

FEB MAR 17

## WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 61 of the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! Inside you'll find us going behind the scenes on a Cabrinha photo shoot. We've also got snow kiting from Svalbard in Norway where there are

more polar bears than people. One of our favourite riders drops by for a chat in our Ten Questions piece, find out who it is inside and we have perhaps the biggest kite, board and hydrofoil test we have ever done!

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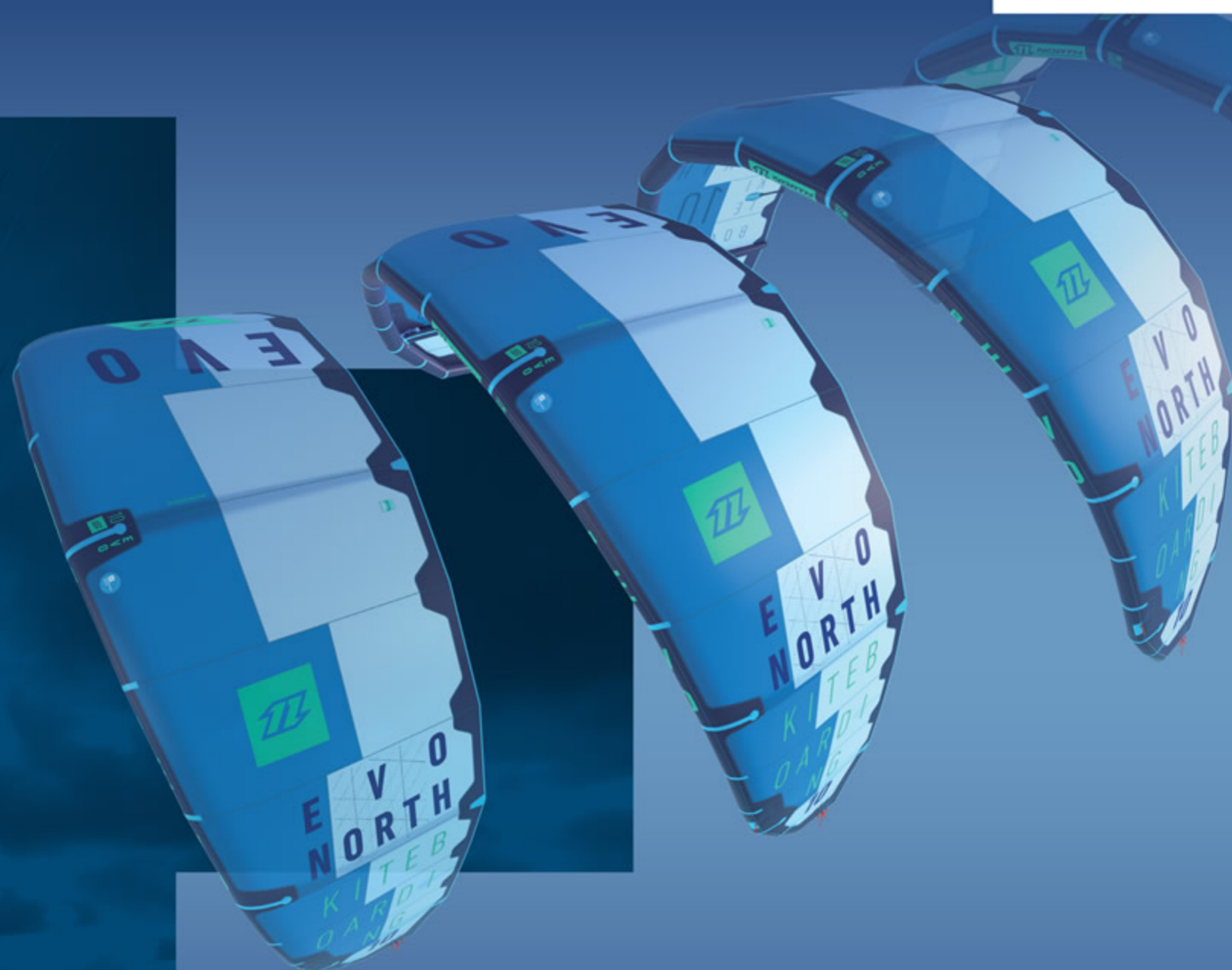
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PUBLISHING EDITOR >

Rou Chater  
[rou@iksurfmag.com](mailto:rou@iksurfmag.com)

FEATURES EDITOR >

Lindsay McClure  
[lindsay@iksurfmag.com](mailto:lindsay@iksurfmag.com)

TECHNIQUE EDITORS >

Christian Harris & Karine Nativel  
[christian@iksurfmag.com](mailto:christian@iksurfmag.com)  
[karine@iksurfmag.com](mailto:karine@iksurfmag.com)

WEB EDITOR >

Jack Galloway  
[jack@iksurfmag.com](mailto:jack@iksurfmag.com)

DESIGN >

Raise Creative  
[www.raisecreative.com](http://www.raisecreative.com)

ADVERTISING SALES >

Mary Booth  
[mary@iksurfmag.com](mailto:mary@iksurfmag.com)

IT DIRECTOR >

Alex Chater  
[alex@nextelement.co.uk](mailto:alex@nextelement.co.uk)

CONTRIBUTORS >

Lars Daniel Terkelson,  
James Boulding, Kari Schibevaag,  
Crystal Veness, Tom Magne  
Jonassen, Toby Bromwich,  
Ben Thouard, Rogier Jaarsma,  
Mads Wollesen and Eliseu Souza.

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THERE IS STILL PLENTY OF SNOW IN THE MOUNTAINS, GET OUT THERE AND GET AMONGST IT!  
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# WIN

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

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

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BRANDON SCHEID: SELFIE LEVEL 9000  
PHOTO: GOPRO

NICK JACOBSEN BUSTED OUT COUNTLESS ONE FOOTED MEGA LOOPS DURING THE EVENT!  
PHOTO CRAIG KOLESKY/RED BULL CONTENT POOL



## ISSUE 61 King Of The Air Special

We've just been treated to yet another display of arguably the best competition on the planet when it comes to kitesurfing. The Red Bull King Of The Air never fails to deliver an enormous amount of excitement every time it rolls around. I can't think of another event that captures the hearts of so many kitesurfers, and compels so many pro riders to want to be involved too!

This year had all the makings of a screenplay for a Hollywood movie. Can you imagine the arguments over film rights had one of the "comeback kids" taken the crown? Lewis Crathern, Lasse Walker and Ruben Lenten were all set to have their lives immortalised in celluloid had they done the unthinkable and taken the win.

Lewis spent a week in a coma after the last event, technically dead; he was lucky to be alive. Amazingly he was back kitesurfing last summer and thanks to a memory block the injuries he sustained haven't held him back. He shared a hospital with Lasse, another victim of last year's event. They could see each other through a window between their rooms. Lasse had suffered the same fate as Lewis, albeit to a far less severe extent, knocking himself out and getting water in his lungs, he recovered before Lewis, but that was incredible to see them both back on the heat ladder in Cape Town.

SPECIAL KOTA  
EDITORIAL

RUBEN LENTEN IS BACK AND RIDING BETTER THAN EVER!  
PHOTO YDVER VAN DER HEIDE/RED BULL CONTENT POOL



## ISSUE 61 CONTINUED

The other huge headline was the return of everyone's favourite kitesurfer, Ruben Lenten. After a scary brush with cancer two years ago he has been gradually making a recovery and getting back into the sport. Ruben beat his illness, recently got married and is now back riding at a level that quite literally blows my mind.

Had anyone of these guys taken the win, the Hollywood producers would have had their screenplay all wrapped up, and while from a personal point of view I was rooting for Lewis (he's a good friend after all) it just wasn't meant to be. The fact that all three of them made it to the semifinals and Ruben made the final was enough to have me on the edge of my seat, but the fairy-tale wasn't meant to be.

All three of these guys put their history behind them, and went out guns blazing for the event; you would never think to look at them on the water and flying through the air that they had all been seriously ill just 12 months ago. Kudos to you guys for doing what you do and doing it so well!

Of course, while I might have been rooting for the fairy-tale, it's a tall order when you have 18 of the best big air kitesurfers on the planet lined up on the beach ready to do battle. Nick Jacobsen, who took a thoroughly deserved win, and let's be honest, looked pretty unbeatable throughout the whole event, was always going to be a tough nut to crack.

SPECIAL KOTA  
EDITORIAL

STEVEN AKKERSDIJK LOOKED DANGEROUS THROUGHOUT THE EVENT!  
PHOTO YDVER VAN DER HEIDE/RED BULL CONTENT POOL



# SPECIAL KOTA EDITORIAL

## ISSUE 61 CONTINUED

Aaron Hadlow is no stranger to success here either, he was hungry for win number three, with his close rival Kevin Langeree out of the event due to injury he had to fancy his chances. Steven Akkersdijk is another rider to watch, the huge Dutchman could have arguably done with a little more wind, but he was still mightily impressive during his heats.

The wind brings me onto my next point; they were lucky to be able to run the event at all. The King OF The Air wind curse seemed to be in full effect; it was nuking before the waiting period started, then the Cape Doctor took a break for two weeks. Looking at the days of wind they had, the team only had one hit, Thursday, out of the two-week window to run the event. With a new format that was always going to be a big challenge, but they managed to make it happen.

It was almost pitch black by the end of the final, which started after the sun had set! It's a testament to the dedication of the riders and crew that they got the competition finished. Having run quite a few events over the last two years, we know how hard it can be when the conditions don't play ball. While it might not go down in the history books like some years have done in terms of 25m plus high jumps it was still enormously impressive to watch, and even better that the event team and riders managed to get a result in challenging conditions.

PODIUM CELEBRATIONS WITH NICK JACOBSEN TAKING THE WIN,  
AARON HADLOW IN SECOND PLACE AND RUBEN LENTEN IN THIRD!  
PHOTO YDVER VAN DER HEIDE/RED BULL CONTENT POOL



## ISSUE 61 CONTINUED

The slightly lower winds and smaller waves made safety a little easier, and it was great to see all the riders wearing impact vests, under the new rules. Even better news was that no one was carried off the beach with any serious injuries; while we may have lacked a little spectacle, I'll take that over an injured rider any day of the week.

Whichever way you look at it, and regardless of who you want to win, the Red Bull King Of The Air is the showcase this sport deserves. It's easy for people to understand it, it's great fun to watch, and the back-stories of the riders just add to the enthrallment.

Every year the event can make and break heroes, this year I'm glad it didn't break any, and I'm stoked Nick Jacobsen pushed the boundaries even further and took a deserved win...

*Rou Chater*  
Publishing Editor

SPECIAL KOTA  
EDITORIAL



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# INDIVIDUALITY

A team manager, a photographer, a videographer and four pro riders head to Cape Town to create some magic...

WORDS ROU CHATER  
PHOTOS LARS DANIEL TERKELSEN



CHOOSE A SUIT THEY SAID, ANY SUIT YOU LIKE THEY SAID... JAMES BOULDING, KEAHI DE ABOITIZ, NICK JACOBSEN AND GRAHAM HOWES LOOKING FRESH...







## “ THE FOLLOWING MIGHT WELL SHATTER YOUR ILLUSIONS OF WHAT IT IS LIKE TO NOT ONLY BE A PRO RIDER ”

The life of a pro kiteboarder might seem somewhat charmed, travel the world competing and doing photo shoots and get some gear and a bit of cash thrown in to boot. Prepare to have your dreams shattered however, as we go behind the scenes with the photographers, videographers and riders from a recent photoshoot. It turns out its mostly practical jokes, flatulence and long hours spent in airports and cars travelling to the 'perfect' spot!

Cabrinha had a bunch of their riders in Cape Town for a recent dealer meeting; it seemed sensible to make the most of the opportunity and send them off into the wilderness to get all the footage for the upcoming launch of the 2017 Switchblade. You couldn't ask for a more motley crew with James Boulding playing the role of "Dad", Lars Daniel Terkelsen shooting stills, and Anders Kruger taking video footage. The roster of pros went like this; Liam Whaley: 'the sleepy young one', Keahi de Aboitiz: 'the wave slaying smelly one', Nick Jacobsen: 'the crazy one', and Graham Howes: 'the even crazier one' - if that is even possible!

I warn you now dear reader, the following might well shatter your illusions of what it is like to not only be a pro rider, but also what is involved in a trip such as this. The necessity is to create as much media as possible while scoring the best conditions and all getting along in some very confined spaces...



LIAM WHALEY FREESTYLE MASTER AND BUBBLE BATH LOVER...

**“ GET THE RIDERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE AMPED ON KITING IN THE UK. ”**

**Where were you and what were you doing before the photo shoot started?**

**Nick Jacobsen:** I flew down to Cape Town three weeks before the shoot, to start training for King of The Air.

**Anders Kruger:** I was home for once, or at least where I'm from and where my family lives. I got to spend five days in Denmark

last year before going to Cape Town, so I spent them with friends and relatives.

**Graham Howes:** Being a Cape Town local I had to put up with these guys for a month, they arrived in Cape Town coming in hot, from all over the world. I am used to visitors now; they arrive full of energy and ready to burn the town down. They want to do anything and everything possible, and then have 'leaving' parties every night of their last week! Meanwhile, I'm left at the start of summer feeling like it's the end of summer already...

**James Boulding:** Before the team shoot I'd just finished up with the Rhosneigr Park Jam, it was the first international UK kite competition held in many years, so I wanted to see it succeed and get the riders from around the globe amped on kiting in the UK.

**Keahi De Aboitiz:** I was actually in Morocco for the last GKA wave event of the year. Although we didn't get the best conditions, I was stoked to come out on top again. Since I was already on that side of the world, it made perfect sense to hang out in Morocco for a little longer after the comp then head over Cape Town.

GRAHAM, NICK AND KEAHI SCOPING OUT THE CONDITIONS...



**Liam Whaley:** Before the photo shoot I was in Mauritius for the Mauritius Kite Jam! It is a great event organised by the Russian Cabrinha distributor. Lots of entrepreneurs and celebrities come together and learn how to kite, surf, and of course there are also some great parties.

**How long did it take you to get to South Africa, and were there any travel woes on the way?**

**NJ:** I was in Dubai for a few days before flying to Cape Town. It took me around nine hours straight from Dubai.

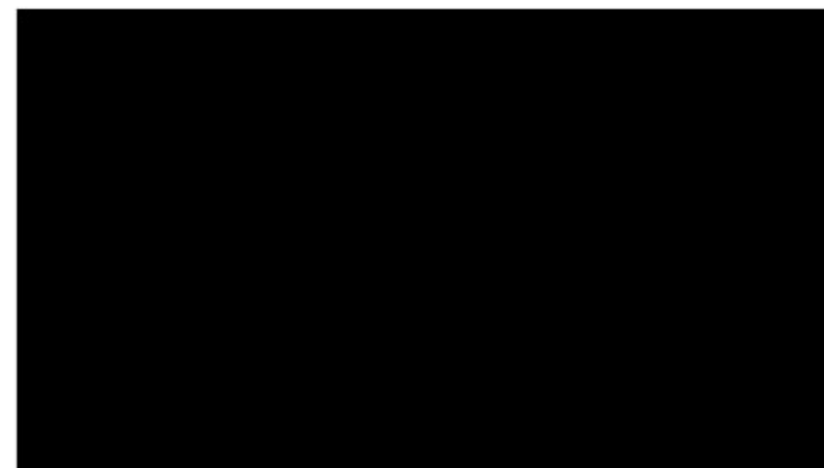
“ LOTS OF ENTREPRENEURS AND CELEBRITIES COME TOGETHER AND LEARN HOW TO KITE ”

rider: Kaiim Shawky



**CANNIBAL**

FREESTYLE / FREERIDE / WAKESTYLE  
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CHERRY



APRICOT



BLUEBERRY

**“ THERE ARE TRICKS YOU LEARN FROM YEARS OF TRAVELLING TO HELP SNEAK AS MUCH BAGGAGE AS POSSIBLE ONTO THE PLANE, BUT THE MAIN THING IS TO CHECK WHAT YOUR ALLOWANCE IS. ”**

---

**AK:** Probably around twelve to fifteen hours from Copenhagen, with one stop somewhere on the way. I travelled by myself and took selfies with sleeping people next to me with their mouths open!

**JB:** My journey was about twenty hours, I set off from the UK via Qatar and arrived in Cape Town. There are tricks you learn from years of travelling to help sneak as much baggage as possible onto the plane, but the main thing is to check what your allowance is. There's nothing worse than turning up at the airport without knowing all the facts of your particular airline and what you are allowed on paper, then the art is pushing that limit further if you need to travel with extra gear.

**KA:** For how close it is on a map, it probably took a lot longer than it should have! I ended up flying Casablanca – Qatar – Cape Town, which took about nineteen hours with one stop. Unfortunately, since Morocco is not the most common place to go, it's pretty hard to get a cheap fast route otherwise. This trip was all pretty straightforward, except for the five hour taxi from Agadir to Casablanca before I left due to super expensive flights!

**LW:** I came from Mauritius, so it was pretty easy. You can get direct flights which take around four hours, but I bought a flight which had one stop in Johannesburg as it was cheaper.

CRUISING EMPTY LAGOONS, THOSE WHO SEARCH, REAP REWARDS!





**What is the goal for Cabrinha from a shoot like this, and what's your aim?**

**KA:** This one was a little lower key. What originally started as just trying to have some riders there for the dealer meeting turned into an excellent opportunity to bag a bunch of content for a few different projects, since we were all relatively close. The primary goal was just to get a diverse group of riders and riding styles together and showcase the versatility of the Switchblade. My goal on shoots like this is always just to have fun and to try and bag as much good content as I can.

**“ THE PRIMARY GOAL WAS JUST TO GET A DIVERSE GROUP OF RIDERS AND RIDING STYLES TOGETHER ”**



NICK JACOBSEN HAS AN OBSESSION FOR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS!

**NJ:** The aim of the trip was to shoot the Switchblade. I was excited to ride the kite since I've only ridden it a few times. My personal goal was just to perform as well as possible, and have a good time with my fellow teammates.

**AK:** Cabrinha always have certain products in mind that we have to highlight when going on a shoot like this. For this particular trip, we were mainly focusing on the Fireball control system and the Switchblade. Getting the whole team on the Switchblade and Fireball and showing how versatile it is, demonstrating how well it handles all the disciplines. My goal is to make these videos, so they highlight the equipment, with beautiful product shots, but still make it fun and entertaining to watch for everyone.



“ MY PERSONAL GOAL WAS JUST TO PERFORM AS WELL AS POSSIBLE ”

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JAMES BOULDING BOOSTING INTO THE SUNSET...

**“ THEY HAVE AN ENORMOUS IMPACT ON THE DECISIONS WE TAKE AND WHAT SPOT WE DECIDE TO SPEND THE DAY. ”**

**GH:** Having the team together in such a great location as Cape Town is extremely productive. The only ‘issue’ is each ‘spot’ is in a 200km range around the coast, so we spend half the time driving chasing the wind - and waves, thanks to Keahi! I enjoyed being a tourist in my town, stopping to take pictures and slow-mo shots of every baboon we passed and of course time-lapses of every sunrise and sunset.

**Is there a “dad” of the trip, someone who makes all the decisions and does the thinking for everyone?**

**NJ:** On this trip, we had a few dads! Lars is always a bit of a father figure. James also managed to pull off a daddy role. With a bunch of surfers like Liam, Keahi and myself, it’s needed!

**AK:** James and myself are kind of responsible for getting the shots we need. We have a shot list in our mind and overview of captured footage along the way. However, on a trip like this in Cape Town, where we have a lot of local knowledge from Graham and Nick, they have an enormous impact on the decisions we take and what spot we decide to spend the day.

**GH:** James is on it! Dealing with guys who live on the islands (Keahi and Anders) is pretty tricky, if you turn your back for a second, they will be taking a nap under a tree somewhere! So James did a great job keeping everyone on their toes. He also babysat Liam; he’s still a grom, and James has to constantly hang Liam’s wetsuit up from the middle of the front door floor!



KEAHI DE ABOITIZ KNOWS HIS ORANGES FROM HIS LEMONS!





GRAHAM HOWES STYLING THINGS  
OUT FOR THE CAMERA

**KA:** Haha, I guess that would have to be James, but that's not to say he made all the decisions. We still had plenty of confusion and enough driving around in circles some days figuring out what to do. It can be pretty hard with such a diverse group to make the right decision about where to go. That being said, I think we did pretty well in the end!

**LW:** I would say James B was the dad of the trip. There always needs to be someone that is in charge so that things get done.

**JB AKA Dad:** The great thing about our team is that everyone knows their roles and duties and when these trips come along everyone knows the results that need to happen. There isn't much whip cracking; I think when you are pushed too much with a stick you go into your shell a bit.

“ THERE ISN'T MUCH  
WHIP CRACKING; I THINK  
WHEN YOU ARE PUSHED  
TOO MUCH WITH A  
STICK YOU GO INTO YOUR  
SHELL A BIT. ”

*Shinn*

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We concentrate on specific conditions; when the waves are firing Keahi has to step up and go out for long multiple sessions in a day while Liam can perhaps take it easy, but then when the focus turns to freestyle when conditions line up he knows it's his turn to lay it down.

**What was the most memorable moment for you?**

**NJ:** We had a lot of fun throughout the trip. It was nice to shoot with the crew in Cape Town, which is almost my home spot. I was happy I got to show the team a good time with a lot of wind and good parties!

**“ I GOT TO SHOW THE TEAM A GOOD TIME WITH A LOT OF WIND AND GOOD PARTIES! ”**



JAMES BOULDING HAS MAGIC POWERS BOTH ON AND OFF THE WATER!



“ KEAHI AND ANDERS GOT BACK AND PACKED THEIR SURFBOARDS RIGHT AWAY AND DROVE THE EIGHT HOURS TO ARRIVE AT THE BEST RIGHT-HAND POINT BREAK IN THE WORLD ”

**AK:** When we drove out to Cape Point at 5am in the morning, forgot a pump and the light, wind and waves were looking good. Lars didn't get his morning coffee and was grumpy, and a little school kid randomly saved the day with his sh!tty duck-taped pump which was meant for his air mattress!

**GH:** One night we were at the Cabrinha dealer meeting party, we danced, drank lots of wine, had standup paddle races across the swimming pool in our clothes, got wet and danced some more! Then at 1am on the way home, I showed the boys a picture of the waves that day in JBay (Jeffreys Bay) which is an eight hour drive. Keahi and Anders got back and packed their surfboards right away and drove the eight hours to arrive at the best right-hand point break in the world; it was firing! They surfed for two hours and then drove the eight hours back. Now that's commitment!

**DAD:** There were so many memorable moments, most revolve around Anders, our videographer. He just sees life so differently from anyone else I know, and his little quotes are priceless. Most nights out in the bar, he got his hair lit on fire, it's so dry, and straw like! It became the go-to activity after a few beers; it would stink out the bar every time. He definitely went home balder than when he arrived.



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FREERIDE/WAVE

▲ SIZES 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 14



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▲ SIZES 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10



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Kari Schibevaag heads off on a staycation in her native Norway to discover the snowkiting delights of Spitsbergen, Svalbard. An island famous for having more polar bears than people and where the reindeer have the run of the place.

# CHASING THE MIDNIGHT SUN

WORDS KARI SCHIBEVAAG  
EDITED BY CRYSTAL VENESS  
PHOTOS TOM MAGNE JONASSEN AND SCHIBEVAAG.COM

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“ THE DISTANT ISLAND HIDING SO FAR UP IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE THAT THE SUN NEVER RISES AND NEVER SETS ”

It was winter, but raining like it was autumn. Watching the melancholy rain wash away the winter wonderland I love so much was depressing. What’s happening to the world? Typically, winter brings piercing cold temperatures that make it hard to be outside, but this season had brought

unpredictable temperature changes and a constant downpour.

I broke my nose on my last trip to Cape Town. My doctor had advised me to stay away from the snow and the sun, a seemingly impossible order. I planned for a quiet winter at home but had cabin fever almost immediately. What’s a person to do when their two greatest sources of joy are prohibited? I couldn’t accept it. I tweaked my snow goggles to fit on my recovering nose

while contemplating a snowkiting trip to the mountains to escape the relentless rain.

My mind had been on Spitsbergen, the distant island hiding so far up in the northern hemisphere that the sun never rises and never sets, depending on the season. The island lies in the remote Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard, and I had always dreamed of visiting.

When tourists think of Norway, they often picture cold, dark, snowy scenery with polar bears and reindeer tromping through the streets. And yes, we do have this...in Svalbard.



The polar bears are taking over this far-away land, where the human population of 2,000 is outnumbered by the isbjorn, whose numbers sit at 3,000. Situated north of mainland Europe, Svalbard lies midway between continental Norway and the North Pole. The group of islands ranges in latitude from 74° to 81° north, with the largest island of the chain being Spitsbergen.

“ THE HUMAN POPULATION OF 2,000 IS OUTNUMBERED BY THE ISBJORN ”

# GET DIALED

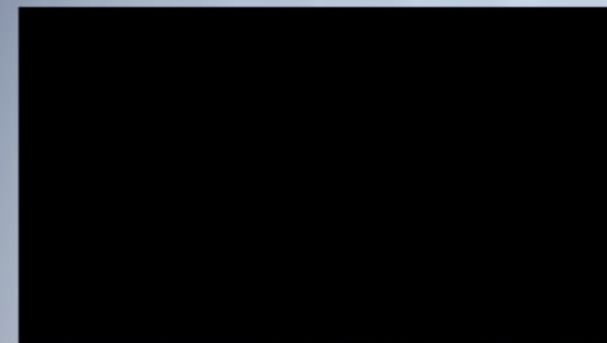


Photo By: Jay Wallace - Rider: Reece Myerscough - Gear: Stick-Shift bar, Soul Drysuit, Jester board

## STICK-SHIFT

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**Sidewinder**  
Back Line Trim. Twist to add power, bump to de-power.



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“ IT FELT LIKE LANDING ON A SNOW-COVERED MOON WITHOUT A TREE IN SIGHT. THE PERFECT CONDITIONS FOR SKIING AND SNOWKITING. ”

It had been a dream destination for me, but a great distance from my home and a difficult trip to make without local knowledge. I had imagined snowkiting in Svalbard for long enough, and with a sunny forecast over the islands, it looked like I finally had a chance to make it a reality.

My phone woke me up the next morning with a message from a friend, inviting me to Svalbard. It only took a few minutes to book my flight – an easy trip direct from Oslo to Longyearbyen with a short pit stop in Tromsø. The hardest thing about visiting is finding accommodation in the high season. There are a few hotels and hostels in Longyearbyen, but supply is limited, and reservations are essential.

I touched down in Spitsbergen to shining sun and mountains frosted with powder. It felt like landing on a snow-covered moon without a tree in sight. The perfect conditions for skiing and snowkiting. Why hadn't I come here before??

The first day was spent around town with Tom and Christian as we waited for the rest of our crew to arrive. It was the season of the midnight sun; we could be outside 24/7.

What a place! Norway never ceases to impress me. Reindeer wandered the street and Christian – our local friend – informed us that they had the run of the entire island. Citizens of Svalbard had the right to hunt one reindeer per person every year. Svalbard reindeer don't look like typical mainland reindeer. They have short legs and absolutely no fear of people.





“ WHAT A PLACE! NORWAY NEVER  
CEASES TO IMPRESS ME. ”



Svalbard is also home to thousands of polar bears, something that you won't find in mainland Norway. They are the largest bears on the planet and vicious predators, but they look terribly cute. I was a bit nervous about walking around after hearing stories from the locals of polar bears coming into town, but it wasn't a daily occurrence, which gave me some comfort. We were kiting in Adventsdalen (close to town) and were told that we wouldn't run into any of the aggressive isbjorn there.

“ I WAS A BIT NERVOUS ABOUT WALKING AROUND AFTER HEARING STORIES FROM THE LOCALS ”



## ALL MADE IN EUROPE

All CrazyFly kites, boards and accessories are made in the CrazyFly Factory in Europe.

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This revolutionary feature increases the kite's rigidity and reactivity allowing for better flight experience. Every seam on the kite gets stretched over time, especially in the stressed area pulled by the backlines.

So, instead of using multiple Dacron panels, we used a single United Dacron Panel. The reactions of the kite are noticeably quicker and they do not fade over time.





“ AFTER SEVERAL ATTEMPTS THEY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TRANQUILLIZE HIM AND FLY HIM TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND. ”

Snowkiting here was heavenly. Exploring this winter scape was unimaginably fun. Gliding up mountains, riding over the frozen water, and navigating through untouched snowbanks...it was better than the dreams I'd had. I forgot all about the

polar bears and revelled in the stunning nature surrounding me.

Two days later, a hungry young polar bear came into town, right through the area I had been kiting in. The local authorities attempted to scare him away with a helicopter and snowmobile, but after several attempts had no choice but to tranquilize him and fly him to the other side of the island. I was lucky not to have encountered him out in the snow, but picked up a rifle I

could carry while kiting just in case one of his friends wanted to stop by town!

The entire crew arrived over the next few days, and we excitedly prepared for an icy expedition. Luckily, Gunvor had a friend who was an experienced guide that wanted to join us on our trip to Isfjord Radio. We packed snowmobiles down with kite and ski gear and set off.

The journey began in perfectly sunny conditions with no wind; only snow covered landscape around us.



The guide set the route for us to follow, hoping for wind along the way. We passed through the mostly Russian town of Barentsburg, a departure from the traditional Norwegian town we had come from, which was apparent when we visited the local hotel serving Russian beer and vodka.

Several hours later, we found wind at a glacier along our path. We set up our kite gear, and spread out to traverse the spectacular mountains, keeping an eye open for any polar bears lurking in the snow.

“ WE SET UP OUR KITE GEAR, AND SPREAD OUT TO TRAVERSE THE SPECTACULAR MOUNTAINS ”

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## THE RRD H-FLIGHT HYDROFOIL & DOLPHIN 1 KITE FOIL BOARD



“ WE WERE EXHAUSTED, AND UNSURE IF THE STORM SWIRLING OUTSIDE WOULD LET UP SO WE COULD RETURN HOME THE NEXT DAY.”

Weather changes fast in this part of the world, and we were surprised by a big storm. We hurried to pack down and finish the drive by snowmobile to Isfjord Radio, where we searched through the wind-blown territory for our accommodation.

Isfjord Radio is located at Kapp Linne by the Isfjord on Spitsbergen Island. It's a coast radio station that was established in 1933 and has played a significant role in telecommunication between the Svalbard archipelago and the outside world. Now, it's been converted to a hotel that is only accessible by boat, snowmobile, or dogsled.

We arrived to find delicious food that

warmed us up, and a hot shower before bed. We were exhausted, and unsure if the storm swirling outside would let up so we could return home the next day. You never know in Svalbard. We crossed our fingers and drifted off to sleep.

The next morning brought even more snow, outside and in. The door had broken overnight, and the hallway was full of fresh powder. Apparently, this was a regular occurrence, which would be fixed when the wind died down some.



“ ENJOYING THE CRAZY CONDITIONS AND LAUGHING EVERY TIME ONE OF US ENDED UP IN THE SNOW. ”

We decided to attempt the journey back to Longyearbyen after a hearty breakfast but found the conditions difficult in one-meter powder that was piling up as the day went on. Our snowmobiles were constantly tipping over, and the snow continued to fall. Not to be swayed, we carried on, enjoying the crazy conditions and laughing every time one of us ended up in the snow. The best thing about fresh powder is it doesn't hurt!

Just before we arrived back in Longyearbyen, the sun shone back through the clouds, and we were treated to a beautiful midnight sun over town. In April, the sun stays in the sky day and night, and sleep is often hard to come by.

We spent the next few days getting to know the area around Longyearbyen, taking the snowmobiles out for short snowkite trips whenever the wind blew. We were fortunate to have beautiful, sunny, windy conditions for much of our adventure, and found snowy playgrounds in every direction to fly around.

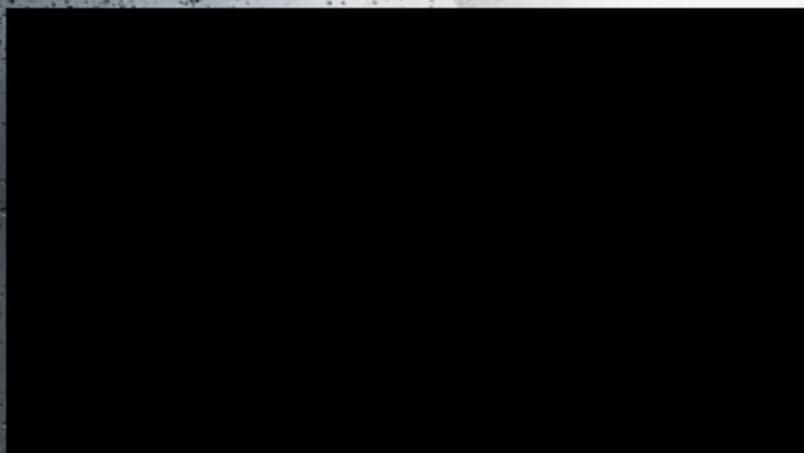
Stepping back onto the plane was a wistful moment, but I knew it was time to head home. Flying over the frosty islands, I knew I would be back next winter to achieve an even bigger dream - crossing Svalbard by kite.

See you next winter when the Svalbard Snowkite Expedition team, "Green Wind," packs our gear to travel across the total length of Svalbard, powered only by wind.

I can't wait!

# LEGEND HARNESS

#INCONTROL  
MARC JACOBS



**THE ULTIMATE UNIBODY HARNESS.** Throw away all of the various layers and combine them into one single piece; **THE LEGEND.** A one of a kind harness which combines simplicity and flexibility. The revolutionary FLYMOLD and FLYWEB give the rider optimal support where needed. QUICK LOCK BUCKLE open/closure system get's you in and out of your harness easier and faster. The MULTI HOOK BANANA BAR + LOW TORQ SYSTEM holds the hook firmly in position and also prevents it from tilting upwards. The webbing of the two points system is placed on different locations to spread the load more evenly over the harness.

# 10 QUESTIONS

WORDS LINDSAY MCLURE  
PHOTOS TOBY BROMWICH

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Noè Font





Noè Font has transitioned from frothing grom to accomplished pro rider in an incredibly short space of time. Hailing from Spain, his maturity at such a young age can be quite a shock, these days he trains and travels with Aaron Hadlow, competes on the Kite Park League tour, where he placed third overall last year, and also pursues his passion for videography. He's one of our favourite riders here at the magazine and when you read this it's easy to see why. Humble, intelligent and above all an absolute ripper on the water, we give Noè Font our Ten Questions!

Can you tell us a bit about how you learned to kiteboard and your ascent from grom to industry leader?

My dad used to own a kite school back home, so as soon as I was old enough, I picked up a board and got after it. At first, like everyone else, kiting was just my hobby, but after a year of kiting I went to the Spanish Nationals with my dad just to check it out and won. After that, we both figured that I could kite a bit more seriously and put more time into training.

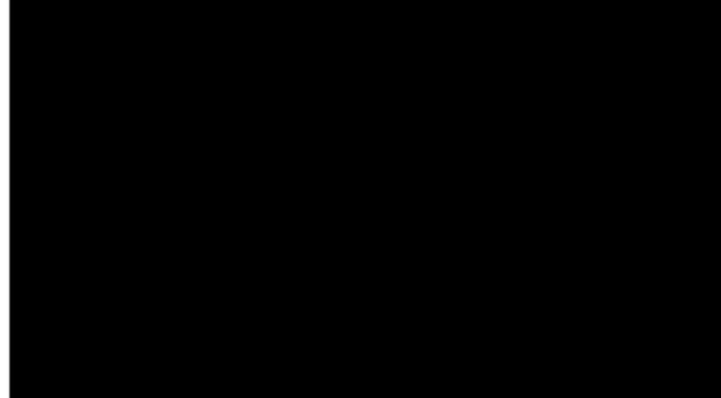
At the time there were a few other groms in the area like David Tonijuan, Manel Arpa, and Patrick Blanc. We started hanging out together more and progressing really quickly. Not long after, we all picked up sponsorship deals from different brands so we could travel to the bigger events and compete on the world tour. I was always the youngest one, and I often had to compete in younger categories, which was obviously an advantage since I would train with older and better riders all the time.

“we both figured that I could kite a bit more seriously and put more time into training.”





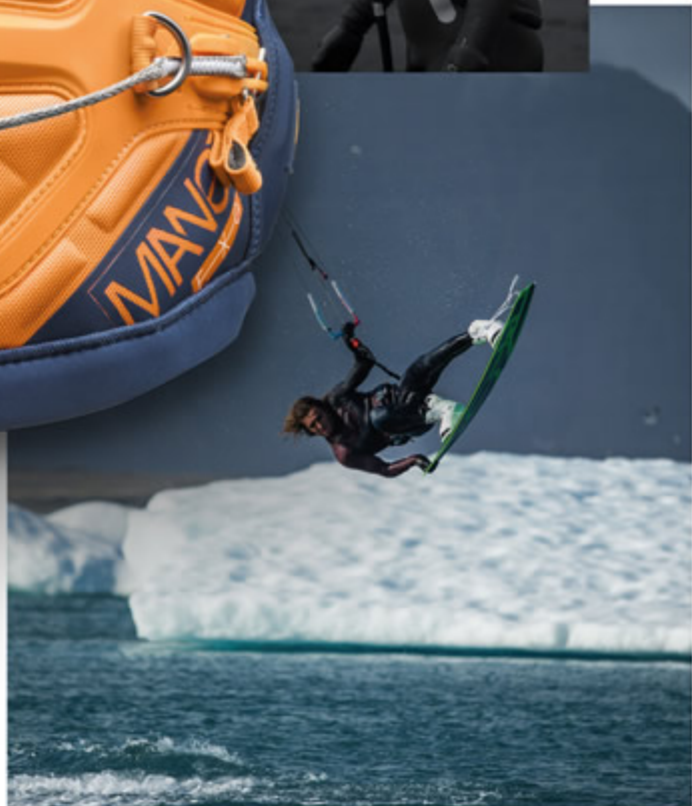
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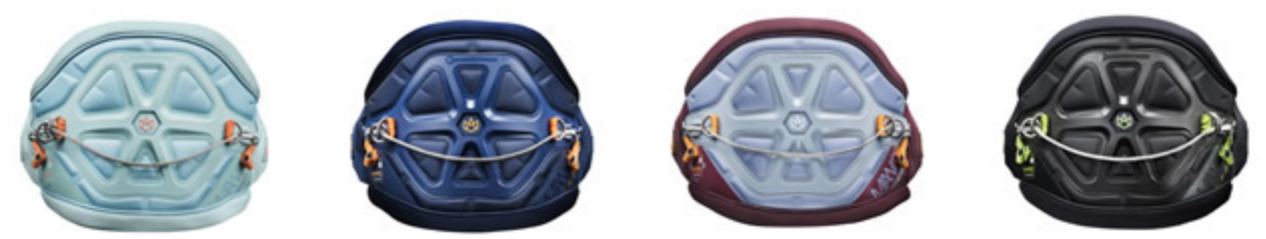
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THE EXO HARNESS



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

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

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10 “ We are all focused on collecting the best footage possible over the course of this winter ”

After I got sponsored internationally, I began to travel to contests everywhere. I started creating my own personality.

There were certain things I enjoyed more than others, different contests, tricks, and people. All of this led me to where I am now, competing in the Kite Park League and making films for my sponsors. One day, I realized that this was what I wanted to do, so I pursued it.

**When did you become interested in producing media, and how does this pursuit complement your role as an athlete?**

I've always enjoyed taking photos and filming things. Ever since I started kiting, I've made my own videos. It's never been like - oh I should make a video

because my sponsors will like me more. It's always been very natural and has felt right to me. Even if my sponsors didn't want me to, I would still make my films and all the projects, because it's what I want to do no matter what. At this point, kiteboarding for me also means making films and vice versa.

**We've heard you are in the process of producing a feature length kite film with North; can you tell us about that project, who is involved, and what we can expect to see?!**

For a while I've been admiring other sports and their full-length films with rider-based parts. It's something that has been lost in kiting for some reason. People focus their time on putting out quick and short online

clips instead of going on a few trips, collecting the best footage and cutting it into something with more depth and story. I guess it's what the Internet has done to us, we all have this need for constant entertainment, here and now, all day every day.

With this project, I want to challenge this idea and take us back to the full-length style. I have a cast of riders from the team including: Craig Cunningham, Stefan Spiessberger, Colleen Carroll, Aaron Hadlow and myself. We are all focused on collecting the best footage possible over the course of this winter to put out our best video parts yet. All of this will be combined into one film. We all have a different story, which brought us together in this.



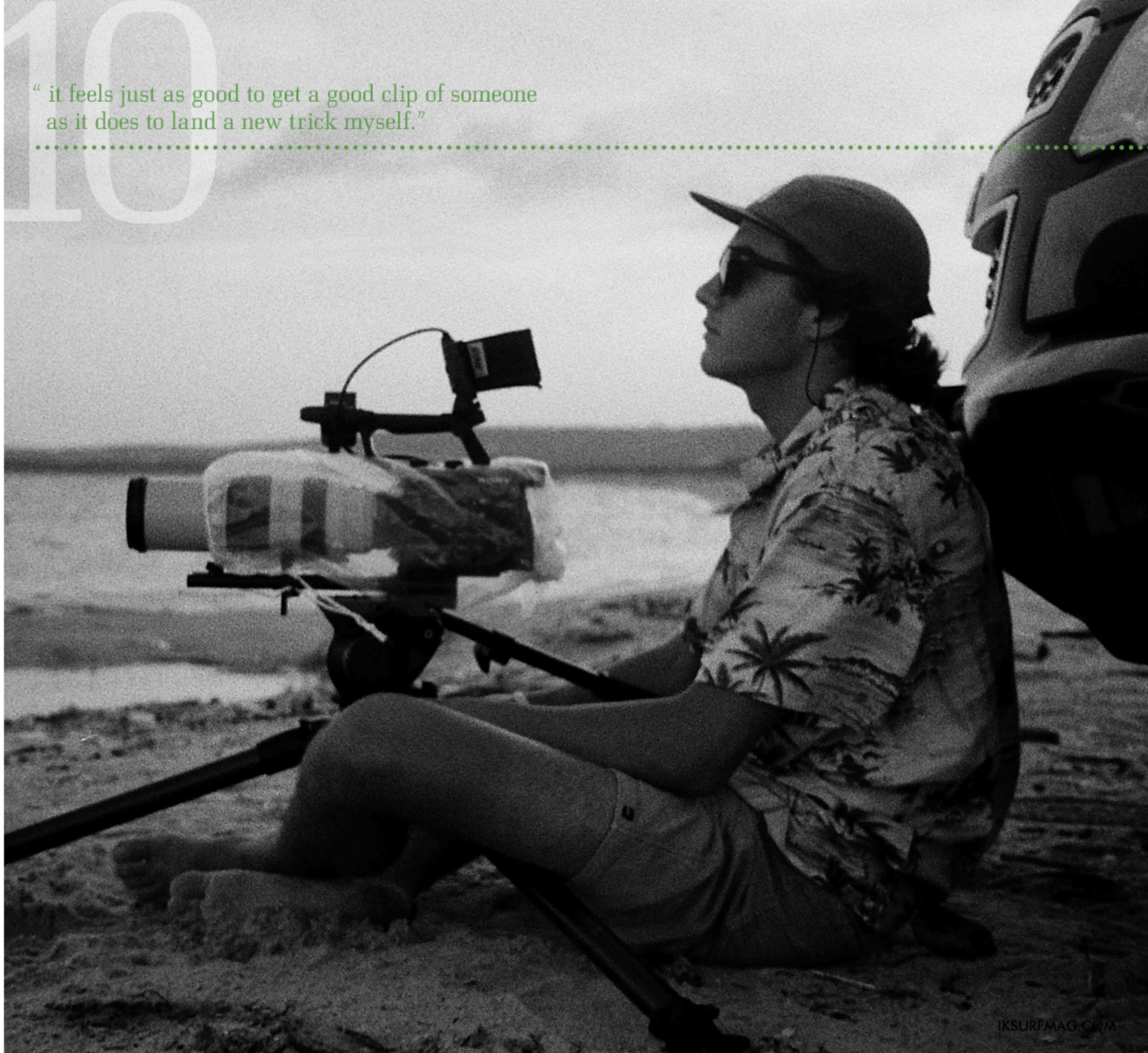
**Comparing kiting with making films, what do you find more challenging, more rewarding and why?**

I love them equally at this point. One complements the other and helps me push myself to be a better kiter and a better filmmaker. The reward is that it feels just as good to get a good clip of someone as it does to land a new trick myself. I'm currently working on this film with all these friends and the vibes are so different. We are not competing against each other. If someone lands a trick we are all stoked. High five! If I have to miss a good day of riding to get clips, I'm happy as well.

**Style seems to be of as much importance as technicality in your riding, how do you find a balance?**

Well, it's a hard world we live in. The value of a rider and the perception of tricks have evolved in a way where the only thing that matters is the spins. It's as simple as that. To win a world tour contest now, whoever spins the most wins. Execution and therefore style aren't rewarded as much as they should be.

“ it feels just as good to get a good clip of someone as it does to land a new trick myself.”



“ anything that’s different and off the norm draws my attention. ”

# 10



However, it’s very hard not to fall into these standards. You obviously want to prove yourself to the rest so you end up sacrificing proper tricks for poorly executed spins. That’s the way it works. I always try to find a balance, but its hard not to get carried away.

**From where do you draw inspiration for your riding and for your art?**

Not from kiting, that’s for sure. I’m very inspired by other board sports. Even though I don’t snowboard or skate much, I look up to these sports a lot. Surfing for some reason gets me pumped to kite. The aggressiveness you can do a turn with and the many different ways there are to do the exact same thing puts everything into perspective.

Filmmakers, photographers and artists from other circles and industries are inspiring, anything that’s different and off the norm draws my attention.

**What is your most coveted piece of equipment, and what do you love about it?**

Lately I’ve been shooting film a lot, trying out different cameras and rolls. The process is fun because there is more to it than just firing the shutter, and the anticipation before I process the rolls is priceless.

I have this analog Canon a1 from the 80’s that I really love. It’s crazy to think how much history it has and how such an old camera can still have value. These days you get a new camera and its outdated before you even get the chance to fully understand it.

“ it was my first year competing  
in this discipline. ”



**Where does competition fit into your yearly plan, are you focused on competitions, and how has competing influenced your riding?**

Apart from filming, my focus right now is on the Kite Park League, which is the worldwide tour for kite park contests. I finished 3rd overall last year, which was really nice since it was my first year competing in this discipline.



“ It’s still very fresh. There are no limits. We are not stuck training the same handful of tricks every session.”

10



Progression is the reason why I’m so driven by park riding at the moment. The obstacles are evolving and we are coming up with new concepts all the time. It’s still very fresh. There are no limits. We are not stuck training the same handful of tricks every session.

**What advice do you have for other young riders who might want to follow in your footsteps?**

Concentrate on doing what feels right. With both riding and filming, you can tell when someone is doing it because he or she loves to. Your mindset reflects into your riding. Do what feels right. It works.

**Where is your home spot, and do you spend as much time at home in Spain as you would like to?**

My home spot is in Empuriabrava, which is a town located a couple of hours north of Barcelona near the border of France and Spain. I try to go back as much as possible to see my family and friends, and to recharge batteries before my next trip. Lately, I’ve been traveling more than ever filming this movie, going from one place to the other, using all the time we have to get as much footage as we can. It’s been hard not to be at home much, but I’m looking forward to some rest and slow time at home once I get this project wrapped up.

**Thanks Noè for taking the time!**







CKPERFORMANCE

# TECHNIQUE

Happily sponsored by Cabrinha, NP & ambassadors for SurfEars



WORDS & PHOTOS CHRISTIAN & KARINE

Dare we say a very belated Happy New Year to all of you. Hopefully it'll be stonking every weekend of 2017. We have a plethora of different moves coming up this year, so all being well there'll be plenty to work on throughout the coming months. So what's cooking this issue? Well a few years back the twin tip duck tack proved immensely popular, so your first challenge for this year is to nail its stable mate the twin tip toeside duck! After that it's time to gorge yourself on more spice with a popped grab. Keeping it British with a Sunday lunch rotation, we've got the popped front roll roast beef, trimmings and all. Last but not least if you like looking the Don, and have a penchant for skimming across the pond on the wrong side of your board, then surely it's time to master the dark slide back roll.

Hope you enjoy them. Cheerio C&K.

TWIN TIP TOE SIDE DUCK TACK



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

POPPED FRONT ROAST BEEF



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

DARKSLIDE BACK LOOP



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

## TWIN TIP TOE SIDE DUCK TACK &gt;

**Kite:** Switchblade 9m with Fireball  
**Board:** Ace 139 with H2s

It's a while ago now that we covered the original twin tip duck tack. To kick off the New Kiting Year with fireworks, Champers and a full compliment of bells and whistles we're going to celebrate. 2017's first move, drum roll please, is its rather attractive cousin, the twin tip duck tack from toeside.

Much like the former variant, this can also be used to practice for the surfboard equivalent, but we're rather fond of it as a thoroughbred twin tip move in its own right. So what is the twin tip toeside duck tack? In theory it should be simple! A 180° turn upwind, starting in a toeside riding position. Yup zoom in on your toes, crank it up and through the wind, and bingo, back off from whence you came. If that's not enough info, please read on...

To attempt this, you need no more than a decent toeside so that you can enter with speed. This is also a carving move - so the more proficient you are with your carves, the easier the first part should be. Assuming that you can approach this OK, let us start by looking at the individual important bits.

**Pic A. The Kite**

There is no coincidence that in all things "tack", the position of the kite is key. The perfect place for your kite to be is bang up above you at 12 o'clock. The idea behind it is simple enough - with the kite at 12 it



There is no coincidence that in all things "tack", the position of the kite is key. The perfect place for your kite to be is bang up above you at 12 o'clock. The idea behind it is simple enough - with the kite at 12 it doesn't pull you down wind, so you're free to turn underneath it, and use its support from above when required. However, there is a negative to having the kite high. The lift it generates makes it hard to edge, enough of a problem on heelside yet alone when you're on your toes, so carving upwind would be nigh on impossible. The solution to this is to sheet the bar out, and this will only be possible if you trim your bar in to begin with. Now the final piece - how do you get the kite up there? Quickly. If you look at Christian in the picture you can see that he's edging in on his



toes, free hand forward to keep his weight forward and the board planning. The kite is about 11 o'clock, so he can edge and come in with speed. He steers the kite quickly up towards 12 with his back hand and pushes the bar out, so that it doesn't pull him back down wind. He's feathering the bar out as the kite pulls. If you drift the kite up it won't let you carve.

**Pic B. The Carve**

Once your kite is moving and on its final push for the Zenith it's time to get your carve on. If you wait just a trifle too long you won't be able to drop your weight as the kite will hold you up! As the kite rises Christian reaches his arm to forwards and upwind towards the water, effectively this will be the centre of his turning circle.



He drops his weight low by really flexing his ankles. This means that his hips drop low towards the water as well as his shoulders. In short he's not breaking at the waist and sticking his ass in the air. Note the bar is at full reach so at the moment the kite is not fighting back, but Christian is still weighting his back hand so that the kite continues all the way to 12.

### Pic C. The Drive

If you've ever studied surf fins, you'll have heard of drive. In simple terms you push against them and they drive you forward. This is a carving move, so you need to drive the board around the corner. As his weight

drops Christian pushes against the board, driving with his legs, squirting the board forward, like pumping a skateboard or carving a snowboard or skis. This is the carve, you must not go all gooey and soft, otherwise the board will stop, you've got to drive it around the bend. Looking at the picture there is one crucial body movement which helps you carve and prevents you from sliding. Christian's shoulders are facing forwards as if each arm were on different sides of the board. You can see the spray coming off the board as it carves all the way through the wind. Bar is still out and steering the kite to make sure it's at 12.

The collage features several images and logos:
 

- A kitesurfer in mid-air against a dark background.
- A kite with 'SROKA' branding in a blue and yellow color scheme.
- A kite labeled 'TWIN KITE' in a white box.
- A kite labeled 'OUESK KITE' in a white box.
- A kite labeled 'FOIL KITE' in a white box.
- A kiteboard with 'SROKA' branding and a blue and yellow design.
- A background image of a beach with several kitesurfers and kites in the sky.
- A logo for 'SROKA' in a white circle.



**Pic D. Just a little bit further!**

With his hand planted Christian is literally carving around his centre line directly underneath the kite which is now pretty much exactly at 12. This is your aim, to carve through the wind until you're pointing back in the other direction, albeit with your weight downwind on the wrong side of the board. You can see as Christian slows he is still driving the board, with both knees pointing forwards, and his shoulders are still up. If you bend at the waist the next part will be extremely difficult. It's worth noting as well, that as Christian comes up through the wind his weight moves forward on the board. This is to say that using his knees, he pushes his hips towards the nose of the board and therefore places more weight onto his



front foot. At this stage the balance should be 50/50 front and rear.

**Pic E. Get Up, Stand Up**

If you look at this part of the move on video it looks complicated. How on earth do you get from leaning downwind of the board to back over it. Well as chance would have it having the kite at 12 o'clock is the golden ticket. Looking at Christian, he's pulled the bar in, which will give him support and lift from above, which enables him to straighten up. He's also pushing his front hand away from him, and as the kite lifts the centre line pushes him back up over the board. One caveat here though. This will only work if you've managed to get your weight forward and shared between your feet.



**Pic F. Dive & Go**

All that's left is to dive the kite and get your weight back to resist the power, so that you can ride off into the sunset. You may have noticed in the previous picture that Christian was already diving his kite as it pushed him up. The earlier that you get the kite diving, the drier your tack will be. For your first attempts though you can stand then dive to reduce the un-necessary clutter of multi tasking. Here Christian drops his hips back towards the back of the board and upwind, which means that as the kite surges he's able to push the nose of his board off the wind with his front foot and celebrate his first new move of 2017!



### Top Tips

In order of appearance; bar trimmed in, good speed on a solid toeside edge, move the kite quickly up, drop your hand down and forwards, flex your ankles, drive with your knees, keep your shoulders facing forwards, throw your weight forward as you come through the wind and have your kite at 12 o'clock to lift you. These are the parts that make up the sum. It's actually quite a lot to work on, so break it down into achievable chunks. Your first efforts should concentrate on moving the kite up quickly whilst getting a decent carve. Once you've got that base down, the rest should follow suit.

Keep in mind that it's preferable to move the kite too

far over and across past 12 o'clock than not moving it enough.

Now have a thorough look through the sequence and videos to see exactly when and where each element comes into play.

### Common Problems

We think you're probably expecting this, but assuming that you're on a good toeside most issues are going to come from the kite and its position.

If you can't carve upwind at all, you're drifting the kite up too slowly and using it for support. Push against the board using your legs to generate speed, and move the kite up quickly and with as little tension in the lines as possible.

If you're carving well, but you can't get through the wind, it's a result of the kite pulling you. This will either be because it hasn't gone up to 12, or due to you not sheeting out fully. If you are sheeting out and the kite is near 12, then you need to trim more.

If you're getting through the wind, but then find that your centre line is in the way and subsequently you're forced to arch you back and fall behind the board. This is more often than not due to the kite not being at 12 yet, so it's still trying to carry on and therefore pulling you. Try to be more aggressive to get the kite up quickly.

If you're making it around, but are forced back at the last minute so that you claim a very wet one, it's a result of pulling the bar in too early. Make sure you're fully around and have your weight forward before you ask for the kite's help.

### Keystones

1. Solid toeside with bar trimmed in.
2. Move kite up to 12 quickly and push bar out
3. Drop your hand down and carve from your ankles
4. Drive through the wind using your knees and move weight forwards
5. Sheet in and push down on bar to lift before diving



## POPPED FRONT ROAST BEEF >

**Kite:** Chaos 7m **Board:** XO 133 with H3s

There is something hugely satisfying in trying to improve or perfect things that you can already do, whether necessary or not. There's probably more than one of you reading this that spent time as a youngster fashioning their signature into what it is today, who had an extra "hour or two" of driving lessons to convince the examiner of your worthiness to be released onto the country's roads, who step by step demolished their sideburns in an effort to get them the same length? The list goes on, but the point is that although it wasn't always fun, often frustrating, sometimes even completely pointless, once you got there it was worth it. The same goes with changing up your grabs on moves. Sure you can smash out a bucketful of tail grabs each session, but doesn't it get old? Hopefully you'll agree and we can get on with this issue's very own chili pepper, the popped front roast beef.

In case you're not sure of the roast beef grab, it's the back hand grabbing your heel side edge, just in front of your back foot with your arm reaching down through your legs. What makes these grabs tricky is adding the required body position to a move that you're so used to doing in a particular sub-conscious way. As a result, a big part of these moves is doing them consciously. If you throw yourself into your usual rotation you won't reach the grab.

Before attempting this one, we'd strongly advise that you're happily popping your front rotations. At least



this way you can concentrate on what's required rather than pondering the up before the round! So as we're accustomed, let's pick apart what'll make the difference and lead to a claim.

### The Approach Pic A

If we only had a pound for every time that we have said this! Your approach and pop go hand in hand. You have to get everything lined up and then you'll get pop. Coming into this like every other pop trick requires a shift in weight, moving your hips back over or even behind the back strap/boot. This way you'll be riding on the back of the board, the tail with its rocker which will help you turn. To further increase your chances, you'll need to suddenly bear away a bit



off the wind, so that you can carve up without stopping, and so that the kite drops back in the window (more downwind of you) which will give you something to pop against and help you land downwind. Karine has her sweet spot trimmed in close so she can keep her shoulders back, her kite is around 11 o'clock, her hands centred on the bar. From this approach position she only needs to turn her head and shoulders and she'll end up nice and low with tension on the lines, with a solid carve and enough flex in her back leg from which to explode.

### Up & Over Pic B

You need to resist the urge to initiate your front rotation. As you are popping your first concern is getting up off



the water. You must stamp away against the edge of your board. If you throw yourself across it, you won't get the height. Even though you want and need to rotate you have to get the up first. As you kick against the board and it throws you up the bar will become light and as a result you'll be able to release your back hand early, which is handy as you need to get the grab in quick. Karine has not thrown her head and shoulders forward and down towards the nose of the board to initiate her rotation. The only give away that she's going for a front is the lifting of her front knee. This added with the pop should be enough to initiate the

rotation as she rises.

### The Difference is Why Pic C

This is where it all gets complicated. You need to rotate but you need to set up for the roast beef. Rather than throwing her shoulders down Karine has turned her head, which along with her pop and front knee should give her enough rotation. It's almost the opposite of a normal front rotation as Karine is leaning her shoulders back, whilst tilting her head back towards her trailing shoulder as if she was holding a telephone between head and shoulder. This upper body movement is essential for making the grab as it moves her towards the back foot.



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If she were to throw her shoulders down the board will end up too far away. Also note that Karine is already lifting her back leg immediately post stamp. She needs to get it close enough before she rotates. So don't leave it extended. With her hand already hanging down, there's not far to go.

#### Medium or Rare Pic D.

It's pretty obvious from this photo why the head and shoulders need to be leaning back and the back leg lifted to reach through for the roast beef. Looking at Karine's position as she reaches the grab, her head and shoulders are back over her back knee and as such she is both near the board and behind the bar. Nothing is in the way and everything has moved



towards it's goal, hand to edge, board to hand. You can see why, realistically Karine has not yet turned 90° but she's already got the grab. In a pop move there isn't much time so making it happen quickly is the only way.

#### Patience Pic E.

Once you've got the grab hold it tight. Theoretically you're in the hands of your take off. With enough pop and sufficient rotation, you'll have the height, time and momentum to make it all the way around. The earlier you get your grab the easier it is. If you're late you'll already be thinking towards the landing and not make it. By keeping herself small in the grabbed position Karine will keep her rotation speed going, so hold it for as long as you dare! If you feel the need to



rotate quicker, this would be the moment crank your neck and peer over your back shoulder, leading the rotation with your eyes and head.

#### Automatic Pic F.

If you hold the grab this is the position that you'll come around to. Karine's shoulders are downwind as the board follows them around. As she drops she releases the grab so that she can get her undercarriage down. Karine is looking at the water, preparing for her landing. Once again this will all be a result of your take off. If you turned off the wind sufficiently on your approach the kite will be pulling you downwind, so you'll come through the rotation and drop gracefully down onto a flat board.



### Top Tips

Making the effort to concentrate on changing your popped front take off to fit this grab is the secret here. Much like the sent variant there is no better place to start than trying a lorry load of popped fronts with your shoulders and head tilted back rather than forward. The good thing is that you can always see where you want to grab, so even if you're not taking a hand off you'll get an idea of the body to board positioning is getting better. Imagine that you want the board to start the rotation, whilst your upper body waits for it before joining in.

Learning this on a small kite will be trickier. The kite will want to move more when you release your back hand early and you won't get as much float in your pop, so you'll no doubt rotate quicker. If you can, learn this

on something you're comfortable with and is stable, not the sporty little speedster unless that's your fave.

To see it all in real time check out the sequence and video, so you can visualise what is going on.

### Common Problems

Not reaching the grab. We've covered this pretty extensively, but you can't roll down into your rotation as you normally would for no grab or a tail grab. If the board is miles away concentrate on keeping the shoulders and head back in the telephone holding position.

If you're not making it around there are two probable causes. Firstly, you're going into the rotation too quickly rather than popping up. Secondly you're stalling your rotation whilst concentrating on the grab.

To make life easier start with the kite a little higher. This way you'll still be popping, but you'll have the confidence knowing that the kite will support you and give you a bit more time.

### Keystones

1. Good solid pop
2. Front knee up to help rotate
3. Release back hand early
4. Head and shoulder into phone position
5. Lift back leg and look for grab



## DARK SLIDE WITH A BACK ROLL >

**Kite:** Switchblade 9m with Fireball

**Board:** Ace 139 with H2s

If you're mildly infatuated with dark sliding, spending endless sessions trying to eke out an extra few milliseconds suspended under your kite, indulging yourself in fantasies of sliding yet further, it could conceivably be time to take a step back, press reset and try something else using the skills that you've honed so well. Enter the darkslide back roll. It's a champion add on that'll help mend your ways, rekindle your stoke and of course impress your peers.

The movement of a dark slide lends itself well to a back rotation, as you've most likely encountered with some element of surprise, particularly if you're grabbing the board with your front hand. The time has come to make it both deliberate and painless.

Note to reader, we will take it for granted that you can already dark slide and therefore miss some basic elements of the movement, rather focusing on getting around without a snag. We will also be finishing this move with a late kitemove, so if you're accustomed to this mode of exit it'll stand you in good stead.

### Left Hand Free Pic A

If you're going left that is! We didn't want to put anyone one off but this should be named the grabbed dark slide back roll. Therefore, if you haven't grabbed a darkslide yet, now is your moment. It'll become obvious later why having the front hand off helps so much, but for the moment let us say that with two



hands, although very possible, your hit rate will be considerably higher with one mitt (your front one) impaled on a fin. Therefore you'll be committing from the off, on your approach as Christian is here, although the James Haskell face is optional! Because your front hand is off the back one needs to be up close to the chicken loop. Other than that it's business as usual, come in with your weight back and low, kite high and a good solid edge, before turning the board up underneath you, letting the bar out and tripping your lower half over.

### Fin Grab Pic B

If you can dark slide this is well within your reach.



That said the grab can be tricky, and if you're struggling have a quick look at this image. From the previous position Christian turns the board upwind and completely relaxes his legs so that the board steers underneath him. Having turned the board up Christian has pushed the bar out so that he doesn't get pulled downwind, this will make the grab way easier as he won't immediately be extended. Also as he falls, it's just with his back knee and hips, his shoulders stay upright. Yet again he's not falling away from the grab. And finally he's pulling and lifting his front knee up towards the bar, not letting it bend behind him. Once more keeping everything together and increasing his chances of reaching the fin.



### Why the grab Pic C

As soon as you're tripping you should aim to grab the front heelside fin. This will give you a good grip on the board and help support you as you slide. Once you've got the grab pull the bar back in to the sweet spot. If all goes to plan you should be in this position. And this is why you grab! With his front hand off the bar Christian cannot pull himself forwards, so gravity takes over and as a result he falls behind the bar. See how the bar is facing the camera as Christian literally rolls backwards. The end result is that you'll be both sliding and very gently losing your balance into a slow back rotation.



### Rolling Pic D

By the very nature of the slide, combined with the kite moving back behind you, eventually you will be off balance and falling downwind of the bar. If this was happening to you by accident you'd pull yourself up and forwards on the bar with your front hand. However now that it's intentional you're going to let yourself go with it, actually, by releasing your grab. With no support from your front hand your back shoulder will drop and start to swing you around. You have started your rotation. You only want to start this part once the kite has drifted past 12!



### Lift Pic E

Ideally we'd all prefer to be lifted up and away from the water, rather than dragged across it. So you must pre-empt your kiteloop with a hefty pull in on the bar. This will not only lift you and your board off the water, decreasing the chances of you losing the board, or worse still, one foot coming out of the strap. It will also put tension on the lines, so that when you do loop the kite should respond and whip around, rather than take the lazy long lolloping low route down through the power. Here Christian replaces his front back onto the bar and pulls in to get off the water and out of the slide. This part could also be done with one hand.



Although you're then likely to get more power from your loop as you'll have less control of the kite.

### Loop & Look Pic F

Once you're up you need to commit to the loop, pulling and pushing with opposing hands. You'll be better prepared if you bring your knees up, as in this compact position it'll be easier to keep your balance as the kite pulls. You also need to ensure that you can complete the rotation. Here Christian has turned his head, leading his body around the rotation. As the kite pulls it should lead him around and out of the back roll. It's important that you don't rotate too far before looping the kite, as it will then tend to over

rotate you, forcing you to land on an edge, or further round still!

### One Handed Pic F2

The previous part can also be performed with just the back hand, if you'd like to complete the move one handed. You can see how much more Christian is steering the kite with the bar. The reason being that as the power comes on the kite may pull the bar out and away, slowing the kite and increasing the radius, equalling more pull. To make sure it goes around quick a hefty tug with the back hand and a cocking of the wrist as if lifting the kite during body dragging is required. Here Christian uses his thumb to push the front of the bar up.



### Safe Arrival Pic G

For a smooth touch down you want the kite to be on it's way up. This way it will both pull you downwind, so that you can land softly on a flat board, and it will lift slightly, softening the impact which is never a bad thing. To make sure of this keep the bar steered until the very end. You can clearly see here that Christian is still pulling with his back hand and pushing with his front hand to make sure he lands softly with the kite on the right path.

### One Handed Pic G2

The same applies if you're going for the rodeo one handed spectacle. This variation leads better into a



transition, as you can more easily bring your back foot through for a toeside landing:) Yet again you can see the front of Christian's bar as he's pulling like a barmaid at the last orders bell. Same idea, same reason. Kite must go around and you want a soft landing. One thing of note here is that although Christian's free arm has been left behind, he makes a point of trying to keep his shoulders parallel to the board. If you open your shoulders to much it's very possible that the kite will pull you by your back hand, spin you and cause you to over rotate!

### Top Tips

We're big fans of baby steps. If you've never grabbed a dark slide before, there's no sense in looping your first attempt. You need repetition to get the timing right, so rather than nailing yourself with both guns blazing, get the grab and slide until you sink. It won't be long until you've got the timing and therefore can almost guarantee a marshmallow landing.

If you feel yourself rotating too quickly, bailing the kiteloop is also a good plan. Otherwise you'll end up facing downwind before the kite has come through the power and you'll be in for some unwanted excitement.

Finally, and what should be most obviously, but that's coaching for you folks, choose the right conditions to learn this. If you're maxed it could hurt, so wait until the conditions offer less consequence and then any mistake will merely be a pleasant dunking.



Take your time and have a good gander at the pictures, sequence and videos. This move is all about timing, or more precisely doing everything at the right time. Do that and it'll be a corker.

### Common Problems

If you're not rotating into the back roll. This will millions of years of evolution trying to keep you safe. It's a result of holding yourself up. Instead try and relax so that your trailing shoulder drops down towards the water. Also if you get your hips further back on the approach you'll fall further behind the bar which will help no end.

If you're being pulled through the water when

looping. Two possible causes, either you're looping way too late, so the kite is very low, or you're looping too gently so the kite travels low. Try feeling the kite and once you start to slow make sure you pull the bar in before pulling the trigger.

If you're getting nailed in the loop. If you loop too early, you'll have too much resistance from your slide and you'll kitemove rather than late kite loop. This is often a problem if you're concentrated on the loop and not the slide, so patience is a virtue. If you are waiting but still getting launched, chances are that you're either too gentle with the bar, or letting it out as the kite pulls. So commit and keep it going until you land.

### Keystones

1. One hand off before lifting kite and turning board underneath
2. Bar out, grab and slide
3. As kite goes back, release grab to initiate back roll
4. Pull bar in for lift
5. Commit to the late kite loop





# BEHIND THE BRAND

## MYSTIC

Winners of our Best Accessories Brand Readers Award for five years in a row, Mystic have been a dominant force in the kite industry for years. They have an impressive roster of riders, including Ruben Lenten, Bruna Kajiya, Marc Jacobs and Jalou Langeree, plus a huge range of accessories with products aimed at every style of kiter out there. We sat down with Max Blom the Global Brand Director to find out a little bit more about Mystic, the company and their ethos...

WORDS ROU CHATER & LINDSAY MCCLURE





**W**hen did you start the brand and how did it come about?

The brand was founded in 2002, during my university studies I had to do an internship. I joined the windsurfing brand Maui Magic, which was based in Holland. At that time kitesurfing was coming along, and the owner of the company wanted to transfer Maui Magic into the kiteboarding market. As part of my internship, myself and the team at MM started Mystic especially for kiteboarding.

We came out with the Darkrider harness, which was the first ever, kiteboarding specific harness. After that, we signed Ruben Lenten & Yuri Zoon as faces of the brand and went to Ireland for the photo shoot to kick-start the brand. The Celtic feeling and harsh conditions from Ireland have been an inspiration for Mystic ever since. For us it's not about sunshine and white sandy beaches, it's about putting yourself out there in challenging conditions. We want to build products that push riders further, allowing them to break all existing boundaries. Products that reflect our unique vision, our style, and we don't stop until we get to where we want to be.

**How have your Dutch roots shaped the growth of the brand?**

JALOU LANGEREE JOINED THE TEAM A FEW YEARS AGO AND CONTINUES TO PUSH THE LIMITS IN WOMEN'S WAVE RIDING!  
PHOTO MYSTIC



“ THE CELTIC FEELING AND HARSH CONDITIONS FROM IRELAND HAVE BEEN AN INSPIRATION FOR MYSTIC EVER SINCE. ”



Holland is one of the leading the countries in kiteboarding. We have the best conditions; some of the best riders, many champions and our industry is relatively big for such a small nation. Next to that the Dutch people are eager to travel around and be entrepreneurs. I think

MAX BLOM, THE GLOBAL BRAND DIRECTOR AND DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE BRAND!  
PHOTO ROGIER JAARSMA

that combination helped give Mystic the global presence it has managed to develop.


**What challenges do you have as a brand focusing on accessories instead of kites and boards?**

I think we deal a lot more with personal preference. Accessories are a part of what people wear. Every human body is different, and therefore sizing,



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MARC JACOBS HEADS UP THE FREESTYLE SIDE OF THE TEAM.  
PHOTO BEN THOUARD

“EVERYBODY AROUND THE GLOBE WORKING FOR THE BRAND DOES IT WITH A LOT OF COMMITMENT AND PASSION.”

quality, support and other needs are crucial. Dealing with the ergonomics is critical; you don't need to worry about this as much when producing kites and boards. Next to that the styling of the products is crucial too, in a wetsuit you want to perform but next to that you want to look good. We call it Functional Fashion at Mystic!

**Arguably just about every kite surfer has used one of your products at some point during their kiting adventure, what is it that makes the brand so popular do you think?**

The Mystic family is a unique family. Everybody around the globe working for the brand does it with a lot of commitment and passion. The crew at the HQ,

the distributors and the riders are so involved; this is what you see in the brand. Mystic is all about pushing forward in many aspects, and it seems kiteboarders like that. For me, it's great to see that people like our brand. It shows appreciation for all the hard work.

**Everybody has a different shape, is it hard to develop harness that fits properly across a broad spectrum of body shapes? Are different harness ranges aimed at various body shapes?**

Yes indeed that's a big challenge, as I said before every back and body shape is different and having a comfortable harness is all about personal preference. Setting up a different range with a broad selection of shapes and designs helps to cover all these individual

needs. Another factor to consider is that some riders like to spend 400 Euros on a carbon harness while others want regular comfort for an affordable price.

**You are very invested in the ladies side of kiteboarding, with the products you offer and the riders you sponsor. How important is the female market to your brand?**

I think the ladies are an important aspect of our industry. Kiteboarding is fairly easy to learn and therefore we should embrace the fact girls enjoy the water with a kite. I think the market is growing which is a very positive thing. Next to that, let's be honest, we all like beautiful girls in bikini's ripping waves and pulling sick freestyle tricks.

“ IT'S GOOD TO SEE WE ARE GETTING A LOT OF LOVE BACK BY WINNING THE AWARD FOUR TIMES IN A ROW ”



**Are there different challenges when designing products for women and men?**

Yes, women are far more critical on the design aspect of the products like colours, fit, etc. We are fortunate to have girls like Jalou and Bruna in the team; they have a strong vision when it comes to women's products, which helps us a lot.

**From a business perspective what has been your most successful product to date?**

Without a doubt the Warrior harness. Next year we launch our 5th version in his 12th year. I think we can say it's the best-sold harness in the industry.

**You've won our Readers Awards now for five years in a row in the Best Accessories Category, why do you think the brand is so successful?**

We love what we do, and we are trying to make products better and let people enjoy riding them. We also try to do a lot for the industry, supporting riders, events, magazines, shops, etc. It's good to see we are getting a lot of love back by winning the award four times in a row, it means the people appreciate what we are doing.

**How many people do you have working for you in Holland and around the globe, is it a big team behind the brand?**

At the HQ in Holland, we have around 25 people working. At the office, we have everything in-house. R&D, marketing, sales, warehousing, you name it.

WHEN MAX GETS TIME ON THE WATER, HE'S AN ABSOLUTE SHREDDER!  
PHOTO HUGO VALENTE



Around the globe, I think we have another 80 people pushing the brand in every country. It's a big team but that makes it special, and when all these people come together, great parties are guaranteed. We try to work hard and play hard.

**What is the development process for a new harness like, the new**

**Legend launched last year, for instance, was entirely different to anything the market had seen, how does a product like that come about?**

We have been in the harness business for a long time and are constantly trying to look for new construction methods and ways to improve existing designs. Innovation is what the sport needs; we would always rather it comes from us than the other brands.

**PHOTO** THE SHOWROOM AND BAR IN THE OFFICE IN THE NETHERLANDS!

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“ WE HAVE DEVELOPED A LIGHTER MATERIAL BUT IT'S AS STRONG AS OTHER BOARD BAGS BY USING DIFFERENT MATERIALS. ”

GULLY BRANDÃO IN TAHITI  
PHOTO BEN THOUARD

For the Legend we have been testing this injection mould process for a long time. We felt there is room for a lighter harness that does not absorb water and still offers the right support. Our R&D team develops it; we at the HQ test it first, as we all ride ourselves, and then give it to the riders to test it as well. After this procedure, we work on adjustments for the next sample. We repeat this until we think it's right and working.

**Neoprene is a huge part of the business for you now, what do you do to keep the wetsuit development ahead of the curve, are you developing fabrics with the factories or relying on them to offer new materials?**

Since we are in the kiteboarding business, we develop our suits for that market. Of course we have multi-purpose suits for all watersport including surfing, but we work with some key features specifically for kiteboarding. For this reason, we develop new materials. We work with the best supplier in the industry; they consult us on what to use for our ideas.

**A lot of your products seem to be developed from a real rider point of view, the lightweight Elevate board bags, for instance, offer riders a real advantage at the airport. Do you have one person developing ideas or is it born from the needs and**

**suggestions of the whole team?**

We have a good R&D team and all work in close cooperation together. Once one person has an idea we discuss it. As far as saving money at the airport, this is something we are very keen to develop, not just for our customers but for us as well!

We travel a lot for testing, photo shooting and our riders travel all the time. They come up with good ideas, which we try to adapt ideas and ensure they are suitable for the end consumer. The Elevate project has been an interesting one as we have developed a lighter material but it's as strong as other board bags by using different materials. We get great feedback on that product.



### What's your most popular product?

The good thing about the brand is we don't have a particular product that really outshines the others. We have a broad range of products within the range selling really well. If I have to pick out some products, I think it's the Legend & Warrior harness and the Legend X wetsuit.

These three products have been selling really well over the last season.

**You are a real multi-sports brand with windsurfing, wake, SUP and surf all have it a focus in addition to kitesurfing. Are there similar needs across all the sports or are they very individual and does that make it hard to develop products across the range?**

They all need individual focus. Because the sports are so different, you have to develop unique products per sport.

MYSTIC ARE MAJOR SUPOORTERS OF THE RED BULL KING OF THE AIR IN CAPE TOWN!  
PHOTO MYSTIC

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Back in the day windsurfers and kitesurfers used similar equipment but the further we get, the more it separates. Wakeboarding is different in many ways, the connection it has with kitesurfing is water, but as far as the lifestyle, wakeboarders are another cup of tea. We like to be diverse and connect with more industries; it keeps you fresh and open-minded.

**Which sport is the biggest in terms of products sold for Mystic?**

Kitesurfing

**What's the next big thing in the accessories market, where are we going to see most of the development?**

I think the hardshell harness is a new development, which goes in an exciting direction. We have been working on a model, but we faced some issues during development, so it took longer than we expected. Because of some challenges we decided to work with the best carbon materials and manufacturers out there to achieve the best outcome. This was a new road as it has not been done before. The Majestic X will be on the market spring 2017. For other accessories, we have some interesting things lined up, but it's too early to talk about it.

**What has been the proudest moment for you as a brand over the years?**

DUCKING FOR COVER...  
PHOTO MYSTIC



**“ WE LIKE TO BE DIVERSE AND  
CONNECT WITH MORE INDUSTRIES;  
IT KEEPS YOU FRESH AND  
OPEN-MINDED. ”**



“ THERE HAVE BEEN MANY OTHER HIGHLIGHTS IT'S BEEN A FANTASTIC JOURNEY SO FAR. ”



MAX BLOM GRABBING THE ULTIMATE SELFIE!



So far it has been a long ride with many great moments. First of all entering the industry and become part of it while adding something to the market was a proud moment.

Seeing Yuri, Bruna and Christophe winning world titles was great, winning the IKSURFMAG Readers Awards Best Accessory Brand four times in a row felt good. Ruben surviving cancer was a great moment for all of us as he is the face of the brand since day one. Amongst this, there have been many other highlights it's been a fantastic journey so far.

**Thanks for taking the time, Max!**

Thanks for the opportunity guys!

ABOVE SOME OF THE TEAM AT THE CHAPTER ONE MOVIE PREMIER!

WORDS AND PHOTOS THE IKSURFMAG TEST TEAM  
PHOTO THIS PAGE QUINCY DEIN

It's our biggest test ever with eight kites, five twin tips, four hydrofoil boards and three surfboards getting put through their paces by our test team!

# TRIED & TESTED



## KITES:

Cabrinha Switchblade 12m  
Core XR4 LW 17m  
F-One Breeze 11m  
Naish Torch ESP 10m  
North Dice 9m  
Ozone Chrono V2 13m  
Peter Lynn Escape V5 9m  
RRD Vision MK5

## TWIN TIPS:

Cabrinha Ace 139 x 42cm  
Nobile NHP Time Pro 138 x 43cm  
RRD Bliss V4 138 x 42cm  
Shinn Monkette Gold 131 x 40cm  
Shinn Ronson 138 x 42cm

## HYDROFOILS:

F-One Freeride 90/800 Hybrid Kitefoil and 51 Kitefoil Board  
Liquid Force Happy Foil and Happy Foil Board 4.10  
Slingshot Hover Glide NF2 and Alien Air Board  
Sroka Freeride Hydrofoil Titanium and Kitefoil Board

## SURFBOARDS:

F-One Signature SERIES 5'10"  
North Kiteboarding Pro Series CSC 5'2"  
Ocean Rodeo Jester 5'1"

BRAND CABRINHA

MODEL SWITCHBLADE

SIZE 12M

YEAR 2017



“ SHED LOADS OF  
POWER...EASY  
TO USE ”



### AT A GLANCE

The Switchblade has been a solid feature in the Cabrinha range for years now, twelve, if you want to be precise. That's one massive chunk of research and development. For 2017 Cabrinha bring us an evolved version of the 'classic' Switchblade. For those only just touching base on the Switchblade it is a 5-strut hybrid design LEI and sits in the Cabrinha line up as their performance freeride/cross over model, renowned for its power, performance and smooth feel.

The Switchblade features Cabrinha's new pure profile panels; put simply, the panels of the canopy have been cut in half, leading edge to trailing edge, to increase the performance of the kite in the sky. Riders will benefit from a solid feel, increased stability and efficiency. In terms of tech the Switchblade uses 2DR double ripstop, the sprint airlock valve, A-B wingtip settings, power control pigtails and Cabrinha's skeletal frame construction method.

The Switchblade comes in three different colours for the 2017 season: orange/yellow, red/blue and blue/yellow/green.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR  
WEBSITE, CLCK HERE

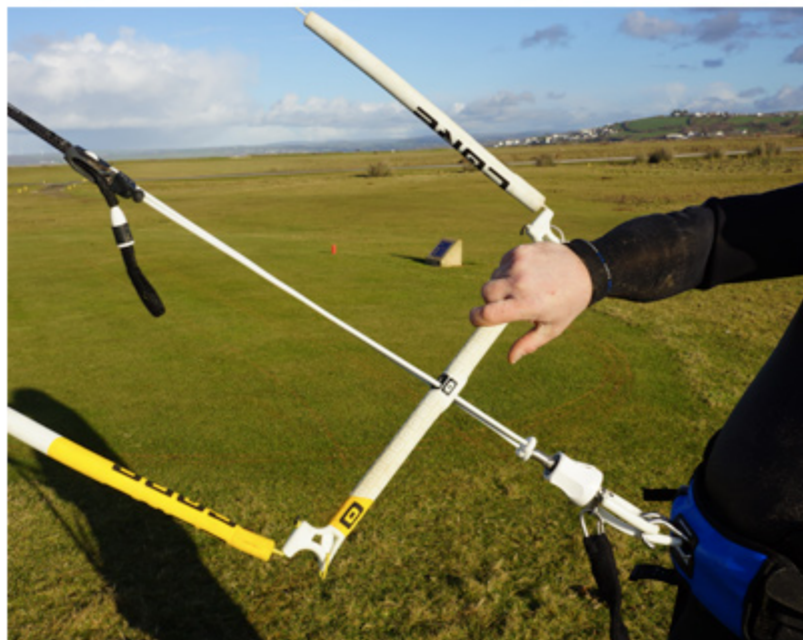


BRAND CORE MODEL XR4 LW SIZE 17M YEAR 2016



“BOOSTING ON A  
17M, REALLY...  
YES!”

TO VISIT THEIR  
WEBSITE, CLCK HERE



## AT A GLANCE

Core have an extensive range of kites which over the years have impressed the team here at IKSURFMAG. The company exudes quality and performance; you've probably seen riders, such as Steven Akkersdijk, looping the GTS4 underneath themselves, something you don't do without total confidence in your kite.

We were very impressed with the XR4 and were keen to see how the LW (light wind) version performed. The XR4 LW is a 5 strut mid to high aspect delta bow kite pitched, as the name would suggest, for light wind conditions and to complete the low-end of your kite quiver. The XR4 is billed as a performance freeride, wave and race kite and the regular XR4 we tested previously excelled in all of these elements. It would be interesting to see if the LW maintained the same qualities.

Looking in more detail at the design and construction of the XR4 LW, it's clear to see that this isn't simply a 'scaled up' version of the regular XR4. Built using CORETEX Light, exclusive to Core, this material is lighter than most ripstop yet still incredibly durable.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND F-ONE MODEL BREEZE V.1 SIZE 11M YEAR 2017



“ EXCEPTIONAL  
LIGHT WIND  
KITE...YOU  
LITERALLY ONLY  
NEED A BREEZE ”



TO VISIT THEIR  
WEBSITE, CLCK HERE



### AT A GLANCE

F-One have been a 'one kite does it all' brand for some time now, and the Bandit has been a huge success for them. However, over the last couple of years they have been working on a few new gems for us all. We saw the Diablo foil kite which has been a huge success among foilers and racers across the globe. Yet they know a foil kite isn't for everyone, so now the team at F-One bring us this new offering.

The Breeze is a one-strut Delta C-shape kite. It's been created to be as light as possible giving riders the ability to get out in the lightest winds (and now you begin to understand the name...). Something that has always been hard when foilboarding is having an LEI that will fly in the light winds you can foil in. The Breeze aims to bridge this gap. The kite isn't just for foiling though, it's also aimed at all riders wanting a good light wind kite for freeriding too.

The Breeze has a new bridle with 4 fixing points and 3 pulleys on each side, is built with D2 Technoforce ripstop and has plenty of reinforcements. It looks incredibly robust for a light wind kite.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



BRAND NAISH MODEL TORCH ESP SIZE 10M YEAR 2017



" A DEPENDABLE  
HIGH  
PERFORMING  
KITE WITH THE  
BUILD QUALITY  
TO BACK IT UP. "



#### AT A GLANCE

Since its first appearance in 2004, the Torch has remained true as a leading C kite. Synonymous with Kevin Langaree and his monstrous airs and freestyle tricks, the Torch with ESP has now increased the usability for more people to enjoy. A true C kite, the Torch features 5 struts, 5 lines and direct attachments (no bridle). The ESP is activated by moving the front line from pigtail 2 to 1. This allows greater angle of attack control for greater depower; something less experienced riders will be very thankful for!

The canopy is made entirely from QuadTex, a collaboration between Teiljin and Naish, and is unrivalled in strength and durability. Patches and pads are placed in key wear areas to promote longevity. The Octopus one-pump system makes inflation fast and easy and there are some very useful zips around all struts which will make any repairs a lot simpler (though ideally you won't need to!).

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

TO VISIT THEIR  
WEBSITE, CLCK HERE



[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND NORTH MODEL DICE SIZE 9M YEAR 2017



"THE DICE IS THE MR VERSATILE OF THE NORTH KITEBOARDING RANGE"

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLCK HERE



#### AT A GLANCE

Ever since its launch, the Dice has been a hugely popular kite in the North Kiteboarding range. It's aimed at the rider who likes to throw down the freestyle but also wants a kite that can handle the waves too. It's a three strut design packed with all the usual North technology, the Airport Valve II makes inflation a breeze and is much improved for this year, being easier to maintain and more reliable.

Dacron is used to reinforce parts of the kite while TechnoForce D2 is used extensively for the canopy, this material has been around a while now, but it does make a difference to the amount of stretch the material gets over its lifespan. The North build quality on kites is second to none and this year that is ever more apparent, load panels in all the right places, abrasion reinforcement on the leading edge and in key areas and extra materials to protect the trailing edge too.

This year sees a new panel layout with an increased Dacron frame and larger "wave" panels on the trailing edge; the goal was to enhance the durability of the kite but also to improve the stiffness of the canopy when it was in flight.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND OZONE MODEL CHRONO V2 SIZE 13M YEAR 2016



" EASY...ULTRA STABLE...QUICK... RESPONSIVE AND BOOSTS" "



#### AT A GLANCE

For 2016 Ozone bring us the Chrono V2. It's commonly found down the beach being used by landboard and buggy riders, kitesurfers foiling or boosting and even up in the mountains pulling a snowkiter around. It's the all-terrain weapon from Ozone and comes to us pitched as a mid to high aspect ratio, all-round performance foil kite. Not to be confused with the race version from Ozone the 'R1", the Chrono is aimed to bring an easier handling experience and increased stability to the rider.

Ozone jam pack features into their foil kites, they use internal straps to ensure a solid canopy, L.E reinforcements to keep a solid aerodynamic profile and some seriously advanced materials to ensure its not only strong but delivers the performance and handling required. Complete with the usual foil features like sand and water drainage vents, closed air intakes, Ozone kites are hand checked in their very own factory to ensure your model is on point.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLCK HERE



[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



BRAND PETER LYNN

MODEL ESCAPE V5

SIZE 9M

YEAR 2017



“THE SET UP IS CLEAN AND SIMPLE, AND CAN REALLY PACK A PUNCH WHEN FLOWN AGGRESSIVELY.”



### AT A GLANCE

Peter Lynn have been going from strength to strength the past few years now producing high performing LEI kites such as the Escape, Swell and Fury to compliment the twinskin closed foil design of the Charger which Peter Lynn have always been famous for. The Escape, now in its 5th version (V5), has been designed as a high end freeride and freestyle machine. Making its debut at the 2016 RedBull King of the Air, it has certainly been put through its paces.

The Escape is an Open-C design, with a compact pulley-less bridle and 4 struts. Solid construction and impressive reinforcements are in all the right areas without going overboard to keep the weight of the kite at bay. The Leading Edge and struts have also had any excess weight stripped by keeping them small in diameter, which not only reduces weight but adds to the speed of the kite through the air.

New for this version, is the elimination of the pulleys, and this is noticeable in the direct nature of the kite.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND RRD MODEL VISION MK5 SIZE 12M YEAR 2017



“ EASY TO USE,  
VERY FORGIVING  
WITH  
PERFORMANCE  
ON TAP WHEN  
YOU NEED IT ”



#### AT A GLANCE

The Vision MK5 hits the market as a moderate aspect ratio all terrain kite, the do-it-all from RRD. It is aimed at those wanting to kite in all disciplines: freeride, wave and freestyle, but is not marketed as a super high-end model; there are many other kites in the RRD range that target specific disciplines. However, for those either learning to kite or wanting a solid all-round kite to progress their level the Vision MK5 could well be just the ticket.

RRD have been spending a lot of time focusing on the design features and construction of their kites. We see radial reinforcements on the wingtips, trailing edge support, Quick Air Flow valve and much more. The kite's arc has been widened to give the rider a lighter feel on the bar and enhance turning speed of the kite. The construction of this kite stood out as we hit the beach, it looks robust and ready for endless sessions.

The Vision comes in three colourways: orange/grey, red/blue and purple/pink, and is compatible with RRD's Global V7 control system.

TO VISIT THEIR  
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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"YOU'LL WANT TO RIDE LIKE NICK JACOBSEN WHEN YOU HAVE THIS UNDERFOOT!"



BRAND CABRINHA MODEL ACE  
SIZE 139 X 42CM YEAR 2017

#### AT A GLANCE

We've taken a look at a lot of the Cabrinha 2017 gear so far, and the next product to land under our feet is the 2017 Cabrinha Ace twintip. You've probably seen it being ridden by team rider Nick Jacobsen, boosting loops, slipping a foot out and commonly found mucking about near solid objects. He definitely puts the Ace through a ton of abuse and it always seems to come up peachy.

CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



"GOOD LOOKING, REFINED AND SO MUCH FUN TO RIDE"



BRAND NOBILE MODEL NHP TIME PRO  
SIZE 138 X 43CM YEAR 2017

#### AT A GLANCE

Nobile have been making some of the best kiteboards around for a long time now, they have a heritage that is steeped with classic designs, and the NHP is one of them! This year the NHP Time Pro sees two additional sizes in the range then XTR 140 x 46 and the XTR 143 x 46. Both these boards are billed as being high-performance light wind machines.

CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE





" THE MORE YOU  
GIVE, THE MORE  
IT GIVES BACK "



**BRAND** RRD      **MODEL** BLISS V4  
**SIZE** 138 X 42CM    **YEAR** 2017

#### AT A GLANCE

The Bliss V4 is RRD's freeride and freestyle all-in-one board. Nestled between the Placebo and Poison it has been designed as a board that will suit a wide variety of riders in a range of conditions. The Bliss features a CNC core shaped out of Paulownia wood, which is both lightweight and strong. Shaped ABS sidewalls have been used and it is laminated with triaxial high tenacity glass; there is a good amount of technology

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WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



# SUP TONIC

02  
SEPT/OCT 16

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE



WE'VE LAUNCHED A BRAND NEW MAGAZINE ALL ABOUT STAND UP PADDLE!  
IT FEATURES THE SAME AMAZING TECHNOLOGY AS OUR KITE MAGAZINE WITH  
AN AWESOME APP, WEBSITE AND DIGITAL MAGAZINE, ALL FOR FREE!



" EATS UP CHOP,  
AND JUST LOVES  
TO BE THROWN  
AROUND! "



**BRAND** SHINN      **MODEL** MONKETTE GOLD  
**SIZE** 131 X 40CM    **YEAR** 2017

#### AT A GLANCE

Back for 2017, the Monkette Gold is Shinn's all-round board designed especially for women. Designed to the same spec as the ever-popular 'Monk' board, the Monkette tailors the shape, flex and technology specifically for the needs of the female rider. The board features a progressive concave with a constant curve rocker, simply speaking the shape and 'bend' in the board results in a smooth and grippy ride.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR  
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



" AN  
EXCEEDINGLY  
CAPABLE AND  
VERSATILE  
ALL-ROUNDER  
PACKED WITH  
PERFORMANCE"



**BRAND** SHINN      **MODEL** RONSON  
**SIZE** 138 X 42CM    **YEAR** 2017

#### AT A GLANCE

Founded by former multiple world champion Mark Shinn, the brand has grown massively over the years producing some amazing boards for the discerning kiteboarder. One thing we know is the testing is bound to be on point with Mark behind the brand, he spends so much time on the water and is incredibly passionate about the boards he creates!

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR  
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



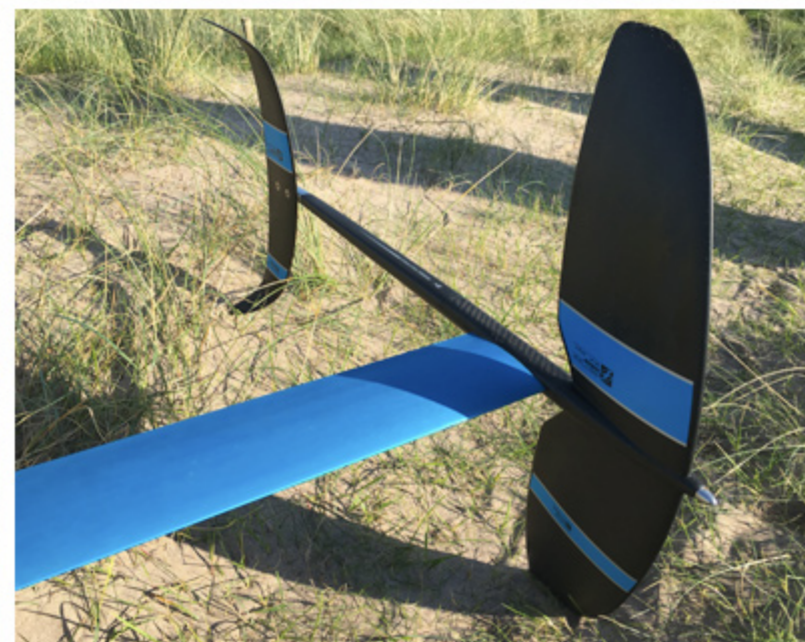
BRAND F-ONE

MODEL FREERIDE 90/800 HYBRID KITEFOIL AND 51 KITEFOIL BOARD

YEAR 2017



“ HAVING THAT  
FLOAT AND  
VOLUME MAKES  
LEARNING SO  
MUCH EASIER ”



### AT A GLANCE

F-One have really stepped up their hydrofoil game for 2017 and they were pretty devoted to it last year too. They now offer a huge range of foils not just for kitesurfing, but also for SUP and windsurfing! The Freeride 90/800 set up is an easy to use platform that has been designed to offer enough performance to keep you interested for a long period of time, while still being very forgiving.

The real beauty of the F-One set up is the Fast Connection Device or “FCD” as they call it. In previous years this meant there were only 3 bolts to do up in order to build the entire set up and that includes attaching it to the board. For 2017 they have made the rear wing two pieces rather than one resulting in a total of 5 bolts to deal with. However, it’s not only the speed of build that makes the FCD great, it is the fact it keep the wings, fuselage and mast in perfect alignment too.

One previous disadvantage of the F-One system was that it was only available in carbon and therefore prohibitively expensive for some people.

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WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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BRAND LIQUID FORCE

MODEL HAPPY FOIL AND HAPPY FOIL BOARD 4.10

YEAR 2017



“ THIS BOARD IS CERTAINLY GOING TO EXCITE AND ENTERTAIN ”



### AT A GLANCE

Liquid Force were one of the first brands to get the hydrofoil to mass market and indeed that initial set up was the same one that I learnt to ride on. The low aspect front wing kept things slow and steady and it was, and still is, a great beginner platform. For 2017 they come to the table with the Happy Foil set up, a medium aspect front wing with a lot more performance on its mind.

It's not just the front wing that has changed however, the mast is thinner with a longer chord length, the fuselage offers multiple placements of the wings so you can tune your set up, and the board itself is a step up in both construction and shape from the original.

The whole set up comes in an excellent bag, which houses literally everything you need. It's a bit like a case for a shotgun so you can feel all mafioso when you rock up at the beach. You get covers for the wings and can protect the important bits. It is all connected and everything fits inside the padded bag like a glove, with pockets for the hardware and straps and Velcro to keep everything else in place.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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BRAND SLINGSHOT

MODEL HOVER GLIDE NF2 AND ALIEN AIR

YEAR 2017



" PERHAPS THE EASIEST WAY TO LEARN TO FOILBOARD! "



### AT A GLANCE

Slingshot have jumped into the foil game all guns blazing this year. The launch of their excellent Foil Academy has come alongside a totally new concept in learning to foilboard. If you are reading this then please join the Foil Academy now; regardless of what foil you use it is packed with amazingly helpful free videos and tutorials to help you learn to hydrofoil.

Slingshot have also taken a totally different approach to learning to hydrofoil, instead of a low aspect wing option they use the same wings and fuselage but offer different mast lengths so you can start off with a short mast and then gradually step up as you get more used to riding the board.

This new approach is starting to take off and with good reason. The most scary part about learning to foil board is when the foil first starts to fly. Inevitably it will fly all the way up the length of the mast before ditching you into the sea in an unceremonious heap! It's quite scary suddenly being 3m above the water (your eyes are already almost 2m up in the air depending on how tall you are).

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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BRAND SROKA

MODEL FREERIDE HYDROFOIL TITANIUM AND KITEFOIL BOARD

YEAR 2016



"GREAT VALUE FOR MONEY AND VERY EASY TO RIDE!"



### AT A GLANCE

Sroka launched a fantastic entry level hydrofoil onto the market a couple of years ago. This year they are back with an upgraded board and an upgraded foil package that uses some exotic materials! This issue we got our hands on the Titanium Freeride Hydrofoil and Kitefoil board. The Kitefoil package is targeting the 'one foil does it all' market; from learning to freeriding this should have you covered.

As soon as the foil arrived it was apparent just how much work Sroka put into their products; seeing a serial number added by hand to parts of a foil gives of a great amount of confidence that everything is going to be on point.

Assembling the Kitefoil was incredibly simple and quick. The fuselage is split in two with all components including the mast slotting in before mounting hardware is tightened. True design work has gone into this and the split fuselage boasts quality and durability. All the bolts come with lubrication to ensure no bite. The slot-in foil and board mounting system fits like a glove with no movement.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



" THIS BOARD IS SIMPLY A JOY TO RIDE, THERE IS SO MUCH POWER AND DRIVE "



**BRAND** F-ONE    **MODEL** SIGNATURE SERIES  
**SIZE** 5'10"    **YEAR** 2017

#### AT A GLANCE

The F-One Signature Series has sat alongside the immensely popular Mitu Pro Model for some years. This is a very much more surf-orientated design with a thinner outline, thumb tail and quad fin set up; it is strikingly different from the Mitu range in terms of shape. The Signature Series is Raphael Salles' go to board when he is wave riding and if you have ever seen him ride you will know it is all about big waves and deep gouging carves.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



" WE'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THIS LITTLE POCKET ROCKET "



**BRAND** NORTH    **MODEL** PRO CSC  
**SIZE** 5'2"    **YEAR** 2017

#### AT A GLANCE

When this board arrived we thought we had made a mistake, we had ridden the 5'5" the year previously and ordered the middle sized board in the range to test. Last year the sizing went like this, 5'3", 5'5" and 5'7". This year the sizes are as follows, 4'11", 5'2" and 5'5". When the board arrived, and we unboxed it, we were left scratching our heads and thinking there had been a mistake.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE





"THE JESTER HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO BE FUN, AND BOY IT IS!"



**BRAND** OCEAN RODEO  
**SIZE** 5'1¼" X 18⅛"

**MODEL** JESTER  
**YEAR** 2017

### AT A GLANCE

The Jester is part of Ocean Rodeos 'Mako' series, which has its own die hard fans the world over.

Billed as the first kiteboarding 'funboard' the Jester has been designed as a board for everyone to play around in the surf or the flat, or a bit of both, with an emphasis on pure fun. The Jester comes in a relatively small 5'1 size, and has less volume and thinner rails than its big brother the Duke.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



## If You Build It, They Will Come

Sensi Graves looks at the rise of the Kite Park League and tracks the success story of one of the best kitesurfing movements on the planet right now!

[Read](#) [View All](#)

**CHECK OUT THE IKSURFMAG WEBSITE**



New For 2017 Slingshot Expands Turbine ...

11 hours ago | 1:16

The Slingshot Turbine is no longer just a light-wind weapon. For 2017, Slingshot is offering the Turbine in sizes ranging from 5m to 19m. In the larger sizes...



HFPT 2016 Final Rockingham - Wrap Up

1 day ago | 15:58

Check out the wrap-up for the 2016 HFPT Final at Rockingham. This wrap-up edit is a truly spectacular showcase of our sport. The sailing world had be...

841 views

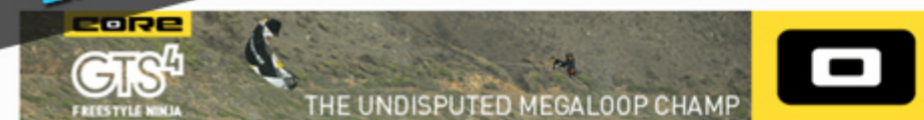


Issue #59



THE REAL GAME CHANGERS  
ALSO... ICELAND, KITE PARK LEAGUE, KIDS AND KITEING, TECHNIQUE, TESTS & MORE  
THE WORLD'S MOST READ KITESURF MAGAZINE

[Read Issue #59](#)



Kenya Kitesurf Paradise, Episode 14

2 days ago | 00:58

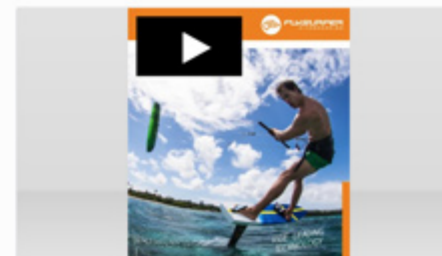
Kiteloop, kiteloop, kiteloop! 1 minute of pure adrenaline rush action to get you pumped for your next session!



Kenya Kitesurf Paradise, Episode 14

2 days ago | 4:26

Discover two wonderful spots in Kenya: Watamu, with its incredible clear blue water and Lamu Island, a wild spot full of sandbanks. This edit...



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**UPDATED DAILY WITH NEWS AND VIDEOS. GET EASY ACCESS TO OUR TRAVEL GUIDES, RIDERS AND BRANDS PAGES, REVIEWS, TECHNIQUE SECTION AND MUCH MORE. YOU'LL ALSO FIND EVERY BACK ISSUE AVAILABLE TOO!**

What happens when a bunch of kites get together and secure some funds to build a kicker? Good things surely, although sometimes, group politics can get in the way.

WORDS ROU CHATER  
PHOTO FINN BEHRENS AND MADS WOLLESEN

# STOLEN SESSIONS





“ WAKESTYLE RIDING IS THEIR POISON, AND THEY ALSO LOVE TO TAKE PHOTOS AND MAKE FILMS TOO. ”

Mads Wollesen and Finn Behrens are two talented riders from Flensburg in the North East of Germany. It's a small town surrounded by water that shares the border with Denmark. Most of the time when these two riders go kiting it is cold, but they love it so much they don't care. Just like a lot of riders from that part of the world!

They both love to kitesurf and are totally dedicated when it comes to getting sessions

on the water. The two of them won't think twice about jumping in the car and driving for hours on end to get a good session in, or road tripping for a couple of weeks and living out of the boot of a car if the conditions are on.

Wakestyle riding is their poison, and they also love to take photos and make films too. As ever if you are a wakestyle rider it is often hard to get some time on features like kickers. While cable parks are cropping up more and more in Europe unless you have a permanent kite park like the Slider Project in Hood River or Real Watersports in Cape Hatteras it can be tricky to get your fix.

Mads, Finn and a group of their kite buddies decided to take matters into their own hands and build their own kicker, a familiar tale to a few of you no doubt. Two years ago this group of kitesurfers managed to secure some funds from a local youth project, with cash in the bank surely a summer of epic riding was on the cards...

Sadly, once the group had built the kicker, internal politics started to kick in. Mads and Finn wanted to ride it all the time, take it on road trips and leave it in locations for short periods of time so they could maximise their time on it. The rest of the group weren't so keen, and in the end, the kicker got ridden once and then left on dry land as it became too much of a hassle to try and organise the entire group to put it somewhere where they could all agree to ride.



“ THEY NEEDED ONE LAST MEGA SESSION AS A SEND OFF ”



Fast forward a couple of years and Mads got an internship at a German TV show in Bavaria. The catch was his new office was as far from the ocean as you could possibly get. Suddenly his water time was going to be significantly reduced, and he and his buddy Finn figured as it was late November they needed one last mega session as a send off before the real world took over Mads' life for a bit.

Hatching a plan they decided they would rent a trailer, steal the kicker and take it to a spot in Denmark for a shred session they wouldn't forget. It seemed like a simple plan until the trailer rental company pointed out they didn't have the correct driving license to rent the trailer. Explaining their plight, and their plan the guy behind the desk took pity on them, rented them the trailer and sent them on their way.

Next up they had to "borrow" the kicker, manhandle it onto the trailer and get it into the water at their chosen spot, a place called Kegnaes in Denmark. Fortunately, with a cover of darkness and a bit of brute force that part of the plan went swimmingly!

They arrived to find it was freezing cold, starting to rain and the wind was gusty. It wasn't enough to put the two of them off, though (not much is with these guys) and they launched the kicker, set the angle and proceeded to hit it over and over, having the session of the summer at a remote spot they had all to themselves.



“ THAT WAS THE END OF THEIR SUMMER OF RIDING FOR THE YEAR AND WHAT A WAY TO SEND THE SEASON OFF. ”

Butter flat water, a kicker they had wanted to ride for years and two great friends having the time of their lives. I think this sums up the very essence of kitesurfing perfectly! As the sun went down the boys had a decision to make, leave the kicker in the water for the week and carry on shredding. Or respond the calls from the rest of the crew who were worrying about their kicker that had mysteriously vanished.

Being the good blokes they are, Mads and Finn decided they had had their fun and drove the kicker back to where they had “borrowed” it from earlier. That was the end of their summer of riding for the year and what a way to send the season off. There was no malice in this between Mads, Finn and the crew; it’s just a case of, as Mads succinctly puts it, “too many cooks spoiling the broth”.

This coming summer the dynamic duo plan to build a new kicker, just the two of them, so they can take it wherever they want, whenever they want. As for the kicker in the photos, Mads doesn’t know if it will ever get used again, which is a shame because it looks like an awesome feature to ride!

Meanwhile, somewhere in Germany there is a kicker out there just waiting to be ridden again...

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

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

# MOVIE NIGHT

## #1 THIS IS SNOWKITING 2016

Check out this incredible compilation of the best snowkiting videos from 2016! This video combines old school, new school, freestyle, wakestyle, megaloops, sliders, and extreme riding. By the time you've finished watching this, you'll be booking your next snowkite trip within minutes...



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

## #2 KOTA ENTRY VIDEO

Nick Jacobsen's Red Bull King Of The Air entry video is absolutely epic. This video is one minute of slow-motion madness. Nick hits the jackpot with extreme wind, and he clearly knows how to handle himself when the conditions go off the charts. There's no doubt that Nick will be a contender at King of the Air this year!



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

## #3 AWAITING RED BULL KING OF THE AIR 2017

Four crazy minutes of pure adrenaline kiteboarding! This is another awesome compilation from Univers Kite that features tons of exceptional footage from the Red Bull King Of The Air! Warning: starting at 1:01 the crashes look super painful! We're on the edge of our seats waiting for Red Bull King of the Air 2017.



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

## #4 20M JUMPS KEV VLOG#13

Kevin Langeree brings us along for a Red Bull King of the Air training session, with consistent boosts over 20m. As Kevin says, "Jumping 20m plus never ever gets boring!" Fly through Big Bay and Kite Beach in Cape Town, South Africa with Kevin, and if you're a fan, subscribe to his vlog!



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO





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

*Lightroom*

LIGHTROOM

JOHANN CIVEL GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS AT HIGH ALTITUDE!  
PHOTO WARECK ARNAUD



*Lightroom*

LIGHTROOM

SENSI GRAVES UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS IN BRAZILI  
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO

A woman in a colorful bikini is captured mid-air, performing a kiteboarding jump at night. She is holding onto a control bar connected to a kite. The background is a dark, starry sky with silhouettes of palm trees and a beach in the distance. The water below is dark with white foam from the jump. The overall scene is dramatic and high-contrast.

*Lightroom*

LIGHTROOM

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT BLUE SKIES AND TURQUOISE WATER; GRAHAM HARNEY  
GETS WILD IN CANADA!  
PHOTO JAY WALLACE

*Lightroom*

LIGHTROOM

SOMEWHERE IN THERE IS EWAN JASPANI  
PHOTO DAVID GRAHN

*Lightroom*

LIGHTROOM

DIONEIA VIEIRA PUSHING THE LIMITS IN BRAZILI  
PHOTO BAS KOOLE



*Lightroom*

LIGHTROOM



*Lightroom*

KITESURFING AMONG THE MOUNTAIN LAKES OFFERS SOME STUNNING BACKDROPS!  
PHOTO COURTESY OF GIN KITEBOARDING



*Lightroom*



LIGHTROOM

SOMETIMES A GREAT KITESURFING PHOTO JUST NEEDS SOME FANTASTIC LIGHTING;  
REECE MYERSCOUGH GETS A BANGER WITHOUT EVEN TRYING!  
PHOTO JAY WALLACE



*Lightroom*

LIGHTROOM



*Lightroom*

BRANDON SCHEID TAKING THINGS TO THE NEXT LEVEL...  
PHOTO VINCENT BERGERON



[FEMALE FOCUS]

# MIKAILI SOL

WORDS LINDSAY MCCLURE PHOTOS ELISEU SOUZA



Mikaili Sol is a promising young lady from Brazil, she's won the Junior World Championships twice now and at the tender age of twelve has her sights set firmly on competing on the World Kite League in the next couple of years!

**Can you tell us about your family, your childhood, your pets, and how you learned to kiteboard?**

My name is Mikaili Sol, and I'm 12 years old. I have a 10-year-old brother, Kaiki Mar. My mom is American and my dad is Brazilian, and I speak both English and Portuguese. I live on the beach in a small village in northeast Brazil called Preá. I have a lot of pets! I have four cats and three big dogs. I grew up with dogs, cats, horses, sheep, donkeys and chickens, but now we have just dogs and cats because we travel so much.

I am very thankful for such an amazing childhood. According to my parents, since I was a baby, I was extremely active and coordinated. I learned to ride horses when I was just three years old. By four, I was riding bareback and galloping. My parents used to call me the "Wild Indian" because I rode horses like the American Indians! I climbed my first coconut tree when I was four years old. Then my parents started calling me "Macaquinha" which means "little monkey" in Portuguese. I also started surfing in Jericoacoara when I was four years old. My godfather bought me my first Honda 110 dirtbike when I turned eight years old. I learned how to ride in the sand dunes. So, until I started kitesurfing, I was always playing, surfing, swimming and riding.

My parents were both kitesurfers, and they lived in the times of two line kites and kitemares. Every time I asked them if I could learn to kitesurf, their immediate reaction was NO!



"MY PARENTS USED TO CALL ME THE "WILD INDIAN" BECAUSE I RODE HORSES LIKE THE AMERICAN INDIANS!"

“ YOU LEARN FASTER THAN ADULTS AND SOON YOU WILL BE KITESURFING CIRCLES AROUND YOUR PARENTS ”



Finally at the age of eight and a half, my mom gave in and said I could take a kitesurfing lesson. I learned to kitesurf on the beach of Preá where the wind blows 30 knots and the ocean is choppy. I learned on a 2.5m kite with 15meter lines. My mom was so scared she couldn't even watch. She was a nervous wreck, but I picked it up very quickly and before she knew it, I was doing back rolls. It was kind of a bummer because at this point my parents also let my little brother learn and he was six and a half. So really, they should have let me learn when I was six and a half, too!

**In your opinion, what are the pros and cons of learning to kiteboard at such a young age?**

I don't think there are any cons to learning to kitesurf at a young age but the pros... well, there are many! The good thing about starting to kitesurf at a young age is that you are not afraid. You learn faster than adults and soon you will be kitesurfing circles around your parents. If you crash, you don't break all of your bones. Adults tend to get hurt more easily. I know because my mom is always limping around after a good session.

**You've won the freestyle Junior World Championships twice already. Can you describe the feeling of winning a world title?**

Winning a World Title is really exciting. It is not like

getting second place or third place. When I was walking up to the platform and going to step on the highest platform, I felt so proud of myself and realized all of the hard work was worth it. I had so much adrenaline going through my veins that I just wanted to scream, "I did it!" Getting the first place trophy is so exciting. For me, no matter how many times I do it, it always feels like the first time!

**Who inspires you, and how?**

In kitesurfing, Bruna Kajiya inspires me because she is one of the most powerful girl riders in the kitesurfing circuit. She rides hard and really goes for her tricks. She doesn't hold back.

“ I LIKE HOMESCHOOLING BECAUSE IT GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN AND STILL GET A GOOD EDUCATION. ”



She rides like the boys and that is what I want to do too, ride as good as the boys. Also, she is really kind whenever I see her off of the water. She is a good role model for all of us.

**How do you keep up with school while training full-time?**

I am homeschooled so I have the privilege of arranging my school day around the wind and my kitesurfing. I go to school for about four hours each day with my teacher. Then, of course, I have homework and independent work, too. When I take a day off from kiting, I usually have a full day of school. I even do schoolwork on weekends and holidays. I don't really follow a typical school year. When I travel or compete, sometimes I get a little break. I like homeschooling because it gives me the opportunity to train and still get a good education.

**Outside of kiteboarding, what are your passions?**

I love to play with my friends, swim and surf. I also love to travel, see new places and meet new people. I like to be outside and enjoy nature.

**In your opinion, who are the most talented up-and-coming riders, and who are your favorite riders to train with?**

I think the best up and coming girl riders are 13-year-old Osaia Reding, 15-year-old Nina Font and 16-year-old Claudia Leon. It is funny because all three of these girls are from Spain. I have fun when the four of us have opportunities to kitesurf together. Last year, three of us went to the same kitesurfing camp in Ballena Alegre, Spain and we had a blast.



My favorite riders to train with are Set Teixeira and Carlos Mario. They both live in Cumbuco, Brazil and they always take the time to give me tips on the water. My family and I are moving to Taiba this year so I hope I will have the opportunity to train with these guys on a regular basis.

**What new achievements do you think your generation will conquer in the sport of kiteboarding?**

I think the girls from my generation will finally master the double handle pass. Well, at least that is my goal!

“ I HOPE I WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN WITH THESE GUYS ON A REGULAR BASIS. ”



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**You're a member of the F-One Next Generation team, how does this project help you achieve your goals?**

F-One is the only kitesurfing brand that really pays attention to their groms. I am so proud to be part of this amazing brand. Once a year, about 10 kids from around the world get together somewhere in the world to train on and off the water for ten days with Etienne Lhôte. He helps us with our new tricks and also helps prepare us both mentally and physically for competitions. He helps us set kitesurfing goals for the year. If we have questions throughout the year, Etienne is always a message away. He is also present at the junior competitions to help us. And of course, we have a lot of fun with the Next Generation Team. Having fun is definitely my main goal, remember, I'm still only 12 years old.

**What is your vision for the sport of kiteboarding for the next 20 years; how would you like to see the sport change and evolve as you grow older?**

Wow, how can I relate to 20 years? Well, in the next 20 years, I would hope to see kitesurfing in the Olympics, not only race but freestyle as well. It would be cool if this happens soon so I can be part of it.


**What drives you to continue to improve? Is your focus competing or freeriding?**

What drives me to improve is the desire to be the best I can be by pushing my kitesurfing skills to my personal limits. I set new trick goals for myself and I get so excited when I reach those goals.



" HE HELPS US WITH OUR NEW TRICKS AND ALSO HELPS PREPARE US BOTH MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY FOR COMPETITIONS. "





" IN THE NEXT YEAR OR SO I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO COMPETE ON THE WKL PRO TOUR. "

Right now, my focus is on competing. In the next year or so I would like to be able to compete on the WKL Pro Tour. I am thinking that in 2018 I will go on the tour. If I train as hard as I can this year, I will be ready to compete in 2018.

I also enjoy free riding very much. There are several days that I do not train freestyle at all, I just go strapless and enjoy a good downwinder, playing in the waves with my friends!

#### **What are your goals for 2017?**

I have several goals for 2017. First, I would like to defend my Jr. World Kitesurfing Championship title. I would also like to participate in a few World Kitesurfing League Pro Tour stops to get more experience riding with the pros. But mainly, I would like to train really hard this year to prepare myself for the 2018 WKL Pro Tour.

**Thanks Mikaili for taking the time!**

# READERS GALLERY

Thanks for all your contributions to the Facebook page these last two months. Once again we were inundated with pictures, so if we didn't pick yours we are very sorry, but thanks for sending it to us...

Turn the pages though maybe we made you famous?

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

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

*Winner!* 

Celine Seeberger, with a tip-toe stretch for the catch at Tiznit, Morocco.

Photo: Alexander Schmidt



▽  
Congratulations to Robert van Bruggen aka Roberto Skim who recently travelled to Aruba with a load of his buddies from Holland to get married to the love of his life, Noortje Derksen, congratulations from your buddy Ron!

RD



Alexander Schmidt with his sky blue kite against the blue sky.



Last rays of the day Hooksiel, Germany and Alexander Schmidt is in the right place at the right time.

Photo: Katharina Hasselder



▼  
Russell Farrington sending it in Cape Verde the other week!  
Photo: Gabriele Rumbolo



▼  
Some days, you just can't quit! Stephan Zimmi at Pescadero Creek,  
California.

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LACI KOBULSKY DARKSLIDING HIS WAY THROUGH THE NIGHT...  
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO

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