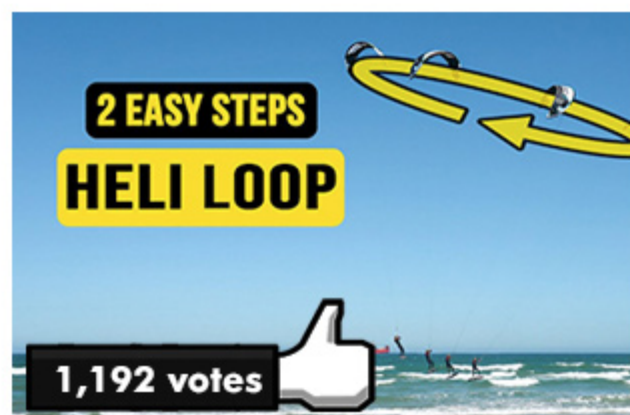
Put the popcorn on, it's Movie Night!

MOVIE NIGHT

#1

LEARN TO HELILOOP / DOWNLOOP | 2 EASY STEPS

Steven Akkersdijk's Masterclasses are always popular, but this one, in particular, had our readers super stoked! In this SA Masterclass, Steven revealed the two steps to nailing the heliloop!

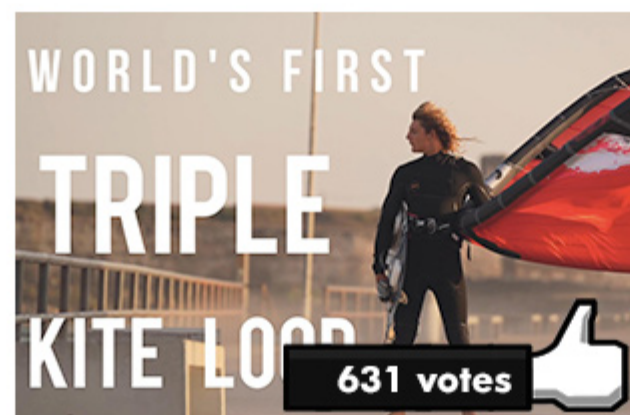


[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#2

TRIPLE KITELOOP WORLD'S FIRST – LORENZO CASATI

A historic moment lands at #2 on our Movie Night list! In Balneario, Tarifa, on 23 June 2023, Lorenzo Casati made history by landing the first triple loop – relive the moment right here!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#3

WHY I STARTED MY KITESURF YOUTUBE CHANNEL?

Petar Pavlovic's vlogs are an absolute game-changer for many kiteboarders out there. His passion for the sport and drive to teach people how to do it safely inspired him to create his own channel.



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#4

STORM POLY UNLEASHED

Jamie Overbeek is known for his undying dedication to chasing the wildest storms that mother nature has to offer! In this vlog, Jamie rides the strongest summer storm ever recorded in the Netherlands – watch it here!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

MOVIE NIGHT *icons*

In 100 issues of IKSURFMAG and decades of history in the sport, we've had the pleasure of watching thousands of incredible kite films. But, a few notable films have stood the test of time. With so many of our readers joining the sport in recent years, this issue is the perfect time to highlight these iconic films.

Our readers and the team at IKSURFMAG have picked out some of the most impactful films the industry has seen. With no way to choose a winner from this epic lineup, we're sharing them with you in alphabetical order.

So, without further ado... clear your calendar and get ready to watch 10 of the most iconic kiting films and miniseries of all time! It's Movie Night: *The Icons Edition*.



118FT OF FREEDOM

This film proves that epic expeditions aren't just for the boys! In 118ft of Freedom, Jalou Langere, Olivia Jenkins, and Johanna-Catharina Edin set off on an incredible adventure aboard a 118ft boat in search of the mythical Flame Balls wave off the coast of Madagascar.

Stunning scenery, incredible wave action, and water as clear as a mountain spring!

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)



ANTANDROY

Madagascar is a spot that few kites have explored, but ten years ago, the F-ONE team set off to Lavanono, Madagascar, to live amongst The Antandroy, the people of the thorns. Worlds apart, the village opened its doors to their way of life with the crew. More than a kite trip, this film is a timeless journey. Enjoy!

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)



AUTOFOCUS

This kiteboarding classic, first released in 2006, is one to watch if you can get your hands on an original DVD copy! This full-length film brings together seven of the most talented, motivated and highly respected wakestyle riders in the industry and drops them into the largest, most elaborate conglomeration of sliders, kickers and rails to date.

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)



CALIBRATE

A film often lauded as ahead of its time, Calibrate by Andy Gordon was one of Aaron Hadlow's most popular kitesurfing movies. This movie, shot in New Caledonia, showcased some of Hadlow's best tricks of the time alongside innovative filming and editing techniques that hadn't been seen in kiteboarding yet!

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)



#FREERIDE PROJECT

THE FREERIDE PROJECT

Released in 2016, The Freeride Project, produced by Tom Court in collaboration with James Boulding, is a no-mess, un-brand-motivated representation of what the crew wanted kiteboarding to be. Join them as they travel to some of the best spots and biggest wakestyle events to just have fun and ride! Watch all four episodes on YouTube!

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)



HIDDEN LINES

In this three-part EYEFORCE series, two world champions and the craziest stuntman in kitesurfing set out to travel to the destinations on top of their bucket list. While re-discovering the essence of kitesurfing, they find themselves in unexpected situations and magical moments. Check out the trailer, and don't miss watching this unforgettable series!

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)



MAKE MY DAY NAMIBIA

As the first kiting film to win an IKSURFMAG Reader Award in 2013, Make My Day, starring Jérémie Eloy, gets an honourable mention. "Lost in the desert, the wave rolls directly from the roaring forties. Sharks, seals, permits: A real challenge to get there, and to score." Don't miss this beautiful film exploring the Skeleton Coast.

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)



NAMIBIAN DREAM

Another video to earn a special place on this list of icons is Namibian Dream, released in 2014 - by far the most viewed video ever to feature on our website! In Namibia, whilst the conditions may be fickle, when it is pumping, it is pumping! Three weeks, 6000 km of driving, and just one day on the water. Was it worth it? Watch now!

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)



SPACE MONKEYS

This 2003 cult classic from Chris Tronolone inspired a generation of kitesurfers. If you didn't catch it on DVD, you can watch this copy online to see how much kiteboarding has changed in the past 20 years. Watch Jaime Herraiz, Jeff Tobias, Will James and Martin Vari in low-res glory! Space Monkeys is radical, extreme, and absolutely iconic!

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)



TUNNEL VISION

Kitesurfing World Champion, Keahi de Aboitiz, has done it all. In 2019, he took a break from the competition circuit and struck out on the road to surf some of the best waves on the planet. In this film, Keahi explains where he ended up and the logistical issues that go into tracking swells around the globe.

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

COLLEEN CARROLL IN HOOD RIVER, OREGON
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH

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