

DEC 17 / JAN 18

## WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 66 of the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! It might be getting cold outside, but we've got a bumper issue packed with amazing content to keep you warm. And if you're from the Southern Hemisphere than your season should be getting into full

swing and this magazine is packed with inspirational kitesurfing goodness! We've got the best stories from around the world complemented by some of the most impressive photography in the business, plus there are more videos than you can shake a stick at!

## ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE!



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



· LIVE THE SEARCH ·

NEW ZEALAND · PORTUGAL · THE REAL WETSUIT BUYERS GUIDE · TECHNIQUE · TESTS & MORE INSIDE

THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURF MAGAZINE



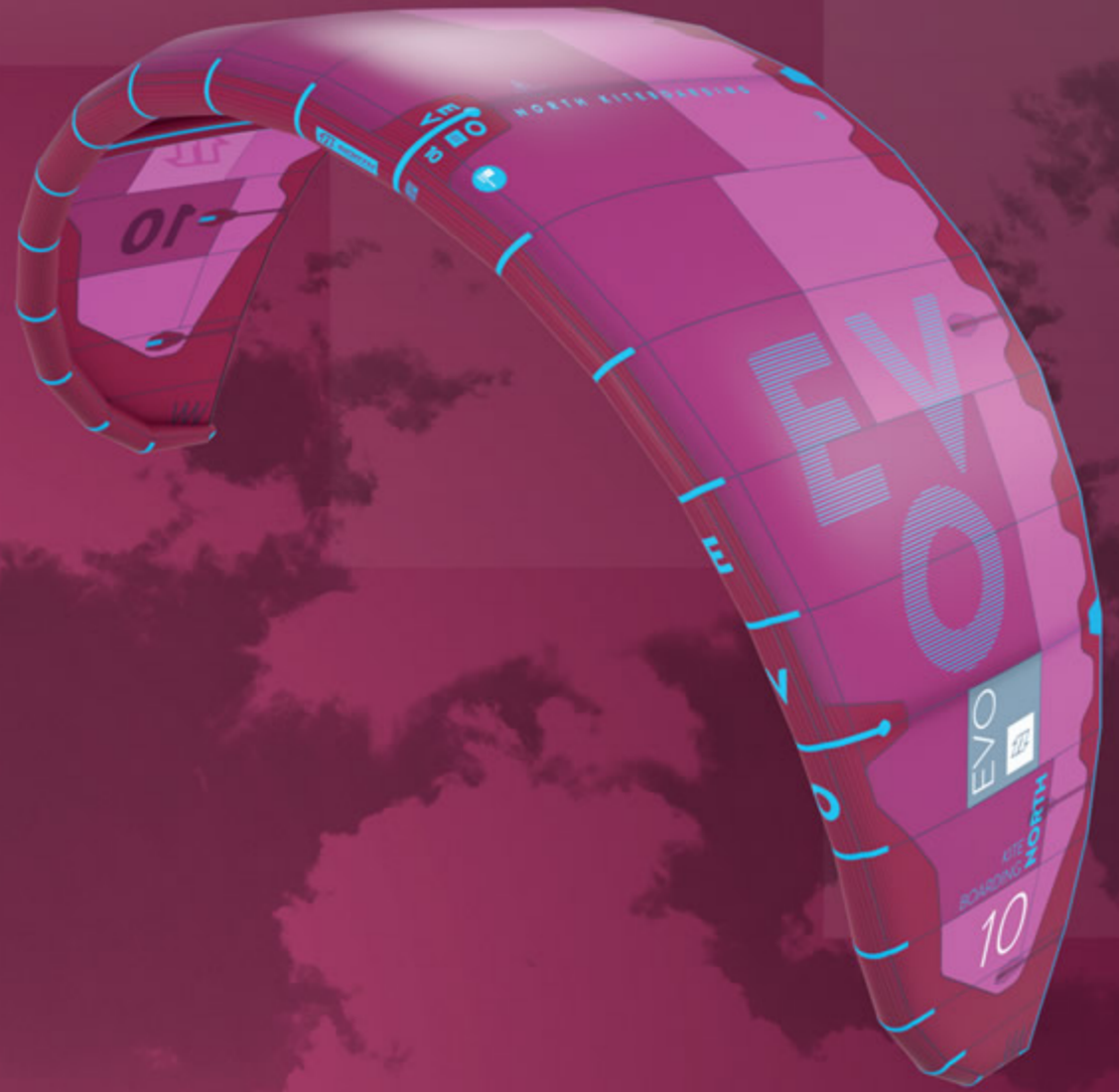
ALLROUND / FREERIDE / FREESTYLE / WAVE

# THE EVO ON THREE STRUTS

## THE EVOLUTION CONTINUES

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RIDER: TOM HEBERT / PHOTO: TOBY BROWWICH

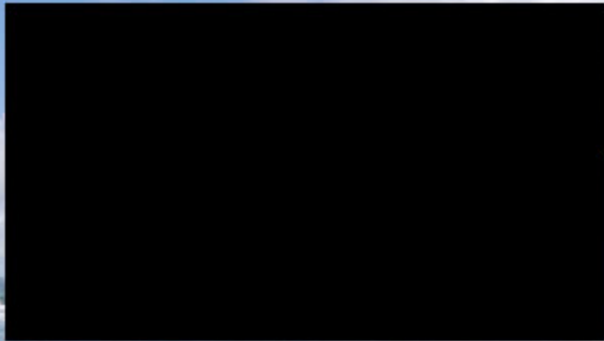


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HD FOAM CARBON COMPOSITE



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BAMBOO SANDWICH TECHNOLOGY

**SLICE**

5'1" 5'3"



NEW FLOW FINS



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**SIGNATURE**

5'6" 5'8" 5'10"



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James Boulding

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**FUSION 3**  
FREERIDE+ / FREESTYLE

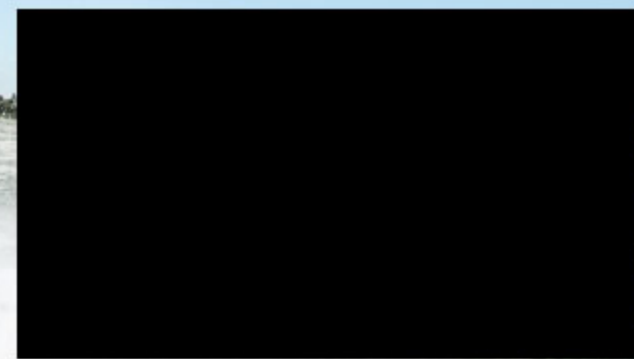
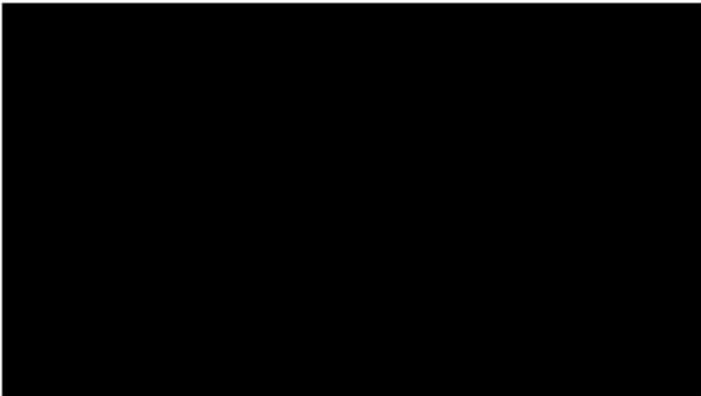






Photo: Bianca Asher David



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### **Moon Patrol Twintip**

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SIZE: 146CM



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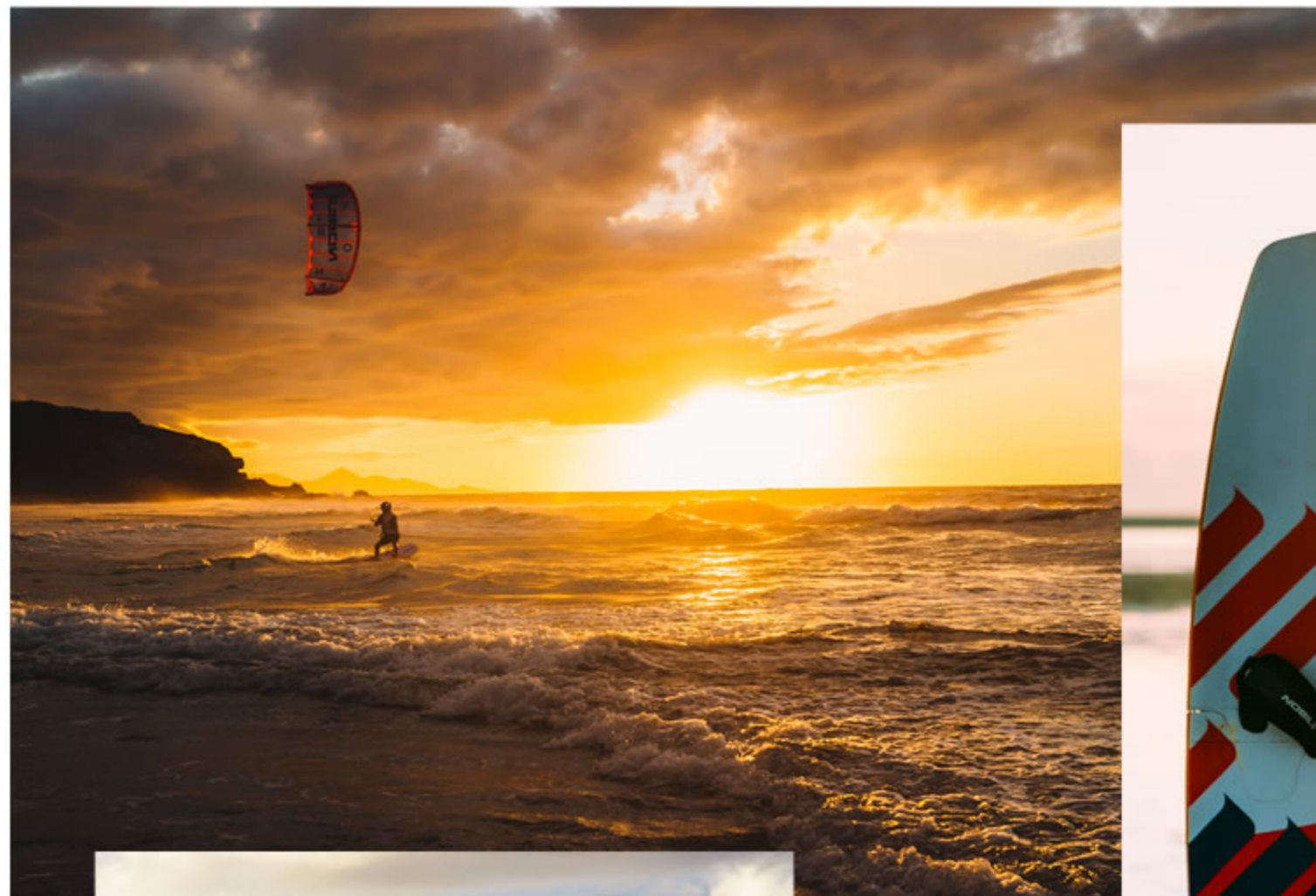
CARVING PRECISION  
FLOWING TURNS  
EASY TRANSITIONS  
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### **Lunar Lander Twintip**

CHOP DOMINATION  
HIGH PERFORMANCE BOTTOM SHAPE  
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dangerous sport & none of the  
activities depicted within this  
magazine should be participated in  
without full instruction in person by a  
qualified instructor.

WLADIMIR RODRIGUEZ SCORES SOME INCREDIBLE CONDITIONS IN TARIFA AS THE SWELL FROM  
HURRICANE OPHELIA HITS THE BEACH AT BALNEARIO!

PHOTO LUKAS PITSCHE [WWW.PROIMAGEHUB.CH](http://WWW.PROIMAGEHUB.CH)





# WIN

## ...A 6M FLYSURFER STOKE!

The perfect kite for winter winds! This issue we have teamed up with Flysurfer to bring you the ideal weapon for making sure you can have the most fun in high winds - no matter what your riding style!

The Stoke is a classic all-rounder, taking your riding to the next level whether that's freestyle, wave riding or freeriding. With precise and powerful characteristics, and responsive handling, you'll be chucking buckets in the waves, or maxing out the WOO leader board from session to session. As Flysurfer themselves say: "Share the Stoke!"...and so we are!

All you have to do is subscribe to be in with a chance of winning the prize!

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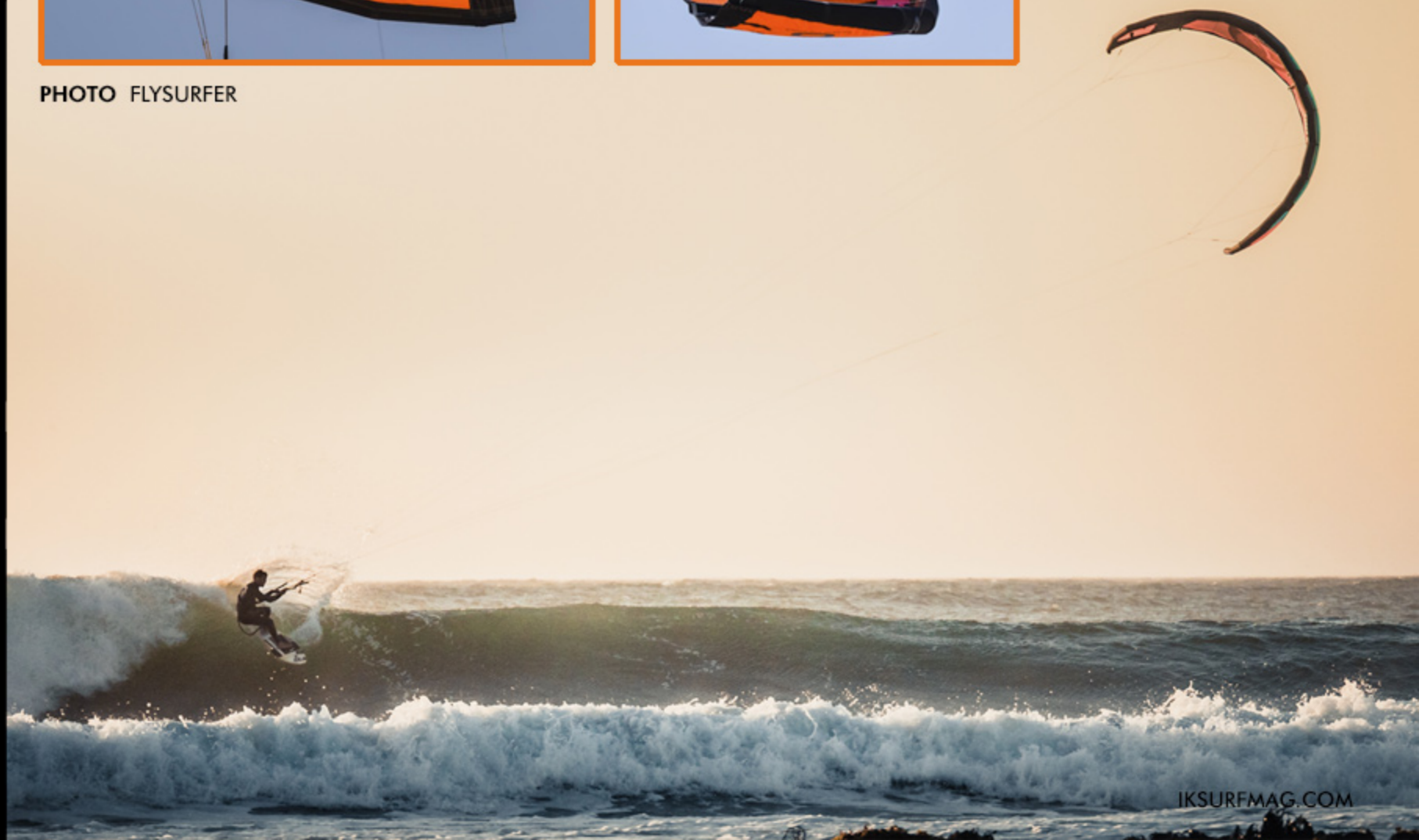
### HOW CAN I WIN THE PRIZE?

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

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



PHOTO FLYSURFER





## ISSUE 66 **There's nothing quite like it...**

It's been a while since I've had my fix, and by that I mean my last decent session in the waves. The beauty of kitesurfing is the myriad of craft with which you can play with, just about anything goes and there is the unbridled freedom to do whatever you want in this sport.

Sadly for me, the weather, work commitments, a lack of free time and the wind conditions just didn't play ball this summer. A broken toe right in the middle of the season didn't help either. The more time I spent off the kite the less I missed it. Indeed on one crossing of the chain ferry in Sandbanks on a bitterly cold day, I was surprised to see so many kites out braving what looked like fairly mediocre conditions.

All it took though was that one decent session; those few perfect waves to reignite the passion in my soul again. For sure I'd had a few twin tip sessions and been pounding the foil, and it was fun, but it was all just a substitute for the poison that drives me within this sport.

It doesn't matter what style of riding you prefer, or even if you're just making those first steps on a twin tip after your lessons. Kiting gives you a fix that is hard to beat. The wind in your hair (if you've still got some, which I haven't), the salt on your skin and the thrill of blasting across the ocean with a freedom like no other is hard to beat.

I'm glad I found kitesurfing all those years ago, it seems my life just feels a little empty without it!

Enjoy the latest issue!

*Rou Chater*

**Publishing Editor**

WILLOW RIVER TONKIN ENJOYS THE FRUITS OF HIS LABOUR IN MAURITIUS,  
WITH A SPRAINBOW THROWN IN FOR GOOD MEASURE!  
PHOTO MEDIA HOUSE ONE



EDITORIAL



# WE'RE ALL HOOKED

Face it, you are addicted. You wouldn't be reading this if you weren't. That's totally fine, we are too. We have been addicted to kiteboarding since the very beginning. It's the reason we do what we do. The RPM is the result of that addiction to kiteboarding and learning. Over the years the RPM has garnered countless awards, titles and accolades, but that isn't how we measure its success. So many riders all over the world have chosen the RPM to give them that feeling and ability that we fell in love with. Riders are constantly learning, working and exploring, just like us. That's what we celebrate, the new friends, the new tricks and the new experiences that bring us all together.

The RPM is a celebration of that mentality. No matter who you are or how you shred, this kite's for you.

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*#WEREALLHOOKED*

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A tale of diving into the unknown, finding adventure and treasure and discovering that sometimes, some of the best spots are right under your nose, you just need to go out there and discover them!

# LIVE THE SEARCH

WORDS BRANDON SCHEID PHOTOS VINCENT BERGERON







**“ IT’S NOT THE NORM FOR THE AVERAGE KITER TO VENTURE AWAY FROM THE “KITE BEACH” AND RISK IT ALL FOR A SESSION THAT COULD ONLY MAYBE HAPPEN. ”**

Kiteboarding is a hard sport. I don't simply mean the rigorous physical demands, although those are quite taxing. What I am talking about is accessibility and dependence on conditions. To even go kiteboarding, we need smooth, consistent wind blowing over twelve knots. In addition, we need to have a body of water with a legal/safe launch. Then, depending on the temperature, we may need a plethora of

temperature, we may need a plethora of neoprene and kite related accessories.

We can get to the beach and, if the wind doesn't show up, we can't even go kiteboarding. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that most kiteboarders continue to ride from the same spot time and time again. Not because of choice, but simply because it's most likely to be windy there. Or, it's safe and shallow, has a clean launch and is full of other kites. It's not the norm for the average kiter to venture away from the "kite beach" and risk it all for a session that could only maybe happen.

However, that is how every new, "epic" spot once was found. Someone, somewhere, risked a good session to hopefully, find a great one. Every magic sandbar, mystic point break, flat water lagoon, and tradewind-swept island was discovered by an intrepid adventurer. Not every search leads to a fantastic new spot, and take it from one adventurer to another, 99 out of 100 are a bust. When you do finally score though, it's worth all the hard effort. Not only do you get to score an incredible session at a newly discovered super spot, but you also get the satisfaction of knowing you were the first.

There's an indescribable feeling that comes from finding somewhere new. It adds a certain electricity



**“IMAGINE A SESSION YOU HAD AT A NEW BEACH/SPOT, THAT FIRST RIDE ALWAYS FEELS SO MAGICAL, SO NEW.”**

to the session. Everyone seems more energetic and abuzz with excitement. It must have something to do with the fact that you and your friends are treated to something special, something you can never re-create at that particular spot. Close your eyes and imagine a session you had at a new beach/spot, that first ride always feels so magical, so new.

We can draw parallels from the surfing world, where the globe has been scoured for years looking for that next, perfect wave. It's hard to imagine what the first surfer thought while watching a set wave roll through Cloudbreak, mind-surfing the pristine point break. (If you want to know the full Cloudbreak story check out "Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life" by William Finnegan).

However, we know one thing for sure, he would be filled with that same intoxicating electricity, from knowing he was the first, the holder of the secret, the true adventurer. I've come to see this quest for that magic feeling as, "Living the Search". Simply put, it's spending your time pushing into the unknown, searching for that stunning new location, that next epic session, even if it forces you to miss a good session at the regular old spot. This is the story of such a quest, one that left us all giddy with excitement, with our heads in the clouds.

It all started with a rumour, as many of these quests do. We heard a snippet of information, and some little detail in the story sparked my brain into turning. "Did you say you saw whitecaps on your hike?" "Was there really a small lagoon around the corner?"







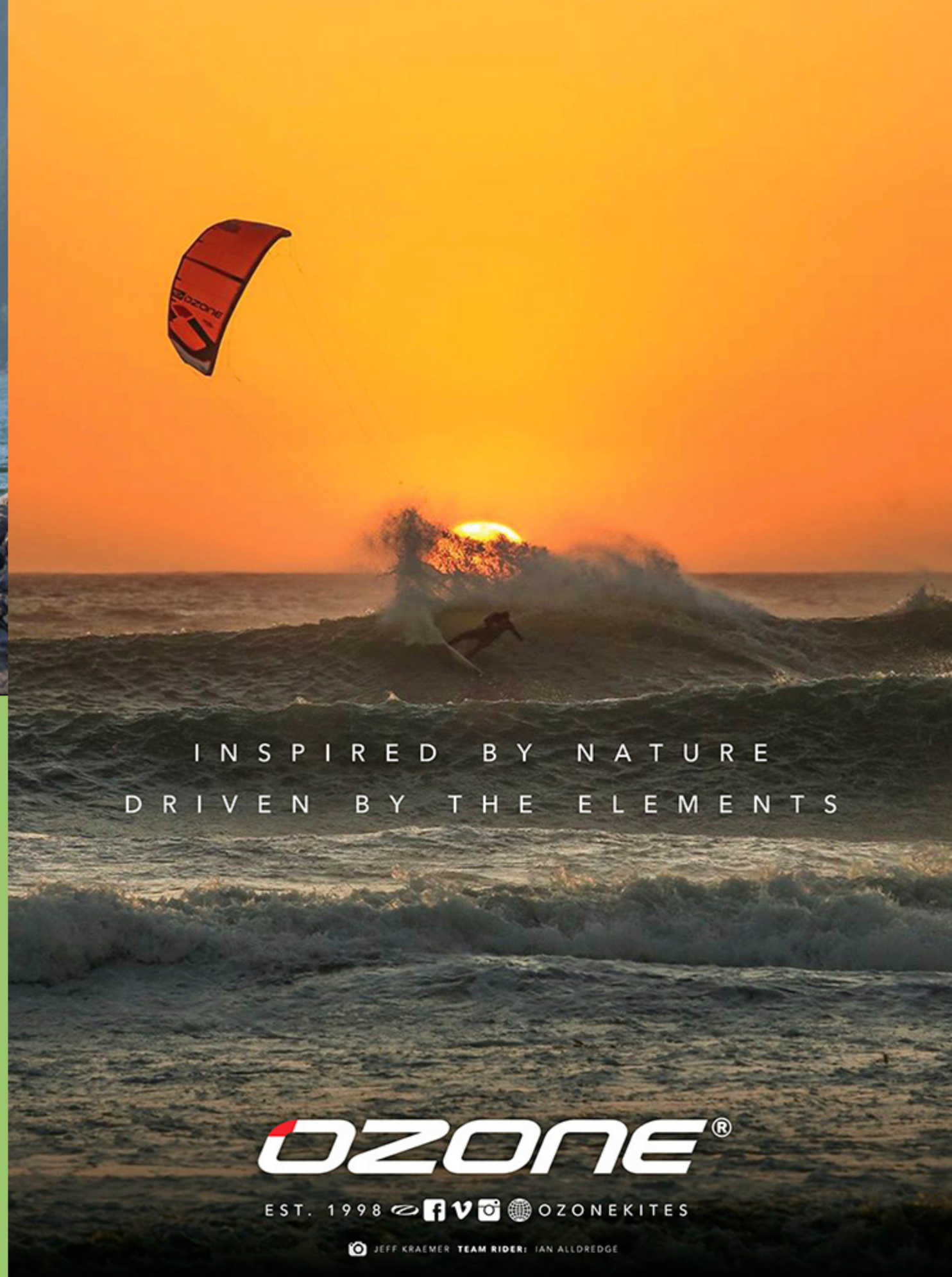




There's always some spark that ignites the search, a catalyst. In this case, it was the desire to find new backgrounds and potential shooting locations in my hometown of Hood River.





Well known for strong wind and beautiful Pacific Northwest forests, the Gorge is a North American kiteboarding hotspot. Like most known wind sport places, 99% of all the riders go to one of three spots, the Event Site, Stevenson, or Rufus. This is reflected in the photos and videos that have come out of the area over the past decade, and it was something photographer Vincent Bergeron, and I wanted to change.


**"99% OF ALL THE RIDERS GO TO ONE OF THREE SPOTS, THE EVENT SITE, STEVENSON, OR RUFUS."**



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 JEFF KRAEMER TEAM RIDER: IAN ALLDREDGE





**“OUR MINDS BEGAN TO RUN WILD WITH FANTASIES ABOUT A MAGICAL SESSION, AND WE TALKED THE WHOLE WAY HOME ABOUT HOW GREAT IT WAS GOING TO BE.”**

Vincent and I have spent several summers shooting along the Columbia River and felt we had exhausted most of the spots, even pioneering some places where no one had kited. But this year we were after the cream of the crop, that magic session in the unknown. Toward the end of Vincent’s stay in the NW, we heard a story about someone kiting up on a high alpine lake on Mt. Hood.

High up on the mountain, there are several lakes fed by the year-round glaciers that cap the mountain. So we began to narrow it down, Lost Lake is too sheltered, Hidden Lake and Mirror Lake are blocked from west wind, and Bull Run is the public watershed for Portland and therefore restricted. Finally, we settled on our un-named lake. It seemed to have decent wind exposure and is easily accessed by car.

We began the daily drives up to the lake to get our bearings, to figure out how to get in the water, and to decide if it could even work. On our second scouting trip, we ran

into the camp host, who told us that the lake frequently has whitecaps and that there are no restrictions that would prevent us from going kiteboarding. Our minds began to run wild with fantasies about a magical session, and we talked the whole way home about how great it was going to be.

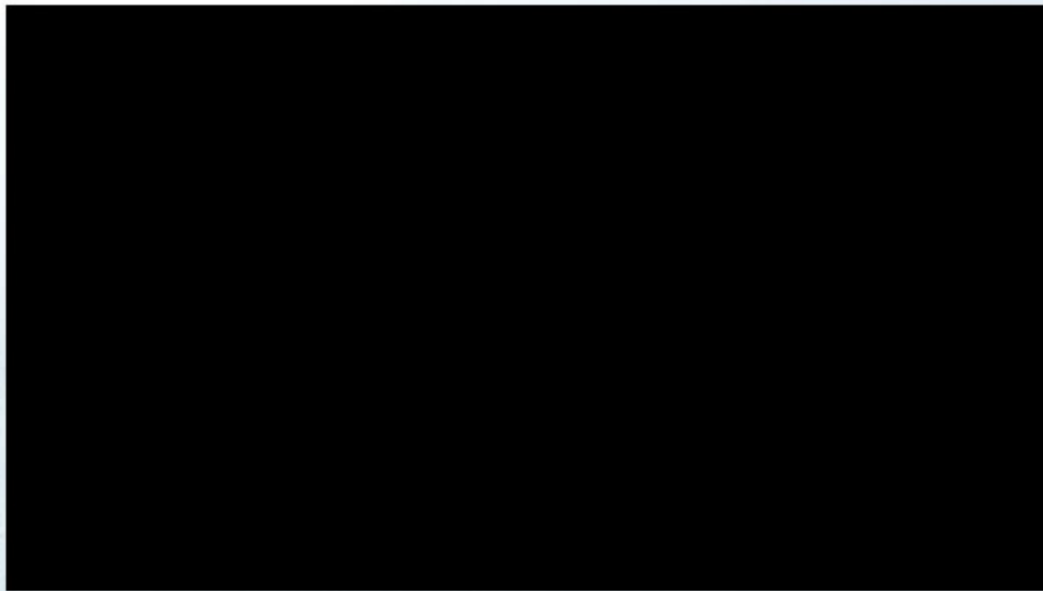
With our first few exploratory trips in the bag, we were pretty confident that this was the lake we had heard rumours about. Now, we just needed to wait for ideal conditions for riding and shooting: good wind and great light. Because these two things are hard to line up usually, even more so for this location, it took several tries to finally get the session we were dreaming about.







Alun Van Gysel | Rider: Keahi de Abaitiz | Contact: Pryde Group GmbH, Bergstraße 7, 82024 Taufkirchen, Germany | Tel: +49 89 6550490 | Email: info@pyde-group.de



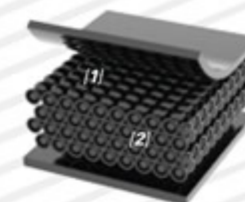
WITHOUT  
A DIAMOND  
—THERE'S NO  
HAPPILY EVER  
AFTER



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**“ A GIANT SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAIN WITH PACIFIC NW FORESTED FOREGROUND AND CRYSTAL CLEAR FRESH WATER, IT WAS THE STUFF OF DREAMS. ”**

This summer was one of the driest on record, and wildfires were ravaging all across the Northwest. As we finally got the lake dialed, it was just our luck that the whole Columbia River Gorge was filled with smoke, ruining the visibility and scaring the shots we were aiming to create.

Luckily, we had a favourable wind set-up sinking in, and it was helping to blow the smoke out of the area. So plans were set, phone calls made, and the LFK crew descended on the high alpine lake. Being that Vince and I had scouted the area, we led the crew to the launch we had picked out, a short hike from the car. This was certainly made more difficult by the sheer amount of gear we had to tote: four hydrofoils, two kites each, food, beer, and plenty of warm clothes, not to mention all the camera gear and wetsuits.

It takes full commitment to the session to achieve great photos, so we were prepared to stay until dark to make sure we got what we set out for. Initially, it was a lot windier than expected, perfect for twin tipping. Jason and I started off on the new Hippy Sticks and my Echo, locking scenic shots from the shoreline with Vince. The first time I turned around and started tacking towards the peak of Mt. Hood I was blown away by the scenic quality of the location. A giant snow-capped mountain with Pacific NW forested foreground and crystal clear fresh water, it was the stuff of dreams. I was just blown away by the beauty; I was praying that Vince was able to capture what my eyes were seeing.





**“ HIS MIND WAS RUNNING AWAY WITH FANTASIES FOR FUTURE SESSIONS, AND WE COULDN'T HELP BUT THROW FUEL ON THE FIRE. ”**

As the day drew out, the wind began to fade, making it ideal for an evening hydrofoil session. With the efficiency of the foil, we were able to fully explore the nooks and crannies of the lake. I couldn't figure out how it was windy. We were surrounded by big, forested hills. It made no sense to me. It didn't matter what I thought though, as it was windy. We were

awestruck by the beauty and the fact that the session was actually happening. Our hunches were right; there was something to be found outside of the Columbia River here in Oregon.

As the wind faded out with the light, we all landed our kites on our tiny launch and began the pack up. I've never seen such authentic enthusiasm from my boss, Gary Siskar. He was over the moon about the session and was already planning his next ten trips up to the lake. His mind was running away with fantasies for future

sessions, and we couldn't help but throw fuel on the fire. It was that buzz we were looking for, one that only The Search can provide.

We couldn't believe it all worked, and we were bonded by our experience, one that we continue to reminisce about months after the fact. Every time I look through the photos, I am teleported back to that summer day high up on Mt. Hood. It's cemented in my memory along with all the other amazing sessions I've had thanks to the desire to push further, to see what is just around the next corner.

I want to encourage everyone to take some time to live The Search, push outside the norm, and explore more.



“ TAKE THE TIME TO TURN DOWN THAT LONG DIRT ROAD. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT FIND. ”

Think of all the amazing spots that have yet to be discovered. Ride to the other side of your beach, do a long downwinder or, better yet, find a new beach. Take the time to turn down that long dirt road. You never know what you might find. Think about this: the REAL Slick, one of the best flatwater spots in the world, was discovered by sheer accident.

Trip Forman, Ty Lockett, and a few other kiteboarding pioneers took off on an uncharted downwinder and ended up finding the perfect little island that acts as a wind barrier, forming the REAL Slick. With a little sense of adventure and some geographical research, you too can find the spot of your dreams. While it might not be a tropical beach or a perfect wave and the water may not be jello blue, it will be yours to share with whomever you'd like.

You too can experience the great exhilaration that so many have had over the years. So, venture off into the unknown and explore.





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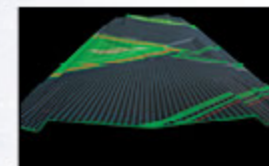
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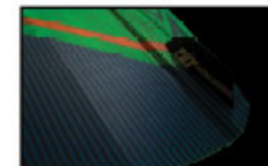
## 2018 TWIN TIP COLLECTION

At quick glance, most twin tips can look fairly similar. While seemingly subtle, we know success or failure can lie within just a fraction of a degree. From beginner to pro designs, mellow freeride to hardcore freestyle; our process is the same—we scrutinize every detail, refining for peak performance with each season. The new Straight Edge for 2018 allows water to release cleanly resulting in a faster, more responsive ride. Paired with strategically placed channels, quality materials and perfectly balanced rockers, each board has been tuned to help you edge smoother, jump a little higher or land a little softer. *Yes we look good, but the feel makes all the difference.*

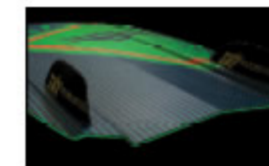
### STOMP FEATURES



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SINTERED BASE



WAKESTYLE ROCKER



FLEX TORSION CONTROL 2.0

# NAISH



It's one of the most remote places on the earth, for the seasoned European traveller it represents the longest plane journey you can undertake. However the treasure buried within the islands of New Zealand is undeniable. For kitesurfers it offers a plethora of locations and conditions, with something for everyone Colleen Carroll, Reno Romeu, Matchu Lopez and Toby Bromwich went off on a voyage of discovery.

# ENDLESS BEAUTY IN NEW ZEALAND

WORDS COLLEEN CARROLL PHOTOS TOBY BROMWICH





**“SINCE ARRIVING IN NEW ZEALAND, ALL I’VE SEEN IS BEAUTY, AND I WOULD FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ANYONE COULD SEE MUCH DIFFERENT.”**

I popped my head into the corner store, quintessentially named Tip Top, in hopes of warming up with a cup of coffee while the rest of the crew finished their session. As I waited for my deliciously addictive cup of joe, I perused the classified ads posted on the wall and came upon the “Coffee News”, a local newsletter for a suburb of nearby Wellington, New Zealand.

Amongst the feel-good stories of rescued animals and two-for-one clippings for the restaurant down the street, a quote printed in the very middle of page one of the two-sided leaflet stood out to me. It was by Vincent Van Gogh and read, “If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere”. A beautiful quote with a good reminder to people everywhere, but one I found almost funny because, since arriving in New Zealand, all I’ve seen is beauty, and I would find it hard to believe that anyone could see much different.

New Zealand has the kind of scenery that makes you forget that your email notification just sounded or that you were in a hurry to get on your way. It stops you dead in your tracks, immobilizing you, beckoning you to drink in its beauty, quietly demanding your respect.

I met up with my North Kiteboarding teammates Reno Romeu and Matchu Lopez for a couple weeks trip to one of my favourite places on earth, New Zealand. I had travelled to the country once before to snowboard and was eager for a chance to visit again.

Arriving in Auckland from the Dominican Republic, I was ready for a drastic change of scenery.







Basing ourselves out of Mount Maunganui, a bustling suburb of Auckland that attracts young surfing families and tourists alike, we were looking forward to an adventure. Our plan was to search out the best of both flat water and wave spots to try out the latest Dice kite from North Kiteboarding, and to put it through the paces.

Having arrived before me, the boys picked me up from the airport and we headed straight to a spot known for having some of the best flatwater around at mid to high tide. We arrived at the car park and, following instructions from our local friends Marc Jacobs and Kelby Bright, we walked up the beach to find the solitary river delta.

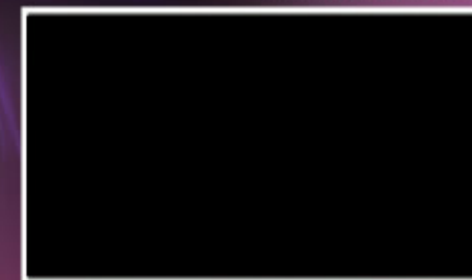
**“OUR PLAN WAS TO SEARCH OUT THE BEST OF BOTH FLAT WATER AND WAVE SPOTS”**

*Shinn*

HE'S BACK !

SHINNWORLD.COM

**MONK**  
GHOST







**“ WE’D HEAD OFF IN ALL DIRECTIONS, DRIVING HOURS JUST FOR THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE TO GET ON THE WATER, LEAVING THE HOUSE AT HOURS I’D RATHER NOT SEE ”**

At first it didn’t look like much, just sparse water and little more than a breath of wind. However, confident the wind would be true to the forecast we rigged anyway and before long the water began to flow back into it’s familiar path. Despite the light wind, we hopped in the water and, with the bonus of the river’s current, we were able to claim our first session before the jetlag wore off.

Back at the house in Mount Maunganui that evening, we sat down to discuss our options for the coming days. Our goal was to get as many sessions as possible; however, the forecast seemed to have other plans for our upcoming stay. We didn’t simply find our sessions. We had to earn them, seeking out local knowledge and spending countless hours searching ikitesurf and Google Maps. We’d head off in all directions, driving hours just for the slightest chance to get on the water, leaving the house at hours I’d rather not see, only to arrive back home in the small hours of the night.

While this may sound like more trouble than it was worth, most holiday goers likely would have hung around the Mount and surfed away the no wind days, enjoying an easy vacation regardless of the funky weather we were encountering. We were determined to get our kite sessions in though, and we knew the extra effort would pay off.

We drove from Mount Maunganui to Maketu, where we found perfect flatwater and a completely empty campground. Shortly after launching, the rain followed but the wind carried on in the desired direction long enough to stretch our muscles and allow us try out a few tricks. Then, it was back to the Mount to see if we could find a few waves.





**“ ONE MINUTE WE WERE SURROUNDED BY ROLLING GREEN HILLSIDES FLOCKED WITH SHEEP, THE NEXT, STOP AND GO CITY TRAFFIC ”**

Famous for its iconic volcano and expansive arching beaches, we chose to stay in Mount Maunganui for its central location, gorgeous scenery and the potential for epic waves. Back at our temporary home, Matchu headed out to see if he could find a few good ones but the waves were mostly chaotic, blown apart by the increasing and shifting winds.

After checking a few more nearby spots, rigging, and getting on the water just in time for the wind to be shut down by rain squalls, we decided we really needed to find some waves no matter the distance.

We had been told over and over that if waves were on our agenda, Taranaki was the place to go. So, the following day our alarms were set for an hour well before the sun would make its appearance. Quietly moving through the house, everyone packed what they needed for the day, working together to prepare gear, food, camera equipment, etc. with barely a word exchanged.

We were not silent out of necessity, but it was just too darn early to have much to say. Once on the road, we were full of anticipation. Never having explored the North Island of the country, I was pleasantly surprised to find the landscape ever changing.

One minute we were surrounded by rolling green hillsides flocked with sheep, the next, stop and go city traffic, then we'd be engulfed by scenery that seemed to come out of a Jurassic Park movie, complete with regular rainbow sightings. We'd stop for a stretch and a coffee where we could.









Most towns were separated by an hour or more of driving along the coast and barely a sign of anyone in between.

Arriving in Taranaki, we could see right away what all the fuss was about. A dramatic coastline ruled by dunes and rugged cliffs with a sizeable swell rolling through. With out another person in sight, we followed the advice of Kelby to reach our coveted break, scrambling our way down the hillside and launching in a questionable wind shadow. Once on the water it was clear that we had been given solid advice. Matchu began picking one wave after another. Obviously, he had been eager for this after all the hours of car rides, blown out waves and flatwater spots.

**“ONCE ON THE WATER IT WAS CLEAR THAT WE HAD BEEN GIVEN SOLID ADVICE.”**

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**“ WITH BOTH THE WAVES AND WIND INCREASING, RENO SENT IT HIGHER AND HIGHER, USING THE GROWING SWELL AS RAMPS TO LAUNCH FROM. ”**

As the wind continued to increase, Reno headed out as well, at first on a surfboard and then switching to his twin tip to throw some loops. With both the waves and wind increasing, Reno sent it higher and

higher, using the growing swell as ramps to launch from.

After getting tossed on a few waves of my own, I headed back to the beach where I met a few local kites who had come down to see what was going on and to share their surprise that someone would want to jump off their prized waves instead of riding their faces. This was exactly what this trip was about. We were searching for sessions of all

colours: freestyle, wave, foil and big air. We had the gear to do it all, and we had quickly learned that New Zealand was the perfect place for a trip of this nature.

For the remainder of the trip, we carried on searching for our next session, chasing storms and admiring the unfaltering beauty of this special place. Some may prefer to arrive to a spot and familiarise themselves intimately with that one stretch of beach, but in New Zealand there is far too much to see for such a routine.





FORTALEZA



MANCORA



CABARETE



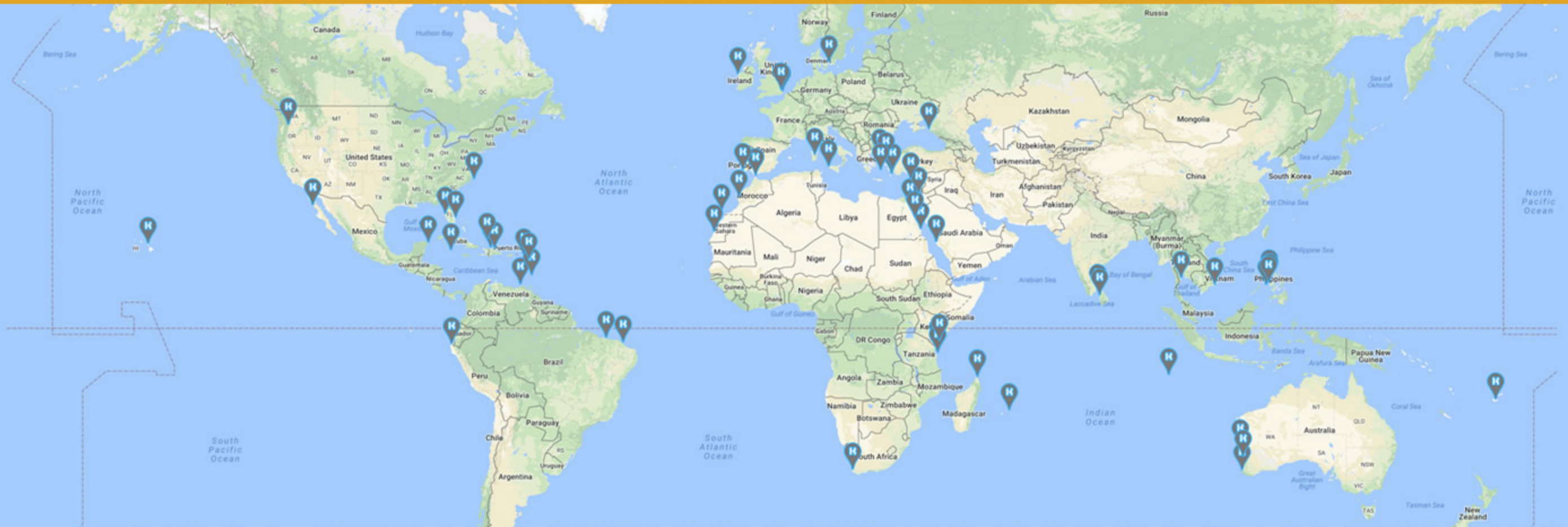
LANCELIN



DAKHLA

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MAUI





**“ WE SLEPT MUCH LESS THAN AVERAGE AND BECAME A WELL-OILED GEAR PACKING CONTINGENT. ”**

At the end of the trip we were all exhausted having driven, (mostly thanks to Reno), who must have been a long-haul driver in a past lifetime, thousands of kilometers. We slept much less than average and became a well-oiled gear packing contingent. Every minute of foregone sleep was worth it.

We left having experienced epic sessions, met some of the most laid back and welcoming locals and kited in these unique and stunning places.



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# THE REAL WETSUIT GUIDE

WORDS ROU CHATER PHOTO ROGIER JAARSMA

All too often magazines will try and drum up some cash with a wetsuit guide; it's an easy way to fill pages and make some money, each slot for each brand comes with a price. It's also easy to do, just copy and paste some images and text from the manufacturer's website and hey presto.





" THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF A WETSUIT  
HAVEN'T CHANGED SINCE THE FIRST  
WETSUIT WAS CREATED. "

Of course, we believe you are better than that and a "buyers guide" should look at the more important aspects of buying an expensive piece of rubber. Things like the fit, materials, the eco-footprint and ultimately the most crucial question of all, can you piss in it? A guide to buying a wetsuit if you will, as the name suggests.

If you don't learn something new about neoprene after reading this, then you're doing it all wrong!

### What is a wetsuit?

Fortunately for us, the clue is in the name, it's a suit that is designed to keep you wet. At least that is what it was initially designed to do, these days most modern winter suits do a pretty good job at keeping water out. The basic principles of a wetsuit haven't changed since the first wetsuit was created.

Contrary to popular belief the wetsuit wasn't invented by Jack O'Neill, that accolade goes to Hugh Bradner who is credited with being the "father of the modern wetsuit". Hugh was the first person to realise an insulating layer of material consisting of trapped bubbles would significantly reduce the effects of heat loss on the human body when in the water.

He sent a letter detailing his idea to a few potentially interested parties, the US Navy being one of them. Willard Bascom, an engineer at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, suggested to Bradner that neoprene could be an excellent material to use, however between the two of them they never got the idea to catch on or take off.

A GOOD WETSUIT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ENJOYING YOUR SESSION  
AND FREEZING...  
PHOTO ALAN VAN GYSEN







# U N I • N

ENERGY DISPERSION PLATE

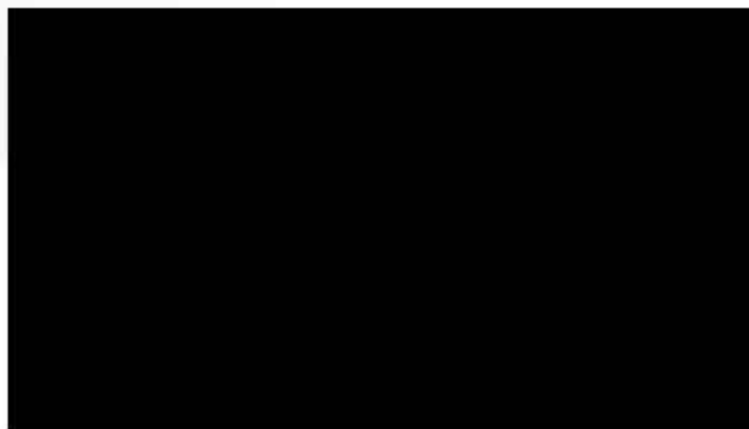


1.1<sup>KG\*</sup>

Comfortably light.



20  
18  
COLL.



TECH  
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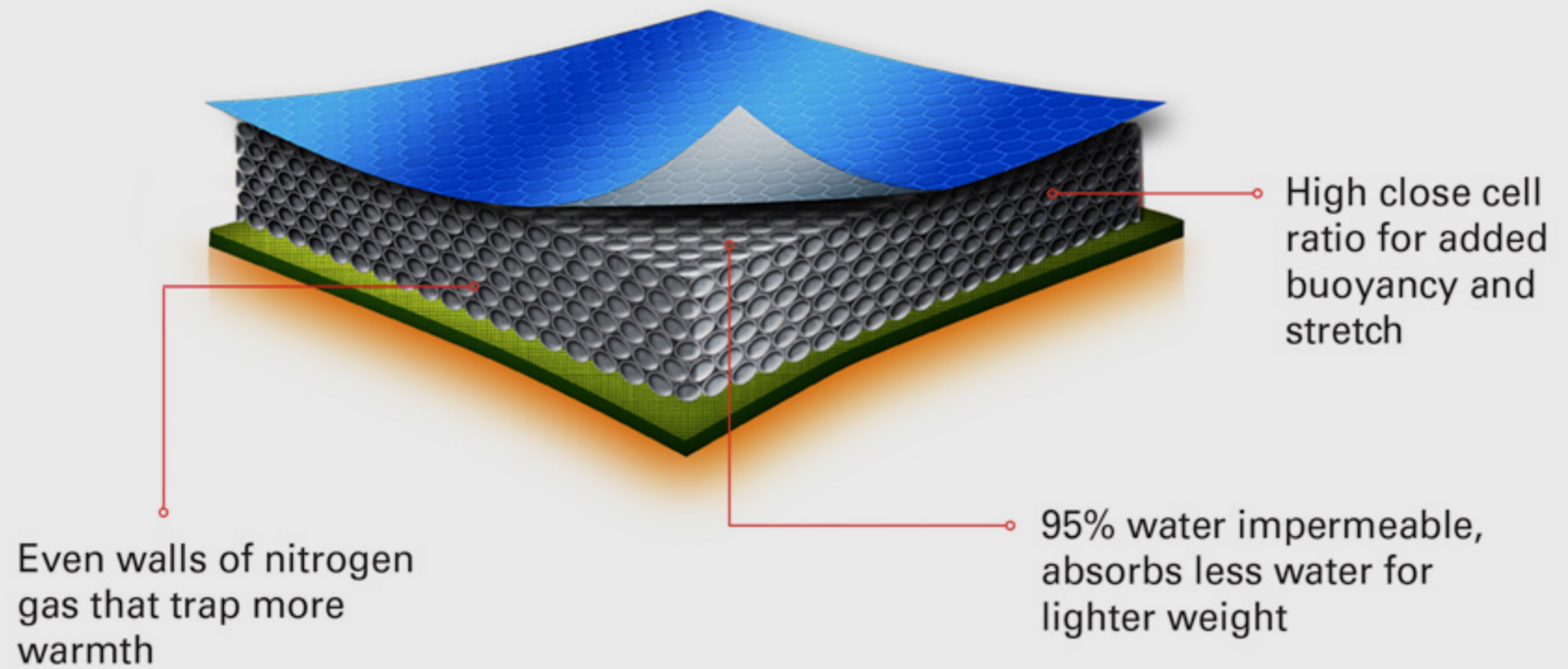
\*Medium size, no spreader bar.





PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH

IT'S THE NITROGEN GAS BUBBLES IN THE RUBBER THAT GIVE YOU INSULATION, THE NEOPRENE IS THEN BACKED WITH A WARM JERSEY ON THE INSIDE AND A DURABLE LAYER ON THE OUTSIDE  
CREDIT NP SURF



“ THE WAY THE SUITS WORKED HASN'T CHANGED, BUT THE TECHNOLOGY AND MATERIALS INVOLVED HAVE DEVELOPED AT AN ALARMING PACE. ”

It was in 1952 that Jack O'Neill started using neoprene to make insulating vests for the surfers of California. The O'Neill Company was the first wetsuit manufacturer to make a commercial success of the concept, the frigid waters of California and the abundance of local surfers creating the perfect storm for a breakaway product.

After that, the humble wetsuit took off, as the popularity of surfing grew and the sport

spread around the world the demand grew and grew, and more and more companies came to the fore. The science behind the way the suits worked hasn't changed, but the technology and materials involved have developed at an alarming pace.

#### How Does A Wetsuit Work

Water conducts heat away from the human body 20-25 times faster than air, in layman's terms as soon as you are submerged in water, you lose body heat at an alarmingly faster rate than if you were to be stood on the beach. A wetsuit is made of a closed cell foam called neoprene, which is a synthetic

rubber, the neoprene consists of tiny bubbles of nitrogen gas.

The clever bit is that nitrogen, like most gases, has a very low thermal conductivity. This means that when it is placed next to your skin in the form of a wetsuit, your body heat gets pushed back into your body rather than escaping through the neoprene layer, keeping you warm.

As the name suggests though you are wet, so the suit is designed to trap a thin layer of water against the skin, this layer can then be heated by your body temperature, and even though you are wet, the insulating properties of the nitrogen bubbles in the neoprene will keep you warm.



RUBEN LENTEN KNOWS A THING OR TWO ABOUT KITING IN EXTREME CONDITIONS!  
PHOTO ALEX REVERS



“ YOU COULD PUT THE MOST EXPENSIVE WETSUIT IN THE WORLD ON SOMEONE, AND IF IT IS A LOUSY FIT, THEY WILL STILL FREEZE. ”

A common misconception is that it is the water that will keep you warm, this isn't the case, the wetsuit works whether you are wet or dry as an insulating layer.

The real key to a wetsuit though is the ability to either keep that thin layer of water in or even limit the amount of water that enters, as is the case with modern winter “semi-dry” suits. If a wetsuit fits poorly, especially around the wrist, ankle and neck seals, water is free to flush in and out, each time water enters and leaves the suit it takes body heat with it, making you cold.

If the wetsuit is too loose or baggy, then pockets of water can form and again the water will drain your body heat at an alarming rate. Therefore, the crucial factor in any suit, regardless of brand name or price, is the fit. You could put the most expensive wetsuit in the world on someone, and if it is a lousy fit, they will still freeze.

#### **Wetsuit, semi-dry or drysuit?**

Once again the clue is in the name here, the humble wetsuit works as we have already explained. A modern semi-dry suit aims to limit the amount of water entering the suit, water will always get in, but your body should be able to heat it, and the suit should be able to retain the small amount of water, especially if it fits properly. Pretty much every modern winter suit on the market today is designed to be semi-dry and will often be referred to as a wetsuit rather than a semi-dry.



GRAHAM HARNEY KEEPING DRY IN HIS  
OCEAN RODEO DRYSUIT!  
PHOTO JAY WALLACE



A dry suit, however, is as the name suggests, dry; they offer no insulation so won't keep you warm (although there are now some drysuits made of neoprene with all the thermal advantages it provides); the idea is to wear warm clothing underneath. The benefit of a dry suit is you can just step in and out of it in your warm clothes in the car park. Some of them also offer superior wind chill capabilities as the outside of the material doesn't absorb water. However, they can be bulky for kilters, especially when performing tricks and body dragging.

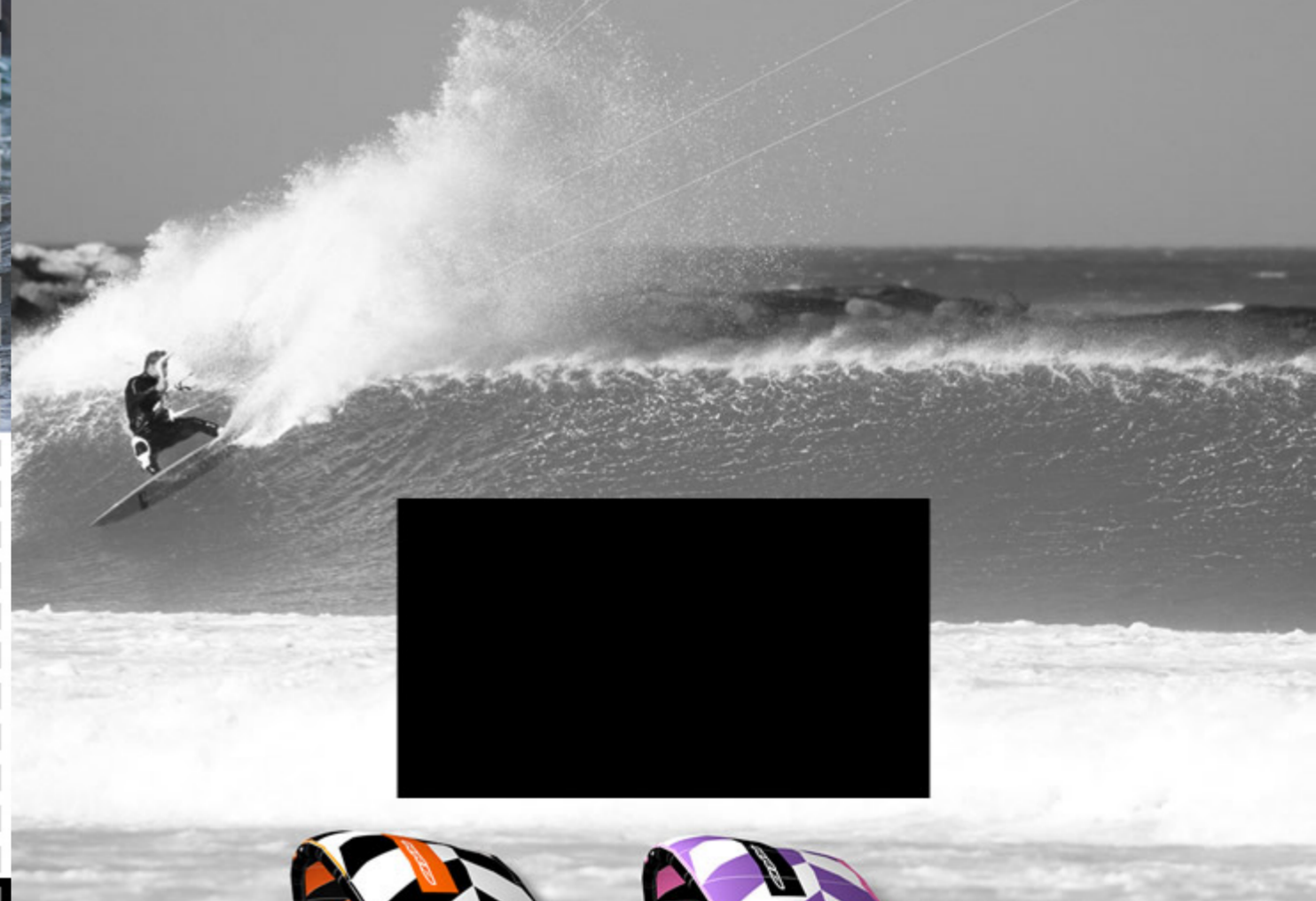
They do also usually let water in during heavy wipeouts too, as such they are perfect for the freeride cruiser in very low temperatures,

" THE BENEFIT OF A DRY SUIT IS YOU CAN JUST STEP IN AND OUT OF IT IN YOUR WARM CLOTHES "

RRD

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" MOST OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN WETSUIT DESIGN HAPPEN OUTSIDE OF THE RUBBER ITSELF. "

but not so much for the aggressive freestyler who is slamming hard all the time. They can also be expensive, and you can't piss in them to warm up either. We'll look at them in more detail in another article, for now, let's get back to wetsuits.

### More Than Just Rubber?

Neoprene is an essential element of any wetsuit; it is the insulator that makes it work after all. However, in its raw form, it is just that, rubber filled with tiny nitrogen air bubbles. It needs to be lined to make it comfortable against your skin. It needs to be stitched together to create the shape you need; it needs to stretch with the movements of your body. Ultimately it needs to seal in, and out water as much as possible, no mean feat when you consider the number of stitches required to make a suit!

Most of the technological advances in wetsuit design happen outside of the rubber itself. The linings and backings, the stitching, taping and sealing of the seams and the coatings applied to repel water and keep the suit in good shape. In terms of design, the goal is to maximise the fit and feel of the suit around your body, the less it interferes with the way you ride, the better.

When you look at a high-end suit in the shop and wonder if the price tag is justified compared to a cheaper suit, it is these external factors that will make up the extra cost to you. A lower cost suit may well use the same rubber, but the seams won't necessarily be sealed, the inner jersey probably won't be as warm and will take longer to dry and crucially it is unlikely to stretch as much as an expensive suit.

WARMER INNER JERSEYS LIKE THIS ONE FROM RIDE ENGINE ARE DESIGNED TO KEEP YOU WARM AND EVEN DRY SUPER FAST, TO AVOID THE DREADED WET WETSUIT ISSUE!  
PHOTO MARY BOOTH





AARON HADLOW KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF A GREAT SUIT!  
PHOTO TOBY BROMWICH







FRONT ZIP SUITS OFFER MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR YOUR BACK  
PHOTO MARY BOOTH



THIS IS HOW LIMESTONE NEOPRENE GETS MADE...  
PHOTO NP SURF

**" A STRETCHY WETSUIT WILL FIT YOU BETTER AND ALLOW YOU TO MOVE WITH MORE EASE, CONSERVING ENERGY AND HEAT LOSS. "**

### The Importance Of Streeeeeeeeetch

Years ago I came back from a season teaching windsurfing in Turkey, took a train from Ramsgate to Hayle in Cornwall with all my windsurfing gear and entered the British National Wavesailing Championships. I'd borrowed my Dad's old 'Gul Steamer' wetsuit to keep me warm, after all, I'd spent the last couple of years wearing nothing but board shorts.

Despite a lack of wind my heat came around,

and I donned the rubber, bear in mind this was some 20 years ago. Let's just say my Dad's ancient steamer wasn't cutting the mustard; I could barely bend my arms, let alone walk. Sure I was encased in a thick layer of warm rubber, but what's the point of being warm if you can't move?

Neoprene in itself is very stretchy, but the backing it is bonded too, the layers you see and feel on either side of the rubber never used to have much give. As fabrics improved the nylon backings were replaced with materials such as Lycra. The properties of these materials allowed the suits to stretch, even more, suddenly wetsuits got exciting.

You could pull the arms out to twice their length, a great sales technique used in the shops. A stretchy wetsuit will fit you better and allow you to move with more ease, conserving energy and heat loss. The thicker the suit is, the more seams, zips and thermal linings it has, the less it will stretch, so by the time winter rolls around you are looking for a compromise of warmth and flexibility.

### How Thick Is Too Thick?

Ideally, you want to wear the thinnest wetsuit you can get away with so it won't impact on your performance on the water. Suits are measured in millimetres according to their thickness. Usually, the first number relates to the main body of the suit, while the second number will refer to the legs and arms.



KITE SPECIFIC SUITS LIKE THIS ONE FROM PROLIMIT WORN BY STEVE VERELST PREVENT WATER BUILD UP IN THE ANKLES, YOU CAN SEE HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS FOR KITING!

PHOTO SHINNWORLD



“ WHEN YOU ARE SHOPPING FOR A SUIT, GO A STEP FURTHER, STRETCH THE LEGS AND ALSO PUT THE SUIT ON AND SEE HOW MANOEUVRABLE IT IS. ”

A 6/5, for instance, will have 6mm of neoprene on the body and 5mm on the rest of the suit.

The thicker layer keeps you warm while using thinner material elsewhere still allows freedom of movement. A common ‘trick’ among wetsuit brands is to use expensive and stretchy neoprene in the arms of the suit. This means when a customer walks along the rail in the store they will invariably stretch the arms to see how much stretch the suit has. When you are shopping for a suit, go a step further, stretch the legs and also put the suit on and see how manoeuvrable it is.

In recent years a lot of advancements have been made with the thermal linings of the suit. Woolly jerseys on the inside trap air and water and retain a lot of heat, some of them are even quick draining to allow them to dry fast. These technologies allow you to wear thinner suits than previously, there are some 4mm suits on the market that can keep you as warm as a 5mm or 6mm for instance while offering a better range of movement.

Ultimately the conditions you ride in will determine the thickness of the suit you buy. If you live in the polar regions of Europe you’ll be valuing warmth above all else, in the more temperate zones during the winter then flex may well override out and out warmth as the temperature never gets too cold. Ultimately choose the best suit that is suited, pun intended, to your conditions.





LACI KOBULSKY FLEXING HIS BOARD AND HIS SUIT...  
PHOTO ALBY RONDINA





A GLUED AND BLINDSTITCHED SEAM FROM MANERA, TAPING ON THE OTHER SIDE ENSURES THE SEAM IS WATER TIGHT DESPITE BEING STITCHED.  
PHOTO MANERA

### What's In A Seam?

Due to the shape of the neoprene material, think thin and flat, panels need to be cut and stitched together to create a three-dimensional suit from the flat material. This means you need to stitch and bind the panels together. Neoprene itself is watertight, but if you imagine the number of stitches you need to build a suit and the holes that creates, suddenly it isn't so watertight after all.

The 'glued and blindstitched' revolution was arguably one of the biggest developments in wetsuit design since their inception. Almost all modern suits are glued and blindstitched as a minimum. This ingenious technique involves glueing the panels first and then stitching them with a hooked needle.

THE  
**SOUL**  
DRYSUIT



" THIS INGENUOUS  
TECHNIQUE  
INVOLVES  
GLUEING THE  
PANELS FIRST AND  
THEN STITCHING  
THEM "

ONE PIECE DRY SUIT FEATURING  
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CLICK HERE TO READ ALL THE INTERVIEWS WITH THE BRANDS AND SEE MORE ABOUT THE WETSUITS THEY OFFER.



THE RIGOURS OF KITEBOARDING DEMAND A SPECIFIC TYPE OF SUIT...  
PHOTO ROBIN CHRISTOL



" IT WILL MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO THE WAY YOUR SUIT PERFORMS AND HANDLES THE RIGOURS OF OUR SPORT. "

The needle only penetrates halfway into the neoprene and doesn't go all the way through, so instead of trying to plug thousands of tiny holes along the seams of the suit, you don't have any.

In more recent years we have seen further developments with taping on the seams and 'fluid seam welds' or 'liquid seams' as they are sometimes called. Advancements in glues means that suits can either have special water-resistant taping applied to the seams after they have been stitched or have a liquid layer of rubber applied over the top to ensure no water can penetrate the seam.

However, your seams are built it is important to ensure they can stretch. Having the most flexible wetsuit in the world won't be any good if the seams offer no movement or stretch at all as they will make the whole suit rigid.

### Coated in Magic?

Arguably the last area to consider is the coating applied to the outer layer of material on the suit. UV coatings can be common, but for a winter suit, a water-repellent coating is often applied. The biggest issue with a wetsuit, especially for the kitesurfer is wind chill. Usually, we go to the beach because it is windy, so wind chill becomes a real issue.

At 10 degrees with a wind speed of 25mph, the wind chill factor will bring the temperature down to 6 degrees. At 5 degrees on a 40mph day, the wind chill will drop the temperature to -2!

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KARINE AND CHRISTIAN



HELARDE

WORDS &amp; PHOTOS CHRISTIAN &amp; KARINE

A little change this issue due to some injuries, which means that we have the pleasure of welcoming Heliarde Cabrinha da Silva onto the tech pages as our Special Guest. Heliarde has been helping us out with our clinics and inspiring our guests. So before we go charging into some fun filled moves (Waterskiing, Foot Five, and Rodeo 1 Foot), let us introduce one of Barre Grande's most helpful, entertaining yet down to earth show men with bits of a conversation we had with him over a memorable last dinner in Brazil. Scrambled together with our yet to be perfected Portuguese.

Vital Stats: Heliarde, 23, 72kgs, lives in Barre Grande, Piaui, Brazil. Can be found at BGK. Favourite kites: 2015 Chaos 8m, 2017 FX 9m and 2018 Switchblade 9m.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

### Upcoming CK Performance Clinics:

South Africa 20th - 28th Jan 2018

Cape Verde 7th - 14th, 14th - 21st, 21st - 28th March 2018

Dakhla 21st - 28th April, 5th - 12th May, 19th - 26th May 2018

### WATER SKIING


[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

### FOOT 5 TRANSITION


[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

### BOARD BETWEEN LEGS 1 FOOT


[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)





## WATER SKIING >

**Kite: Switchblade 9m      Board: Ace Wood 138**

When you're as helpful as Heliarde, you'll often find yourself with two boards, having just fished one out of the mangroves from the last person who tried to jump them. As such there are a few ways to return to sender, and this one is a firm favourite well worthy of a cheeky grin and a nod from the great Dave Hazelwood.

This is really a move of two parts, getting yourself into position on your board, before launching your backup craft and deftly clambering aboard. Unlike water skiing, we'll learn to use one ski before chancing it with two! Entao, como fazer....

## PART 1 – THE MONO

### Back Foot Pic A

Your first goal is to get your back foot out of the strap and positioned with your toes over the centre of the board, just behind the front strap and your heel on the edge. This positioning will keep the board trimmed enough from tail to nose to plane, while enabling you to edge against the kite and keep tension and control. With your kite, around 11 or 1 o'clock start on an edge and gradually shift your weight forward onto your front foot. Once you're balanced and your back foot is unweighted, you can slide it out of the strap and move it forwards. Here Heliarde is looking at his foot and the board so that he steps up to the right place, and you can see how the nose of the board is down because his weight is on his front foot.

### Weight Change Pic B

With his back foot now in position, Heliarde moves his weight back onto it. This is the dodgy moment as with all his weight moving back the board will slow, and the kite can, therefore, pull you off balance as the board drags through the water. If you feel the kite pulling too much, you can feather the bar out.

### Front Foot Out Pic C

Once you're balanced, you can gently twist your front foot out of the strap so that the heel comes back towards your other foot. There is no need to lift your foot, just gently unweight and slide. Top tip here is to look at how upright Heliarde is. If you bend at the waist, the kite is more likely to pull you forwards over the nose, so keep your core strong and head up.





### Edge and Prepare Pic D

With both feet now side by side on the board, your best bet is to get back on an edge. Otherwise, the board will head under the kite, you'll lose tension, and the result will be exactly like learning to water-ski - you'll pull on the bar and fall backwards. You can see that Heliarde has his weight on the upwind foot, which puts the board back on an edge. Only now can you wiggle your original back foot around to find the sweet spot on the board.



### Dropping a Ski Pic E

Now that you're on the sweet spot you can lift your upwind foot, freeing it to skim the water and dreaming of placing it on another board. In the pic, you can see that with an edge in Heliarde can pull the bar in a tad to keep the power on...

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### PART 2 – TWO SKIS

Once you've nailed the above and can one leg around your local spot, it's time to get both skis on.

#### Get Down Pic 1

With the aim of claiming some distance while on two boards, you will need a bit more speed and momentum, to begin with, hence the need for an edge. This will also prevent you from being knocked off by any ripples or chop. So come in holding the spare board by the front strap out to your upwind side. Next thing to ponder is the fact that you want your skis parallel.



This means placing the other board down. If you drop it, it'll get left behind. As Heliarde demonstrates, he's bending so that he can get the board low and flat, so that it's skimming across the water, rather than bouncing.

#### The Drop Pic 2

With the board whizzing along beside you, bring it in close, within striking distance and then extend your arm out ahead of you before releasing the board. Stay low while doing this and if the planets align the board will skim along beside you like an obedient canine.



#### One Shot Pic 3

As soon as you've released the board the clock is ticking, every nanosecond the board will be slowing, which increases the chance of you overtaking it and then leaving it behind, overrunning the pass so to speak. You can see that Heliarde has his eyes on the prize. He's focused on where he wants to get his foot.

#### Foot Plant Pic 4

Staying low enables him to get over the board which means that he can push his foot down onto it, planting his weight onto the deck. Again you can feather the bar in or out to control your speed.





You need to get your foot in a similar position to the other one, facing forwards but straddling the centreline, so that you can control where it goes...

#### Multi-Tasking Pic 5

Even though playing the drums well with both feet is hard, most of us can drive a car, so there is hope that you'll do the splits like Jean-Claude Van Dam, nor cross your feet like some sequin sporting 80's roller disco freak (but wasn't it fun). With both feet on the respective boards, you need to try and get them both



going in the same direction. The simplest way to do this is to keep the new board going straight and control the direction of your original board as you had the opportunity to position that foot properly before going all out. Her Heliarde is bringing his original board upwind towards the new one.

#### Claim It Pic 6

Once you've got both boards/skis happily moving in the same direction, you can relax and get some power back in the kite, controlling your edge with the



downwind board. What could possibly go wrong?

#### Top Tips

It goes without saying that flat water will make this considerably easier. Loosening your feet in the straps before going for it will also smooth out any early stage glitches, while keeping your core strong and head up will encourage you to move with the board, not just the kite. And finally, do use the bar to control power by sheeting in and out.





Now that you know both parts, have a look at the videos and sequence to visualise exactly how you'll be doing it next time you go out on the water.

### Common Problems

Losing all speed when moving your feet in preparation will always be the result of taking the kite too high to support yourself in preference to keeping an edge, as the board flattens and you'll move under the kite.

Missing the board with your free foot. Keep it low so that it's going as fast as you and keep it extended out in front of you to give you a bit of extra time.

If you can't control the new board at all, it is likely that your kite is too high and that you're not low enough. The result is that you can't get enough weight on it quickly enough. So, stay low.

### Keystones

1. Edge
2. Move weight onto other foot before moving foot out of strap
3. Keep low, board low and out in front
4. Weight onto new board
5. Control direction with original board





## FOOT 5 TRANSITION &gt;

**Kite:** Switchblade 9m      **Board:** Ace Wood 138

Kiting with friends, whether it be pushing and motivating each other, laughing at one another or just having some good old-fashioned fun is often as good as it gets. If you're not too cool for school, you'll probably learn quicker also. This variation on the board hand plant transition isn't however for those with ticklish feet. All you need is to find someone in a onesie on the beach, and you're ready to go:)

Being a transition that requires you to plant on a given person or object without stopping, squashing them and maintaining some oomph to land means that you'll need to pendulum. If you swing out from the water and over the given person/object you'll be able to tag them before swinging back onto the water and away from them/it. That's the idea, let's see how it works in practice...

**The Approach Pic A**

Once you've spotted your accomplice on the beach, you'll need to line yourself up so you can take off upwind of them. To swing out under your kite, you'll also want more speed than for a bog-standard air gybe. And of course, you'll need enough power to get the necessary height. It goes without saying that if you intend to try this, it's better to be too short than overshoot so build your aim up rather than going for broke on your first attempt. Heliarde has approached with good speed and is carving up into his take off rather than edging so that he can maintain speed.



He's given the kite a decent send so that he's guaranteed the height.

**Take Off Pic B**

Eying up Christian's Cap, Heliarde pops up off the water, kicking off his back leg while pulling his bar in. This will send him up, and the pull in will give him some downwind travel so that he floats down towards the waiting onesie. He takes off quite a way out, and it's also worth noting that he doesn't level his bar as he wants the kite to stay slightly behind him, we'll see why shortly.

**Grab Pic C**

As soon as he can, Heliarde is going for the grab as once his foot is out, he can look through the sights



and aim it at the target. He's got the bar pulled in with his centred backhand so that he'll still go up while flying down towards Christian. Aim for the same place that you'd grab the tail if you were jumping in the other direction as you want the grab to be second nature, while you concentrate on where you're going.

**Make or Break Pic D**

This is the tricky bit which will demonstrate your superb kite control or highlight your lack of it. From here on your path has been set but you still need to steer your way forwards, using the bar to speed up or slow down, drift right or pull left. And this is why you left the kite slightly behind you on take-off, as it can now act as both a break and accelerator.





In this case taking off to your right - sheet in and you'll slow down, move up and be pulled left, sheet out and you'll carry on to your right and drop. These are subtle movements that work wonders. In the pic Heliarde holds his board up out of the way, extending his leg and using his foot as the crosshairs. In doing so guides his foot towards Christian's hand. Optimo!

### High Five Pic E

In the infamous words of Mr Mike Smith all those years ago, "simple as that". Once you make contact, you can sheet the bar out just a tad more to apply



some pressure and stall the moment. We'll be honest with you though; we couldn't find the splinter:)

### The Finale Pic F

It's well and good getting the shot, but in today's life of video, you've got to stick the landing too. If you were planting onto something solid, then you could kick off, but when it's an ageing kite coach best to us the kite to soften the blow. To get up and away Heliarde pulls the bar back in for some lift, which also pulls him back out towards the water. At the same time, he gets his foot back in the strap and starts to dive the kite in



anticipation for landing. All that's left is to point the board down wind and come back for another one.

### Top Tips

The best way to learn and build up to landing on things and people is slowly. Start off by trying to transition over some soft sand, hovering over the same patch again and again. This will give you the feeling for how much you move and swing relative to power in the kite and speed off the water.

Probably best to ponder over the sequence and videos before recruiting your gullible victim...





### Common Problems

The most likely issue you'll have once you start to hit your target is that you'll be stopping on it and then falling somewhat gracelessly. The reason for this is that you're using the kite above you to steer you like a parachute onto your landing zone. However, the hand or whatever else is a mere stopover. And that is why you need to pendulum. It's like being on a swing and someone catching you at the apex. As soon as they let

go off, you swing again. Concentrate on some air gybes with the kite left behind you and see how that goes.

If it's still tricky, you can always get your helping hand to move and make it a team effort...

### Keystones

1. Speed so that you can drift
2. Send for height
3. Pop to control and leave kite back

4. Use foot as a sight

5. Steer yourself by sheeting in and out





## BOARD BETWEEN LEGS 1 FOOT &gt;

**Kite: Switchblade 9m      Board: Ace Wood 138**

Even if you're not an air-style aficionado and prefer smaller kite options, there is always a place for big air and its plethora of embellishments. If you're akin to sailing more towards the relatively fiercer end of the Beaufort scale, there is a point when unhooking and competing against kids who don't yet shave seems unwise. The good news is that this is when the fun can really start. With a bit more hang time, your box of tricks suddenly expands exponentially. This time around it's the one-foot rodeo, which is an utterly splendid move especially if you haven't yet mastered the board off, as it looks impressive, but you don't need to be a Yogi to execute it.

Before taking you through it, we'll assume that you're proficient at getting off the water, can hold a decent edge and are not opposed to the idea of wanging the kite for a bit of extra lift.

**Blast Off Pic A**

Knowing that you've come in with the greatest of edges, a solid back leg and the kite parked below 1 or 11, before sending it positively this is the moment we'll focus on, the actual moment of take-off. As the saying goes, there are a million ways to skin a cat, and so long as you can get decent and controlled height, we'll not mess with your method in these pages, or at least not right now.

We're aiming for a vertical take-off for maximum



height, but we also want some downwind drift for height, but we also want some downwind drift for extra time, while having the kite positioned so that we're free to fiddle about with the board without any unwanted nasty surprises. In the first photo, you can see that Heliarde has pulled the bar in hard, way past his sweet spot as he kicks off. This will help him drift further and for longer.

You can also see that his kite has gone quite a long way back and he's in no rush to level the bar and bring the kite forward. This means that he'll have all the time in the world to grab and fuff, knowing that if anything he'll pendulum back under the kite because he'll be "quite" high.

**Early Grab Pic B**

When you're happy with your jumps, and you know what to expect, these moves will always be easier and look better if you grab early. The earlier you grab, the earlier you can free the foot and the longer you can embellish for. Now that he's on the way up Heliarde has pulled his back leg up towards him so that he can grab the tail. There's no need to pull the front leg up as you'll want it extended later anyway.

**Standing Room Only Pic C**

Once you've got your foot out, let your front leg extend fully so that the nose of your board hangs low, and then straighten your back leg so that you're standing tall. This will put the board vertically in front of you.





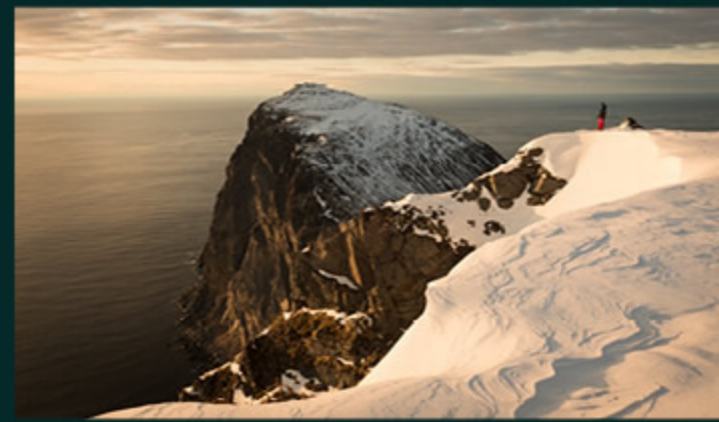
### Knock Knees Pic D

Now all that's left is to grab the board between your knees, gripping it well so that it won't slip forwards which wouldn't be very comfortable for your front ankle. Once you've got it locked in place, you can take your back hand off and wave at the admiring grannies on the sea wall. Heliarde is probably looking for someone's lost board in the mangroves at this point!



### Undercarriage Down Pic E

Once you feel that you're descending it's a good idea to get the board out from between your legs. Coming in hot in such a position is not going to please anyone but the rider you've been short taking all afternoon. Once you're fully up to speed, you can leave the board there as long as you deem sensible. Keeping the bar in for float, move the tail of the board back behind you and lift your front leg slightly.



TOURING, FREERIDE

# PEAK3

4 / 6 / 9 / 12

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This should give you enough room to slide your foot back into the strap.

### Touch Down Pic F

Once your foot is back in it's just a matter of getting yourself down softly. Wait for the moment and then dive the kite for a marshmallow downwind landing.

### Top Tips

If you've not the most flexible person on the planet or you ride with your foot-straps very tight may we recommend loosening your front

strap. This will allow the strap to twist around your foot as you lift your board into the vertical position. It also means that if you do mess up the board can fall off your foot.

Another great thing about this move is that even though you have to commit to the grab early, you can still abort the board between your legs if you feel that the jump is not worthy.

Time for a gander at the sequence and videos to see just how Heliarde does it.



**James Friesen**

James was determined to win the accumulated height for the #xrxchallenge in August. There was a dry spell for wind in his region of Canada, so James decided to book a trip to Hood River and use his remaining vacation days to rack up the needed height!



**Leigh Titman**

WOO became a mentor to Leigh, pushing him to jump higher and become healthier. He went from only a couple meters to reaching 13.1m!



**Michela Guimaraes**

Michela is an avid kiter from Australia who looks to organize trips and help other female kites improve their skills together!



**Karen Hou**

She has set the bar for the Women's height leaderboard multiple times, braving 50 knot conditions with perfect kickers. She sits on top of the female leaderboard with 19.2m!



**Knut Fyhn**

Knut is part of a community that kites year round north of the polar circle in Tromsø, Norway. At times, there is no direct sunlight, but it didn't stop Knut from progressing from 6.4m all the way to 11.6m!



**KiterMike**

60 y/o with the spirit of someone a quarter his age. Mike has refined his kiting with 150+ days on the water a year to consistently reach 11m+!



**Maarten Haeger**

Maarten is 15 years old and sending it up there with some of the top riders in the world. Ranked #20 in the world!



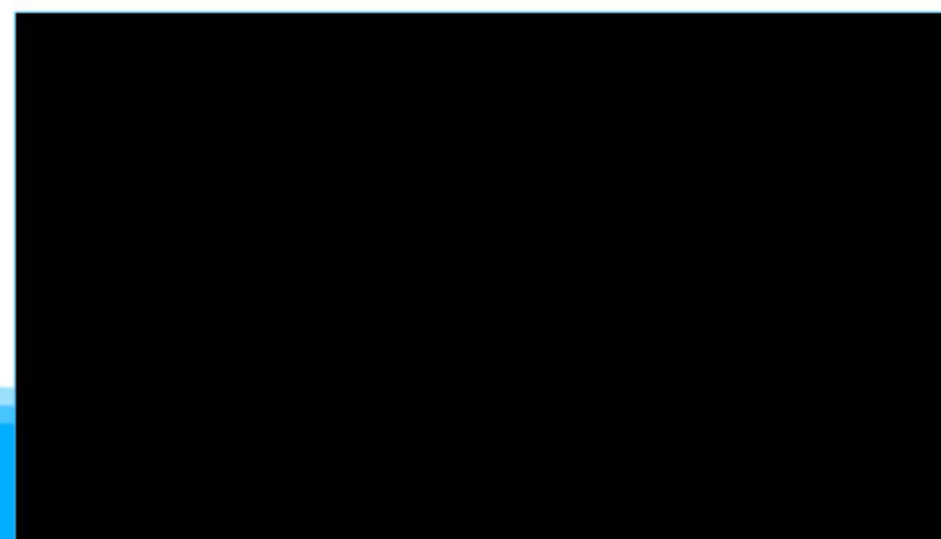
**Philipp Schonger**

Philipp has traveled around the world to boost bigger and he also visited Karen Hou because he saw her sessions on WOO and wanted to meet her and check out her boosting scene in Taiwan!



**Hen Durbin**

Hen crushes it in the UK racking up some of the most accumulated height for the #QueenOfTheAirUK WOO Contest!



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### Common Mistakes

This one is all about your jump, if it's high enough and/or floaty enough you'll have all the time in the world. If you don't have time, take a step back and work on the fundamentals, edge and wang.

### Keystones

1. Good solid edge and plenty of send

3. Grab early to free the back foot
4. Straighten legs, grip board and wave
5. Get your foot back in with plenty of time







WORDS JULIEN LELEU PHOTOS LIGHTBROS CREATIVE

# PORTUGAL ROAD TRIPPING

Spontaneous road trips with close friends usually go one way or the other. When the opportunity arises, it's hard to resist the promise of discovering new kite spots, the freedom to chase the best sessions, and the chance to spend long hours with your chosen company. Tag along as Julien Leleu and Carl Ferreira road trip along the southern coast of Portugal, looking for waves, freestyle and good times.





**“ WE ONLY HAD A FOUR-DAY WINDOW, AND WE WERE DETERMINED TO KITE AND EXPLORE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. ”**

This whole epic started as a spontaneous idea during a late night out in Tarifa, Spain last summer. My good friend Carl Ferreira and I realised that we needed a break from Tarifa’s summer madness. I enjoy living in Tarifa, a town I’ve called home for several years, but summers can get a little crazy with tourists and parties. For the first time, I had my van with me in Tarifa the stars were aligning for an imminent road trip.

Without too much of a plan, Carl and I set off to discover the southwest coast of Portugal. Personally, I feel this area is a bit of an underrated kiteboarding destination, overshadowed by the more famous European summer destinations. We took one look at a map of Portugal and saw a thin peninsula jutting out into the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. That little strip of land, the most westerly point on mainland Europe, was calling for us to come and play.

The small town of Sagres and the surrounding area is known for ruggedly breathtaking views and, more importantly, clean, powerful waves. As we traced the map between Tarifa and Sagres, we identified both wave and freestyle spots that we wanted to check off. So, we packed everything we had into my van for the van’s first official road trip. We only had a four-day window, and we were determined to kite and explore as much as possible.

Before departing, we made a trip to the supermarket to fill up the Dometic fridge with road-trip staples. Then, we set our navigation for Faro, Portugal and stepped on the gas. We drove 463 kilometres,





straight to the Alvor lagoon and scored a fantastic freestyle session as soon as we arrived. It seemed like our last minute planning was coming together!

Our camping setup was ideal. We pulled into a spot with incredible vibes and put together a BBQ dinner while replaying the memories and media clips from the day. Alvor has an excellent campsite for travellers and it is perfect for vans too. The kiting spot is only 100 meters from the campsite; it's ideal if you want to ride as much as possible while you are here and you'll meet plenty of like-minded kitesurfers too!

**“ WE PULLED INTO A SPOT WITH INCREDIBLE VIBES AND PUT TOGETHER A BBQ DINNER ”**

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**“THE WIND STAYED LIKE THAT EVERY DAY WE WERE THERE. THE SPOT IS HUGE, SO IT WAS EASY TO FIND FLAT, EMPTY SECTIONS.”**

We woke up the next morning and cooked a classic, bacon and egg breakfast before spending the rest of the day on the water. To be honest, it felt like we were in Brazil. The wind was perfect for 11-metre kites; 11 heaven as they say! The wind stayed like that every day we were there. The spot is huge, so it was easy to find flat, empty sections.

The water wasn't cold, and a shorty wetsuit provided enough warmth to keep us riding all day. We even managed to get a mellow party going at night. A little music coming out of our sound system wasn't a problem as there wasn't anyone else around, so we didn't have to worry about the noise.

A thermal wind from the north, called the Nortada, blows across the Algarve from May through October, with June and July being the most consistently windy months. In the summer, the wind can be quite intense and,

by some standards, gusty. When the north wind blows, many of the spots along Portugal's southern coast become almost un-rideable because the wind is gusty and directly offshore. However, the Alvor lagoon is shallow and surrounded by land on all sides, making it a safe, comfortable place to ride the Nortada. The conditions in the Alvor lagoon vary based on the wind direction. Wind straight out of the north is decent, and northwest wind is also reasonably good. However, wind from the northeast is gustier because it arrives after crossing over buildings and mountains.



**“ THE LOCATION IS BREATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL BUT RUGGED. KITERS WITH A NOSE FOR ADVENTURE WILL FIND THIS SPOT APPEALING. ”**

During our trip, the wind pattern had the wind picking up around mid-day. The mornings are usually calm, great for sleeping and relaxing. If taking it easy isn't your style, the cable park, Wake Salinas, is only five minutes from the spot. It was easy to ride at the 2.0 cable in the morning and make it back in plenty of time for a long afternoon kite session.

After our stay in Alvor, we decided it was time to hunt down some waves, so we headed in the direction of Sagres. After checking out several spots, we found one that seemed to be working. It was near the point of the Sagres peninsula.

To find the wave spot, Tonel, we drove as far west as we could down the remote peninsula, and there it was. There was a small parking lot on top of a sizable cliff. From the parking spot, we scaled down the side of the mountain for five minutes and found an empty beach. The location is breathtakingly beautiful but rugged. Kites with a nose for adventure will find this spot appealing.

Carl went out on his new RRD Religion MK9 and enjoyed the empty waves and fantastic landscape. The wind was gusty, and the spot wasn't super easy to figure out. We only recommend this place for advanced riders. A word of warning to anyone who chooses to ride Tonel: in addition to gusty wind, there are rocks that can be hidden beneath the surface of the water, so be aware.

I was relieved when; finally, Carl was satisfied with his session. With the two of us, it's always a battle because he prefers waves, and I look for freestyle spots.







“ IN ADDITION TO GUSTY WIND, THERE ARE ROCKS THAT CAN BE HIDDEN BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE WATER, SO BE AWARE. ”





From Sagres, we tried our luck at Carrapateira, on the west coast. Carrapateira is only 25 km north of Sagres. It's a small, surfy town with a long, sandy beach. The spot we tried was another place with parking on the top of the cliff and a path down to the beach. The walk down to the sea was about 10 minutes, but worth it. Unfortunately, the wind wasn't with us, but at least we scored a great surf session at this picture-perfect spot.

A report about our Portugal road trip wouldn't be complete without mentioning the food. Local restaurants are everywhere, serving good food at excellent prices. There isn't one restaurant that stood out because everywhere was good.

# SUP TONIC

05  
AUTUMN 2017

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE



EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR SUP!

**"WE PULLED INTO A SPOT WITH INCREDIBLE VIBES AND PUT TOGETHER A BBQ DINNER"**

**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!**





**“ THE KITE SPOTS ON THE ALGARVE COAST ARE ALL RELATIVELY CLOSE TOGETHER AND CAN BE REACHED WITHIN 1.5 HOURS BY CAR. ”**

According to Carl though, the carbonara and chicken salad that I prepared in my van were the best meal he ate during our trip haha!

### **Travel Tips**

While in Portugal, don't miss the opportunity to order an espresso and pastel de nata — a mouthwatering custard-filled pastry — at a local cafe. Or, if drinking wine is more your speed, you won't be disappointed. The Algarve's warm climate produces heavier red wines, or you can opt for a lighter vino verde that's been sent down from the north of Portugal.

The Algarve offers something for everyone. The town of Lagos is a bustling tourist hub, and small, quiet villages are scattered along the rugged, craggy coastline. Communication is relatively straightforward, as many Portuguese, especially in the more touristy areas, speak English.

For kitesurfers who are interested in booking a trip, the Faro airport is an easy access point. Direct flights come into the Faro airport from most of the major European hubs. From the Faro airport, you can rent a car and hit the road! The kite spots on the Algarve coast are all relatively close together and can be reached within 1.5 hours by car. For both waves and freestyle, the Algarve delivers so, if you're sitting at home dreaming about next summer's getaway, start planning!



The 2018 season seems to be well underway as far as kites and boards are concerned, and the actual year of 2018 isn't too far away either! We've got loads of gear on test this issue, from kites to twin tips to surfboards and we even put the WOO 2.0 through it's paces!

# TRIED & TESTED

## KITES

Cabrinha FX  
Liquid Force NV  
Naish Pivot  
North Evo  
Slingshot SST

## TWIN TIPS

Cabrinha Xcaliber Carbon  
Flysurfer Rush  
Liquid Force Echo  
Naish Motion  
Mobile 50/Fifty  
Slingshot Misfit Aircore

## SURFBOARDS

F-ONE Slice  
RRD Salerosa V4

## ACCESSORIES

WOO 2.0



BRAND CABRINHA

MODEL FX

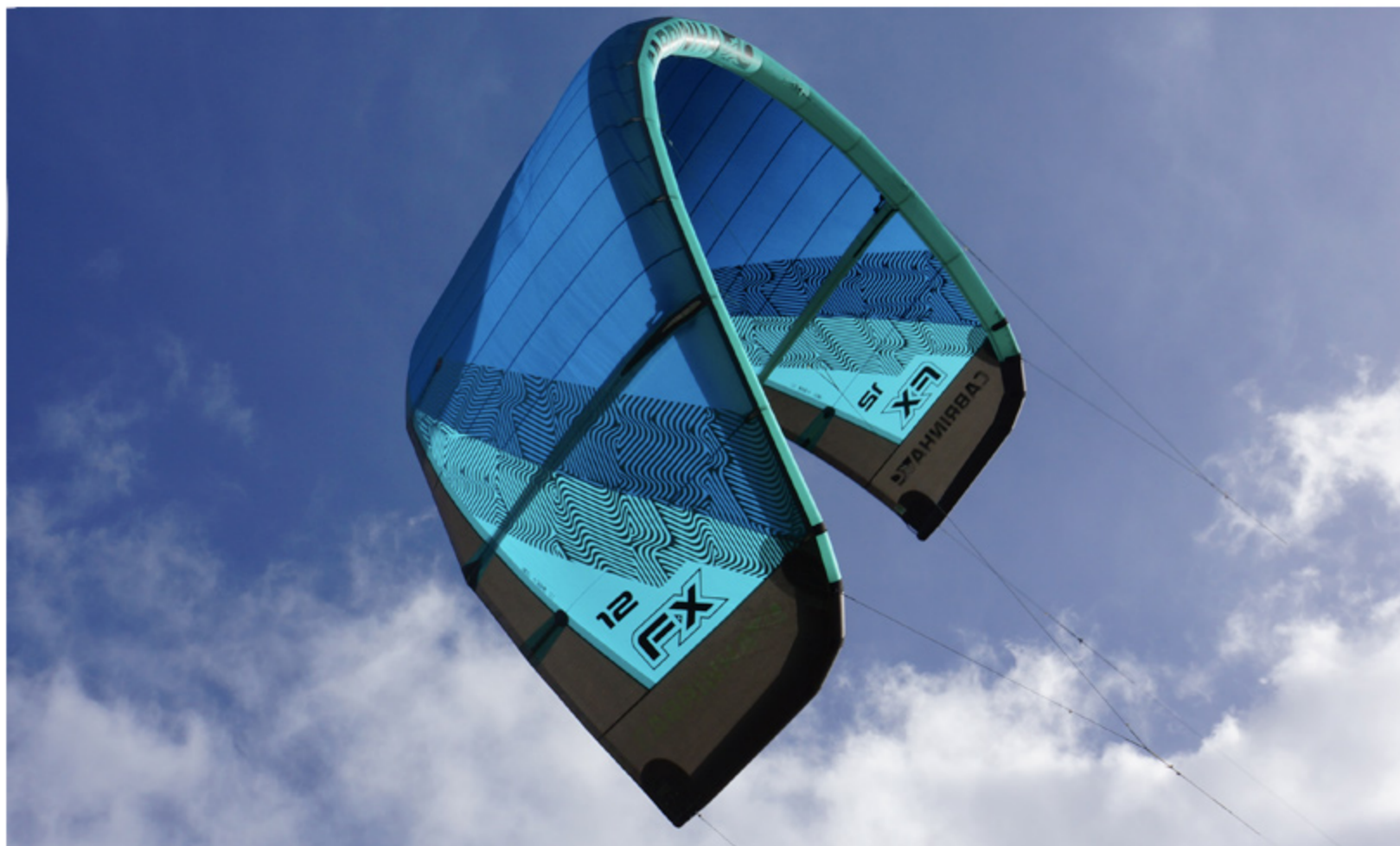
SIZE 12M

YEAR 2018



"THE FX IS POWERFUL, AND THE TURNS ARE RAPID, BOOSTING POTENTIAL IS HUGE!"

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



### At A Glance

The Cabrinha FX stormed into the high end freeride freestyle crossover market on its first outing, and since then it keeps getting better and better, winning an army of fans worldwide. Now, for 2018 it has been redesigned and packs some of Cabrinha's latest design and construction improvements as well as some new features.

The 2018 Cabrinha FX is well known for fitting its bill. It's a three strut, modified C shape kite targeting the advanced freestyle through to performance freeride riders out there. The bridled C shape design allows the kite to drive through the window better than a traditional C, the reduced entry profile of the FX makes it quick in the sky ensuring it has got your back at all times.

For 2018 we see a new High Tenacity Dacron used on the FX giving the leading edge a tighter and more stable arc. Some usual Cabrinha suspects are present in the construction, 2DR Double Ripstop, Pure Profile Panels and the Sprint Airlock feature here. One of the most visible changes in design is the new leading-edge adjustments with Freeride,

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)



BRAND LIQUID FORCE MODEL NV SIZE 7M YEAR 2018



“ A GREAT ALL ROUND KITE THAT PACKS PLENTY OF PERFORMANCE.”



### At A Glance

The Liquid Force Envy, now NV has been around for 8+ years now and has undergone some serious improvements over the last year or so, along with most of the Liquid Force line up. The NV is a three strut, simple to use, performance freeride / freestyle kite. It's bridled hybrid C shape design, is what gives this kite its performance as well as its ease of use and forgiving nature.

The 2017 NV had a ton of tech and new features chucked at it; we saw the LF Synergy Strut, Layered frame construction, Tension Trailing edge, the quick Max Flow inflation system and much more. The NV is built using a Technoforce Single Ripstop. However, the new Black 2018 variant comes with Triple ripstop and is super bombproof for those hardcore riders out there. Whatever colour you go for the kites are well built and heavily reinforced to ensure they last many a session.

The Liquid Force NV is compatible with the Mission Control V2 bar. For 2018 we see four new colourways: Black, Purple/Grey, Blue/Blue, Orange/Blue, all of which look fantastic.

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BRAND NAISH MODEL PIVOT SIZE 10M YEAR 2018



" FUN ALL ROUND PERFORMANCE WITH EXCELLENT WAVE CAPABILITIES! "



### At A Glance

Naish have mixed things up a bit in their kite range in the last few years, and the result is a range nothing short of impressive with a kite to suit pretty much every rider. This Pivot came into our lives in 2015, and four years and four models later this kite has become one of Naish's most eagerly anticipated releases.

The Pivot could well be the kite to everyone; a 3 strut, mid aspect freeride kite with an emphasis on wave riding performance. For the vast majority of us who want to cruise, boost spin and slash, these are the types of kites we should be looking to own. The kite has a hybrid design with more delta-shaped swept wing tips on what has now become known as an Open-C design.

New for the Pivot for 2018 is the addition of Naish's successful Shark Tooth design. This is a redesign of the trailing edge to eliminate and disperse flutter which causes wear, and also to aid stability to the kite.

The rest of the kite has also had subtle changes to increase the performance and build.

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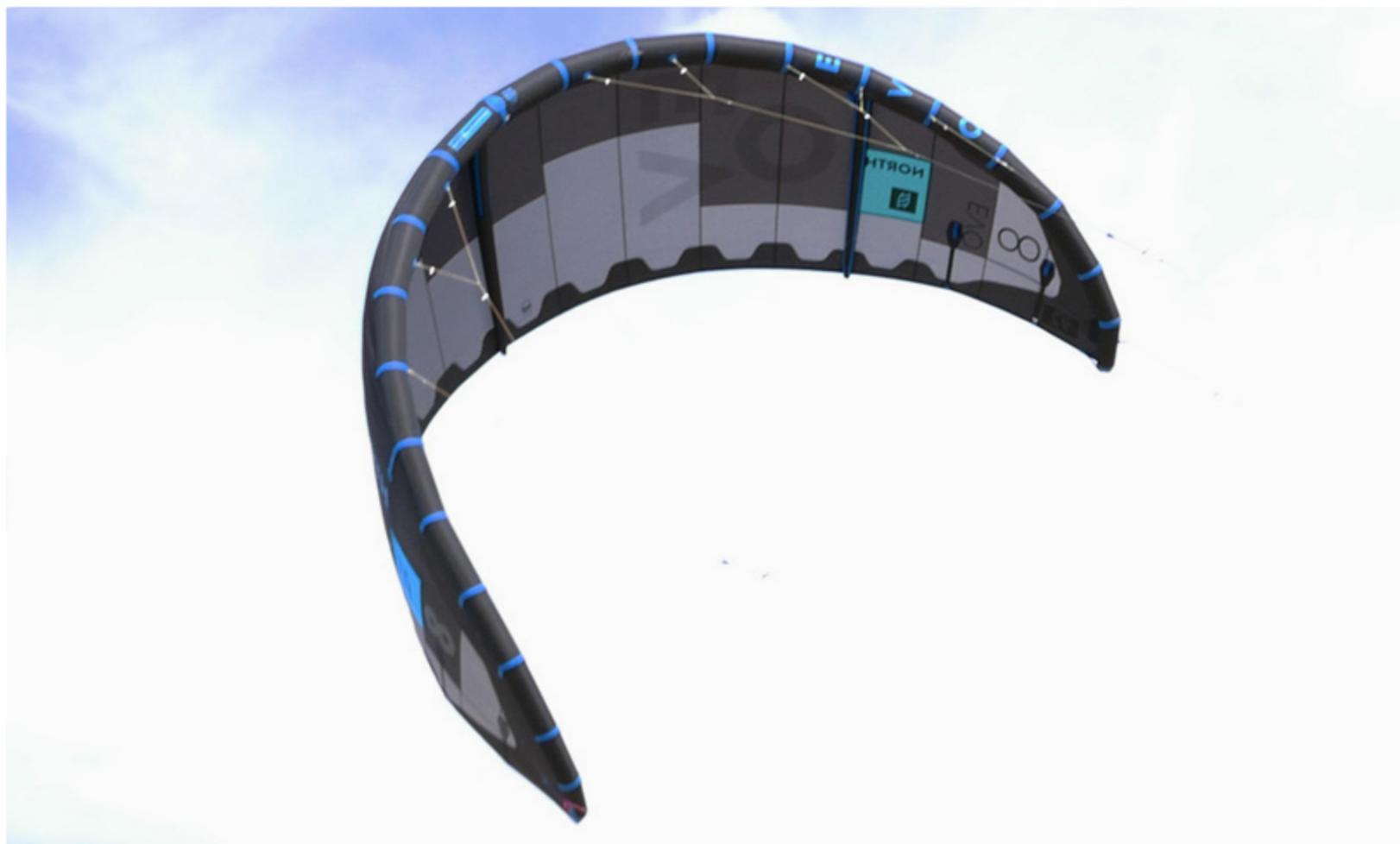
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BRAND NORTH MODEL EVO SIZE 8M YEAR 2018



" A COMPETENT ALL-ROUNDER THAT IS SURE TO EXCITE YOU AS MUCH AS IT INSPIRES CONFIDENCE. "



### At A Glance

The Evo has undergone a huge overhaul this year with an aim to define its place within the North Kiteboarding line up. In previous years it's always been the all-round weapon of choice but often sat too close to the Rebel to allow it to stand out on its own. This year we see a radical change in the design of the kite.

Gone are the five struts of old, reserved purely for the Rebel sibling and in is a three strut delta shaped design. The goal was to improve the flying characteristics and make the kite easier to fly with a reduced bar pressure. It is still billed as an all-rounder kite, but for 2018 it promises to be a friendlier and less demanding kite to fly.

North have always focused on specific kites for specific roles with their line up of the Rebel, Neo, Dice and Vegas, this year the Evo steps in as the kite to buy if you want a one kite can do it all machine that is as happy in the waves as it is busting out huge airs or freestyle tricks.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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BRAND SLINGSHOT

MODEL SST

SIZE 7M

YEAR 2018



"THE KITE IS INCREDIBLY RESPONSIVE AND FAST THROUGH THE TURN!"



### At A Glance

The Slingshot SST has truly made its mark on the wave kite scene, and the 2018 version has only built on that already excellent reputation. A few minor tweaks and changes have gone into the kite, and the result is outstanding.

The SST is Slingshot's wave specific kite. Featuring three struts and a compact C design, it has been designed to sit slightly deeper in the window than some of its competitors, and the result is a powerful, almost tow like kite.

Starting from the ground up, the construction of the SST is nothing less than you would expect from Slingshot: bombproof. The kite itself is made with high-quality materials and some serious reinforcements in critical areas.

Slingshot's Split Strut technology needs no introduction, and it is vital in keeping the kite as stable and solid in the air as it has become. A compact bridle is present on the SST, short enough not to cause any snagging on struts or wing tips, but certainly long enough to be entirely effective.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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"IT IS INCREDIBLY HIGH PERFORMANCE AND EASY TO GET ALONG WITH."



**BRAND** CABRINHA    **MODEL** XCALIBER CARBON  
**SIZE** 141 X 43CM    **YEAR** 2018

#### AT A GLANCE

The XCaliber Carbon is Cabrinha's high-performance competition freestyle board. Proven to be a top performer while under Liam Whaley's feet, the board has a double concave, a moderate to high rocker and tip channels. Constructed using a custom double 45-degree bias Carbon Fiber, this stiffens the board giving it a huge amount of responsive pop.

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"SUPER SMOOTH, POPS LIKE A DREAM AND ABSORBS CHOP LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE."



**BRAND** FLYSURFER    **MODEL** RUSH  
**SIZE** 137 X 41.5CM    **YEAR** 2018

#### AT A GLANCE

The Rush is a totally new freestyle board from Flysurfer aimed at the top end riders and improving intermediates looking for a board that can handle huge moves and big landings. The Rush has a wood core, made with responsibly grown Paulownia wood, and a scratch resistant top sheet to protect both the board and the graphics from harmful UV rays.

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"FAST WITH  
PLENTY OF GRIP  
THIS BOARD IS  
PACKED WITH  
PERFORMANCE!"



**BRAND** LIQUID FORCE    **MODEL** ECHO  
**SIZE** 142 X 42.5CM    **YEAR** 2018

#### AT A GLANCE

The new 2018 Echo is the brainchild of Brandon Shield and Jimmy Redmon; it's Brandon's board of choice for his dynamic and varied riding style. Their focus has been to create a board that not only performs well in the park on obstacles but a board that works well for wakestyle air tricks too.

New for the 2018 model LF Flex Tip Technology has been added which is designed to give the rider more

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WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



"THE MOTION  
HARBOURS  
SOME  
IMPRESSIVE  
POP!"



**BRAND** NAISH    **MODEL** MOTION  
**SIZE** 138 X 41.5CM    **YEAR** 2018

#### AT A GLANCE

The latest board from Naish to get a remake is the ever-popular Motion. Designed for those riders who need a board that won't hold them back no matter the conditions or discipline, the Motion is a high performance freeride board.

Featuring a wood core sandwich technology the board is designed to be durable and light.

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WEBSITE, CLICK HERE







" ENABLES YOU TO CHARGE HARD IN EITHER BOOTS OR STRAPS. "



BRAND NOBILE MODEL 50FIFTY PRO  
SIZE 138 X 39.5CM YEAR 2017

#### AT A GLANCE

It's always exciting getting new products to test, especially when that product has a subtle glimpse of carbon fibre and Pro written on it! This board was just screaming to be ridden; there are certain boards that speak to you, as you caress the outline with your eyes, arms crossed hand on chin head nodding gently, a little voice inside your head just says; Yes!

The 50Fifty Pro stands out with its striking colours,

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" MISFIT AIR CORE IS A JOY IN CHOPPY CONDITIONS!"



BRAND SLINGSHOT MODEL MISFIT AIR CORE  
SIZE 142 X 42CM YEAR 2018

#### AT A GLANCE

There are not many products in our sport which have held their own for over a decade. However, the Misfit is one of them, and there is a reason it has been a favourite for so long. The board is aimed at the entry level to intermediate rider looking for an all-round board that will grow with them on their kitesurfing journey while making riding easy every step of the way.

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" ONE OF THE BEST ALL-ROUND WAVE BOARDS OUT THERE AT THE MOMENT "



BRAND F-ONE MODEL SLICE  
SIZE 5'3" YEAR 2018

#### AT A GLANCE

The Mitu Pro model has been one of the defining boards of our generation, selling more surfboards than any other model on the market. For F-One to bring a totally new stick to the product line is interesting, how do you make something better than arguably one of the most popular surfboards on the planet?

The answer is to make something different. The Slice has been in the pipeline for a couple of years now,

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" EXCELLENT DRIVE AND SPEED DOWN THE LINE."



BRAND RRD MODEL SALEROSA V4  
SIZE 5'8" YEAR 2018

#### AT A GLANCE

The Salerosa V4 is a classically styled surfboard from RRD with a modern twist. Up front, it sports a classic surfboard nose shape, but out the back, a more modern quad fin set up sits underneath a squared off swallowtail. The board is aimed at a wide variety of conditions from onshore to big side offshore waves.

The profile of the board is very thin with a low volume throughout; there is a pronounce rocker line with an

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BRAND WOO SPORTS

MODEL WOO 2.0

YEAR 2018



" RIDE HARD, FLY SAFE AND POST YOUR WOO SCORES KNOWING THEY ARE PRETTY DAMN ACCURATE "



### At A Glance

WOO Sports burst onto the scene a couple of years ago with a bold promise to measure your jumps while you rode and track your sessions. Since those early days, they have garnered an army of followers generating hundreds of thousands of sessions with WOO competitions and leaderboards going global as well as local as everyone seeks to improve their scores.

The ultimate goal was to gamify kitesurfing, something that has proved very popular in other areas and to say it has been a success would be an understatement. However, it's not been without its teething problems. We were sent three WOO 1.0 when they first launched; our initial test yielded mixed results with one of the devices dying on us.

It didn't take long before they all stopped working and issues with the mount and waterproofing were identified and adjusted accordingly. The initial issues seem to have now been ironed out, and there are plenty of happy customers to back that up.

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[FEMALE FOCUS]

# MALGORZATA KOLACZ

WORDS LINDSAY MCCLURE



Malgorzata Kolacz is a shredder from Poland; with a passion for board sports and a penchant for the Brazilian Acai berry she juggles her time around her growing business. As soon as she isn't working though, she loves to get out on her kiteboarding gear!





**Hi Malgorzata! For starters, can you share a bit about your background, where you grew up, and how you were introduced to kiteboarding?**

Hello everybody! I grew up in Wroclaw in southwest Poland. Since my parents were always very active, I was raised in a sports-filled atmosphere. I spent my summer holidays at the lake playing on my father's windsurfing board, and my winter holidays were always spent in the mountains. I started skiing when I was three years old and windsurfing when I was 9. The first sport that I fell in love with was freestyle snowboarding. I trained as a member of our Polish National Team and had a few achievements, such as being Polish Junior and Senior Champion. The second sport that took over my heart was windsurfing. I spent several vacations in Prasonisi, Greece. After the wind started getting too light for windsurfing, I started kitesurfing. That's how my third big passion began.

**When did you start your acai business, where did that idea come from, and how do you balance your business with your riding?**

Since I was 18 years old, I spent every winter training and working as a snowboard instructor. Spending 12-15 weeks in the Alps teaching people is hard work, and I usually didn't have much power to shred for fun. So, after a few years of such a life, I needed a change. When I went on my first trip to Brazil, at the beginning of 2015, I fell in love with the acai berry. I was in need of a change and in love with the Brazilian fruit, so that's how the idea of my business started.

*"SPENDING 12-15 WEEKS IN THE ALPS TEACHING PEOPLE IS HARD WORK, AND I USUALLY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH POWER TO SHRED FOR FUN."*



PHOTO MICHAL STARZYNSKI





I bought an old Volkswagen T3, renovated it, and transformed it into Poland's first acai food truck.

Now, I run three food trucks, all of them are old-time VW T3 and are open from May until the end of September. During the summer season, I barely have time to sleep, so it is even harder to find time to go kitesurfing. I run the business in the south of Poland, and the closest kite spot is 550 km north. Nevertheless, I always find a couple of days to take part in competitions, visit the Polish coast, and spend time with my boyfriend who lives there.

PHOTO  
BARTEK KULCZYNSKI

" I BARELY HAVE TIME TO SLEEP, SO IT IS EVEN HARDER TO FIND TIME TO GO KITESURFING. "

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" DURING THE SUMMER, WHEN IT IS WARM AND WINDY, EVERYBODY GOES KITING WHEN I HAVE TO WORK. "



It is autumn and winter, after the acai business is closed when I have time to go on kitesurfing and snowboarding trips. Although, in winter, I still work as an instructor for few weeks during the snow season, and I also organise snowboard trips for heli-boarding in Georgia.

**Nobile introduced a beautiful line of products this year! What do you ride, how do you choose, and what do you like best about your kit?**

I am in love with Nobile's 50/Fifty board! It performs great for women's freestyle, and the 131 size fits me perfectly. It can be hard to find gear that

fits me well because I am light and small. My kites are also Nobile 50/Fifty, and my favourite size is 7m. I choose the gear that's designed for freestyle. My boots are Slingshot Jewel's. They are excellent quality and fit my small foot size (35/36 EU).

**What have been the biggest highs and lows in your kiteboarding career?**

Before I started my business, I had a lot of time to go kitesurfing. So, now I am having a harder time. During the summer, when it is warm and windy, everybody goes kiting when I have to work. On the other hand, between those busy days during the past

summer, I found time to take part in competitions. I won the Polish Cup and became the Polish Champion in freestyle.

**We're seeing the population of female kiteboarders continue to grow. What do you think the kiteboarding community can do to help encourage female participation?**

Yes, it is great that there are so many women kiteboarders! Even today, in the Taiba lagoon in Brazil, we were a group of six women talking about how ladies are taking over the sport! I think kitesurfing is a very feminine sport,





especially because in warm places all you need are your equipment, a bikini, and a smile.

**Do you focus on one discipline, or do you practice many different styles?**

I don't have much time to practice, so I focus on freestyle because it's the most fun for me.

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

All year round, I love spending time in the mountains hiking, biking and getting outside. Riding fresh powder on my snowboard during the winter brings me so much joy — my second huge passion is snowboarding!

PHOTO  
MARTA WYSOCKA

“ I LOVE SPENDING TIME IN THE MOUNTAINS HIKING, BIKING AND GETTING OUTSIDE. ”

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MANERA

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## If You Build It, They Will Come

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

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**EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR KITE!**

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...  
841 views

**CORE**  
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FREESTYLE NIKEA  
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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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PHOTO JAKUB WINKOWSKI

“THERE ARE PLENTY OF KITE SCHOOLS, AND IT IS VERY CROWDED. THERE'S A MASSIVE INTEREST IN KITESURFING IN POLAND.”



**Could you describe life and kiteboarding in Poland for those of us who haven't been to your home country before?**

Life in Poland is not much different than in other European countries. We have electricity, and there are no polar bears on the streets, as many people used to think!

Poland is a beautiful and diverse country. We have mountains, forests, lakes and the sea. In the north, there is the 34 km long Hel Peninsula and Pucka Bay. The bay is a perfect playground for kitesurfing, with flat and shallow water. In the summertime, there are plenty of kite schools, and it is very crowded. There's a massive interest in kitesurfing in Poland. Even though we have to put on a thick wetsuit, the wind blows nearly every day. Even when it rains, people come to Hel from all over the country.

**What are you most excited about; what gets you out of bed each day?**

I'm most excited about all sorts of travel. I love going on short hiking trips to the Polish mountains or spending whole days riding a bike and exploring the surroundings. Instead of getting homesick, I get travel sick if I have to spend too much time in one place!



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 IF IT AIN'T DUTCH IT AIN'T MUCH KEVVLOG #32

Is that Kevin Langeree kiteboarding in a Dutch ditch? Kevin has a little too much fun exploring new kiteboarding sites around his home country of the Netherlands. Kevin's VLOG, with guest Lasse Walker, is complete with windmills, bicycles and the police!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

## #2 I JUMPED 28.3 METERS KEVVLOG #34

So it seems like our readers are real fans of Kevin and his blogs! In this one he goes absolutely huge and jumps over 28.3 metres during one of his first sessions in Cape Town! This has to be the year that the 30m record gets broken over there, it's just a case of who breaks it!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

## #3 JUMPING OVER LAND! KEVVLOG #29

Don't copy everything you see Kevin Langree doing! See Kevin jump over land and people one-handed while taking a selfie mid-flight in his recent VLOG. Kevin says, "The storm wasn't as strong as I thought it would be, but the jumping was still good fun. Two sessions a day keeps the doctor away!"



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

## #4 STORM OPHELIA HITS CORNWALL WITH 60+MPH WINDS AND HUGE WAVES

Watch in 4K as Storm Ophelia comes smashing into Cornwall. High winds and huge waves bombarded the Cornish coastline. Take a look at this short story about the beastly side of Mother Nature.



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)





*Lightroom*

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



LIGHTROOM



*Lightroom*

BALNEARIO IN TARIFA IS A TINY BEACH WITH HIGH CONSEQUENCES AND CAPRICIOUS WIND. PATIENCE AND DETERMINATION GAVE RENS VAN DER SCHOOT A GLORY SESSION. PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA

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LIGHTROOM

FOIL KITES AND BOARDS HAVE TRULY REMADE THE SPORT OF KITEBOARDING, OPENING UP NEW POSSIBILITIES ALL OVER THE GLOBE. FLY FISCH CHECKS OUT THE SUNSET FROM LAKE KONSTANZ, GERMANY  
PHOTO REINHOLD GEHRER

*Lightroom*



LIGHTROOM

CAPE TOWN AND KITE LOOPS ARE LIKE PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY,  
AND ANOTHER SEASON IN CAPE TOWN HAS JUST BEGUN!  
PHOTO COURTESY FLYSURFER

*Lightroom*



LIGHTROOM

YOUNG TALENT MIKAILI SOL DROPPED SOME FIERCE TRICKS DURING A FRIENDLY COMPETITION AGAINST HER WORLD CLASS KITEBOARD ACADEMY TEAMMATES IN HOOD RIVER, OR. PHOTO LINDSAY MCCLURE




*Lightroom*





*Lightroom*



A wide-angle, high-angle photograph of a massive, dark blue wave crashing over a surfer. The surfer is a small figure in the lower center, riding the base of the wave. In the upper left, a kite surfer is visible, their colorful kite (yellow, blue, and red) flying in the air. The water is turbulent and white with foam as the wave breaks. The sky is a clear, deep blue.

**Jesse Richman:** "Near the end of my session on the first big day, I was getting more and more confident. It was extremely challenging to ride this wave, but I wanted to crush it and rip up the wave. I wanted to be the man. As soon as I gained the confidence the moment happened; I was coming in on a bomb, and I looked around and saw that I was on the biggest wave I had ever seen in my entire life... For a split second, something in my head said, "Wow, this is gnarly. You should pull out. This wave is way too big for you. What are you doing? Are you stupid? Pull out!" I like to listen to myself, so I started to pull off the wave. It was weird, but then all of a sudden time stood still. I could see everything going on around me, and I took the opportunity to analyze what was going on. I have trained my entire life to ride big waves, invested every dollar I have ever made back into my career, and it all led me to this moment. I'm on the water at Nazare, I flew halfway around the world to kite this swell, and I was going to pull out?! Hell no!!! I decided that no matter what happened, I didn't come this far to pull back. I didn't train so hard to back down. I am a champion, and I am going to go forth! Quickly my world changed. I killed the fearful thought in my mind, and I edged harder than I ever have before. I gave it everything I had to stay with this bomb, and then I dropped into the biggest wave of my life. It was terrifying, but what is this life about if not for pushing past our fears."

**PHOTO** Pablo Garcia

*Lightroom*





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LIGHTROOM

MORE PHOTOS LIKE THIS, AND EVERYONE'S GOING TO BE MOVING TO SICILY! ALBY RONDINA DROPS  
A CLASSIC IN FRONT OF PROKITE ALBY RONDINA  
PHOTO LACI KOBULSKY

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# 10 QUESTIONS

WORDS LINDSAY MCCLURE

---

## Fred Hope

Fred Hope is a foiling prodigy from Hood River, he splits his time between there and La Ventana in Mexico and has carved a niche for himself as one of the most talented young men to fly above the water!





“What I love about kiting was how it felt to slice through the water, fly through the air, and the ability for every person to have their own acute riding style.”



PHOTO JEFF KRAEMER

**How old were you when you learned to kite, and how were you introduced to the sport?**

I was given my first kiteboarding lesson as a birthday present from my family when I turned twelve. I learned in La Ventana the same year as my mom. My whole family switched over from windsurfing, something my parents had been doing for twenty years. I went into the lesson knowing I would like it, but I hadn't realised how much I would fall in love with the sport. During my second week kiting, professional windsurfer Tyson Poor sent the infamous Grom Gormley out to teach me a backroll. What I love about kiting was how it felt to slice through the

water, fly through the air, and the ability for every person to have their own acute riding style.

**With so many different disciplines to explore, why have you chosen kite foiling as your main focus?**

I think I chose foiling as my primary focus because of how reliable it is. Unless the wind is completely dead, I can be out there having a good time. This decision was also based on the locations where I ride. La Ventana and Hood River don't have big waves to ride a surfboard. Overall, I think the main reason I'm into foiling is the feeling it gives me when I'm riding. The locals in La Ventana call them flyboards. When I'm riding, it feels like I am flying. I'm able to ride in

complete silence and sneak up on friends, which keeps the fun alive every time I go out.

**What are your personal goals in kiteboarding, both this year and long-term?**

I have worked pretty hard at foiling, and I'm now finding ways to have fun with it. I've enjoyed helping tune and adjust both foils and kites before they are marketed, and I hope to continue to be involved with the R&D side of the sport. In the past, I taught windsurfing lessons and have just begun teaching foiling. I have competed many times in the La Ventana Windfest as well as the La Ventana Classic and a few times in Hood River in KB4C.





I like the connection that the community of kiteboarders has both on the water and on the beach. It seems so easy to go and talk to anyone on the shore.

**What advice would you give someone who is about to get on a foil for the first time?**

The main thing I tell everyone is to lean forward. By doing this, you are instantly overcoming one of the hardest parts of foiling. The next thing I say to people is to begin relying on the kite to hold as much of their weight as possible. Watching other people is also a great way to figure out foiling. Looking at people's stance and how they fly their kite can be the easiest ways learn new techniques.

PHOTO ADAM LAPIERRE

“ you are instantly overcoming one of the hardest parts of foiling.”



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**It feels like, across all disciplines, the youth are taking over. What are your predictions for the future of the sport?**

I don't have very much experience in the whole freestyle/boot riding side of the sport, so I can't say much for that. For foil racing, it seems that young people do well if they have the right equipment. I think there are only a few kids worldwide who would like to focus solely on foil racing and have the funds/time to dedicate themselves to this discipline. I entered some high-level hydrofoil races while riding an inflatable kite and a strapless board. I didn't find as much enjoyment in racing because I felt that the only way to be on top was to have all the newest gear, and with the equipment changing every year, it's a huge commitment. I like to ride strapless on a surfboard, and I've been watching the strapless tour closely. It seems that the leaders are all still the original strapless guys.

**Slingshot's foil program is blowing up. What do you like best about your equipment, and what's coming next from Slingshot and Slingshot foil?**

The best thing I like about my equipment is how well it works for my each of my riding styles. I can go out on the Ghost Whisperer with the race wings and zoom around, or change to the big wings and focus more on strapless tricks. I have two main types of kites that I use. For foiling, I could get away with having just two kites: the 4m Wave, and a 7m Turbine. I use the Wave in high wind and for instances when I want to ride with more of a flowy style.



“The best thing I like about my equipment is how well it works for my each of my riding styles.”





When I go out on the Turbine, I focus on speed and strapless tricks that require me to put most of my weight in the kite. The great thing that's coming out of Slingshot in the future is our modular foil system. As far as I can tell, almost every foil product we have is going to be interchangeable. There are also so many new wings that we are making. I can hardly keep track.

#### Hood River or La Ventana?

That's a tough one. I don't think I prefer one over the other. It all depends on the time of year. La Ventana doesn't have much wind unless it's winter, and Hood River is cold and gusty unless it's summer.

PHOTO  
RICHARD HALLMAN

“ That's a tough one. I don't think I prefer one over the other.”



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“What motivates me to get on the water is the fact that there's nobody out there.”

My childhood in La Ventana was amazing, and the culture of the Mexican people was very influential in shaping my life. I would spend hours on the beach in La Ventana as a young kid, overturning rocks in tide pools and collecting the little creatures under the surface.

**How do you keep up with school while you are on the road?**

I'm either in the Gorge or La Ventana. When I'm in the Gorge, I take community college classes through

my high school, and when I'm in La Ventana, I take online classes so I can fulfil my credit requirements. Motivating myself to do my schoolwork while in Mexico is kinda tricky. I either get up early and do it or begin after the sunsets. I was thinking about it the other night, and I realised I have only attended just over a year of actual high school. I've been creative in finding other routes to acquiring my education.

**When the wind is light, and there isn't anyone else on the water, what motivates you to get out there?**

What motivates me to get on the water is the fact that there's nobody out there. I could be the only one on the whole river or ocean. It's also the challenge of seeing if I can get up when it is blowing under ten mph. I didn't think there were any days where I couldn't be motivated enough until the other day when I went to go kite in Portland, Oregon with some friends. The water was so cold without booties or gloves. Now, I have no motivation to go out on the Columbia River until next May.



**What's it like to interact with the OG foil army on a daily basis? How do you deliver advice to riders who are two or three times your age?**

I spend a lot of time on the beach talking with people about everything kite related. I think that, because I'm young, people feel that it's easier to talk to me. It's always a blast being out with the regulars who foil every day they can. I deliver advice to them on the beach, then if I see them out there, I'll go over to them and show them some examples and help walk them through it. I am very comfortable on a foil, so I tend to get close to other people who, more often than not, get a little scared.

“ I deliver advice to them on the beach, then if I see them out there, I'll go over to them and show them some examples and help walk them through it. ”





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PETR "PECHI" PECHACEK GRABBING THE LAST HOURS OF SUNLIGHT IN THE CARIBBEAN!  
PHOTO ANDREA MAGARAO

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