

APRIL/MAY 19

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 74 of the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! We've got another bumper issue for you this spring with all the best stories, photos and videos from around the world. Inside we take a look at the state of professional kiteboarding and how far it has come since the debacle of 2016.

Charlotte Consorti heads to Moorea in Tahiti to see if it will live up to her expectations and the dreams she's been having! Rou Chater heads back to Cape Town to see if it's all it's cracked up to be. Christian and Karine have some excellent tips for strapless riders, and we have plenty of new gear on test too!

ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE



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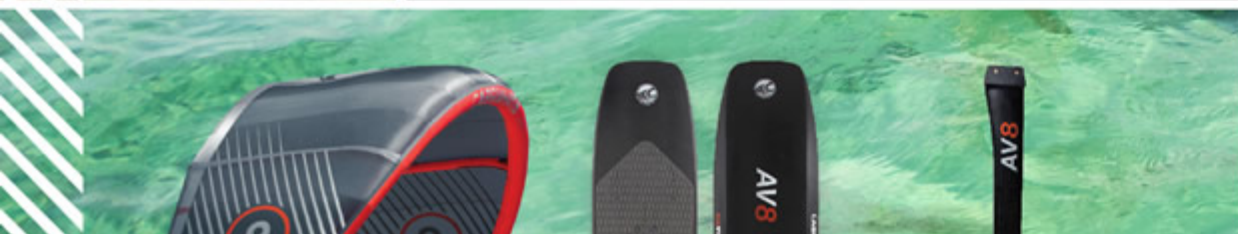
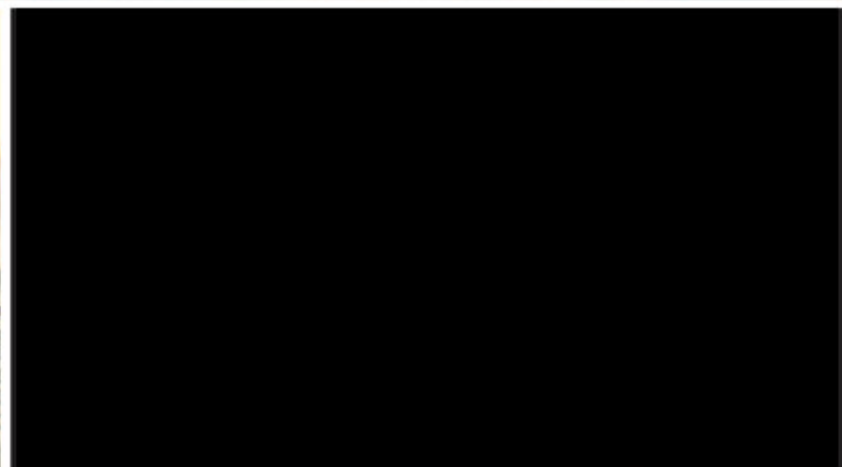
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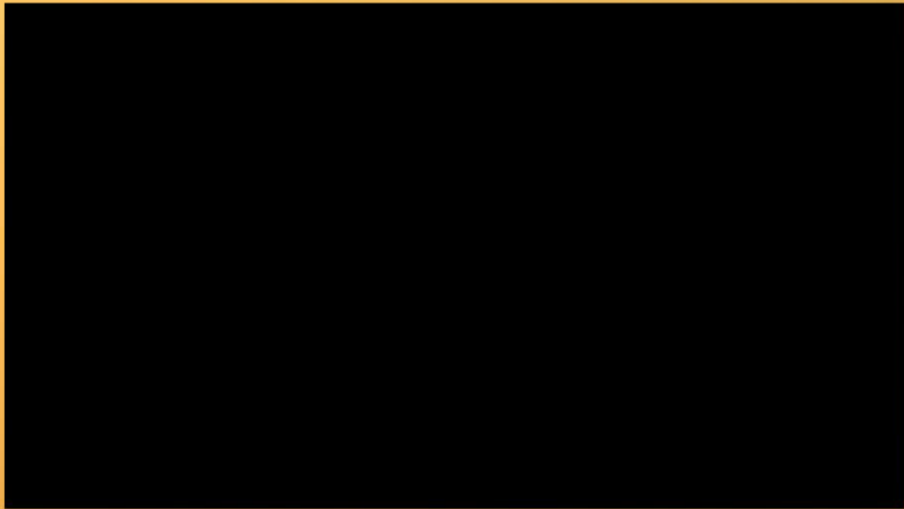
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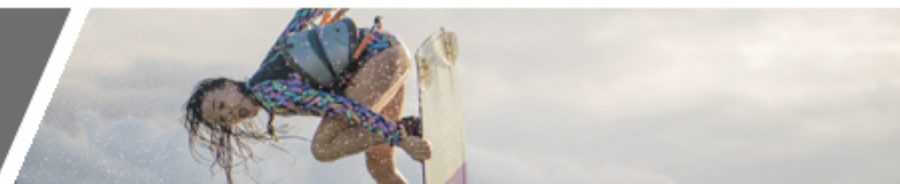
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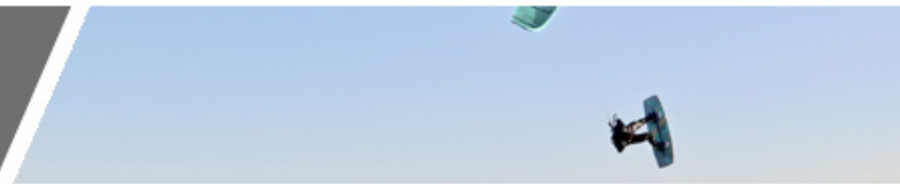
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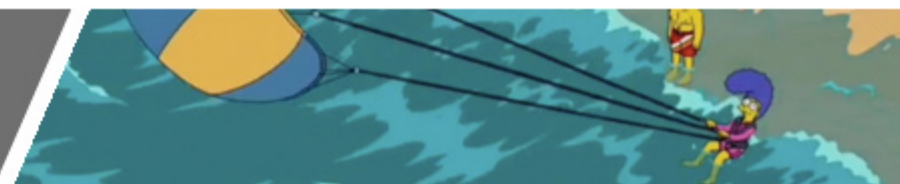
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LUKE MCGILLIWIE ARGUABLY SCORED MORE THAN MOST IN CAPE TOWN THIS SEASON!
PHOTO CRYSTAL VENESS





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ISSUE 74 It's been almost eight long months to the day since I had my big bike crash, that's just over eight long months without going on the water and without touching a kite. I honestly think that is the longest I have ever been without kiting since I started the sport back in 2001. Sure I've had injuries that have taken me out, but it's usually 6-8 weeks at most to recover.

If you've ever had a severe wounding then no doubt you'll share some of my experiences. If you haven't, then count yourself lucky and make the most of every session you can! Checking the data on my Suunto App (amazing watches, the best way to track your sessions) the last time I kited was on the 28th of July.

According to the log entry, Mary and I went to Shoreham to see a friend of ours as there was an incredible forecast for wind and waves. We got out early scoring the dawn session and got some pretty decent hits before the tide stopped play. Then we went back out in the afternoon for a second session and a downwinder, which was maxed on 5m kites with some fantastic waves along the way!

Eight months on I have really started to miss kiting when you have a big injury for an extended period your body and brain don't even think about it. Your mind knows you are in no fit state and seemingly suppresses the urges, or at least it did with me anyway. Thankfully I had my motorbike to ride, and that's kept me somewhat sane.

As I have got closer to recovery though, those thoughts of sessions on the water have crept in, a few weeks ago I had my first kiteboarding dream! I can sense that while the ankle might not be quite there yet the brain is letting me know it is close.

I'm hoping the next time I sit down to write this, I'll be frothing at the mouth from having a few epic sessions. Most likely on a strapless foil to start with, after all, I'll need to break the ankle in gently, let's just hope that isn't a poor choice of words!

Rou Chater

Publishing Editor



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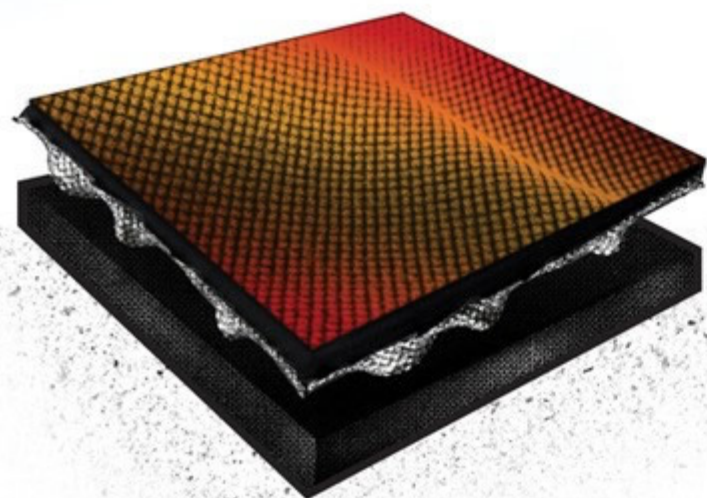
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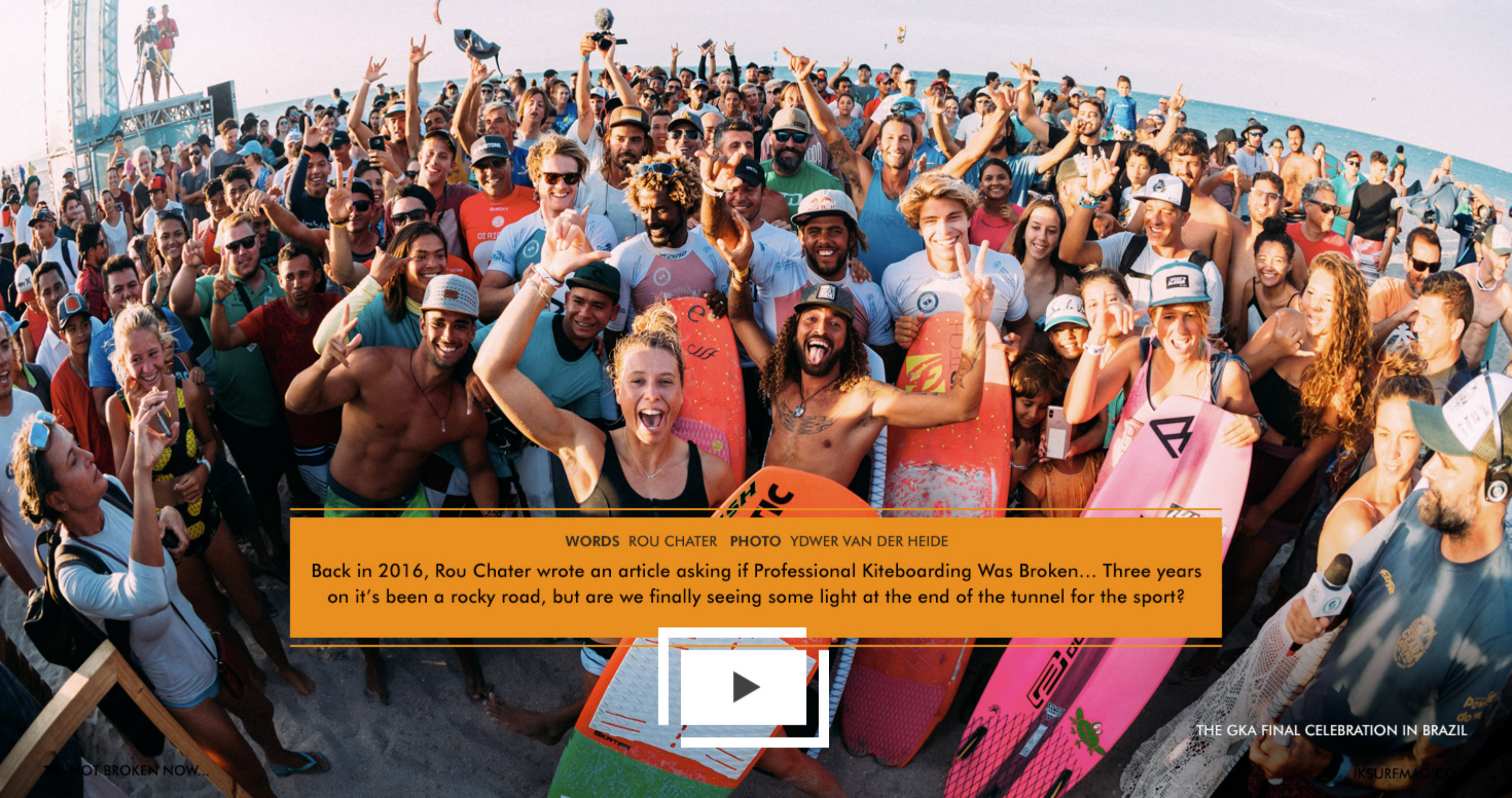


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NOT BROKEN NOW...



WORDS ROU CHATER PHOTO YDWER VAN DER HEIDE

Back in 2016, Rou Chater wrote an article asking if Professional Kiteboarding Was Broken... Three years on it's been a rocky road, but are we finally seeing some light at the end of the tunnel for the sport?



THE GKA FINAL CELEBRATION IN BRAZIL



“ THE CALENDAR IS LITERALLY BURSTING WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BEST RIDERS IN THE WORLD TO SHOW US WHAT THEY ARE MADE OF. ”

Some of us are competitive, some of us aren't. Some of you may enjoy watching kite competitions; many of you probably couldn't give two hoots. However, all of us should care genuinely about the future of our sport and where it is headed.

In 2016 the top end of the competition scene was seemingly bereft of any direction; it was a worrying time. However, 2019 marks the first occasion - perhaps in the history of the sport - that we have a full event calendar in

not just one, but five disciplines.

It may sound strange, but I can't remember the last time that actually happened! In the past, we've had the PKRA, and KPWT running events, various race series under the IKA and HFPT, in the middle the KSP ran a solid wave tour for a short while, and then the Virgin Freestyle debacle happened.

While you may, or may not, care about the professional competition scene, it does matter, as it filters down to us all eventually. If the top level of the sport is unhealthy, then there is a real danger that it can subsequently trickle downwards and send the sport into a spiral. If you think we are too big to fail, does anyone (aside from Hannah Whiteley)

remember rollerblading?

Thankfully we look set to have perhaps the healthiest year of competitive sport we have ever seen. Racing, Freestyle, Waves, Big Air, Strapless, Park, it's all got representation this year, the calendar is literally bursting with opportunities for the best riders in the world to show us what they are made of.

The race scene has always been healthy. Love them or loathe them, World Sailing has undoubtedly added some kudos to this side of the sport, even twin tip racing got a substantial airing at the Youth Olympic Games last year. While we can't seem to perhaps decide on the ultimate format, it looks like hydrofoiling of some description will be making an appearance in the 2024 Games. There are swathes of young riders training hard all around the world chasing that dream.

PAUL SERIN KILLING IT DURING THE LAST GKA FREESTYLE
STOP OF THE SEASON IN CUMBUÇO, BRAZIL
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA



“ THE MAIN BENEFIT OF COMPETITION IS THE INSPIRATION IT CREATES, AND THIS IS NEVER MORE PRESENT THAN IN THE YOUNG OF THE SPORT. ”

For everyone else, the Hydrofoil Pro Tour continues to run events across several continents while the prize money at the IKA and World Sailing events just keeps on getting more meaningful. I bet you wouldn't expect a top-level racer to earn far more in prize money than the world's best freestyler?

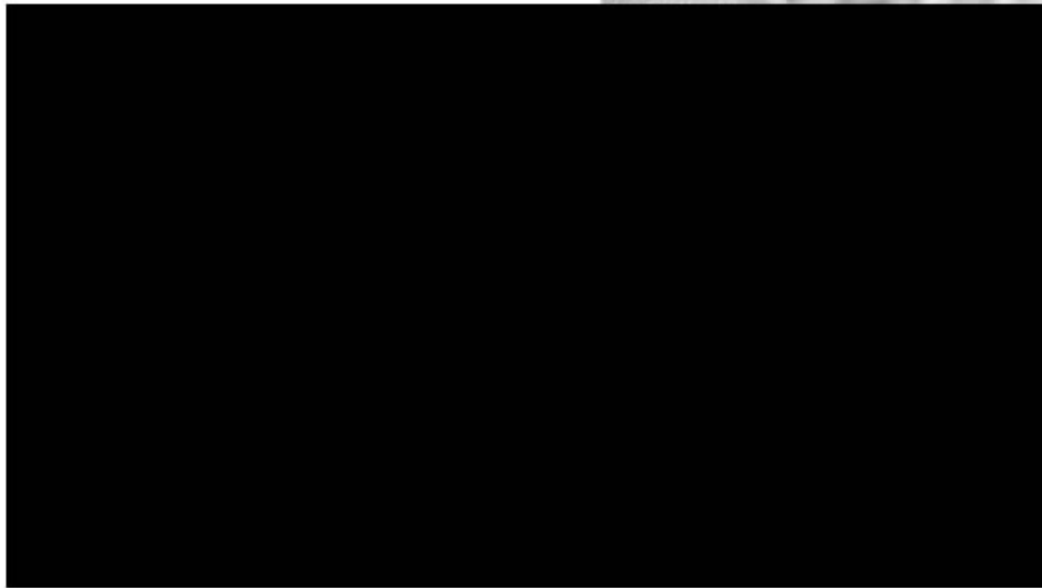
Perhaps it is time to sharpen those foils rather than break yourself learning the latest handle passes...

Away from racing the Strapless Pro Tour, which includes both wave events and freestyle, keeps going from strength to strength. I would even argue it's the dogged determination shown by those involved that events can work and operate well that has turned much of this scene around.

Regardless of the camp you are in, the competitions on offer this year are plentiful. If you compete, that's a good thing; if you don't (and don't even care), that's still a good thing. Ever since the second kite was made, kiteboarders have been competing. For us, it's usually all about who can jump the highest. Thanks to the WOO you no longer even need to argue about it anymore, although that little blue box has perhaps caused more issues than it's solved!

The main benefit of competition is the inspiration it creates, and this is never more present than in the young of the sport. Ask any middle-aged weekend warrior down the beach what they aspire to, and it's probably being able to bend far enough at the waist to grab tindy on any given Sunday.





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“ WITHOUT COMPETITION FORCING RIDERS TO BECOME BETTER AND PUSH THE LIMITS FURTHER, WE’D ALL STILL BE THINKING A BACKROLL WAS A RADICAL MOVE. ”

Ask a young frother what they are dreaming of, and it will usually be something totally understated like becoming a World Champion and a pro kiteboarder. Whether that is attainable is totally down to them, and the support around them. However, enough riders have done it to make it an aspirational goal for many of the youngsters in our sport.

That’s an important concept right there: without the young, hungry, passionate youth, the sport would easily stagnate at its current level. Without competition forcing riders to become better and push the limits further, we’d all still be thinking a backroll was a radical move. The benefit to everyone within all of this is that kiteboarding equipment develops at a pace too.

The best riders in the world demand the best equipment in the world, gear that makes it easier for them to ride waves, perform the latest tricks or get around the race course as fast as possible. All of this demand for perfection pushes the designers to carry on creating equipment that continues to develop in a forward direction.

After all, the better the equipment gets for the top riders, the better it is for you. The trickle-down effect in the sport of kiteboarding is a factor that should never be overlooked. For sure we all want better gear, but when it’s an arms race at the top that hunt for perfection suddenly becomes a lot more dogged.

MITU IN HIS ELEMENT AT PONTA PRETA, CAPE VERDE
PHOTO YDWER VAN DER HEIDE





“IT FEELS LIKE WE ARE LIGHT YEARS AHEAD, AND IN TIME THINGS CAN ONLY GET BETTER IF WE KEEP PUSHING THE SPORT IN THE RIGHT MANNER.”

Back in 2016, this was my main argument for saving the competition scene in kiteboarding. It provides inspiration, both heroines and heroes and it pushes the brands to keep on top of the arms race of making equipment better to enable their athletes to push the limits even further. It's this healthy symbiosis that the sport most definitely needs.

What's changed then since 2016? Perhaps the real driving force is the realisation that

kiteboarding isn't a billion-dollar sport. The money driven people behind the Virgin debacle have all pulled out, further investors looking to make money have realised there isn't any, and in the main, the job of running the events has fallen to passionate individuals and groups of people with the good of the sport firmly in their sights rather than dollar signs.

I'm not going to say it's perfect, far from it, but compared to where we were three years ago it feels like we are light years ahead, and in time things can only get better if we keep pushing the sport in the right manner. The GKA's influence in recent years I feel has been a positive one. Although we could debate that until the sun comes up.

Originally set up as an industry body to help the brands work together for the good of the sport, some brands have since left as the organisation becomes increasingly involved with the competition scene. That being said, their success in this regard is indisputable. From the humble beginnings of the Tarifa Strapless Pro to having 20 events scheduled for 2019 the influence they have had on the competition scene in the last few years is impressive.

Are we moving towards a unified competitive body in the future? I'm sure that will be the goal of a few people within the sport. Is it right that the brands are essentially running the competition scene? Perhaps. At the end of the day, someone has to do it, and they arguably invest more money into kiteboarding than anyone else!

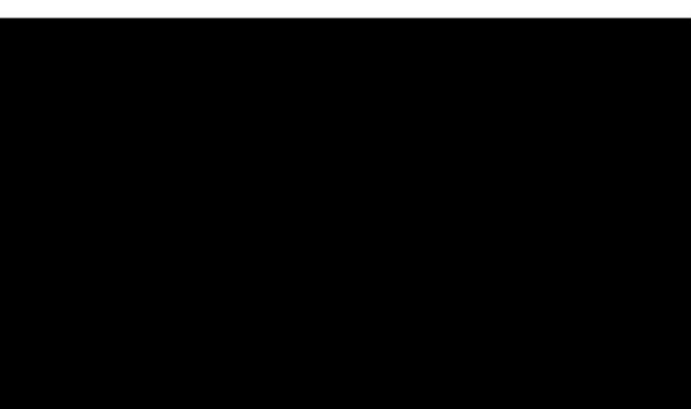


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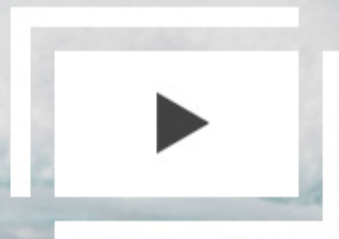
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JAMES STORM CAREW IN THE MIDST OF ALL THE ACTION
PHOTO YDWER VAN DER HEIDE



“ BEFORE EVERYONE PATS THEMSELVES ON THE BACK AT A JOB WELL DONE THERE ARE STILL A FEW CRUSHING ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE IRONED OUT. ”

If they manage to pull off the full roster of competitions on their site this year, then it could be the most impressive achievement in the sport at a competitive level, since perhaps the beginning. Good luck to them!

Unification makes it easier for kites to follow one tour and for one true World Champion to be crowned. Sadly in kiting, we have always seemingly struggled with this, rival tours like the KPWT and PKRA muddied the water in the early days. Since the death of the KPWT, the PKRA was king for a while, yet the format wasn't ideal, and a lot of the best riders in the world turned their backs on it.

Now it seems we have the events, have the formats largely dialled, and could well be on our way to the best year of competition the sport has ever seen.

Nonetheless, before everyone pats themselves on the back at a job well done there are still a few crushing issues that need to be ironed out. Namely the prize money and live streams, and I might not be about to say what you think I will...

Live streaming is excellent if you watch it, and I mean watch it from start to finish, not have someone drop in for five minutes and then tune out. The cost of live streaming is enormous, especially in some of the faraway places the events go to. It's a massive expense that perhaps doesn't offer a sound return on investment for the competition.

It seems for a few years it's all anyone cares about, and while I stand by events like the KOTA,

“ IF YOU LOOK AT THE OTHER EVENTS, THE LEVEL OF THE GIRLS IS OFF THE CHARTS.”

which have a waiting period and are only run when the wind is blowing, other events surely don't justify it. Kiting is small compared to surfing, there are far fewer participants. At the last best guess there were 35 million surfers in the world and around 250,000 kitesurfers. It's not rocket science to see that if the World Surf League struggles to get an ROI on its live stream, kiting doesn't have much of a chance either.

I think it was the KSP (Kitesurf Pro Tour) who first put a stake in the ground to run a live stream at every event. In the end, it pretty much killed them financially. Surely we should be learning from mistakes of the past and perhaps looking to put that money towards the prize fund. It's a massive chunk of cash and could make a big difference to the riders at the event, rather than letting a few thousand people watch a few minutes of footage.

I'd rather see a bigger prize pot across the board to help the riders and a slick 5-minute edit at the end of each day than a semi-watchable live stream and only a handful of riders rewarded for their efforts.

On the subject of prize money comes the issue of equality, the World Surf League made all prize funds equal last year for the men and women, and the GKA Strapless Tour in Brazil made the bold statement of making the prize fund equal.

I'm not sure the timing was right, or that it was the right discipline, the standard of riding between the top guys and girls at strapless freestyle is ridiculous. If you look at the other events, the level of the girls is off the charts. They have spent years training and working towards their goal. Watching Mikaili Sol throw down her bag of tricks is almost as impressive as watching Carlos Mario.

LOUKA PITOT SHOWING SOME SERIOUS SKILLS AT THE GKA FREESTYLE STOP IN CUMBUCO, BRAZIL
PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA





“ WE ALSO REFUSED TO RUN ONE OF OUR ADVERTISERS BRAND VIDEOS ON THIS BASIS, WHICH CAUSED A FEW DISTURBANCES IN THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM.”

Strapless Freestyle though, that’s a whole other ball game. While the guys have been training for years and are at a near Jedi level - OK so a few of them are already beyond that - the girls are miles behind. The contrast was so stark in Brazil, it was borderline embarrassing to watch.

I’m sure we can all agree the girls have to start somewhere though, and competition encourages progression, but does it really have to be live streamed at vast expense?

Are they just making the prize pot equal for the sake of it? Is it equality at any cost?

Before you all decide I’m some kind of misogynistic psychopath keen to earn the ire of the entire female kiting population, I’ll stop you. I’ve long been one of the biggest protagonists of women in our sport. We’ve had more women on more covers than anyone else put together. We have a dedicated female feature every issue, a female technique editor and testers and we employ more women than we do men within our publishing company as a whole.

Years ago I put a ban on our website for any kite videos that over-sexualised women in a negative manner by showcasing them as

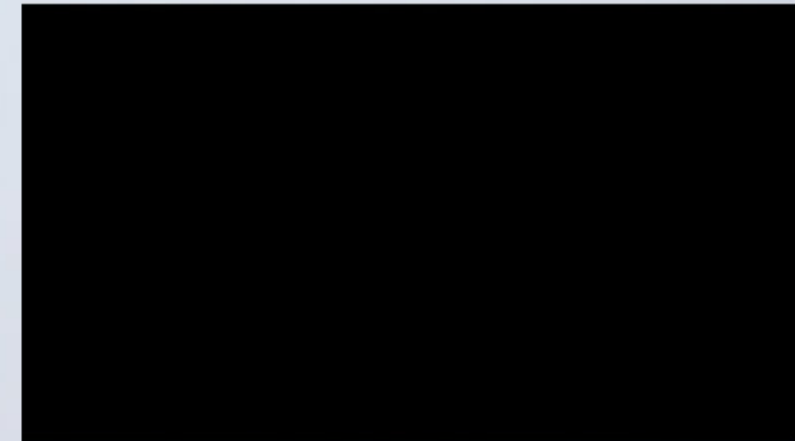
beach furniture rather than actual sportspeople. We also refused to run one of our advertisers brand videos on this basis, which caused a few disturbances in the space-time continuum.

Women are awesome, and they make phenomenal kitesurfers. The list of incredible female athletes over the years is a long one: Kristin Boese, Gisela Pulido, Bruna Kajiya, Jalou Langeree, Karolina Winkowska, Steph Bridge, to name just over a handful. Do women deserve an equal share of the prize pot? 100%. Don’t get me wrong, I support that.

Kudos to the GKA for making that statement last year and I really hope it continues across all kite competitions in the future. The girls have the same costs to get to the events, put the same amount of effort into the training and take the same risks too.



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CAMILLE DELANNOY WARMING UP IN POINT DANGER
TORQUAY BEFORE THE EVENT
PHOTO YDWER VAN DER HEIDE



“ WE NEED TO SEE RISING NUMBERS OF GIRLS AT EVENTS, AND A SURE FIRE WAY TO ENCOURAGE THAT IS EQUAL PRIZE MONEY, SO WE ARE OFF TO A GOOD START.”

We should be losing this idea of gender and treating each other as equals. After all, it is 2019!

However, at some competitions do the girls have easier access to that prize fund than the guys, is that fair? If five girls enter an event and thirty guys enter, it's going to be really hard for the guys to get anything, especially if the spread of the prize fund goes down to the first eight or ten riders. All the girls will get paid something regardless of skill level or the result, while twenty guys will leave empty-handed and perhaps be forgiven for asking if that is fair.

Can the girls help it if less women compete? Is it their fault if only five girls show up to the event? Of course, it isn't.

Kiteboarding is changing as a sport, what used to be a male-dominated affair is seeing the girls take over. In Europe sometimes I'll see more girls than guys on the water; I could never even have imagined that back in 2000!

What we need to be doing is inspiring women to compete, to believe in themselves and to take part. We need to see rising numbers of girls at events, and a sure fire way to encourage that is equal prize money, so we are off to a good start. But how do we make things better?

Firstly, let's lose the obsession with live streaming except for huge events like the KOTA or a few special events where we are almost guaranteed epic conditions, and the chances of a good show justify the cost.





“ WHEN THE BEST RIDERS IN THE WORLD KEEP DROPPING OUT OF THE COMPETITION SCENE YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF WHERE THE INCENTIVE HAS GONE. ”

Instead, let's get back to the end-of-day 5-10 minute video round ups that people can watch and share. Showcase the meat and bones of it, like we used to, thereby reducing the costs considerably and getting the show to a larger number of people.

With the extra money that creates, there can then be an increase in the prize money for ALL the riders at the events, to ensure they all feel like it's worth the effort to keep pushing the top level of the sport. Let's see the prize pot distributed further down the ranks too, so more riders get at least something for their efforts. When the best riders in the world keep dropping out of the competition scene you have to ask yourself where the incentive has gone.

Women should earn the same because they deserve it, because they are badass, and have spent years training their butts off. Let's use some of that live stream cash to fund coaching camps so they can continue to improve their level, and to encourage more women to compete.



TRIAD

THE **RIGHT**
KITE FOR 99%



TRIAD SIZES 4-12, 14
ALL-AROUND FREERIDE

Effortless sheet-in-and-go power, intuitive steering and easy relaunch makes the Triad the perfect kite to progress with. A 3-strut frame with center luff-strut provides forgiving control in gusty conditions. All this, in combination with Quad-Tex, the strongest canopy material on the market, makes the Triad undoubtedly the right kite for 99% of the world's population.

NAISH



MOOREA A TAHITIAN DREAM

Many people dream of visiting Tahiti, especially ocean lovers, kitesurfers, surfers and sailors and it is easy to see why. Tahiti and its 118 islands, atolls and motus (Polynesian reef islet with vegetation), are carved and cradled by the trade winds creating an endless playground. If I could give you one piece of advice, it would be never to set foot there; you'll never want to leave!

WORDS CHARLOTTE CONSORTI
PHOTOS BRUNO DUBOSQ/CHARLOTTE CONSORTI



“MY DREAM, EVEN THOUGH SLIGHTLY ALTERED, WAS BECOMING A REALITY AND I WAS OFF, FOR THE LONGEST JOURNEY I'D EVER ENDURED!”

French Polynesia is an overseas collective of the French Republic and the only overseas country of France covering an area as large as Europe. Going kitesurfing in Tahiti had been nothing but a dream of mine for a long time, and it appeared to be nearly impossible, mainly due to the costs that a trip like that would entail.

With airline tickets costing over 2000 euros, it was way over for my budget! When I heard about the new low-cost company 'French Bee' that had started flights between France and Tahiti, I immediately got my hopes up! I instantly contacted Sacha, a friend of mine who lived there, and told him I was coming.

He continually emphasised that September was the best month to visit in terms of reliable wind, less rain and frequent whales sightings. I tried to book flights and accommodation, but apparently, I wasn't the only one keen to visit Tahiti! Everything was overbooked for the next six months to a year; I was devastated. While browsing for an equally exciting destination, I came across Moorea.

Located only 40 minutes by ferry from Tahiti, Moorea is known as Tahiti's sister island. I booked a small bungalow directly on 'Les Tipaniers' that seemed to be the best spot on the island for kitesurfing, with one of the most beautiful beaches. My dream, even though slightly altered, was becoming a reality and I was off, for the longest journey I'd ever endured!



COLLECTION
COLLECTION

NEOP RENE

20
19

58'13"-18.3"-N 6'58"-10.8"-W



If you're looking for lightness & flexibility, this is the wetsuit you need.



METEOR X10D HYBRID

It's very frustrating to be cold when riding in a warm place. That is why we designed our HYBRID to be warm, it is packed with the same technologies as a 3.2mm steamer: we basically just cut the legs.

STAY
SALTY





“THE ATMOSPHERE CHANGED COMPLETELY, EVERYTHING SEEMED TO CALM DOWN, AND A SUDDEN SENSE OF TRANQUILLITY CAME OVER ME.”

The journey from Paris to Tahiti took over 22 hours, with a short 1-hour stopover in San Francisco, which allowed us to stretch our legs for a little bit. The trip went smoothly, without any problems. I surprisingly found it less tiring than flights I would usually take with several stops. I took the time to set my mind right for this trip, and watched the fascinating cartoon 'Vaiana' that tells the story of a Tahitian princess; I couldn't wait to get there!

My boyfriend, Bruno and I arrived at Fa'a airport at night, so it was not the scenery that captivated us, but the way the locals welcomed us! If you've ever been to an airport at 4:00 AM, you'll understand what I mean when I say I expected everything to be closed, but not Tahiti airport!

We were greeted by musicians, playing their ukuleles, dancers dressed in pareos, pearl necklaces and flower crowns, with beautiful smiles on their faces, we were awe-struck. Once we got our suitcases, we went to the arrivals hall, and the smell of flower crowns was overwhelming. Their custom is to offer a wreath of flowers on arrival and a crown of shells when you leave.

We rented a car from the airport to catch the ferry to Moorea. Even though the road was reasonably straightforward, we still managed to get lost and somehow drove in the opposite direction. After all, it was 4:00 AM, and we had been travelling for almost a whole day. There was a lot of traffic, honks, and yes, even in paradise, the city is hectic. We eventually got to the harbour and caught the ferry.

As soon as we arrived at Moorea, the atmosphere changed completely, everything seemed to calm down, and a sudden sense of tranquillity came over me. The most striking thing when you arrive at Moorea is its wild and majestic appearance, worthy of a film set! It is a high volcanic island, surrounded by a lagoon and the island is well preserved from urbanisation compared to Tahiti.



This time, there would be no problems getting lost; there is only one 60 km road that goes around the island. Whether we chose left or right, it wouldn't matter, we'd reach Les Tipaniers eventually!

We had rented a small bungalow on a private estate. The setting was beautiful, with twenty bungalows in the middle of vegetation and the beach 100 metres away. The beach was tiny and had just enough space to lay out the kite lines and inflate one or two kites. It was a little sheltered from the wind, so you had to step into the lagoon to launch.

There was a channel reserved for kites to get away from the shoreline. We noticed a sign at the beach that explained all the different zones and local rules and regulations. Kitesurfing had recently been banned at the spot, and that's why zones were created. It was a family-oriented beach; it was indeed ideal because the water was shallow and there was little coral.

“ THE BEACH WAS TINY AND HAD JUST ENOUGH SPACE TO LAY OUT THE KITE LINES AND INFLATE ONE OR TWO KITES.”

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BRONO
BACKSPACER
Shinn **CRB-5**

“ YOU COULD START KITING IN THE LAGOON, WHICH IS A VAST PLAYGROUND WITH FLAT AREAS AND EVEN SOME WAVES FURTHER UPWIND. ”

Once you are far enough from the beach, you could start kiting in the lagoon, which is a vast playground with flat areas and even some waves further upwind. A channel separated the spot where there was a lot of traffic, jet ski's, boats and currents.

The wind rarely came through in the morning, and this was the perfect time to go swimming with rays and sharks. Every morning we went kayaking to see them, and it was incredible! I have to admit, I didn't feel comfortable at first, but I relaxed eventually. We spent a week on this little slice of paradise, kitesurfing and kayaking in the lagoon.

As this beach was located on the Northern side, it allowed us to watch the sunset to the right and sunrise to the left. Everything was perfect, except for the rooster that lived there! This rooster had no notion of dawn, and I'm pretty sure he was blind too, as he would start crowing at 2:00 AM, daily, and wake us all up!

We met Caro and PF, a couple of kitesurfers who had just settled on the island and they invited us to stay at their home; the mana that saved us! We moved to the other side of the island next to Temae Beach; it was a long beach of white sand lined with coconut groves and is one of three public beaches. On weekends, all the locals got together and have a massive barbecue.

The beach is not very wide, but the onshore winds meant you could launch comfortably, but keep an eye out for the palm trees just behind you! It rained often, but the wind was much stronger. We could still get in some short sessions between the heavy rainstorms.





“WE ARRIVED AT THE BEACH WHERE WE WOULD BE ABLE TO KITE; THE LANDSCAPE WAS BREATHTAKING; IT LOOKED LIKE A POSTCARD!”

The life and choices of Caro and PF were genuinely inspiring, and their children emitted happiness, there's nothing better than coming home from school to go fishing or body boarding. We cherished the moments we shared with them; this is why I love travelling and meeting memorable people like this!

We planned to end our trip on the island of Tetiaora, which was a few hours by boat from Tahiti. It is shaped like a ring and made of coral reefs. This reef has no safe access to the inner lagoon as it has no passes. So we anchored on the outside and had to carefully manoeuvre the boat with extreme caution to cross the coral reef, timing it with a wave, perfectly.

We then walked around the island surrounded by a jungle of palm trees. On our way, our guide caught a huge coconut crab, which was very impressive. He released it back into the wilderness, of course, as they are rare and not spotted often. We finally saw a light at the end of the tunnel, the exit from the jungle!

We arrived at the beach where we would be able to kite; the landscape was breathtaking; it looked like a postcard! Home to one of the largest bird colonies in Polynesia, where white terns, brown seagulls, frigates, Straw-tailed and crested terns rubbed shoulders. Several places were forbidden to avoid disturbing them, and we had to keep an eye out not to get too close while kitesurfing.

We were lucky, and the wind blew nonstop at more than 20 knots during the two days that we were there.



While the rest of the group explored on foot, we explored this paradise on our kites. Multiple spots with shallow, crystal clear, small sharks, rays and turtles went past under the board; it was a kitesurfing paradise!

On our way back, the waves were massive, and the boat was facing the wind. I decided to shelter myself in one of the cabins, but everybody else that was on deck got soaked from head to toe and extremely seasick!

We spent our last night at Sacha's place in Tahiti. The goodbye wasn't as difficult as I expected it would be because I know that I'm coming back next year to discover another new island!

**“ THE GOODBYE
WASN'T AS
DIFFICULT AS I
EXPECTED IT
WOULD BE
BECAUSE I KNOW
THAT I'M COMING
BACK NEXT YEAR ”**



SMOOTHY

- ANHEDRAL DUAL CONCAVE
- X-TORSION CARBON REINFORCED
- PAULOWNIA WOOD CORE
- PROFILED RAIL



130 x 30 133 x 40 136 x 41 139 x 42 145 x 45



142 x 43



“ MAKE SURE YOU TAKE ALL KITES BECAUSE THE WIND FLUCTUATES FREQUENTLY.”

TIPS FOR YOUR TRIP

How To Get There

Company: French Bee

Flight: Paris/San Francisco/Tahiti

Duration: 22 hours

Budget: About 1000 euros

<https://www.frenchbee.com/fr/destinations/tahiti>

To Get From Tahiti to Moorea

There are two ferry companies. They have

similar fares and the same journey times. The Teveau ferry is smaller so gets full more often.

Budget: 1500 XPF/per person one-way plus 4330 XPF per car each way

Duration: 30/40 minutes

<http://www.aremityi.pf>

<https://www.terevau.pf>

It is advisable to book if you take the ferry by car during high season (weekends and school holidays)

When To Go

Moorea has a tropical and warm climate with two seasons:

The southern winter from April to October with less rain and ideal temperature, and the summer from November to March which is very wet, humid with heavy rains. The best period for the wind is between June and September. Make sure you take all kites because the wind fluctuates frequently.

Where To Stay

Bungalow rentals in Les Tipaniers

<http://domlopolynesie.com>,
locationbungalow@yahoo.fr

Budget: 9000 XPF for a small bungalow per night, or 75 euros

If you prefer staying at a hotel, you have the Hotel des Tipaniers 100 m away that also has restaurants and bars.

**“ THERE IS NO NEED TO WITHDRAW A LOT OF CASH
BECAUSE YOU USE YOUR BANK CARD EVERYWHERE ”**

Where To Eat

My favourite was the Mahana snack, mainly for the setting overlooking the lagoon and the value for money. Their raw fish with coconut milk is a delight! I advise you to arrive early (before noon) or to book in advance as it was often full.

Currency

The currency used in Tahiti and its islands is the Change Franc Pacifique CFP or international abbreviation: XPF. It has a fixed exchange rate with the euro (100 XPF = 0.838 euros)

There is no need to withdraw a lot of cash because you use your bank card everywhere.

Time Zone Differences

Polynesia is at 10 am GMT, a time difference of -12 hours in the summer and -11 hours in the winter. It is therefore quite simple to calculate the difference; when it is midnight in France, it is midday in Tahiti.

Electricity

Electricity is 220 volts and 60 Hertz. The sockets are identical to those found in France.

Language

The official language of French Polynesia is French. The entire population understands it, is the first language taught in schools. However, on some more remote islands, the inhabitants may have minimal practice. Tahitian is the majority language of the Society Islands and is officially recognised as a regional language.





“ EU CITIZENS MUST HAVE AN EPASSPORT AND APPLY FOR AN ESTA TRAVEL AUTHORISATION IN ADVANCE. ”

The Basics

Hello: Ia ora na, Goodbye: Nana and
Thank you: Mauruuru

Car Hire

I strongly advise you to rent a car. No need for a 4X4, a small car is sufficient to access the different kitesurfing spots, and all international driving licenses are recognised there.

Phone and Internet

I recommend you to buy a local sim card

when you arrive. There are two operators - Vini, the leading operator and more recently Vodafone. I was advised to use Vini because it gets a better signal everywhere. I bought a card at 6000 XPF or 50 euros, which gave 2 GB of data and 30 minutes of calls. You can find prepaid cards everywhere, and all you need an ID, and there is no contract so no need to give your bank details.

Formalities and Visas

An overseas department of the French Republic, French Polynesia is part of France, but not of the Schengen Area. For French citizens, as for other European Union nationals, an identity card is not enough; you must have a passport, which allows a

stay less than three months.

To enter French Polynesia, you will need to transit in a country that requires a passport. Some travellers to Polynesia will also pass through an airport in the United States. To do this, EU citizens must have an ePassport and apply for an ESTA travel authorisation in advance. This request must be made at least 72 hours before the departure date. Non-French EU citizens and nationals of the Swiss Confederation must apply for a visa for a stay longer than three months. Canadian citizens can stay one month without a visa. For other foreign nationals, access to French Polynesia is only possible through a Schengen visa, bearing the special mention (valid for French Polynesia) to be expressly requested from an embassy of France or a prefecture in the French territory.

LEN10

MAJESTIC X HARNESS

MYSTIC

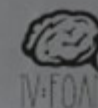
#BREAKBOUNDARIES



RIDER: RUBEN LENTEN

BIONIC
CORE
FRAME

NONSLIP
EVAMOULD



KEYPOCKET

BATTLEBELT
CLOSURE

4
POINT
WEBBING

The LEN10 Majestic X hard-shell harness is developed together with legend Ruben Lenten. It's built around the stiff and lightweight Bionic Core Frame, featuring an unequalled carbon construction! The specific placement of the fibers allows a frame that is extremely stiff, while maintaining the flex diagonally. The LEN10 Majestic X is the most advanced harness in our range, the quickdry Flaremesh lining on the inside gives extra insulation and a soft touch for riding without a wetsuit.

MYSTICBOARDING.COM

Rou Chater heads to Cape Town after a five-year leave of absence, and asked the question
is it really all it's cracked up to be as a winter destination?

CAPE TOWN CONFIDENTIAL



WORDS ROU CHATER PHOTO YDWER VAN DER HEIDE

“ EATING LUNCH WAS A ROYAL PAIN IN THE ASS AS YOUR BURGER BUN WENT FLYING THE MINUTE YOU TOOK YOUR EYE OFF IT.”

KEVIN LANGEREE ON HIS WAY TO THE WIN AT THE KOTAI
PHOTO ROU CHATER

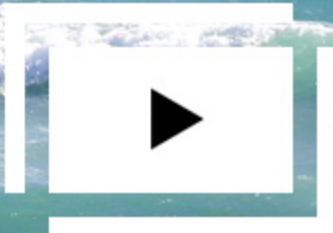
Cape Town was arguably on the kiteboarding map since before the sport was even born, some kites have been going there every winter for twenty years, which is pretty nuts when you think about it. A lot has changed over the years and after visiting in 2014 and deciding the internet was too slow, and the wind was too, errr, well, windy, Rou decided to make a return visit to see what the fuss was about.

OK so cards on the table here, when I first went to Cape Town in 2014 I wasn't really smitten, I loved the location, I loved the food, the vibrant city and Table Mountain. The wine, Franschhoek and Stellenbosch, the laid back vibes of Langebaan and the relatively low cost of living to the UK. These were huge selling points that I fell in love with.

However, there were two massive issues for me. As a wave kiter I found when it was windy, you would head to the beach and find 9m weather, pump up a 9 and head out only to find in thirty minutes it was 6m weather. By the time you pumped your 6, it was now nuking, and you'd have a small window of fun wave riding before it became pure survival.

The waves were generally blown out, and choppy and eating lunch was a royal pain in the ass as your burger bun went flying the minute you took your eye off it. The Cape Doctor is a cruel mistress, the very reason this place is so good for kites is also the reason it isn't. Or is it.

In recent years, arguably since the popularity of the King Of The Air Cape Town has become THE Mecca for kiteboarders from the northern hemisphere looking for a great spot to ride in the sunshine.





THE LAGOON AT LANGEBAAN IS A MUST VISIT SPOT FOR ANY TRAVELLING KITER.
PHOTO ROB CLAISSE

Drive down the main drag at Table View when the wind is blowing, and you'll see not hundreds, but arguably over a thousand kites out.

So what gives, why is a location I struggled to bond with so popular, and why do people flock here in their droves. I'd wager it's because kiteboarding has changed, sure kites have been coming here for years, but not in numbers like this. These days with the devices like the WOO and events like KOTA putting big air firmly back on the map the nuking winds of Cape Town that made my sessions so hectic have now become "a la mode" for the travelling kiter.

"KITERS HAVE BEEN COMING HERE FOR YEARS, BUT NOT IN NUMBERS LIKE THIS."

Eleveight 

CURL

PERFORMANCE SURFBOARDS

The Curl was designed with a clear aim – a kitesurf board that comes with enhanced durability while delivering outstanding flex and performance.

Hand Shaped By Eleveight

Made in Portugal



DIMENSION	VOLUME	RIDER WEIGHT	RECOMMENDED FIN / SIZE	BOARD WEIGH IN KG
57 x 17.5/8 x 2	23 Ltr	60 - 85 kg	HPF / MED THRUSTER	2.7
5'10 x 19 x 2.14	26.5 Ltr	75 - 90+	HPF / MED THRUSTER	2.85



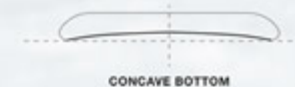
Medium Rocker
 . Perfect lift/drag ratio for enhanced control in steep waves
 . Tight turning radius



Thin Rail Profile
 . Good rail control in bottom and top turns
 . Perfect grip in fast and bigger surf



Mini Squash Tail
 . Well balanced for sharp snaps and carving turns
 . Quick rail to rail transitions



Single Concave
 . Added grip for riding down steep faces and carving hard turns
 . Speed and drive through turns and flats

JANEK GRZEGORZEWSKI WITH HIS SIGNATURE KITELOOP BOARD
OFF SOMEWHERE UP IN THE STRATOSPHERE!
PHOTO ROU CHATER



“ IF I WAS GOING TO BE STUCK ON A BEACH, IT MIGHT AS WELL BE ONE WHERE I’M NOT GOING TO FEEL LIKE I’M MISSING OUT TOO MUCH! ”

Where I found winds that were just too much to have any real fun on a surfboard, the need to fly has suddenly made Cape Town a hugely compelling destination. This year I decided to go because I couldn’t kite, I’m still recovering from my horror MTB crash, and after nearly 8 months I still can’t do much other than hobble. I figured if I was going to be stuck on a beach, it might as well be one where I’m not going to feel like I’m missing out too much!

Arriving at the airport felt like familiar territory, right up until they nearly didn’t let me in as I didn’t have a South African passport. I was born in Margate in the UK, turns out there is a Margate in South Africa too, and the immigration lady wasn’t having a bar of it. She insisted that to come to the country I had to use my South African passport which of course I don’t have. Luckily her supervisor put her straight, and after a brief moment of worry, I was back in the motherland.

One of the great things about Cape Town is the short transfer from the airport, it’s about 30 to 45 minutes to get to the beach, meaning that depending on your arrival time

you can get a cheeky session in if the wind is on. I’m always a big fan of short transfers, especially after a long flight. I’d kind of screwed this trip up as I flew from NYC on the red-eye to London, then literally had a few hours to swap bags and luggage and jump on another red-eye to Cape Town. I arrived having not laid down flat for over 48 hours. The short transfer was a godsend!

I’d booked an Airbnb in the thick of it, just down the road from Carlucci’s, the infamous cafe made famous by Nick Jacobsen reading the menu and eating a sandwich from the top of THAT crane jump. Accommodation in Cape Town is plentiful, and there are lots of options from hotels, appts and houses and even some sheds you can sleep in.

LIAM WHALEY IS ALWAYS STYLISH TO WATCH!
PHOTO ROU CHATER



“ MY THOUGHTS HAD BEEN TO STAY CLOSE TO THE BEACH AND THE BARS SO I WAS IN THE THICK OF THE ACTION AND COULD WALK HOME AT NIGHT. ”

Lewis Crathern can attest to how good they are! My thoughts had been to stay close to the beach and the bars so I was in the thick of the action and could walk home at night.

Turns out walking home at night isn't the most sensible thing to do and a drunken man with a limp is easy prey for the hyenas. First night out and the iPhone and watch were gone, luckily I managed to tussle with the three guys and keep my wallet. I'd been lulled, foolishly, into a false sense of security. Table View had changed a fair bit since I was last there, it looked so modern and fresh, sadly the crime levels in South Africa haven't really improved. Streetwise is the key here, also Uber.

If you can avoid it, don't walk anywhere on your own at night, and these days with Uber you can ride anywhere for hardly any cash, the drivers are pretty good, and it's certainly safer than walking, but keep your wits about you regardless. The Uber service is so good that it actually opens up where you can stay, really the whole area is your oyster as with Uber you can quickly get to wherever you need to be.

Unfortunately this year the wind wasn't really doing its usual thing, which was a shame as I'd come to shoot kites and enjoy some of the action from the beach. When Table View isn't working though, if you put the miles in you can always find a spot somewhere. Local guru Luke McGilliwie reckoned he rode every day this year, it was all just about getting off the beaten track and wanting it enough.



CLIMBING UP TABLE MOUNTAIN OR THE LIONS HEAD SHOULD BE ON YOUR TO DO LIST!
PHOTO ROSE BUNGENER

For the crew who came to ride Kitebeach and Big Bay, it was few and far between, unless you were on a foil and could snatch the wind when it arrived and get in before it went.

One of the highlights of Cape Town though is just how much awesome stuff that is on your doorstep. It's like sticking a mega city such as London next to a killer kite spot, except the food is better, the weather is warmer, and there is more to do!

On no wind days, you can head up to the wake park, scale Table Mountain or Lions Head, take a trip to a winery and eat posh nosh and sup fine grape juice. Heck, you can go skydiving, learn to paraglide, ride dirt bikes through the sand, enjoy the scenery in Camps Bay the list is really endless. If you ever have a dull moment here, it's because you are dull, Cape Town always delivers the goods.

" THE FOOD IS BETTER, THE WEATHER IS WARMER, AND THERE IS MORE TO DO! "

RIDEENGINE

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FUTURA SURF FOIL



FUTURA SURF PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- + 61 CM MAST
- + MANTA 76 FRONT WING
- + 42 CM REAR WING
- + PEDESTAL MOUNT
- + FUSELAGE
- + ALL HARDWARE
- + CUSTOM TRAVEL BAG

“ THE BEST BET IS TO TIME YOUR SESSIONS, GET OUT EARLY OR LATE, AVOID THE PEAK PERIODS AND YOU CAN BE BLESSED WITH THE WHOLE OF KITE BEACH TO YOURSELF .”

The season runs from November to late April, with the prime wind months considered to be December, January and February. The King OF The Air kicks off at the end of January, usually, and the waiting period lasts for two weeks. There is a conundrum here, it's right in the windy period, and the event is a sight to behold, you would definitely want to watch it given half a chance.

However, it's when Table View is at it's busiest. Currently, there are no air traffic controllers, and it's like a zoo on the water. People don't look, they get excited and send it regardless, and it's more hectic than Steve Irwin wrestling stingrays. I can honestly say that during this period there wasn't a single time I looked longingly at the chaos and thought, "damn I wish I was out there". It's crazy town.

The best bet is to time your sessions, get out early or late, avoid the peak periods and you can be blessed with the whole of kite beach to yourself. You can also ride upwind or downwind of the main launch spots and away from the madding crowds. Or drive further upwind or downwind and ride away from the masses at Kite Beach and Big Bay.

There are sessions to be had, you just have to put the effort in to go and find them.

This article wouldn't be complete without a mention of the King Of The Air. It's a huge draw for anyone coming to Cape Town. The event is as slick as they come and despite a few issues here and there from a spectator point of view, it is incredible.

ROB CLAISSE FOILING IN THE LAGOON AT LANGEBAANI
PHOTO ROB CLAISSE





“ IF YOU WANT A QUIET SESSION, HEAD OUT DURING THE EVENT, A FEW GUYS SCORED THE SESSION OF THE YEAR JUST DOWNWIND OF THE EVENT SITE! ”

It's one thing to watch the live stream and another to be there in the flesh. That said watching it from the comfort of a bar in the Caribbean with a beer in hand has its appeal over being sandblasted.

Fortunately this year the wind wasn't super strong, 25-35knots at its peak, 20-30knots average. This meant people could stand on the beach and enjoy the action. When it gets windy here the course sand blows with such ferocity it can strip the flesh off a man faster

than a pack of hungry Hollywood piranhas will go through a blonde chick in a bikini.

The only downside to the KOTA is it does draw the crowds for that two week waiting period so the water is at it's busiest those weeks. Mind you, if you want a quiet session, head out during the event, a few guys scored the session of the year just downwind of the event site! It's very rare there are only a handful of riders out there at 3pm!

Another point to note about the KOTA is that everyone who is anyone in the sport of kiteboarding is here. We're not just talking pro riders, and there are plenty of those if you fancy rubbing shoulders on the beach

with Aaron Hadlow, Nick Jacobsen, Ruben Lenten and Jesse Richman et al.. Most of the brands have a major presence here too, designers, brand managers, marketing gurus, even owners all flock to the beaches of Table View for the King Of The Air.

It's a great time to do some business as everyone is in this tiny microcosm which makes it very easy to press some flesh and get serious work done. This, of course, leads to another fantastic aspect of Cape Town, the social side. Even outside of the KOTA waiting period there is always something to do in the evenings.

Whether that's enjoying a beer at sunset at Pakalolo's (aka Poke A Local if you are in the know) or head to Camps Bay for a Sunday Session at Club Caprice.

ROSS DILLON PLAYER SETTING HIS PHASERS TO SEND AND
POSTING THE NEWS ALL OVER TABLE VIEW.
PHOTO ROU CHATER



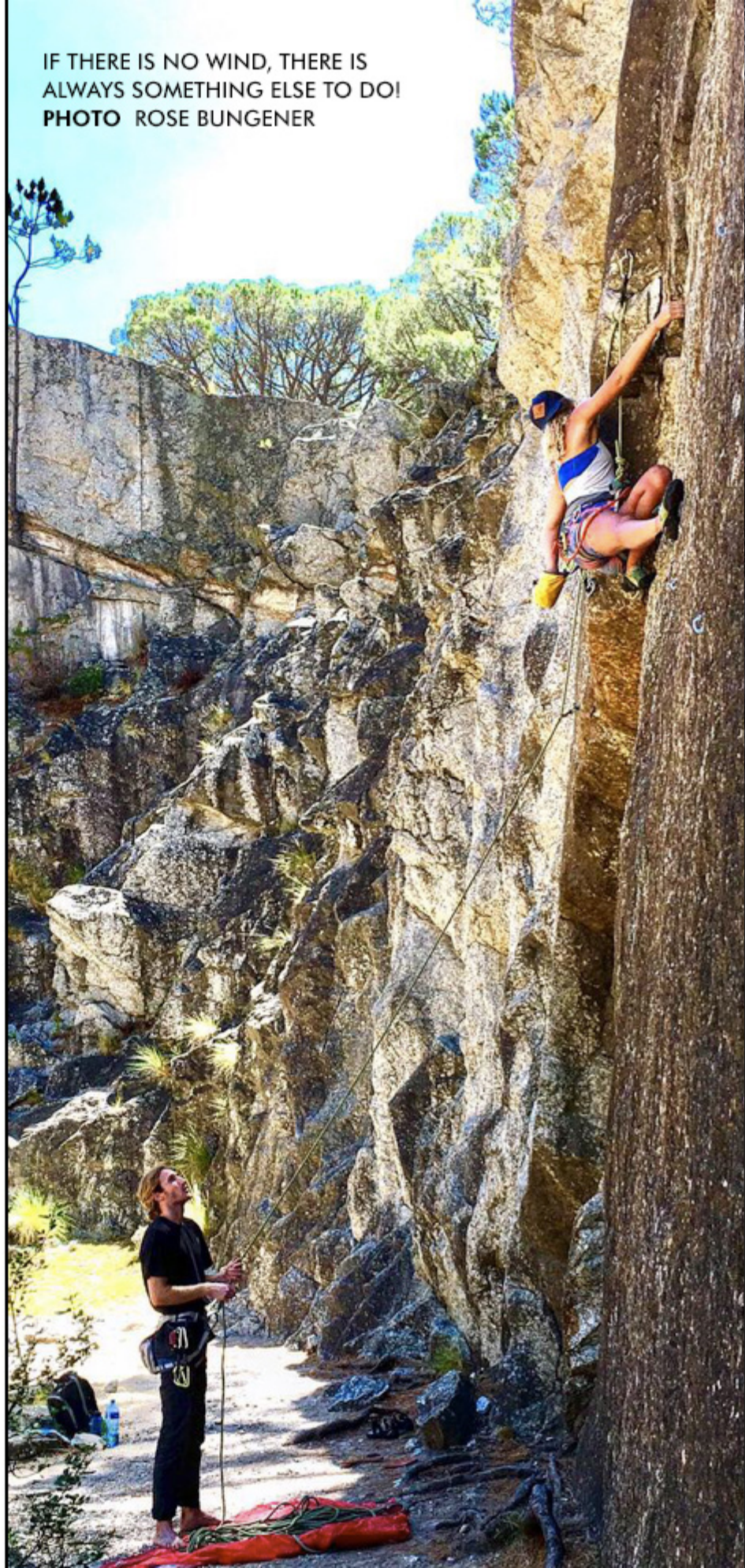
" IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO KITE IN THE
WINTER WHERE YOU CAN MEET PEOPLE AND MAKE
NEW FRIENDS, CAPE TOWN IS HIGH ON THE LIST. "

“ THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO AND USUALLY SOME FUN LIKE-MINDED SOULS TO DO IT WITH TOO. ”

The bars and clubs are usually full of likeminded people, and if you stay in the Table View area, then there is a good chance most of them are kilters.

If you are looking for a place to kite in the winter where you can meet people and make new friends, Cape Town is high on the list. If you are single then the Tinder game is strong too, I'm not speaking from experience here, but word travels fast on the CT grapevine. On the water and off it there is always something to do and usually some fun like-minded souls to do it with too.

IF THERE IS NO WIND, THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING ELSE TO DO!
PHOTO ROSE BUNGENER



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“ IF YOU ARE DOWN FOR AN ADVENTURE YOU COULD RIDE A DIFFERENT SPOT ALMOST EVERY DAY OF THE SEASON!”

AIRTON COZZOLINO TUCKS INTO SOME SHADE
AT SCARBOROUGH.
PHOTO CRAIG COLESKY

A lot of regulars swear by coming to Cape Town towards the beginning or end of the season, the water is quieter, and the wind can still be fantastic, although the Cape Doctor was a bit of a dud this winter, which means the odds of it being all killer and no filler are on for next year.

Of course, it isn't just about Kite Beach and Big Bay, to the north, you have the lagoon of Langebaan and the famous Shark Bay which is often a favourite haunt of foilers and beginners alike. To the south you have the wave spots of Scarborough and Witsand, further around the coast, you will find the lagoons at Hermanus. There are hundreds of places to kite here, and if you are down for an adventure you could ride a different spot almost every day of the season!

It would be wrong of me to talk about Cape Town without a mention to the food, the fish and meat are some of the best you will ever eat. From Braai's in the garden to steak and fish restaurants along the coast and even the produce in the supermarket, you'll be impressed. As a wounded person who was just here for the steak and beer the spot certainly delivered on that front.

Ultimately though did it win over my heart from 2014, that's debatable. Undoubtedly people love this place, and I do too, I think I need to go back next year when I can ride again and make a further judgement on the kiting, If you want pretty much guaranteed wind at this time of year with sunshine it is hard to beat. However, the icy cold water and IMHO sub-par wave conditions don't win it over for me.



COVER STAR EWAN JASPAN WITH PERHAPS THE
LARGEST SEATBELT GRAB KITE LOOP EVER...
PHOTO ROU CHATER



“ THERE IS A REASON THIS PLACE HOLDS ALL
THE RECORDS AND THE BIGGEST EVENT ON
THE KITEBOARDING CALENDAR. ”

I know people are going to slate me for saying that, it's just that when you've ridden some of the best places on the planet, it's hard not to compare it. Yes it's great for boosting, yes the waves can be amazing, and the wind can be OK for waveriding, essentially though, this is a hang time paradise, it's unbeaten in that respect. If boosting massive airs is your thing, then this is the place to be, make no mistake. The cold heavy air delivers an extra punch to your jumps, and there is a reason this place holds all the records and the biggest event on the kiteboarding calendar.

That's just not me though, I love getting high as much as the next person, and Cape Town will always have a special place in my heart. I'll be back next year to get lynched for saying this... the kiting here just doesn't do it for me, although that was probably a good thing, spending six weeks there and not being able to ride would have been torture otherwise!



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WORDS & PHOTOS CHRISTIAN & KARINE

Having recently returned from a clinic with waves, experiencing all the challenges and fun which they present, we thought it was time to give you a guiding hand to best enjoy the playground that a moving sea offers. First off, a walk through the somewhat unfashionable, but by all means essential art of walking into the sea and body dragging out past the shorebreak. This is a must for any twin tipper or surfboard riders. Following on from that we tackle the next hurdle that the sea bestows on us, white water. It can be taxing on a twin tip and downright intimidating and exhausting when riding strapless. However, with the right technique it'll soon become a doddle. And finally we finish off with the help of Heliarde and the next step in your freestyle education – welcome to the Double Hinterburger Mobe, 2 back rolls before a late mobe. As always, enjoy the learning! C&K and Heliarde.

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KARINE AND CHRISTIAN



HELIARDE

BODY DRAGGING PAST THE SHOREBREAK



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

HOW TO GET OUT, OVER AND THROUGH THE WHITE WATER



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

DOUBLE HINTERBURGER MOBE



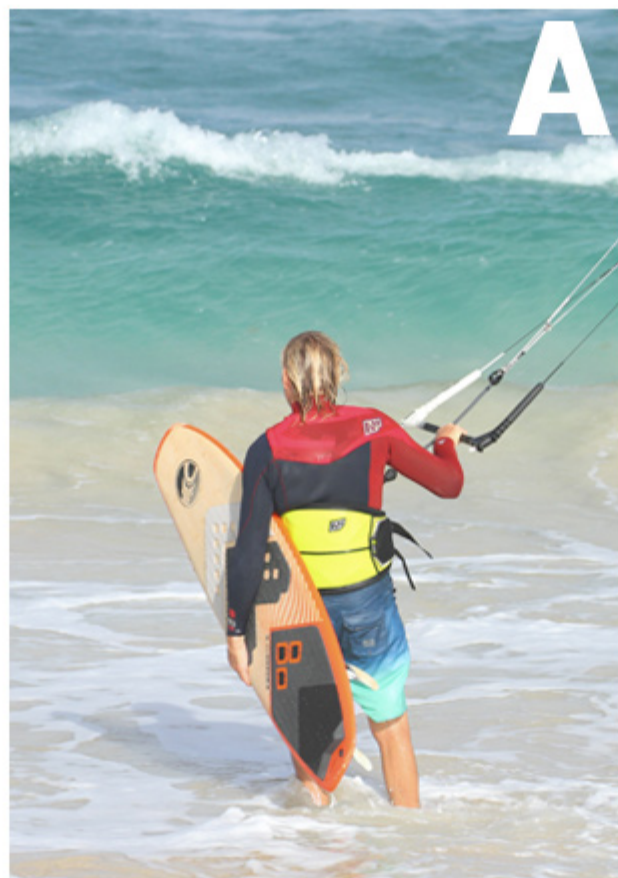
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BODY DRAGGING PAST THE SHOREBREAK >

Unless you're Olympic quick at beach starting and an absolute legend at getting over waves, body dragging out to calmer waters is never a bad idea, regardless whether you're on a twin tip or a surfboard. So often one witnesses frustrated kites who are constantly getting washed back up the beach, getting knocked off their boards before they've managed to water start, or being wiped out by a sandy coloured wave just metres from the shore.

To be honest we've all been there. Many years back there was a memorable BKSA competition in Brighton, where many heats were won by those who managed to get out and actually compete. Those who did, did so by swallowing their pride and dragging out. Dragging 10 or 20 metres off shore may not be the height of cool, which may prevent many from doing it, but neither is the unevenly matched, energy sapping and potentially kite and body breaking game of ping-pong between yourself and the rather more skilled and capable shore break! The great news is that if you can body drag upwind you can body drag away from the beach...

Before we crack on it is worth pondering one incontrovertible truth. If the wind is blowing directly onshore, you may well struggle. It's just the nature of the beast. In this case you're best to look for another part of the beach or a different beach where the wind has a little cross in the on.



In our example here, we have cross-on wind, blowing from left to right across the photos and a small but still skilful shore break with calmer water about 15 metres out.

The Same Way Pic A.

It's always best to state the obvious which is oft forgotten. If Christian had lost his board, then walked up the beach to body drag back out to it, he would of course control the kite with his back hand and use his front arm for resistance. When you have a board the principles remain very much the same. However, many kites will prefer to carry the board out under their back arm, in the belief, quite correctly, that the board will not end up between themselves and the waves and therefore they're less likely to get clobbered by it.

However there comes a time when you need to switch hands, and this is the time when it all too often goes pear shaped. You can happily hold the board with your front arm, control the kite with your back hand, and remain out of harm's way if you walk into the water facing forwards, rather than crabbing sideways. This has the added bonus of giving you a good view of what is coming, so that you can time your escape from the beach during the moment of least shore-break. You can see here that by having the board under his front arm and twisting to face forwards Christian can actually carry the board behind him, with no risk of getting it smacked into him by an oncoming wave.

While walking out, don't forget your kite. You want it parked somewhere between 45 degrees and either 1 or 11 o'clock, depending on which way you're going.



Having the kite out to sea will help you walk and resist the force of the waves, but you need it high enough that there is room for error, should you get washed in.

The Walk Out – Harness Method Pic B.

There are a few options for walking out with the board, and this is certainly an easy one if the water doesn't get deep too quickly. As long as your board isn't too wide, or your arms are sufficiently long this one requires very little strength. Good for a long walk and a gently shelving beach as it's easy to keep the board high and carry it over small waves. Christian has the board under his front arm, and the rail

nearest him is pulled up into his armpit, above his harness. This means that when a wave approaches he can lift his arm, using the edge of his harness to lever the board up. While walking, look out to sea to see what's coming. There's no point watching the shore break close in, you want to know what's in the post.

Twin tip riders should use the handle, or if it's "missing", use the front strap.

The Walk Out – Nose Method Pic C.

Another winning method here, which allows waves to pass under your board, and which has the added bonus of the best quick release if you lose control after a wave hits.

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Grab the board either on the nose, or on the side of the nose furthest from you, hold it up and walk out. As waves pass, the tail will lift and drop of its own accord. If for whatever reason you get into trouble you can just let go and the board will wash in behind you, with no risk of you getting cracked by it. This method also works great with a twin tip.

The Walk Out – Push Pic D.

This is the ultimate way to end your walk out into the sea. You can do this from the very beginning once it's deep enough for your fins if you don't mind bending down, otherwise once you're waist deep this makes perfect sense as you're then primed and ready to go. By placing your front hand on the front pad, or where your front foot would normally go, you'll have plenty of purchase to push the board out.

As the board will be leading, keep it at arm's length



out to one side. This way you still have the option to release it without any consequences and it will once again wash in behind you. To get it over waves or white water lean more of your body weight on it so that you can forcefully push it out to sea. The beauty here is that as the water gets deeper you can easily transition into your body dragging position.

Body Dragging Pic E.

As you guessed, this is an extension of pushing the board out. Your intention is not to get over the board and bury the rail to get maximum upwind propulsion. A fine idea if there's just a few wavelets, but as soon as there is breaking shore break, this will potentially put the board up-wave of you, and we don't want that! In the photo Christian is moving the kite with his back hand as per usual for a body drag, while keeping his front hand pressed down on the front



pad. Having your front hand forwards on a directional board is not a problem, as even if the kite pulls you slightly off the wind, the board will follow as it pivots around the fins at the back. Christian's direction of travel is diagonally out from the beach, while the board is held as far out upwind of him as possible. Once again there's the option of letting go if you lose control.

The Inevitable Pic F.

Should you encounter a wave on the way out, it will really depend where you are relative to it whether you can get the board and yourself over it or whether you'll have to go through it. Both are possible only with pull from the kite, so when you see something coming make sure that the kite and yourself are moving, you towards it and the kite already over the other side, which will help pull you past it.



Here Christian is just where the wave is about to break. If it was a tiny bit further out he could just drag over it, pushing down on the board whilst raising the kite slightly to lift him.

However, as the wave is pitching he chooses to keep the kite a bit lower, push down on the board to push the nose under the wave, following with his head and shoulders, diving through the wave. All the time, keeping the board at arm's reach and himself out of harms way. If the worse comes to the worse he'll lose the board, but he and the kite will remain intact.

Once you're through keep going until you know that you're beyond where the shorebreak jacks up. If in doubt keep body dragging, better too far out than not quite enough. Once happy, it's feet on the board and off you go.

TOP TIPS

Body dragging out is also about timing, and never is it truer that patience is a virtue. Sometimes you might

wait for a few minutes for the perfect opportunity. This time can be well spent, watching the way the shorebreak works and where it pitches. You may spot an easier point of entry, or you might realise that it looks a bit daunting.

Have a look at the sequence and videos for the full walk through.

COMMON PROBLEMS

As mentioned earlier, the majority of problems arise from controlling the kite with the front hand while holding the board with the back hand. As long as you face forwards the preferred and usual method is just as safe.

If you feel that you're not getting anywhere, it likely means that you need more power. The only way to generate more power is to move the kite, so get the kite moving up and down with your back hand so that it pulls you more.

Not going far enough. There's nothing more

frustrating than beating the shore break and then it getting one back on you because you didn't go quite far enough. Once you've stopped and start to put the board on, you're pretty much facing the beach, so you won't see what's coming. At the very least be quick.

KEYSTONES

1. Board in front hand, bar in back hand
2. Walk in slowly watching the waves
3. Push board once past waist deep
4. Drag through keeping kite low enough to pull, high enough to stay out of trouble
5. Go further than you think, just to be sure....



HOW TO GET OUT, OVER AND THROUGH THE WHITE WATER >

Enjoying the waves, especially if you are strapless, also entails the often tricky challenge of first getting out over the foamy stuff and steeper walls. Once you're confident at this, you'll be able to relax, which in turn will make it simpler, you'll save a load of body dragging back to the beach to retrieve your board and you'll have more time to lose yourself in the playground. Wind direction can make this more demanding still, if the wind is cross on-shore, or at times near impossible if the wind is bang on-shore! The good news is that much like anything, there is a technique that will at the very least better your odds.

We've chosen to go through this with a cross on-shore wind, from the left, as it's a fair representation of the battle ahead, and will then need only a the tiniest of tweaking to handle other possibilities. It's also worth noting that it's not only about how you get over waves and white water but also the path that you pick. A straight line from A to B will often not be the most effective route out, and with time on the water you'll learn to read the best way out, bearing away and heading up to find the perfect path whilst avoiding the worst sections. This also includes the occasional chicken gybe or tack if you think it's preferable to getting washed - remember there's no shame.

Here we'll concentrate on what to do with the kite, the board and yourself to make getting out back as effortless as possible. You will need enough power to be happily planning out and your feet should be in a



relatively wide stance so that you can control the board and maintain balance.

Choosing Your Target Pic A.

When heading out and noticing a lump rising in front of you, your primary concern is to work out where you'd like to cross it, and if you actually have a choice. If you're waddling out in a wind shadow, you won't be very mobile, so you'll play the part of the hunted and readily welcome whichever part of the wave chooses you. However, if you're moving and have power in your kite you need to assess the wave, so that you can choose to bear away to a softer spot, head up to a friendlier part, accelerate to get there sooner before it breaks, or slow down so that it breaks, and you can then deal with the white-water.

Much of this will come with experience. If you know

the spot and how the waves there form and break, it'll be easier. However, if you're reading this and you're attacking some onshore European mush your guess will be as good as ours. Suffice to say the one place you don't want to be is just where the wave is breaking and pitching. Here it has the most power and it's more likely to grab you, or at least your board. When you see a wave steepening you must decide if you can get there before it breaks, or move to where it has broken, preferably avoiding where it's about to dump. Here Christian sees the wave ahead growing as it hits shallower water. He ponders his options and chooses a part of the wave that looks like it'll be breaking softly before he gets there.

Speed Control Pic B.

Forward momentum will help you climb over a steep wave or approaching lump of white water.

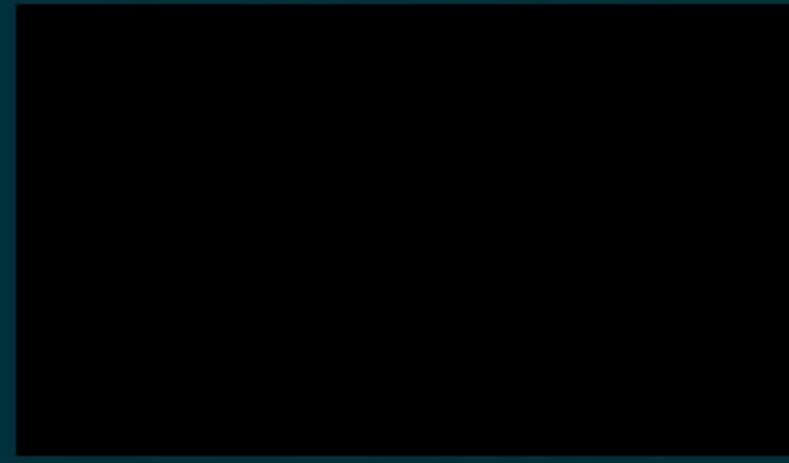


For sure when the obstacle is merely a small speed bump you can power over it with kite low and as much speed as you dare, but as soon as that lump is enough to make you think about it, moderation is key. Hitting anything at speed will have one of two results. If you're lucky it'll merely launch you upwards, great when you want to air it, but not always advisable if it separates you and your trusty steed and risks dumping you unceremoniously in the impact zone. Version 2 is that you'll stop, or rather the board will stop and wash back to the shore whilst you somersault over the back of the wave. Neither is a

dream scenario. Therefore, slowing down so that you can control proceedings is advisable. This means that even if you've headed off downwind and accelerated to get to the wave in time, you'll still need to throw out the anchors before reaching your target.

In this photo Christian is turning up into the wind to slow down and he's also let his bar out a bit to help slow down. The good news is that you'll want to turn up into the wave to meet it head on anyway, so not only will this slow you down, but it'll put you in a good position to meet the white water.

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Final point here is that depending on where your sweet spot is, you may need to release your front hand so that you can twist upwind better while easing the bar out. This will assist with balance as you cross the wave too.

Kite High Pic C.

Once you've got control of your speed you can then get your kite into position. Naturally as you get more comfortable many of these steps will morph into one smooth action, but their order is important. If you're still motoring off the wind like Alex Caizergues, then lifting your kite will only end in tears. Once you've carved up onto your rail and slowed, then you'll keep control even as the kite rises. How much you lift the kite will depend on what you're facing.

Larger lumps of white water will require you to get the kite higher, as you want as little weight on the board

as possible, so that the foam can roll underneath you. However, if you're going up a steep wave face, you still want some pull to get you over the wave to compensate for the wave's push slowing you down as you go up it, and as such you'd keep the kite a tad lower. However, this all goes hand in hand with speed, power, momentum and wave force, so nothing is set in stone.

Christian knows that he needs to get over some white water, so he gives the bar a good yank to get the kite up high. As he is already carving up, he'll have tension on the lines even though he's already eased the bar out. Final point here, you need to drop your weight to counter the lift in the kite as you don't want to unweight the board just yet.

Wheelie in Anticipation Pic D.

Now that you're all set, you hopefully haven't run out



of time and hit the wave yet. Just like riding a bike up a curb, you need to lift the nose of the board before you reach the white water so that you don't just plough straight into it. You also need to get your weight over the board so that you can soak up the oncoming energy, absorbing it by bending your legs and present as much surface area of the bottom of the board to get over the bubbles.

Christian bends his knees and drops his weight over the board to get off his rail and flatten it, before then moving his hips back behind the back foot. This change of weight will lift the nose and you can assist by lifting your front leg. It's important that you don't lean back with your shoulders. You can see that although Christian's board is wheelie-ing, his shoulders are still parallel with the water. If you lean back it'll be hard to stay over the board and get over the top of the wave.



Up & Over Pic E.

As you make contact with the wave it's all about absorbing the energy, staying balanced over the board and letting the wave pass under you. This is where all the variables come into play. Regardless of size, if the wave is powerful or you're travelling too quickly it will be hard to absorb the impact. To do so you must soak it up with your legs, allowing the wave to roll under you, rather than push the board through. Hitting it head on helps as you'll use all the volume in the board to roll over the foam.

This is where kite position comes into play. With the kite high, you can hang on the bar and therefore support yourself under the kite. You can see that Christian stays small, which keeps him with the board, but by hanging under the kite he can take a lot of weight off the board, and as such it sea saws over the wave. However, it's important to note that his kite isn't

at 12 o'clock, it's still trying to pull him forwards, a fine combination of lift with some forward drive.

The Drop Pic F.

Once the wave passes underneath you, your main aim is to stay in contact with your board. Staying small is key so that as it drops down the back of the wave you can extend your legs, pushing your feet down onto the board. Gravity is also your friend as far as staying with the board is concerned, you no longer need any lift from the kite, so let the bar out. You can see that as Christian is passing over the wave he's let the bar out, stayed small and compact and he's reaching for the bar with his free front hand.

Work It Pic G.

Only one priority now and that's to get moving again, and pronto. Behind the wave the white water is generally a bubbly mess with little resistance and



potentially it'll be moving a lot. In this impact zone you'll often feel underpowered, not for lack of wind but due to the water movement. To get going you'll need to work the kite like your first ever knee skimming downwind body drag, so really give it the beans. You can see as Christian drops down behind the wave he's back on the board and diving the kite hard to get moving. Don't forget there might be another one on the way and it's always preferable to be in motion!

TOP TIPS

First off and foremost know your limits. As fun as waves are, the kite can give one the ability to get out into conditions that aren't perfectly suitable. Wobbling out on a windsurfer or paddling out on a surfboard is quite self-regulating, whereas you can get lucky powering out with a kite.



when a wave pushes you, you'll be moving towards your kite and therefore losing tension, increasing the likelihood of dropping the kite. And if you do, the waves can push you forwards into saggy lines, or the kite can drag in a wave and pull you under.

Assuming that you're within your comfort zone, you need to be aware of your environment. Getting out requires concentration and focus, however you still need to be aware of what is around you, other kites and obstacles as well as the wave or foam you're aiming for next. You need space to lift your kite to get over and you need space to dive your kite to continue, so keep your vision broad.

As far as other wind directions go:

If the wind is more onshore, you'll need to carry more speed as you'll be turning into the wind to get over the white water.

If the wind is side shore, you'll need to slow down without heading up too much so that you can still meet the wave head on.

If the wind has any off in it, be careful. You won't be able to tackle it head on, and with the board positioned across the face it's much harder to absorb the power. You'll feel the wave much more as it will be working against the pull of the kite. It can be quite violent and your knees will move more swiftly towards your chest and chin than you'd expect. Approach with caution, the kite high and as little edge as possible.

Now have a look at the sequence and videos to see all the elements combine in real time.

COMMON MISTAKES

Wrong place, wrong time. This happens to everyone, regardless of ability and experience. The Ocean is ever changing and not always easy to read. If you mistime your approach and the wave grabs your board, you can do a lot worse than at least getting yourself over the wave and keeping tension in the lines.

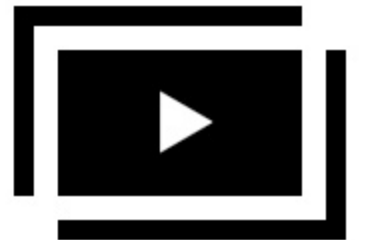
Too fast. Speed into waves is perfect for jumping and hopping over little lumps. Once something more serious is in your path moderation is key.

No Wheelie. Waiting for the wave to push your board up may work sometimes, but if you already present the underside to the white water, it'll often happily oblige by rolling under it.

Leaning back and extending back leg. This will get the nose up, but unfortunately you'll likely be off balance and if you can't get over the wave you'll tip backwards and have the board and wave tumbling over you – best avoided.

KEYSTONES

1. Pick your spot to cross
2. Head up, slow down, lift kite
3. Stay small and wheelie into wave
4. Absorb wave with soft legs
5. Dive hard to get moving



DOUBLE HINTERBURGER MOBE >

Assuming that you've done your homework and nailed the Hinterburger Mobe, here's another challenge. The joy of freestyle obsession and learning tricks is that you never get to sit on your laurels, there's always something else waiting in the wings. This time round we're adding another back rotation before the pass, squeezing out every nanosecond of airtime from your pop to fit it all in.

To stomp this, we'll be looking at how to get the second rotation in, so read on if you're game!

As a prequel, let us just remind you of the necessary approach to make sure that the ingredients are correct. You'll need some oomph in the kite, more than a touch of speed and also a bit of pull. You'll need to trim for unhooking, enough so that the kite doesn't stall, but you don't want the back lines and kite flapping, else you won't be going anywhere. Approach should be as any powered pop move, plenty of speed on an edge before bearing off with your weight back over the tail, unhooking and then carving hard up against the kite. Kite position should be erring on the higher side, so get it just below 11 or 1 o'clock.

Take Off Pic A.

You definitely want height and time, so just before carving up and stomping, a short sharp send of the kite to get it moving up to just above 11 or 1 o'clock is more than acceptable, and to be fair for your first



attempts taking it almost up to 12 will help, even if it means a cheeky tweak down later on. As before you need a flicked take off, so a hefty carve up and an even meatier stamp. This will result in an extended take off with both plenty of height and pull. You can see that Heliarde is not using his head to rotate as he's just aiming on maximum take-off. Don't be tempted into rushing into the rotation, your aim is to get going up with a pause before you add the rolls...

First Rotation Pic B.

Once you're on the way up and you know that you've



got the kite where you want it, it's then time to initiate a fast rotation. The way to do this is to lead with your hands and head. This will twist your upper body around quickly, and as is the want of the body and legs, they are guaranteed to follow. By leading with the head you will know where you are, which is critical as you can then get an idea of timing for the next spin. The photo clearly shows how Heliarde is throwing his hands and head into the rotation and as such he can peer over his shoulder and gauge where he is ready for the second one.



And the Second Pic C.

This is the key part of the move and it all comes down to knowing where you are so that you can start the second rotation very early. Initiating your second rotation is the exact same movement as the first. As soon as you can see and feel that you're coming around the first it's time to press repeat. Throw you head and hands

around as quickly as possible and this will lead the rest. Your head and hands are taking the shortest route possible, so they'll encourage you to spin quickly. Here Heliarde has his head tucked into the rotation, looking behind him, and with his hands just above his head he can spin under the kite into a nifty second rotation. There's no need to wait for the board and lower body to catch up.

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That Same Old Friend Pic D.

By leading with the head and hands, you're able to look over your back shoulder and get an early view of where you are, and therefore anticipate when you'll need to prep the pass. As Heliarde spots the water downwind of him, he knows it's time to go, so he starts to pull the bar in towards him.

Throwing It Pic E.

Now is the time to get yourself up and over the bar, bring your knees up and the board close, so that you're compact, balanced and set to throw the pass. As Heliarde has pulled the bar in and past his hips, he turns his head aggressively and brings his board, knees and legs up before kicking his back leg through under the bar. He's just released his front hand and will twist the bar to allow his shoulders to rotate further.



The Pass Pic F.

Now we should be in very familiar territory. With the bar twisted you should be able to roll around under the bar, which in turn will wrap the bar behind you, placing it within easy reach. This is a result of kicking the back leg through, as it moves you and the board under the bar, so you're travelling with the kite and not getting left behind. You can see that as Heliarde wraps himself up in the bar, he's reaching up, hand to hand, looking for the bar and ultimately the pass. Keep your chin up as this will keep the board turning with you on axis. If you get this far the rest should be automatic! As Heliarde comes around he is still compact and upright. His legs are still up and he's twisting his head and shoulders around so that he can land balanced and on the board. Be ready to take the impact as if you've got the height and pop,



you'll be coming in hot...

TOP TIPS

We mentioned at the beginning that your main aim here is to get the double back roll nailed in. As such it makes perfect sense to work on this part of the move first. If you can get a double spin in on the way up, you'll have plenty of time to add your pass. By practicing this you'll also get a much better awareness of where you are and where the kite should be, which will benefit your timing and your success.

Now have a good look at the videos and sequence to see it play out. Notice how the take off and timing of the first back roll as almost identical to the single version, it's just the early and fast initiation of the second spin that's key.



COMMON PROBLEMS

If you're struggling to get 2 rotations in, and feel like you're just being pulled by the kite, try to keep your arms in a bit closer from the off.

If you're rotating quickly but don't have time to pass, either you need to stall the rotation until post take off or you need to use the kite a bit more to gain some extra time in the air.

If you're getting pulled over on landing, make sure that you really pull the bar in hard before releasing your front hand and try and keep the elbow locked in close and chin up once you've passed.

KEYSTONES

1. Use kite & pop hard
2. Pop up before rotating
3. Keep arms close and lead with head
4. Start 2nd rotation early
5. Anticipate pass with hard pull





FORTALEZA



MANCORA



CABARETE



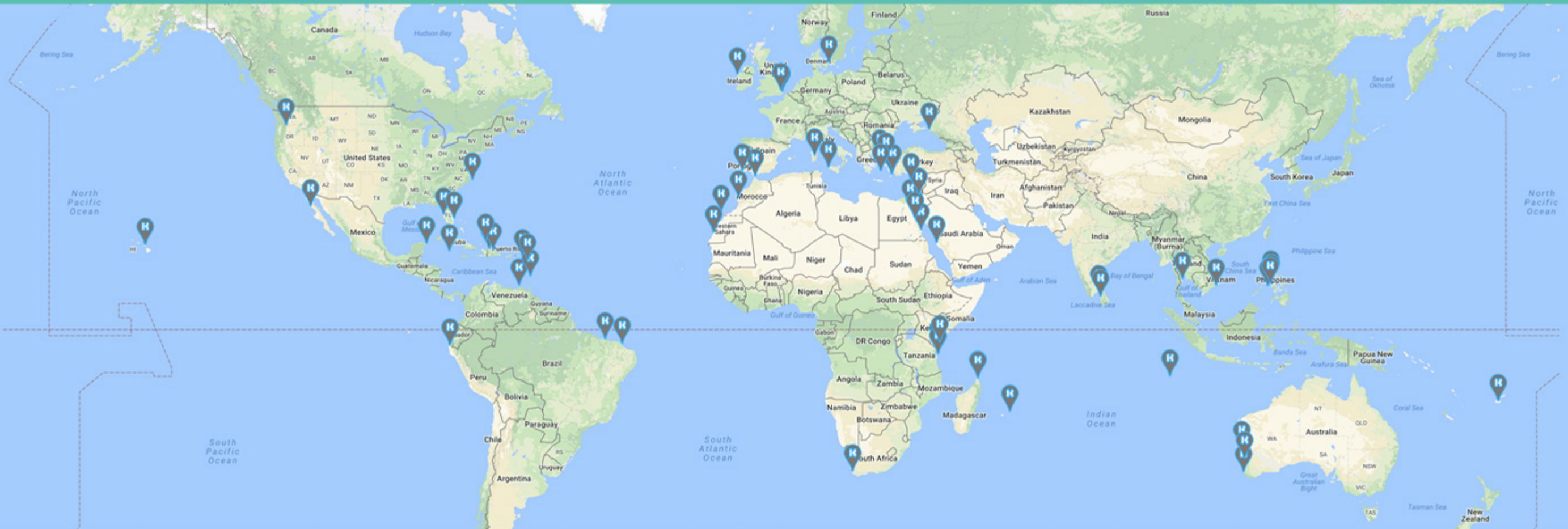
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TRIED & TESTED

More 2019 kites and boards get put through their paces this issue, we've got freeride and light wind kites and a couple of surf sticks and twin tips for you to take a look at!

KITES

Cabrinha Contra
Duotone Rebel
Ocean Rodeo Flite
Ozone CatalystV2

BOARDS

Core Green Room
Cabrinha Cutlass
Flysurfer Flydoor6
F-One WTF! Lite Tech Girl
Odo Kiteboarding Compact Series

WORDS AND PHOTOS THE IKSURFMAG TEST TEAM
PHOTO THIS PAGE FLYSURFER

BRAND CABRINHA

MODEL CONTRA

SIZE 15M

YEAR 2019



"THE CONTRA WOULD BE A FANTASTIC CHOICE FOR A LIGHT WIND KITE!"

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



AT A GLANCE

Cabrinha's long-standing light wind cruiser, the Contra, comes back again for 2019 and is set to fulfil all your light wind dreams. Coming in 4 sizes: 13,15,17 and 19 meters, there will be one to suit you no matter what your weight or style.

The Contra is a 3 strut, mid aspect kite which has been designed to get you ripping, and performing, in light winds. A compact pulley-less bridle system supports the leading edge, and multiple attachment points on the kite allow you to personalise your ride. The Contra has a hybrid shape with relatively sweptback wing tips for that easy relaunch we all desire.

New for 2019, Cabrinha have doubled the amount of panels in the kite. This has resulted in a far crisper feeling kite, and also produces a much more precise arced profile. Cabrinha are now using a new high tenacity Dacron, and this has been designed to decrease any warp in the material at higher pressure helping to keep the profile and shape solid.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND DUOTONE

MODEL REBEL

SIZE 10M

YEAR 2019



“MAMMOTH
HEIGHT AND
HANG TIME
PERFORMANCE.”

TO VISIT THEIR
WEBSITE, CLCK HERE



AT A GLANCE

Now by Duotone, the Rebel has made a welcome comeback and continues to be one of the world's most popular kites. A hybrid design for those who need a kite for boosting, cruising and all-around high performance freeride action, the Rebel has come back for 2019 as its best version yet.

The Rebel is a 5-strut kite, has a high aspect delta hybrid shape and is made using Duotone's proprietary Trinity TX 3x2 canopy material. New for 2019, the canopy shape has been changed slightly to have a flatter mid section for increased float, and a faster turn radius thanks to the reduced diameter leading edge.

Compatible with both 4 or 5 lines, the kite is able to be tuned to your personal requirements. Featuring a fast-acting inflate/deflate valve and increased diameter one pump as standard, set up time is super quick to maximise play time.

Sizes: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 meters

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND OCEAN RODEO

MODEL FLITE

SIZE 14.5M

YEAR 2019



" GREAT FREERIDE
PERFORMANCE."



AT A GLANCE

Most brands have a light wind offering these days, and the Ocean Rodeo Flite has been around for a while. Available in five sizes 8, 10, 12, 14.5 and 17. Those smaller sizes give you an idea of the flavour here. This isn't just a big light wind kite, it's a kite that is designed to perform, regardless.

The Flite has 3 struts, coupled with a hybrid design which utilises the best of power delivery, turning speed, and performance. The Flite has relatively swept tips which aid that all-important relaunch in light winds, and a compact bridle system is in play to support the leading edge and provide a good depower ratio.

Ocean Rodeo have really increased their build quality in recent years, and we were happy to see the canopy is now made with Teijin Technoforce D2 ripstop and 2 different types of Dacron for different areas of the kite where unique properties are required.

New for this 6th version in 2019 are precision curved struts which hold the canopy shape through all wind conditions,

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

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WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



BRAND OZONE

MODEL CATALYST V2

SIZE 8M

YEAR 2019



"INCREDIBLE
EASE OF USE
AND A VERY
DEPENDABLE
NATURE."



AT A GLANCE

Ozone's dedicated freeride kite, the Catalyst has come back for round 2 and promises to build on the successes of the first incarnation.

A 3-strut hybrid kite, the Catalyst V2 has been designed with ease of use and simplicity in mind. The kite is made with industry-leading Teijin Technoforce D2 and Teijin Dacron for canopy quality and has been developed using Ozone's in house OzCad program.

One pump and high volume valve are standard, and there are 2 different tuning options for the back lines to alter both bar pressure and turning speed.

As with all Ozone's products, they are not upgraded until there is a suitable replacement with clear cut differences, and the Catalyst V2 has achieved these. Version 2 heralds a new shape, which promises to increase stability and ease of use for kitesurfers early in their careers.

Sizes: 5, 6.5, 8, 9.5, 11, 13.5 meters

TO VISIT THEIR
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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BRAND CORE **MODEL** GREEN ROOM
SIZE 5'10 **YEAR** 2019

AT A GLANCE

The Green Room, from German kitesurf manufacturer CORE, is an all-out big wave machine. Designed for those riders who seek only the best waves our planet has to offer, this is a dedicated board for dedicated riders.

The Green Room is made from a PU blank for that all-important flex and feel, with a glass coat for the classic surf feel. There is a double stringer in play for

"IMPRESSIVE
 TURNS IN CRITICAL
 SECTIONS WITH
 INCREDIBLE
 FLUIDITY."

TO VISIT THEIR
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" INCREDIBLE IN
 LIGHT AIRS,
 CRAP WAVES
 AND GREAT FOR
 STRAPLESS
 FREESTYLE
 TOO. "

TO VISIT THEIR
 WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



BRAND CABRINHA **MODEL** CUTLASS
SIZE 5'2 **YEAR** 2019

AT A GLANCE

An entirely new board from kitesurf giants Cabrinha Kiteboarding, the Cutlass has been designed to suit those real-world conditions of smaller waves and lighter winds, and for those riders who mix it up between freestyle and classic wave riding.

The Cutlass has a short, broad outline with volume added at the nose of the board which will carry you through the lulls with speed, and maintain fantastic

CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE



" INCREDIBLE IN LIGHT AIRS, CRAP WAVES AND GREAT FOR STRAPLESS FREESTYLE TOO. "



BRAND F-ONE MODEL WTF!? LITE TECH GIRL
SIZE 136 X 41.5 CM YEAR 2019

AT A GLANCE

Water sport giants F-One have created an entire line up of boards specifically designed for women in conjunction with their elite team. The range features three boards and spans from your first board right through to a world tour capable freestyle machine. Recently we have been using the top end WTF!? Girl board which though similar to its male equivalent holds some key differences.



" PACKED WITH ENOUGH TECH & PERFORMANCE TO KEEP YOU STOKED! "

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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"THE COMPACT SERIES HAS A VERY LIVELY FEEL WITH INCREDIBLE POP!"



BRAND ODO KITEBOARDING **YEAR** 2019
MODEL COMPACT SERIES **SIZE** 5'2"

AT A GLANCE

The Compact Series from Odo Kiteboarding holds 3 different sized boards, and have been designed as your all round go to board for both small waves and freestyle.

The Compact Series we have on test is similar in design to the Pro version, however, does not have the carbon. The board is a bit heavier compared to the Compact Pro because of a double layer of bamboo

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[FEMALE FOCUS]

SAMANTHA CHILVERS

WORDS JEN TYLER PHOTO ANTOINE VERVILLE

Sam, we have to ask! How does an artist from Ontario that had never travelled, or seen the ocean, end up living an islander's life in Cabarete?

Have you ever felt like your life was like a series of Dominoes? Well, that's kind of what happened to me! It was one situation after another, which led me to where I am today. To make a very long story short, when

I was twenty-three years old, I inherited some money from my Grandmother, and I knew I wanted to travel for the first time in my life.



As a regular beach and party goer, I thought it would be a good idea to travel to a beach destination, which offered both! However, I had just started to flourish as an emerging artist and had several art projects I was obligated to complete, so I couldn't just pack up and go backpacking the way I wanted to. As a result, I came up with this crazy plan to rent an apartment on the beach somewhere for four months, and by total dumb luck, I ended up at Kite Beach Cabarete. At the end of the four months, I thought to myself, well I am pretty set up here now, so I either could stay or re-established myself in Canada; so I stayed!

HOW DID YOU GET INTO KITEBOARDING? WHO WAS YOUR INSPIRATION?

When I first move to DR, I had never travelled before, I had never been on a plane, and I had never even heard of kiteboarding. Since I was on the adventure of a lifetime, I wanted to do any and everything that was on offer. I blew the entire inheritance in the four months! I met a fellow on the beach one night, which was a kiteboarding instructor and I signed up for some lessons. Six months later, after spending over \$2000 in lessons, and crappy beginner gear, I was barely able to ride upwind, but somehow, I stuck with it!

None of the pro riders inspired me, but I admired the incredibly talented Dominican locals. It wasn't until I started competing that I started being more aware of the pro scene. However, a lot of my inspiration came from wanting to prove to ex-boyfriends that I could be a badass shredder babe too!

" SINCE I WAS ON THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME, I WANTED TO DO ANY AND EVERYTHING THAT WAS ON OFFER. "





CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SCENE?

Although the entire country is incredible, I want to clarify that Cabarete isn't like anywhere else in DR! It has a community of expats that is exceptionally unique to anywhere else on the island. Even though at times it seems crazy and wild, it still offers an incredibly high quality of life. I often take Cabarete for granted, until I go to another kite spot. We have access to all our basic needs, like groceries stores, public transportation and hospitals. Combine that, with a low cost of living, wonderful travel community and being the water sports capital of the Caribbean, it creates an all-around place that allows you to build a life you could only dream of!

"IT CREATES AN ALL-AROUND PLACE THAT ALLOWS YOU TO BUILD A LIFE YOU COULD ONLY DREAM OF!"

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" YOU MAY OFTEN SEE POSTS ON FACEBOOK FROM ME ASKING IF ANYONE IS COMING THIS WAY FOR VACATIONS, AND HAS ROOM FOR A TUBE OF PAINT IN THEIR SUITCASE! "

YOU ARE AN INCREDIBLE ARTIST! LIVING ON A BEACH MUST BE VERY INSPIRATIONAL, ESPECIALLY FOR YOUR STYLE OF ART. WHAT SORT OF OBSTACLES DO YOU FACE IN TERMS OF GETTING YOUR ART SUPPLIES, SHIPPING ORDERS ETC.?

Now that I have been here over eight years, I would like to think I have it all figured out! I fully understand now that I can't just walk into an art store and buy the supplies I need nor can I buy everything in one place! I buy many raw supplies in a variety of locations. I also keep mental tabs on supplies I may need if I am travelling in or out of the country. You may often see posts on Facebook from me asking if anyone is coming this way for vacations, and has

room for a tube of paint in their suitcase! Sometimes I have to think outside the box, but I can usually find a way to get what I am after!

However, I freaking suck at shipping organisation; sorry if you're someone who ordered a painting three months ago, it's coming, I swear! I had employed someone to help me out with this, but I had to let him go recently, and have yet to find a replacement; does anyone want a job?

WHAT IS IT LIKE LIVING IN A LITTLE COTTAGE IN CABARETE? CAN YOU SHARE WITH A TYPICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF SAMANTHA CHILVERS, IS IT AS PERFECT AS IT SEEMS?

The cottage was like something out of a movie! It had the character and vibe of that from a storybook. However, I am proud to say, after six years of living there, I have recently upgraded! I moved to a beautiful two-bedroom apartment (only across the street) so that I could have a better workspace, and could host guests.

I wake up around 6:00 AM every morning and take the dogs out for a walk. When I get back; I usually paint until about 1:00 PM. I eat lunch, take a nap, and then hit the water around 2:00 or 3:00 PM, and kiteboard until sunset. After that, I have some dinner and work a little more or socialise, and then it's bedtime; that's pretty much how my day goes!



"WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE IS THE WAY THE LOCALS CONNECT, SHOW OFF, INSPIRE AND HELP YOU!"

YOU ALWAYS TEND TO ADD A BIT OF HUMOUR AND REALITY WHEN IT COMES TO MARKETING YOUR RIDING, BRAND, AND ART ON SOCIAL MEDIA, WHICH IS REFRESHING TO SEE! IF YOU COULD GIVE OTHER FEMALES RIDERS A WORD OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

- 1- Don't give up, tenacity is everything.
- 2- Don't compare yourself to other riders; everyone is on their journey and has their unique gifts to share with the world!
- 3- Legit nobody cares nor is paying attention.

IT TAKES COURAGE TO MOVE AWAY FROM HOME, WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT LIVING IN CANADA?

Taco Bell!

WHAT ARE THE KITEBOARDING CONDITIONS LIKE IN CABARETE? WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SPOT AND DISCIPLINE?

I have yet to go to Brazil, but I feel DR has it all! Offering countless spots around the island and generally over 300+ windy days a year, it an ideal location for all riders. What makes it unique is the way the locals connect, show off, inspire and help you! La Boca will always be my favourite sport around the world. With warm butter flat water, it's a freestyle kiteboarders dream! Not to mention the costs of living is incredibly reasonable and the weather is permanently incredible!

La Boca, as mentioned above. It is where the river mouth meets the ocean. (La Boca meaning the mouth in Spanish) It's this small little intimate lagoon spot. Surrounded by trees, it only really allows for advanced riders, which means no students or beginners to get in your way!



CONGRATULATIONS ON COMING 2ND AT THE KITE CLASH LAST YEAR, WILL YOU BE ENTERING AGAIN THIS YEAR? DO YOU PLAN TO ENTER ANY OTHER COMPETITIONS THIS YEAR?

It's funny, I hate competing, and I had planned to stop! So far, I have done more events this season than any other year! Landing podium twice, once in 1st place and 3rd in the other, and just barely missing it, and landing 4th place in my most recent event. I most likely will go back to kite clash this year, but more because some of my life and travel plans will lead me near the Vancouver area around the time of the event.

I honestly don't enjoy competing, it's incredibly stressful, I always ride terribly, and I rarely feel like I get to prove what I can do. Moreover, often when I do ride my best, the event is disorganised or biased or not run to the best standards, which over the years had to lead me to have to force myself out of my comfort zone when competitions role around!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN RIDING FOR LIQUID FORCE? WHAT IS YOUR GO-TO SET UP?

I have been a part of the team for almost three seasons now and couldn't be happier. Sometimes, I have a hunch they sponsor me more because of my art skill then my riding skills, but either way, I love being part of the team, and they do a lot to make my life and "dream" possible! My go-to set up is the HI-FX kite. When they first sponsored me, I was at the level where I could land most of my tricks to blind, but couldn't pass the bar in the air to save my life.



"I HONESTLY DON'T ENJOY COMPETING, IT'S INCREDIBLY STRESSFUL, I ALWAYS RIDE TERRIBLY"



" IF I DON'T PAINT, I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY, AND IF I DON'T HAVE MONEY, IT IS DIFFICULT TO TAKE THE HIGHEST CARE OF MY BODY. "



I had probably attempted it over 500 times. Less than a week after being sponsored and switching to the Hi-FX I started to stick my first air handle passes!

CAN YOU SHARE WITH US A TIME WHEN YOU HAD TO OVERCOME A MAJOR CHALLENGE WHETHER IN LIFE OR KITEBOARDING?

Oh, I could easily share about a dozen! Most people only see what Facebook or Instagram portray which is nothing but a dream, but the truth is I have my ups and downs just like everyone else! For me, it would have to be relationships, both personal, family and friends. These are a bit of a struggle, and often have a massive effect on my emotional mood. I find this affects me in my ability to paint and work, and from

there, it's all connected. If I don't paint, I don't have any money, and if I don't have money, it is difficult to take the highest care of my body. Which then means, I can't kiteboard to my best ability! This leads to probably the biggest challenges with kiteboarding (for all kiteboarder) dealing with injuries.

Another massive challenge I face with kiteboarding is my age. I didn't even learn to kiteboard until I was twenty-four. Therefore, when I am competing, I'm usually up against girls ten years younger than I am!

WHAT PHILOSOPHY GUIDES YOUR LIFE, AND WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

I couldn't pick a specific piece of advice, but I am obsessed with the book, 'You are a badass', by Jen

obsessed with the book, 'You are a badass', by Jen Sincero. This entire book is the best advice I have ever received.

DO YOU HAVE ANY EXCITING PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE FOR 2019 YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH US?

Right now, I don't have anything too wild in the plans. I have a few ideas for videos and art projects I would like to create, and I would like to think eventually, they will all get done! Currently, I am focused on growing some aspects of my business (like shipping!) as I spent the last few years travelling and competing a lot and am sort of just ready to settle down!

THANKS, SAM! WE WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK!



LIGHTROOM

ALI BARRETT WITH A DARKSLIDE ANGLE YOU DON'T OFTEN SEE, HE MUST HAVE NEARLY TAKEN ROGER HAJDUK'S HEAD OFF!
PHOTO ROBERT HAJDUK - SHUTTERSAIL.COM

Lightroom

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



Lightroom

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

LIGHTROOM

THE COLD COPENHAGEN WINTERS DON'T KEEP THERESE TAABEL FROM SHREDDING
PHOTO JESPER GRØNNEMARK



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

LUKE MCGILLIWIE SLAYING WAVES IN PORTUGAL
PHOTO CRYSTAL VENESS



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LIGHTROOM

REECE MYERSCOUGH HAS GOT HIS GAME FACE ON AT THE
GKA STRAPLESS EVENT IN CAPE VERDE
PHOTO YDWER VAN DER HEIDE

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

BIG AIR RUNS THROUGH RUBEN LENTEN VEINS AND CAPE TOWN IS WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS
PHOTO CRAIG COLESKY

Lightroom

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LIGHTROOM

GOOD LUCK TRYING TO GET TOMMY OBER OFF THE WATER IN GRADO BY SUNSET
PHOTO TOM OTT



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

LEWIS CRATHERN SENDING INTO THE STRATOSPHERE IN THIS ONE
DURING THE SOUTH COAST STORM IN THE UK
PHOTO SIMON BASSETT

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REECE MYERSCOUGH CATCHING WAVES UNTIL SUNSET IN CAPE VERDE
PHOTO GABRIELE RUMBOLO

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ARTEM GARASHCHENKO WORKING ON HIS HAND BREAKS
PHOTO EKATERINA MAKUSHCHENKO

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RITA ARNAUS IN LOS ROQUES, VENEZUELA
PHOTO FRANCISCO RIZQUEZ

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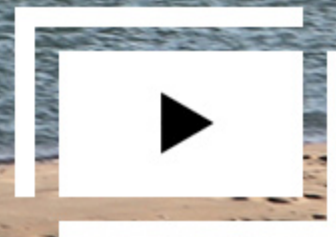
10 QUESTIONS

WORDS JEN TYLER

.....

ARTHUR GUILLEBERT

21-year-old, Arthur Guillebert is a young and promising French talent. He has already been crowned Junior European Champion, twice, as well as former French Champion. Currently ranked 7th in WKC and 10th overall in 2018, Arthur has one of the most powerful styles on the World Tour, and he is as good at freestyle as he is at big air. We got a chance to get to know Arthur a little better and find out what his plans for the future were.



“ THAT IS WHERE I STARTED TRAINING AND DECIDED THIS IS WHAT I WANTED TO DO FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. ”



PHOTO REDA BOUZGUENI

Arthur, it's great to catch up! Can you tell us a little bit about yourself; where did you grow up and when/how did you first get into kiteboarding?

I'm originally from France, but when I was five years old, my parents packed up all our belongings and decided to sail around the world. We travelled around for eight years, and when I was thirteen years old, we settled in New Caledonia, and it was there, that I discovered kiteboarding.

Do you still have a close connection to New Caledonia?

New Caledonia is home! I grew up there, and it is where my passion for kiteboarding began. It's the perfect spot for freestyle, and that is where I started training and decided this is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

My parents still live there, so I usually spend a couple of months a year 'at home'. The New Caledonia Championships also run there once a year which I enter, and have claimed the title a couple of times.

Growing up, how did you manage your time between classes, training, hanging out with friends and family? What sort of obstacles did you face?

I invested a lot of time in kiteboarding and training. I was able to go to class, and as soon as it was windy, I went to the beach! There were quite a few of my friends that were kiteboarders as well, so we went to class, and we were able to go for a session together afterwards, it was great! The rest of my time, I dedicated to my family. The main obstacles I faced were trying to keep a healthy balance between training and classes as they both took up a lot of my time.



What is the kiteboarding scene like at your home spot in France? Who do you usually train with?

I struggle a little bit in the wintertime; I'm not used to the cold weather! I go to the gym often, and physically prepare myself for competitions, to compensate for the lack of kiteboarding! I usually train with the other French riders, but we try to travel as often as possible to countries where the wind is perfect, and the temperatures are pleasant, to have stable conditions for freestyle and training.

PHOTO
PHILIPPE MARTIN

“ WE TRY TO TRAVEL AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE TO COUNTRIES WHERE THE WIND IS PERFECT.”

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IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME
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" I FIND THE FS SERIES EXTREMELY VERSATILE AND WORKS WELL FOR BIG AIR, AS WELL AS FOR FREESTYLE. "



Did you always want to be a professional kiteboarder or do you have another profession in mind as a plan B?

For as long as I can remember, I have always dreamed of being a professional kiteboarder; my life revolves around it! This year, I'm studying to become a kiteboarding instructor, and once my professional career is over, that's my plan B. My ultimate goal is to move back to New Caledonia, and train young riders in freestyle and prepare them for competitions.

What are your other passions besides kiteboarding? Let's say you couldn't kiteboard all weekend, what would you do instead?

I have a lot of passions, which are mainly sports! I enjoy surfing, and also got into spearfishing in New Caledonia. In France, my brother and I, go road biking often; it's a passion we both actively share, which I love. If there is no wind, I'm always out doing something with friends and family.

Congratulations on joining the Eleveight Team!

What are the major differences you've noticed between the set up you are using now, compared to your previous setup?

Yes, I was thrilled to join the Eleveight team! The team is dynamic, and the riders are all highly involved. I find the FS series extremely versatile and works well for big air, as well as for freestyle. I'm very picky when it comes to kites, and I found that this kite ticked all the boxes. The bar is light and excellent for freestyle, and the board has incredible pop.



My riding has progressed with this setup, and I'm very pleased with it.

It feels like the younger generation is taking over the sport, do you prefer training with people your age or practice with the older, more experienced riders?

I honestly like a combination of both. I'm used to training with riders of my age and level. We seem to push each other and progress quickly, but it is equally beneficial to train with more experienced riders as they can correct and give me pointers when I'm having difficulties landing a trick. I enjoy riding with riders of all levels!

PHOTO
SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA

“ WE SEEM TO PUSH EACH OTHER AND PROGRESS QUICKLY ”

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New For 2017 Slingshot Expands Turbine To Full Size Range
The Slingshot Turbine is no longer just a light-wind weapon. For 2017,...

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" I PLAN ON COMPETING ON THE FREESTYLE TOUR, WHICH WILL BE CHALLENGING, AS I'LL BE UP AGAINST SOME EXCELLENT RIDERS "



If you had to go up against a female rider in a heat, which rider, in your opinion, would be a real challenge?

Mikaili Sol! She is such a talented and technically strong rider, and I think her powerful riding would be a real challenge. She is extremely motivated, and she has the spirit of a competitor, with the mindset to win; she has an incredible future ahead.

You won the European Junior Freestyle Champion 2014/15, and were ranked 10th overall in 2018, what are your goals for 2019?

Yes, I've won the Junior European Championships twice now. This year, I plan on competing on the freestyle tour, which will be challenging, as I'll be up against some excellent riders, but I'll do my best!

Do you have any projects in the pipeline you'd like to share with us?

At the moment, I'm just in competition mode this year; I'll focus mainly on training and the tour.

Thank you, Arthur; it's been a pleasure! We wish you the very best of luck this year!



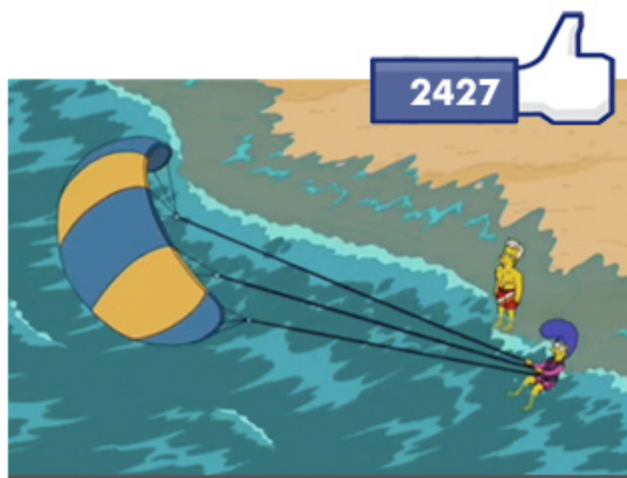
The IKSURFMAG website is crammed with news and videos everyday, we only show the best videos, so to make it onto the site is an achievement in itself.

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 THE SIMPSONS GO KITEBOARDING

We're not surprised to see this one coming in at #1 on our Movie Night list! The Simpsons were a part of most peoples childhood, and now they're kiteboarding, what not to enjoy! "Don't look me in the eyes, Marge, my pecs are down here!" must be the best line we've heard by far!



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

#2 GET LOW-SHORT LINE KITELOOPS BY MAARTEN HAEGER

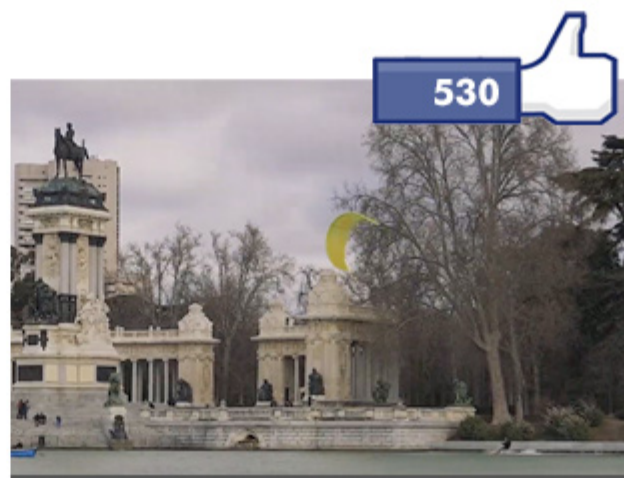
We're not surprised to see this one on our Movie Night list this issue! Watch Maarten Haeger looping his CORE kite with 13m lines! If this edit doesn't get you stoked for a session, you had better check your pulse, something must be terribly wrong!



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

#3 KITESURF MADRID

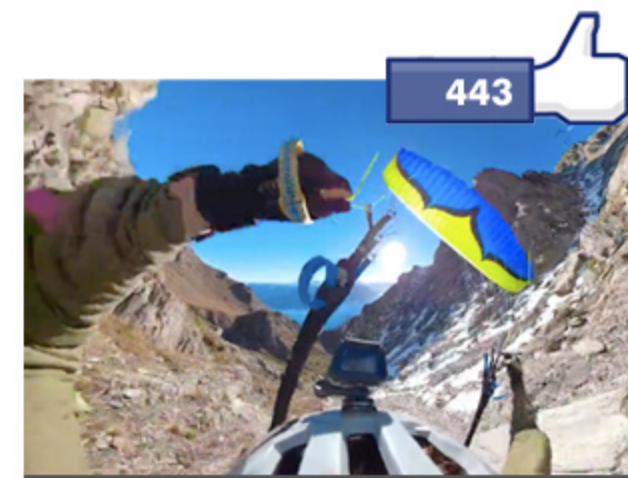
Coming in 3rd this issue on our Movie night list, here's something you don't see every day, especially in central Madrid! We're guessing Antoine Auriol had to jump through quite a few hoops to get permissions to make this video happen; nevertheless, the results were epic and left the crowds in awe!



CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO

#4 MAGNETIC SPEEDFLYING IN NEW ZEALAND

And now... for something a little different! Speed flying is an extreme sport growing in trend, and flying through New Zealand's incredible valleys are a part of Jamie Lee and Malachi Templeton daily routines. You need to watch this!



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PHOTO JAMES BOULDING

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